

SEC

Six years running of SEC domination | P. 4



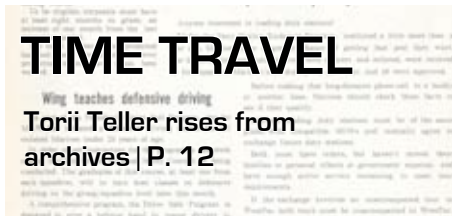
BENCH PRESS

Competitors press their way to the top | P. 6 & 7



TIME TRAVEL

Wing teaches defensive driving Torii Teller rises from archives | P. 12



IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 4 Vol. 5 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan



SGT. CHARLES MCKELVEY
Marine All Weather Attack Squadron 121 based out of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., part of the Unit Deployment Program, arrived here Wednesday. Lt. Col. Michael R. Waterman commands the "Green Knights," which consists of approximately 160 Marines and approximately 10 F/A-18 Hornet aircraft. The Green Knights replaced Navy Strike Fighter Squadron 94, which returned to Naval Air Station Lemoore, Calif.

DPRI unveils upcoming projects

PFC. BENJAMIN PRYER

IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Defense Policy Review Initiative Integrated Program Management Office is planning to bring about big construction changes to the station in the following months. "Our mission is to make sure we have the infrastructure and the facilities in place to accommodate the station's change in size," said Myke Payne, DPRI IPMO interdisciplinary engineer.

One of the big upcoming changes for DPRI is the sectioning off of part of the station for contractors and construction.

A bypass road is planned to be implemented Feb. 1 for the north gate. A director will be present to guide residents to the road which will temporarily bring people to the north gate. Construction is being conducted to prepare the movement of the north gate closer into the station to make way for the contractor's road.

"We're soon going to have a construction only area, and we want to get the word out as to what that's going to be and some of the resulting changes," said Payne. "It's really going to affect traffic and change how residents get to the air

SEE CONSTRUCTION ON PAGE 3

Bats spread wings, fly to Thailand

LANCE CPL. CAYCE NEVERS

IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Military personnel of Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115, Marine Air Control Squadron 4 Detachment B, Marine Aircraft Group 12 and Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 are slated to depart for Thailand within the next week to support Exercise Cobra Gold 2012.

SEE COBRA ON PAGE 3

Play 'Frogger' no more, crosswalk construction

PFC. BENJAMIN PRYER

IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The new Monzen district crosswalk construction is scheduled to be completed within the coming month.

Traffic will be brought to one lane in scheduled locations for up to a day during the final stages of construction.

The new crosswalk is being constructed in hopes of expediting traffic through Monzen during morning and afternoon hours and to improve safety for those who use the crosswalk.

SEE CROSSWALK ON PAGE 3



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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan. All queries concerning news and editorial content should be directed to the Public Affairs Office, Building One, Room 216. Call 253-5551.

The Iwakuni Approach welcomes Letter to the Editor submissions. Letters must include a full name and unit, if applicable. Anonymous letters and comments will not be published. Letters are the opinion of the writer only. Submissions may be edited for clarity and space. Letters can be dropped off at the Public Affairs Office or sent via e-mail to iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil. Please submit all content at least two weeks in advance of projected publication date for review.

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CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

‘Awakening your leadership potential’

LT. J.G. TRAVIS E. COFFEY
MAG-12 DEPUTY CHAPLAIN

Awakening your leadership potential is all about leading in your area of talents.

If you discover your talents and use them, you are a leader in the field. In order to be a valued leader in a forward deployed environment let’s look at what makes a leader tick.

Quality leaders are prepared in the wilderness, during a period of severe adversity. Check any successful leader in any field; they have one thing in common, and that is, they can always point back to their wilderness experience as part of their journey to greatness. It is at this time that your motives get purified, your backbone solidifies and your purpose in life gets clarified.

Leaders are change agents who defy the norm and transform the traditional paradigm.

They have inspiring vision. They understand their vision is their future. Therefore, they strive to see ahead for a better future. Leaders are problem-solvers, because they have what the people need.

They understand their talents are meant to meet other’s needs. Leaders are motivated by a love and a desire to serve people. The people come first in their philosophy of life. Leaders move

where their cause is celebrated instead of tolerated. In other words, they focus on their strengths rather than their weaknesses. The greater the leader, the greater the humility and sacrifice they display. They understand a gift may take a leader to the top, but humility enables him to endure. They possess strong character and understand competency cannot substitute for lack of character.

Leaders are on a mission and never drift from it. They become consumed and obsessed with their God-given assignment here on earth. They are diligent in their work, knowing laziness can steal everything they have worked to achieve.

Leaders are unique in their ability to see further, broader and bigger than most. They lead from the inside out by first leading themselves. Leaders invest heavily in their own personal development, going for anything which will enhance their personal value in their field of call. They are courageous and never afraid to confront great hazards. I call them “boat jumpers,” because they are risk takers.

Leaders are proactive, not reactive, in their place of leadership. Proactive leaders are creators not detractors. They have core values, beliefs and principles, which govern them.

Leaders who compromise their values eventually compromise their goals. Those who do not compromise their values leave a great legacy behind for the generation unborn: they provide for the future, even when they don’t get to experience it.

Leaders compromise on their methods, but never on their convictions or principles. They are rarely indecisive, making firm decisions and giving clear and specific directions. They buy into the principle that says “success without a successor is a failure.” They raise others to continue from where they stop and understand the power of mentorship. Every leader needs a mentor. They acknowledge their limitations and seek wise counsel.

Leaders soar through adversity, and every challenge is a stepping stone to greatness. They seek to understand before they seek to be understood. They employ the principle of giving room to others to air their views.

Leaders know what they stand for and what they won’t stand for. They understand if they don’t stand for anything, they will fall for anything.

How can you awaken yourself to be a better leader? Strive to demonstrate these essential qualities as you lead in your job, home and community, and you will experience success in your life.

LANCE CPL. ISRAEL MARTINEZ

MOS: 1171 BASIC WATER SUPPORT TECHNICIAN
Unit: MARINE WING SUPPORT SQUADRON 171
Age: 20
Hometown: ENGLEWOOD, CALIF.
Date Joined: AUGUST 10, 2009

What is your job?

I am a basic water support technician.

What is your favorite aspect of your job?

My favorite aspect of my job is always learning something new.

What is the most challenging part of your job?

The most challenging part of my job is dealing with the paperwork.

How does your job support the mission of Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 and MCAS Iwakuni?

If the station were to experience an emergency, we would be able to supply clean drinking water to everyone aboard the station.

How does your job in garrison differ from your job in the field?

In garrison, we have all the tools we need to fix our equipment. When we are supporting an exercise, we never know what will break so we have to prepare for everything.

What schools are required for your MOS

I attended the Basic Water Support Technicians Course Corps Engineer School in Camp Lejeune, N.C.

THE STATION SPOTLIGHT



COBRA FROM PAGE 1

facilities, while exercising the squadron’s expeditionary capabilities. Squadrons will work to become proficient in air-to-surface exercises, day-time close air support and air interdiction.

Exercise Cobra Gold has become a yearly event in which Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni participates. This year marks the station’s 31st year performing Exercise Cobra Gold, working alongside Thai forces and experiencing the way flight operations are performed in other countries.

“Cobra Gold is the United States’ largest multinational exercise and a major tool to build and maintain U.S. alliances in the Pacific,” said Maj. John M. Baseel, Cobra Gold 2012 action officer. “It represents one of our major training exercises to conduct realistic air-to-ground training with the ground combat element of the 31st MEU and air-to-air training against dissimilar aircraft.”

The exercise is approximately a monthlong training deployment which allows military personnel to deploy to regions where they can perform at 100 percent capability.

Cobra Gold 2012 is good for the Marines who go because not only do they train, but they also have the opportunity to experience a culture outside their own, said Baseel.

“They are given the opportunity to see Thai culture, which is world-renowned for friendliness,” said Baseel. “They are also afforded the opportunity to visit Thai temples and historic sites.”

The exercise will give the units an opportunity to conduct annual training needed in order to stay proficient in their jobs.

“I don’t believe there will be any negative impact,” said Sgt. Maj. Michael J. Pritchard, VMFA-242 Sergeant major. “Sometimes we become complacent in our jobs, because we can only do so many things. It will shake off any complacency the Marines may have. The Marines, they get to deploy, they get to do something they love, and sometimes a deployment even re-energizes them.”

While training deployments may seem like they go smoothly, there is always at least one barrier or challenge Marines must overcome.

“One challenge we face every year is you go with a new crew,” said Pritchard. “People rotate in and out, so each year half the Marines haven’t been to Thailand before, nor have they been deployed.”

Throughout Cobra Gold 2012, the military personnel participating in the exercise will use the large training ranges offered in Thailand, which are not offered here. They will also work to maintain good relations with Thailand and other allied nations in the Pacific region.

Hammering nails, hanging signs; DPRI continues station construction

CONSTRUCTION FROM PAGE 1

field from north side.”

As residents come up from the overpass heading north, there’s going to be a temporary road which will cut around construction and guide residents to north side. This road is scheduled to be completed and in use March 3. There will be signs in place for the temporary road.

March 3 is also scheduled to mark the closing of Zbella Street.

“DPRI is entering a new construction phase,” said Payne. “A lot of new projects are going to start breaking ground in the air field. To make sure those projects

get done in a timely manner, we’re making that area construction only.”

The contractor’s fence dividing north side’s main road is scheduled to be completed March 12. Once completed, the fence will separate a piece of the station, from the main gate entrance to the air field, for contractors use only.

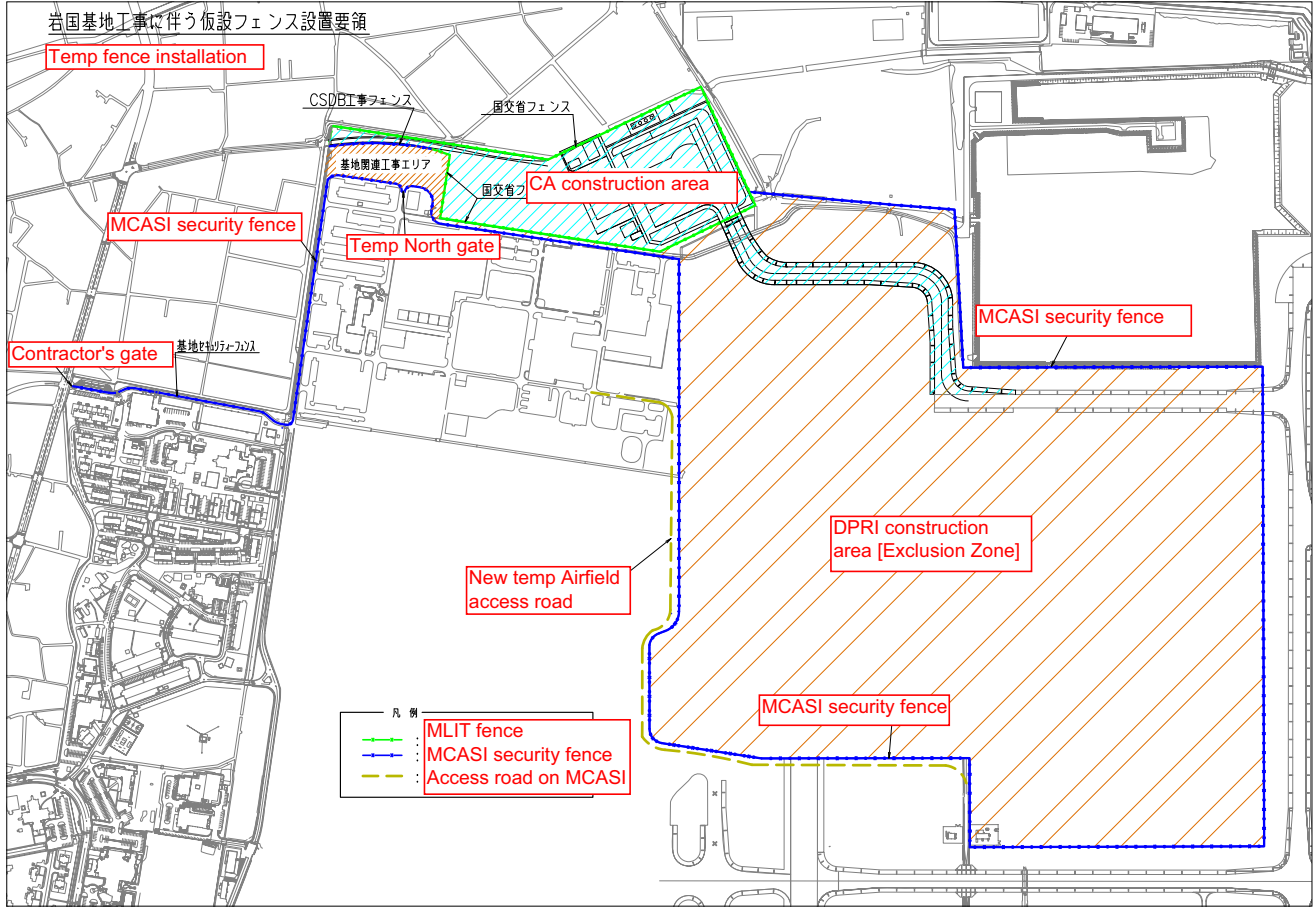
“This construction zone has been in the works for quite a while,” said Payne. “It has been put together very well to make sure we aren’t compromising anyone’s safety or security by doing this.”

The design of the contractor’s fence requires contractors to

pass all regulated inspections if they wish to drive onto the actual station not using the contractor’s gate.

“The exclusion zone is going to reduce a lot of traffic on the station, but not all of it,” said Payne. “The number of dump trucks used to move soil has been increased, and they still use some of the main roads. We want to make sure people pay attention to all these trucks. Safety is still our main concern. We’ve done what we can to keep people safe.”

More DPRI construction projects are slated to be announced in the coming months.



One of the big upcoming changes for DPRI is the sectioning off of part of the station for contractors and construction. A bypass road is planned to be implemented Feb. 1 for the north gate. A director will be present to guide residents to the road which will temporarily bring people to the north gate. Construction is being conducted to prepare the movement of the north gate closer into the station to make way for the contractor’s road.

Monzen district to get new, better crosswalk

CROSSWALK FROM PAGE 1

In its current state, the crosswalk is also known for causing a treacherous gridlock.

“From the time I reach the Monzen gate to the time I get home is 11 minutes,” said Franklin. “It takes me 15 to 20 minutes to get to the gate after work. It takes longer to drive half the station than it does to drive 7 kilometers, just because of the bottleneck. If we eliminate the need for a stop sign, traffic will flow much more smoothly.”

Provost Marshal’s Office Marines stand as directors for traffic during peak hours, waving vehicles through in an expedient manner and providing better security for pedestrians in order to process traffic in a timely manner.

“The safety of the kids is one of the main reasons

we’re out here,” said Lance Cpl. Justin M. Biddle, Provost Marshal’s Office special reactions team Marine. “You can’t be too careful when it comes to making sure families on station are safe.”

The new crosswalk will feature lights placed in the ground, as well as the customary flashing lights on the poles next to the road.

“It may be freezing cold, but I would rather be here than have someone get hurt,” said Biddle. “I look forward to seeing the crosswalk up and running though. We aren’t out here all the time. It’ll be nice to know that even when we aren’t here, Monzen residents will be safe.”

The main part of the crosswalk system has already been installed. Remaining construction is scheduled to take no longer than a week once it has begun.

A storied tale of college football domination

CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

South Eastern Conference. These three words have signified complete and total domination on the national college football landscape. These words generate feelings of admiration and equal repulsion when brought up in conversation. The SEC has once again proven its dominion over all other college football conferences, most recently with the spectacle of the 2012 Bowl Championship Series national championship game in the Mercedes Benz Superdome in New Orleans.

It's an age-old argument. College football aficionados and any arm-chair quarterback worth his bandwagon jumping tendencies will tell you the SEC is either overrated or can't be stopped. Though I'm an SEC boy through and through, I believe the argument can be found somewhere between both extremes.

The SEC is powerful, period. Eight BCS championships and one loss, which by the way came from ANOTHER SEC team in the national championship, in 14 years and a total of 35, yes, THIRTY FIVE, national championships all together speaks louder than anything else. But (and there's always a "but", isn't there?) this success can breed a very egotistical attitude that borders on narcissism.

If you went six straight seasons without defeat on the national level, you would feel a sense of invulnerability too. This has led to a biased view within the SEC, the powers-that-be and major sports authorities, such as "Sports Illustrated" or "Entertainment and Sports Programming Network". If you don't believe me, look at the overwhelming

evidence: the seismic, near catastrophic realignment of the major conferences across the college football landscape which took place the previous off-season. The catalyst for this event was the SEC's dominance. Teams left conferences they had been aligned with for decades, because their conference could not compete against the predisposition the BCS has for the SEC as a whole. Other conferences realized in order to improve their chances to see a representative in the national championship, they had to increase membership and establish a true conference championship by way of two division champs slugging it out.

This model of determining a conference was established by, you guessed it, the SEC. These changes led to the hatred of the SEC.

People were banking on the Oregon Ducks, who at the start of the 2011 season were ranked number three in the nation, to prove this Pacific Athletic

Conference 12 conference team was the most likely candidate to topple the mighty SEC from its throne and show that it (PAC-12) was here to stay. Oregon was embarrassed by the LSU Tigers, an SEC team, at the start of the season. Anyone remotely associated with college football knows what came after that: Alabama and LSU duked it out for the right to be called national champions.

All these ingredients which the SEC helped to create - the establishing of a conference championship game, the realignment of the major conference, its own over-saturation on the collegiate landscape, two teams from its own conference competing for the national title - could possibly unseat the SEC as the king of college football. These factors will eventually lead to one of two inevitable outcomes: either

a team will finally emerge to challenge the SEC consistently or a playoff style national championship system will be established. Time will tell which comes to fruition.

On the other hand, these very things are what make the SEC loved by its benefactors and hated by those outside the Deep South.

The SEC is not going anywhere. In a region where football is king, kids dream of playing for the Tide, Gators, Tigers, Razorbacks, and Bulldogs of the conference. Many of these teams are the sole Division 1 teams in their state and recognized statewide as such, unless you happen to be Auburn University or Mississippi State.

The SEC's power has forced it to grow once again by accepting Texas Agricultural and Mechanical University and the University of Missouri into its ranks. This can only lead to more increasingly shared revenue, awards, bowls and national titles.

It will tap into an oil well of recruits from the Lone Star State. The SEC is the top dog for a reason. It wins.

No one can deny that. People who aren't a part of the conference or know nothing of the passion and pageantry of college football can never understand. It's like being a Marine: either you have been a part of a brotherhood who fought and bled together in the trenches or you won't understand it.

I'm sure there will be some young upstart team who finally does break the SEC's title streak, and it will be justly deserved. To those on the outside, they'll be seen as the heroes who have finally slain the villains. The SEC faithful won't be upset. We understand every dog has his day, and we know the biggest dog will be back for the next round. So to whatever team does finally unseat us, I'll say congratulations and thanks for keeping the seat warm for us.



CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.



STOCK PHOTO

Through the years, the "Zero" Hangar Visitor Center has remained a silent reminder of the station's past. The hangar is dedicated to the preservation of peace through mutual understanding and cooperation between our two great nations. The full-scale model of a "Zero" fighter in the Visitor Center is authentic in every detail. The Toho Company Ltd. donated the aircraft, which was manufactured by the Mitsubishi Corporation.

"Zero" Hangar links present to past

LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CLARK
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Since the end of World War II, the "Zero" is one of the most widely recognized aircraft in aviation history.

One small link in our nation's chain of trust is the "Zero" Hangar Visitor Center located next to the Marine Memorial Chapel here.

The nickname "Zero" evolved from the fact that Mitsubishi designated the aircraft as "Type 00" at the factory where they were made. It was also known as the "Zeke II" and "A-6M." The first single-seat model was designated "Zero" in July 1940.

The government of Japan completed construction of this air station Dec. 1, 1939.

It served as a training base for the Japanese Imperial Naval Air Force. At the peak of activity, the air station had more than 100 "Zero" fighters stationed here.

The Visitor Center is the only remaining hangar from that time. "When Iwakuni was bombed

August 9, 1945, six days before the war's end, (the hanger's) 40 centimeter thick walls were the only walls not penetrated. All the other hangars were destroyed," said Torao "Tiger" Okuda, former "Zero" Hangar Visitor Center director as interviewed in the July 21, 2000 edition of the Torii Teller. "The 'Zero' fighter is a symbol of the tragedy of World War II for Japan and the United States. I bring people here to show them this symbol, and I ask them to pray for peace."

Okuda spent nearly 28 years explaining to younger generations about his friends who lost their lives during kamikaze attacks and other horrors of war.

While under the control of Japanese forces, the air station was attacked only once. The Visitor Center still has the war wounds of a strafing aircraft.

After the close of World War II control of the air station passed from Great Britain to Australia and finally to the United States. It was designated a Marine Corps

Air Station in 1962.

Through the years, the hangar has remained a silent reminder of the station's past, and it is now a testimony to the deepening friendship between the peoples of the U.S. and Japan.

"I've been to the 'Zero' Hangar Visitor Center at least a dozen times," said Sgt. Maj. Drew C. Benson, Marine Aircraft Group 12 sergeant major. "I always brought my kids with me because knowing history, especially World War II history, will ensure those tragedies will never happen again."

The "Zero" had a fixed-speed rotary propeller, fully retractable landing gear, tear-drop style canopy and was equipped with two 7.7 millimeter cowl-mounted machine guns and two 20 millimeter machine cannons installed in the wings.

The fighter was very maneuverable and held a good record against early U.S. and British fighters.

The performance of the "Zero"

far overshadowed allied fighters opposing it in the early stages of the war in the Pacific.

The power of the 20-millimeter machine guns, its long cruising range and its maneuverability remained superior until 1942 when American fighters such as the P-38, F-4U, F-6F and the P-51 were deployed to the Pacific.

The full-scale model of a "Zero" fighter in the Visitor Center is authentic in every detail.

The Toho Company Ltd. donated the aircraft, which was manufactured by the Mitsubishi Corporation.

Today, the hangar is a testimony of the friendship between the citizens of the United States and Japan.

The Visitor Center is dedicated to the preservation of peace through mutual understanding and cooperation between the U.S. and Japan.

To visit the "Zero" Hangar Visitor Center contact the public affairs office at 253-5551 and set up an appointment.

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Sat. 18 Feb 2012, 3:00pm
Doors Open at 2:00pm
Iwakuni Civic Hall
1-15-3, Yamate-machi, Iwakuni-shi, Yamaguchi-ken
●About 12 minute walk from JR Iwakuni Station.
●Immediately before Iwakuni city office bus stop.
To avoid traffic congestion, please use public transportation.

[POC] Local Coordination Division, Planning Department, Chugoku-Shikoku Defense Bureau / Tel 082-223-7153
●Hosted by Chugoku-Shikoku Defense Bureau ●Supported by Iwakuni City and MCAS Iwakuni ●Co-sponsored by Yamaguchi Prefecture and Otake City
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STOCK PHOTO



STOCK PHOTO

Participants fight against steel, iron



CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

Abe Roman, the overall 2012 open bench press competition winner, coats his hands in chalk in preparation for a lift during the 2012 open bench press competition here Jan. 21. The chalk helps to keep competitors hands dry so the weight does not slip from their hands during the crucial part of a lift.



CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

Abe Roman, overall male winner, focuses himself before attempting to bench press 374 pounds during the 2012 open bench press competition at the Ironworks Gym sports courts here Jan. 21. Roman has been an active lifter for more than 30 years. He credits this to a consistent lifting habits and overall nutrition.

CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

A primal grunt echoes for all to hear as flesh and bone battle against iron to see which is stronger. The tremendous strain of gravity and the trembling pain of tendons and tissue serve as constant reminders of what awaits a lifter should they fail to push the weight back up. For most, this might seem like insanity, but for those who took part in the 2012 open bench press competition at the IronWorks Gym sports courts here Jan. 21, it is a way of life.

Twenty two participants took part in the competition. Classes were divided by gender and subsequently divided into weight classes.

The overall female winner was Hiroko Yanai in the 114 pound weight class with a bench press of 94 pounds. The overall male winner was Abe Roman with a bench press of 374 pounds.

Both winners were presented with a hat and a shirt for their efforts. All lifters were awarded a medal.

The awards were not important to many of these men and women who have a passion for this sport.

“It’s not about winning or losing,” said Roman. “It’s the idea that people are focused on the same types of goals. It’s neat to meet people and see them grow.”

Roman was not only a participant in the bench press competition, but also a coach to some of the other lifters.

“I coach other people, so it’s good to see them progress and see them compete,” said Roman.

One trait all the participants seemed to have was consistency. Many of the participants who competed in this year’s competition were also at the 2011 Summer Slam Bench Press Competition.

Consistency is what allows these lifters to make the improvements they need to stay competitive and active, said Roman.

“(Consistency) is the key, year after year” said Roman. “I’ve been at this for 30 years. I’m not getting any stronger, but if you come to the gym, lead a healthy lifestyle, have good nutrition, attitude and work ethic, you can accomplish anything. But the key is consistency; day in, day out.”

For Yanai, consistency was also a trait she kept when she first started.

“I started lifting a year ago,” Yanai said through an interpreter. “It took a lot of practice.”

The opportunity to show that women can compete and still be feminine was something that appealed to Yanai.

“Women can compete without becoming too muscular,” said Yanai.

The competition itself is what feeds many of the participants to train harder by giving them a place to compete in that particular niche of weight training.

“I strive to give my best for every competition, because it motivates me,” said Yanai.

The number of lifters who participated in the competition may seem low to some, but for this type of event, turnout actually exceeded expectations.

“Our biggest competition last year had around 20,” said Thomas F. Durning, IronWorks Gym athletic director. “We matched our goal last year. We’re happy with that.”

The Japanese nationals and station residents who compete against and alongside each other should serve as a reminder to anyone that the sport of powerlifting or bodybuilding is something which transcends nationalities.

“We enjoy it when Japanese nationals can come aboard the station and compete against the residents, because it’s a special occasion for them. It allows them the opportunity to compete in athletic events,” said Durning.

IronWorks is scheduled to follow the bench press competition with a strong man competition in the spring, the 2012 Summer Slam bench press challenge in the summer and the Far East powerlifting competition in September.



CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

Abe Roman, 181-pound winner and overall male winner, bench presses 374 pounds during the 2012 open bench challenge at the IronWorks Gym sports courts here Jan. 21. Approximately 22 competitors took part in the competition, competing in a total of nine weight classes.



CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

Hiroko Yanai, 114-pound competitor and overall female winner, prepares to bench press 94 pounds during the 2012 open bench press competition at the IronWorks Gym sports courts here Jan. 21. The bench press competition is not the final powerlifting challenge for the year. The 2012 Summer slam bench press challenge is scheduled to take place during the summer and the 2012 Far East Powerlifting competition is scheduled to take place in September.



CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

A judge during the 2012 open bench press competition goes over the rules of the competition to ensure safety at the IronWorks Gym sports courts here Jan. 21. Many of the competitors also competed in the previous year's bench competition.



CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

Donyale Young, a 165-pound weight class bench press competitor, presses 253 pounds during the 2012 open bench press challenge at the Iron Works Gym sports courts here Jan. 21. Young was one of three competitors who competed in his weight class. Young took second place overall with 253 pounds.



CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

Shelly Bothwell, a 242-pound weight class competitor, prepares to press 451 pounds upward during the 2012 open bench press competition at the Ironworks Gym sports courts here Jan. 21. Bothwell was the only competitor in his weight class but still competed.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE



SINGAPORE — A CH-47 Chinook helicopter slows to 10 knots about 10 feet above the water while members of the Singapore Armed Forces Naval Diving Unit conduct helocast training with U.S. Marines. The Marines conducted the helocast training alongside members of the NDU during Exercise Sandfisher off the coast of Singapore Jan. 12.

Singapore, U.S. leap for joint readiness

LANCE CPL. MIKE GRANAHAAN
MARINE CORPS BASES JAPAN

SINGAPORE — After a carefully planned leap, U.S. Marines and members of the Singapore Armed Forces Naval Diving Unit made a splash landing off the coast of Singapore Jan. 12.

The Marines, part of Company A, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, conducted the bilateral helocast training with their Singapore counterparts as part of Exercise Sandfisher.

Sandfisher is an annual training exercise in which the Singapore Armed Forces Naval Diving Unit conducts bilateral amphibious reconnaissance and combat diving training with 3rd Recon. Bn. to sustain tactical proficiency. The engagement also supports the U.S. Pacific Command's theater security cooperation program.

Helocasting is a form of tactical insertion where service members are flown by helicopter within one nautical mile of a shoreline. They then cast themselves out the back of the aircraft, which is still flying at about 10 knots, carrying all of their gear. From there, they make their way into enemy territory preferably undetected.

"It is a specialized insertion method to get swimmers ashore when the landing area is not conducive of small craft," said Gunnery Sgt. Hunter B. Sorrells, a platoon sergeant with the company. "We are able to get the reconnaissance team in with very little to no



SINGAPORE — A rescue craft rushes toward members of its team as a CH-47 Chinook helicopter regains altitude and exits the area after members of Singapore Armed Forces Naval Diving Unit leapt out of the aircraft during helocast training off the coast of Singapore Jan. 12. Marines with Company A, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, III Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, conducted the bilateral helocast training alongside their Singaporean counterparts during Exercise Sandfisher.

signature."

The Marines of 3rd Reconnaissance Bn. are well-versed in the art of helocasting, but this jump was prepared by the NDU and was carried out "flawlessly," said Sorrells.

The briefing held by the NDU the morning of the jump was extremely detailed, going over things including weather, the exact scheme of maneuver and a recovery plan, said Sgt. Joshua Margolies, a team leader with 3rd Recon.

"Singapore provides a unique capability, in that they have a very robust training capacity," said Capt. Chris J. Kearney, a platoon commander with Company A. "We learn from them as much as we teach."

For most members of the NDU this was their first experience helocasting.

"I think everything went really well, they did everything exactly the way they planned it out," said Margolies. "It was probably one of the easiest helocasts I've ever done."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS | CLASSIFIEDS

Briefs

JAS Cultural Festival 2012
Matthew C. Perry High School is scheduled to host the Japanese American Society Cultural Festival 2012 in the M.C. Perry gym March 4, 1 - 4 p.m. Visitors will be introduced to Japanese culture, including both old and modern Japanese customs and traditions throughout the event. Enjoy free Japanese and American food and door prizes. For more information contact the JAS office at 253-4744 or call 080-4554-4744.

Marine A-4 Skyhawk Reunion
Marine A-4 Skyhawk Reunion, in conjunction with the MCAA Symposium and Centennial Celebrations, is scheduled to be held May 16-19 at the Gaylord National Hotel, Oxon Hill, MD. All drivers, maintainers and aficionados are welcome. For more information contact Mark Williams at rodder.wilco@comcast.net.

Super Bowl XLVI
Make sure you don't miss out on the biggest game of the year. Club Iwakuni is scheduled to put the game on big screen. There will be a free breakfast buffet with lunch snacks. There will also be games and prizes during the game. Doors open at 6:30 a.m. Kick-off begins at 8:15 a.m. For more information, call 253-5416.

Free Child Development Screening
Educational and Developmental Intervention Services will be holding a free child development screening

event for children 4 - 60 months on Feb. 29 and March 1 at Matthew C. Perry Elementary School. Child specialists will answer questions and screen 5 major areas of child development. For more information, please schedule an appointment with EDIS at 253-4562.

Thrift Store Changes
The Marine Thrift Store has new management and new hours. Wednesday and Friday 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 4 - 6:30 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Open to active duty military in uniform Monday through Friday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Saturday and Sunday.

Main Gate Construction
Main Gate construction is scheduled through January. This construction will impact traffic weekdays from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. During these times, all outbound traffic will be redirected to the North and Monzen Gates. Pedestrians and bicyclists will not be affected. The visitor center will be fully operational.

Relief Donation
The Officers' Spouses' Club is scheduled to hold a Taiko drum and Tsunami-relief donation event from 2 - 5 p.m., Jan. 29, at the Marine Memorial Chapel. For more information, contact Ms. Megan Reed at maggylou@gmail.com.

Education Fair
The Lifelong Learning Department is scheduled to host an Education Fair for station residents March 7 from 12 - 2 p.m. in Building 411. This event will serve as a great informational forum for students interested in starting, continuing and advancing

their education. Light refreshments will be served, and door prizes will be given away. For more information, contact the Education Office at 253-3855.

Iwakuni Roadrunners
All service members and civilians are welcome. Runs are Mondays at 9 a.m., Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m., Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. and Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. Meeting place is in front of Crossroads Mall. Time and length of runs vary. All abilities are welcome. For more information, visit "Iwakuni Roadrunners" Facebook page.

Girl Scouts
The Iwakuni Girl Scouts is looking for fun-loving, devoted women and men who want to make a positive impact on the lives of young girls. If you are interested in becoming a leader, coleader, board member or parent volunteer, e-mail iwakunigs@gmail.com.

PMO Lost and Found
Contact the Provost Marshal's Office Lost and Found if you've lost anything around the station. Examples include helmets, cameras, cell phones, etc. For more information, to report lost items or to claim lost items, call 253-4929.

Emergency Phone Numbers Reminder
• Anti-terrorism force protection hotline: 253-ATFP (2837).
• Life limb or loss of vision threatening emergencies while on the air station: 119 or 911. From a cell phone or for bilingual capability: 082-721-7700.
• For security issues, contact the Provost Marshal's Office: 253-

3303. To report without talking to a person, Crime Stoppers: 253-3333.
• Sexual Assault: To make a confidential report of sexual assault or harassment, contact the victim advocate at 253-4526 during working hours. For after hours, weekends and holidays, call 090-9978-1033 or 080-3427-0835. You can also call the installation Sexual Assault Response Coordinator at 253-6556 or 080-5865-3566.

Lending Locker Program
The lending locker program is available to provide small home appliances and utensils for incoming and outgoing command sponsored members for up to 60 days inbound and 30 days outbound. A copy of PCS orders are required to check out items, and the program is by appointment only. The lending locker is located in Building 411 Room 101. Appointments are 8 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. For more information, call 253-6161.

Mothers of Preschoolers
MOPS offers fun support and encouragement for mothers of children ages 0-5. Meetings are the 1st and 3rd Thursday each month. Volunteers are also needed to help with the children's program. For more information, call Sarah Spencer at 253-2303 or visit www.facebook/IwakuniMOPS.

NMCRS Quick Assist Loans
The Iwakuni Navy Marine Corps Relief Society is providing Quick Assist Loans to prevent active duty service members from falling prey to predatory lenders. These loans are designed to assist

with short-term living expenses up to \$300, interest free and must be repaid within 10 months. For more information, call the Iwakuni NMCRS at 253-5311 or stop by the Marine Memorial Chapel, Room 148.

Apply Today
Volunteer positions available. Applicants should be outgoing, willing to have fun and highly motivated. We are also looking for a board member treasurer with book keeping experience. Board members and store volunteers must attend all store meetings. All positions are volunteer, non-compensated positions. For more information call Patty or Sharon at 253-4711 or e-mail thrift_store@yahoo.com.

Brief and Classified Submissions
To submit a community brief or classified advertisement, send an e-mail to iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil. Include a contact name, a phone number and the information you would like published. Alternatively, You may submit your brief or classified ad in person at the Public Affairs Office, Building 1, Room 216 or you may call 253-5551. However you choose to submit, ensure you provide all requested information to simply the request process and ensure your request is processed properly. The deadline for submissions is 3 p.m. every Friday. Submissions will run the following Friday on a space-available basis. The Iwakuni Approach staff reserves the right to edit submissions for space and style.

Be respectful, don't forget to salute



INFOTAINMENT

Chapel Services

Roman Catholic
Saturday 4:30-5:15 p.m. Confession
5:30 p.m. Mass

Sunday 8:30 a.m. Mass
9:45 a.m. Religious Education

Tues. – Fri. 11:30 a.m. Weekday Mass

Protestant
2nd & 4th Saturday 10:00 a.m. Seventh-Day
Adventist Sabbath meeting

Sunday 9:30 a.m. Sunday School,
Adult Bible study
10:30 a.m. Protestant Service
4:30 p.m. Lutheran Holy
Communion Service
(Small Chapel)

Tuesday 9 a.m. Ladies Bible Study

Wednesday 5:45 p.m. Awana (Bldg. 1104)
1st &3rd Thursday 9:30 a.m. MOPS

Church of Christ
Sunday 9:30 a.m. Bible Study (small
chapel)
10:30 a.m. Service Fellowship

Teen Programs
• High School Meetings (Club – grades 9-12)
• Junior High Meetings (Club JV – grades 7-8)
• HS&JR Bible Studies
• Retreats
• Service Projects
• Missions Trip
• Special Events Volunteer Training & Mentoring

For information regarding divine services, religious education or any other command religious program or chapel activity, call the Marine Memorial Chapel at 253-3371.

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH CULTURAL LESSONS



This week's Kanji Adventures will expand your Japanese street smarts. Have your own Kanji Adventures idea to submit? Submit ideas to the Public Affairs Office by e-mailing them to iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil or submit them in person at the Public Affairs Office in Building 1 Room 216.

Helpful phrases

Where are the taxis?	Take me to this address, please?
Pronounced: <i>Takushii wa doko desu ka?</i>	Pronounced: <i>Kono juusho made onegaishimasu?</i>
Where is the bus?	What is the fare?
Pronounced: <i>Basu wa doko desu ka?</i>	Pronounced: <i>Ikura desu ka?</i>
Where is the train station?	Stop here, please.
Pronounced: <i>Eki wa doko desu ka?</i>	Pronounced: <i>Koko de tomatte kudasai.</i>

Symbol of the week

(Left) The first symbol is kanji and the second two are Hiragana. Together they form one word meaning, 'stop'.

It is pronounced: *to mare*

This word is frequently found on public roads.

Kanji are the main characters used in Japanese language. Hiragana is used in words for which the Kanji form is obscure or not known to writers or readers.

Vowel pronunciation

The letter "a" represents a sound like the "a" in "father."

The letter "e" represents a sound like the "e" in "pet."

The letter "i" represents a sound like the American "ee" in "feet."

The letter "o" represents a sound like the initial portion of the American "o" in "so."

The letter "u" represents a sound like the "oo" in "fool."

SAKURA THEATER

Friday, January 27, 2011
7 p.m. Joyful Noise (PG-13)
10 p.m. Immortals (R)

Saturday, January 28, 2011
4 p.m. Arthur Christmas (PG)
7 p.m. The Sitter (R)

Sunday, January 29, 2011
4 p.m. We Bought A Zoo (PG)
7 p.m. J. Edgar (R)

Monday, January 30, 2011
7 p.m. Joyful Noise (PG-13)

Tuesday, January 31, 2011
Theater closed

Wednesday, February 1, 2011
Theater closed

Thursday, February 2, 2011
7 p.m. Immortals (R)

The movie schedule is subject to change. Please check www.mccsiwakuni.com/sakura often for updates, or call the Sakura Theater at 253-5291 for the latest schedule.

General Admission: Ages 12+ are \$3/ Ages 6-11 are \$1.50/ Children ages 5 and under admitted free. For more information, visit www.mccsiwakuni.com or call 253-5291.

Teachers school students during annual basketball game

LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CLARK
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Matthew C. Perry High School students, teachers and staff played basketball games against each other at the M.C. Perry Gym here Jan. 20.

The teachers faced the boy and girl varsity Samurai basketball teams after the seventh and eighth-grade boys and girls took turns on the court.

"We are all one family," said Victor Rivera, male teachers and staff coach. "This is about building the Samurai spirit between the teachers and students. This kind of interaction only brings us closer."

A total of four games were played. First, seventh and eighth-grade girls faces each other. Next, were the seventh and eighth-grade boys. Then, the female teachers and staff faced the girls' varsity team. Finally, the boys' varsity team played the male teachers and staff.

"This event is a great way for the parents to come out and cheer on their kids as they play their teachers and fellow students," said Morgan A. Nugent, M.C. Perry High School principal.

The seventh and eighth-grade girls were first up on the court and played six minute halves.

The seventh and eighth-graders were only scoring using single-point layups. The clock did not stop for throwing in the ball and foul shots.

The seventh-graders played aggressively throughout the first half but only made two layups. The eighth-grade girls used their height as an advantage to gain the lead by halftime 7-4.

The eighth-graders continued to dominate in the second half by keeping the seventh-graders running around and fighting for possession. The seventh-grade girls could only layup one more point while the eighth-graders made another seven points, which brought the final score to 14-5.

The seventh and eighth-grade boys took to the court next and played eight minute halves.

The seventh-graders took the eighth-grade boys by surprise in the first half with aggressive playing and speedy passes to gain an early 4-2 lead. The eighth-graders were able to get their game together and sink a few more buckets before halftime taking the lead 8-4.

Both teams scored four points in the second half before the buzzer sounded ending their battle 12-8 in favor of the eighth-graders.

Next on the court were the female teachers and staff against the girls' varsity team. The teachers and varsity games had 12 minute halves.

The female staff and teachers dressed in unique and colorful uniforms for the game, some even wore tutus on the court. The colorful clothing didn't seem to distract the varsity girls as they played. Both teams fought tooth and nail during the first half with a 6-6 tie.

"This gives us something to laugh about and cheer for," said Tessa J. Wilson, female teachers and staff point guard. "It was really fun to play and even funnier to watch."

The teachers were able to get an early 10-6 lead in the first few minutes of the second half and kept the varsity girls from scoring. With only four minutes left the varsity girls became more aggressive and made two layups tying the game 10-10.

With just a few seconds left the girls' varsity team stole the ball, passed it down court, and sunk a 3-pointer to win the game 13-10.

The last game of the evening was between the male teachers and staff and the boys' varsity team. This game also had 12 minute halves.

The first half was a close battle for both teams. The varsity boys used their speed and teamwork through passing while the teachers used their years of knowledge to make shots.



LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CLARK

Layasha R. Anderson, seventh-grade girls' center, fights for control of the ball with Breanna Lewis, eighth-grade girls' forward, during the Matthew C. Perry High School seventh and eighth grade girls' game at the M. C. Perry Gym here Jan. 20. The seventh and eighth-grade girls were the first on the courts.

The first half came to a close with the boys' varsity leading 25-22. Both teams accumulated many points during the second half, but the teachers' experience proved to be the deciding factor when they won the game 41-37. "This helped the team practice for the season," said Brian J.

Barentine, Samurai varsity shooting guard. "When we pass better, we play better. Next time the teachers won't be so lucky."

After each game, the opposing teams shook hands and congratulated each other on a well-played game.

Freqs get scrubbed in dodgeball tourney

PFC. BENJAMIN PRYER
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Team Scrubs took first place in the dodgeball competition, which kicked off the 2012 Commander's Cup at the IronWorks sports courts here Jan. 20.

"The Commander's Cup is about camaraderie and getting together and having a good time," said Barbara Roman, Marine Corps Community Services SemperFit fitness coordinator. "These events challenge Marines physically and mentally. Marines challenge themselves all the time with (Combat Fitness Test's) and (Physical Fitness Test's); this is just a different kind of challenge."

The dodge ball competition was a double-elimination, bracketed

tournament. Each match had three-minute rounds, pausing half way through to allow teams to substitute a player. Whichever team had the most players left on the court after three minutes won the round and whichever team was the first to win two rounds won the set.

"The Commander's Cup is a challenge, and who doesn't like a challenge?" said Roman.

The tournament started with Team Dirty-6 against Team Scrubs and Team Bacon Strips against Team Freqs.

Teams fought vigorously, trying their best to mix strategy with speed and strength.

"We were losing with everyone randomly picking, but as soon as (Lance Cpl. Albert Post, a Scrubs

player.) picked the players we won every game after," said Staff Sgt. Jason Anderson, Scrubs player.

As teams continued to battle each other, eliminations slowly started to take place.

Dirty 6 was the first team to be eliminated, losing their first two sets, and Bacon Strips was beaten a second time soon after.

Aside from formidable competition, the dodgeball tournament gave Marines from within the squadrons a chance to meet and build friendships.

"This is the first time that I've gotten to meet some of the Marines on my team," said Anderson. "We got to know each other and participate in some healthy competition."

With only two teams remaining,

Freqs, with no losses, went head-to-head against Scrubs, who had suffered a first round loss.

In a show of perseverance, Scrubs came back from a one-loss disadvantage, beating Freqs in two consecutive rounds and taking first place.

"I'm really competitive," said Albert Post, Scrubs player. "I like winning, so I had a good day. I had a good time."

The Commander's Cup is a year-round competition open to all ranks and units.

A monthly event is scheduled to take place from Jan. to Oct., with the Gladiator's Challenge being the final and most anticipated event.

A "mystery" endurance challenge is slated for this February.

Mess Hall Menu

Monday
Corn chowder, turkey yakisoba, Chinese barbecue diced pork, red pepper glazed fish, pork fried rice, steamed rice, orange carrots amandine, fried cabbage, Chinese egg roll, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, bear claws, cinnamon crumb top muffin, blueberry pie, velvet pound cake, brownies, chocolate cream pudding parfait, Jell-O parfait.

Tuesday
Chicken gumbo soup, French fried shrimp, sukiyaki, barbecue beef cubes, home fried potatoes, steamed rice, cauliflower parmesan, southern style greens, creamy gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, long Johns, banana muffin, lemon meringue, devil's food cake with chocolate buttercream frosting, shortbread cookies, bread pudding, Jell-O parfait.

Wednesday
French onion soup, Chinese five spice chicken, Swiss steak with brown gravy, mustard dill fish, steamed rice, garlic roasted potato wedges, fried cabbage with bacon, mixed vegetables, brown gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, snails, quick cherry coffee cake, blueberry pie, white cake with buttercream frosting, brownies, vanilla pudding parfait, Jell-O parfait.

Thursday
New England clam chowder, beef stroganoff, pork adobo, baked ham, macaroni and tomatoes, pork fried rice, steamed pasta, scalloped cream style corn, peas with onions, brown gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, kolaches, apple coffee cake, cherry crunch, banana cake with buttercream frosting, macadamia chocolate chunks, chocolate parfait, Jell-O parfait.

Friday
Tomato soup, fried catfish, beef stew, chili macaroni, grilled cheese, Franconia potatoes, steamed pasta, succotash, broccoli parmesan, mushroom gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, cinnamon rolls, quick French coffee cake, blueberry pie, carrot cake with cream cheese frosting, chocolate chip cookie, chocolate parfait, Jell-O parfait.

The Iwakuni Time Machine

This week in 1972 the Torii Teller reported on a VMFA-232 pilot's rough flight home. Other news included in this issue were talks of ending the war in Vietnam, increasing pay, the first birth in 1972 aboard the station and a feature highlighting the conversion of a surplus ambulance into a custom camper. Marines were able to modify ambulances into campers for \$750 apiece boasting innovations such as showers and oak panelling.

VMFA-232 pilot home on wing and a prayer

The plane was in trouble, there was no doubt about that. And, as it made its first pass over the field, no one was more aware of it than 1stLt. Gene Salaniuk, the pilot.

The fuel situation was critical and he couldn't get his right main landing gear down.

The drama that unfolded here last Friday afternoon began normally enough. Salaniuk and his Radar Intercept Officer, 1stLt. Darrell Sayer, were on a routine training mission for VMFA-232.

"Everything started out OK" Salaniuk recalled. "Then, about 10 minutes into the mission, I noticed I was losing pressure in my hydraulic system."

Concerned about this development, Salaniuk and his wingman turned back to the base. "At 6,000 feet I lowered my landing gear and it was then that I discovered that I couldn't get my right main landing gear to come down."

A visual check by the wingman and indicators on the control panel of the F-4 Phantom jet confirmed that the right landing gear was still in the up position.

"We went through all the emergency procedures and did all kinds of wild maneuvers trying to get the gear down, but it wouldn't budge."

The manual on the F-4 calls for, in this particular type of emergency, a short field arrested landing. There was only one small problem: Salaniuk had never made an arrested landing in an F-4.

After Salaniuk and his RIO, Lieutenant Sayers, had talked it over, the decision was made to land the crippled jet.

A large crowd had formed near the Search and Rescue hut to watch the drama unfold. As the crash crew fanned the runway, Salaniuk made preparations for his landing.

The first pass was a miss, and on the second landing attempt the cable broke. "I didn't feel any reduction in speed," said Lt. Salaniuk, "so I had to put on my afterburner and get out of there."

Now the fuel situation became critical and with slightly more than 1,000 pounds of fuel remaining, the two lieutenants began to think about bailing out.

An attempt to refuel was aborted because the winds were too rough at the reduced altitude at which the plane was circling.

With the fuel critically low, Salaniuk again tried to land. The F-4 approached the field and this time the cable caught and held the plane. The plane continued down the runway a few seconds and then its right wing dropped to the ground.

From the field near the SAR hut, a round of applause and cheers broke out from the crowd. It had been Salaniuk's third flight since joining VMFA-232 on January 10. As the F-4 slid to a stop, Sayers, in the back seat whispered, "Thank God."

From the front seat Salaniuk added: "Amen."



A Phantom is home safe!

Interagency counselling team to visit

A special overseas interagency counselling team is slated to arrive here Monday, January 31 for special counselling of interested Iwakunians at the Joint Education Office.

The purpose of the team is to provide "civilian readjustment" services to servicemen expecting release from active duty within the next six months.

Representatives of the Department of Labor and the Veterans Administration make up the team. These team members will have with them presentation materials, kits, forms and other related materials to assist servicemen and women in completion of the necessary paperwork to help ready themselves for educational pursuits, employment or veterans' benefits upon their return to civilian life.

The team will be available for consultation in the Education Office, Bldg. 1478, from 1-4:30 p.m. Monday, and from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday February 1 with a normal lunch break.

Iwakunians with immediate questions may talk to the representatives at these times or wait for their next visit. The team is slated to begin making monthly two-day visits here.

Career Planners to arrive

The Headquarters Marine Corps Career Planning team will visit Iwakuni Wednesday, Feb. 2, making special presentation programs for all company grade officers, Staff Non-Commissioned Officers, and career-oriented sergeants and below.

Staff NCOs will attend a presentation at 8:30 Wednesday morning with enlisted men following at 10:15 a.m. The officers' program will be presented at 1 p.m.

Accompanying the team will be Col. Bain McClintock, head of the HQMC Career Planning Branch; Col. Hazel Benn, head of the Education Branch and Maj. James Bugbee, representing the Enlisted Assignment Section of Headquarters.

The one-hour and 15 minute enlisted and Staff NCO programs are to be conducted by SSgt. M. J. DePersig. Maj. Dale Shuman will head the 90-minute officers' presentation.