



SUPPORT

Sailors train to save lives | P. 5

SEABEES BASH

Tickets are now on sale for the 70th Seabee Birthday Bash March 2 at 5 p.m. in Club Iwakuni. Ticket cost is \$25 per person.

IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 7 Vol. 5 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

Love on the run

Lance Cpl. Nicholas Rhoades
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The Iwakuni Roadrunners held the first Couples and Lonely Hearts Race to commemorate the romantic season of Valentine's Day while staying healthy here Feb. 12.

Forty eight racers, coming from all over the air station, participated in the race.

"We wanted to do something different for the up and coming Valentine's Day, but we realized not everyone has a romantic partner so we tried to make it open to everyone," said Haley B. Singler, club founder and race organizer.

To change up the usual style of a 10 Kilometer race, the Iwakuni Roadrunners decided to make it a relay race with your partner.

"It's a 10K race and the competitors can run it as a 'lonely heart' or find someone to run with," said Singler. "It doesn't have to be your spouse it can be anyone of the opposite sex and then run 5k in relay form."

With the new style of race, the winners had to be chosen by looking at more than just their times.

"At the end we will combine the times and ages to find our winners of each category," said Singler.

The first place winner was awarded with a box of a dozen Krispy Kreme donuts and an official Iwakuni Roadrunners medal.

The overall winner and first place finish in the Mens 10k division was 1st Lt. Joseph A. Pacentrilli, Marine Aircraft Logistics Group 12 supply officer-in-charge.

SEE LOVE ON PAGE 3

ARFF MARINES BEAT THE HEAT | P. 6 & 7



LANCE CPL. VANESSA JIMENEZ

Marines with Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting charge toward the hot flames during a live-fire training exercise at the designated burn pit here Feb. 3. ARFF Marines are trained to stay low to the ground as they fight their red, orange and yellow nemesis, moving the hand-line in a back and forth motion to drown the flames in water. ARFF conducts bimonthly training to keep the Marines' skills sharp and help them become confident in their technique, gear and each other.

Silver Eagles improve readiness at Cobra Gold

Lance Cpl. Cayce Nevers
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

KORAT ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE BASE, Thailand — Military personnel of Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115, Marine Air Control Squadron 4 Detachment B and Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 began their involvement in Exercise Cobra Gold 2012 Feb. 7 by conducting bi-lateral and unit level training with the Thai Armed Forces, the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit and 5th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company. Now that Exercise Cobra Gold 2012 has officially

begun, these squadrons are working to improve mission readiness by training with allies in scenarios such as Thai aircraft versus U.S. aircraft, U.S. and Thai aircraft and pilots working together to take out "enemies" on the ground by dropping ordnance and to complete semi-annual training for pilots. "During Cobra Gold, our mission is to work with our allies to build up and improve on unit-level training," said Master Sgt. William Hetrick Jr., Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115 aircraft maintenance chief. "My mission is to ensure my Marines are taken care

SEE EAGLES ON PAGE 3

Cryogenics helps pilots breathe

Lance Cpl. Nicholas Rhoades
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Station cryogenics, a group comprised of Navy personnel from Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron and Marine Aircraft Group 12, provide Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni with gas and liquefied gas assets.

The air station uses these assets to help accomplish the overall mission of getting as many aircraft as needed in the air on time.

"We support the entire station along with other deployed squadrons by supplying all of their liquid gaseous needs," said Petty Officer 1st Class Sherwin F. Mansilla, lead petty officer of station cryogenics.

The liquefied gases are found in many different areas of military aircraft and can be used for a variety of purposes.

"One thing we use the gases for is for pressurized tires on aircraft landing gear," Mansilla.


Tires aren't the only thing which must hold pressurized, purified gas.

"We can also use the gas for releasing of missiles," said Mansilla. "A pilot can't allow for a spark when launching a missile out of the side of the aircraft."

Missiles may be essential to some missions but one factor which is consistently required is an able-bodied pilot.

"We support every pilot on station by supplying

SEE AIR ON PAGE 3



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CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

‘In the spotlight’

Lt. j.g. Alexander J. Cho
MWSS-171 COMMAND
CHAPLAIN

What a great time it is to be a sports fan. I’m not talking about the recent win the New York Giants had against the New England Patriots. (As great as that was, I still believe next year will be the year for the New York Jets).

I’m not talking about all the recent National Basketball Association trades that have brought many superstars to one city (e.g. LA Lakers, Boston Celtics, Miami Heat, LA Clippers). I’m not even talking about the rise of one of the most exciting sports there is ... mixed martial arts.

What I am talking about is the spotlight being given to individual athletes. I’m talking Tim Tebow, Jon Jones and Jeremy Lin (don’t know who he is? Search him on YouTube).

Why is it great these athletes are getting the spotlight? Because

when each one of these athletes is given their time to shine, they always direct the spotlight to God.

Luke 11:33 says, “No one lights a lamp and puts it in a place where it will be hidden ... Instead they put it on its stand, so that those who come in may see the light.”

For some odd reason, talking about one’s faith has become taboo in our society.

While it may be cool to brag about how we were wasted last night and puked out all that we ate, it is not cool to talk about our faith in Christ.

It is not cool to talk about how God is working in our lives or how God has been blessing us.

That’s why I respect Tim Tebow, Jon Jones and Jeremy Lin.

These are three up-and-coming athletes who have the media in a craze right now.

They have been blessed with athletic talent and when it comes time for their interview who do they always give props to? God.

It doesn’t matter if the media is bashing Tim Tebow or not, Tebow always thanks God.

It doesn’t matter how many opponents Jon Jones beats, he

always thanks God.

It doesn’t matter that Jeremy Lin never gets respect as an Asian baller, he always thanks God for the opportunity to play.

These three athletes realize God has given them great talent and they always thank him.

So now I turn the spotlight to you. Whether you realize it or not, God has given you talent and unique skill sets.


You are great at things that others might not be good at.

When you do get your time to shine, what are you going to talk about? Will you be talking about how hard work pays off?


Will you be talking about how you were able to drink 12 beers last night? Or will you be able to talk about how God is working in your life and give thanks to him.

Because if people are listening to you and you direct the spotlight to God, you are doing a great work in sharing your faith and telling people how great our God is.

It takes a great man to have the spotlight, but it takes a greater man to direct that spotlight to our one true shining light of the world.



Petty Officer 2nd Class Duane A. Selby
MOS: Hospital Corpsman (HM)
Unit: Marine Wing Support Squadron 171
Age: 31
Hometown: Wayne, Michigan
Date Joined: December 19, 2000



What do you like about your job?
My favorite part is being able to help people and I always get to make a difference in their lives.

What is the most challenging part of your job?
Trying to figure out what everybody needs and getting everything to work out with their different schedules.

Do you plan on making the military a career and what do you plan on doing when you retire?
Yes, I plan on going with public health which deals with restaurants and reporting diseases so I can prevent disease instead of treating it.

Why did you join the military?
I was just out of high school and kept having jobs I wasn’t happy with and I needed more of a challenge and focus in my life.

What are some of your major accomplishments and lessons learned?
Making it through 6 months of Preventative Medical Training and coming here without a turn-over and making things work.

What makes you stand out from your peers?
I come in to work every day with a smile and always help out with any part of the sick call area and complete my own PMT goals.



Interested in becoming a DJ?
You could rock the club and enjoy all the night time parties Club Iwakuni has to offer! If you are interested in becoming a DJ, call MCCS Productions at 253-3727 for details.

Ain’t no run far enough to keep me from getting to you

LOVE FROM PAGE 1

The winner of the Womens 10k division was Cpl. Kirsten L. Batocchio, Marine Aircraft Group 12 aircraft maintenance administrative specialist. The winners of the couple’s portion of the race, each of whom ran 5k, was Marie Jules-Byrd and Gunnery Sgt. Jamie L. Byrd, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 bulk fuel specialist. The Iwakuni Roadrunners don’t always think of every event as a competitive race, but an enjoyable experience with other people who enjoy running and staying fit.

“Everybody here is friendly, it’s a great group and everybody is pushing themselves,” said Pacentrilli.

During the race, it was clear to everyone there was a wide variety of skill levels.

“After the turnaround point, when I was running back, I noticed a lot of these women who were pushing their strollers with one, two, and three kids,” said Pacentrilli. “It was really motivating to see all the people out here enjoying themselves.”

The motivation of uniting everyone for a Valentine’s Day run ended up bringing people together and allowed families to race together.

“It was a little cold and there was a bit of wind but it was a good run,” said Meeghan Ertwine and her son, Colby Ertwine, 13, couples runners and club members.

The Roadrunners come together every month for a unique race and allow anyone to come out and join or just run.

“I love this running club and I like doing races,” said the Ertwines. “It keeps us motivated.”

The next race is scheduled for March 17 and will be unique to St. Patrick’s Day.

This will also be replacing the annual Run on the Green race due to the construction on the golf course.



Station members begin the first Couples and Lonely Hearts Race hosted by the Iwakuni Roadrunners by beginning the first leg of the race at the start of the seawall behind the IronWorks Gym here Feb. 12. Club members got a free Couples and Lonely Hearts Race t-shirt and were able to run the race for free, along with any of the other races held by the club while other running enthusiasts had to pay a small fee to participate.

EAGLES FROM PAGE 1

of. They are, after all, the driving force behind success.”

While their job doesn’t change based on location, the intensity during exercises does.

“Back in Iwakuni, we fly jets at night and on the weekends. Here we only fly during the day so we do more flights than we would back in Beaufort in a shorter time,” said Lance Cpl. Crystal L. Rivera, VMFA-115 fixed-wing mechanic.

Another major factor of Exercise Cobra Gold 2012 is teamwork. “The teamwork my shop has is amazing,” said Rivera. “Camaraderie is a big part of getting things done. Without it, the aircraft aren’t flying and the exercise wouldn’t take place.”

Throughout the training evolution, squadrons will work to become proficient in air-to-surface exercises, daytime close-air support and air interdiction.

Not everything about deploying for exercises is easy. Marines are faced with and overcome many challenges. “When you are on deployments like these, you are given more responsibility,” said Cpl. Jordan Jewett, VMFA-115 fixed-wing mechanic. “I am always learning something new.”

Another challenge the Marines overcome on a daily basis during this exercise is minimal gear. “It’s more difficult to fix the aircraft when you are low on supplies or when you don’t have them at all,” said Jewett. “You can only bring so much when you move around a lot.”

Exercise Cobra Gold is a Thai and U.S. co-sponsored multinational, multiservice exercise that includes forces from Singapore, Japan, Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia and representatives from other countries in the region.

AIR FROM PAGE 1

per minute for every 10,000 feet.

“Aircraft usually have small tanks that can hold a few flights worth of liquefied oxygen,” said Berend, machinist mate.

The average breathing requirement for a pilot is roughly one liter of oxygen

The gas is liquefied so it is more concentrated and allows the aircraft to hold more in a smaller tank.

“When oxygen is turned into a liquid, it is condensed 861 times, allowing us to fit a vast amount of oxygen into a small tank in a liquid form,” said Petty Officer

2nd Class Edison C. Sarmient, machinist mate.

Oxygen has a boiling point of -297.33 degrees Fahrenheit. This makes it very dangerous and even deadly.

“By simply leaving liquid gas exposed in a room it can expand so much it may offset other gasses and make it deadly to enter a room,” said Sarmient.

Cryogenics is a dangerous job due to the possibility of liquid oxygen combusting, but is a necessary risk in order to accomplish the overall mission of MCAS Iwakuni, and the United States of America.

Corporals Course: 509-12

Honor Graduate: Cpl. Lucas A. Bankson MALS-12
Iron Man: Cpl. Lucas A. Bankson MALS-12
Gung Ho: Cpl. Thad D. Cully H&HS

Cpl. Adzzrynraffeal A. Ahamad	MALS-12	Cpl. Joshua M. Lucie	MALS-12
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Cpl. Alice J. Garcia	MALS-12	Cpl. Victoria D. Talbert	MALS-12
Cpl. Bryant M. Green	MALS-12	Cpl. Jason R. Tavano	H&HS
Cpl. Samuel B. Kellogg	MALS-12	Cpl. Michelle H. Thach	H&HS
Cpl. Brandon T. Kelsey	MALS-12	Cpl. Cesar Tierrablanca	H&HS
Cpl. Manuel B. Llivisaca	MALS-12	Cpl. Edward C. York III	H&HS

February Promotions

MWSS-171

Lance Cpl.
Cuellar, Julio C.
Jackson, Dana D.
Ramirez, Marco A.
Smith, Matthew C.

Cpl.
Harrison III, James M.
Lightner, Brandon D.
Mason, Markeith L.
Pepe, Andrew R.
Trend, Thomas M.
Warner, Lawrence T.

Sgt.
Martin, Charles A.
Pierre, Alain
Rodriguez, Edgar E.

Staff Sgt.
Horton Jr., Harold D.
Merriweather, Jarius C.

CLC-36

Lance Cpl.
Colon, Raul A.
Rodriguez, Kervin

Cpl.
Rollinson, Dominique R.

H&HS

Lance Cpl.
Coverdale, Justin D.
Horton, Whitford L.
Pikula II, Frank M.
Ressler, Hazel L.
Spears, Seth B.

Cpl.
Clukey, William M.
Dekleuver, Darrell M.
Stephens, Daniel E.

Sgt.
Campbell, Timothy S.
Montague, Kevin J.

Gunnery Sgt.
West, Christopher M.

MACS-4 Det B

Lance Cpl.
Carey, John E.
Lee, Kiethen K

Cpl.
Moore, Timothy J.

Sgt.
Hickmott, Kathryn H.

MALS-12

Lance Cpl.
Conrad, Michael C.
Garciacarabaja, Johnathan M.
Morenotorres, Edi
Moss, Courtney M.
Sopko, Matthew P.

Cpl.
Chistensen, Patrick E.
Ohora, Ryan P.
Ramos, Amanda A.
Singh, Avtar
Walswick, Cody M.

Sgt.
Evans, Samuel E.
Medina, Eduardo
Singleton, Tracie M.
Webb, Geoffrey C.

MAG-12

Gunnery Sgt.
Wallace, Everis E.

VMFA(AW)-242

Cpl.
Wyche, Jasmin A.



CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.
Chief Petty Officer Jim F. Ward, Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Clinic medical chief, uses a breathing apparatus on a training dummy during the Advanced Cardiac Life Support course at Building 411 here Feb. 9. Participants were tested on a number of scenarios where they had eight minutes to treat the victim.



CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.
A dummy head shows the inner workings of the human spine and throat at the Advanced Cardiac Life Support course here Feb. 9. The doll is one of the many devices used by corpsmen and nurses as they train throughout the year along with the dummy used during the ACLS course. The course helps to prepare corpsmen and nurses for events in the field, mass-casualties or other events such as Exercise Active Shield 2012.

Corpsmen and nurses train to prepare for Exercise Active Shield

Cpl. Kenneth K. Trotter Jr.
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Sailors from the Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Health Clinic completed the Advanced Cardiac Life Support course in Building 411 here Feb. 9. The purpose of the course was to serve as a refresher of the techniques used when trying to resuscitate individuals. "It's the next step after the Basic Life Saving procedure," said Navy Lt. Andreas Stiller, Branch Health Clinic ACLS instructor and family nurse practitioner. "If a patient is critically ill, where for some reason they stop breathing, the heart stops or has some type of arrhythmia, we're able to revive them back to a normal rhythm or get them the immediate care they need to treat the underlying cause of the abnormal rhythm." The course often can be used in mass-casualty situations, such as Exercise Active Shield, or in the event there is a need for large-scale care.

The course deals with many aspects of corpsmen and nurses' training such as intravenous therapy injections and how to revive or stabilize patients who are in critical condition. "The BHC itself is not an ACLS facility, but we do deploy to combat zones and we have other providers who go to other clinics that have ACLS," said Stiller. The course is offered several times throughout the year and is usually two days long. Course participants are required to be proficient in electrocardiography readings and must be certified Emergency Medical Technicians.

"It's mostly providers and registered nurses who take the class, along with independent-duty corpsmen," said Stiller. Once certified, participants only have to take the course once every two years. The initial class lasts two days while the recertification class only lasts one. A written proficiency test is required, along with a practical examination at the course's conclusion. During the practical examination, participants were split into 3-person teams, each with their own practice dummy. The one being tested was tasked with issuing out orders to the others, determining when to administer the necessary steps of resuscitation within a timeframe of eight minutes. Prior to using the steps, they were given insight into the victim's predicament, injuries and variables such as age and ailments that may help when trying to determine the cause. Some of the participants felt this training was not only a good refresher but also served as a way to remind corpsmen and nurses of the intricate details associated with their profession. "We get so used to doing our routine of seeing patients in the clinic, we forget the little nuances and details of a Code Blue," said Tatiana Morales, BHC general medical officer. It is these details which can give the practitioners the insight needed in a mass-casualty drill, as they are not conducted very often. "It's always important to refresh and review as often as possible, especially here where we don't



CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.
Chief Petty Officer Jim F. Ward, Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Clinic medical officer, use an assisted breathing apparatus on a training dummy during an Advanced Cardiac Life Support course in Building 411 here Feb. 9. The ACLS course deals with several ways to revive or resuscitate an individual should the go into cardiac arrest.

have to perform, thankfully, on real people very often," said Morales. With Active Shield to take place next month, the ACLS course is one of the many aspects of the

exercise which can help to ensure the training runs smoothly. Beyond the needs of having this information for the exercise, this course can also help service members on the battlefield.

 us on facebook
Check out our Flickr

The Iwakuni Approach now has a Facebook page. Updates will be made consistently along with content only available on Facebook. The page welcomes classified ads posted on the wall. Staff will choose ads weekly to be featured in The Iwakuni Approach paper. A larger selection of photos from covered stories will also be available and free for those pictured to tag themselves.



<http://www.flickr.com/people/mcasiwakui/>
www.facebook.com/theiwakuniapproach



GABRIELLA ZEUGIN

Station Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting crews fight flames during a live-fire training exercise at the designated burn area Feb. 3. Clad in heat-reflecting proximity suits, the Marines dart towards the fire, which dances and leaps away from the water.

Two station Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Marines are blanketed under aqueous film-forming foam during a live-fire training exercise conducted at the designated burn area Feb. 3. The foam is a chemical agent that separates the oxygen from the flames, in turn putting out fire. In a matter of seconds a raging inferno is covered in white. The foam provided ARFF Marines with a unique training experience as foam is rarely used during training exercises.



LANCE CPL. VANESSA JIMENEZ



LANCE CPL. VANESSA JIMENEZ

Two station Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Marines spray down an empty capsule with water after being covered with aqueous film-forming foam during a fire training exercise conducted at the designated burn area Feb. 3. The capsule stands in as a fallen aircraft and the foam is a chemical agent which separates the oxygen from the flames in turn putting out the fire. Training fires are conducted bimonthly to keep Marines proficient in their skills.



LANCE CPL. VANESSA JIMENEZ

The Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting burn area, used for fire training exercises, begins to burn. It is filled with approximately 150 gallons of fuel. The burn area is equipped with a fuel and water separator that cleans the water used during training before it is recycled back to the sea.

ARFF walked into a burning ring of fire

Gabriella Zeugin
IWAKUNI APPROACH
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A billowing cloud of smoke, black as night, stands out against the blissful blue of the sky.

The smoke curls upwards in spiraling funnels, drawing flames into its center and towering over the silver figures of aircraft rescue firefighters like a giant portal to hell.

Clad in heat-reflecting suits, the Marines dart towards the fire, which dances and leaps away from the water they hose on it.

The shields protecting their faces mirror the vivid orange of the flames they battle, but the fire grows steadily.

The air fills with a crackling sound as bits of concrete bubble away from the ground and shoot into the air like popcorn.

Suddenly, the fire truck standing at the ready sounds its alarm and begins to spray a fluffy foam over the burn pit. The flames die almost instantly, and the firefighters find themselves and the pit blanketed in the white substance. The training has come to an abrupt end.

Immediately, onlookers are assured that we have seen something special.

“Normally we just use water,” said Staff Sgt. Ron Marshall, a Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting section leader. “That’s all we ever use, so you all got a bonus.”

Lance Cpl. Jesse Pyle, a H&HS ARFF specialist, confirmed this statement, adding that he had “never actually seen [the foam] put on fire” before.

This rarity cannot be contributed to a lack of training. “We try to do fires at least twice a month,” said Marshall.

The bimonthly fires use water almost exclusively. So why did the firefighters resort to foam this time?

“We were about to send that last crew in, and someone said there was only 400 gallons [of water] left in the tank,” said Pyle.

Master Sgt. Roy L. Clayton Jr., ARFF Chief, called for foam, because the water was not enough, especially with the size of

the fire. That was the biggest one we had all day, Pyle added.

The foam is a chemical agent which quickly smothers a fire. “Foam simply blankets the fire and takes away the oxygen,” explained Marshall.

Though the foam provided for, in Marshall’s words, “awesome training” this time around, each fire teaches valuable lessons.

“We train for everything we can possibly think of,” stated Marshall. “We keep the guys on the ready all the time so we don’t get complacent. At any moment, we are ready to perform our job.”

Maintaining a constant state of readiness does not solely entail the performance of regular training sessions: Marines of ARFF must also be physically present any time there are planes in motion.

“We’re here to support the airfield really,” said Pyle. “If we’re not here then the airfield’s not open basically.”

To maintain this constant presence, ARFF is divided into two sections, which take turns standing on duty for 24-hour periods. While the Marines on duty are not required to stay awake for the full 24 hours, they still do not get a full night’s sleep during work days.

“Our hours are really just airfield hours,” said Pyle. “During the week, the airfield [opens] at 6:30 [and] closes at 23:00, so we’re up that whole time. The 24 on/24 off helps us catch up on sleep.”

How do the Marines of ARFF spend their time on duty? After all, it’s not like there are fires to be put out every day nor would the firefighters wish this.

They do not sit idly. “We do a lot of training,” said Pyle. When the Marines are not sitting on the airfield in one of the ever-present trucks, they work on tasks such as preventative maintenance for their trucks and tools.

But the best part of their job is the training, said Pyle. “It doesn’t really get old. You get a rush still every time.”

And after witnessing that fire – crackling and leaping around the firefighters like a live beast – who could blame him?



LANCE CPL. VANESSA JIMENEZ

Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Marines stand waiting for the opportunity to walk into the flames engulfing the burn pit during a fire training exercise here Feb. 3. The heat-reflecting metallic silver proximity suits and gold-flaked face shields are different from structural firefighting gear because ARFF Marines are exposed to different types of chemicals and heat emitted from fallen aircraft.



LANCE CPL. VANESSA JIMENEZ

Two Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Marines walk toward flames billowing in the distance during a live-fire training exercise here Feb. 3. The exercise is designed to help Marines build confidence in their technique and equipment. ARFF Marines are trained to approach, stay low and how to push the fuel and fire off the water. Training fires also help familiarize Marines with each other, as it is important to know the capabilities of the Marine next to them.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE



CPL. GARRY WELCH

RAYONG, Thailand — Japanese displaced persons are guided onto a U.S. CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 265, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, during a non-combatant evacuation operation exercise here Feb. 12. The training scenario included military forces from the U.S., including Combat Logistics Battalion 31, 31st MEU, and other MEU elements alongside the Kingdom of Thailand, Republic of Korea, Japan, Indonesia and Malaysia. The event was part of the 31st iteration of exercise Cobra Gold 2012, a multi-lateral training event that demonstrates the resolve of the U.S. and participating nations to increase interoperability and promote security and peace throughout the Asia-Pacific region. The 31st MEU is the only continuously forward-deployed MEU and remains the nation's force-in-readiness in the Asia-Pacific region.

Six-nation training prepares for disaster evacuation

Cpl. Jonathan Wright
31st MEU

RAYONG, Thailand — Marines with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, alongside military services from five countries in the Asia-Pacific region, combined forces to execute a multinational non-combatant evacuation operation exercise Feb. 12.

Part of this year's 31st iteration of Cobra Gold 2012, a multilateral training evolution in which participating nations conduct joint exercises, the NEO brought together all of the military forces to prepare them to act cohesively while evacuating designated civilians in response to a natural disaster or civil disorder.

"In this practice scenario, the American ambassador to Thailand has ordered the evacuation of designated personnel, to be handled by this multinational force," said Lt. Col. Will Arick, commanding officer of Combat Logistics Battalion 31, 31st MEU. "The exercise is a culmination of this week's past training, including security operations and non-lethal weapons handling."

Two rows of tents were lined up in front of an open field, starting with a security tent to search for any dangerous weapons or illegal contraband.

Personnel then went on to a processing tent where their credentials were verified as civilians cleared to be evacuated and ended with a holding tent where their names were added to transportation rosters. A medical tent was also in place for those



CPL. JONATHAN WRIGHT

RAYONG, Thailand — A Marine with Combat Logistics Battalion 31, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, validates a Japanese refugee's identification during a non-combatant evacuation operation exercise here Feb. 12.

simulating any disabilities or illnesses.

"The obvious obstacle throughout this whole thing is the language barrier, which everyone has to try to overcome," said Lance Cpl. Thomas Bunn, a data network specialist with Combat Logistics Battalion 31, 31st MEU. "With that, all the usual complications of a NEO are harder, which is something we all are training to deal with."

The six nations involved in the NEO were the U.S., Thailand, South Korea, Japan, Indonesia and Malaysia.

Groups of American, Thai and Japanese military personnel and local civilians served as role players while elements of all six nations participated in the evacuation operation in some function.

Although its operation was a

simple one, the variables thrown into the NEO to make it a more challenging learning experience were many.

"To start out, my bodyguard, my relative and I only speak English, and we're going to be processed by foreign checkpoints," said Cpl. Vu Ho, assistant section leader with Amphibious Assault Vehicle Platoon, Company B., Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, 31st MEU, and role player of the U.S. ambassador to Thailand. "Additionally, my bodyguard is carrying a concealed weapon, which he is going to be resistant in giving up, and they will attempt to separate me from my relative. Not everything is going to go smoothly in a real NEO, so the resistance we show better prepares everyone to be ready for them."

As civilian personnel made

their way through checkpoints, they were eventually broken up into groups to load into two CH-46E Sea Knight helicopters, part of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 265, 31st MEU, which transported them to the USS Germantown as their safe haven.

While each country's military forces are able to conduct their own NEOs, this training provided invaluable learning experiences to more easily operate an evacuation operation with allied forces.

"Even if a NEO does not call for various countries to band together, there are still many people working abroad that need to know what to do to assist," said Sgt. Chattachi Kiripob, a Royal Thai Marine. "Without this training, we would be unable to blend together well if called upon to do a large-scale NEO."

While only a training scenario and devoid of danger, the exercise is vital in preparing the military forces for contingencies they may face in the Asia-Pacific region.

"We conducted humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts in Operation Tomodachi, and because of events like this one, we were fully prepared and ready to execute [an] NEO," said Arick. Cobra Gold 2012 demonstrates the resolve of the U.S. and participating nations to increase interoperability and promote security and peace throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

The 31st MEU is the only continuously forward-deployed MEU and remains the nation's force in readiness in the Asia-Pacific region.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS | CLASSIFIEDS

Briefs

Northside Mess Hall Closure

The northside mess hall, will close Feb. 19 due to a power outage. Station Motor Transportation will add a direct bus route to southside mess hall from the northside barracks area. This specially marked "Special mess hall bus" will stop every half hour from 8:45 a.m. - 12 p.m. and again from 2:45 - 5 p.m. This is an addition to the regular weekend bus schedule.

OSC Scholarship

Applications are now being accepted for OSC scholarships. Graduating seniors or spouses can apply by sending an e-mail to iwakunisolarship@hotmail.com. Deadline for submissions is April 14.

Off-limit Establishments

The following establishments are hereby off-limits: • The multi-tenant building "NOW." Tenant occupant's names change frequently. Past names for this building include, Ran, Massage Parlor, Welcome American, Follow Me and F-18. • Hiroshima's Tougan Goods Company.

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 for 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.

Iwakuni Roadrunners

All service members and civilians are welcome. Runs are Saturdays at 10:30 a.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.

Free Child Development Screening

Educational and Developmental Intervention Services will hold a free child development screening event for children 4 - 60 months 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Thrift Store Volunteers

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.

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.

Jobs

Dental Assistant

The 11th Dental Clinic is now accepting applications for a full-time dental assistant. Certification of qualification is required. For more information, call 253-5252.

Brief and Classified Submissions

To submit a brief or classified advertisement, send an e-mail to iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil. Include a contact name, a phone number and the information to be published. You may submit your brief or ad in person at the Public Affairs Office, Building 1, Room 216 or you may call 253-5551. Ensure you provide all requested information to simplify the request process and ensure. 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.

Chotto matte Joe Tomatte! It's rude to use your phone on the train



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

 RAPID TRAIN faster than local 快速列車	 FIRST-CLASS nonreserved seats 自由席グリーン車	 LIMITED EXPRESS sleeper coach 寝台特急	 SLEEPER CAR second-class cabins B寝台
 ORDINARY EXPRESS faster than local/rapid 急行列車	 FIRST-CLASS reserved seats 指定席グリーン車	 ORDINARY EXPRESS sleeper coach 寝台急行	 STANDARD CAR all reserved 全指定席
 LIMITED EXPRESS faster than ordinary express 特急列車	 STANDARD CAR nonreserved/reserved 自由指定席	 SLEEPER CAR first-class cabins A寝台	 LIMITED EXPRESS L faster than limited エル特急

This week's Kanji Adventures will expand your Japanese train knowledge. One helpful tip to remember while on the train is limited cellular phone use. It is considered rude to speak on the phone while on the train. Remember to be courteous while traveling in Japan.

Helpful phrases

What time is the next train?

Pronounced: *Tsugi no densha wa nan ji des ka?*

Where do I get off?

Pronounced: *Doko no eki de orireba ii desu ka?*

Where are the shinkansen tracks?

Pronounced: *Shinkansen wa kono homu desu ka?*

How long does the trip take?

Pronounced: *Dono kurai jikan ga kakarimasu ka?*

Where does this train go?

Pronounced: *Kono densha wa doko yuki desu ka?*

Is this the platform for the — line?

Pronounced: — *sen wa kono homu des ka?*

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, February 17, 2012
7 p.m. The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo (R)

Saturday, February 18, 2012
4 p.m. Adventures of Tintin (PG)
7 p.m. The Sitter (R)

Sunday, February 19, 2012
4 p.m. We Bought a Zoo (PG)
7 p.m. Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol (PG-13)

Monday, February 20, 2012
7 p.m. Safe House (R)

Tuesday, February 21, 2012
Theater closed

Wednesday, February 22, 2012
Theater closed

Thursday, February 23, 2012
7 p.m. Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol (PG-13)

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.

Mess Hall Menu

Monday
Corn chowder, Chinese barbecue diced pork, red pepper glazed fish, pork fried rice, steamed rice, orange carrots amandine, fried cabbage, Chinese egg roll, dinner rolls, chicken wings bar, 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
Corn chowder, sukiyaki, barbecue beef cubes, home fried potatoes, steamed rice, cauliflower rice, parmesan, southern style greens, creamy gravy, dinner rolls, grilled sandwich bar, 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, Swiss steak with brown gravy, mustard dill fish, steamed rice, garlic roasted potato wedges, fried cabbage with bacon, mixed vegetables, brown gravy, dinner rolls, sizzling salad bar, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, kolaches, apple coffee cake, cherry crunch, banana cake with buttercream frosting, macadamia chocolate chunks, chocolate parfait, Jell-O parfait.

Thursday
New England clam chowder, beef stroganoff, pork adobo, pork fried rice, steamed pasta, scalloped cream style corn, peas with onions, brown gravy, dinner rolls, fish and chips bar, macaroni salad, potato 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, chili macaroni, grilled cheese, Franconia potatoes, steamed pasta, succotash, broccoli parmesan, mushroom gravy, corn muffins, deli bar, 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.

Japanese, American basketball teams compete, build cultural ties

Pfc. Benjamin Pryer
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF



Shinji Hoshide, a Yanai Junior High School student and basketball player, and Michael Coletta, a Matthew C. Perry High School student and team Teddy Bears player, jump for the tip-off in the beginning of the championship game of the basketball tournament held in the IronWorks Gym sports court here Feb. 11.



PFC. BENJAMIN PRYER

Station residents watched as three basketball teams from the station youth sports program competed in a friendly tournament against four teams from surrounding cities at the IronWorks Gym sports court here Feb. 11.

The Yanai Junior High School basketball team proved itself to be the best team by reigning victorious over the Teddy Bears with a championship game score of 30-12.

Tournaments such as this provide a good cultural experience for station children and Japanese students.

“I think games like this are great,” said Lt. Col. Michael R. Coletta, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron commanding officer. “These good-will games give American kids an opportunity to experience athletes from another country.”

The double-elimination tournament consisted of two brackets with the winner of each bracket facing off for the championship.

Yanai worked its way through the competition, taking on the Tsunamis and the Rockets for its championship game spot.

In the other bracket, the Hirata Junior High School team took on Otake Junior High School in the first round while the Teddy Bears had a bye round.

“When you watch one of these tournaments, you can’t think of it as an ‘us vs. them’ situation, but as an ‘us with them,” said Coletta. “You have to look at this as being a good cultural opportunity for the kids.”

By bringing in Japanese teams, the basketball teams aboard station are treated to a varied experience.

“In our 13-to-15 year old bracket, there are only three teams,” said Thomas F. Durning, MCCS Iwakuni SemperFit Athletics Director. “With a two month season for basketball, they would be playing each other over and over again. For the American kids, it’s great to diversify the competition, but it’s also a real privilege for the Japanese kids to come on station and play against the American teams. It’s a really nice opportunity for both the Americans and Japanese to have intercultural competitions.”

Along with the tournament, players and coaches were given an opportunity to play in a three-point shot and free throw competition.

Even after some of the teams were eliminated, Japanese and American players could be seen playing games for fun.

“It’s a really good opportunity for our kids to have this kind of cultural exchange,” said Keisuke Ishida, Yanai teacher and basketball coach. “I think it will provide great memories for the players.”

After the tournament was over, the players sat down in a circle in the center court while trophies and prizes were awarded.

“It has been a great opportunity to come to the station,” said Ishida. “I look forward to being able to come back.”

Eighty one pins, showing the American and Japanese flags crossed together, were handed out to every Japanese player, and boxes of cheese popcorn were given to each Japanese team.

Zachary Taylor, Matthew C. Perry High School student and team Teddy Bears player, defends against Takumi Morioka, a Yanai Junior High School student and basketball player, during the championship game of the basketball tournament held in the IronWorks Gym sports court here Feb. 11. Along with the tournament, players and coaches were given an opportunity to play in a three-point shot and free throw competition. After the tournament, players sat down in a circle in the center court while trophies and prizes were awarded. Eighty one pins showing the American and Japanese flags crossed together were handed out to every Japanese player, and boxes of cheese popcorn were given to each Japanese team.

The Iwakuni Time Machine

This week in 1976 the Torii Teller reported on the symptoms of an alcoholic. Other news included in this issue was 181st anniversary of the U.S. Naval Supply Corps, the West Pacific boxing championships and the adjustment to training aboard USS Juneau at sea. Marines and sailors aboard this vessel witnessed aviation history when the Harriers of VMA-513 became the first jet fighters to land and take-off from an Landing Platform Dock Feb. 6-7, 1976.

Check yourself

Are you an alcoholic?

One out of every ten drinkers become an alcoholic and there are 90 million drinkers in the U.S. today. It is believed that one out of every 15 adult Americans is already an alcoholic. So if you have more than 10 or 15 friends, acquaintances, or employees, the odds are high that you know an alcoholic or two.

The following checklist is a good way to tell if you are an alcoholic or a potential one!

CHECKLIST

1. Do you drink to build self-confidence?
2. Have you lost time from work due to drinking?
3. Has drinking made your home life unhappy?
4. Have you gotten into financial trouble because of your drinking?
5. Do you turn to lower compan-

- ions and an inferior environment when drinking?
6. Does your drinking make you careless of your family's welfare?
7. Has your drinking ever jeopardized your job or business?
8. Do you drink to escape from worries or troubles?
9. Do you like to drink alone?
10. Have you ever had a complete loss of memory as a result of drinking?
11. Do you want a drink "the morning after"?
12. Has drinking ever affected your reputation?
13. Has your efficiency decreased as a result of drinking?

There's no prescribed number of "yes" answers that will determine if you are an alcoholic. But if you've gone over the questions carefully and answered two or three "yes," you may be an alcohol abuser or a potential alcoholic!

For information about alcohol programs or where to get help for alcohol related problems, contact the Joint Counseling Center during working hours (8a.m.-4:30p.m.), at extensions 3275, 4684 or 5260. After hours you can call 5449 and speak to the duty counselor.

Me, an alcoholic?



I just drink beer!

Flying club meeting set

The Iwakuni flying club will hold its March general membership meeting March 7 at 7p.m. in the Air Operations conference room, Bldg. 780. At the meeting, a new board of directors will be elected. It is still possible to nominate candidates for the board and nominations will be accepted at the flying club headquarters, the white trailer behind the air terminal. All members and prospective members are urged to attend the meeting.



Torii Teller

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MARCH ON—The 1stMAF Band performs during a parade in downtown Iwakuni Feb. 11. The parade was held in conjunction with Japan's National Foundation Day.