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IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 8 Vol. 5 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

SILVER EAGLES BLAZE THROUGH SKIES



U.S. ARMY PFC. RYAN SCOTT

KORAT ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE BASE, Thailand — Cpl. Garrett Storhoff, a plane captain with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, sits outside of the cockpit of an F/A-18 Hornet on the flight line Feb. 14. In the background, two VMFA-115 Hornets can be seen taking off in preparation for a training exercise in which one bilateral team of U.S. and Thai pilots rebuffed a simulated attack by another bilateral team of pilots. VMFA-115 was training in support of exercise Cobra Gold 2012. Cobra Gold 2012 is a multinational, joint exercise which demonstrates the resolve of the U.S. and participating nations to increase interoperability and promote security and peace throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

Ishinomaki volunteers prepare to build bridges, cultural ties

Pfc. Benjamin Pryer
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Volunteers gathered to discuss the plan and priorities of the Ishinomaki volunteer trip scheduled to take place in early March in the Marine Aviation

Logistics Squadron 12 Building 1642 2nd deck conference room here Feb. 16.

The trip itself has three main priorities, said Capt. Martin F. Ziola, MALS-12 aircraft maintenance engineer officer. Getting everyone there and back

safely, leaving a good impression by showing respect and providing happiness, and to supply superior volunteer services in whatever needs to be done.

With almost a year having

SEE **VOLUNTEER** ON PAGE 3

A shack attack on your taste buds

Pfc. Benjamin Pryer
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Traveling down Japanese streets, two vans being guided by Single Marine Program staff steadily advanced on their destination. Signs in kanji could be seen every few miles, directing the drivers towards their goal.

The destination for this trip was the Sanzoku, or how it is more commonly known by

SEE **SHACK** ON PAGE 3

CLC-36 trains as infantry for Forest Light

Lance Cpl. Nicholas Rhoades
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Combat Logistics Company 36 has been training to become a rough and tough infantry unit here Feb. 18 in preparation for a deployment to Yokosuka for Forest Light, an exercise where they will help

support the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force by showing them different ways of completing the mission.

"We took these logistics Marines and are training them as an infantry platoon," said Staff Sgt. Daniel L. Shaw, 3rd Marine Logistics

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CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

‘Trust’

Lt. j.g. Takana Skelton
STATION CHAPLAIN

When asking someone their definition of trust, one may give various answers.

However, trust is most often defined as a confidence.

A confidence we have in others who we work with, friends, and most of all, loved ones.

Loved ones, for many, are the significant others in our lives.

When we say we love someone, especially in relationships, most of us understand this includes the trust and confidence that the person would never intentionally hurt or harm us. Unfortunately, too often this is not the

case; because of our fallibility as humans, we have a tendency to lack in this area.

While it may never be an actual intent to break the trust and confidence of those who have regarded us so highly, it happens.

When trust is broken, or the special confidence betrayed, an emotional breach is created which often leads to the demise of the relationship.

Many recover and do well while others simply limp along.

They learn to live with the betrayal but never truly restore their trust and confidence back with the individual.

Is it possible to truly restore the trust and confidence in any relationship?

Yes, I do believe it is possible. However, it will require lots of hard

work, dedication from all involved and divine intervention. There is a saying that states: “The family that prays together stays together.”

I will admit there is some truth to this statement.

Prayer is nothing more than communication with God.

We are always reminded the key to any healthy relationship is communication.

There is no difference in our communication with God than with each other.

Allowing God to be the focal point of your relationships and how we treat others will help build those trusting relationships we desire.

This can only work if everyone is in agreement.

Amos 3:3 New International Version states: “Do two walk

together unless they have agreed to do so?”

The answer of course is no, if they haven’t agreed or yes, if they have agreed. There has to be a mutual understanding and desire to move forward.

Move forward from the day that you decide to restore your relationship and rebuild your trust.

Will it happen overnight?

No, because the broken trust didn’t happen overnight, but in time it will heal. What better way to strengthen your relationship than building upon a solid foundation in Christ?

Philippians 4:13 NIV states: “I can do all this through Christ who gives me strength.”

This includes rebuilding and restoring trust and confidence in any broken relationship.

Dear editor: Headline sinks for some

Dear Editor,
My name is BMC(SW) Rostkowski, the Officer in Charge of Harbor Operations. I’m writing to you in regards to the February 10th issue of the Iwakuni Approach. I enjoy reading the Iwakuni Approach on a weekly basis and I was very proud when I read the article about Harbor Operations.

However, I was appalled and embarrassed when I read the headline, “I’m On A Boat” on the article. I have heard the song, that has very explicit lyrics, and I feel the headline is not a good representation of your paper, Harbor Operations, MCAS Iwakuni, or the Navy. I take my job very seriously and the headline may give the

wrong impression to the reader that the job is less stressful and less difficult than it is, given the headline. I request that you address these concerns and clarify the headline in the next issue of Iwakuni Approach.

Very Respectfully,
Rostkowski, J.A.
BMC(SW), USN

BMC(SW) Rostkowski,

First let me thank you for taking the time to voice your concerns. They are valid. The February 2009 Saturday Night Live comedy song “I’m On A Boat” does contain explicit lyrics and the content is not reflective of Harbor Operations or the U.S. Navy. I was aware of the content and approved the headline. Let me explain why the Approach is among the last of a dying breed of base papers, one we’re proud to maintain in an age of budgetary constraint. But I’m the first to admit it is not received with enthusiasm by the personnel it is designed to inform and entertain, the Marines and sailors of MCAS Iwakuni. A goal this year is to produce a paper more relevant and interactive with our target audience, in short, one they’ll look forward to reading. Toward this end we have

instituted several changes, including editorials, Kanji Adventures, a Facebook page and others. We chose this recognizable pop culture reference to draw the audience in to content that highlights the fine work of your sailors, knowing that bringing a smile to readers’ faces is one of the best ways to do so. The content of the article bears testament to the high regard our staff -- and Marines and sailors station-wide -- holds for the service you and your team provide. Having worked with many sailors (and as the son of a master chief petty officer), I have nothing but the highest respect for our Navy brethren. I’m sure this sentiment is universally shared throughout the air station.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gunnery Sgt. Bryce Piper
MCAS Iwakuni Public Affairs Chief



SGT. CHARLES MCKELVEY



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS RHOADES
Lance Cpl. Ofni D. Arellano, a automotive organizational mechanic (left) helps show Lance Cpl. Jacklyn E. Erhunmwunsee, a supply administrative specialist, tips on passing information over the radio during a radio communication class here Feb. 16.

FOREST FROM PAGE 1

Group infantry unit leader. “They have done everything from basic patrols, immediate action drills, mounting and dismounting helicopters, setting up a defense perimeter, etc.”

The CLC-36 Marines have been taught a wide range of classes and done weeks of training for radio transmissions, patrolling, formations, communication, hand signals and much more.

“The most important thing we teach these Marines is security,” said Shaw. “Having these Marines think security first is the biggest issue. If two people are working, then they need to have their fellow Marines providing security making sure they are safe.”

Having Marines trained to provide security helps to keep everyone safe and alive during missions.

“If these Marines go out to a combat environment, they’re going to have the importance of security instilled in them and they will be preaching the importance of security to their fellow Marines,” said Shaw.

Training these Marines for combat prepares them for real-life situations.

“These Marines are extremely motivated to get out of their offices and learn more about what we do,” said Shaw.

The Marines of CLC-36 don’t have the opportunity to train as an infantry platoon every day, so when this chance presented itself, these Marines made

every second of their training count.

“It’s been raining and snowing but these Marines really pay attention, ask good questions and seem to be having a good time with this training,” said Shaw.

Lance Cpl. Jimmy S. Harden is normally an automotive organizational mechanic, but during the recent training, he became known as the Squad Automatic Weapon gunner of 3rd squad, 3rd fire team.

“We have been out here in the snow, rain, dirt and mud, but we all keep training because we want to prove the old saying, we are all riflemen first,” said Harden.

The Marines came from all the different CLC-36 shops, so many of them don’t work with each other very often or at all.

“Our communication has really improved since we’ve been training together,” said Harden.

Non-infantry Marines performing infantry-exclusive tasks did not inspire confidence for some outside observers, but the presence of such doubt only fueled the drive of these Marines.

“A lot of higher up personnel are worried about having non-infantry Marines doing this, but I think they’re going to be impressed,” said Shaw.

CLC-36 will be helping support the JMSDF during Forest Light and will teach them what they know and try to learn what they can about how the Japanese train and fight.

VOLUNTEER FROM PAGE 1

passed since the devastation of the earthquake and tsunami which spawned Operation Tomodachi, the volunteer effort will focus on helping locals continue to rebuild their homes and lives.

“I’m (Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear),” said Lance Cpl. Kyle Dooley, Marine Aircraft Group 12 CBRN Marine. “I was up in the area for Operation Tomodachi. I saw how bad it was and it would be wrong of me to not volunteer.”

Marines and civilians sat around the room, discussing the details of the trip.

“I feel it’s good for you mentally to go out and do something good for someone else every once in awhile,” said Dooley.

The volunteer working locations are planned to span across the Ishinomaki area of the Miyagi prefecture, reaching out to support a very large area, in its cities and suburban districts.

“Work hard at whatever you’re doing and smile while you’re doing it,” Ziola said while speaking to the volunteers. “At the end of the day, when we’re all done and tired, you’ll look back and say, wow, that was great.”

For some volunteers, there were certain personal reasons which pulled them towards this opportunity.

“My wife is Japanese,” said Edwin T. Sanchez, Headquarters Marine Corps Far East government special security officer. “I feel like I should help the community because I’m involved in the community. If nothing else, I hope to at least make a small impact. Even if I can help just one family and how they live, I’ll be happy with the job I did.”

More information such as timelines, equipment to bring, billeting and other details as well as the opportunity to sign up for this trip and future efforts can be found at Iwakunivolunteers.org.



PFC. BENJAMIN PRYER

Marines Participating in the Single Marine Program “Chicken Shack” trip look through the Sanzoku’s menu Feb. 14. SMP schedules restaurant trips such as this every month, as well as planning many other opportunities for Marines to travel off station and explore the sights and sounds of Japan.

SHACK FROM PAGE 1

station residents, the “Chicken Shack.”

“Sanzoku is one of the only places in Japan you can go to which has such an authentic kind of eating environment,” said Cpl. Daniel E. Fry, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 aviation equipment calibrator and SMP operations assistant. “The samurai armor and the structure of the building are very old. You can’t find wood like what is used in the Sanzoku anymore.”

Approximately 12 Marines, more than half from a squadron on the unit deployment program, participated in the trip to Sanzoku held by the SMP here Feb. 14.

“I haven’t been out in town

very many times, but the times I have it’s been through the SMP program,” said Cpl. Miguel H. Rivera, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 11 aviation technician. “The SMP is really welcoming. It’s a really nice environment to be around and the staff is really polite. I’ve really enjoyed it.”

The Chicken Shack is famously known for its sanzoku yaki, better known as chicken on a stick. Along with the sanzoku yaki, the Chicken Shack also offers gyoza, rice, udon noodles and many other traditional Japanese foods.

“Sanzoku gives the Marines a traditional Japanese meal,” said Fry. “It’s like going to a renaissance festival back in the states. You don’t just go there to eat, but you learn about the

culture as well.”

Sanzoku, literally translated as “Bandit” in Japanese, has built such a strong reputation not just from its acclaimed delicious food, but for the entrancing environment to which the humble yet beautifully adorned area provides.

“Every time I go out in town, I notice how the Japanese treat people,” said Rivera. “They’re so humble and polite. I really enjoy the way the Japanese people are and their culture, just how polite and welcoming they are. It’s nice because you don’t really expect it.”

In between the actual restaurant and the parking lot, shops are set up, offering visitors an opportunity to take a little piece of Sanzoku home with them.

A kennel for your thoughts



PFC. J. GAGE KARWICK

A stray puppy placed in the care of the veterinary clinic by the Provost Marshal's Office stares from inside her cage at the clinic. Staff attempted to reach the owners of the dog but were unsuccessful. The vets voluntarily care for the animals PMO brings into the clinic.



PFC. J. GAGE KARWICK

Yuko is a playful puppy who was found wearing tags registered to the Veterinary clinic here, which had hers and her owners' name and contact information on it. As much as the vets tried, the owners were unreachable.

Saying goodbye has ruff consequences

Pfc. J. Gage Karwick
IWAKUNI APPROACH
STAFF

Service members going through a permanent change of station often face the problem of not knowing how to take their pets with them.

According to Army Capt. Rhonda L. Holt, Veterinary Corps Chief here, quite a few pets get left behind.

A common problem for servicemembers changing duty stations is not knowing how far in advance to book flight space for their pets.

"If you know you are going to conduct a permanent change of station you need to plan at least six months in advance, working with the airlines and travel office," said Holt. "As soon as you get your orders, let them know you have a pet so plans can be made for your pet to travel with you."

Getting pets on the plane is difficult due to lack of space.

"The Patriot Express only allows two pets in the cargo space per flight," said Holt.

"As far as paperwork goes, if you are flying back to the states, it's easy. All you need is a health certificate that myself or the civilian vet can provide," said Holt. "If I am unavailable to do it here, I am also the vet in Sasebo and you can get the certificate there."

Travelers can also fly their pets out commercially, but other documents are needed.

"If the animals are flying commercial then not only will the animals need a health certificate, but also a Japanese export form," said Krista Starnes, the veterinary clinic office manager. "Get to the airport early because Japanese customs will do

a check on the animal. The health certificate is only good for 10 days after Captain Holt signs off on it, so put your pet on your orders quickly."

For pets left behind, a much grimmer story is written.

The veterinary office here will only keep animals for 72 hours before they must humanely euthanize them.

"The Provost Marshal's Office often turns in pets we have records for and were just left behind," said Holt. "We try to contact the owners, but are often unsuccessful."

"The animals PMO brings in, we do not have to care for," said Holt. "We do so voluntarily."

The space in the vet's office is strictly limited.

Given the recent construction here, the vets are expecting a complete overhaul of their facilities, allowing for better accommodations and facilities to care for animals.

This, however, does not change the fact pets are being left behind. If an owner is unable to bring their pet with them, they can surrender the pet to a friend or someone willing to adopt them.

The only thing one needs to do is go to the vet's office with the one to whom the pet is being transferred and sign the pet over, said Holt.

With multiple options to ensure a safe future for one's pet, abandoning a pet is inexcusable.

Being a pet owner carries the responsibility of tending to a living, breathing animal.

Yuko used to have a family, was once cared and loved for.

Preparing for your PCS will keep pets like Yuko from being forced to live out the last 72 hours of their life in a cage.



PFC. J. GAGE KARWICK

Yuko, a dog left behind by its owner, enjoys time outside of her cage at the veterinary clinic here Feb. 13. Inside the clinic there are so few cages that the pets left behind are only kept for 72 hours before vets humanely euthanize them. A common problem for servicemembers changing duty stations is not knowing how far in advance to book flight space for their pet. Servicemembers should allow at least six months in advance to conduct a permanent change of station to work with the airlines and travel office.



PFC. J. GAGE KARWICK

Lance Cpl. Jacob B. Watson, a Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron military working dog handler, provokes Ronny, a military working dog, during a training exercise at the MWD obstacle course here Feb. 15. Ronny, is eight years old and has been working as a MWD here for six years. MWDs will perform their duties until they are no longer able to, in which case several options are available to them.

Partners practice perpetrator pouncing

Pfc. J. Gage Karwick
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Military working dogs go through constant training and physical conditioning to perform at the top of their game here.

MWDs are put through several training exercises such as patrolling, scouting, detection and basic obedience to help them perform their duties to the best of their abilities.

"It is highly important to keep the dogs performing at their A-game," said Cpl. Cody J. Bell, Provost Marshals Office canine handler.

Bell's partner, Ronny, is eight years old and has been working with Bell since Dec. 2010. Ronny has been a working dog here for six years.

During a patrol aggression training exercise, the dogs and handlers trained how to maneuver obstacles in an urban environment. Also, the dogs and handlers went over procedures and tactics to apprehend fleeing suspects, lead detained suspects, as well as what to do if the detainee tries to escape or resist apprehension.

Putting on the bite suit was Lance Cpl. Jacob B. Watson, PMO canine handler. Watson's mission in the exercise was to act as a suspect trying to flee from the handler.

After the dog has successfully taken control of the suspect, the handler comes to the dog's side and calls the dog off so they may properly arrest the suspect. As the handler leads the suspect away, the

dog's watchful and alert gaze never leaves the suspect.

Should he try to escape again, the dogs are trained to react and protect their handlers by ensuring the suspect remains under firm control.

"The first time I was bit was scary," said Watson. "It does not hurt too badly and it's very beneficial to the dogs."

Suspect takedowns are a common part of MWD training exercises.

"Training like this builds teamwork and partnership between the dog and handler," said Lance Cpl. Mikal A. Patterson, PMO canine handler.

Patterson has been a handler for approximately a year with his partner Azra. Azra is a five-year-old Belgian Malinois who has been here for two and a half years.

MWDs will perform their duties until they are no longer able to, in which case several options are available to them.

The dogs being out processed will be sent back to Lackland Air Force Base in Texas.

There, the dogs can become training aids, be adopted by civilian personnel, or depending on medical status, humanely euthanized.

"They take care of the dogs to the best of their abilities and do all they can for them," said Bell.

The K-9s undergo constant training to maintain and advance their unique skill set. Like their human handlers, MWDs, must be primed, prepped and ready to pounce at a moment's notice to keep station residents safe.



PFC. J. GAGE KARWICK

Military working dog Ronny takes a bite out of Lance Cpl. Jacob B. Watson, a Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron military working dog handler, after being provoked at the MWD obstacle course here Feb. 15. As soon as Watson was compliant to the commands of Ronny's handler Ronny released him.

Two nations sing one song during friendship concert

Pfc. J. Gage Karwick
IWAKUNI APPROACH
STAFF

American and Japanese students came together at the U.S. - Japan Friendship Concert Feb. 18, to strengthen the bonds between the base and the community.

The concert brought together children of two cultures by way of a melting pot of song and dance.

Plans for the concert begun as early as September, according to Allen Strawbridge, Matthew C. Perry High School music director.

Cultural events such as this friendship concert allow the students to see the differences in cultures.

"The kids get to see a lot of our differences, but also see that we're really the same. They play around and get to have fun," said Strawbridge. "They also get to learn because the Japanese students have been performing a lot longer than my students they are excellent musicians. We get to learn from each other musically and interact on a social level."

"We did a lot of practicing," said Michaelynn Kopp, M.C. Perry Elementary School student.

Before the concert began, the audience was greeted and thanked by Masayoshi Tatsumi, Chugoku-Shikoku Defense Bureau director general, Yoshihiko Fukuda, Iwakuni City mayor and Col. James C. Stewart, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni commanding officer.

Soon after the addresses, the festivities were under way.

The children from M.C. Perry Elementary School sang an assortment of songs from The Beatles.

"Some of the songs my students, are performing are: 'Yellow Submarine,' 'Yesterday and Michelle,' said Chris Kimmey, M.C. Perry Elementary School music director.

Strawbridge conducted the M.C. Perry High school group, including World Drum Ensemble, which performed 'Caribbean Funk,' the Samurai Chorus, which performed 'America the Beautiful' and 'I Believe I Can Fly' as well as the Symphonic Band, which performed 'The Star Wars Saga.'

The Japanese schools included Iwakuni Municipal Kawashimo Elementary School, Iwakuni Municipal Iwakuni Junior High School, Iwakuni Municipal Nada Junior High School and Otake Municipal Ogata Junior High School.

These schools performed such songs as 'Somebody Somewhere,' 'National Emblem March' and several others.

Toward the end of the concert, both the American and Japanese students came together to perform the 'Sohran Folk Dance.' This dance takes the rigorous actions aboard a fishing boat and turns the movements into a rhythmic and fluid ceremonial dance.

"I am looking forward to dancing with the Americans," said Ryuuto Muramoto, a participating Japanese student.

By the end of the concert, it was obvious it was a success when it came to establishing bonds between the community and students.

"I can remember after rehearsals the Japanese and American kids would hang out and start singing all the same songs," said Kimmey. "It's a really good experience for them."

By the time the sun sank, seats in the Iwakuni Civic Hall had all emptied.

The songs had been sung, but the memories of a fun day remained in the thoughts of those present.

The ties between countries had been expressed, and the bonds of friendship had been branded into the hearts of children from both nations.



American and Japanese students come together to perform the 'Sohran Folk Dance' at Iwakuni Civic Hall Feb. 18 during the U.S.-Japan Friendship Concert. 'The Sohran Folk Dance' is a ceremonial dance to take the rigorous duties aboard a fishing boat and turn them into a fluid dance enjoyed by all in attendance. Col. James C. Stewart, station commanding officer, spoke briefly of how combining the two cultures on the stage was symbolic of the two nations' joint support.



Masayoshi Tatsumi, director general of Chugoku-Shikoku DB, greets the attendants of the U.S.-Japan Friendship Concert at Iwakuni Civic Hall Feb. 18. The director general thanked everyone for attending and recognizing the hard work of the students.

Music is the language we all speak



Students from Matthew C. Perry Elementary School, conducted by Chris Kimmey, M.C. Perry Elementary School music director, perform an assortment of songs from 'The Beatles' during the Friendship Concert at Iwakuni Civic Hall Feb. 18. The students practiced for months to be ready for the concert. The Japanese schools included in the concert were Iwakuni Municipal Kawashimo Elementary School, Iwakuni Municipal Iwakuni Junior High School, Iwakuni Municipal Nada Junior High School and Otake Municipal Ogata Junior High School. These schools performed 'Somebody Somewhere,' 'National Emblem March' and several other songs.



PFC. J. GAGE KARWICK

A Japanese student plays a koto during the U.S.-Japan Friendship Concert Feb. 18 at Iwakuni Civic Hall. The Japanese students played songs such as 'Somebody Somewhere,' 'National Emblem March' and several others.



PFC. BENJAMIN PRYER

Japanese and American students perform the 'Sohran Folk Dance' at Iwakuni Civic Hall during the U.S.-Japan Friendship Concert Feb. 18. The dance takes the rigorous actions of working aboard a fishing boat and turns the movements into a rhythmic and fluid ceremonial dance.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE



SGT. PAUL ROBBINS JR.

PATTAYA, Thailand — Lance Cpl. Deunte M. Williams, a 21-year-old administration specialist attached to Combat Logistics Battalion 31, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, plays with a child from the Pattaya Orphanage during a visit here, Feb. 17. Twenty five Marines and sailors spent a few hours entertaining the children after completion of the 31st MEU's participation in Cobra Gold 2012. Although the Marines visit the orphanage every year during exercise Cobra Gold, it leaves an everlasting impression on the children. Cobra Gold 2012 demonstrates the resolve of the U.S. and participating nations to increase interoperability with the Royal Thai Marines and other participating nations as well as preserve their friendship. The 31st MEU is the only continuously forward-deployed MEU and remains the nation's force-in-readiness in the Asia-Pacific region.

Marines selflessly give time, visit Thai orphans

Cpl. Jonathan Wright
31ST MEU

PATTAYA, Thailand — With the training regimen for exercise Cobra Gold 2012 at an end, a handful of Marines and sailors, rather than spending their time and money during liberty hours, decided instead to pay a visit to an orphanage here, Feb. 17.

Approximately 25 Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 31, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, spent the latter half of the day entertaining children of the Pattaya Orphanage, selflessly giving their time after two weeks of constant training.

"This isn't a 'volun-told' situation," said Pfc. Justin T. Tallo, a motor transport mechanic with CLB-31. "We wanted to come here and interact with the children. And although I for one don't have any kids, it's still a great time to be out here with them."

Arriving at the orphanage in the early afternoon, Marines first visited the children three years and younger; nearly half of the 172 orphan population.

While most of the Marines may not have children of their own, every one of them interacted wholeheartedly.

During the time with the younger orphans, older children were returning from school, joining the youngsters in their unique playtime with the Marines. Although the Marines visit the orphanage a couple days every year during exercise Cobra Gold, it leaves an everlasting impression on the children.

"The Marines' visit brings obvious joy to the children and they talk about the Marines for months afterward," said Siriphen Limsirikul, assistant director at the orphanage. "Bringing essential items to the orphanage is nice, but the warmth children feel from the Marines is more important. They remember past visits and look forward to the next one."

The visit comes shortly after the conclusion of various multi-national combat exercises among various participating nations of Cobra Gold. The ease in which Marines switch gears from combat training to local children interaction is nothing but natural.

"We want to ensure the places where we conduct combat operations understand that we don't just engage in war exercises, but also care about the local people," said Lt. Cmdr. Nick Hamilton, chaplain for the 31st MEU. "The U.S. military has been a humanitarian force in every historical conflict, so we continue by interacting with local children and doing projects that benefit the community."



SGT. PAUL ROBBINS JR.

Pfc. Justin T. Tallo, a 21-year-old motor transport mechanic, attached to Combat Logistics Battalion 31, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, helps two children from the Pattaya Orphanage drink water during a visit here, Feb. 17. The Marines first visited the children three years and younger; nearly half of the population.

Toward the end of the night, Marines executed drill movements called by one of the children, sang songs and wrapped up the visit with a break-dancing competition.

When the time came for the Marines to leave, the originally apprehensive children were hard to remove from the woodland-garbed visitors, an effect that meant as much to the children as it did to the Marines.

"It was a very special trip for us," said Lance Cpl. Deunte M. Williams, administration

specialist with CLB-31. "We get to see kids who don't have what we take for granted, so it humbles us as well. I just hope our visit helped them out in the end."

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

Seabee Birthday Bash

The Seabees are scheduled to celebrate their 70th birthday at Club Iwakuni March 2. Tickets are \$25 per person and are available at the Cash Cage. There will be more than \$1,200 given away in prizes.

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 roger.wilco@comcast.net.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

OSC Scholarship

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

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

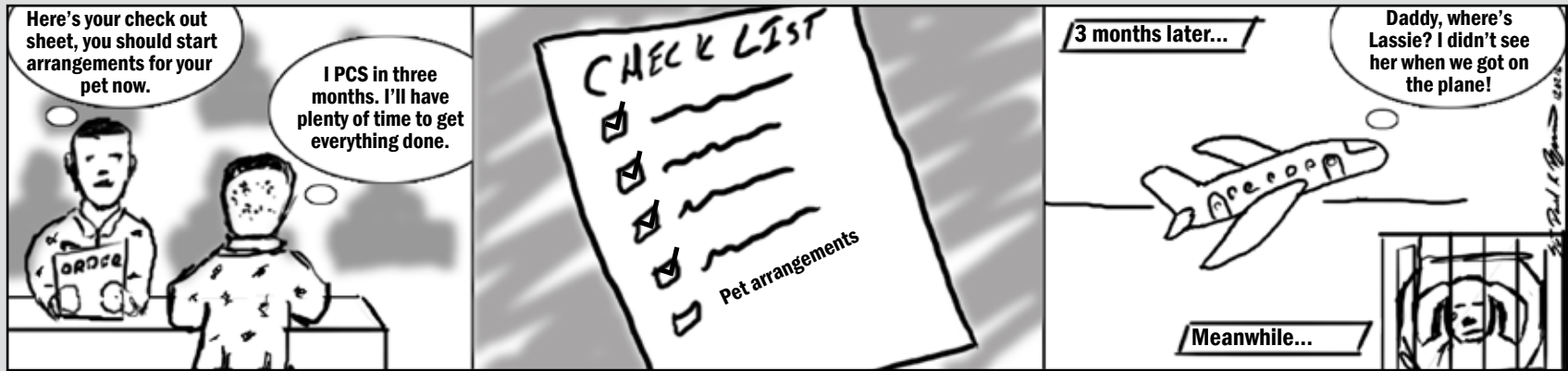
Dental Assistant

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 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 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. Please 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! You need to plan ahead to PCS with your pet



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

The Japanese Doll Festival (雛祭り Hina-matsuri), or Girls' Day, is held annually March 3. Platforms covered with a red carpet are used to display a set of ornamental dolls (雛人形 hina-ningyō) representing the Emperor, Empress, attendants, and musicians in the traditional court dress of the Heian period.

The custom of displaying dolls began during the Heian period (794 to 1185). People believed the dolls possessed the power to contain bad spirits. Hinamatsuri traces its origins to an ancient Japanese custom called hina-nagashi "doll floating", in which straw hina dolls are set afloat on a boat and sent down a river to the sea, supposedly taking troubles or bad spirits with them.

People have stopped doing this now because of fishermen catching the dolls in their nets. They now send them out to sea, and when the spectators are gone they take the boats out of the water and bring them back to the temple and burn them.

Families generally start to display the dolls in February and take them down immediately after the festival. Superstition says that leaving the dolls past March 4 will result in a late marriage for the daughter.

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.



PHOTO COURTESY OF HIROMI KAWAMOTO

SAKURA THEATER

Friday, February 24, 2012

7 p.m. Journey 2: The
Mysterious Island (PG)
10 p.m. Safe House (R)

Monday, February 27, 2012

7 p.m. African American
Society Historic Movie Night
Free admission

Saturday, February 25, 2012

4 p.m. Adventures of Tintin (PG)
7 p.m. Safe House (R)

Tuesday, February 28, 2012

Theater closed

Sunday, February 26, 2012

4 p.m. Journey 2: The
Mysterious Island (PG)
7 p.m. The Devil Inside (R)

Wednesday, February 29, 2012

Theater closed

Thursday, March 1, 2012

7 p.m. The Devil Inside (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.

Mess Hall Menu

Monday

Corn chowder, jerked styled chicken, spicy baked fish, lyonnaise rice, baked macaroni and cheese, asparagus, corn, chicken gravy, dinner rolls, chicken wings bar, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, bear claws, blueberry muffins, cherry pie, white cake with buttercream frosting, brownies, chocolate pudding parfait, Jell-O parfait.

Tuesday

Chicken with rice soup, baked Italian sausage, pepper steak, steamed rice, mashed potatoes, peas and carrots, brussels sprouts polonaise, brown gravy, dinner rolls, rotisserie chicken bar, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, snails, banana nut muffins, peach crunch, cheese cake, peanut butter cookies, vanilla pudding parfait, Jell-O parfait.

Wednesday

Cream of chicken soup, baked salmon, Yankee pot roast, paprika buttered potatoes, steamed rice, peas and carrots, calico cabbage, brown gravy, dinner rolls, pulled pork bar, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, kolaches, quick cherry coffee cake, pecan pie, marble cake with buttercream frosting, chocolate chip cookie, banana cream pudding, Jell-O parfait.

Thursday

Minestrone soup, apple glazed corned beef, Cantonese pork ribs, grilled cheese, potatoes au gratin, tossed green rice, orange carrots, amandine, spinach, mustard sauce, dinner rolls, curry bar, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, bowknots, blueberry muffin, apple pie, devil's food cake with coconut buttercream frosting, shortbread cookie, chocolate pudding parfait, Jell-O parfait.

Friday

Chicken rice soup, savory baked chicken, fried catfish, mashed potatoes, long grain and wild rice, summer squash, asparagus, chicken gravy, brown gravy, corn muffins, deli bar, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, standard salad bar, quick French coffee cake, doughnut, cherry pie, yellow cake with chocolate buttercream frosting, brownies, vanilla pudding parfait, Jell-O parfait.

Couples who sweat together stay together

Lance Cpl. Nicholas Rhoades
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The IronWorks Gym held an annual Sweat with your Sweetheart class to have couples aboard the station celebrate Valentine's Day by working out together here Feb. 14.

The class was taught by fitness instructors who shared their knowledge with the couples who attended.

"This event gives an opportunity for couples to sweat together and see a new side of their partner," said Andrea Kawano, fitness trainer.

Most people don't work out with their significant other, so this allowed a new view into the couple's fitness styles and progress.

"Most of the times when people come to the gym, the men go to the weight room and women will come to yoga, Zumba or some other type of fitness training," said Kawano. "This class provided a rare opportunity to see the other side of fitness for these couples."

The couples who came to the class were allowed to come with anyone they wanted, which allowed for a broader turn-out.

"This event is unique to some other events where a couple has to be a man and a woman, but kids were allowed and a 'couple' didn't have to be a male and female, some came with their friend," said Kawano.

The overall turnout of the event consisted of a few married couples, along with two friends who came together and a mother and son. Her husband showed up later in the class to show his support but was unable to attend the course.

1st Lt. Mark J. Enoch, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron financial management officer, and his wife, Ariel Enoch, were one of the

married couples who participated at the Sweat with your Sweetheart class, were happy they came.

"We had fun and we really didn't expect to get such a great workout," said the Enochs.

Yoga is a fitness exercise which allows the individual time to complete each technique on their own, or with a partner.

"Yoga is a great exercise which forces the individual to be patient and calm, but still provides an excellent total body experience," said Prakai Parsons, fitness trainer.

Much of yoga is taught with slow, comforting music, allowing the body to relax and contract together which makes a great whole body exercise.

"Yoga really works out the entire body from the arms, chest and back all the way down to the legs while keeping core muscles tightened," said Parsons.

The fitness portion of yoga was developed in India more than 5,000 years ago and has developed into an alternative for weightlifting.

"By holding positions and stretches in yoga, or other fitness programs, it allows you to have consistent pressure where as in common weightlifting there are short powerful bursts to your muscles," said Parsons.

The main focus of this class was to allow couples to experience something new with someone close to them who they don't normal work out with.

"Hopefully this class will open the door to more couples working out together and trying new things in the way of fitness," said Parsons.

People tend to work out with others who have their same style, strength or progression.

From time to time it's nice to take a break and enjoy working out with someone you really care for.



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS RHOADES

Jennifer Gilmer holds the ankles of her son, Gregory Gilmer, 11, allowing him to perform the proper yoga pose at IronWorks Gym here Feb. 14. The class was taught by fitness instructors who shared their knowledge with the couples who attended. Not everyone came with their romantic partner, some attended with other family members or friends.



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS RHOADES

1st Lt. Mark J. Enoch, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron financial management officer, and his wife, Ariel Enoch, perform yoga positions together by using each other's bodies to help press their legs skyward and stretch their leg muscles while keeping their core muscles tight at the IronWorks Gym here Feb. 14. Performing Yoga with a partner has its benefits and allows two people the opportunity to come closer and learn more about their own body as well as their partner's.

The Iwakuni Time Machine

This week in 1972 the Torii Teller reported on the authorization of 14-day stateside leave for Marines of unaccompanied Western Pacific tours. Other news included in this issue was implementation of direct deposit and the 30th anniversary of Navy Seabees. The Marine physical fitness test also changed the events, number of events and the technique in which they are executed. The PFT has remained unchanged since 1972.



LtGen. E. E. Anderson

Assistant CMC named

LtGen. Earl E. Anderson, Commanding General of the Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic, has been named by President Nixon to be the next Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps.

General Anderson will replace General Raymond G. Davis who retires March 31.

Commissioned in the Marine Corps in June 1940, General Anderson is a combat veteran of World War II, Korea and of two tours in Vietnam.

He is a naval aviator, with both a B. S. and M. A. degree from West Virginia University and holds a Juris Doctor degree in Law from George Washington University.

The general is a native of Morgantown, W. Va., and is married. He and his wife, Jane, have three children.

Specialists to visit

Three medical specialists will be visiting the MCAS Iwakuni hospital during the last week of February and the first two weeks of March.

Visiting specialists, all from Yokosuka Naval Hospital, will include Capt. G. E. Wire, a dermatologist; LCdr. J. W. Batcheller, an orthopedic surgeon; and Lt. W. W. Smith, an optometrist.

Captain Wire will be here from February 28 to March 3, LCdr. Batcheller from March 1 to 7, and Lt. Smith will be aboard from March 6 to 10.

14 day stateside leave authorized

Second or subsequent tour restrictions on taking annual leave to the Continental United States have been lifted.

In a recent message from LtGen. William K. Jones, CG, FMF Pac, it was announced that Marines on unaccompanied WestPac tours may now take up to 14 days leave in CONUS. Leave may also be taken in the WestPac area, Guam or Hawaii.

Under the new policy the only restrictions are local requirements determining operational readiness of the individual's unit.

Space available travel by MAC channel aircraft is authorized. However, it is the responsibility of the Marine taking leave to ensure his financial capability to return on time via commercial airlines if there are no "space available" seats.

Each command must maintain current and accurate leave address data, to include phone numbers, for emergency notification or recall.

after accident

Samurais place second in tourney

The Matthew C. Perry High School Samurais survived a bus wreck to take a strong second at the Sasebo Invitational Basketball Tournament last weekend.

The accident occurred near Saga, about an hour out of Sasebo, as the team and cheerleaders neared the end of a 14-hour bus ride late Thursday night. Squeezed off the road, the bus rolled and dropped onto its left side into a rice paddy.

Injuries were minor. Two cheerleaders were hospitalized overnight as treatment for shock.

In the first game, played Friday afternoon, the Samurais took on their toughest opposition before the final game. The Sasebo Kita team, which was to finish third in the final standings, led 21 to 18 at halftime. In the second half, however, the Sams put it together to take the game, 68 to 37.

The Iwakuni cagers played two games Saturday, both against Japanese schools. In the first game, Iwakuni beat Sasebo Nishi, 53-24. They went on to win over Kogyo, 58-35 in the semi-final that evening. In both games, Coach Kelley was able to play the full bench. The Perry team was 'up' for these games — very sharp.

In the finals, the locals were pitted against the first American team they have faced this season, Hakata Air Force Base. The size and talent of the Hakata team, as well as the comparative size of the two schools — less than 40 for Iwakuni, almost 200 for Hakata — was reflected on the playing floor. The Sams held their own in a give and take first half, but their poor shooting and rebounding, together with Hakata's stalling tactics and seemingly inexhaustible bench strength made the difference in the second. The Hakata team was able to put it away 45 to 27.

Guard Scott Anderson and forward Rus Clemons were honored by placement on a most valuable players team selected by opposition coaches.

The second place finish marked the end of a thirteen and two season, the strongest basketball record ever for the locals.

Direct deposit system

Iwakunians may never have to stand in another pay line for the rest of their time here.

This time consuming chore may be accomplished by automatic deposit. Here's how it works: open a checking account with the bank, ask the bank for form DD1560 and fill it out. The bank certifies the form, gives the individual a copy, sends a copy to disbursing and maintains a copy at the bank.

From that time on the bank will receive their customers' pay direct from disbursing. There will be no service charge, no matter how many checks are written, providing the amount does not go over the total balance on hand.

This is just another service offered to Iwakunians to save not only time but also money.