

# THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 12 Vol. 5 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

## One Year Later...



LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN PRYER

ISHINOMAKI, Japan — Volunteers remove old walls of what used to be a local souvenir shop and restaurant at a dock in Ishinomaki, Japan, March 6. Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni volunteers and other local organizations worked in different locations around Ishinomaki to help local communities recover from the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami that devastated the area.

## Renovations for future generations

LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN PRYER  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

**ISHINOMAKI, Japan** — A dock rests by the outskirts of the town, submerged before high tide even hits because of the powerful shift in Japan's tectonic plate during the earthquake and subsequent tsunami last year.

A fishing boat, its anchor rusted and planted in the ground, sits by the whale museum, which used to bring visitors from around the city and beyond.

Between the museum and ocean, a building with torn and weathered walls which once served as a souvenir shop and restaurant is the mission for Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni volunteers March 6.

Alongside local volunteers, station volunteers worked to clean

the interior and exterior of the building by tearing down the walls and clearing the inside.

The renovations will possibly allow the local community to use this building as a supply house for water and food.

"We're volunteering to help the people who were hit by the earthquake and tsunami, helping them pick up their lives and move on," said Christopher M. Gervais, MCAS Iwakuni volunteer. "I was here a year ago and I'm glad I get to come back and support the locals more."

Armed with crowbars, volunteers tore into the old walls, stripping the building down to its metal frame. All four walls were steadily relieved of their deteriorating material, bits and pieces of what

SEE **DEMOLITION** ON PAGE 3

## Marines open up on targets, gunners go full-auto

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS RHOADES  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

**COMBINED ARMS TRAINING CENTER CAMP FUJI, Japan** — Combat Logistics Company 36 Marines, alongside Combat Logistics Regiments 35 and 37 fired live ammunition at the Small Arms

Combat Range here March 5. Marines were able to fire the M249 light machine gun, M240B machine gun and their issued M16A4 rifles to train and refresh their skills with these types of weapon systems during Exercise Forest Light.

Forest Light is a semi-annual

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## For those who gave their lives fighting for freedom, we salute you

LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN PRYER  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Once someone has been on this station for awhile, they may tend to acquire "tunnel vision" when making their usual commutes.

Going from the barracks to

the Commissary and back, or maybe driving to and from work, a person could completely zone out the station around them.

Hundreds of times, someone could walk through the small park area nestled by the four-

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

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# CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

## ‘Fasting, what is it?’

LT. FULGENCIO L. LEGASPI  
H&HS STATION CHAPLAIN

We hear the joke, “Are you fasting or feasting?” What is fasting by the way? According to Wikipedia, fasting is primarily the act of willingly abstaining from food, drink, or both for a period of time. Where do we hear this word “fasting?” We hear the word “fast” in hospitals and clinics. The doctor or nurse will order us, “My friend, you have to fast before doing your blood work.” In order to have an accurate reading of our cholesterol, triglycerides, glucose, etc in our blood, we need to fast beforehand. Once the data is on hand, the doctor will do their job to take good care of our physical well-being. One of the good things about fasting is we detoxify our bodies.

Fasting also has a good effect on the spiritual well-being of a person. We hear the word “fast”

during Lent. Fasting is one of the key words aside from almsgiving during Lent. Fasting is one of the key words aside from almsgiving during Lent. Fasting is one of the key words aside from almsgiving during Lent.

and prayer in the spiritual discipline of Christians. Fasting requires self-control and discipline as one denies their natural desires.

During spiritual fasting, the believer’s focus is removed from the physical world and intensely concentrated on God. Put differently, fasting directs our hunger toward God. It clears the mind and body of earthly attentions and draws us close to God. Therefore, as we gain spiritual clarity of thought while fasting, it allows us to hear God more clearly.

There are seven suggestions from the Rev. Fr. James Graham, pastor of St. Elilas the Prophet Melkite Greek Catholic Mission, San Jose, Calif., you may want to consider about fasting. Fasts have a tendency to be oriented toward things like giving up food or television. However, there are

many other creative ways we can welcome Jesus’ healing touch.

1. FAST FROM ANGER AND HATRED. Give your family an extra dose of love each day.

2. FAST FROM JUDGING OTHERS. Before making judgments, recall how Jesus overlooks our faults.

3. FAST FROM DISCOURAGEMENT. Hold on to Jesus’ promise that he has a perfect plan for your life.

4. FAST FROM COMPLAINING. When you find yourself about to complain, close your eyes and recall some of the little moments of joy Jesus has given you.

5. FAST FROM RESENTMENT AND BITTERNESS. Work on forgiving those who hurt you.

6. FAST FROM SPENDING TOO MUCH MONEY. Try to reduce your spending by ten percent and give those savings to the poor.

7. SPEND EXTRA TIME FOR PERSONAL PRAYER. When you feel God is far away, think he is near, because God is just a prayer away.

ROAD TAX

APRIL 2012

Road Tax must be paid between April 02, 2012 - April 27, 2012 in order to drive.

Once your road tax is paid, bring the following to PMO  
Pass and Registration to receive your new base decal:  
Japanese Title  
Secondary Insurance  
2012 Road tax receipt  
JCI Insurance  
Recycling fee receipt  
SOFA license and AFID card  
The vehicle / motorcycle

To avoid the long lines of the “last minute rush” at PMO, please pay your road tax and renew your decal in early April!!!

On Monday, April 30, 2012, the PMO Pass and Registration Section will only be open for renewing decals, no other business will take place during the time; i.e. driver’s license, vehicle transfers, etc.

HEAVY VEHICLE:

PLATE	COST
100Y	¥ 32,000
33E, 33Y, 300Y, 300E, 329Y, 330Y, 331Y	(4,501cc & over) ¥ 22,000 (4,500cc & below) ¥ 19,000
44Y, 400Y, 55Y, 500Y 529Y, 530Y, 531Y, 500E	¥ 7,500

Heavy Vehicles will pay road tax on the first floor of the New Symphonia Building (0830-1715)  
(Parking is free in the rear of the building.)

LIGHT VEHICLE / MOTORCYCLE:

PLATE	COST
50A, 40A, 480A, 580A	¥ 3,000
YAMA A, B	¥ 1,000
IWAKUNIA, B, C	¥ 500

Light Vehicles & Motorcycles will pay road tax on the 2nd floor of City Hall (0830-1715), located across from the Police Station. (Parking is free )

\*\*\*Maps to the New Symphonia Building and City Hall can be obtained from the PMO Pass & Registration Section!\*\*\*

ALL PAYMENTS MUST BE IN YEN !!!

NEWS

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH, MARCH 23, 2012

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training exercise normally taking place in Hokkaido but with weather restrictions, leaders decided to change course and travel to Camp Fuji, allowing live-fire training.

“We wouldn’t have been able to perform live-fire training while in Hokkaido,” said 2nd Lt. Sean A. Cunningham, CLR-37 SACR range officer-in-charge. “With the help from Camp Fuji, we were able to receive live ammunition and train on their range.”

Marines in the exercise were not infantry, but most were filling infantry billets.

Many Marines went out to train

their skills on the M240 and M249 LMG,” said Cunningham. “I feel like they did a very impressive job.”

Marines worked together to help fill billets and learn skills which many of them may have never come into contact with in their regular military occupational specialties.

“Most of these Marines primarily work in motor transportation, as mechanics or supply and they don’t know many of the advanced rifleman skills,” said Sgt. Nelson P. Chavez, 3rd squad leader, CLC-36 1st platoon. “However, this was great training as it taught them some of the same skills infantrymen use on a day-to-day

basis.”

Even though these Marines will not use these skills on a daily basis, this training allows them to stay prepared for any scenario.

“Many of these Marines haven’t had the opportunity to deploy to combat and haven’t received this type of training, since Marine Combat Training,” said Chavez.

The possibility of deployment to a cold weather environment always exists, and this training allowed a glimpse into what it may be like when they deploy.

“With the cold weather, the Marines got a taste of what combat areas can be like and some of the factors which can affect the life of Marines while in deployed

combat locations,” said Chavez.

“There was a constant wind and a large downpour which affected our ability to obtain targets and engage them effectively,” said Lance Cpl. Kimberly R. Everett, point man with 2nd fire team, 1st squad, CLC-36 1st platoon.

Marines learn early that mission accomplishment comes first no matter what the climate.

“No matter what happened with the weather, we pushed on and completed our mission to the best of our abilities,” said Everett.

Marines will complete their mission and will continue, as the Marine Corps Hymn states, to fight ‘in every clime and place where we could take a gun.’

ISHINOMAKI, Japan — Jennifer Zwierzynski, a Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni volunteer, uses a wheelbarrow to dump parts of the old walls of what used to be a local souvenir shop and restaurant into a pile at a dock in Ishinomaki, Japan, March 6. Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni volunteers and other local organizations worked in different locations around Ishinomaki to help local communities recover from the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami that devastated the area.

The Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni Vietnam memorial sits at the four-way intersection out by the Commissary here. Constructed in May 26, 1972, the memorial was built in dedication of the 493 1st MAW service members who gave their lives during the Vietnam War.

**DEMOLITION** FROM PAGE 1

used to be the souvenir shop flying out with every crowbar strike.

“Getting the chance to get out here, get in the community and help, it feels good,” said Gervais. “The work we’re doing today will hopefully show the locals we really do care about them.”

Volunteers climbed the metal frames, reaching almost to the top of the building in an attempt to clear as much as possible. These steps will make it easier for locals to construct a new shelter for supplies in this building’s future.

Volunteers without crowbars worked to pile up the remains. They scanned the work perimeter and collected trash in wheelbarrows to carry to a designated area to make later disposal simple.

As volunteers delved deeper, remnants of the souvenir shop and restaurant were found. Old whalebones, which may have once been for sale; a refrigerator with food, along with figurines and other collectibles were littered across the ground and inside the building.

By the end of the day, almost the entire building stood cleaned and ready for rebuilding. The ledge, which faced away from the ocean, had become a makeshift shrine.

Volunteers collected bottles and other souvenirs that weathered last year’s disaster and arranged them in a display.

Hoping their hard work would help the local communities to rebuild and prosper, the group retired for the evening and set sights on their next project. More to come next week on Japan volunteer efforts.

## Gone, never forgotten

**VIETNAM** FROM PAGE 1

way intersection, glance over at the torii gate and the slab of stone resting in front of it and never think twice about what they represent.

“In memoriam, with grateful remembrance for those who gave their lives before us, we dedicate this plaque and our lives that their sacrifice my never be in vain.

We commend their souls to Almighty God. May all who read these words rededicate their lives to the preservation of freedom which others have bought for us.”

It’s these words which are engraved onto the Vietnam memorial, which stands at the four-way intersection by the Crossroads Mall here.

Around the stone slab, a mote of small rocks lies between the black marble pedestal and the remaining marble base. Etched into the side of the marble base which faces the torii gate reads, “1st Marine Air Wing, VIETNAM, 1965-1971,” with the United States Marine Corps symbol on one side and MCAS Iwakuni symbol on the other.

Constructed in May 26, 1972, the memorial was built in dedication of the 493 1st MAW service members who gave their lives during the Vietnam War.

The names of all those who paid the ultimate price are inscribed in gold upon the sides of the stone monument.

A torii gate is place in front of the memorial, symbolizing the friendship and support of our Japanese neighbors even while residents here serve so far away from home.

By the side of the torii gate, resting under the shade of a nearby tree, a plaque reads, “This memorial has been adopted by the members of the Genesis Lodge #89.”

Genesis Lodge No. 89 Free and Accepted Masons has conducted volunteer efforts in earlier years to repaint the torii and provide upkeep to the memorial and its surrounding land.



# Sniff, sip, smile: Iwakuni enjoys wine

LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Station residents celebrated Marine Corps Community Services' 11th annual Wine Festival at the Club Iwakuni Ballroom here March 10.

The Wine Festival featured many wines gathered in one place for patrons to sample. "We have over 118 different types of wine from across the world," said John E. Iwaniec, MCCS director. "Not only do we have many different kinds, we also have different wines for different meals such as dinner wines, dessert wines and several others."

Tasting wine can be an all-day event; therefore, MCCS provided food and snacks for patrons to enjoy, including pasta, gyoza, roast pork, sushi rolls, fruit and several types of cheeses.

When someone is tasting wine all day it is better to do it on a full stomach, said Iwaniec.

Patrons filled the ballroom during the event as a line stretched outside and down the hallway. The 500 tickets for the event sold out. MCCS organizers originally thought that to be a sufficient number to sell.

"We sold out quickly," said Iwaniec. "Some of our staff even gave up their own personal tickets so others could attend."

It was obvious from the smiling faces everyone was having fun.

"This is a great event," said Cassandra Clemons, Wine Festival patron. "I definitely enjoy this type of adult function, which allowed me to enjoy myself and relax."

Many patrons enjoyed the night and already look forward to next year's event.

"I can't wait for the next event and I plan on attending again," said Shelly D. Bothwell Jr.

At the end of the night, those who found the wine they enjoyed were able to purchase a bottle of their choice for future nights of enjoyment.



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

Red wine pours into a patron's glass during the Marine Corps Community Services 11th annual Wine Festival at the Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni Club Iwakuni ballroom March 10. The festival featured more than 100 different types of wine from around the world.



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

Patrons enjoy a variety of different wines and tasty treats during the Marine Corps Community Services 11th annual Wine Festival at the Club Iwakuni ballroom here March 10. The festival featured more than 100 different types of wine from around the world.



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

Patrons enjoy a variety of different wines and tasty treats during the Marine Corps Community Services 11th annual Wine Festival at the Club Iwakuni ballroom here March 10. The festival featured more than 100 different types of wine from around the world.

# Station residents learn ways to manipulate wood, make works of art

CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

People have many different hobbies; playing golf, collecting comic books or reading are a few. For those who frequent the wood hobby shop here, their passion lies in creating wooden works of art.

"This is a place where station residents can come to make simple projects," said John M. Redfield, Wood Hobby Shop manager. "This is also a place where people can learn new things."

Many of those who work in the shop craft pens. These are not ordinary pens for sale at the Post Exchange but unique, one of a kind designer pens. Each pen is different in that no one pattern ever comes out the same. The specifications in making each pen may be exact every time, but the result is never duplicated.

Some of the wood enthusiasts who frequent the shop have very limited experience crafting wood into art. This should not scare or deter anyone interested in taking up wood crafting as a hobby, Redfield said.

"We've always had people coming in who have never done anything with wood crafting," said Redfield. "We understand that and we're here for them if they need assistance."

The Wood Hobby Shop also has capable persons available to guide newcomers.

"My coworker and I are experienced wood workers," said Redfield. "We're not masters (or craftsmen), but we're definitely experienced. We can go and help anyone on a project to figure out a way to do it and help them as they go along. We'll give them a guiding hand."

Along with the uniquely exquisite designs on display to those who first enter, those who frequent the shop can also craft other pieces of wooden artistry.

"There was a chief warrant officer

here once who built his own clock face with a barometer and hydrometer," said Redfield. Other projects have included furniture, plaques, coin displays, shelves, frames, coasters and a myriad other ideas. With all the different tools and equipment available there, patrons are limited only by their imagination, Redfield said.

For some of the members, woodworking is an opportunity to get away from their daily stresses.

Gunnery Sgt. Bryce R. Piper, station public affairs chief, likened it to a tranquil, calm or "Zen-like" feeling when crafting a pen.

"When I'm working on a pen, I don't notice anything else," said Piper. "I'm focused."

Piper is another individual who has little prior experience with woodworking.

"I took wood shop in high school, junior high school actually," said Piper. "That is the total amount of my wood-crafting experience."

The overall goal of the Wood Hobby Shop is to build confidence for newcomers.

"We want people to come out here in confidence," said Redfield. "If people think they can build anything in here, they can then come out of here with the knowledge they can do other projects at home."

Station residents wanting to take up woodworking as a hobby must qualify by taking the safety course, offered twice a week, Wednesdays 5:30-6:30 p.m. and Saturdays, 12-1 p.m. Pen-making classes are held Saturdays 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Saturday afternoons also feature a "project-of-the-month" class. Special projects have included cutting boards, jewelry boxes and other simple but useful wood art pieces.



CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

The Eagle, Globe and Anchor is proudly displayed on a one-of-a-kind, handcrafted wooden pen at the Wood Hobby Shop here Feb. 29. The Wood Hobby Shop not only offers wood-crafting enthusiasts an opportunity to make pens but also bed frames, wooden display cases and anything else that may come to mind. They are limited only by practicality and imaginations.



CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

Jeff A. Daly, a Marine Corps Community Services food-service worker leader, uses clamps to bring together two pieces of plywood at the Wood Hobby Shop here Feb. 29. The Wood Hobby Shop not only offers wood-crafting enthusiasts an opportunity to make pens but also bed frames, wooden display cases and anything else that may come to mind. They are limited only by practicality and imaginations.



# Marines extinguish simulated disaster, protect station residents



U.S. Marine Cpl. Samantha Jones, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Aircraft Rescue Firefighter, calls for help on a radio for a wounded role player during a mass casualty exercise here, March 14. The mass casualty exercise was conducted to test Marines' first response coordination and procedures in the event of an actual mass casualty incident aboard the station.



LANCE CPL. KASSIE L. MCDOLE

A Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Aircraft Rescue Firefighter Marine assists a wounded role player during a mass casualty exercise here, March 14. The mass casualty exercise was conducted to test Marines' first response coordination and procedures in the event of an actual mass casualty incident aboard the station.

LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CLARK  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

A cold breeze whipped through the air as Aircraft Rescue Firefighting Marines responded to a mass casualty call here March 14.

Two vans arrived on scene with a simulated fire spreading across 15 meters of the flightline.

The whole situation was a training exercise.

Orange cones represented the notional fire and more than a dozen volunteers simulated injuries, some wearing simulated rubber wounds.

The mass-casualty exercise helped maintain the ARFF Marines' skills and challenged them with putting out a simulated fire complicated by search-and-rescue training to find injured volunteers who wandered from the crash site and laid in the nearby grass.

"We perform this kind of training because its mandatory for our Marines to keep a high skill level with firefighting and finding and treating injured servicemembers and station residents," said Staff Sgt. Christopher D. Garbutt, ARFF assistant training chief.

The fire and casualties were curveballs thrown into the exercise to keep the Marines on their toes when responding to an accident.

"We were aware of the crash when we received the call," said Cpl. Samantha Jones, a Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron ARFF specialist. "When we arrived on scene, we extinguished the fire so we could get our people in and transport the wounded to safety."

After extinguishing the simulated fire, the surrounding area was drenched to prevent unexpected fire resurgence, the search and rescue

portion of the training began.

The exercise was a different way for ARFF Marines to train because of the number of injured and search-and-rescue efforts needed to complete the event.

"During the search-and-rescue, we had to calm down a few of the injured, apply braces and transport others via stretchers," said Jones. "We usually just fight controlled burns at the burn pit, so being able to help the volunteers was a great learning experience."

After the injured were found, transported and treated, the ARFF Marines packed up their gear and returned to the fire station until the next time needed.

"With Friendship Day coming up, we are going to have a large amount of people here and that could mean a lot of heat casualties who need our help," said Garbutt.

May's Friendship Day brings the local community aboard the station where U.S. and Japanese aircraft perform flight demonstrations and flybys. This once-a-year opportunity allows the local community to see the station's mission of air support and protection in one day of fast flying and choreographed demonstrations.

"We might not have a blazing fire to deal with, but the possibility of dehydration and heat exhaustion is very real," said Garbutt. "Preparing for those scenarios is essential to helping station residents and visitors."

"My Marines completed their mission and handled the different situation well," said Staff Sgt. Jason N. Nickell, ARFF section two leader. "We train every week to keep our skills up to par. Today, we showed how effective all that training has been."



LANCE CPL. KASSIE L. MCDOLE

Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Aircraft Rescue Firefighter Marines assists a wounded role player during a mass casualty exercise here, March 14. The mass casualty exercise was conducted to test Marines' first response coordination and procedures in the event of an actual mass casualty incident aboard the station.



LANCE CPL. KASSIE L. MCDOLE

Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Aircraft Rescue Firefighter Marines respond to a simulated fire during a mass casualty exercise here March 14. The mass casualty exercise was conducted to test Marines' first response coordination and procedures in the event of an actual mass casualty incident aboard the station.

Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Aircraft Rescue Firefighter Marines respond to a simulated fire during a mass casualty exercise here March 14. The mass casualty exercise was conducted to test Marines' first response coordination and procedures in the event of an actual mass casualty incident aboard the station.



LANCE CPL. KASSIE L. MCDOLE



CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE

# Marines, JGSDF come together for Forest Light

2ND LT. JEANSCOTT DODD  
MARINE CORPS  
BASES JAPAN

YOUSUBETSU TRAINING AREA, HOKKAIDO, Japan — For most military members, seeing a helicopter land is a common occurrence. Seeing one land at sea is not so common. Riding in a helicopter equipped with skis as it lands on a blanket of snow on a mountainside is even less common.

Working in tandem with the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force, Marines with Combat Logistics Regiments 35 and 37 had the opportunity to take part in such an uncommon evolution during a U.S.-Japan cold-weather training exercise in mainland Japan March 2-12.

The regiments, part of 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and soldiers from 4th Infantry Regiment, 5th Brigade, JGSDF, participated in the training to increase interoperability and enhance individual and unit cold-weather skills.

The exercise, dubbed Forest Light 12-2, took place at the Yausubetsu Training Area in Hokkaido, Japan.

“This training is an important opportunity for our Marines and the JGSDF soldiers to learn from one another and build relationships,” said Col. John E. Kasperski, commanding officer of CLR-37, during the opening ceremony.

Upon their arrival, the Marines were welcomed by the JGSDF soldiers and launched straight into training. They first conducted station training with classes about enemy prisoners of war, combat lifesaving and first aid, individual equipment and movement using snowshoes. For many, it was their first time working with military members from

another country.

“Both our Marines and the JGSDF soldiers showed no hesitation to begin interacting,” said 2nd Lt. Brigham T. Doud, EPW training instructor and a controller during the field training exercise. “Both units welcomed each other and were eager to learn one another’s tactics.”

The staff from both countries also conducted a bilateral command post exercise prior to the FTX to prepare them for better bilateral operations throughout the exercise. Simultaneously, preparation for the FTX continued with heliborne training, a cross-country skiing class and practical application and bilateral rehearsals.

“The ski training was a great event because the Marines and JGSDF soldiers shared many laughs while learning a valuable skill for cold-weather conditions,” said 1st Lt. Yujiro Yauchi, a JGSDF ski instructor and interpreter.

Marines and JGSDF soldiers maneuvered throughout the training area, reacting to notional and real-world enemies, role-played by JGSDF and Marine scenario controllers, who graded the unit’s actions during all events.

The weather in Hokkaido enabled the special

emphasis on cold weather training, as fresh snow was abundant throughout the training area.

The FTX culminated with the JGSDF conducting a passage through friendly lines of a Marine defensive position, immediately followed by a Marine heliborne assault, with JGSDF providing indirect fire support.

The FTX allowed the Marines from 3rd MLG a unique opportunity to conduct infantry training alongside their JGSDF counterparts.

“Any chance for Marines to get out and do basic infantry training is great, even if it isn’t their everyday job,” said 2nd Lt. Matthew C. Librizzi, platoon commander for Marine FTX forces during the training. “The cold temperatures and snow here at Yausubetsu was a great opportunity as well.”

Forest Light 12-2 ended with both units coming together for a farewell engagement and a formal closing ceremony. The relationships built between the Marines and JGSDF soldiers throughout the exercise are sure to have lasting benefits for both countries.

“The biggest takeaway from Forest Light has to be the camaraderie we built within the platoon as well as with our Japanese counterparts, and our actions here will only strengthen our bonds with the JGSDF for future cooperation and training,” said Librizzi.



2ND LT. JEANSCOTT DODD

YOUSUBETSU TRAINING AREA, HOKKAIDO, Japan-Marines and Japan Ground Self-Defense Force soldiers practice cross-country skiing at the Yausubetsu Training Area, Hokkaido, Japan, March 5, during Exercise Forest Light 12-2. The Marines and JGSDF soldiers spent hours practicing different techniques taught by JGSDF ski instructors. The purpose of Forest Light 12-2 was to enhance the interoperability of Marines and JGSDF members while increasing individual and unit readiness in a cold-weather environment.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS | CLASSIFIEDS

Briefs

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

**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 affectionados are welcome. For more information, contact Mark Williams at rodder.wilco@comcast.net.

**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.

**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. on Saturdays and Sundays.

**Like To Draw?**  
The Iwakuni Approach is looking for artistic people with a sense of humor to submit cartoon drawings. If you are interested, bring your drawings by the Public Affairs Office, Building 1, Room 216. Public Affairs approves editorial content for cartoons published each week.

**Iwakuni Roadrunners**  
All servicemembers 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.

**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.

**NMCRS Quick Assist Loans**  
The Iwakuni Navy Marine Corps Relief Society provides 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**  
Put these numbers in your wallet:  
•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.

**PMO Lost and Found**  
Contact the Provost Marshal’s Office Lost and Found if you have 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.

**Iwakuni is now on Facebook**  
“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 feature 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. Visit www.facebook.com/theiwakuniapproach.

**Mothers of Preschoolers**  
MOPS offers fun support and encouragement for mothers of newborns to age five. 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.

**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

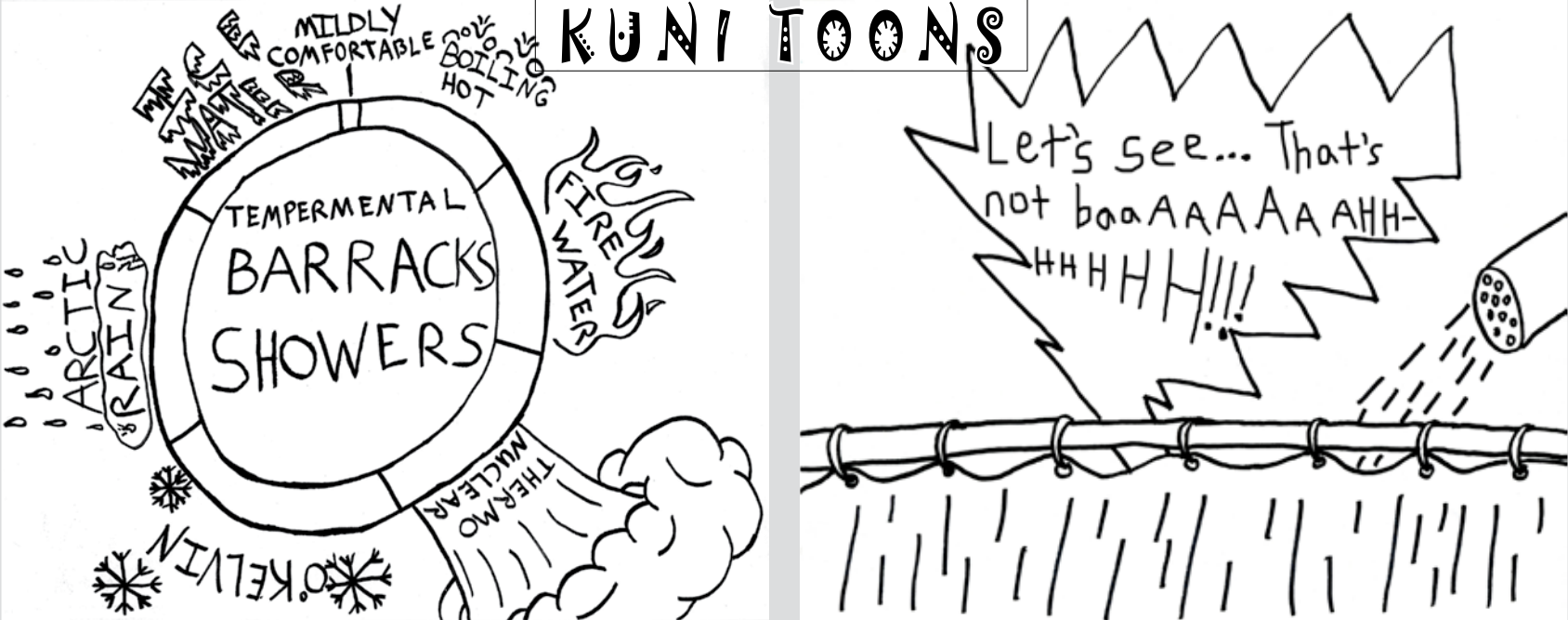
lending locker is located in Building 411, Room 101. Appointments are 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. For more information, call 253-6161.

**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 advertisement 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. The deadline for submissions is 3 p.m. every Friday.



SUBMITTED BY LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CLARK



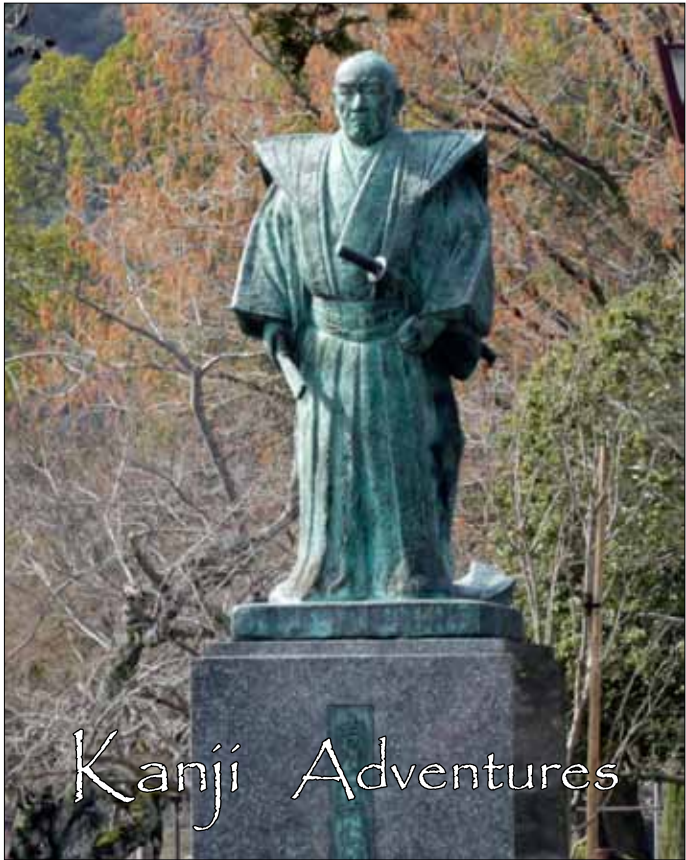
INFOTAINMENT

Chapel Services

<b>Roman Catholic</b>	
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
Mon. – Thurs.	11:30 a.m. Weekday Mass
<b>Protestant</b>	
Sunday	10:30 a.m. Protestant Service 10:30 a.m. Children’s Church 10:30 a.m. Church of Christ Meeting 1 p.m. Contemporary 4:30 p.m. Lutheran Service 5:30 p.m. FLOW (Youth Group)
Monday	7 p.m. Men’s Bible Study
Tuesday	9 a.m. Ladies Bible Study 5 p.m. Working Women Bible Study
Wednesday	10:30 a.m. Ladies Tea 5:45 p.m. AWANA (Bldg. 1104)
2nd and 4th Saturday	10:30 a.m. Seventh Day Adventist Meeting
2nd Saturday	7:30 a.m. Men’s Discipleship
<b>Bahai</b>	
Sunday	11 a.m. Bahai Meeting

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



LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN PRYER

Kikkawa Hiroyoshi, Iwakuni’s third lord, built the Kintai Bridge in 1673. During the Edo Period, the residences of the ruling Kikkawa family were located where Kikko Park now stands. Because of this, the area is now covered with former samurai residences and museums featuring historic artifacts. Some of the museums include the Kikkawa and Iwakuni art museum, both featuring weapons, armor and furniture of past feudal lords and the Kikkawa family. The Mekata residence is another big attraction for Kikko Park. The building belonged to the Mekata family, mid-level samurai. Visitors are not permitted to enter the residence itself, but can walk around the exterior of the former home. The White Snake, a rare albino serpent which is local to Iwakuni, can be viewed inside a small building across from the Iwakuni art museum. The White Snake is believed to bring good fortune.

SAKURA THEATER

<b>Friday, March 23, 2012</b> 7 p.m. One for the Money (PG-13) 10 p.m. Underworld: Awakening (R)	<b>Monday, March 26, 2012</b> 7 p.m. One for the Money (PG-13)
<b>Saturday, March 24, 2012</b> 4 p.m. Dr. Seuss’ The Lorax (PG) 7 p.m. The Grey (R)	<b>Tuesday, March 27, 2012</b> Theater closed
<b>Sunday, March 25, 2012</b> 4 p.m. Big Miracle (PG) 7 p.m. The Grey (R)	<b>Wednesday, March 28, 2012</b> Theater closed
	<b>Thursday, March 29, 2012</b> 7 p.m. Man on a Ledge (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

<b>Monday:</b> Cream of broccoli soup, chicken vega, Cajun baked fish, steamed rice, mashed sweet potatoes, cauliflower combo, greens, vegetable gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, bear claws, quick apple coffee cake, apple crunch, marble cake, chocolate frosting, macadamia cookies, chocolate pudding parfait, Jell-O parfait.	<b>Tuesday:</b> Mexican onion corn soup, barbecue pork ribs, sweet and sour chicken, peas with onions, wax beans, steamed rice, oven browned potatoes, mushroom gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, banana nut muffin, quick apple coffee cake, blueberry pie, devil’s food cake, chocolate frosting, peanut butter cookies, coconut cream pudding, Jell-O parfait.	<b>Wednesday:</b> Tomato soup, lasagna, roast pork, fried breaded shrimp, grilled cheese, au gratin potatoes, steamed rice, whole kernel corn, mixed vegetables, brown gravy, garlic bread, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, snails, pecan rolls, cherry crunch, banana cake, chocolate frosting, sugar cookies, chocolate pudding parfait, Jell-O parfait.	<b>Thursday:</b> Minestrone soup, barbecued ribs, yakiniku, steamed rice, pork fried rice, vegetable stir fry cabbage, peas and carrots, brown gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, kolaches, blueberry muffins, apple pie, spice cake, buttercream frosting, brownies, vanilla pudding parfait, Jell-O parfait.	<b>Friday:</b> Cream of mushroom soup, salisbury steak, fried catfish, mashed potatoes, steamed rice, brussels sprouts, corn cream style, brown gravy, corn muffins, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, kolaches, quick French coffee cake, Boston cream pie, carrot cake, lemon butter, oatmeal raisin cookies, vanilla pudding parfait Jell-O parfait.
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Youth teams play multinational tournament for fun

LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CLARK  
IWAKUNI APPROACH  
STAFF

The morning sun shone through the windows of the IronWorks Gym sports courts as six youth basketball teams competed in a friendly tournament here Saturday. Six teams, comprised of four Japanese high school teams and two American teams, played in the double-elimination tournament. “We love having the Japanese teams come here and play against our youth teams,” said Camille Peet, IronWorks Gym youth sports coordinator. “It challenges the children to play at their very best.” In one of the first games played, Ajina-Dai Junior High School sent the Rockets to the loser’s bracket with a final score of 34-12. The Rockets beat the other U.S. team, the Tsunamis, in the first game of the loser’s bracket but were not able to get past Hirata Junior High School. “We played against some really tough teams,” said

Rion Holmes, 14, Rockets point guard. “This tournament showed us our weak points so we can work on getting better for the upcoming season.” Ajina-Dai JHS did not go undefeated. They lost to Otake Junior High School in the winner’s bracket quarter finals, but were able to beat Hirata JHS in the loser’s bracket semi-finals. Ajina-Dai JHS faced Otake JHS again in the finals. Both teams played energetically and Ajina-Dai came out on top. Since Otake JHS beat Ajina-Dai JHS previously, the two teams played a final overtime game. The two teams played a close game, but Otake JHS was able to snatch the victory with a last-second layup ending the game 26-24. “We had to change our strategy against the American teams,” said Ryouko Murai, Otake JHS team captain. “They have tall players. We had to work around them to get the win.” It is not often for IronWorks Gym to host a multinational tournament for the youth basketball

teams. The players and coaches seemed to enjoy the opportunity to play against different cultures of basketball. “I know my team loved coming here and playing against everyone,” said Sinya Todaka, Otake JHS coach. “It was a unique experience we will cherish. We hope to play here again soon.” Experiencing the different cultures is what tournaments like this really help with, said Peet. After the tournament’s closing ceremony and the teams received their trophies, the players went to the Crossroads Mall and celebrated their games together. “We really liked the American culture the American players shared with us,” said Murai. “It was a relaxed and fun environment for us to talk and have fun in.” After eating their food and hanging out with each other, it was time for the Japanese teams to head home. The children waved goodbye until the next time they can challenge their skills again on the courts.



LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CLARK

Taki Yamada, Ajina-Dai Junior High School forward, sprints with the ball into Otake Junior High School territory during a U.S. - Japan youth basketball tournament at IronWorks Gym sports courts here Saturday. The children were able to experience different cultures and gain a better understanding of each other during the games and hanging out at the Crossroads Mall afterwards.



LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CLARK

Yuuki Nishimura, Otake Junior High School forward, shoots a free throw during a U.S. - Japan youth basketball tournament at IronWorks Gym sports courts here Saturday. The children were able to experience different cultures and gain a better understanding of each other during the games and hanging out at the Crossroads Mall afterwards.



# The Iwakuni Time Machine

In the March 26, 1976 edition of the "Torii Teller," Marines reported the move of the Post Exchange to a new location, mess hall drinking glasses missing, Marine barracks in Sasebo Naval Base deactivated, new phone directory in May, a look into the life of a station area auditor, Marines and Japanese interacting during a Kintai Bridge festival and a feature piece on the Sakura Theater.

## Overseas tours changed to 12 months

Twelve month overseas tours are now in effect for Marines serving unaccompanied 13 or 18-month tours in Japan, who departed the continental U.S. Dec. 1 or later.

In making the announcement, which applies to Marines serving in western Pacific Fleet Marine Force billets, Headquarters Marine Corps also stated Marines presently serving accompanied tours would not be effected.

Marines now scheduled to rotate in December 1976 will be assigned flights on a first over, first back basis, since Marines who arrived in November 1975 are also scheduled to depart in December 1976.

Eighteen-month tour Marines who arrived here in June, July or August 1975, are now scheduled to rotate to their next duty station during

November 1976. The first over, first back principle will also be applied during the two month transitional period for Marines who departed the States during September through December 1975 and are returning to the U.S. in December 1976.

Marines who are stabilized for imminent deployment or whose unit is deployed and are effected by the tour cut will either complete the deployment and be rotated with in 10 days of their return to Japan or be rotated on their old RTD, whichever is earlier.

## General courts-martial

Three 1st MAW Marines were tried and convicted by general courts-martial during the week of Mar. 2-8.

They were arraigned for charges ranging from aggravated assault to assault to commit murder. All three Marines received punitive discharges, confinement at hard labor, forfeiture of pay and reduction in rank.

The most severe punishment dealt out was a dishonorable discharge, confinement at hard labor for 10 years, forfeiture of all pay and allowances and reduction in rank to E-1.

## P.X. moving

The Household/Gun Shop will be closed Apr. 1 & 2. The Children's Shop, linen and sewing sections are moving to Bldg. 211, which is the old PX Sound Shop.

Also, the Annex is scheduled to be closed on Apr. 2 and the Toy Department will be moving to Bldg. 211.

The Annex and the new Household Department will reopen on Apr. 3.

## Glass theft

The next time you need a drinking glass in the mess hall and there are none, remember this: during the month of February approximately 700 glasses were missing from the facilities through reasons of theft and breakage. Think about it.

## LtGen. McLaughlin to visit

LtGen. John N. McLaughlin, Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific/Commander, Marine Corps Bases, Pacific, will visit here this weekend.

The visit is part of a Mar. 18-Apr. 2 tour of Marine units and installations in Japan, Okinawa, Korea and the Philippines.



## Torii Teller

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## Marine barracks deactivated

The Marine Barracks at Sasebo Naval Base will be deactivated Mar. 30.

Marine guard replacements were not sent to Sasebo after Oct. 31, 1975 so that Marines rotating on a regular basis would shrink the barracks to a small number of personnel.

## The age old problem: Suffering

By Chaplain Daniel Winslow

The mystery of suffering is older than Job. Much suffering is man-made. Sinful men are the reason for crime, prisons, guns, bayonets, slavery, bombs, whips. Some of it, however, is not so obviously related to sin. When the disciples said, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man, or his parents, that he should be born blind?" Jesus corrected them for trying to pinpoint the reason for misfortune. Much suffering cannot be traced to specific causes; nor can we find its reason within ourselves.

Job is the classic example of the mystery of suffering. "Blameless and upright, one who feared God, and turned away from evil," Job was bereft of family and possessions, health and happiness. When his wife counseled him to curse God and die, he continued to trust him. This is the message of Job: steadfast in God no matter what may come.

Much does come: hardship, suffering, sickness, death. All men experience suffering sooner or later. What carries one through? The apostle Paul gives an answer, the only adequate one: "I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."