

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 14 Vol. 5 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

Air station volunteers help community rise from depths



LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN PRYER

ISHINOMAKI, Japan – Robert Mangold, International Disaster Relief Organization Japan director, and Robert Sheu, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni volunteer, measure the length of the floor of a local fishermen's shed being built March 8. The shed will give fishermen an area to store their equipment and set up an office.

LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN PRYER
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

ISHINOMAKI, Japan – The few remaining houses of the community of Nagatsura sit nestled in a valley against one of northern Japan's many hills. A year has passed since the earthquake and subsequent tsunami. The locals still have no electricity. The only path to the standing buildings is a dirt road surrounded by empty foundations and obliterated houses with construction workers tearing down old homes.

Next to the ravaged community lies a lake, tranquil and untouched save for the local fishermen who use it. In support of these local fishermen, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni volunteers and It's Not Just Mud local volunteers erected a storage building and office for the fishermen to use.

"As a fisherman in Japan, you have to join a local fishing cooperative," said Robert Mangold, International Disaster Relief Organization Japan director, as he spoke to the volunteers. "Being part of a cooperative means you can fish in a certain area and you can't go anywhere else. The locals here have the right to fish in this lake and that's it. They can't just pack up and leave. It's either fish here or quit. What we're going to do today is build these guys a small house for them to store their nets and other equipment, as well as a small office for them to work out of."

Not only will the shed provide a storage area for the local fishermen, but with the space provided for an office, they will be able to receive job contracts to further progress their business.

Volunteers began the day measuring out needed wood for the project and then built the shed from the ground up.

With level ground non-existent where volunteers were allowed to build, the wooden beams for the shed's foundation were set upon cinder blocks and measured until perfectly level.

"Nagatsura's economy was primarily based on oyster cultivation and fishing, and at this time you can see that is pretty much wiped out," said Mangold. "You can still see some of the locals trying out on the lake, but it's almost impossible without a real place to work from. Hopefully if we help these fishermen get back on their feet, they can start to help the community rise back up."

Every person helped where they could, volunteers pieced

Red Devils bring heat to Iwakuni

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS RHOADES
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 232 landed in Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni ready for training here March 17.

VMFA-232, also known as the Red Devils, is part of the unit deployment program, which allows units to deploy to various locations throughout the Western Pacific and participate in exercises with international allied forces.

"(The deployment program) puts the aircrew in an unfamiliar environment and gets us ready for any scenario that may come up," said Capt. Jeffrey P. Andrews, VMFA-232 adjutant.

VMFA-232 is scheduled to continue their training here for the next six months.

"When you come to a place like this with different controllers it makes everyone up their game and provide a force forward for the Marine Corps. So at any time we need to be called upon, we will at least have an understanding of the environment and be able to affect the combat scenario much better than we would without this training," said Andrews.

While deployed, some pilots will go through certain qualifications to become division and section leaders while in flight.

Some of the main training to accomplish will be qualification where one pilot can lead another

Children learn how to stay in touch with deployed parents

LANCE CPL.
CHARLES CLARK
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Sixty five station children talked about different ways to stay in touch with their deployed parents and learned about Marine Corps history during a Lifestyle Insights, Networking, Knowledge and Skills Training for Kids day here March 28.

The children learned what permanent change of station means and the emotions that go along with leaving a place where they made friends. They were taught how to stay in contact with their friends when they move

and how to stay safe on social networking websites.

The children divided into groups and visited six tables set up as learning stations.

"Military children move an average of about six to nine times from kindergarten to high school," said Neda Amaya, a Marine Corps Family Team Building L.I.N.K.S. trainer. "If they understand how Marine Corps culture works, it will make transitioning from place to place easier for them."

A round robin style of teaching kept the children interested.

"We wanted to make

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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.

PSC 561 Box 1868
FPO AP 96310-0019
Phone 253-5551
Fax 253-5554

CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

‘More than one side’

CMDR. DEAN L. HOELZ
MAG-12 GROUP CHAPLAIN

“You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many” (2 Corinthians 1:11).

One of my favorite and most memorable community relations projects during this year’s Exercise Cobra Gold, in Thailand, took place at the Thamrapakorn Home for the Aged. It is a very modest retirement home in the heart of Korat. Its 100 men and women residents live in simple and neat open bays, not unlike Marine open squad bays of years ago.

The residents of Thamrapakorn live there for a variety of reasons. Some have no family members with whom they can live. Others are too physically handicapped to be cared for at home and there are some for whom there is nowhere else to go.

The men and women of Thamrapakorn always light up when the Marines and sailors come to visit. I think being around younger men and women always gives older people a sense of renewed strength and it reminds them of their own days of youth and vigor.

On this particular visit, our cammie-clothed Marines and sailors played guitars, sang

songs, led the group through exercises and even danced. It seems that everyone in Thailand sings and dances, I think it’s in their DNA. After these activities were finished, Marines and sailors were asked to share their personal stories with the aid of an interpreter. The residents asked our servicemembers why they joined the service, what their jobs were, where they were from and how many were in their family. One by one, a Marine or sailor would stand up and share their story. Once their words were translated for the audience, the crowd would respond with “oos” and “awes,” smiles and nods of approval. After we shared our stories, it was time for some of the residents to tell us theirs.

With a cane or shoulder of a friend to lean upon, men and women with faces etched, with years of character and bodies bent-over by time, would stand and begin to share the stories of their lives. After the first gentleman, who was partially blind, shared his story, he made a very intimate request through the interpreter; he asked if anyone would pray for him. There was an awkward pause among us; we looked around, wondering who might respond to this request. After a few moments of silence, a sailor walked up to the man, put his hand upon his shoulder, the group bowed their heads, the crowd was silent and a prayer

offered. Next, another resident came forward to share her story. When she finished speaking of the challenges, disappointments and joys of her life, she too made a request for prayer. A Marine walked up to the woman, stood alongside her, clasped her hand and offered his prayer. One by one, stories were shared and prayers were offered up that day like incense rising to heaven. On a hot Saturday in downtown Korat, Marines and sailors came not just to play, but to pray. They thought they had come to nurture the body through song and dance, but they gladly fed the soul and lifted the spirit as well.

I share this story with you because we don’t always see the many different aspects of our Marines and sailors. We know every Marine is a “rifleman” and every sailor is a “firefighter” but this is only part of their story. Although they are men and women whose hands are always prepared to fight in service of our nation, they are also of compassion and faith who readily lift up their hands in prayer in every “clime and place.”

During this holy season of Lent, it is my prayer that God enable each of us to hear the needs of our neighbor, both near and far. May the Creator grant us the courage to readily lift up our hands in prayer and offer our lives in ways that nurtures the body, feeds the soul and uplifts the spirits of those around us. Amen.

A renewal of town, business, hope to devastated people

SHED FROM PAGE 1

the floor of the shed together with wooden beams and boards, held together by screws and nails.

Piece by piece and nail by nail, volunteers crafted a temporary dwelling for the local fishermen and their work.

Volunteers worked through the day, stopping only once for a meal, cooked by the community in appreciation for their efforts.

“The people here are really happy for the volunteer work we’re doing. They even cooked up some oysters for us,” said Mangold. “But the best part of today is showing them we’re here and doing something for them, I think it makes a big impact on their lives.”

By the end of the day, all four walls stood upright on the shed, held by the strength of the wooden base, fortified by nails and screws. A tarp was draped over the shed to protect it from the elements overnight and a photo was taken so all volunteers, local and far, could remember the effort put forth by those who asked for nothing, yet gave so much.

The people of Nagatsura are

definitely making progress, but while a year has come and gone, the memories of the catastrophe are still vivid in the minds of those who weathered nature’s wrath.

“One of the locals told me about the day that it happened,” said Mangold. “After they had the big earthquake, most people knew the tsunami was coming, so they headed up to the hillside. There were some who thought they would be safe though, so they stayed in their homes. When the tsunami came through, it just picked up the town and dumped it into the lake. It was pouring snow and getting dark by the third and fourth wave and the people in the hills couldn’t do anything. She told me they could hear the people out there, but they had no power and the waves kept hitting for hours so they couldn’t go out and help them. She could hear the people screaming for help but it was too dark for them to be able to help. Slowly, the calls got softer and fewer, until by morning time it was quiet.”

NOTE: This is the final story of volunteer efforts in Ishinomaki, Japan.



LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN PRYER

ISHINOMAKI, Japan – Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni volunteers and It’s Not Just Mud local volunteers erect the first wall on the local fishermen’s shed March 8. With level ground being non-existent where volunteers were allowed to build, the wooden beams used for the shed’s foundation were set up on cinder blocks and were measured until perfectly level.

ARRIVAL FROM PAGE 1

aircraft and one pilot can lead four aircraft, said Andrews.

While pilots are completing their qualifications, support Marines are slated to complete major courses to help their unit and their careers.

“We’re not just completing maintenance tasks with the Marines,” said Sgt. Maj. Shawn D. Ellis, VMFA-232 sergeant major. “We have many Marines going to career course, sergeant’s course, corporal’s course and other training programs.”

Consistent training is important for all Marines, it allows them to better their careers and support their units.

“These Marines are going to continue their training, not only annual training and professional military education style training, but also any qualifications they can get here in Iwakuni,” said Ellis.

With so many acting roles for training underway, it can overshadow the main goal of getting aircraft in the air and pilots ready for any scenario no matter what the location.



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS RHOADES

Lance Cpl. Tanner W. Graves, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 232 fixed-wing aircraft mechanic, checks the inside of an F-18 cockpit here, April 2. Routine checks must be performed to make sure safeties are engaged and there are no problems with the instruments or any components inside of the aircraft.

LINKS FROM PAGE 1

it a fun learning environment for them to enjoy,” said Amaya.

The children seemed to enjoy the interactive learning style the MCFTB L.I.N.K.S. trainers presented.

“It was really fun learning about how to stay in touch with my dad when he has to deploy,” said Tavarry C. Watts, a Matthew C.

Perry Elementary student. “I really liked learning about how my dad became a Marine and the different swords they use.”

Gunnery Sgt. Nicholas A. Amaya, station ordnance noncommissioned officer in charge, had a table set up solely to teach Marine Corps history and culture.

“We talked about the officer and noncommissioned officer swords, Marine Corps colors, motto and

celebrating 100 years of Marine Corps aviation,” said Nicholas Amaya. “It was really good seeing them light up and get really interested in what their parents went through to become Marines.” This was the first time MCFTB hosted an event like this in about two years.

Neda Amaya said she hopes to have more events like this for station children. “Today was such a success, and

the kids really loved learning about the Marine Corps and all the different ways to stay in contact with friends and family,” said Amaya.

T-shirts and cupcakes were given out after the different groups came back together to talk about what they learned and how it will help them when they move forward in the Marine Corps’ unique culture.

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

HEAVY VEHICLE:

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

Women recognized for their contributions

LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Women and men aboard station gathered in the Club Iwakuni ballroom to attend the 2012 Military Women's Symposium in honor of National Women's History month here March 27.

"This is a great forum for women and men to attend because it allows the two genders to understand what it is like to be in the military from different points of view," said Maj. Elizabeth Pham, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Section 3 training officer, Marine Transport Squadron detachment officer in charge. "These classes give everyone tools to use in the future for self improvement and education."

Those who participated divided into small groups and attended different workshops throughout Club Iwakuni.

Some of the workshops included uniform regulations, promotions, fitness reports, looking out for fellow female service members, pregnancy, stress relief, self-esteem and sexual harassment.

Throughout each workshop, attendees shared personal stories and events with each other as a way to openly discuss ways of coping with or overcoming negative situations.

"Everyone benefits from personal stories," said Christina Sanders, secretary for the commanding officer of Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron. "This way we can easily help with overcoming fear, self esteem issues as well as any form of harassment military members face."

Leaders asked them to recall how they felt when boot camp or basic training was complete, so they may remember how they felt when they were brand new to their respective service.

"We are all Marines, regardless of race or gender, at the end of the day, you just have to be the best version of yourself. You just have to be a Marine," said Pham.

The event concluded with a question and answer segment. Attendees asked mentors questions pertaining not just to women in the military, but also everyday stress and work-related issues. Mentors responded with personal wisdom and experience.

Lt. Col. Michael R. Coletta, H&HS commanding officer, gave closing remarks on the day's events. He thanked the women for their contributions throughout the years and for continued service to home and country as well as their service in the military.



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

Female mentors who gave classes during the Women's Symposium at Club Iwakuni March 27 answered questions during the symposium at the end of the day. The questions ranged from pregnancy to dealing with being both a mother and servicemember.



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

Maj. Elizabeth Pham, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron pilot (Left), is presented with a plaque by Master Sgt. Maria E. Florentino, H&HS equal opportunity advisor, in thanks for her contribution as the guest speaker during the Women's Symposium March 27 at Club Iwakuni. Pham gave advice to those who attended by speaking from personal experiences from throughout her time as a servicemember.

(Right) Warrant Officer Jana Tang, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron personnel officer, gives a class on promotions for women in the military during the Women's Symposium at Club Iwakuni March 27. The symposium was given in honor of women's history month so females would be more aware of their rights and responsibilities as servicemembers. Those who participated divided into small groups and attended different workshops throughout Club Iwakuni. Within each workshop, attendees shared personal stories and events with each other as a way to openly discuss ways of coping with or overcoming negative situations. Females were reminded of their duties as Marines and sailors alike.



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

Iwakuni golfers see glimmer of light in shadow of course closure

COMPILED BY IWAKUNI
APPROACH STAFF

After 53 years of birdies, bogies and memories, Torii Pines Golf Course conducted its final day of play April 1.

In 1959, the course opened for servicemembers to unwind from the daily grind and stresses of a military lifestyle.

With Torii Pines closed, golfers have to look elsewhere to get their golf fix.

"Servicemembers will have to go to Iwakuni Country Club if they wish to continue golfing," said Miwa Nagahama, golf course recreation specialist. "They'll continue to be able play, just not here."

Many Marines and sailors have already begun to take advantage of the local courses surrounding the station.

"Marine Corps Community Services makes it very simple to golf out in town and at a great value," said Lt. j.g. Travis E. Coffey, Marine Aircraft Group 12 chaplain and MCAS Iwakuni long drive champion.

Coffey has played at ICC numerous times and describes the process to book a tee-time as smooth and easy.

"To book a tee-time, you must visit the station pro shop and pay a \$25 greens fee," said Coffey. "This is a great deal because normally, it

would cost much more to play the course."

For Marines and sailors without transportation, MCCS offers a shuttle bus on the weekend for \$10 round-trip.

"I recommend to anyone planning on playing out in town to brush up on their golf etiquette," said Coffey. "It is important to remember things like letting faster players play through, do not hit into the group in front of you and always remember that you are an ambassador of the United States of America."

Coffey also added that you must keep golf carts on cart paths only, something one may not be used to playing on Torii Pines or in the United States.

Despite the closure of the golf course, the pro shop will remain open to sell equipment and merchandise.

"Many of the golf merchandisers offer military discounts, so by coming to the pro shop you can save some money," said Nagahama. "We will still be open every day for the golfers who want to come in and buy some golf balls or equipment before they go out to play golf."

Golf on MCAS Iwakuni may never be the same, but the memories made throughout the years will remain with each golfer who walked the fairways of Torii Pines.



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

Col. James C. Stewart, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni commanding officer (Right), Sgt. Maj. Steven L. Brown, MCAS Iwakuni sergeant major (Center), and Lane Harrell, course superintendent, retire the flag of the 18th hole of the Torii Pines Golf Course after the last round of golf ever to be played on the course here April 1. Each recalled fond memories of the course and were reminded of days long gone but not without hopes toward the future.



SGT. CHARLES MCKELVEY

The Torii Pines Golf Pro Shop will remain open after the closing of the Torii Pines Golf Course. The pro shop offers equipment from various golf manufactures, some at a military discount rate. In addition to equipment and clothing sales, Marines and sailors will also be able to book tee-times at the Iwakuni Country Club.

Iwakuni Country Club yardage and ratings

H.NO	H.HD	BACK	REG	PAR
1	11	401	383	4
2	1	425	406	4
3	17	180	150	3
4	5	425	404	4
5	9	510	486	5
6	3	393	358	4
7	7	373	355	4
8	13	187	165	3
9	15	511	491	5
OUT		3,444	3,247	36
10	4	415	388	4
11	8	177	159	3
12	12	507	493	5
13	10	387	373	4
14	18	282	267	4
15	6	349	296	4
16	16	174	152	3
17	2	445	437	4
18	14	533	520	5
IN		3,269	3,085	36
TOTAL		6,713	6,332	72

Fairway to Heaven: Torii Pines Golf Course says ‘farewell’



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

Seth A. Hershberger sends off a putt during the final Torii Pines golf tournament at the Torii Pines Golf Course here March 30. Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron and Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 faced off for the course's last tournament, which ended with MALS-12 taking the win with a score of 15 and a half to 14 and a half.



SGT. CHARLES MCKELVEY

Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni residents prepare for the final golf tournament between Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron and Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 which was held at the Torii Pines Golf Course here March 30. In the end MALS-12 pulled ahead and took the win by a margin of victory of one point, with a score of MALS-12 - 15 and a half and H&HS - 14 and a half. Included with the tournament was a putting competition and a raffle for individual prizes.



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

James C. Stewart watches after hitting the ball down range during the Torii Pines final golf tournament at the Torii Pines Golf Course here March 30. Torii Pines golf course was established in 1959 and has hosted many tournaments since its founding 53 years ago.



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

Matthew L. E. Doyle sends off his first drive on the first hole of the Torii Pines final golf tournament at the Torii Pines Golf Course here March 30. Although Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 won, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron kept the score close throughout the entire competition. MALS-12 will remain the Torii Pines championship trophy holder for good.

LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The sun rose in the background, and the smell of fresh cut grass lingered in the air. Marines and sailors from Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 and Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron gathered March 30 at the Torii Pines Golf Course here for the final golf tournament.

The competition honored the final days of the course and determined who would keep the Torii Pines Championship Cup.

The turnout was larger than expected and not everybody received a spot in the tournament.

"Everyone here has come to play," said William G. Slack, one of the event coordinators. "Although not everyone here is competing in the tournament, everyone can do their best and hope to get the best score."

The two units faced off throughout the day, keeping the game an even tie until the end.

MALS-12 pulled ahead and took the win by a margin of victory of one point, with a score of MALS-12 - 15 and a half, H&HS - 14 and a half.

"It was definitely a team effort," said Charles A. Redden, MALS-12 team participant. "It feels really good to have already had the Torii Pines Championship cup with MALS-12. It feels even better knowing that the cup is there for good."

In addition to the tournament, there were several other events.

The teams could also participate in a putting competition for individual prizes, and a raffle to win free rounds of golf at the Iwakuni Country Club off station.

"We're very happy with the turnout," said Slack. "Hopefully, in the future we can continue to do these tournaments at the golf course in town."

Those who tried to win the cup found MALS-12 would not give it up easily.

"We definitely came to win, and we did, and this trophy is going to stay with us," said Redden.

When the tournament was finished only one victor could emerge, but no one left hanging their head. MALS-12 took the final glory from the field, but all participants departed with fond memories of the day.



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

Charles A. Redden shows off the Torii Pines Championship Trophy after claiming victory during the final Torii Pines golf tournament held at the Torii Pines Golf Course here March 30. The tournament ended with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 taking the win with a score of 15 and a half to 14 and a half.



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

Carts loaded with bags of golf clubs stand by in preparation for the final Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron versus Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 golf tournament held at the Torii Pines Golf Course here March 30. This tournament determined who would hold the championship trophy for good.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND
SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE

Company hits stride, completes largest patrol to date

CPL. MARK W. STROUD
MARINE CORPS BASES JAPAN

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Company A, Combat Logistics Battalion 4, completed the largest combat logistics patrol to-date through Helmand province March 12-14.

The patrol was completed ahead of schedule despite consisting of more tactical vehicles and more supplies than any previous CLB-4 patrol. CLB-4 is part of, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), 1 Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward).

“The Marines are getting the hang of operations out here and are becoming (more proficient),” said Staff Sgt. Luis Martinezbido, a platoon sergeant with CLB-4. “We set ourselves a goal to complete the convoy ahead of schedule on this run, and the Marines worked together and went the extra mile to get that done.”

The convoy delivered supplies to Regimental Combat Team 6’s forward operating bases and combat outposts in Helmand province in support of counterinsurgency operations. It also backhauled equipment for repair and retrograde, according to 2nd Lt. Charlsie M. Brooks, a platoon commander with CLB-4.

The number of moving parts involved in this convoy increased the chances of something going wrong and presented a new level of challenges to the Marines.

“This mission was the largest that (CLB-4) has done so far. That alone was a challenge,” said Brooks. “The patrol required a lot of detailed planning from (noncommissioned officers) on up to establish a good security posture and deliver supplies needed to support RCT-6 safely and successfully.”

The Marines also rose to the increased logistical challenge of transferring the large quantity of supplies at the FOBs and COPs, according to Brooks.

“We are becoming more proficient with the actions on objective,” said Brooks. “We (offloaded and on-loaded supplies) in less time



CPL. MARK W. STROUD

COMBAT OUTPOST EREDVI, Afghanistan – Lance Cpl. Travis M. Stewart, wrecker operator, Company A, CLB-4, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), attaches chains to an inoperable vehicle at Combat Outpost Eredvi March 12 during a combat logistics patrol.

than any previous convoy despite having more vehicles.”

Marines with 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st MLG (Fwd), and Army soldiers with 96th Transportation Company, 375th Combat Service Support Battalion, Task Force Resolute, joined the convoy in support of separate combat logistics support operations.

“The Army and (9th ESB) embedded trucks in our convoy to complete their own mission,” said Martinezbido. “We basically provided them with gun power and security along the route.”

The arrangement turned out to be mutually beneficial when the Army assisted on the recovery of a pair of broken M870A2 semi-trailers stacked on top of each other, according

to Martinezbido.

“Working (with the Army) helped us because we were able to take advantage of their (trailers) for a vehicle recovery operation,” added Martinezbido. “You do not often recover an 870 on top of an 870 ... and their flatrack (trailers) were better suited to the job than our own.”

The success of the operation reflected the work and mission-readiness of those involved, said Brooks.

“(The convoy) proved to us that we are fully capable of being flexible and adapting on the move,” said Brooks. “It tells us that the Marines are accomplishing the mission and are ready to move on to bigger challenges down the road.”



CPL. MARK W. STROUD

HELMAND, Afghanistan – 1st Tank Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 6, M1A1 Abrams main battle tanks pass a Combat Logistics Battalion 4, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), AMK31 Refueler on a combat logistics patrol in Helmand March 13. The combat logistics patrol supported counter-insurgency operations in the area.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS | CLASSIFIEDS

Briefs

2012-2013 School Year Registration

School year 2012-2013 re-registration March 26 - April 13. Parents must come to the school to re-register their children for the 2012-2013 school year. In order to re-register, you will need to visit the school nurse to have your child’s immunization records checked. For civilian sponsors, you will need a new letter of employment from the CHRO. For military, if you have extended, please bring a copy of your new orders. If you have not extended, you do not need to bring anything. For more information, contact Mrs. Taylor at 253-3327.

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 rodger.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 Togan Goods Company.

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.

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.

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.

KUNI TOONS



SUBMITTED BY LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CLARK

Backing vehicles: Honk!

The Provost Marshal’s Office would like to remind station residents it is required to sound your vehicles horn, whether government or privately owned, before backing up while aboard station per MCASO P5560.8A. The order also states the driver of a vehicle shall not back up unless such movement can be made safely and without interfering with other traffic. Vehicle drivers shall not back up upon any shoulder or roadway of any and all controlled access areas. Sounding a vehicle’s horn does not take responsibility off the driver. Motorists must still remain alert and cautious while backing out of all areas and must understand honking your horn may not stop other drivers or pedestrians.

INFOTAINMENT

Chapel Services

Catholic Worship Services

Friday, April 6
5:30 p.m. Observence of the Lord's Passion

Saturday, April 7
7:30 p.m. Easter Vigil Mass

Sunday, April 8
8:30 a.m. Easter Sunday Mass

Protestant Services

Friday, April 6
12 p.m. Veneration of the Cross

7:30 p.m. Good Friday Service

Saturday, April 7
10 a.m. SDA Sabbath School & Divine Worship

Sunday, April 8
5:45 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service (Kintai Bridge)

10:30 a.m. Protestant Worship Service

1 p.m. Contemporary Worship Service

4:30 p.m. Lutheran Communion Service

Note: No confessions will be held during the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday)

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



Hearing the word curry may lead most station residents to think of Coco's or other nearby restaurants which offer the dish. From Japanese style restaurants to Indian and other countries, a different kind or mixture of curry can be found. This may have some people wondering where curry originally comes from.

While originating from India, the idea of curry was brought to Japan during the late 1800's by the British. Since then, Japan has created their own styles and techniques for cooking up curry, which has made it so popular it is considered a national dish.

Japanese curry is characterized by the use of a variety of meats and vegetables, while usually coming with either rice, udon

noodles or bread. The most common vegetables used are onions, carrots and potatoes, while meat is usually beef, pork or chicken.

To make a curry dish, mix together curry sauce and a mixture of spices and peppers cooked with flour and oil, which is called roux. The mixture is poured on top of the rice, udon or bread. Vegetables and meat are then mixed in with the curry to make the dish.

It is common in Japan for curry sauce to be made from instant curry roux, which comes in block and powder form. Since the early 1900's, instant curry has steadily become an easy and reliable food to be made in Japanese homes because the vacuum-sealed instant curry only needs water added before it is ready for cooking.

SAKURA THEATER

Friday, April 6, 2012
7 p.m. Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance (PG-13)
10 p.m. Act of Valor (R)

Saturday, April 7, 2012
4 p.m. Dr. Seuss' The Lorax (PG)
7 p.m. This Means War (PG-13)

Sunday, April 8, 2012
4 p.m. Big Miracle (PG)
7 p.m. Chronicle (PG-13)

Monday, April 9, 2012
1 p.m. Dr. Seuss' The Lorax (PG)
7 p.m. This Means War (R)

Tuesday, April 10, 2012
1 p.m. Big Miracle (PG)

Wednesday, April 11, 2012
1 p.m. Dr. Seuss' The Lorax (PG)

Thursday, April 12, 2012
1 p.m. Big Miracle (PG)
7 p.m. Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance (PG-13)

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

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

Mess Hall Menu

Monday:
Corn chowder, jerked styled chicken, spicy baked fish, Lyonnaise rice, baked macaroni and cheese, asparagus, corn, chicken gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, bear claws, blueberry muffins, cherry pie, white cake, butter cream frosting, brownies, chocolate pudding parfait, Jell-O parfait

Tuesday:
Chicken with rice, baked Italian sausage, pepper steak, steamed rice, mashed potatoes, peas and carrots, brussels sprout polonaise, brown gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, 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, spinach, mustard sauce, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, kolaches, quick cherry coffee cake, pecan pie, marble cake, butter cream frosting, chocolate chip cookies, banana cream pudding, Jell-O parfait

Thursday:
Minestrone soup, apple glazed corn beef, Cantonese pork ribs, potatoes au gratin, tossed green rice, orange carrots amandine, spinach, mustard sauce, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, bowknots, blueberry muffin, apple pie, devils food cake, coconut butter cream 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, squash, asparagus, chicken gravy, brown gravy, corn muffins, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, quick French coffee cake, doughnut, cherry pie, yellow cake, chocolate butter cream frosting, brownies, vanilla pudding parfait, Jell-O parfait

Senior leaders recall shots, memories

LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The sun has set on Torii Pines Golf Course. As its final day of play, April 1, 2012 concluded with the final two golfers to lay claim to her fairways.

Col. James C. Stewart, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni Commanding Officer, and Sgt. Maj. Steven L. Brown, MCAS Iwakuni Sergeant Major, had the honor of playing the final round.

As the two made their way from hole to hole, they recalled fond memories of the course. It appeared as if each hole held its own memory, from its 53 years of service, not soon to be forgotten.

"It's bitter sweet having the last round of golf as the shadows grow long on the course today," said Stewart.

The two golfers did not focus on keeping score on the final day of the course. They focused on playing their best and enjoying the course for what it had to offer.

According to Stewart and Brown, they recalled a time when the Eagles Nest was alongside the first hole, back when the course had a different arrangement.

They recalled hecklers and other shouts of encouragement from those inside the Eagles Nest.

As the day drew to a close, the final shots on the 18th hole approached. Reagan Harrell, 11, a young golfer and son of course superintendant Lane Harrell joined the sergeant major and colonel.

The three played the final hole for the final time together as the old breed of golfers openly welcomed the young man.

"It was great to have our superintendant's son join us on our last hole," said Stewart. "To share golfing with the next generation, that's what it's really all about."

After putting out on the 18th hole, the final game was over. The course had seen its last day of play, and the two men will recall the final game their own. Both say they'll never forget it.

Whether it was a colonel or sergeant major who played the final game on the course, or an 11-year-old kid, all who have played on the Torii Pines golf course shall recall their games for years to come.



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

Col. James C. Stewart, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni commanding officer, keeps his eye fixed on the ball while landing a successful putt on the final day of play of the Torii Pines Golf Course here April 1. Stewart recalled fond memories as each hole held its own story since the time the he first stepped foot on station.



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

Workers fill the holes of the Torii Pines Golf Course after the last day of play April 1. The course is to be demolished to make room for base housing, schools and other station buildings.



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

Col. James C. Stewart, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni commanding officer, and Sgt. Maj. Steven L. Brown, MCAS Iwakuni sergeant major, shake hands after the last round of golf ever to be played on the Torii Pines Golf Course April 1. Each recalled fond memories of the course and were reminded of days long gone but not without hopes toward the future.



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

Reagan Harrell, 11, son of superintendant Lane Harrell, joined Col. James C. Stewart, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni commanding officer, and Sgt. Maj. Steven L. Brown, MCAS Iwakuni sergeant major, on the final hole on the Last day of play on the Torii Pines Golf Course April 1. The three were the last to ever play the 18th hole.

The Iwakuni Time Machine

In the April 2, 1976, edition of the "Torii Teller," Marines reported on the servicemembers of the Far East Network now known as the Armed Forces Network. Also, there was a feature story about a special duty stood by Marines from Crash Crew called "Wheels watch." This Marine's sole duty was to watch aircraft land with a pair of binoculars and fire a flare gun if the landing gear failed to deploy.

CG FMFPac visits

LtGen. John N. McLaughlin, commanding general, Fleet Marine Force Pacific, toured 1st MAW facilities during a weekend visit here March 27-29.

The 57-year-old general arrived at noon on March 27 and was met by MajGen. Joseph Koler Jr., commanding general, 1st MAW and MajGen. William J. White, assistant Wing commander.

Following lunch the two generals held a conference at 1st MAW Headquarters.

Following breakfast on March 29, LtGen. McLaughlin departed.

Count Basie to appear

Count Basie will appear at the Hiroshima Yubin Chokin Hall on April 14. Tickets for each performance are ¥3,000, ¥2,600, ¥2,200 and ¥1,800. The tickets may be purchased at the Travel Bureau and only American money will be accepted.

Any questions can be answered by calling the Travel Bureau at 4050.



WELCOME ABOARD—Maj. B. L. Harbison, 1st MAW staff secretary, welcomes LtGen. John N. McLaughlin, commanding general, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, to the 1st MAW. (Photo by Sgt. Mike Buhler)

Week long celebration

Cherry blossoms signal end of winter

One of the most readily identifiable symbols of Japan is the cherry blossom tree. The blooming of these trees, which signals an unofficial end to winter, is an occasion for a week long celebration in Iwakuni.

Beginning Saturday, crowds of people will flock to the Kintai area to enjoy the beauty of the sakura trees, have a picnic, relax with friends and family and enjoy the mild, cool weather.

Kintai Bridge officials estimate that the trees will be in 30 per cent full bloom by Saturday and should be truly gorgeous by April 10-11 when most crowds will flock to the area.

The celebration is not an official Japanese holiday but it is observed by millions in Japan. Crowds

gathering in the Kintai area of West Iwakuni have been estimated in the past at more than 100,000. Many Americans from the Air Station also find the celebration a perfect time to observe and meet Japanese people on an informal basis.

There are no official boundaries for the festival area nor are there official times for celebrating. The 3,000 trees in the Kintai area are near the bridge, in Kikko Park and scattered upstream from the bridge on the banks of the Nishiki River. Those who enjoy the occasion can be found there early in the morning and late at night. It is a spontaneous affair each participant enjoys in an individual way.

No parades or formal entertainment are scheduled for the festival but, in the past, many Japanese have indulged in impromptu folk dancing and sing-alongs. Dressed in colorful kimonos, the festive-minded Japanese are a source of visual delight.

There is no admission charge to the festival and anyone is welcome. However, it should be remembered that spontaneous and informal though the affair may be it is an honored and traditional time for the Japanese people.



Torii Teller

MCAS Iwakuni, Japan
FPO Seattle, Wash. 98764

CO, MCAS: Col. Merlin V. Statzer
Consolidated PAO: Maj. Paul D. Payne

Torii Teller Staff
Bldg. 360, Rm. 19
Ph. 4231

Editor: Sgt. Guy M. Smith
Sports Editor: LCpl. Dane C. Gregg
Interpreters - Advisors
Mr. Shiro Suga Miss Satsuki Haehara

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Do's and don'ts for festival

Do - have fun, enjoy yourself and learn more about the Japanese culture.

Don't - go swimming, jump off the bridge, build bonfires, be caught in the Kintai area after 11 p.m. during the festival and **don't** destroy or damage Japanese property.