

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 19 Vol. 5 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

MACS-4 DET B awarded for excellence



Marine Air Command and Control Squadron of the Year | P. 6

SGT. CHARLES MCKELVEY

Lance Cpl. Andrew T. Hanna, an air traffic control navigational aids technician with Marine Air Control Squadron 4 Detachment Bravo inspects equipment on a XX. MACS-4 received the Marine Corps Aviation Association's Edward S. Fris Award for Marine Air Command and Control Squadron of the year on May 17 at the 2012 MCAA Symposium and Reunion in Oxon Hill, Md. to recognize their contributions and success as an air control squadron.

Ready Group ready for Geiger Fury 2012

LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN PRYER
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marine Aircraft Group 12, Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadrons 121 and 242, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 232 and detachments from Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12, Marine Wing Support

Squadron 171 and Marine Wing Carrier Group 18, are participating in Exercise Geiger Fury 2012, which is scheduled to take place on Andersen Air Force Base, Guam and the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Island of Tinian from May to early June.

Geiger Fury 2012 is a continuation of unit-level training exercises for MAG-12 and is the first iteration of expeditionary airfield ULT

operations on Tinian.

The goal of Exercise Geiger Fury 2012 is employing and assessing MAG-12 combat power-generation capability and specifically the ability to sustain and generate flight operations, deploy and employ aviation ground support and operate in an austere,

SEE **GEIGER** ON PAGE 3

Share the wealth

LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN PRYER
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

With the summer months coming and bright, sunny weather on the horizon, families and friends will get together for barbecues and other outdoor activities, most of these likely including cooking of some sort.

Marine Corps Community Services Iwakuni supplies station residents with a chance to rent out propane tanks under a three-month contract, but more than half of the propane tanks are currently unaccounted for.

MCCS is currently offering a \$10 MCCS gift card to anyone who provides

SEE **PROPANE** ON PAGE 3

USPS bans international shipping of lithium

SGT. CHARLES MCKELVEY
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Starting this week United States Postal Service will no longer ship packages, which contain lithium or products containing lithium to international addresses to include APO, FPO and DPO addresses.

New standards developed by the International Civil Aviation Organization and the Universal Postal Union, will make it difficult for the military community and other federal employees overseas to obtain tablets, laptops, watches, cameras and other items which use the batteries through the mail.

The ban, which went into effect May 16, 2012,

affects all shipments regardless of the battery size or quantity.

The ban will also affect servicemembers, currently stationed overseas, wishing to ship items back home which contain lithium.

Although there are other options to ship these items, they can cost two to three times as much and cannot be shipped directly to APO, FPO and DPO addresses.

The USPS anticipates that by January 2013, international aviation rules will change to allow mailing of lithium batteries when installed in the personal electronic devices they are intended to operate.

For more information about these restrictions, please contact the station post office.



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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

‘Affliction before glory’

LT. CMDR. L. LEE.
COMMAND CHAPLAIN

Our culture seems to be enamored with instant wealth, fame and glory.

We can read about the three lottery winners who claimed \$656 million. We can watch people like William Hung or Susan Boyle rising to fame in an instant. We can choose plastic surgery and prescribe to all kinds of medical pills to improve our appearance and health. Rather than work through our personal or relationship issues, we take anti-depressants or mood-disorder medication as a quick and dirty fix. It seems like we have an instant remedy or fix for every problem we encounter. One of our favorite American writers, Bill Bryson, summed up instant gratification with his usual wit, “To an American, the whole purpose of living, the one constant confirmation of continued existence, is to cram as much sensual pleasure as possible into one’s mouth, more or less, continually. Gratification, instant and lavish, is a birthright.” Craving for instant gratification has become as common a part of

being an American as having apple pie or going to a baseball game. We have fallen into the trap of wishing for glory before affliction.

The only problem with wanting glory before affliction is life cannot or does not always work according to our desires. It has a way of glamorizing success through affliction into a “You too, can have it any time and way you want” attitude. The reality is life has a way of making us earn through hard work, oftentimes to our detriment and frustration. As a matter of fact, there are very few things in life we have complete control over.

We often fall under the delusion that we control much of what happens to us, but in reality, we have little control over it.

So not only does this instant-gratification mentality contrast life’s reality, but it further exasperates our ego, making us impatient and impetuous to the point of causing incessant stress. I witness many young Marines and sailors who struggle through their precious years unnecessarily simply because of their thwarted view of life. Rather than embracing hard work, many embrace the entitlement mentality. I see many relationships broken because they

choose not to go the narrow and straight path of working out their issues in life through discipline and patience.

How do you overcome this instant-gratification mentality and discipline ourselves to patiently work through everything in life? How do we convince ourselves not to give into it our “what’s-in-it-for-me” mentality? I can tell you what works for me and for many who walked before me. Embrace sound virtues and values. As Gen. Colin Powell often said, “We need to embrace values in order to succeed.” That’s is sound advice.

I would also say we need to practice our faith. For me, it is embracing Jesus Christ. He is the one who calmed the storm when the disciples were panicking and screaming for their life. He is the one who fed the 5,000 out of 5 loaves of bread and two fish. He is the one who opened the eyes of the blind, made the cripple walk and healed the leper. He is the light of the world. He is the resurrection and life. As I see people struggle with life’s difficulties, I feel very blessed to be able to point them to the solution. For everyone who finds him, they will inherit eternal life. Why not examine our values again. Perhaps we need to set aside the instant-gratification mentality as we look into the author of our faith.

May Promotions

MWSS-171

Lance Cpl.
Mandujano, Roger
Osorio, Carlos A.
Restosalgado, Bernardo
Tobon, Daniel
Walston, Brad C.

Cpl.
Barton, Patrick A.
Boyd, Austin R.
Faye, Jason C.
Fernandes, Raul F.
Haas, Nathan L.
Hornung, Kenneth R.
Smith, Alan A.
Waldbillig, Jr., David B.

Sgt.
Martin, Ascia C.

Master Sgt.
Giles, Thor O.

VMFA(AW)-242

Lance Cpl.
Wilborn, Samuel A.

Cpl.
Rickard, Seth T.

Sgt.
Ramos, Ronald

H&HS

Lance Cpl.
Clay, Jr., Raymond E.
Keeler, Toretta T.
Lavaud, Jean R.
Miller, Robert W.
Patrick, Zachary T.
Plaza, Joshua D.
Stanford, Brandon R.

Cpl.
Bascom, Randy E.
Castro IV, Simon P.
Fortune, Judner
Hicks, Jr., Michael E.
Woosley, Alec C.
Pyle, Jesse F.

Sgt.
Clemens, Michael A.
Mason, Steven W.

MALS-12

Lance Cpl.
Louie, Phillip J.

Cpl.
Delaria III, Donald R.
Gill, Andrew R.
Hayes, Terrence R.
Jimenezchoa, Veronica M.
Jones, Julian P.
Nelson, Joshua M.
Onofre, Oliver

MACS-4 DET B

Lance Cpl.
Lara, Eric

Cpl.
Marts, Stephen J.

CLC-36

Lance Cpl.
Gutschmidt, Michael S.

Cpl.
Daniels, Robert S.
Thompson, Elizabeth T.

Gunnery Sgt.
Ray, Glenn R.

MAG-12

Lance Cpl.
McLaughlin, Kayla C.
Robles, Jr., Alfredo
Smith, Conner R.

Cpl.
Mamu, Anthony F.
Riveraortiz, Joshua J.

Servicemembers kick-off Exercise Geiger Fury 2012

GEIGER FROM PAGE 1

unimproved environment.

Approximately 700 personnel are participating in the training on Guam and about 200 personnel will train in Tinian.

Training on Tinian will include the placement of arresting gear on Tinian’s West Field and the fuel storage and distribution for the purpose of extending aviation training throughout the Mariana Island Range Complex. North Field training is scheduled to include clearing, stripping and repairing Abel and Baker runways, landing surfaces and the

installation of matting for vertical take-off and landings of rotary and fixed-wing aircraft.

Along with the training exercises included in Geiger Fury, community-relations events are also scheduled for those participating in the exercise to connect and build cultural ties with the local residence.

Training on Andersen AFB is scheduled to include 24-hour flight operations and command and control.

This is the first exercise MWSS-171 has participated in since its realignment into MAG-12 in early May.

As part of Aviation Training Relocation

operations, F/A-18s from Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni are slated to conduct air-to-air and air-to-ground training from Andersen AFB to improve combat readiness.

Approximately 36 F/A-18 Hornets will be used during flight operations on Tinian and Guam.

Exercise Geiger Fury 2012 will also give VMFA-232, the “Red Devils” and VMFA(AW)-121, the “Green Knights”, two MCAS Miramar squadrons currently on the Unit Deployment Program to MCAS Iwakuni, a chance to test their operational readiness.

Relay Health: making communication easy

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS RHOADES
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

It started out as just a normal day for Yasmin H. Granland, a stay-at-home mother supporting her husband in the military, but when she went to Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Health Clinic to finish up her plans for the day, she was offered a chance to sign up for Relay Health.

Little did she know she was about to be the 1,000th person to sign up.

“When I first came in they recommended me for Relay Health,” said Granland. “It was really easy to sign up for and it makes everything easy.”

Relay Health allows patients to securely email their doctors if they have any basic medical needs.

“With my husband being deployed at times and having to take care of work it is very convenient to get online and speak with my doctors, refill a prescription or do all the things I would normally have to come in to the hospital for,” said Granland.

“Relay Health is an electronic messaging system,” said Navy Capt. Shawn Niemann, Branch Health Clinic senior medical officer. “Rather than using outlook or other unsecured email, Relay Health is provided by a secure company contracted by the (Department of Defense).”

It used to be common for patients to email their doctors using personal or even military based accounts, because it was all that was available, but with the introduction of Relay Health, patients have the ability to easily and securely contact their doctors.

“In my opinion, communication is the most important part of your medical care so the patient needs to know what they need to have done,” said Niemann.

The BHC currently ranks thirteenth in the Naval healthcare enterprise for Relay Health signups. Responses to questions, prescriptions filled and other interactions happen through the program.

“We have been proactive and have made sure we stay consistent with letting our patients know about Relay Health,” said Carmen M. Vega, registered nurse.

Relay Health has been live for less than a year and more than 1,000 eligible people have already signed up and use its services.

“We are here for the community,” said Vega.

Relay Health is available to retirees, families, and DoD employees.



LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN PRYER

Marine Corps Community Services is currently offering a \$10 MCCS gift card to anyone who provides accountability for an unknown propane tank. MCCS owns 256 tanks and is reaching out to the community for help returning tanks.

PROPANE FROM PAGE 1

accountability for an unknown propane tank.

“We know a lot of people pass off their propane tanks to their neighbors when they leave the station,” said Gunnery Sgt. Daniel M. Jackson, MCCS Marine.

“MCCS owns 256 tanks and when we initiated the gift card offer, we only had accountability for 112. We’ve been trying to reach out to the community to ask them to help us out. There’s no harm if someone just comes in and lets us know they have a tank, just to help us update our records.”

While accountability is an important issue with the propane tanks, safety within the community is also a main priority.

“The propane tanks are good for five years,” said Jackson. “After that, they have to be recertified every year. We don’t want people using a tank if it hasn’t been checked to make sure it’s safe.”

With a limited supply of propane tanks, accountability is an important aspect in the continual supply of tanks to those who wish to rent one out.

“If we don’t have any propane tanks for rent because all the tanks are out,

sitting in people’s yards, when they could be turned back in and refilled, then we can’t effectively supply the station with what they want or need,” said Jackson.

With the future of the air station looking much bigger in terms of personnel numbers, the purchasing of more propane tanks is a must. Without the proper accountability on the current number of tanks though, keeping track of more tanks would be an incredibly difficult situation.

Propane tanks are located in the Northside car rental parking lot and are easily accessible to anyone wanting to rent one out.

“All you have to do to rent a tank is go into the car rental and sign a propane tank agreement and they can use the propane tank,” said Jackson. “The contract is a 180-day agreement. However, if you don’t go through the entire propane tank, you can call in and renew the contract over the phone for another six months.”

With such a hassle-free process for renting out propane tanks, and a reward for providing accountability on those already out, there is unlikely to be any reason for a propane tank to sit, unused and neglected.

CONSUMER ELECTRONICS AFFECTED UNDER NEW LITHIUM RESTRICTIONS:

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| ■ Digital cameras | ■ Cell phones/smart phones | ■ Portable DVD players |
| ■ Video cameras | ■ GPS devices | ■ Electric shavers |
| ■ Laptop computers | ■ Radio-controlled toys | ■ Electric health measuring devices, such as a blood-pressure monitor |
| ■ Tablets/iPad/iPod | ■ Blue-tooth headsets | |
| ■ MP3 players | ■ Walkie-talkies/two-way radios | |
| ■ Scanners | ■ Power drills | |



STOCK PHOTO

A food container falls off a ship inbound to Commissaries at overseas military installations. Commissary patrons may experience shortages of certain foods or packaged goods due to shipping. Supply ships experience the most delays during winter months due to ice storms in Dutch Harbor, Alaska.

Sharing is caring

LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN PRYER
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Living overseas can be a daunting and new experience for some. Having to adjust to a new culture and lack of what a person is used to can be unsettling.

Residing aboard Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni means there is only the commissary for Americans to produce and products.

With such a limited supply for so many people, the act of hoarding certain goods from the Commissary can cause some obvious and unforeseen consequences within

the station.

"With the yogurts and the dairy creamers, the three or four weeks in a row we ran out of product because the ships were late, it all got taken the first day it was put on the shelf," said Blaise Grondin, MCAS Iwakuni Commissary store director. "I watched one lady literally stick her arm in the shelf and scoop it all in her cart. One woman took an entire week's order."

When a person hoards, it eventually causes a bottleneck in Commissary sales.

Once a person has their freezer

full of yogurt, the amount of sales in the hoarded products comes to a stop.

Even though the product is no longer selling, shipments still come in and all which doesn't sell gets thrown away.

"Twentyseven to 28 days after I order, the ships should get here," said Grondin. "If people start hoarding and I increase my shipment to match the demand, when people stop hoarding, I'm still receiving an increased shipment and most of it doesn't get sold."

In addition to causing problems within the Commissary, hoarding a product has an impact on the consumers as well.

"Being on such a small base, to take every last item of a store shelf, when it's the only store people have on base to buy from, that's just harmful to your neighbors," said Grondin.

Most shipping delays happen in

the winter months, when shipping ports are most likely to be frozen over from ice storms.

"We go through delays in shipping every year in the winter," said Grondin. "The reason the ships are being delayed is because the first port the container ships stop at when they leave the states is Dutch Harbor, Alaska. If Dutch harbor is having an ice storm, the ships don't go out. The delays are completely and totally out of my control."

While it may be easy for individuals to rid themselves of old and unwanted products, the same can't be said for the Commissary.

"The food in this store is literally considered government equipment," said Grondin. "I have to account for it all on an inventory form, either going out through the register, purchased back by the company who supplied it to me or going into salvage."

Station residents enjoy craft fair at Yujo Hall



SGT. CHARLES MCKELVEY

Jasmine S. Tabor stands behind her table of arts and crafts while Theresa Stephens and her daughter discuss what they want to purchase during a craft fair at Yujo Hall May 12, 2012. The craft fair, which supported the Wounded Warriors Project, was organized by station resident Chanel Sharp. Sharp plans to conduct follow-on craft fairs every three months to support different charitable organizations.

Who let the dogs serve?

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS RHOADES
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Students of Matthew C. Perry Elementary School go to school every day just like fellow Marines and sailors who go to work, but sometimes special guests come to teach these children about things they do on a day-to-day basis.

The Marines of the canine unit at the Provost Marshal's Office held a demonstration for the elementary school by showing the capabilities of their military working dogs here May 14.

Students from M. C. Perry Elementary School came out to watch PMO's demonstration and learn a little something from them.

"The kids really had a fun time and learned a lot," said Naisha L. Hunter, a first-grade substitute teacher.

PMO Marines tried to tailor each lesson to every age group in order to keep them interested.

Although the demonstration was directed toward the students, it was interesting and even the teachers learned from it, said Hunter.

After the performance, dog handlers opened the floor for questions from the students.

"All of the kids had some great questions and it made learning fun," said Hunter.

The kids asked questions regarding what tricks the dogs can do both on and off duty, along with what the mission capabilities of these K-9 units are.

The Marines responded by telling the students about various tasks and duties the dogs and handlers need to perform.

"These dogs are able to search for drugs, bombs, and help us to catch and detain suspects," said Lance Cpl. Pham Q. Nguyen, PMO dog handler.

MCAS Iwakuni primarily uses the German Shepherd and Belgian Malino for a wide variety of tasks.

Nguyen taught students how the military uses different types of dogs for a variety of jobs and missions.

"The military uses beagles for ships because it allows them in tighter areas and lets them search more of the ship," said Nguyen.

The military is known to use German and Dutch Shepherds, and Belgian Malinois for a majority of their police work, but also use an assortment of shepherds, retrievers and beagles.

Although each breed of dog has its unique role in the military, the elementary school students were able to witness the obedience, biting force and drug detection abilities of MCAS Iwakuni's K-9 force.



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS RHOADES

Max bites a suspect, Sgt. Agustín G. García, Provost Marshal's Office kennel master, in order to allow her handler, Sgt. Johnathon E. Pierce, PMO chief K-9 trainer, to catch up to the suspect during a demonstration for the students of Matthew C. Perry Elementary School here May 14, 2012. A K-9 can not only provide a better way to stop suspects but can also deter some suspects from breaking the law.



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS RHOADES

Provost Marshal's Office K-9 unit demonstrate how multiple dogs can work together to effectively take down a suspect during a demonstration for the students of Matthew C. Perry Elementary School here May 14, 2012. PMO Marines tailored each lesson to every age group in order to keep them interested.

MACS-4 DUALY RECOGNIZED WITH PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS

CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marine Air Control Squadron 4 Detachment Bravo received the Marine Corps Aviation Association's Edward S. Fris Award for Marine Air Command and Control Squadron of the Year to recognize their contributions and success as an air control squadron.

The Edward S. Fris Award honors Lt. Gen. Edward S. Fris, a radar officer during WWII and Naval aviator who helped pioneer the development of Marine Corps Aviation Command and Control. All MACS and Marine Air Support Squadrons are eligible to receive the award.

The award is highly coveted amongst air control squadrons as it a testament to the dedication, commitment and efficiency of that squadron's capabilities.

"It's a prestigious award for any unit to get," said Master Sgt. Thomas E. Kopp, MACS-4 Detachment Bravo staff noncommissioned-officer-in-charge. "It shows who we are and what we do, but also it's important to the Marines because it shows their hard work and dedication pays off."

The award also serves as justification for those Marines who are constantly deploying to train or aid in relief efforts such as Operation Tomadachi.

"We won the Command and Control Squadron of the Year for the simple reason of what we've done here in the Pacific Theater," said Kopp.

MACS-4 has an extensive list of deployments and training opportunities, which helped them achieve the award, such as Cobra Gold, Lava Viper and Geiger Fury.

The capabilities of MACS-4 also serve as a testament to how effective the squadron is whenever it is called upon and how they not only affect the air station, but the Marine Corps as a whole.

"MACS-4 probably has the highest operation tempo of any MACS squadron in the Marine Corps because the other units are doing (Operation Enduring Freedom)," said Kopp. "They're doing OEF for six months and then they're home for six months to a year. My guys pretty much deploy from the first of the year to November, I'm sending people everywhere all the time."

This is the squadron's third time winning the award, after winning in 1994 and 2002,



CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER, JR.

Staff Sgt. Raul A. De Santiago (background), 2012 Marine Air Traffic Control Association Air Traffic Controller of the Year Award and Headquarters Squadron air traffic controller, speaks with Staff Sgt. Esteban Ramirez, a fellow air traffic controller, at the air control tower here May 14. Along with De Santiago's personal award, MACS-4 was awarded the Edward S. Fris Award.

since the award's creation in 1985.

The need to continually strive to do better is one expectation presented with such a prestigious award.

Though this award focuses primarily on the efforts of the entire squadron, it could not be accomplished without the Marines from bottom to top. This is evident when the squadron is awarded both the Edward S. Fris Award and an individual Marine within the squadron is recognized for his efforts, which contribute to that.

Staff Sgt. Raul A. De Santiago, a MACS-4 air traffic controller, was able to add to MACS-4 resume with the Marine Air Traffic Control Association Air Traffic controller of the Year awarded.

"What he's done to get the award has contributed to the success of the squadron up

through that," said Kopp. "It's an individual award but he's part of the squadron."

De Santiago offers humility when discussing the award as he feels he would not be in his position if not for the Marines under his charge.

"I feel it's undeserving but an honor," said De Santiago. "I'm very appreciative of even being considered for the award. I wouldn't be here if not for them."

Knowing there is a unit who supports him and has enabled him to receive an award is reflective of how supportive they are as a squadron.

"It's always nice to be recognized by your chain of command by just doing what you know what the mission is and see great things from what you and you Marines are doing," said De Santiago.



SGT. CHARLES MCKELVEY

Lance Cpl. Brian R. McMillen an air traffic control radar technician with Marine Air Control Squadron 4 Detachment Bravo installs rain guards on an AN/TPS-73 tactical radar system as part of a training exercise here May 14, 2012. MACS-4 recently received the Edward S. Fris Award for Marine Air Command and Control Squadron of the Year to recognize their contributions and success as an air control squadron.

SERVICE MEMBERS STAR GAZE

CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER, JR.
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Like Shatner groupies at a Star Trek convention, station residents showed up in droves for a meet-and-greet with television's "The Big Bang Theory" star, Johnny Galecki, and executive producer, Steven Molaro, along with "Southland" stars, Regina King, Benjamin McKenzie and Michael Cudlitz, as part of the 2012 United Service Organizations Hand-Shaking Tour at the station's Post Exchange sound department here May 11.

Station residents endured a long line to have their chance to meet and interact with the stars, take pictures and have merchandise and memorabilia autographed. The stars greeted fans with warm smiles and hearty handshakes expressing their appreciation for what the servicemembers do as they've toured across Japan.

"It's been rewarding," said King. "We've met so many people. We have a bet going on to who gets the closest number of people on the tour. Two or three days ago we were at 1,072 people. Now we might be somewhere around 1700-1800 people."

For King, seeing and greeting all the people on the tour was a way for her to give back to servicemembers and their families as she has ties to the military.

"I have a first cousin who is a first sergeant in the Army," said King. "He's been in for 32 years. Hearing the stories through him has given me a real picture of what you guys sacrifice being in

the military and the reasons for a lot of people being in the military. It's amazing."

This sentiment was echoed

to be excited as their hectic schedules can prevent them from taking part in events such as this.

For Galecki, the tour has



CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER, JR.

Johnny Galecki (upper left), star of "The Big Bang Theory," Regina King and Benjamin McKenzie, stars of "Southland," Steven Molaro, executive producer of "The Big Bang Theory," and Michael Cudlitz, star of "Southland," were on hand to meet and greet station residents as part of the 2012 USO Handshake tour at the Marine Corps Exchange May 11. The stars also visited Matthew C. Perry High School drama students.

among other tour members who also have connections to the military.

"I wanted to support the troops, I always have," said Galecki. "I was born on an Air Force base in Brussels. We weren't there for long but my father worked in a VA hospital outside of Chicago until the time of his death. I believe he worked there 19 years."

The sight of seeing a favorite celebrity could cause any fan, dependent or servicemember,

been equally eye-opening and rewarding since, as a former servicemember's child, he does not often get the opportunity to participate in these types of events.

"It's very rare when I can contribute toward what his life's work was and what I do," said Galecki. "It's one of those incredible opportunities conducive to that. It's been incredibly eye-opening to me meeting not just the service people but their families. It really

puts into perspective the whole family's sacrifice for the country. I feel honored."

Servicemembers reciprocated the sentiment as a chance to meet some of television's best and brightest on the station was something that should be recognized and appreciated.

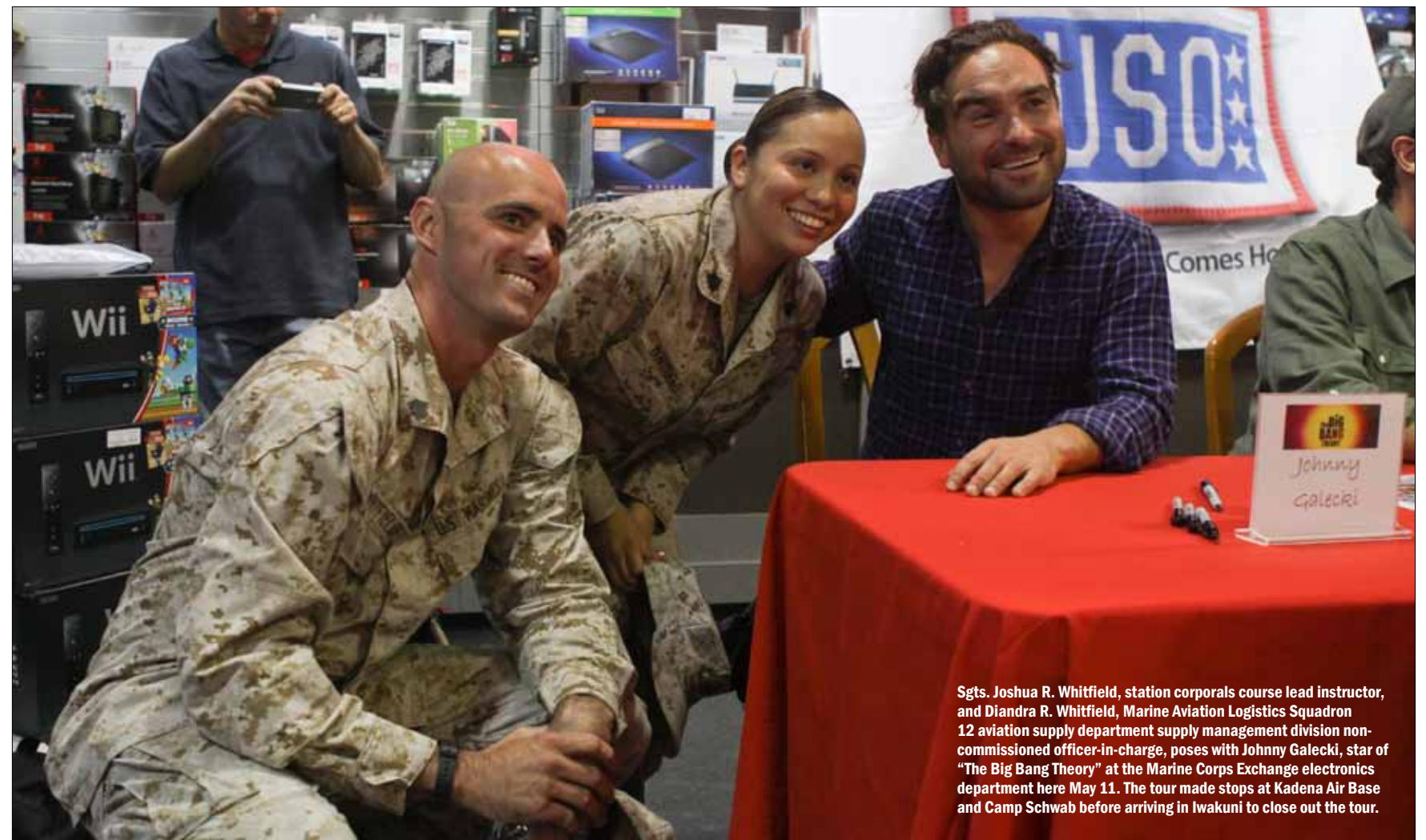
"It was great," said Sgt. Tiffany L. Hernandez, station postal clerk and first in line. "We don't see a lot of (celebrities), so when somebody does stop here, it's a real blessing."

The fact the celebrities took time out of their equally pressing schedule was not lost on the servicemembers and it spoke volumes of the stars as well.

"To me, it says a lot," said Hernandez. "I know they're really busy and Iwakuni is really small. That's why a lot of people miss it or they skip over it. So for them to come to Iwakuni, like I said, I consider it a real blessing. I thank them for supporting the troops."

The hand-shake tour made several stops at military installations across Japan, including Kadena Air Base and Camp Schwab before arriving in Iwakuni for the last leg of their tour. Once the cast left from PX, they proceeded to Matthew C. Perry High School to have a sit-down with students from the Drama class. Lastly, they were given a demonstration of weapons.

Though their stay was short, the chance to meet and greet some of television's brightest stars was something station residents will not quickly forget.



Sgts. Joshua R. Whitfield, station corporals course lead instructor, and Diandra R. Whitfield, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 aviation supply department supply management division non-commissioned officer-in-charge, poses with Johnny Galecki, star of "The Big Bang Theory" at the Marine Corps Exchange electronics department here May 11. The tour made stops at Kadena Air Base and Camp Schwab before arriving in Iwakuni to close out the tour.

CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER, JR.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE

Marines reduce footprint in Marjah

SGT. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES
1ST MARINE DIVISION

CAMP HANSON, Afghanistan — Marines here are making big moves for the future of Afghanistan. Combat engineers in Marjah in direct support of 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, began demilitarizing bases in order to reduce their footprint from military operations here. The battalion is currently manning 17 outposts in the Marjah area, but is planning to cut that number down to three posts to include Camp Hanson. First Lt. John Winslow, Engineers Platoon commander serving with 2nd Bn., 9th Marines, said his Marines are preparing for the arrival of their replacement units who'll man the three posts in Marjah. The Afghan National Security Forces here will operate the remaining outpost. "We've spent a lot of time tearing outposts down completely or making them smaller to turn them over to the Afghan forces," said Winslow, a Sacramento native. "We've been lucky in Marjah because there's a huge ANSF presence here." Specifically on Camp Hanson, Marines serving with the guard platoon are providing security from various guard posts around the base. Engineers have already begun to tear down fortified walls to shrink the base's perimeter. The Marines plan to reduce the posts by half by the end of their seven-month deployment. Winslow said compacting the battalion's reach is to facilitate efforts to

keep Afghan forces in the forefront of security operations in their country. "It's to wean them off of our support. We're giving them their own bases and having them use their own logistical support," he said. Sgt. Timothy Brookshire, a combat engineer serving with Engineers Platoon, said he remembers during his last deployment his unit came to Afghanistan building combat outposts — extending perimeters as more Marines inhabited positions around the country. Now, his mission has taken a U-turn. "Last year, we were doing IED (improvised explosive devices) sweeps on the roads and building a few combat outposts," said Brookshire, a native of Homer, Ga. "Now, they're using engineers in different roles; we're making our compound smaller. It's just to make it easier on us so we can eventually transition out." In the spring of 2011, two Marine battalions controlled combat operations in Marjah. Through years of mentorship and training, Afghan police and soldiers began to take control of security operations in the area. Winslow said it's just been a drastic decline in coalition forces, "which is the ultimate goal." "Nowadays, anything the Afghan forces do for themselves is considered winning," Winslow said. "It's really an uncomfortable position, but we're taking that backseat during partnered operations, giving them the security over watch. The whole point is to have them out in the front."



CAMP HANSON, Afghanistan — Cpl. Issac Stacy, a combat engineer serving with Engineers Platoon, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, cuts a HESCO wall to construct a new perimeter surrounding the base May 4, 2012. Combat engineers have torn down some of the fortified walls to shrink the base's perimeter. The Marines plan to reduce their base's guard posts in half by the end of their seven-month deployment.



CAMP HANSON, Afghanistan — Sgt. Timothy Brookshire, a combat engineer serving with Engineers Platoon, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, provides security over watch as his Marines construct new fortified walls around the base's perimeter here May 4, 2012. Combat engineers have torn down some of the fortified walls to shrink the base's perimeter. The Marines plan to reduce their base's guard posts in half by the end of their seven-month deployment.



CAMP HANSON, Afghanistan — Cpl. Issac Stacy, a combat engineer serving with Engineers Platoon, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, cuts a HESCO wall to construct a new perimeter surrounding the base May 4, 2012. Combat engineers have torn down some of the fortified walls to shrink the base's perimeter. The Marines plan to reduce their base's guard posts in half by the end of their seven-month deployment.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS | CLASSIFIEDS

Briefs

Wireless Acecss Points
Several wireless internet locations aboard the station have inappropriate names. Please remember who may see the names of your wireless location before choosing a name that may be offensive or disrespectful. Some locations which have been identified are family housing and the bachelor enlisted quarters.

Station Air Conditioning
The station's air conditioning is not on yet, but must be set between 78 and 85 degrees when on. This applies to base housing and work spaces. Facilities and family housing will monitor buildings to ensure cooperation. Air conditioning will be turned on when air conditioning will be turned on when temperatures

reach 78 degrees for three consecutive days.

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.

Emergency Phone Numbers Reminder
Put these numbers in your wallet and phone:
• 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.

Suicide Intervention Skills Training
Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) is scheduled to conduct a free suicide first-aid intervention workshop at Yujo Hall June8-9 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for more information call the Marine Memorial Chapel at 253-3371.

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 and ensure. The deadline for submissions is 3 p.m. every Friday. Submissions will run the following Friday on a space-available basis. The Iwakuni Approach staff reserves the right to edit submissions for space and style.

KUNI TOONS: HIROSHIMA



INFOTAINMENT

Chapel Services

Roman Catholic	
Saturday	4:30-5:15 p.m. Confession 5:30 p.m. Mass
Sunday	8:30 a.m. Mass 9:45 a.m. Religious Education
Mon. – Thurs.	11:30 a.m. Weekday Mass
Protestant	
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
Bahai	
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

名刺 - "Meishi" also know as Japanese business cards.

The passing of business cards is an important courtesy in Japan. Although many Marines, sailors and other station residents may not be in business relationships with Japanese nationals, it is good to know the culture of the host country. Business cards are usually exchanged at the beginning of a meeting and are always passed out to everyone present.

After recieving the card it is looked over and read and you must try to pronounce the card owner's name. This is important in knowing who you are talking to and what their rank is.

It is best to stand up when exchanging cards. To exchange business cards you start out by facing your counterpart, bowing slightly and handing your card, with the Japanese side pointing up (if possible), with both hands. The same rule applies when receiving a card from someone else.

However when seated at a meeting, place the card gently on the table in front of you, look at it often during the meeting in order to state your counterpart's name and position correctly. If you have received multiple cards, arrange them neatly in front of you in the order of seniority.



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS RHOADES

SAKURA THEATER

Friday, May 18, 2012
7 p.m. The Avengers (PG-13)

Saturday, May 19, 2012
4 p.m. Mirror Mirror (PG)
7 p.m. 21 Jump Street (R)

Sunday, May 20, 2012
4 p.m. Mirror Mirror (PG)
7 p.m. The Avengers (PG-13)

Monday, May 21, 2012
7 p.m. The Vow (PG-13)

Tuesday, May 22, 2012
Theater Closed

Wednesday, May 23, 2012
Theater Closed

Thursday, May 24, 2012
7 p.m. 21 Jump Street (R)

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

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

Mess Hall Menu

Monday:
Corn chowder, jerked styled chicken, spicy baked fish, Lyonnaise rice, baked macaroni and cheese, asparagus, corn, chicken gravy, dinner rolls, 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, 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



CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER, JR.

Coach Frank A. Macias, Matthew C. Perry High School head football coach and math teacher, goes over notes for his class in a classroom at M.C. Perry High School here May 11 in preparation to teach. Macias has been hired as the head football for the high school. This is the first time the high school has had a football program in eight years. Macias says he stresses his student-athletes to be students first and athletes second.

Football has arrived in full force on station

CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER, JR.
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The telltale signs of July and August are becoming more apparent every day; steadily climbing temperatures, insects buzzing about and change-of-commands. One unfamiliar spring and summer sign station residents will soon hear and see is football pads and tackles.

Matthew C. Perry High School is slated to participate in its first full-tackle American football season this August. This will be the first time in eight years the school has participated in football.

The man leading the charge is Frank A. Macias, Matthew C. Perry High School head football coach, who is also the head baseball and wrestling coach, math teacher and former Army officer.

Macias, a Riverside, Calif. native, father of two and husband, brings a wealth of knowledge to the table as a football coach and math teacher.

"I've been teaching for 19 years," said Macias. "I actually started coaching at 16 years old, believe it or not. I had a real knack for coaching."

Macias found his love for coaching extended beyond sports involving a pigskin, hoop or wrestling mat.

"I've coached volleyball, soccer, basketball and softball," said Macias.

The restructuring of many bases and station in Europe was the main reasons for Macias finding himself at Iwakuni's doorstep.

"My first assignment was in Manheim, Germany," said Macias. "They hired me as the head football coach and I was there for seven years before the school closed. They closed down our garrison as part of the reformation in Europe. That's why I was transferred here."

When he first arrived on station, he found a group of young men who were eager to try their mettle at full-contact football and not a variant, such as flag football. He also found an

administration willing to help provide football to them and supportive parents.

"The administration was fantastic," said Macias. "That was a huge help. They had already ordered all the equipment for football so a lot of things were already in place. We had a group of young men who were waiting for these types of sports. It's a certain kind of kid who does wrestling, baseball and football. It tends to be the same kids."

Without football, there was a void at M.C. Perry. There were many students who wished to try something other than the sports currently offered by the school.

"We had those particular kids who basically had nothing," said Macias. "They weren't soccer players, basketball players or cross-country runners. The way it was explained to me by the administration was that they were looking to fill a need they had for a group of our kids."

Macias believes in winning but not at all cost and not at the expense of his student-athletes forgoing being students first and athletes second.

"I'm like any other coach," said Macias. "It's about winning, discipline and doing things the right way. That's the only way I know how to coach. I always tell them student-athletes, student comes first."

Though he is new to the base, Macias already has long-term goals in line for the football program, hoping to build the team into a respectable football program competitor.

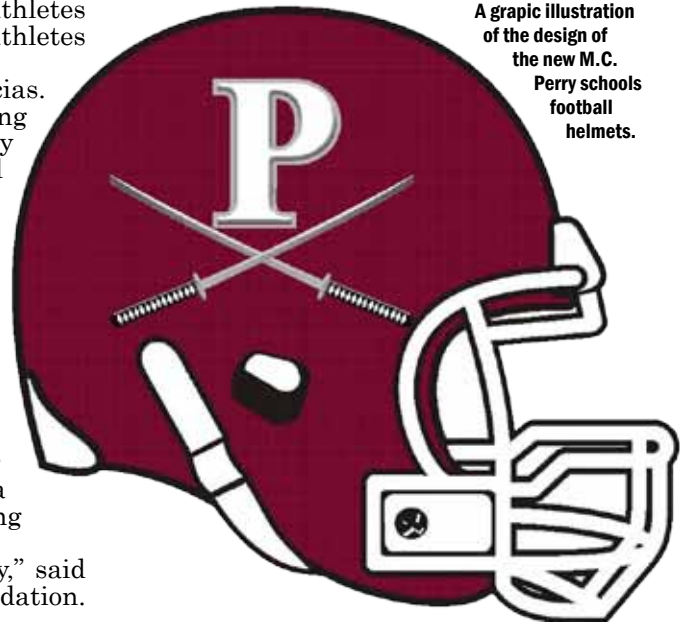
"I wouldn't be here if I didn't think that," said Macias.

In order to do that, they will have to work small, building the foundation for the program with fundamentals and a genuine enthusiasm and understanding of the game.

"I realize Rome wasn't built in a day," said Macias. "My goal is to build a solid foundation."

It's going to take time. The next two years we're just going to be junior varsity, which is a good thing. We're still the smallest school playing football in Department of Defense Education Activity Japan. The biggest thing is not the X's and O's part of the game but teaching the football mentality. No other sport requires you to condition your body in the off-season like football. That's what we're trying to preach now. It's really hard to explain until they've been through seven weeks of getting broke up."

With summer and the start of the new school year fast approaching, the long awaited return of football to the station may arrive with a sense of enthusiasm not seen in some time. One can hope those young people who don helmets and pads will learn fairness, safety and camaraderie through that little game known as football.



The Iwakuni Time Machine

In the May 18, 1979, issue of the Torii Teller, Marines highlighted the ups and downs of the sumo-wrestling lifestyle, the need for station residents to not get a ticket, the 1st Marine Air Wing's 67th anniversary observation, the Department of Defense's reduction in beef cost and the announcement of the newest Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps.

NEWS

DoD Cutting Beef Costs

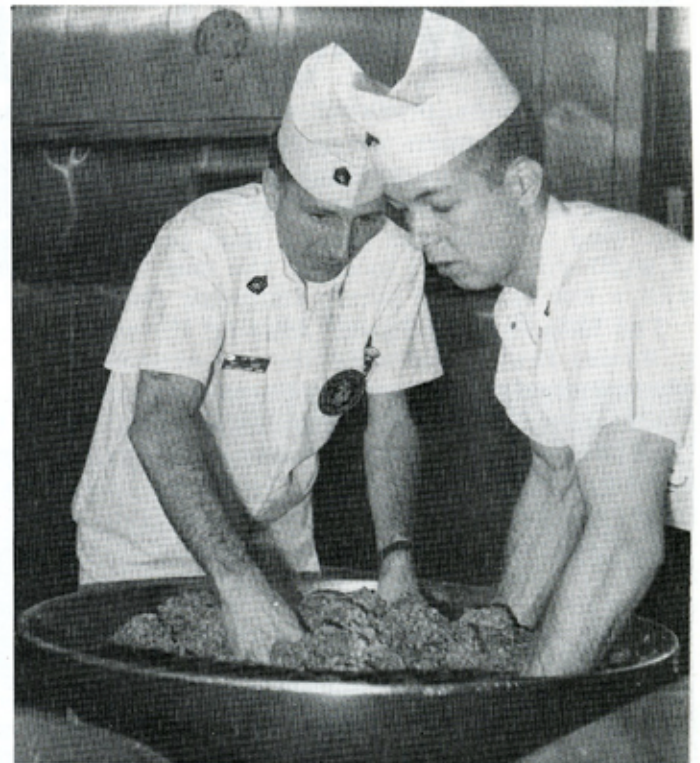
WASHINGTON, May 2 (MCNews) — Like all price conscious consumers, the Department of Defense has found a way to cut costs in the kitchen.

In an effort to combat spiraling beef prices, DoD announced that, starting in mid-June, ground beef with a 20 percent soy-supplement will be served in all military dining facilities.

The DoD Food Planning Board approved the use of the supplement after reviewing results of the new product at selected dining facilities throughout the military. Marines at Quantico, Va., participated in the test which DoD says produced favorable results.

Thanks to advances made by the soy industry in the past several years, the new product looks and tastes about the same as pure ground beef and is just as nutritious, DoD officials claim.

They say the switch to soy could reduce the annual military food bill by over six million dollars. By adding soy to beef, DoD says it will save 22 cents per pound. The military buys about 28 million pounds of bulk ground beef annually.



Official USMC Photo

Gunnery Sergeant J.W. Orr and Corporal Wayne E. Coulson prepare a meatloaf mixture at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C., dining facility.



Assistant Commandant Named

On May 14, Secretary of Defense Harold Brown announced that the President has approved the nomination of Lieutenant General Kenneth McLennan for appointment to general and assigned as Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps.

General McLennan was born May 31, 1925 in Vancouver, Ca., and is currently serving as Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower at Headquarters Marine Corps.

Following confirmation, General McLennan will assume his duties as Assistant Commandant July 1.

Illegal to Possess Weapons

If it's a weapon, the chances are it's either illegal to possess, or must be registered in Japan.

Firearms, swords, many types of knives, airguns — they're all subject to regulations set forth by the Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Japan (COMNAVFORJAPAN) as well as the Japanese government and the criminal penalties for violators are heavy.

A newly revised COMNAVFORJAPAN Instruction 5800.8C specifies just what types of weapons may be possessed in Japan and what may not.

All privately owned firearms, including air rifles and war trophies, must be registered with an individual's local military facility within one week of importation or acquisition.

Personnel residing on and off-base must make arrangements to store firearms.

Some of the dangerous weapons flatly prohibited by the instruction are: sticks connected by chain or rope (nun-chaku), swords (except as part of the uniform), stilettos,

springblade knives, bayonets, machetes, blackjacks, slingshots, explosives of any kind (except authorized fireworks) and knives with blades longer than three inches, except for hunting and camping knives and household utensils.

Penalties are strong. Check with the Provost Marshal's Office for more information.

Scared Straight's 2d Showing

By popular demand, TV-73, FEN-Iwakuni, will present a repeat showing of the Academy Award winning documentary "Scared Straight" on Sunday at 6 p.m. "Scared Straight" shows how a group of lifers at Rahway State Prison in New Jersey are attempting to keep juvenile delinquents out of prison by "scaring them straight." The program contains explicit and crude street language and graphic descriptions that may not be suitable for some viewers. Parental guidance is advised in viewing "Scared Straight." Many requests were received by FEN to repeat the program after its first airing on April 25th. Your comments are welcomed and will be forwarded on to AFRTS-Los Angeles.