

# THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 20 Vol. 5 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan



## Students become Marines for a day | P. 5

CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER, JR.

Sgt. Bruce L. Best, station Aircraft Rescue Firefighting assistant section 2 leader, discusses the different equipment used by ARFF Marines when they may have to rescue someone on a mountain to Joey Beall (front), Matthew C. Perry seventh-grader, and William Eaglin, M. C. Perry eighth-grader, during a job shadow day at the ARFF fire house here May 17, 2012. The students spent the day following ARFF Marines as they went about the daily routine involved with being ARFF Marines.

## Tinian WWII airfield becomes Exercise Geiger Fury 2012 site

LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

**TINIAN, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands** – Marines and sailors with Marine Aircraft Group 12 and Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 arrived May 14 at Tinian island in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in support of Exercise Geiger Fury.

The purpose of Exercise Geiger Fury is to execute and assess combined expeditionary operations in the Pacific.

After American forces captured Tinian in July 1944 during the Battle of Tinian, the island's airfields became the busiest of World War II.

Currently, only the island's West Field runways remain operational as the North Field runways are now overgrown and abandoned.

As soon as the Marines came ashore, they began setting up a forward operations base.

"We are setting up a FOB in order to better control and coordinate Exercise Geiger Fury," said Capt. Mark Schouten, MWSS-171 officer in charge. "As well as conduct repairs to the island's northern airfield built during World War Two."

SEE **ARRIVAL** ON PAGE 3

## Arresting gear truly vital

LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

**TINIAN, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands** – Expeditionary airfield technician Marines with Marine Wing Support

Squadron 171, Marine Aircraft Group 12, have begun surveying the land around Tinian's North Field airfield during Exercise Geiger Fury 2012 May 16.

The technicians surveyed

SEE **SURVEY** ON PAGE 3

## Gifts which keep on giving, local clinic donates

LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN PRYER  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

**ORDOT, Guam** – A Guam dental clinic and Marine Aircraft Group 12 servicemembers answered a call for help by donating approximately 100 pounds of dental supplies for use by doctors in Tinian.

Tinian's small population rarely gets dental

SEE **ORDOT** ON PAGE 3





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# CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

## ‘My grace is sufficient for you’

LT. J.G. TAKANA L. SKELTON  
H&HS STATION CHAPLAIN

I spent some time this week reading and reflecting on 2nd Corinthians 12: 7-10 NIV which reads as follows: “I was given a thorn in my flesh. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

Paul was dealing with a “thorn in his flesh” the thorn in his flesh isn’t identified.

It was one that was of great discomfort to Paul.

It caused him so much discomfort he asked God to remove it not once but three times.

This passage made me reflect on how many times in our lives we experience a “thorn in the flesh?”

A thorn can be trouble, an inconvenience, negative situation, infirmity, pain, struggle or anything in our lives which causes continuous discomfort or grief.

I am sure, as with Paul, we have asked God to remove our “thorn.”

God is saying, as he said to Paul, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

Why? Because as long as the thorn is there we realize we have to rely and depend more on God to get us through.

Therefore, we find ourselves reading the word more, spending more time in prayer, worshipping and seeking God for wisdom and direction.

God is no longer left out of the equation. He is the equation. Paul learns through this experience when he is at his weakest point; he is actually stronger.

He realizes God is with him. He is drawing nearer to God and the closer he gets to God, the closer God gets to him.

Instead of asking God to remove our thorns, we can ask what lesson can be learned from our thorn. In our time of weakness we can pray: “Lord, don’t remove my mountain. Give me the stamina to climb over it. Don’t remove my cross give me the strength to carry it. Don’t remove my thorn; give me the grace to endure. Continue to give me the spiritual strength and wisdom to realize what can’t be done naturally, remove myself and allow you, Lord, to work.”

God’s grace is sufficient for us all.

## THE STATION SPOTLIGHT

### CPL. THEODORE A. JOHNSTON

**MOS: 5811, Military Police Officer Physical Security Specialist**  
**Unit: Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron**  
**Age: 28**  
**Hometown: KANSAS CITY, MO.**  
**Date Joined: NOVEMBER 12, 2007**



#### Why did you decide to serve in the military?

*I used to be over 350 pounds and I wanted to better myself and serve our country, not only for myself, but for everyone.*

#### Who inspired you to join the military?

*My grandfather was in the military and I feel he really inspired me to serve.*

#### What are your major accomplishments and lessons learned while in the military?

*Well, I really learned teamwork, how to conduct myself as a Marine, but most importantly, to take care of other Marines. I was also meritoriously promoted to corporal March 2, 2010.*

#### Why did you choose your MOS?

*The MOS roadmap and the appeal of having such a variety of different tasks under one MOS is what drove me here.*

#### What do you do that makes you stand out from your peers?

*I believe it is mostly my community support. I volunteer with the Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society, work as the Community Relations Officer, teach D.A.R.E. to M.C. Perry Elementary School, and I am working on finishing my Master’s in Business Administration, and I will graduate June 25.*

#### ORDOT FROM PAGE 1

care due to its remote location in the Pacific.

The supplies, donated by Ordot Dental Clinic of Chalan-Pago Ordot, Guam, were retrieved by Lt. Col. Aisha Bakkar, Marine Forces Pacific (FWD) public affairs officer, Cmdr. Dean L. Hoelz, MAG-12 chaplain, and Petty Officer Second Class Adam Beyer, MAG-12 religious programmer, May 18.

The Ordot clinic, located on the east coast of Guam, is currently the only to reply to the neighboring island’s call for assistance.

“I received an e-mail this morning as soon as I came into work and as soon as I opened it up I realized they needed assistance in Tinian,” said Renaty Narcis, Ordot Dental Clinic business manager.

Upon arriving at the clinic, Bakkar, Hoelz and Beyer were led to the supplies, placed in cardboard boxes and set inside a nearby room.

“We’re always glad to help people, whether it’s here or over in Tinian or anywhere,” said Andrew Eusebio, Ordot Dental Clinic owner and dentist. “This kind of giving comes from the heart.”

Eusebio and Narcis helped load the supplies into a vehicle, shaking hands and talking with the servicemembers afterwards.

“We have extra materials we always store,” said Eusebio. “They’re all in good shape and within date, there’s nothing wrong with the items and we’re just happy to help.”

Some of the supplies donated by the clinic include anesthetics, toothbrushes, masks, sponges, child and adult toothbrushes, dental floss, cotton balls, needles, gloves, toothpaste and other useful items.

“Whenever we’re asked for assistance, we donate,” said Narcis. “Being that they are a neighboring island and there is a need for dental and health care, of course we’ll help in any way possible. We just wish we could give more.”

A C-130 delivered the supplies to Tinian the next day.

“We feel great getting the opportunity to help out,” said Narcis. “When this happened, we came together as a clinic and we all scrambled around the office to see what we could assist with. It was actually fun, everyone saying ‘let’s give this and let’s give that.’ Please, keep us on your list and if you ever need assistance any other time, we’ll be happy to help.”



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

**TINIAN, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands – Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, Marine Aircraft Group 12, heavy equipment operators unload crates containing cots and tents during Exercise Geiger Fury 2012, May 14, 2012. The Marines worked late into the night, keeping a steady pace to construct the forward operating base.**

#### ARRIVAL FROM PAGE 1

Marines worked into the late hours of the night to establish the FOB, clearing the land to set up tents and OE-254 communications gear.

The OE-254 provides air and ground communications for the entire exercise.

“The OE-254 is considered a safety net,” said Sgt. Ryan D. Kish,

MWSS-171 communications non-commissioned officer in charge. “The reason we call it a safety net is because the OE-254 antenna provides a fail-safe frequency that provides support in the event of an emergency throughout the entire area of operations.”

Exercise Geiger Fury is not just a show of force.

Another aspect of the exercise is community relations.

Servicemembers will give back to the community through outreach programs, which aim to help in the preservation of historical sites throughout the island.

As part of Exercise Geiger Fury servicemembers will repair the island’s northern airfield, conduct flight operations, provide medical and dental care and community outreach to the residents of Tinian.

#### SURVEY FROM PAGE 1

the land in order to properly place emergency arresting gear.

Arresting gear is mechanical systems used to rapidly decelerate an aircraft as it lands. Typical arresting systems lay a cable across the aircraft landing area, designed to be caught by an aircraft’s tailhook. During a normal arrestment, when the tailhook catches the wire it engages it and the aircraft’s kinetic energy is transferred to the ends of the wire.

“In order for us to be able to land jets at this airfield we must have the arresting set in place properly,” said Lance Cpl. Devin J. Ward, MWSS-171 expeditionary airfield technician. “If an engine goes out or a jet needs to make an emergency landing then they have to drop their hook and latch on to the arresting gear so they can slow down and ensure that the plane will not take off again.”

The arresting gear is counterweighted to the ground by large metal stakes driven deeply into the earth in a spider web fashion in order to ensure maximum weight distribution.

“If the arresting gear is not firmly attached to the ground then when a plane tries to hook up, the speed and weight of the jet could completely uproot the arresting gear,” said Lance Cpl. Dakota J. Clark, MWSS-171 expeditionary airfield technician. “It is a very delicate process. If it isn’t done right the first time then there could be a very destructive and costly consequence.”

The arresting gear is an absolute necessity before aircraft can land on the airfields of Tinian.

“No arresting gear, no planes,” said Ward. “We have to be able to ensure that the planes can land safely under any circumstance.”

The actions and progression of MWSS-171 confirms the operational capabilities of Tinian’s airfields. During Exercise Geiger Fury 2012 these historic runways, which launched war changing sorties, will be able to perform to their fullest potential throughout the entire exercise with today’s multi-million dollar aircraft.



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

**TINIAN, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands – Sgt. Joseph R. Pacheco, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 expeditionary airfield technician, surveys the land to set up the arresting gear which will help stop the aircraft in case of emergencies and further training exercises during Exercise Geiger Fury 2012. The arresting gear is an absolute necessity before aircraft can land on the airfields of Tinian.**



# Down, dirty, Marines complete river clean up

LANCE CPL. CAYCE NEVERS  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marines from Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 and Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron from Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni volunteered their time to cleanup the environment at the Futashika River, Iwakuni, Japan, May 18.

Many clean ups and other volunteer activities have been hosted by the Single Marine Program. However, this is the first time the Marine Lounge has hosted a volunteer clean up.

Volunteers were able to sign up at either the Hornet's Nest or the Marine Lounge for this opportunity.

"We wanted all the single and unaccompanied Marines and sailors to have the opportunity to become more involved with off-base volunteer opportunities," said Oana Ivanoff, Marine Lounge manager. "This is a good opportunity for active duty to give back to the Japanese community."

Although this is the first time the Marine Lounge hosted a volunteer effort, they plan to

continue to do so and make it tradition.

"I would like to make this an annual tradition if not more," said Ivanoff. "These events take time to prepare for, but give Marines and sailors beneficial volunteer opportunities."

Throughout the day the volunteers cleaned a water ditch which feeds into the local Japanese rice fields.

The servicemembers also cleared brush, wood and trash from along the river side, said Ryan L. Leming, Recycle Center solid waste manager.

Performing volunteer opportunities gives Marines the chance to venture off the beaten path and immerse themselves into the local landscape.

"I can guarantee most of these Marines have never seen this and would not have seen this if they hadn't volunteered for this opportunity," said Leming.

The amount of trash, wood and brush cleaned up was more than expected in the time allotted.

"I thought the cleanup went really well. Nobody got hurt, we got a lot done with less people and we accomplished more than we set

out to do," said Leming.

With the cleanup done, the Marines enjoyed a barbecue while talking about the day's events and other topics.

"I highly recommend Marines take the extra time to volunteer because it is very beneficial to not only themselves but the community," said Lance Cpl. Jonathan M. Garcia-Carabajal, MALS-12 aviation ordnance systems technician. "Only good can come out of it."

Volunteer opportunities are everywhere.

Many choose to volunteer for the awards and letters of appreciation they receive, while others choose to do it because they feel good about helping.

"I volunteer because I enjoy going out to support the community and to demonstrate the good nature and willingness Marines have to help their host country," said Garcia-Carabajal.

More volunteer opportunities are on the horizon.

For information on future SMP and Marine Lounge events, contact the Hornet's Nest at 253-3250 or the Marine Lounge at 253-5368.



LANCE CPL. CAYCE NEVERS

Lance Cpls. Jonathan Garcia-Carabajal, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 aviation ordnance systems technician, and Luis Olivera, MALS-12 flight equipment technician, clean up a water way that feeds into the local rice fields during the Marine Lounge Futashika River clean up, May 18. The cleanup is only one of many volunteer opportunities available.



LANCE CPL. CAYCE NEVERS

Lance Cpl. Jeffery Avery, station Provost Marshal's Office military police officer, hands a piece of trash to Pfc. Ricardo Atorgaortiz, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 Consolidated Automated Support System test station advanced maintenance technician, during the Marine Lounge Futashika River cleanup, May 18.



LANCE CPL. CAYCE NEVERS

Lance Cpl. Dang Anderson, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 Consolidated Automated Support System test station advanced maintenance technician, cleans up wood and brush along the Futashika River May 18 during a Marine Lounge volunteer river cleanup. This is the first time the Marine Lounge has hosted a volunteer cleanup with hopes to make it an annual event.



LANCE CPL. CAYCE NEVERS

Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 and Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Marines worked together to gather wood, brush and trash at the Futashika River, May 18. The Marine Lounge hosted the river cleanup and together volunteers and workers gathered two truck loads of wood and approximately 20 bags of trash and brush.

# ARFF Marines show students how they get things done

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

Two Matthew C. Perry High School students spent the day following Aircraft Rescue Firefighting Marines aboard the station May 17 as part of the M.C. Perry job shadow day.

The purpose of the day was to give students who showed an interest in a particular military job an idea of what Marines aboard the station do.

"We were asked to escort them to our jobs, to show them the day-to-day work we perform," said Sgt. Bruce L. Best, station ARFF assistant section 2 leader.

The Marines introduced the students to some of the training they perform in order to keep them sharp and ready at a moment's notice.

They were also shown the equipment used when battling a blaze along with what type of support ARFF Marines give involving aircraft.

"We gave them some firefighting gear to wear and try on," said Best. "We gave them flight suits and patches with their names on it. We wanted them to see and feel what it's like to be an actual firefighter."

The two students who attended hoped for the opportunity

"I want to go in the Marine Corps and do this job," said Joey Beall, an M.C. Perry seventh-grader.

When the students arrived at the ARFF training area they were greeted with a towering inferno.

"We pre-planned a simulated emergency at our training pit," said Best. "When they saw us coming, they called for the simulated drill. It was pretty rewarding to see the kids' eyes and hear them say 'Wow, there's a fire!'"

With full gear on and excitement in their eyes, the students had the opportunity to battle the conflagration up close and personal and from afar atop one of the P-19 fire engines with a fire hose.

"It was awesome and a good experience," said William Eaglin, M.C. Perry eighth-grader. "It was hot, too!"

After they subdued the inferno, the students went to the ARFF barn to see where the Marines train and live when away from the barracks and also to get hands-on with more equipment.

The opportunity to show the students some career opportunities they may have as civilians or servicemembers was important to the Marines.

"Being here in Japan, they don't get to see the way civilian firefighters work as compared to if they were in the states," said Best. "It gives them an opportunity to see civilianized work inside the Marine Corps."

For the Marines, this was also their way of giving back to the community.

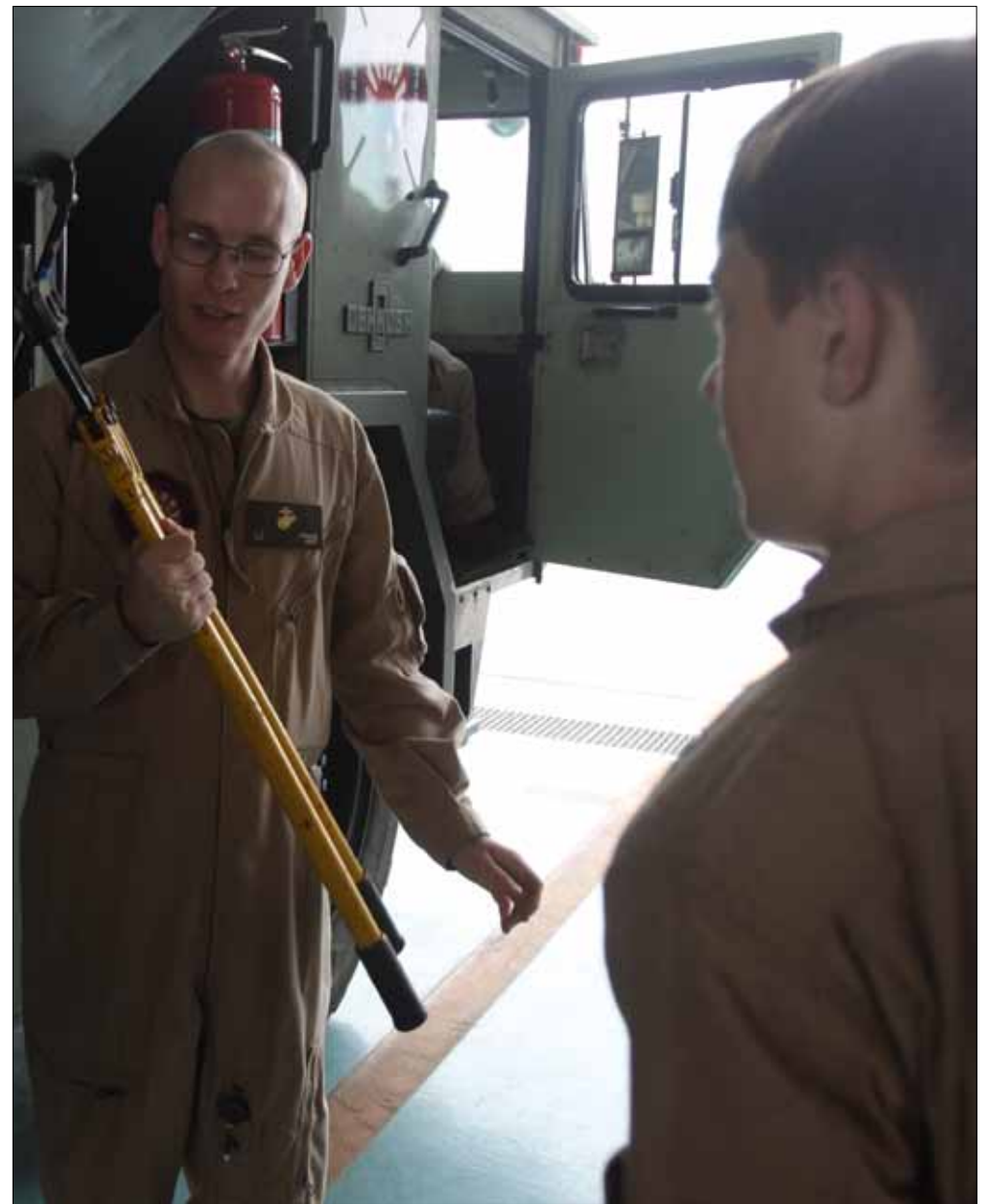
"It breaks us from our daily operations, allows us to teach our skills, and allows some of my Marines to pass on the knowledge they've learned," said Best.

After spending the day shadowing the Marines, the students had a newfound respect and appreciation for the Marines.

"I didn't realize they did all this other stuff along with putting out the fire," said Beall. "I was really surprised."

The opportunity to shadow professionals, whether military or civilian, is something which may serve as a teaching tool and open avenues of interest. For those children who took part in the job shadow, the chance to experience what it is these professionals do could inspire their future career paths.

"I'm really looking forward to it next year," said Beall. "It's interesting and it's a fun job. I really appreciate what they do."



CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER, JR.

Cpl. John T. Ritchie, station Aircraft Rescue Firefighter, shows a bolt cutter, which is stored in one of the many compartments aboard a P-19 fire truck, to Matthew C. Perry High School students during a job shadow day at the ARFF firehouse here May 17, 2012. The students spent the day following ARFF Marines as they went about their daily routine.



CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER, JR.

Station Aircraft Rescue Firefighting Marines battle a blaze as training during a job shadow day with students from Matthew C. Perry High School at the ARFF fire pit training area here May 17, 2012. The students spent the day following ARFF Marines as they went about the daily routine involved with being ARFF Marines.



# Drill instructors, wives, moms, dads: Bring the firepower



Marine spouses fight with pugil sticks during Jane Wayne Day aboard Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, May 19. Jane Wayne Day lets family members experience parts of Marine Corps life to provide shared experience and understanding.

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS RHOADES  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Many military spouses work at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni and help the station run smoothly, but few may know firsthand about the struggles Marines and sailors go through on a regular basis.

Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Jane Wayne Day gave them a rare opportunity to look at the station through the eyes of a servicemember May 19.

Military spouses, mothers and fathers got together to participate in a multitude of events ranging from the gas chamber to pugil sticks.

One of the main events participants went through was a modified Combat Fitness Test.

"I appreciate every single Marine who has to put himself through a CFT," said Christiana M. Sanders, H&HS command deck secretary and Marine spouse.

Along with the events, Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighters and Provost Marshal's Office K-9 unit put on demonstrations.

"Every time I can participate in a Jane Wayne Day it really gives me that much more appreciation for my father, who is a retired Marine, and my husband, who is a Marine, and all those other Marines out there," said Sanders.

Jane Wayne Day lets family members experience parts of Marine Corps life to provide shared experience and understanding.

"Just as we have an appreciation for keeping the porch lights on and taking care of the home for us, I hope they have that appreciation for what we do every single day," said Maj. Bernard Hess, H&HS executive officer.

Just like the day itself, all of the

events were voluntary and some participants found themselves doing things for the first time.

"Not everyone is comfortable doing certain things," said Hess. "They stepped out of their comfort zones and did things they don't normally do," said Hess. "I think that gives us an appreciation being able to say 'Wow, that's my wife out there doing that today.' I think she has a better appreciation saying, 'Wow, that's what you do every single day?'"

While some events called for individual performance, others fostered the spirit of cooperation so integral to the Marine Corps' sense of mission accomplishment.

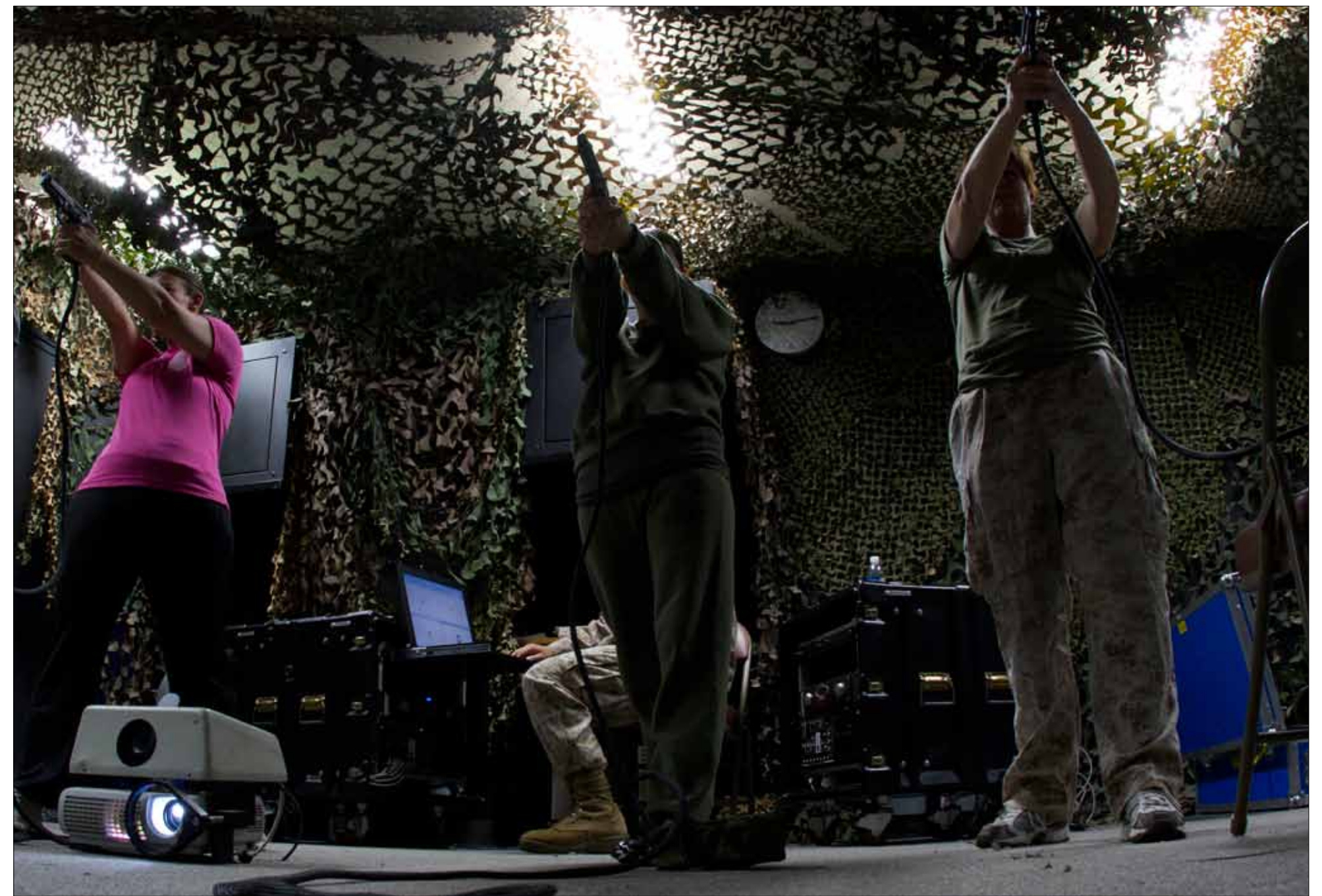
"As a senior drill instructor, I really envisioned these spouses as recruits, giving that motivation to get them through training," said Sgt. Maj. Peter W. Ferral, H&HS sergeant major. "Getting those spouses who are used to being more individualistic to work together, it is amazing to watch how they responded to the mind-set of 'We're team A.'"



Sgt. Maj. Peter W. Ferral motivates Christiana Sanders, a spouse of a Marine, before her pugil stick bout during Jane Wayne Day aboard Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, May 19. Jane Wayne Day lets family members experience parts of Marine Corps life to provide shared experience and understanding.



Kate A. West and other U.S. Marine spouses line up to enter the gas chamber during Jane Wayne Day aboard Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, May 19. Jane Wayne Day lets family members experience parts of Marine Corps life to provide shared experience and understanding.



Marine spouses fire simulated rounds at the indoor simulated marksmanship trainer during Jane Wayne Day aboard Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, May 19. Jane Wayne Day lets family members experience parts of Marine Corps life to provide shared experience and understanding.



CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE

Artillerymen compete for fastest position on gunline

PFC. JAMES FRAZER  
2ND MARINE DIVISION

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. – Artillerymen with Battery L, 3rd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, recently took part in an annual training operation at an artillery range aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., while they refined their skills with the M777 Howitzers.

At each gun position, a group of Marines stood by waiting to receive the firing mission that would call them into action and begin a race against one another to be the first group to fire their weapon.

“The artillery (military occupational specialty) has always been one of the most competitive fields in the Marine Corps,” Sgt. David Fitzsimmons said, section chief, gun 2, Battery L. “The race to see who can send the most rounds down-range the fastest is one that artillerymen have been playing in since the MOS was first activated. The team of Marines at each gun position has to be perfectly coordinated and in sync in order to do well in the race.”

Seven Marines and a section chief man the gun positions, each with a unique role.

The gunner and assistant gunner are responsible for aiming the massive weapon while a group of five cannoneers perform all the necessary functions for prepping the cannon to deliver its round.

“As the section chief, it is my responsibility to ensure the gun is set up safely and correctly during every firing mission,” Fitzsimmons said. “Right now I’m coordinating a team of just five Marines, which isn’t uncommon, but can cause a number of problems if the section chief doesn’t handle it correctly. Every station at a gun position



CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. – Pfc. Dwight Smith Jr. (middle), cannoneer, gun 2, Battery L, 3rd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, helps ram a 100-pound, high-explosive round into the section's M777 Howitzer. The 2nd Marine Division Marine, and Richmond, Va., native, said being a part of a cannoneer section is the best example there is of Marine adaptation and efficiency.

is critical to getting the weapon operational. Because we’re a few Marines short, a couple of them are pulling double roles where possible.”

During the training event, Fitzsimmons’ gunner and assistant gunner positions were both being filled in by Sgt. Jeremiah Phillips, who was also working as the assistant section chief.

“At a gun position it’s the gunner’s job to set the appropriate up-and-down angle to the barrel while his assistant gunner adjusts the left-and-right angle to get the tube to point at the target,” Phillips said. “The howitzer is set up so it can be operated by either one or two gunners easily,

but when there’s just one gunner it can sometimes slow the gun position down by a few seconds and moments, and that means everything in artillery.”

Phillips explained that to overcome obstacles like personnel shortages it’s ever-increasingly important the Marines at each position become personally and professionally familiar with their sections.

“We all know what one another is going to do during a firing mission,” Phillips said. “It’s a lesson that can be applied to more than just artillery. If you know how your coworkers are going to react and you know what their strengths, weaknesses, and norms are then it becomes much

easier for the rest of the team to detect when something is off or where they need to put in the extra effort.”

Phillips and the other Marines often change duties in the gun position so they can keep practiced for when things like personnel shortages happen.

“When we have the time, the guys who have been in artillery for several years take the time to help teach everyone else all the tricks they’ve learned to streamline the whole process,” Pfc. Dwight Smith Jr., cannoneer, gun 2, Battery L, said. “A gun section is the best example I can think of for Marine adaptation in action and we’re all proud to take part in the team.”



CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. – Pfc. Dwight Smith Jr. (left), cannoneer, gun 2, Battery L, 3rd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, tugs on the pull cord as he receives the order to fire the M777 Howitzer. At each gun position, a group of Marines stood waiting to receive the firing mission which would call them into action.



CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. – Sgt. David Fitzsimmons (right), section chief, gun 2, Battery L, 3rd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, monitors his section Marines while they adjust their M777 Howitzer to the parameters displayed on the monitor in Fitzsimmons’ hand. The battery recently took part in an annual training event at an artillery range aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., while they refined their skills with the howitzers.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS | CLASSIFIEDS

Briefs

Friendship Day program and coin sets

Marine Corps Community Services is selling the remaining 500 “2012 Friendship Day program and coin sets” out of the cash cage at the Marine Corps Exchange. The set costs \$20 and cannot be bought separately. For more information, call Sean McHenry at 253-6373.

Golf In Iwakuni

Golf here in Iwakuni has not died; the Iwakuni Golf Pro Shop is selling vouchers and transportation to the Iwakuni Country Club, a golf course out in town. It takes only a few minutes to get out to the country club by bus and the entire trip will only cost approximately \$35. For more information, call the Golf Pro Shop at 253-3402.

ASIST Workshop

Learn suicide intervention skills. Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) is scheduled to conduct a free suicide first-aid intervention workshop on June 7-8 at Yujo Hall from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. The ability to identify those at risk and how

to better listen and care for those having suicidal thoughts will be the focus. The workshop is open to all military, civilian, contractors and adult family members. To register, e-mail madelyn.santiago@med.navy.mil, or call Iwakuni Chapel at 253-3371.

Community Rooms

Community room inspections are required in order to rent a community room. Patrons reserving community rooms risk losing their reservation by not making their inspection appointment. To schedule a community room, or to get more information, call station housing at 253-3341.

Return Shopping Carts

Patrons must return shopping carts to the commissary instead of leaving them outside the barracks and housing.

SOFA classes

Looking to get a SOFA license? SOFA classes are being held every Friday from 8:30 a.m. -11:40 a.m. at Bldg. 411. The SOFA class is available to dependents and all military members whether their CAC cards have been activated or not. The class has no sign up roster but is on a first-come, first-serve. Come

a little early. For more information, call station safety at 253-6330

Off-limit Establishments

The following establishments are hereby off-limits:

- The multi-tenant building “NOW,” Tenant occupant’s names change frequently. Past names for this building include Ran, Massage Parlor, Welcome American, Follow Me and F-18.
- Hiroshima’s Tougan Goods Company.

NMCRS Quick Assist Loans

The Iwakuni Navy Marine Corps Relief Society provides Quick Assist Loans to prevent active duty service members from falling prey to predatory lenders. These loans are designed to assist with short-term living expenses up to \$300, interest free and must be repaid within 10 months. For more information, call the Iwakuni NMCRS at 253-5311 or stop by the Marine Memorial Chapel, Room 148.

Emergency Phone Numbers Reminder

Put these numbers in your wallet:

- Anti-terrorism force protection hotline: 253-ATFP (2837).
- Life limb or loss of vision

threatening emergencies while on the air station: 119 or 911. From a cell phone or for bilingual capability: 082-721-7700.

- For security issues, contact the Provost Marshal’s Office: 253-3303. To report without talking to a person, Crime Stoppers: 253-3333.
- Sexual Assault: To make a confidential report of sexual assault or harassment, contact the victim advocate at 253-4526 during working hours. For after hours, weekends and holidays, call 090-9978-1033 or 080-3427-0835. You can also call the installation Sexual Assault Response Coordinator at 253-6556 or 080-5865-3566.

Iwakuni is now on Facebook

MCAS Iwakuni now has a Facebook page. Updates will be made consistently along with content only available on Facebook. A larger selection of photos from covered stories will also be available and free for those pictured to tag themselves.

Lending Locker Program

The lending locker program is available to provide small home appliances and utensils for incoming and outgoing command sponsored members for up to 60 days inbound and 30

days outbound. A copy of PCS orders are required to check out items, and the program is by appointment only. The lending locker is located in Building 411, Room 101. Appointments are 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. For more information, call 253-6161.

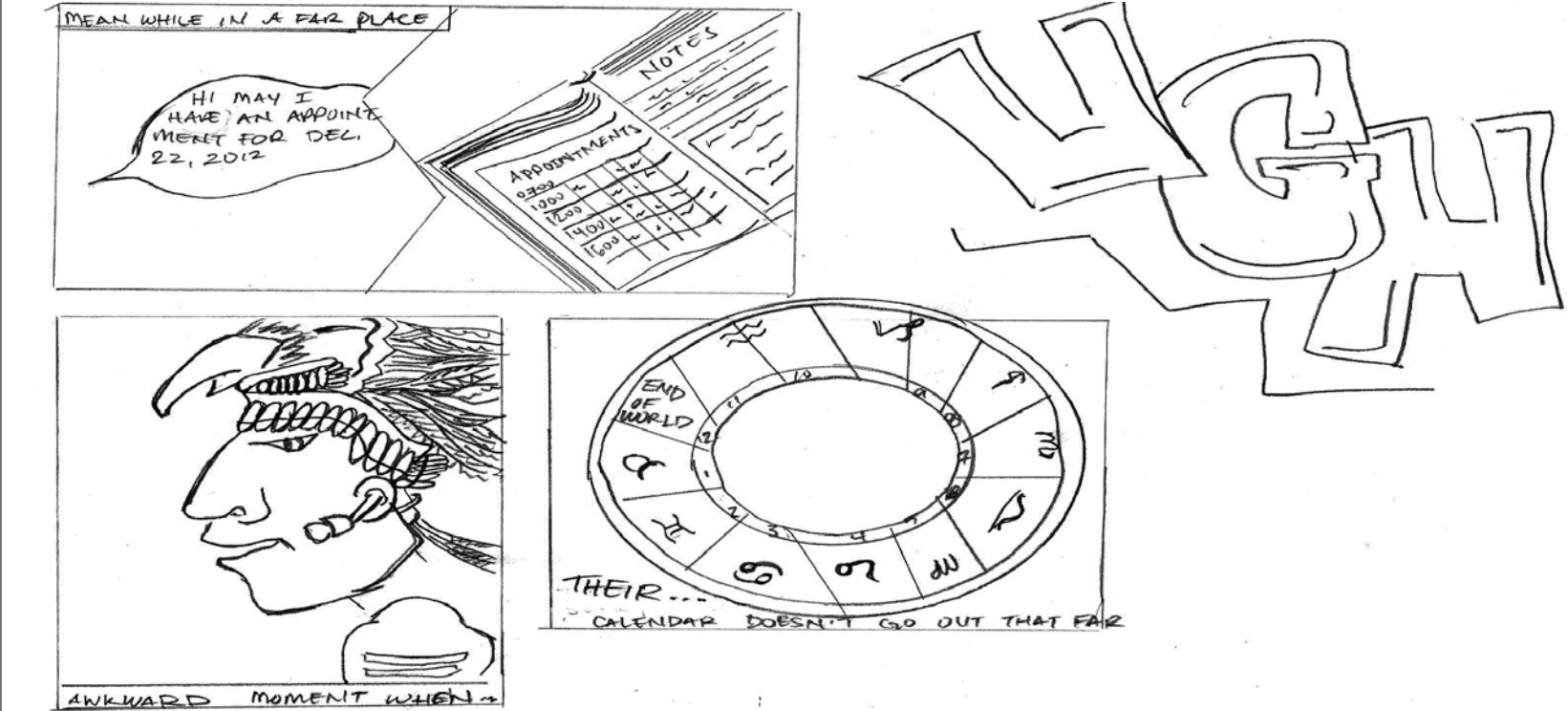
Active-Reserve Career Information

For Marines seeking information about transitioning to the Reserve component, please contact, Gunnery Sgt. Robert Noyes, Okinawa Active-Reserve Career Planner at (315) 622-6004, or send him an e-mail at robert.noyes@usmc.mil.

Brief and Classified Submissions

To submit a community brief or classified advertisement, send an e-mail to iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil. Include a contact name, a phone number and the information you would like to be published. You may submit your brief or advertisement in person at the Public Affairs Office, Building 1, Room 216 or you may call 253-5551. Please ensure you provide all requested information to simplify the request process. The deadline for submissions is 3 p.m. every Friday.

KUNI TOONS: APPOINTMENTS





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

Yen is the currency here in Japan and out in town, shops rarely take the U.S. Dollar, as it is uncommon for stores on base to take yen. This makes yen an important part of our daily lives while stationed here in Japan. Theyen was created in 1871 during the Edo period. It was created because the Meiji Government wished to centralize all the various coins which had been adopted over the past centuries. Centuries ago the Japanese government entered into a period of decline much like our own depression during the 1930s and as they could no longer mint their own currency, Japan began to import Chinese currency. Throughout several centuries, the inflow of Chinese currency did not meet the demand for a financial standard that resulted from the largely growing trade and economic expansion. To meet this demand, two privately minted Japanese coins called the Toraisen and Shichusen, entered into circulation. Then around the late 15th century, warlords had accumulated large debts which subsequently encouraged the making of gold and silver coins known as the Koshu Kin. During the Edo period, under the rule of Toyotomi Hideyoshi, gold coinage was made into a standard currency. The Tokugawa Shogunate Government then established a unified monetary system which consisted of these gold coins in addition to silver and copper. Although some paper currency had been introduced previously, it was not until the Meiji Restoration when the first nationally accepted paper money was established and used within Japan.



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS RHOADES

SAKURA THEATER

<b>Friday, May 25, 2012</b> 7 p.m. Dark Shadows (PG-13)	<b>Monday, May 28, 2012</b> 7 p.m. Battleship (PG-13)
<b>Saturday, May 26, 2012</b> 4 p.m. Mirror Mirror (PG) 7 p.m. The Avengers (PG-13)	<b>Tuesday, May 29, 2012</b> Theater Closed
<b>Sunday, May 27, 2012</b> 4 p.m. Mirror Mirror (PG) 7 p.m. American Reunion (R)	<b>Wednesday, May 30, 2012</b> Theater Closed
	<b>Thursday, May 31, 2012</b> 7 p.m. The Lucky One (PG-13)

The movie schedule is subject to change. Please check [www.mccsiwakuni.com/sakura](http://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](http://www.mccsiwakuni.com) or call 253-5291.

Mess Hall Menu

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

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

Station residents pushed, pulled and battled their way to physical dominance during the 2012 Strongman Competition at Penny Lake Field here May 19.

The purpose of the event was to build camaraderie and bolster a sense of competition.

“We pretty much have a spice of gentlemen from across the base and the women are the same way,” said John R. Balthazar III, Marine Corps Community Services sports coordinator. “It’s boasting rights of who is the strongest one on base. It’s just brute strength. You bring it and compete.”

Female competitors participated in two weight classes: 130 pounds or less and 131 pounds or greater.

Males competed in three weight classes of 160 or less, 161 to 190 and 191 pounds or more.

Nine competitors took part in the competition, which consisted of five events: the barrel press, the Farmer’s Walk; a two-minute Humvee tire-flip; the Iron Cross, an event where a participant’s back was flush against a wall, females held out a straight arm with 17 pounds in each hand and males held 22 pounds.

The last event was a truck pull where females pulled a 2 1/2 -ton truck and males pulled a 4-ton truck for 80 seconds.

The number of participants in this year’s event diminished in comparison to previous years and the ratio of participants reversed. “We were two or three competitors down from last year,” said Balthazar. “We had more women than men this time, too.”

The events pushed the physical strength of contestants in a variety of areas.

“It’s a strongman competition,” said Balthazar. “That spooks some people (versus) doing a bench-press competition. You have to be strong in a multitude of events that are not normally seen in the weight room or gym.”

Though it is not essential to be able to bench press, or do other traditional workouts, to compete in the competition many service-members nevertheless hit the gym to train for this.

“Outside of the tire-flip, I didn’t train specifically for any event,” said Jesse Smith, 160 or less first place winner. “I just work out really hard and try to lift every day, swim and run a lot.”

Improvement was the name of the game for many of those who came out for the event.

The desire to outperform how they did in previous strongman competitions served as a driving force.

“I really wanted to test how far I could go and see how I did in comparison to last year,” said Smith. “I did better in everything, minus the Humvee pull.”

Overall, Smith said he felt pleased with where he finished.



CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER, JR.

Anita Clayton, a 131 pound and above competitor, pulls a two and a half truck during the 2012 Strongman Competition at Penny Lake Field Here May 19. The competition consisted of several events including a Farmer’s Walk, tire flip, barrel press and truck pull. A total of 10 competitors, three males and seven females, participated in two classes for females and three for males.

“I feel excellent about it,” said Smith. “I feel nothing bad about my score. I feel like I did very well and put out hard.”

Other competitors echoed Smith’s sentiment on wanting to come out and push themselves while enjoying a friendly competition.

“This is my third time in this event,” said Andrea Kawano, 130 and less first place winner. “I came out here to see how much

I’ve improved. I’m competing not only against my friends but myself.”

The benefit of having friends compete who motivated them was something competitors found important.

“It’s fun,” said Kawano. “We’re going through the same competition, the emotions. It’s not about placing. It’s about proving we’re strong enough. We have the same goals.”

The need to compete and improve is something ongoing and continues until we die.

We strive to keep climbing higher, forever reaching upward.

With this year’s strongman competition in the books, these practitioners of strength and endurance will hopefully have another opportunity to climb that ladder when the 2012 Open Bench Press Challenge takes place June 2.



# *The Iwakuni Time Machine*

In the May 18, 1979, issue of the Torii Teller, Marines highlighted the use of telephones here in Japan, the new heat of summer coming around the corner, a new concealment and camouflage course, and the continuation of Marine Corps aviation in the 1980s.



*Concealment and camouflage is very vital to counterintelligences' operation since operating so close to front lines in combat situations. Inset, this entire camp plus jeep and trailer are concealed in the above picture.*

## **Want a challenge? Try CIT**

At a concealed, camouflaged outpost in the steaming, insect-infested jungle, the dirt-filled beads of sweat trickle down the prisoner's lacerated cheek as he anticipates the next interrogation question from the calloused and sun-baked face of the 12-year Corps veteran.

"What's yer name," the interrogator states in some semblance of a growl. The prisoner shrugs it off and the skillful Marine suggests, "You'll talk or I'll turn you over to my lovely cohort here." He pointed to an even more grizzly figure standing in the shadows of the low-slung cammie tent covering. "And he's the irate one," he grinned.

This scenario called "Mutt and Jeff interrogation," isn't far from the truth when the 0211 MOS of the counterintelligence Leatherneck is put into a combat situation.

In a tactical environment a primary emphasis is on camouflage, cover and concealment to deny the enemy information.

In garrison the CIT detachment is tasked with advising and assisting the commanders aboard MCAS with the physical security of classified material.

Physical security of classified material is a never ending task. Another part of the mission is to provide security services that are used to advise commanders of weak or faulty security procedures.

It also includes advising and assisting the station and group commander's in counterintelligence matters, and giving briefs on areas applicable to the Station's theater of operation.

One such recent brief was prior to the MAG's participation in Team Spirit. "In a combat situation it's our job to tell you what to expect before you set foot in there," said CWO-2 Bob Campbell, Det. commander. "We are a self-contained, combat-ready, fully deployable unit."

The team is actually a detachment of the 7th CIT headquartered on Okinawa and parented here by MWHS-1 sub unit-2.

*The prisoner is guarded by a division MP while being questioned by counterintelligence personnel with the help of translator units. Extracting information from POWs is very important in compiling data for our offense.*

The Marines with MOS's 0210/0211 are a special breed of an already elite fighting force. Gunner Campbell says it's not all glory. "It's very demanding," the 7-year CIT veteran said. "And you can't expect to have every afternoon, weekend or night off."

"It is however, an excellent opportunity to receive some of the most interesting schooling the Corps has to offer."

