

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

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MWSS-171 competes in squadron field meet | P. 6, 7

LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 headquarters company, compete in the tug-of-war event during the MWSS-171 field meet held at the IronWroks Gym here June 29, 2012. The tug-of-war event required the participants to lay down with their feet across the rope and upon receiving the signal, scramble to their feet and begin to pull the rope.

Navy Doc receives Navy Marine Corps Leadership Award

Lance Cpl. J. Gage Karwick
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marines and sailors gathered in the lobby of the Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Clinic to honor several sailors on their outstanding

work and performance in the line of duty. One sailor in particular was Navy Lt. Brandi L. Sakai, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 flight surgeon. Sakai received the Navy Marine Corps Leadership Award for her hard work and

dedication to excellence in the care for her patients and the betterment of the clinic. "In the first six months I started working here, I hit the ground running. I've tried to make

SEE **AWARD** ON PAGE 3

CLC-36 prepares to bring fight to Fuji

Lance Cpl. Nicholas Rhoades
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Combat Logistics Company 36 has been preparing during the past few weeks to deploy to Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji, Japan, for Exercise Dragon Fire II.

CLC-36 departed for Camp Fuji July 8 and 9 via a tactical convoy and is slated to return after approximately three weeks of infantry training.

"We have a rare opportunity to be able to conduct training like this up at Fuji," said Maj. Andres H. Caceres-Solari, CLC-36 commanding officer. "Of the training that goes on at Fuji, we are

lucky enough to be able to spend three weeks up there, whereas most other units are only able (to spend) a week or so."

This will be the second time this year CLC-36 has had the opportunity to train in Camp Fuji.

"We have done a lot of training in Fuji before. We were there last year and even got the chance to go during the winter for cold weather training," said Caceres-Solari. "We are always respectful and make sure we are professional at all times when up at Fuji, and they always invite us back."

Camp Fuji allows a lot of different

SEE **PREDEPLOYMENT** ON PAGE 3

Always faithful, always forward, silent warriors

Lance Cpl. Benjamin Pryer
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Warriors, warfighters, hard-chargers: all terms used to describe U.S. Marines. There are those who go above the high expectations of the Marine Corps though, Marines who take physical fitness, combat readiness and war-fighting tactics to an unparalleled level. Those are the Marines who have

SEE **MARSOC** ON PAGE 3

Station residents further reading skills

Lance Cpl. Benjamin Pryer
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Station residents attended Potato Chip Day, part of the summer reading program, which took place inside the Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni library here June 27, 2012, to encourage children and adults aboard station to have an

SEE **POTATO** ON PAGE 3



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CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

‘Live free or die hard’

Cmdr. Dean L. Hoelz
MAG-12 GROUP CHAPLAIN

Did you remember the movie “LIVE FREE OR DIE HARD” starring Bruce Willis? This movie tells about him playing the role of detective John McClane to save the nation from the cyber terrorist plot that will take place on the 4th of July.

How do we live a free person? How do we become a diehard person? The best thing for us to reflect and apply the word free is to connect it to the word “freedom.”

We have several meanings for “freedom” such as: liberty of the person from slavery, detention, or oppression: political independence: the capacity to exercise choice; free will.

What is the word “die hard?” Somebody said: “I am a diehard Lakers fan.” Meaning to say he is a loyal fan of Lakers whatever it

takes.

Bruce Willis on all his Die Hard movies portrayed a hard fighter ready and willing to die a terrible death. At the end he “lived free.” He depicts the role of a good man who triumphs over evil. He had exercised his capacity to make good choices for the good of others. He had exercised his freedom to make a right decision to save the nation from cyber attack plots.

In Luke 10:17-19 of the Bible, we heard Jesus sent the seventy two on a mission. When they returned, they rejoiced and said, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us because of your name.” The response of Jesus was great, “I have observed Satan fall like lightning from the sky. Behold, I have given you the power to ‘tread upon serpents’ and scorpions and upon the full force of the enemy and nothing will harm you.” Meaning to say, the disciples were successful in this mission. Are the disciple of Jesus “die hard” fans of Jesus?

Of course, yes. With all their willingness they deliver God’s call on them to proclaim that the Kingdom of God is at hand.

Are we one of the seventy two who are heralds of the Kingdom of God in the world we live in? Christ sends us to the world with powers to conquer the forces of evil. He gives us the power to announce his presence to others.

We are heralds of God’s Kingdom and conquerors of evil when we make moral decisions in our workplace. A witnessing Christian in the business world will provide others with an experience of Christ.

We are heralds of the Kingdom in our own homes when we continue to work hard on treating each other with profound respect. We should also remember that we have been called to be heralds of the Kingdom in our nation too by being good citizens.

How about we? Are we diehard fans of Jesus? Are we willing to die for Jesus? Are we instruments of love, hope, prosperity, peace and healing to others? To live free is to free ourselves from sins.

SUMMER SAFETY: Typhoon Awareness

Tropical cyclone condition of readiness:

TCCOR IV

■ The trend indicates a possible threat of a tropical cyclone within 72 hours. Typhoon season is from June 1 to 30 November annually during which Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni remains at a minimum TCCOR IV throughout that time.

TCCOR III

■ Destructive winds of 50 knots or greater are possible within 48 hours.

TCCOR II

■ Destructive winds of 50 knots or greater are anticipated within 24 hours.

TCCOR I

■ Destructive winds of 50 knots or greater are anticipated within 12 hours.

TCCOR IC

■ Winds of 34 to 49 knots are occurring on station.

TCCOR IE

■ Destructive winds of 50 knots or more are occurring on station.

TCCOR IR

■ Destructive winds of 50 knots or more are no longer occurring on station. Emergency crews, safety and facilities personnel assess air station readiness for normal operations. All personnel should remain in shelters until All Clear is set.

TCCOR STORM WATCH

■ Although destructive winds have subsided or are currently no longer forecast, there is still a possibility of danger due to proximity of the storm and unpredictable changes in storm track and/or strength.

TCCOR ALL CLEAR

■ All tropical cyclone imminent dangers have passed. Return to condition IV.

MORE INFORMATION ON TYPHOON AWARENESS TO FOLLOW NEXT WEEK.

CORRECTION!

The front page of the June 29 edition of The Iwakuni Approach had the typographical error “MLC” instead of “MLG.” We offer our sincere apologies to Brig. Gen. Crenshaw and all the MLG Marines. The online edition of The Iwakuni Approach has been corrected, and all 1,500 copies of the print edition were corrected. By hand.

Hard work and dedication will take you far, sailor receives award

AWARD FROM PAGE 1

it easy for the Unit Deployment Program flight surgeons that come here, writing new standard operating procedures to make the adjustment here easier for them. I’ve done my best to make this clinic run as efficiently and smoothly as possible. It means a lot that my efforts have been recognized,” said Sakai.

“When you put forth extra effort, you always hope that someone will see and acknowledge you

for it, and this proves to me that people are watching and have noticed my contributions,” Sakai added.

When it came to receiving the Navy Marine Corps Leadership Award, Sakai did not believe she was in the running for it.

“Only a few were given to each Marine Expeditionary Force,” said Sakai. “I was not expecting to even be nominated because there were so many other applicants and when the e-mail was sent out

about the award it was mainly sent to Marines.”

Sakai did not take all of the glory, however.

She admitted that without the help of her corpsmen she never could have achieved all that she has.

“I couldn’t possibly have done this without the support of my corpsmen,” said Sakai. “This is not an easy job, so it means a lot for the corpsmen to put forth the extra effort to accomplish

the mission, getting the extra training and having discussions on ways to improve the clinic and things we can do differently to better care for our patients.”

Knowing that one is being rewarded for his or her hard work is a great feeling.

Many strive during their day to day activities to achieve that feeling. Pushing one’s self to higher excellence can not only be rewarded by others but also self-rewarding.



LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN PRYER

Stacey Kobe-Bellika, station supervisory librarian, speaks to participants of Potato Chip Day, part of the Reading is Delicious summer reading program, inside the Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni library here, June 27, 2012. The event consisted of stories and history about potatoes and potato chips and a potato chip taste testing game where participants tried to guess the flavor of different chips.

Boil ‘em, mash ‘em, stick ‘em in a stew

POTATO FROM PAGE 1

enjoyable afternoon while improving their reading skills.

“Every week during the summer, we have special events in the afternoon to celebrate our summer reading program,” said Stacey Kobe-Bellika, station library supervisory librarian. “It’s a Department of Defense-wide program, so every military installation library is doing the same program.”

The afternoon started with children answering trivia questions about potato chips and their history.

After several questions, participants were split into two groups, those with a stronger reading ability began to practice for a theatre project, while younger children read stories and performed actions from the book being read.

“We try to make the events we do fun in the hopes of bringing as many people as we can to come to the library and join our reading program,” said Kobe-Bellika. “With the reading program, people can earn prizes for reading during the summer, but the bigger goal for the program is to encourage kids to read over the summer.”

When the two groups reconvened, a potato chip tasting contest was put

on for all who wished to attempt to guess the potato chip flavors.

“If kids don’t read over the summer, they’re at a big disadvantage for when they go back to school,” said Kobe-Bellika. “We want to do all we can to prepare the children who live here for a successful year in school.”

While the majority of summer reading program member are still in school, all ages are welcomed to participate.

“For this event, the whole family could come,” said Kobe-Bellika. “And, for our summer reading program, anyone, from babies to adults, can participate. The events are more for kids, but adults can bring their kids and read during the events.”

While Potato Chip Day and other events bring children and their parents in with the hopes of gathering with other reading enthusiasts and having a fun afternoon, the true goal of such events will always be to provide an opportunity for station residents to further their pursuit of knowledge, said Kobe-Bellika.

“Reading is important, it helps your vocabulary, it helps your mind, it keeps your brain active, it just helps you to be a smarter and better person,” said Kobe-Bellika.

PREDEPLOYMENT FROM PAGE 1

types of training due to their varying climate and terrain.

CLC-36 has planned a training schedule with a wide variety of weapons, a grenade throw and other combat training, said Caceres-Solari.

CLC-36 was unable to perform much of this type of training last winter due to weather.

The unit is primarily supply and motor transportation but trains as a grunt platoon, said Caceres-Solari, making sure that CLC-36 has the most well-rounded Marines with the best training the Marine Corps can provide.

Marines are who they are, Special operations is what they do

MARSOC FROM PAGE 1

earned the right and privilege to be a part of the Marine Corps’ elite combat unit, the United States Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command, more commonly known as MARSOC.

MARSOC recruiters visited the air station and hosted multiple briefs inside the Building One auditorium here June 25 and 26, 2012, to inform station Marines about the opportunity of joining the elite ranks of Marine Corps Special Forces.

“The really neat thing about this is that every time we’re talking to young Marines, not only are we telling them what they need to know in preparation for going MARSOC, but we’re also giving them good information on how to be more productive and more competitive within their current military occupational specialty and operation field. It’s a win-win for anybody who sits down in front of us, all they have to do is ask the right questions and we can take them from their first enlistment, all the way through to a successful career by telling them what it took for us to do this, so here are some of the things they might want to consider in the future as well,” said Jeff Price, East Coast and Okinawa recruiting manager and retired Marine.

MARSOC is the Marine Corps’ component of the United States Special Operations Command, which also houses the Army Rangers, Navy Seals, Air Force Special Tactics Squadron and several other elite units.

MARSOC focuses on six core activities which shape the goal of its missions: foreign internal defense, direct action, special reconnaissance, counter-terrorism, counter-insurgency and security forces assistance, all of which the MARSOC recruiters covered in detail and even gave some personal examples of their experiences.

Along with information about the steps leading up to joining MARSOC, advice was provided to Marines who may be wary of joining MARSOC based on their family condition.

“One of the main questions I get, specifically from the younger married Marines, is how is the family life,” said Price. “What I tell all of them is, your experiences are going to be as good or bad as your relationship with your wife.”

Price also said MARSOC is supported by a family readiness program which is geared toward supporting families of special operations Marines.

The training process of joining MARSOC was also explained: going from the assessment and selection process, to the individual training course and ending with the advanced skill courses.

“As a Marine, with the Marine ethos, being a critical skills operator is probably one of the most rewarding things a Marine could do because it is the epitome of Marine Ethos and the warrior skills,” said Price “I couldn’t imagine why a Marine wouldn’t want to join.”



Adam Beyer, a station volunteer, interacts with kindergarteners during a community relations event at Kuroiso Hoikuen, a local kindergarten, June 26, 2012. Community relations events are designed to foster a positive relationship between Marines and sailors and the surrounding community.

Marines, sailors visit local kindergarten

Lance Cpl. Todd F. Michalek
COMBAT CAMERAMAN

Marines and sailors from Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni visited Kuroiso Hoikuen, a kindergarten in Iwakuni, June 26, 2012, as part of a community relations effort to share cultures and positively interact with the local community.

The children eagerly greeted the seven Marines and two sailors with singing, dancing and many smiles. After the warm welcome, servicemembers joined the children in a sing-along. Then the kids put their English skills on display.

At random, the teacher called students to the front of the class to have them count to 15 in English. The students chosen were able to count without hesitation, however, servicemembers were able help out when it came time to call out different colors in

English. Servicemembers got involved by pointing to their shirts and different items around the classroom, asking what color it was and helping the students with identification and pronunciation of that color.

Adam Beyer, one of the organizers of the event, pointed out that community relations events like these are great opportunities for the children "to learn a little bit of English and have fun," he said.

More importantly, these events help strengthen the relationship between the local population and servicemembers aboard station. The benefit of these community relation events is that "it puts us in a positive light," said Beyer. "You do one bad thing and that's the only thing anyone remembers, so we do our part out there to show the community... we can do good things."

These events are set up with help from Machiko Hamamoto, also known as Mamasan,

a Japanese liaison for the station and officially designated Honorary Marine. Hamamoto contacts local schools, hospitals and nursing homes to see if there are any dates available for volunteers to come help. When she finds an opportunity and gets a specific date, she contacts Beyer, who then finds volunteers for the event.

Volunteers are not hard to come by.

"After I get the dates, I request for vehicles and volunteers. I send a mass email and usually within a day or two, I'm full up," Beyer said.

The willingness of the Marines and sailors to go out and interact with the local community, especially the children, gives these events the influence of maintaining a good relationship with the local population. What is equally important though is that the children had fun and this experience will be something they will not soon forget.



Marines and sailors from Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni visit Kuroiso Hoikuen, a kindergarten in Iwakuni, June 26, 2012. The willingness of Marines and sailors to interact with the local community helps to maintain good relations between the Japanese community and servicemembers aboard the station.

The first rule of fight night is: you do not talk about fight night

Lance Cpl. Nicholas Rhoades
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marine Aircraft Group 12 Marines competed in a sacred ritual known as fight night here June 29, 2012.

MAG-12 Marines created camaraderie and friendly competition through combative training, including grappling, boxing and a barbeque.

"Today we tried to bring all the Marines together to bring up their morale, camaraderie, esprit de corps and motivation up through the roof," said Gunnery Sgt. Paris Mintz, MAG-12 headquarters first sergeant. "I feel it was a success here today."

Although fight night was based around having a good time and giving the Marines something productive to do, it allowed them an opportunity to train and maintain their combat mindset.

"We try to train them and make sure these Marines are ready for combat, everything we do here is tailored toward a good combat mindset to provide combat power not only in the air, but on the ground as well. And if we

need to take it to the enemy hand-to-hand combat style, we need to be able to do so, so we incorporated fight night," said Mintz.

Many Marines stationed here are not given the opportunity to serve in a combat environment, but it is important to keep a combat mindset at all times, Mintz added.

"The Marines enlist voluntarily during a time of war," said Sgt. Peter N. Hatfield, MAG-12 Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear Defense non-commissioned officer in charge. "They go to boot camp, all they talk about is combat. Then they go to Marine Combat Training and all they talk about is combat. When they go to (their Military Occupational Specialty) school it starts to shift a little bit toward the technical skills."

"Then they get to the fleet," Hatfield added. "Especially Iwakuni because we don't deploy to Iraq or Afghanistan, so the Marines here in the wing lose that combat mindset. Unless they stay current on it within their sections, whether it be Combat Marksmanship Training or Martial Arts Training, they kind of lose that combat training. So, to

return that combat mindset and have them remember, 'I am still a warrior, I am a Marine, I still can be called upon to kill people and fight at any moment,'"

Many believe that combat training is important to all Marines and that in order to keep up with mission accomplishment, all Marines need to be able to withstand the pressures they may face in combat.

"It's a lot different training between peers and having that practice in a real time scenario instead of doing it in a step by step environment with a Marine Corps Martial Arts Program instructor, the training is just worlds apart," said Pfc. Matthew J. Ahn, MAG-12 CBRN defense clerk.

Marines were able to choose their competition openly, whether to settle a squall or just to battle in a safe, friendly, competitive environment.

"When you're always with people that you live with and work with, you all become brothers, and brothers fight and get that anger going," said Ahn. "It's great to have an event where we can challenge each other and let out a little bit of that stress."



Pfc. Joshua A. Daehnke (right) and Lance Cpl. Alfredo Robles Jr., Marine Aircraft Group 12 supply administration and operations specialists, duke it out during the MAG-12 fight night here June 29, 2012. Fight night built camaraderie while giving the Marines an opportunity to train and maintain their combat mind-set. Marines were able to choose their opponents, whether to settle a squall or just to battle in a safe, friendly, competitive environment.

Marines and sailors with MWSS-171 go toe to toe for victory

Marines fight to end in field meet competition

Lance Cpl. J. Gage Karwick
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 Marines competed in a field meet here at the IronWorks Gym June 29, 2012.

The field event was held in order to build better unit camaraderie as well as allow the Marines to build trust with the other companies in MWSS-171.

“Sports day was put together by the Marines for the Marines,” said Staff Sgt. Waner Bazile, MWSS-171 engineer equipment mechanic. “Every event is done in teams. We wanted to incorporate a junior Marine, non-commissioned officer, Staff NCO and an officer in every event and team, that way the junior Marines can see their leaders are participating just as much as they are.”

Twelve events were utilized in the meet that relied on teamwork to build an overall score to determine the winner of the event.

“We came up with 12 events to challenge the Marines,” said Bazile. “Basketball, volleyball, ammo can lifts, bench press, 100 meter swim and several others. The last event the Marines wanted something to do with Marine Corps martial arts,

so we called it the Thunder Dome and they have no clue as to what it is going to be, all they knew was it is something to do with MCMAP.”

The Marines said they enjoyed the friendly competition, cheering each other on and trying to psych out their opponents the best they could.

“I competed in the bench press competition. I had a lot of fun. I’m not even sure if we won the event, but it doesn’t seem to matter,” said Pfc. Justin A. Buford, MWSS-171 motor transportation operator.

“It’s been a wonderful day, I love participating with my team, I love the guys in motor-t and this definitely helps relieve the stresses that inevitably come from working with everyone on a daily basis. We all work together and sometimes get mad at each other like pretty much every one else in the world. But when we have events like this it definitely helps relieve that stress. We come together for a common goal which is stomping the competition into the dirt, in a friendly manner of course.”

Each company had its own team color that was determined by their most junior Marine.

“We have four companies in our squadron,” said Bazile. “I went to the most junior Marine in that company to ask them what color they wanted

to be. Engineers ended up with red because a motivated private first class said it was for the blood we shed. Headquarters said they wanted to be green because their mean like the hulk and a lot of them saw the movie ‘The Avengers’ together. Motor transportation said they’re gray because all you see is the smoke coming out of their vehicles. Air operations said everything is black because they work in the night a lot on the flight line.”

As the day drew to a close, the Marines were ready not only to know who was going to win the event but also when the next one was going to be.

“I have had several Marines come up to me saying they are loving it and hoping to continue this again in the future,” said Bazile. “I just want this to continue. If you take care of your junior Marines they will always take care of you.”

The scores were announced by the new MWSS-171 commanding officer with Engineers coming in first, Motor Transportation second, Headquarters in third and Air Operations in fourth.

Throughout the event, every Marine cheered and yelled for teammates to do the best they could. Everyone left the gym with a better respect for their fellow Marines and looked to the future with hopes of another field meet like this one.



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

Staff Sgt. Waner Bazile, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 engineer equipment mechanic, attempts a lay up in the MWSS-171 field meet basketball tournament against headquarters company held at the IronWorks Gym here June 29, 2012. Each company participated in a single-elimination basketball tournament.



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

Pfc. Cheryl D. Jackson, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 heavy equipment mechanic, reassembles an M-16A4 rifle while participating in the rifle spin event during the MWSS-171 field meet held at the IronWorks Gym here June 29, 2012. The rifle spin required participants to spin around with their head on a bat 20 times then sprint to the other end of the court, disassemble and reassemble a rifle, spin on another bat again 20 times and sprint back to the start.



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 grapple during the MWSS-171 field meet at the IronWorks Gym here June 29, 2012.



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

Pfc. Branden Arnett, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 motor transportation operator, participates in the 100-meter swim competition during the squadron field meet held at the IronWorks Gym here June 29, 2012. The 100-meter swim, like the rest of the events, was team-based. Every swimmer on each five-man team swam the length of the pool.



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

Pfc. Justin Buford, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 motor transportation operator, participates in the MWSS-171 field meet bench press competition held at the IronWorks Gym here June 29, 2012. The bench press competition was done in teams of five with one member of the team required to be female.



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

Pfc. Christopher N. Basil, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 combat engineer, struggles to stay flexed on the bar while participating in the flexed arm hang competition during the MWSS-171 field meet held at the IronWorks Gym here June 29, 2012. The flexed arm hang was one of many competitions held during the field meet. The field meet ended with combat engineers coming in first place.



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 Marines gathered to hear the rules of their field meet in the IronWorks Gym Sports Courts here June 29, 2012. The Marines participated in 12 events, consisting of ammo can lifts, tug-of-war, 100-meter swim and others. Combat Engineers Company beat out three other MWSS-171 units with the highest overall score.



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 Marines with airfield operations compete in the tug-of-war event during the MWSS-171 field meet held at the IronWorks Gym here June 29, 2012. The tug-of-war event required the participants to lay down with their feet across the rope and upon receiving the signal, to scramble to their feet and begin to pull the rope. This event gathered a large crowd to cheer for their respective teams.

CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND
SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE

Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams provide critical support to infantry company

Sgt. John Jackson
1ST MARINE LOGISTICS
GROUP (FWD)

SANGIN DISTRICT, Afghanistan

— The Sangin District of Helmand Province, Afghanistan, is infamous for being an insurgent stronghold. Throughout the past several years, coalition forces have engaged and eliminated multiple enemy fighters. Currently, Company B, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, Regimental Combat Team 6, is responsible for maintaining security in the area. The primary threat in the congested district located near the Helmand River has been and continues to be the improvised explosive device. Supporting the infantry company against the explosive threats are two, two-man Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams.

“Our job in Afghanistan is to identify, render safe and dispose of explosive hazards,” said Staff Sgt. Edward Marini, EOD team leader, 1st Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward). “We support the infantry company and help ensure their maneuver capability.”

The emplacement of IEDs continues to be the insurgents’ number one tactic of engaging coalition forces on the battlefield, and the two EOD teams based at Forward Operating Base Shamsheer are prepared to travel throughout their area of operations at a moment’s notice to investigate, remove or destroy any explosive hazards the infantry company may encounter.

“We support the infantry company as they need us – basically we are on call throughout the day,” said Sgt. Michael Smith, an EOD technician and assistant team leader. “Additionally, if they feel it’s necessary, or if we feel it’s necessary, we will embed with [a squad or platoon] and go on routine patrols or named operations.”

Preparing for Combat Operations, dealing with IEDs, unexploded ordnance and other explosives is not an easy task. Doing it in a combat zone makes it even more difficult. “You don’t have the chance for a do-over when it comes to explosives – you get one shot,” said Sgt. Brenden Burnham, an EOD technician and assistant team leader.

While the job of dealing with live ordnance and IEDs is complex and stressful, EOD technicians spend months learning their craft and preparing to deploy.

“It’s not an eight-month course you go through, and then all of a sudden you are blessed with all these skills – it’s an ever changing, ever adapting learning situation that you find yourself in,” said Burnham. Because of the enemy’s varying devices and tactics, the EOD Marines are constantly learning new ways to deal with the threats. “I think the big thing is training,”

Smith said. “I feel like we are very thorough in our training, and it better prepared me. I have heard all the horror stories about Sangin and about Afghanistan in general, so I wasn’t quite sure what to expect. But throughout the training, my team leader and I became closer and better.”

In combat, since arriving in Afghanistan in April, the EOD teams supporting Company B have done more than just eliminate explosive hazards on the battlefield. The four EOD technicians have also played a vital role in training the infantry Marines about IEDs and other enemy tactics in their area of operations.

“Based on the threat in the area, we try to conduct our training toward that,” said Staff Sgt. Robert Conlon, an EOD team leader at FOB Shamsheer. “We teach them things they can do to mitigate risk, as well as be able to better locate any possible hazards they might encounter in the battlespace.”

“We do training with the [infantrymen] as needed, and we do reset training at least once a month. We will let them know what we have seen and what they should be looking out for,” Conlon added. Having EOD technicians spread throughout Helmand Province supporting infantry companies is critical to successful operations and has saved countless lives.

“The infantrymen and engineers go out and find the IEDs, but it is EOD that removes them and exploits the device,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Stephen LaRose, the Regimental Combat Team 6 gunner. “Their expertise and dedicated study of enemy [tactics and techniques] directly correlates to defeating the device. EOD [technicians] are vital to the counter IED team with the infantry.”

The EOD technicians accomplish their mission and enjoy working alongside one another in a combat zone.

“I get to serve with some of the finest Marines you will ever meet, which are in the EOD community,” Burnham said. While the EOD technicians are supported by each other while forward deployed, the Marines think support from back home is just as important.

“I think the biggest thing in the military in general, especially in a higher risk job, is having family support,” Smith said. “That’s a big thing that I have. My family is 100 percent behind me. Especially my wife, she is very supportive of everything I do. I think that’s especially important in the EOD field. I am not concerned about my family back home worrying. They know what I do. They know that I am trained for it. They should feel safe knowing that it’s not just me out here. Everyone is looking out for each other.”



SGT. JOHN JACKSON

SANGIN DISTRICT, Afghanistan — More than 25 improvised explosive devices explode after an Explosive Ordnance Disposal team conducts a controlled detonation in the Sangin District of Helmand Province, Afghanistan, June 15. Having EOD technicians spread throughout Helmand Province supporting infantry companies is critical to successful operations and has saved countless lives.



SGT. JOHN JACKSON

SANGIN DISTRICT, Afghanistan — Sgt. Brenden Burnham, an Explosive Ordnance Disposal technician and assistant team leader, 1st EOD Company, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), provides security while responding to an unexploded ordnance call in the Sangin District of Helmand Province, Afghanistan, June 12.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS | CLASSIFIEDS

Briefs

Seawall Closures

Sectioned portions of the seawall have closed for construction scheduled through April 2013. The affected area of the seawall includes any portion of the seawall after the "NO THROUGH PATH" sign. Take extra care because construction vehicles will pass through. The affected areas will be shut down completely when heavy equipment is transferred. For more information on the closures, call Walter Chan at 253-5004.

Establishments

The following establishments are hereby off-limits:
• The multi-tenant building "NOW" Tenant occupant's names change frequently. Past names for this building include Ran, Massage Parlor, Welcome American, Follow Me and F-18.
• Hiroshima's Tougan Goods Company.

Thrift Store Volunteers

Volunteer positions available. Applicants should be outgoing, willing to have fun and highly motivated. We are also looking for a board member treasurer with book keeping experience. Board members and store volunteers must attend all store meetings. All positions are volunteer, non-compensated positions. For more information, call Patty or Sharon at 253-4711 or e-mail thrift_store@yahoo.com.

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.

Friendship Day program and coin sets

Marine Corps Community Services is selling the remaining 500 "2012 Friendship Day program and coin sets" at the cash cage at the Marine Corps Exchange. The set costs \$20 For more information, call Sean McHenry at 253-6373.

Girl Scouts

The Iwakuni Girl Scouts is looking for fun-loving, devoted women and men who want to make a positive impact on the lives of young girls. If you are interested in becoming a leader, coleader, board member or parent volunteer, e-mail iwakunigs@gmail.com.

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.

Active-Reserve Career Information

Marines seeking information about transitioning to the Reserve component should 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.

Mothers of Preschoolers

MOPS offers fun support and encouragement for mothers of newborns to age five. Meetings are the 1st and 3rd Thursday each month. Volunteers are also needed to help with the children's program. For more information, call Sarah Spencer at 253-2303 or visit www.facebook/IwakuniMOPS.

2012 Summer Reading Program

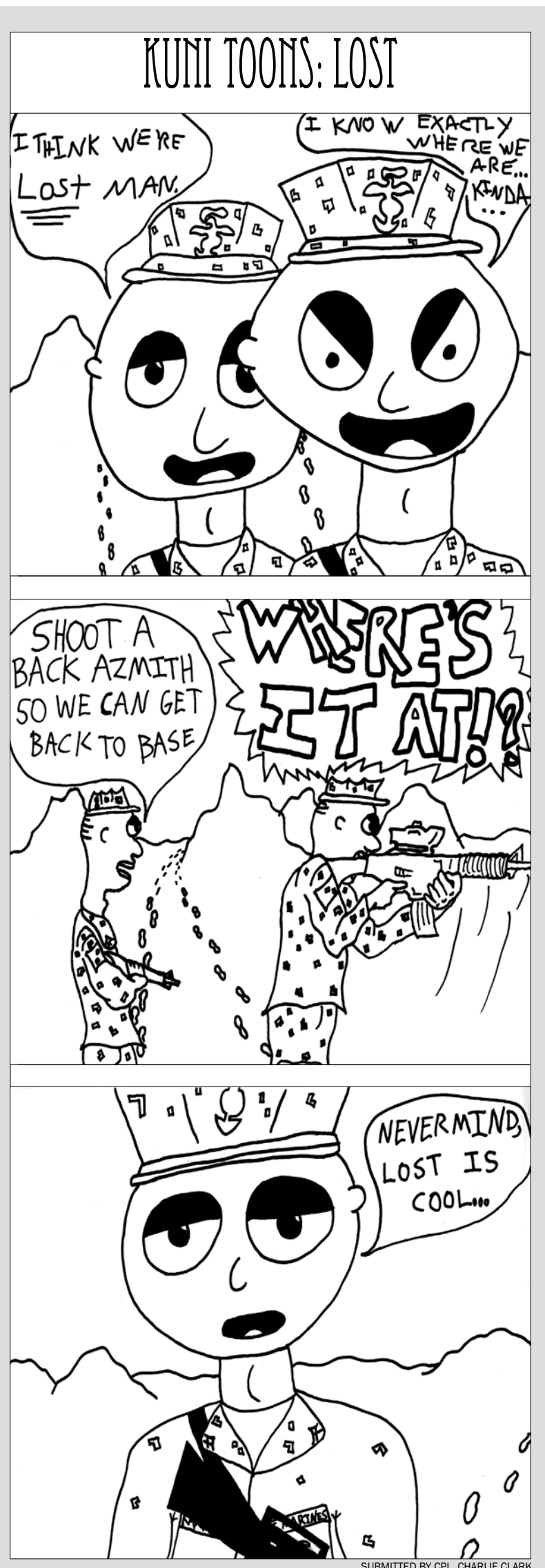
MCAS Iwakuni Library would like to announce a shared summer reading program open to all military families. Families can join anytime until the program's close Aug. 14. This year's theme is "Reading Is So Delicious." For more information on the program, call the station library at 253-3078 or send an e-mail to OMBIWALIBRARY@usmc-mccs.org.

PMO Lost and Found

Contact the Provost Marshal's Office Lost and Found if you have lost anything around the station. Examples include helmets, cameras, cell phones, etc. For more information, to report lost items or to claim lost items, call Lance Cpl. Christopher Korsikas at 253-4929 or 253-3306.

Brief and Classified Submissions

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



SUBMITTED BY CPL. CHARLIE CLARK

INFOTAINMENT

Chapel Services

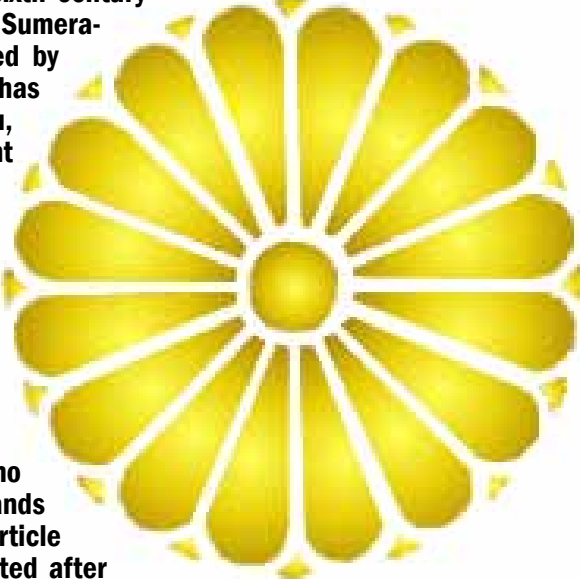
Roman Catholic	
Saturday	4:30-5:15 p.m. Confession 5:30 p.m. Mass
Sunday	8:30 a.m. Mass 9:45 a.m. Religious Education
Mon. – Thurs.	11:30 a.m. Weekday Mass
Protestant	
Sunday	9:30 a.m. Lutheran Service 10:30 a.m. Protestant Service 10:30 a.m. Children's Church 10:30 a.m. Church of Christ Meeting 1 p.m. Contemporary 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 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

Kanji Adventures

The Japanese Imperial family is the oldest hereditary monarchy in the world. The family's lineage dates back to the sixth century B.C., though the title of Tenno (emperor) or Sumera-Mikoto (heavenly sovereign) was assumed by rulers in the sixth or seventh century and has been used since. The family crest is the kiku, or chrysanthemum. The emperor was thought to possess magical powers and to converse with the gods. It was therefore considered beneath him to become involved in the day-to-day running of the country. This was left to ministers and advisors. During the 7th and 8th centuries, several emperors tried to bring the regional clans under central imperial control. Because of his divine ancestry, during some periods of Japan's history the emperor had little to no real political power, which rested in the hands of shogun, daimyo and others. Under Article 1 of the new "Showa" constitution adopted after World War II, the emperor became a symbol of the state and people. His role became largely symbolic and his functions in matters of the state are subject to cabinet approval.



SAKURA THEATER

Friday, July 13, 2012 7 p.m. What to Expect When You're Expecting (PG-13) 10 p.m. Safe (R)	Monday, July 16, 2012 1 p.m. Shrek the Third (PG) 7 p.m. Think Like a Man (PG-13)
Saturday, July 14, 2012 4 p.m. Brave (PG) 7 p.m. What to Expect When You're Expecting (PG-13)	Tuesday, July 17, 2012 1 p.m. Madagascar 3 (PG)
Sunday, July 15, 2012 4 p.m. Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (PG) 7 p.m. The Dictator (R)	Wednesday, July 18, 2012 1 p.m. Madagascar 3 (PG)
	Thursday, July 19, 2012 1 p.m. Rio (PG) 7 p.m. Safe (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, Chinese barbecue diced pork, red pepper glazed fish, pork fried rice, orange carrots amandine, fried cabbage, Chinese egg roll, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, bear claws, cinnamon crumb top muffin, blueberry pie, velvet pound cake, brownies, chocolate cream pudding parfait, Jell-O parfait.	Tuesday: Corn chowder, sukiyaki, barbecue beef cubes, home fried potatoes, steamed rice, cauliflower parmesan, southern style greens, cream gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, long johns, banana muffins, lemon meringue, devil's food cake, chocolate buttercream frosting, shortbread cookies, bread pudding, Jell-O parfait.	Wednesday: French onion soup, Swiss steak with brown gravy, mustard dill fish, steamed rice, garlic roasted potato wedges, fried cabbage with bacon, mixed vegetables, brown gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, snails, quick cherry coffee cake, blueberry pie, white cake, buttercream frosting, brownies, vanilla pudding parfait, Jell-O parfait.	Thursday: New England clam chowder, beef stroganoff, pork adobo, pork fried rice, steamed pasta, scalloped cream style corn, peas with onions, brown gravy, dinner rolls, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, kolaches, apple coffee cake, cherry crunch, bananacake, buttercream frosting, macadamia coho chunks, chocolate parfait, Jell-O parfait.	Friday: Tomato soup, fried catfish, chili macaroni, grilled cheese, franconia potatoes, steamed pasta, succotash, broccoli parmesan, mushroom gravy, corn muffins, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, cinnamon rolls, quick French coffee cake, blueberry pie, carrot cake, cream cheese frosting, chocolate chip cookie, chocolate pudding parfait, Jell-O parfait.
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Marines bring rugby from home to Iwakuni

Lance Cpl. Nicholas Rhoades
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Recently station Marines decided to bring their favorite sport here to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni. Today those same Marines are saying, "Rugby has arrived."

"Rugby here isn't provided by Marine Corps Community Services such as other major sports like basketball, soccer, baseball, et cetera," said Lt. Col. Thomas A. Wagoner, station staff judge advocate.

"This forces these Marines to really fight for a sport that they love by paying for their own travel and getting the word out to other athletes," Wagoner added.

Players say they are trying extremely hard to keep this sport here and continue competing with Japanese teams.

"Many sports aren't very popular here in Japan, but for Marines, we all come from different backgrounds and some of us grew up on rugby, or contact football, or hockey, and we just don't have anywhere to play our favorite sports. But with the new rugby team, I think it allows more athletes to participate," said Lance Cpl. Jacob G. McClinton, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron air traffic controller.

"A lot of the players out here are football players who have never played a game of rugby but have always been interested, and then there are the seasoned veterans who have been playing the game since they were little, and everyone in between," McClinton added.

For the Marines playing the sport for their first time, the biggest obstacle isn't learning how to play the game, it's something else.

"The biggest challenge is not even just getting used to the game, it's getting used to the competition," said McClinton. "The Japanese teams are quite a bit faster than us but we have size and that's a huge advantage in this game. We try to focus on using brute strength and size to force them to slow down and when they do, then they are playing our game and they normally don't like it. They're just not used to it."

The style of play in Japan may differ, but it allows for Marines to take their own approach to the game and create their own style of play.

"We all know they're fast, but they all know that we're trained to be tough, they know we're big and we hit hard. It scares them and I love that it does," said McClinton. "It really brings something new to the game, being able to have two completely different cultures with different styles face off against each other. It always makes it seem like the game of the century."

Rugby Facts

- Rugby is derived from several types of football (American soccer) games in England dating as far back as the 1400s. Between 1750 and 1859 a game that permitted handling the ball was played at Rugby School in Warwickshire, England.
- The first written laws of rugby were produced in 1845 by pupils of Rugby School.
- The first recognized international rugby match took place between Scotland and England in 1871. Scotland won.
- In 1877 the number of rugby players per side was reduced from 20 to 15.
- The International Rugby Board is the highest governing body in the rugby union and was founded in 1886.
- An 1895 schism led the sport breaking into two camps: Rugby League and Rugby Union. After more than 100 years of rules modification by each camp, two distinct forms of rugby are played today.
- In 1924 the U.S. became the Olympic rugby champions and remain so today. Rugby has not been played in the Olympics since.
- Since the first Rugby World Cup in 1987, every Rugby World Cup opening game has used the same whistle and coin to start the game.
- 1,429 tries have been scored in Rugby World Cup tournaments between 1987 to 2007.

- The 2011 Rugby World Cup was the largest sporting event New Zealand has hosted.
- On March 30, 2012, the United States Marine Corps became an official partner of the USA Rugby Collegiate Division 1A.
- Rugby sevens is going to be played in the 2016 Summer Olympics.
- There are 97 member unions in the IRB.
- Rugby sevens is a version of rugby with seven players instead of the usual 15.
- Rugby balls are oval because they were originally created with pig bladders and when inflated become oval-shaped.
- A try is called a try because you originally received zero points for crossing the line but gained a shot at the goal.
- The rules of rugby were eventually changed to make a try the best way to score points rather than a goal.

Sources

- <http://uktv.co.uk/yesterday/item/aid/602587>
- <http://www.rugbyunionblog.com/2012/02/51-facts-about-rugby/>
- <http://www.rugbymag.com/news/off-the-field/usa-rugby-news/3967-rugby-announces-partnership-with-marine-corps.html>
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rugby_football



PHOTO COURTESY OF LANCE CPL. JUSTIN GOBEL
HIROSHIMA, Japan — The rugby team consisting of Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni Marines huddle together before the second half of a game held at Hiroshima City University June 30, 2012. The team played and won a total of three games. They beat the Hiroshima Kyion Rugby Club 20-10. In the next game they beat the Hiroshima City University rugby team 25-5. In the final game they won 20-15, against a team consisting of both Hiroshima Kyion Rugby club and Hiroshima City University rugby team players.

The Iwakuni Time Machine

In the July 13, 1979, issue of the Torii Teller, Marines reported on Marine Aircraft Group 15 change of command as Lt. Col. Warner F. Rebstock relinquished command to Col. Ronald C. Andreas and the first female to command a squadron on station, Lt. Col. Susan M. Mason, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron commanding officer, is promoted to colonel.

JAPAN

Getting to know your Host

Torii : From Roost to Symbol

By GySgt. Mike Littlejohn

The Torii is perhaps the single most identifiable structure that Westerners tend to remember of their visit to Japan. And of all the toriis in Japan, the Itsukushima Vermillion O-Torii, located at the Itsukushima Shrine on Miyajima, in the Inland Sea, is reportedly the most famous.

The shrine itself is one of the oldest in Japan, having been erected toward the end of the sixth century, during the reign of the Empress Regnant Suiko, in 593 A.D.

Inevitably, the 53-foot high torii which stands offshore is the first thing that visitors to Miyajima see when they approach the island. As the ferry drifts beneath the torii, the shrine, with narrow corridors extending out over the sea, can be seen backdropped against the green surrounding hills. According to legend, the shrine and torii were built on the beach and offshore because the isle was considered sacred by the Japanese.

The present torii, reportedly erected in 1875, is believed to be the eighth built on that spot, though records do not show when the others were built. It is made from huge camphor trees brought from Miyazaki and Kagawa Prefectures. Last repaired in 1950 after being damaged by a storm, the torii still contains a tablet with the words "Itsukushima Shrine" in Kanji (Chinese characters) in front and the signature in back of the late Prince Arisugawa (1835-1895).



Oddly enough, the torii, which is today the symbol of Shinto Shrines, was first used as a bird perch. Historians report that early Shinto Shrines were dedicated to Amaterasu-o-mikami, the sun goddess, thus cocks, which in Japan are always associated with the sun, were presented to the shrines. To ensure that these gifts to the sun goddess had a place to roost, perches, that would later come to be known as toriis, were erected. These soon became the symbols of shrines and other sacred places.

Toriis were originally placed at various points around shrines, but later, they came to be placed at the entrance.

The Itsukushima Torii, which is unique for its Ryobu style (of pillars) is a typical mixture of Buddhism and Shintoism and was designated an important cultural property in 1899 by the Meiji Government.

The shrine's dedication to the Goddess Amaterasu, who according to legend founded the nation of Japan, is in itself an interesting story.

It is written in the Kojiki and Nihon Shoki, the oldest books on Japanese history and mythology, how Amaterasu appointed her three daughters to act as guides to Prince Ninigi whom she dispatched to conquer and rule the "reed plains," (Japan). These books also describe how the august mission descended on Itsukushima, the isle of pearl-like beauty which became known, after the shrine was erected, as Miyajima.

After Prince Ninigi descended from "heaven", according to Japanese mythology, and solidified his position on Japan, the three sisters made it their mission to keep the land safe. The three sisters later came to be worshiped as guardian dieties of the sea doors of this island empire.

Tuesday, thousands of people from all over western Japan, mainly fishermen, flocked to the Shinto shrine on Miyajima as they do every July during the full moon, to pay homage to the three goddesses, Ichikishimahime-no-mikoto, Tagitsuhime-no-mikoto and Tagokorohime-no-mikoto.

It is on this day of the full moon, that the three goddesses are carried in a portable shrine by Shinto priests to shrine boats and sailed through the great torii across the Inland Sea to Japan's main island, Honshu, to the Jigozen Shrine and back to Miyajima.

Amid a festive atmosphere of chants and work songs, the goddesses are returned to the shrine to await another year and a full moon to make their annual pilgrimage to Honshu.



Torii Teller

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Our Cover

A ground guide from Fleet Air Wing-31 beacons a PS-1 anti-submarine flying boat onto the approach ramp near FAW-31 maintenance facilities located in the slipway area. FAW-31, commanded by Rear Adm. Keisuke Kozaki, includes Aircraft Maintenance Squadron-31, Air Patrol Squadron-31 and Air Rescue Squadron-71, is headquartered aboard the Air Station and is part of the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force. (Official USMC Photo).