

# IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 30 Vol. 5 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan



Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron departments fight for victory | P. 6 & 7

CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, Headquarters department field meet participants pull during a bout of tug-of-war at Penny Lake fields here Aug. 1, 2012. H&HS HQ, Provost Marshal's Office, Station Operations and Station Logistics competed in the field meet. PMO won overall. The field meet was composed of seven events: Arm-wrestling, the Dizzy Izzy, a relay race, pugil stick striking, a Humvee pull, tug-of-war and Own-the-Bone. The purpose of the field meet was to bolster friendly competition as well as camaraderie between the various departments within H&HS.

## Dragon Fire 12 extinguished, CLC-36 comes home

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS RHOADES  
IWAKUNI APPROACH  
STAFF

Combat Logistics Company  
36 Marines returned home  
from Exercise Dragon Fire 12

at Combined Arms Training  
Center Camp Fuji, Japan, July  
26, 2012.

Dragon Fire is an annual  
exercise which focuses on  
maintaining CLC-36 Marines'  
combat effectiveness and  
readiness.

"For many of our Marines, this  
was their first field experience  
since (Marine Combat Training)  
and the perspective of those  
Marines now, versus what they  
observed as a student, is vastly  
different," said Capt. Charles  
R. Johnston, CLC-36 executive

officer.

With Dragon Fire as the only  
stand-alone exercise CLC-36  
conducts, it allows for a complete  
mission plan tailored to what

SEE **FINAL** ON PAGE 3

## First Civ Div comes early to some Marines

LANCE CPL. CAYCE NEVERS  
IWAKUNI APPROACH  
STAFF

Marines worldwide are now  
offered the chance for an early  
end to active service. Marine  
Administrative Message 371/12  
was released July 12, 2012,  
announcing the fiscal year 13  
Voluntary Enlisted Early Release  
Program.

"The FY13 Voluntary Enlisted  
Early Release Program (VEERP)

is a cost-savings initiative that will  
permit shaping and sustaining  
the force within the constraints  
of the approved budget," stated  
MARADMIN 371/12.

The VEERP provides Marines  
the opportunity to end their  
active service up to a maximum  
of 365 days earlier than their  
original date.

"Marines with an FY13 EAS (1  
October 2012 to 30 September  
2013) are authorized to request

SEE **RELEASE** ON PAGE 3

## Servicemembers receive donations, thrift store gives donations

LANCE CPL. CAYCE NEVERS  
IWAKUNI APPROACH  
STAFF

As patrons weave among rows  
of furniture, stacks of electronics,  
bins of toys, tables laden with  
dishware and shelves brimming  
with books, they can be a little  
overwhelmed at the volume and  
variety of things for sale. But  
they're not pushing carts through  
chain discount stores at home.  
They're looking for bargains  
at Marine Corps Air Station


Iwakuni's Thrift Store.

The station Thrift Store is a  
non-profit organization here  
where station residents can  
buy inexpensive goods such  
as household items, outdoor  
accessories and a myriad of  
other kinds of merchandise, with  
the proceeds going back to the  
community.

"The mission of the Thrift Store  
is to generate profits that are  
used to enhance the quality of  
life for all the residents of MCAS

SEE **THRIFT** ON PAGE 3





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# CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

## 'Go for the Gold'

Lt. Fulgencio L. Legaspi  
H&HS STATION CHAPLAIN

For sport enthusiasts, players, coaches and teams, this slogan, “GO FOR THE GOLD” is familiar. The 2012 Olympics in London started July 27 and will end Aug. 12.

A lot of skills and talents have been displayed which attract the attention of the world. Time, effort, training and resources were spent for the quest for gold medals. Those who started early and trained hard have a good chance to finish strong, grabbing the gold.

In addition to the title of being a gold medalist, the player will gain honor, prestige and also receive monetary incentive from their country, which they represent. Competing in a big event like this is a rare opportunity. Not all can compete in this event, which happens every four years. They must be selected from among the finest athletes of the land. How about us who cannot join the delegation for that world-class

event? Do we have the opportunity to go for gold in our lifetime? Yes we can. We have a lot of golden opportunities up for grabs in our daily lives.

Following the golden rule of Jesus in Luke 6:31 is the best example, “Do to others as you would have them do to you” is spiritually grabbing gold at hand because God is honored and pleased. There may not be monetary rewards or incentives, but God will give you the heavenly reward prepared for you and me.

The Olympic motto written in Latin: Citius, Altius, Fortius, which means "Swifter, Higher, Stronger" introduced in 1924, is meant to spur the athletes to embrace the Olympic spirit and perform to the best of their abilities. If we follow and practice the words of Jesus and his gospel, then he will make us much swifter, higher and stronger in our daily lives. God will not leave us unrewarded. Remember his words in the parable of the weeds, Matthew 13:43, “The righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.” We are like gold, which glitters in his eyes. This promise is grabbing

a gold forever, which will not perish.

The Olympic Creed as quoted by Baron de Coubertin: "The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win but to take part, just as the most important thing in life is not the triumph but the struggle. The essential thing is not to have conquered but to have fought well."

The life we live is always a struggle to live well morally, socially, physically and spiritually. We have to bear in mind, our lives are like a race with a reward which awaits us, “I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. From now on, the crown of righteousness awaits me, which the Lord, the just judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but to all who have longed for his appearance," (2 Timothy 4:7-8).

As individuals, we have to have a heart of gold striving to go for the gold for our lifetime. According to John Mason, “As every thread of gold is valuable, so is every moment of time.” Michael Phelps is the most decorated Olympian of all time, so are we; our soul will be decorated if we follow God’s will.

## SUMMER SAFETY:

### Outdoor Recreation Safety Continued

#### Hiking

- Plan ahead and plan carefully. Bring water and food, even if you intend to return shortly.
- Don't travel too lightly. Many campers have ended up wishing they had brought a poncho, a jacket, more food and water, a first-aid kit, knife, whistle and matches in a waterproof container.
- Study maps, guidebooks and other references so you know about the roads, trails, and streams in the area.
- Check the weather forecast before you leave.
- Make sure you're in shape for the demands of your hike.
- Leave a written plan of your route, schedule and campsite with a responsible friend. Follow your plan and let them know when you return.
- Wear a good pair of hiking shoes or boots.
- Bring an extra layer of clothing, but avoid cotton clothing if possible because it retains moisture.
- Carry a compass and a topographic map of the area and know how to use them.

SEE **SAFETY** ON PAGE 10

# MCAS Iwakuni welcomes home CLC-36 Marines, sailors

## Warriors return to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni as combat-ready unit after intense training with weapons, tactics at Combined Arms Training Center, Camp Fuji

**FINAL** FROM PAGE 1

will help all Marines, from the commanding officer to the most junior Marine, learn to operate as a unit.

“Ultimately, CLC-36 was able to deploy itself to CATC Camp Fuji, execute the training schedule as planned and retrograde back to MCAS Iwakuni without incident,” said Johnston.

“No plan survives first contact with the enemy. And although we had to adjust to adequately meet the challenges we faced, we were able to do so while learning more efficient and effective ways to handle these situations in the future.”

Weather and safety assurance stood among the most prominent challenges CLC-36 faced during

the exercise.

“Even when environmental conditions were less than ideal, the Marines made sure they maintained their focus on training and mission accomplishment,” said Johnston.

He then continued discussing the motivation and dedication these Marines showed when putting rounds down range.

“When you are firing as many rounds as we did and are doing M249 and M240 barrel changes every 200 rounds, those barrels start to heat up,” said Johnston.

“When that happens, even though you are wearing gloves, you are going to feel a bit of discomfort as you quickly move to get that weapon back up so it can provide suppressive fire as the Marines to your left

conduct a frontal assault on the enemy. However, I never saw any hesitation or reservation from any Marine to do what they needed to do in that situation. I did see many Marines who came back for more and took full advantage of the crew-served weapons shooting we were conducting and that speaks volumes about the mindset of the Marines.”

The CLC-36 Marines trained for three weeks and completed weapons training for the shotgun, pistol, M16A4, along with a variety of automatic weaponry.

“I was able to learn a lot about different weapons systems and the tactics we use on a daily basis out in combat environments,” said Lance Cpl. Zachery C.

Vanderford, a CLC-36 supply administration and operation specialist.

By the time CLC-36 completed Dragon Fire, the Marines had received and carried out multiple orders executed along established timelines and proficiently handled multiple weapons systems during classes and live fire. They also convoyed across Japan for a period of two days on two occasions, along with constant leadership training.

“In the end, the Marines were able to take advantage of the training and everyone was able to increase their individual proficiency levels,” said Johnston.

# Marines weigh options:

## Carry on, depart early

**RELEASE** FROM PAGE 1

separation on or after 1 October 2012,” according to MARADMIN 371/12.

“Marines requesting to separate greater than 90 days early must have an endorsement from the first general officer in the chain of command for major subordinate command visibility of staffing impacts.”

Marines are required to take the mandatory pre-separation class and be medically cleared before their requested early EAS date.

Marines requesting an early EAS need to meet other requirements as well.

“Marines must be eligible for an honorable or general (under honorable conditions) discharge characterization at time of early release,” MARADMIN 371/12 stated.

“Individual requests must be submitted via ADCON battalion/squadron commanding officer with endorsement to be considered eligible. Marines currently serving in anticipation of gaining United States citizenship must have served a minimum of three years active service at the time of early release.”

There are also requirements for Marines which will make them ineligible for the program.

“Marines meeting any of the following conditions are ineligible to participate in the FY13 Voluntary Enlisted Early Release Program: Marines who

do not have an FY12 or FY13 EAS date,” stated MARADMIN 371/12.

“Marines scheduled for transfer to the (Fleet Marine Corps Reserve) or retired list, Marines who are indebted to the government (to include advance and excess leave), indebted Marines desiring early separation can make accelerated repayment of their debts by increasing scheduled installment amounts and by making cash collections to repay their indebtedness. Indebtedness must be entirely resolved prior to early release.”

Other reasons Marines can become ineligible are for Marines who are being released under other early-out programs, Marines who are participating in the National Call to Service Program, Marines who are on terminal leave and Marines who have symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder/ Traumatic Brain Injury and are currently going through treatment or evaluations.

Marines will receive the same benefits as if they were to EAS after four years if released through this MARADMIN.

For more information, read MARADMIN 371/12. To receive information about the VEERP process, Marines should speak to their respective career planners.

**THRIFT** FROM PAGE 1

Iwakuni, while providing an alternative shopping experience that is accessible and affordable,” said Sharon Rostkowski, station Thrift Store assistant manager.

“Community benefits offered are free uniforms to active duty personnel and monetary donations to requesting eligible private organizations on MCAS Iwakuni,” said Rostkowski.

“The benefits of shopping at the thrift store include being greeted by friendly, polite staff; wide selection of quality items, and discount prices.”

The Thrift Store provides more than a shopping opportunity for servicemembers aboard the station. Service members can contribute to the community by helping there.

“The benefits that can be earned while volunteering with the Thrift Store include a very flexible schedule, LOAs (Letters of Appreciation) with five hours of service, membership and voting privileges with 10 hours of service, board of directors opportunities with 10 hours of service and six months of continued service, and discounted merchandise with 20 hours of service,” said Rostkowski.

“All service time is reset on a monthly basis.”

As a non-profit organization, the Thrift Store relies on the volunteers who help out.

“The Thrift Store is highly dependent on the generosity of volunteer time from our community members,” said

Rostkowski.

“We offer these benefits as a token of gratitude from the Thrift Store to our volunteers.”

The benefits for volunteers are not the only positives about the Thrift Store. Station residents also receive benefits.

“The expected Thrift Store profits are estimated to be \$47,000 for the fiscal year 2012,” said Rostkowski.

“These profits are to be distributed to private organizations of MCAS Iwakuni for the benefit of the community ... Shopping at the Thrift Store is an easy way for our customers to give back to the community.”

Many station residents may be unaware of what the Thrift Store offers and the contributions it makes to the community aboard station.

“To access Thrift Store funds, a private organization must fill out a request form, which is available at the Thrift Store, and submit it prior to the 15th of each month,” said Rostkowski.

“All requests will be voted on by eligible voting members and approved by the Thrift Store board of directors. The requesting organization will then be notified of the voting outcome.”

So patrons can not only feel good about that perfect clock radio, or office chair, or briefcase, or DVD, or camera, or skirt, or Japanese tea set, etc., they found at a bargain price. They can feel good about positively contributing to the community at the same time.



# 5th ANGLICO rules ground, air of outback



CPL. VANESSA JIMENEZ

DELAMERE AIR WEAPONS RANGE, Australia — Cpl. Mark A. Vega, a 5th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, 3rd Brigade, Supporting Arms Liaison Team Fox field radio operator, conducts a radio check to establish communication with aircraft here July 23 as part of Exercise Southern Frontier 2012. Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines, also joined the exercise by incorporating mortar support.



CPL. VANESSA JIMENEZ

DELAMERE AIR WEAPONS RANGE, Australia — Pfc. Jordan T. Navarro, a 5th ANGLICO, 3rd Brigade, Supporting Arms Liaison Team Fox joint fires observer, uses the Vector 21B to view a target here July 23 as part of joint training with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 232 and Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines, during Exercise Southern Frontier 2012. Southern Frontier is an annual, unilateral training exercise hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force allowing Marine Aircraft Group 12 F/A-18 squadrons the opportunity to focus on offensive-air support training in order to improve squadron readiness.

CPL. VANESSA JIMENEZ  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

**DELAMERE AIR WEAPONS RANGE, Australia** — In the middle of the outback, where red dirt, trees and termite mounds rule, there is a place approximately two and a half hours from civilization called Delamere Air Weapons Range. This place is home to the few brave men stationed there and those who dare to visit.

5th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, 3rd Brigade, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Supporting Arms Liaison Team Fox, conducted training with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 232, Marine Aircraft Group 12, during flight training operations as part of Exercise Southern Frontier 2012, July 20 through 24.

Southern Frontier is an annual exercise hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force allowing MAG-12 F/A-18 squadrons the opportunity to focus on offensive-air support training in order to improve squadron readiness.

“We’re really supporting each other during this exercise,” said Sgt. Stephen M. Inman, a Joint Terminal Attack Controller and 5th ANGLICO, 3rd Brigade, SALT Fox chief. “This is a great opportunity for us to train our personnel and give them hands-on real time exposure to the gear I train them on but they don’t get to see utilized.”

Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines, also joined the exercise by incorporating

mortar support. “We are providing simulated suppression of enemy air defense missions with live illumination marks on the deck,” said 2nd Lt. Stefan Gliwa, Weapons platoon commander, Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines. “This allows (forward air controllers) and JTACs-in-training to help aircraft correlate on the proper target and allows training for the pilots in the air in working with active gun-target-lines and deconfliction between fires on the ground and fires from the air.”

Each element had different qualifications to work through, but with proper coordination, they were able to support each other to obtain the training they needed.

“It was a pretty unique and awesome opportunity to be able to integrate Marine Hornets, ANGLICO and Fox Company, 2/3, with mortars on Delamere range in Australia,” said Lt. Col. Travis S. Kelley, VMFA-232 commanding officer. “They absolutely helped us with our training and their involvement created a more realistic close-air support scenario. It’s critical that we use this opportunity to meet up and accomplish some much-needed training in this particular region of the Pacific.”

The three elements made a small imprint on the many acres of the range. In a few nights, the gusts of wind which grace the area will cover the footprints and it will be as if no one had been there. The outback will sit, waiting in desolate solitude, until the next training evolution.



CPL. VANESSA JIMENEZ

DELAMERE AIR WEAPONS RANGE, Australia — A bomb dropped by Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 232 explodes in the distance during a training exercise with 5th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, 3rd Brigade, Supporting Arms Liaison Team Fox attached to III Marine Expeditionary Force and Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines, here July 24 in support of Exercise Southern Frontier 2012. Each element had different qualifications to work through, but with proper coordination, they were able to support each other to obtain the training they needed.



CPL. VANESSA JIMENEZ

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE BASE TINDAL, Australia — Marines will use the ordnance in this case to help with training as part of Southern Frontier 2012. Southern Frontier is an annual, unilateral training exercise hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force allowing Marine Aircraft Group 12 F/A-18 squadrons the opportunity to focus on offensive air support training in order to improve squadron readiness.

## Marines build ordnance for Southern Frontier

CPL. VANESSA JIMENEZ  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE BASE TINDAL, Australia** — As the sun rose July 19, 2012, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 11 and MALS-12 aviation ordnance technician Marines were hard at work constructing ordnance to be used by Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 232.

“We’re building Mark 82 bombs and delivering them to 232 once we’re finished,” said Staff Sgt. Stuart J. Sylvester, a MALS-12 Quality Safety Assurance Safety Observer (QUASO) and aviation ordnance technician. “It’s important we are quick and efficient in getting the squadron bombs, because without us they can’t get the proper training they need.”

The Marines built MK-82/BLU-111 500-pound bombs in support

of Southern Frontier 2012. Southern Frontier is an annual, unilateral training exercise hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force allowing MAG-12 F/A-18 squadrons the opportunity to focus on offensive-air support training in order to improve squadron readiness.

An ordnance crew includes three elements: A team member, team leader and a QUASO. Team members prepare, serialize and build ordnance. Every part of the bomb is controlled and each piece utilized has a serial number written on it.

Team leaders help with organization and procedures.

“As the team leader, you’re organizing the ordnance building evolutions and making sure everyone stays employed,” said Staff Sgt. Michele L. Starcher, a MALS-11 team leader and ordnance technician. “I give everyone instructions on what to do and make sure the bomb is being built correctly.”

QUASOs make sure the process is executed safely.

“That’s what I do. It’s my job to watch everyone and make sure they’re using proper techniques to build a bomb,” said Cpl. Joseph P. Mar, a MALS-11 QUASO and ordnance technician. “After the bomb is built, I’m the one that goes through and does final inspections before it’s sent off to the squadron.”

Exercises like SF12 provide ordnance opportunities many in this job field do not get on a regular basis.

“There are so many parts to ordnance, but out of the Marines here, only a few have ever built a bomb,” said Starcher. “We all have different jobs in the rear, so the cool thing about this is getting a chance to know the meat and potatoes of what our job is really about and actually building bombs.”

As the morning wore on, the pressure came on to finish the

job and send ordnance to the squadron.

“My favorite part of the job is building because it’s different,” Mar said. “It’s an adrenaline rush, especially when you have a lot of stuff to build and little time, it can get pretty hectic, but at the same time it’s exciting.”

With a high-volume environment, Marines work to become an efficient, well-oiled machine so they can finish the job quickly and correctly.

“We all work in different shops within ordnance so exercises just bring us all together,” said Starcher. “It’s nice, you get to know different people from different platforms and watch everyone come together to finish the build.”

After most of the Marines shed their blouses in the broiling Australian environs, after the sun came up and the heat rose, with sweat dripping down their faces, the Marines finished and sent off the ordnance.



CPL. VANESSA JIMENEZ

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE BASE TINDAL, Australia – Three MK-82/BLU-111 500-pound bombs wait for the next step in the building process here July 19, 2012. Marines will use the ordnance as part of Southern Frontier 2012. Southern Frontier is an annual, unilateral training exercise hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force allowing Marine Aircraft Group 12 F/A-18 squadrons the opportunity to focus on offensive air support training in order to improve squadron readiness.



CPL. VANESSA JIMENEZ

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE BASE TINDAL, Australia – Cpl. Jose Rodriguez, a Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 11 aviation ordnance systems technician, builds an MK-82/BLU-111 500-pound bomb here July 19, as part of Southern Frontier 2012. Southern Frontier is an annual, unilateral training exercise hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force allowing Marine Aircraft Group 12 F/A-18 squadrons the opportunity to focus on offensive-air support training in order to improve squadron readiness.



# H&HS departments compete for pride, glory

CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Several departments within Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron competed for pride and glory during a squadron field meet at Penny Lake fields here Aug. 1, 2012.

The purpose of the meet was to foster a sense of friendly competition and esprit de corps between the various departments.

“It was a chance to get out here, enjoy some camaraderie, and get out of the office” said Maj. Frederick L. Lewis, H&HS commanding officer. “It’s about us coming together. That’s the best part about it. People can be themselves.”

Servicemembers from H&HS Headquarters, Logistics, Station Operations and the Provost Marshal’s Office competed in seven events.

PMO won the field meet with station operations narrowly finishing second. Headquarters and Logistics tied for last place.

The events not only tested the servicemembers’ strength and speed, but also their endurance. The series of events included the Dizzy Izzy, arm wrestling, a relay race, pugil stick bouts, a Humvee pull, tug-of-war and Own-the-Bone.

The Dizzy Izzy is an event where competitors must run to a baseball bat, place the head of the bat on the ground, keep their forehead pressed on the bat’s handle, perform a total of ten spins and dizzily run back to their awaiting teammates.

Own-the-bone is an event where two participants each place one hand behind their backs and the other on a pretzel-shaped piece of wood pushing and pulling in an attempt to wrestle the “bone” away.

This field meet was brought about as a direct

result of input from junior Marines via the Single Marine Program.

“One thing I’m trying to do is reinvigorate the Family Readiness Program,” said Lewis. “We’ve got the family aspect of it: spouses, children, helping out folks that are either having problems with their families or having problems back in the states. The other big part of it is the single Marines. They’re part of the Family Readiness Program.”

Lewis put forth a plan to discover just exactly what single Marines wished to do as a group and a squadron by consulting Lance Cpl. Estephania De Leon, the single Marine representative for H&HS.

“So this was the idea the single Marines wanted to do,” said Lewis.

Throughout the meet, servicemembers were kept hydrated and fed by the voluntary FRP

members’ efforts.

“Thanks to all the volunteers from Family Readiness who came out here and served food,” said Lewis. “They’ve been out here all day.”

Some participants said the meet was not just for junior Marines, but for those higher in the chain of command, too.

“It’s always important for the team camaraderie,” said Lance Cpl. Ronald Watts Jr., a PMO field-meet competitor. “We have our Staff NCOs and our NCOs out here. They motivate us just like each junior Marine. It’s not just from a junior Marine to junior Marine, peer to peer thing. We get support all the way up the chain of command. They have work they could be doing, but they’re out here supporting us, pushing us to let us know, ‘Hey, we still care about y’all down at the bottom. Keep doing what y’all are doing and we appreciate it.’”



CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

Lance Cpl. Jacob G. McClinton, a Station Operations field meet participant, and Lance Cpl. Ronald Watts Jr., a station Provost Marshal’s Office field meet participant, size up one another in a pugil stick bout during the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron field meet at Penny Lake fields here Aug. 1, 2012. PMO won the field meet with station operations narrowly finishing second. Headquarters and Logistics tied for last place.



CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

(From Left to Right) Maj. Frederick L. Lewis, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron commanding officer, Master Sgt. Lionel Saulsberry, station postal chief, Lance Cpl. Frank M. Pikula, a station judge advocate legal service specialist, and Lance Cpl. Kayvon A. Blount, a station postal clerk, wait poised to perform a pushup and then play tug-of-war at the H&HS field meet at Penny Lake Fields here Aug. 1, 2012. H&HS Headquarters department, Provost Marshal’s Office, station operations and station logistics competed in the field meet. PMO won overall. The field meet was composed of seven events: Arm-wrestling, the Dizzy Izzy, a relay race, pugil stick striking, a Humvee pull, tug-of-war and Own-the-Bone.



CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

Lance Cpl. Pham Nguyen (Left), a Provost Marshal’s Office field meet participant, and Sgt. Richard Saenz, a Station Operations field meet participant, prepare to arm wrestle during the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron field meet at Penny Lake fields here Aug. 1, 2012. The purpose of the field meet was to bolster friendly competition as well as camaraderie between the various departments within H&HS.



CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Yamekia Cushenberry, a Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron aviation ordnanceman and H&HS field meet participant, spins in circles as part of the Dizzy Izzy during the H&HS field meet at Penny Lake fields here Aug. 1, 2012. H&HS HQ, Provost Marshal’s Office, station operations and station logistics competed in the field meet. PMO won overall. The field meet was composed of seven events: Arm-wrestling, the Dizzy Izzy, a relay race, pugil stick striking, a Humvee pull, tug-of-war and Own-the-Bone. The purpose of the field meet was to bolster friendly competition as well as camaraderie between the various departments within H&HS.



CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE



CAMP GONSALVES, Okinawa, Japan — Reconnaissance Marines perform rappelling and fast-rope maneuvers at the Jungle Warfare Training Center at Camp Gonsalves July 25, 2012. The Marines are with Force Company, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.



CAMP GONSALVES, Okinawa, Japan — A reconnaissance Marine with Force Company traverses across the water-crossing lane during reconnaissance training at the Jungle Warfare Training Center at Camp Gonsalves July 25, 2012. The purpose of the training was to improve tactics, techniques and procedures for operating in a jungle environment.

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE

Recon Marines prepare for MEU exercise

LANCE CPL. MATTHEW MANNING  
MARINE CORPS BASES  
JAPAN

**CAMP GONSALVES, Okinawa, Japan** — As the wind drives down the valley making trees sway, the Jungle Warfare Training Center's next students prepare to descend. Each has been trained and equipped for the task. Each, in turn, will go over the edge and test their mettle against gravity, rappelling in the Okinawa jungle.

Marines and sailors with Force Company, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, conducted reconnaissance training at Camp Gonsalves' JWTC July 24 – Aug. 2.

The purpose of the training was to complete operational requirements before taking part in certification exercise with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, according to Sgt. Kyle J. Becker, a reconnaissance man with the company.

"We are here to practice our tactics, techniques and procedures while conducting reconnaissance missions in the Asia-Pacific region," said Becker. "The first few days we went over water crossing and rappelling techniques. It is a good environment (from which) to learn, and the staff has definitely helped. We are already familiar with these types of operations, but we have been able to build upon the fundamentals and try new procedures for crossing water obstacles."

Relying on obvious crossing points is not always the best choice when in combat, according to Cpl. Blake M. Cameron, an instructor at the center.

"One good reason to conduct a water-obstacle crossing is that it greatly increases the mobility of your squad. You will not be

limited to areas where the enemy may be planning to ambush you," said Cameron.

The company received a period of instruction on water-crossing procedures and then was given the chance to practice different techniques.

"We are all amphibious, so we do a lot of water-to-land operations," said Petty Officer 3rd Class A. Volk Sergoan, a special amphibious reconnaissance corpsman with the company. "The facilities at the jungle warfare training center provided us with a good staging point to set up standard operating procedures within our teams."

Environmental and enemy threats are the two major elements that pose a risk when conducting a water crossing, according to Cameron.

"The environmental threat brings the drowning possibility because of either swimming ability or the water's current," said Cameron. "The other threat (is) enemies who may attack (our forces) during a period of vulnerability while in the water."

The Marines and sailors with the company worked on various methods to decrease the danger of these threats.

"Each squad learned different ways to cross, so they could adapt to the requirements of the mission," said Sergoan. "We focused on crossing speed, maintaining sound discipline, and keeping our equipment dry."

This training evolution is the first time many of the Marines and sailors have been to the jungle warfare training center, according to Becker.

"Some of the guys have been here before and have been telling us how hard the training is, but we are looking forward to the challenges we will face and the lessons we will learn while we are here," said Becker.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS | CLASSIFIEDS

Briefs

**Caribbean Pool Party**  
The H&HS Family Readiness team will host a Caribbean style pool party for H&HS personnel and families at the WaterWorks pool pavilion Aug. 24, 2012, from 1 - 5 p.m.

**Speed Limit Change**  
The speed limit on Newell Dr., located in front of the Sakura Theater, is now 30 km/h.

**Thrift Store Funds**  
The Thrift Store gives funds generated from donations they receive back to the community. If your organization is hosting a community event, or wondering how they will fund their next community-relations project, your Thrift Store may be able to help. For more details, contact Sharon Rostkowski at 253-4711

**SMP Movie Night**  
H&HS will host a movie night for H&HS personnel at the Sakura Theater Aug. 15, 2012, from 6 - 10:30 p.m. The movies playing are scheduled to be "300" and "Gladiator." One free medium popcorn and drink per person are to be provided.

**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, construction vehicles will pass through. The affected areas will shut down completely when heavy equipment is transferred. For

more information on the closures, call Walter Chan at 253-5004.

**Gospel Choir**  
Gospel choir practice will be held every Thursday night in preparation for the 2012 Annual Christmas Concert. For more information, call Billie Scott at 080-3272-5902 or e-mail billiej316@gmail.com

**Off-limit Establishments**  
The following establishments are 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.

**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.

**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.

**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, phone number and the information you would like to be published. You may submit your brief or advertisement in person at the Public Affairs Office, Building 1, Room 216 or you may call 253-5551. Please ensure you provide all requested information to simplify the request process and ensure. The deadline for submissions is 3 p.m. every Friday.

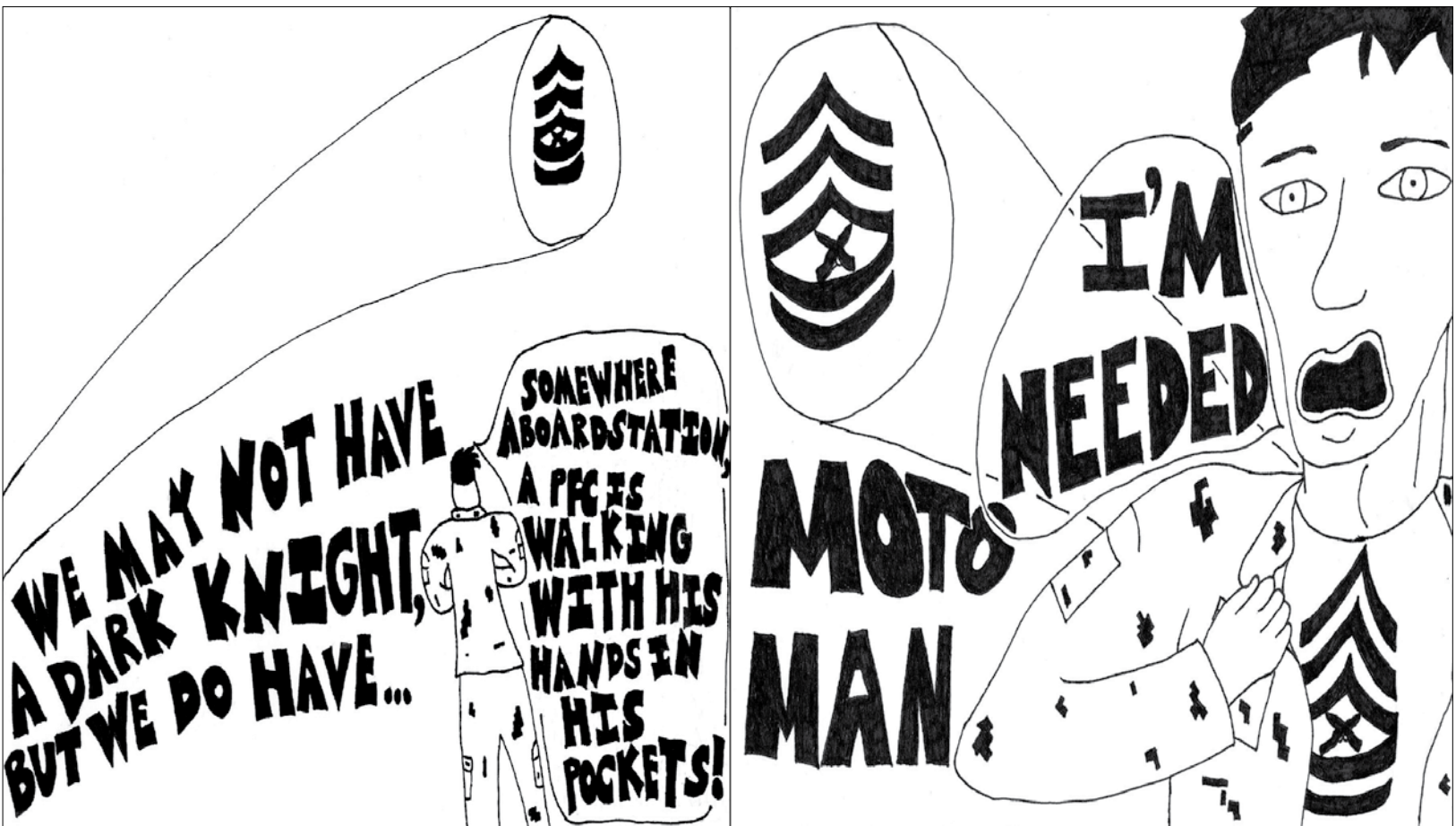
Abuse it, Lose it

Shopping carts are no longer allowed to leave the Commissary parking lot.

Upcoming MCCS closures

August 15: The Food Court will close at 1:30 p.m. for maintenance. They will resume normal hours the following day.

KUNI TOONS: MOTO-MAN





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

Obon first became introduced in Japan in 657 A.D. and became an annually-observed event in 733 A.D. During the three-day-long holiday, Japanese make visits to their family homes, relatives and graves. Obon is celebrated from Aug. 13-15 and is translated as, "Feast of Lanterns."

Traditionally, it is the first day that the Japanese welcome back the spirits to the world and a feast is prepared. The second day is used for gift-giving. This is an important day and many people save throughout the year to give a gift worth giving. The third day is the final celebration day. Some smaller communities hold festivities. The completion of the Obon festivities is signified by the "Toronagashi" or drifting lanterns, followed by an elaborate feast to indicate that things have returned to normal.

According to Indian legend, a son, so hurt by the his mother's death, mourned by her tomb for days. One day, her spirit appeared before the him, starving in the afterlife, just as she had before she died. The man made rice for his mother, but the food erupted into a fire when she came near it. Seeking help, the man requested aid from a Buddhist priest, who told the man that his mother was suffering from the sins she committed while alive, and could only be released from her torment by Buddha. Buddha saw the love the man had for his mother and allowed the mother to return to the living for three days every year. The only requirement Buddha had for the reunion was that it be a joyous event.



PHOTO BY GUNNERY SGT. MIKE LITTLE/JOHN

SAKURA THEATER

<b>Friday, August 10, 2012</b> 7 p.m. The Dark Knight Rises (PG-13)	<b>Tuesday, August 14, 2012</b> 1 p.m. Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (PG)
<b>Saturday, August 11, 2012</b> 4 p.m. Ice Age: Continental Drift (PG) 7 p.m. Rock of Ages (PG-13)	<b>Wednesday, August 15, 2012</b> 1 p.m. Brave (PG)
<b>Sunday, August 12, 2012</b> 4 p.m. Ice Age: Continental Drift (PG) 7 p.m. That's My Boy (R)	<b>Thursday, August 16, 2012</b> 1 p.m. Charlotte's Web (G) 7 p.m. The Dark Knight Rises (PG-13)
<b>Monday, August 13, 2012</b> 1 p.m. Robots (PG) 7 p.m. Rock of Ages (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.

SAFETY FROM PAGE 2

- Don't drink water from ponds or streams unless you have treated it first by boiling, filtering or using purification tablets.
- If you get lost, don't panic. If someone is going to report you missing, then most experts stress the three "stays": Stay dry, stay warm and stay put.
- If you have to find your way out of the woods, follow a stream downhill.
- Don't hike alone. For long trips, take at least two friends.
- Only hike during the daytime.
- Turn back if the weather gets bad.

MORE INFORMATION ON OUTDOOR RECREATION SAFETY TO FOLLOW NEXT WEEK.



CPL. CHARLIE CLARK

Eric D. Cox, Boy Scouts Troop 77 Star Scout, pins Mike D. Cox, his father, with a traditional pin for Eric's accomplishments during a Court of Honor ceremony at Yujo Hall here July 31, 2012. Many of the Scouts' parents attended the ceremonies. Founded Feb. 8, 1910, the Boy Scouts of America adopted a mission instilling ethical and moral values in all its members.



CPL. CHARLIE CLARK

Zackery D. Lewis, Boy Scouts Troop 77 Eagle Scout, hosts one of the Court of Honor ceremonies at Yujo Hall July 31, 2012. The two COH ceremonies featured Troop 77 Scouts' achievements from May to July. More than 110 million Americans have participated in the BSA since 1910 according to the BSA's website, [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org).

Achievements abound for Troop 77 Scouts

CPL. CHARLIE CLARK  
IWAKUNI APPROACH  
STAFF

The Boy Scouts of America Troop 77 hosted Court of Honor ceremonies at Yujo Hall here July 31, 2012. The Court of Honor ceremonies featured Troop 77 Scouts' achievements from May to July. Zackery D. Lewis, Troop 77 Eagle Scout, was awarded his current rank. Seven Scouts received promotions and a total of 10 Scouts took home approximately 40 awards.

"This is an exceptionally high amount of awards earned by these Scouts," said Andrew J. McDermott, Troop 77 Scout master. "Going to summer camp really helped earn merit badges, but also doing a lot of work back home helped too."

For Lewis, getting promoted to the highest rank in just two and a half years can be considered a great accomplishment.

"I've been in Boy Scouts for almost three years now and it's great to see my efforts culminate into this advancement," said Lewis.

Attending campouts, earning merit badges and assisting with volunteer efforts aboard station moved Lewis closer to becoming an Eagle Scout.

"I helped out during the disaster-relief efforts last year and that really made me feel like I'm making a difference and a positive change in society," said

Lewis. The Scouts watched proudly as one of their own was awarded the highest rank in their organization.

"When you get them thinking, breathing and living Scouts, then they become Eagles," said McDermott. "When you see an Eagle, you know they have leadership experience. They can take charge of a group of people and make good decisions."

The week-long campouts Troop 77 attended encouraged independence, leadership and social-skills building experiences.

"I think most importantly for Scouts, it teaches our kids to be independent," said McDermott. "We're teaching them cooking skills, how to plan for a camping trip and how to be leaders. I guide and direct them. They are the ones who accomplish everything."

Founded Feb. 8, 1910, the BSA adopted a mission instilling ethical and moral values in all its members. More than 110 million Americans have participated in the BSA since 1910, according to the BSA's website, [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org).

"If a Scout attains the rank of Eagle, he will get promoted to private first class in boot camp," said McDermott. "The Scouts bolster physical fitness, and the military recognizes the hard work Scouts do. I think being a Scout helped me to become a Marine."



# *The Iwakuni Time Machine*

In the Aug. 27, 1971, issue of the Torii Teller, Marines reported on the Buddhist holiday OBon, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing receiving a new Assistant Wing Commander and Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni telephones undergo repair and improvement.



## Iwakuni's Nishiki River Celebration: Spirited O-Bon Observances

O-Bon, the second most popularly recognized holiday season of the Japanese calendar, is a time for joyous celebration of the return to Earth of the spirits of departed relatives.

O-Bon is reported to have originated in India when a young boy, mournful and grieving over his mother's death, was visited by Buddha, who was overwhelmed with sadness when he heard the boy's tale of woe, love and grief.

Buddha granted that the boy's mother would be allowed to visit Earth three days each year, and asked only that the boy insure that her visit was one of joyous celebration.

Spreading from India through China to Japan, the legend and observance of the O-Bon season has become one of the most celebrated and happy of the Japanese year.

The Iwakuni version of the observance took the form of the Nishiki River Water Festival last weekend.

Despite the threat of rain the activities went off as planned after having been postponed for two weeks due to Typhoon Olive. Beginning with the announcement of the new Miss Kintai-kyo Saturday afternoon and concerts by the 1st MAW band, the day's schedule included "thanksgiving" games for children and a parade through the streets of the Kintai area.

Highlighting Saturday night's festivities was the spectacular display of "hanabi," or fireworks over the bridge area. Before the fireworks, the visitors to the area were treated to demonstrations of O-Bon dances, some of which date back 1,300 years, in traditional Japanese costumes.

Sunday evening's activities at Kintai were the conclusion of the festival and they again featured the Bon dances and fireworks.

