

# THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 33 Vol. 5 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

Juan M. Garcia III, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve affairs, speaks to Col. James C. Stewart, station Commanding Officer, outside the Sakura theater here Aug. 28, 2012, prior to briefing servicemembers on the Navy and Marine Corps-wide 21st Century Sailor Marine Initiative. One of the changes currently underway is the implementation of Breathalyzers to reduce alcohol-related incidents at Navy and Marine Corps installations.

## Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower, Reserve Affairs visits MCAS Iwakuni

LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The station received a visit from Juan M. Garcia III, the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs Aug. 28, 2012, at the Sakura theater in order to inform Marines and sailors on the changes implemented with the new '21st Century Sailor Marine Initiative.'

The initiative encompasses five key points: safety, readiness, inclusion, continuum of service and physical fitness.

During the brief, Garcia stressed the point of physical fitness. Speaking not only of the physical training involved with staying fit, but also how nutrition and proper diet help.

"We need everyone at the top of their game every day, so we are looking to give them the fuel to fight, to give them the most

nutritious, beneficial and health conscious fueling possible," said Garcia. "We want to treat Marine physical fitness like the professional athletes they are, give them the best techniques and best trainers available. Navy, we want to make sure that even in a shipboard setting and submarine settings they have the opportunity to train and keep

SEE **SECRETARY** ON PAGE 3

## Navy tightens belt around traditions

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS RHOADES  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

There are many traditions in the Marine Corps and Navy, but some of the most interesting traditions are the ones not commonly shared.

When passing a sailor, one may notice a shiny object unique to its owner. This shiny object is more

than meets the eye: it is an object telling a story or signifying a special event in his career.

The belt buckle originally made its way into naval service in the 1600s as a replacement for the button. Before the belt buckle, sailors held their pants up with buttons, but when clothes became

SEE **BUCKLE** ON PAGE 3

## MWSS-171 Engineering Civil Action Program works in Bangladesh


LANCE CPL. TODD F. MICHALEK  
COMBAT CAMERA

Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 arrived in Bangladesh's capital city of Dhaka Aug. 31, 2012, departing from Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni to provide humanitarian assistance. The mission, an Engineering Civil Action Program (ENCAP), has been in planning since May.

"We will conduct a second-story build on a pre-existing structure for a high school that's there," said 1st Lt. Brett Harber, construction platoon commander. "We're going to do all the concrete work, brick work, stucco it, paint it, and they will continue on with further additions all the way up to the sixth story of the building."

SEE **BANGLADESH** ON PAGE 3





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*The Iwakuni Approach welcomes Letter to the Editor submissions. Letters must include a full name and unit, if applicable. Anonymous letters and comments will not be published. Letters are the opinion of the writer only. Submissions may be edited for clarity and space. Letters can be dropped off at the Public Affairs Office or sent via e-mail to iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil. Please submit all content at least two weeks in advance of projected publication date for review.*

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

# CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

## 'No Accident'

LT. J.G. TAKANA L. SKELTON  
STATION CHAPLAIN

Often times we may feel as if our lives lack purpose or we wonder why we are here. Why have we been given this opportunity of life and what should we do with it?

Well, this has been the question of humanity from the beginning of time.

As the Lord shared with Jeremiah in Jeremiah 1:5 NIV “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”

While this was Jeremiah’s purpose in life, God has one for us all. We are not here by accident or happenstance.

We are all here to serve a purpose.

Your cultural, racial or economical background does

not matter; God already knew who and what we were going to be before we were conceived. He knew we are all designed for greatness in our own unique way.

The biggest challenge for humanity is to overcome the stumbling blocks of our minds.

Too many times we allow doubt, negativity and bad life situations to deter us from achieving our greatest potential.

We let others tell us who we are, instead of embracing who God says we are.

We are his beloved creation. His love is and was so great, he provided us with an advocate to restore us to our proper place in him.

Jesus Christ came and died for us all. If God loves us that much, wouldn’t you think he takes special pride in forming his beautiful creation?

He personally handcrafted each and every one of us and has instilled in all of us a passion and desire for life.

The key is embracing the precious gift of life and making the most of our “present.”

Not allowing our minds or others to imprison us and prevent us from achieving nothing but God’s personal best for our lives.

Each and every day you awake, remember this scripture text in Jeremiah 1:5 “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”

Keep in mind, it is no accident that you are here.

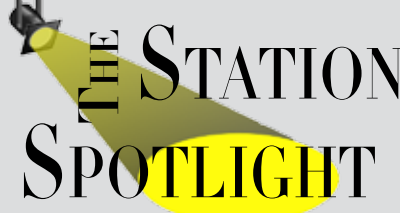




PHOTO BY CPL. VANESSA JIMENEZ

### LANCE CPL. CORY R. HELTON

**MOS:** 6217 FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT MECHANIC, POWERLINE SPECIALIST  
**Unit:** MARINE FIGHTER ATTACK SQUADRON 232  
**Age:** 21  
**Hometown:** Whitley County, Kentucky

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

I wanted to do something productive with my life while defending my country at the same time.

**What are your accomplishments?**

I went from not being able to be on a jet, but now I'm working on them and I also do the final inspections before they fly.

**What are some lessons you have learned while in the military?**

I learned confidence, with my job I have to have the confidence to know what to do if something goes wrong with the aircraft.

**Why did you choose your MOS?**

Ever since I was about 10-years-old I raced go-karts. My stepfather got me interested in mechanics and I've been doing it ever since.

**What makes you stand out from your peers?**

I strive to know as much knowledge as possible. I'm always trying to out do them. I try to learn what they know and then learn more.

## MMEA VISITS STATION

Sept. 12 schedule

- 8 a.m. FTAP brief at Cappadonno Hall
- 9 a.m. Career brief at Building One auditorium
- 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monitor interviews at Cappadonno Hall
- 1 p.m. Command brief at Building One auditorium

Sept. 13 schedule

- 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monitor interviews at Cappadonno Hall
- 1 p.m. FTAP brief at Cappadonno Hall

SECRETARY FROM PAGE 1

their bodies honed in the best possible way for them to perform in the next decade.”

One of the major changes expected due to the 21st Century Sailor Marine Initiative is the implementation of Breathalyzers aboard every Navy and Marine Corps installation.

“By the end of the calendar year we plan to implement Breathalyzers in every command,” said Garcia. “We are still averaging about 108 DUIs a month on the Navy side, and more in the Marine Corps side, and we cannot afford to lose anyone due to accidents.”

Also, due to the extreme operational tempo of the Navy and Marine Corps for the past 10 years, programs are in the works to assist families with home environment needs.

“Navy and Marine Corps families need to know that we have tools in place to help with financial planning and help with the stress at home,” said Garcia. “That we have tools in place so that they find out about retention possibilities much earlier on in the selection process to alleviate the stress at home, that we are maximizing our daycare space across all bases and several other programs.”

The continuum of service portion of the brief laid many of the servicemembers’ fears towards the rumors of forced separation to rest.

“I thought it was interesting that you could



LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK here Aug. 28, 2012, after giving a brief on the Navy and Marine Corps-wide 21st Century Sailor Marine Initiative.

tell at the highest level of the military that they actually care about the lowest level,” said Lance Cpl. Vincent G. Barnett, Marine Aircraft Group 12 administrative specialist. “They weren’t just going to kick us out to make numbers fit into place, that they care about making sure we get a proper education,

make sure we get our retirement and benefits. They showed they actually care that we are going through hard times and that we all need some type of help.”

Given the scale of the 21st Century Sailor Marine Initiative, the changes are to take full effect within the next calendar year.

# MWSS-171 Marines begin month-long humanitarian mission

Marines received training in anti-terrorism as well as a brief on Bangladesh's history, culture, government and current geopolitical landscape before departing Iwakuni. In addition, the Marines have been training for this mission by practicing the building techniques they will use in Dhaka.

“We did a smaller version of what we'll do out there: mixed concrete, tied in the rebar, poured concrete, put all the forms up just to give the Marines an idea of how it will go,” Harber said.

MWSS-171 flew its Marines and gear approximately 2,600 miles from Iwkauni to Dhaka.

“We're going to go over there in two C-130s. All gear and equipment that we bring, including food, will fit in those two C-130s. We will contract out some additional equipment once we get over there as well as contract out all of our materials from local Bangladesh vendors,” Harber said.

An ENCAP typically includes engineers conducting civil engineer projects to improve infrastructure. These projects can include clinics,

schools, homes and any other construction project the engineers are capable of.

“The Marine Corps does this annually in Bangladesh, typically we rotate with another unit. Last year we did the Philippines ENCAP and MWSS-172 did an ENCAP in Bangladesh. It's either 172 or 171 that goes. Typically, we do this as 171 biannually,” Harber said.

The Bangladesh Army's 14th Engineering Brigade will also assist the Marines with the construction.

For the month MWSS-171 will be in Bangladesh, the Marines will have to adjust to the different nature of the country. Prior to departure, leadership warned Marines about the differences in sanitation, clean water, and the risk of malaria. Despite the risks, the work Marines will be doing is projected to be incredibly beneficial to the local community.

All said, a humanitarian assistance mission to Bangladesh is an experience few in the Marine Corps get. The living conditions are all a part of the unique opportunity offered to the Marines of MWSS-171.



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS RHOADES

Unique belt buckles are not mandatory, but are encouraged. They can show pride of where the sailor is today and what a sailor has achieved. Like many other uniform items, this addition began its own long illustrious line of tradition. Now the belt buckle has become a common part of naval history.

BUCKLE FROM PAGE 1

water logged, the button could no longer secure the trousers.

Like many other uniform items, this addition began its own long illustrious line of tradition. Now the belt buckle has become a common part of naval history.

“We use our belt buckles as a sign of what we have accomplished and where we are today,” said Petty Officer First Class Amante G. Enriquez,

Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Clinic corpsman. “A sailor can wear any belt buckle that he chooses, but it is highly looked down on if you are wearing something you didn't earn. This leads to corpsmen showing off their training and Fleet Marine Force sailors showing off what they have accomplished.”

Unlike shared traditions, this sign of achievement or adventure is unique to the Navy.

“Marines have their MCMAP

(Marine Corps Martial Arts Program) belts as most sailors have web belts,” said Enriquez. “Sailors are able to wear MCMAP belts if they are earned through the Marine Corps program, but Marines don't have the option to wear our belts.”

Unique belt buckles are not mandatory, but are encouraged. They can show pride of where the sailor is today and what a sailor has achieved.

“Sailors have belt buckles as a

reminder of where they have been and what they have accomplished during their career,” said Enriquez. “But when a sailor comes to a new command it is almost looked down upon if he or she wears the old command's buckle.”

Whether a sailor wears his current command's buckle or his former, a buckle representing their rate or rank, or just one they think is fancy, they are sure to have their own story about it.



## H&HS Marines assume leadership roles

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS RHOADES  
IWAKUNI APPROACH  
STAFF

Leaders of Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron stepped aside to allow female Marines to take charge for a week between Aug. 27 and Sept. 5, 2012, in support of Women's Equality Month.

Four females participated in the temporary change of command, including 1st Lt. Phoebe D. Riner, legal assistance officer in charge, who took the role of commanding officer of H&HS from Maj. Frederick L. Lewis, and Lt. j.g. Takana L. Skelton, H&HS chaplain, who took over for Maj. Bernard Hess as H&HS executive officer. Gunnery Sgt. Gabriela Richardson, Marine Corps Community Services Marine took over as H&HS sergeant major from Sgt. Maj. Peter W. Ferral, and Sgt. Julia H. Criqui, south-side mess hall manager, took over for Gunnery Sgt. Scott W. Hayman, H&HS gunnery sergeant.

All the women who participated said they learned a variety of different things. As the leaders stood to the side, they mentored the women and taught them different aspects on how to fill their roles.

Each of the leaders said they believed there was one part of their job that was most important, and found it imperative to teach the

Marines that point.

"Maj. Lewis is really trying to teach me the importance of prioritizing, he always is sure to take care of the most important things first," said Riner. "This morning, the first thing he did was go over and approve special liberty and leave requests, because his Marines are most important to him. He is a big believer in 'family comes first' and he is teaching me a lot about knowing what is important and why."

All the women who assumed the command billets were given the opportunity to learn how to effectively and efficiently perform their command duties.


"I think the most important thing Gunnery Sergeant Hayman wanted me to learn was to have good time management and that you are your own boss, but in order to make things happen, you need to get your orders from above," said Criqui.

The women's change of command shows these Marines positions within the Marine Corps they could assume charge of one day.


"I think having this week is [sic] to show women opportunities are great and females do hold these roles, there are female commanding officers and sergeants major out there so it's really not impossible," said Criqui.



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS RHOADES  
Maj. Frederick L. Lewis, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron commanding officer, watches over 1st Lt. Phoebe D. Riner, legal assistance officer in charge, Aug. 28, 2012. Female Marines within H&HS assumed command roles for one week during Women's Equality Month.



# 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY SAILOR & MARINE



"The 21st Century Sailor and Marine Initiative is focused on the whole life of the individual and their family's lives. When a sailor's or Marine's time in the military ends whether it is after four years or forty, we want your productive life to continue and for you to leave the service in better health, more trained and better educated than when you came in." ~ The Honorable Ray Mabus

LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK  
One of the major changes expected due to the 21st Century Sailor Marine Initiative is the implementation of Breathalyzers aboard every Navy and Marine Corps installation. Also, due to the extreme operational tempo of the Navy and Marine Corps for the past 10 years, programs are in the works to assist families with home environment needs.

## Marine juggles work, family problems, depression

LANCE CPL. CAYCE NEVERS  
COMMENTARY

Many servicemembers receive orders to overseas duty stations; I was one of those Marines.

When my gunnery sergeant from the school house told me to choose from among three station destinations, I was excited. I chose overseas, then west coast and east coast third. I didn't think I would get overseas.

I was a 19-year-old Marine going to Iwakuni, Japan. I thought, "Hey I get to add Japan to the list of places I have already been."

Little did I know just how difficult living overseas was compared to living in the U.S.

I was already having a tough time in the Marine Corps and had just barely started becoming my normal self again. I had just recently lost my uncle, and in boot camp I lost my dad and grandma, it had been rough. As much as I pretended everything was okay, that I was okay, I knew I was not. I held it all in,

I suppressed my depression and things just became worse.

When the time came for me to come to Japan, I pretended I was excited and ready for this new two-year experience.

I checked into my unit and started having trouble at work. I was showing up late, missing work deadlines and I didn't get along with most of the people in my shop.

That was just the beginning of my hard time adjusting. I spent six months trying to overcome my struggles of dealing with everything I had been through, on top of being overseas for two years. It took me six months of being in the spotlight to realize I had a problem, I needed to be fixed.

Several steps helped me overcome this problem, many of which did not help alone, but combined they did.

I went to the Marine Lounge and the Hornet's Nest trying to get out of my room. Then I actually started going out with people I knew. I gained new

friendships and was finally able to talk to someone about what I was going through.

My friends suggested I go talk to a counselor. Now me, personally, I hate talking about things I am going through and about my feelings of things I have been through. I bury them deep inside and let them sit there. Not a healthy thing to do, and I am able to admit that now.

So I went to see and talk to the counselor. For the first time in my life, I was able to open up without fear of judgment. After a few sessions, I started to realize maybe it was time I told someone in my shop what I was dealing with. So, I did.

They were more supportive than I thought they would be. They didn't judge me or blame me, they simply listened. It was nice. It felt good.

If you are struggling with having to be here in Japan instead of back in the states, get help. Do not let it sit and fester. It will only hurt you in the long run. Take advantage of the

opportunities the station offers you. There are many things to do, which will help you keep your mind off of the difficulties. There are many things to do on base. There is the Single Marine Program, IronWorks Gym, the Sakura theater and the Strike Zone.

If these programs don't help, take the initiative to talk to someone. It doesn't matter who. It could be your friend, someone in your shop or a counselor.

Don't suffer and possibly hurt your career in the Marine Corps just because you are having a hard time adjusting.

Do the right thing and seek help. I still face struggles every day, and I am not saying by utilizing these programs your problems will just disappear. What I am saying is it helps. It helps you to learn how to handle it, how to deal with the struggles you face and how not to let it affect you negatively.



LANCE CPL. CAYCE NEVERS  
Information, Tours and Travel offers many different trips and tours throughout the world. One way to overcome struggles you may face is to travel and see Japan. ITT offers opportunities to travel.



LANCE CPL. CAYCE NEVERS  
Marine and Family Services offers educational programs, counseling services and workshops for individuals and families. This program offers prevention and education, intervention and treatment services.



# SOUTHERN FRONTIER 2012



CPL. VANESSA JIMENEZ  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 232 returned to Iwakuni August 21 after participating in Exercise Southern Frontier and Pitch Black 2012. SF12 was 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. PB12 is a biennial multinational exercise in the country of Australia designed to facilitate large force training and coalition interoperability out of RAAF Base Darwin. On order, VMFA-232 conducted close-air support, air interdiction, offensive anti air warfare, and suppression of enemy air defenses in a multinational environment from RAAF Base Tindal in order to increase squadron combat readiness.



DELAMERE AIR WEAPONS RANGE, Australia — Sgt. Stephen M. Inman, a 5th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, 3rd Brigade, Supporting Arms Liaison Team Fox chief, joint terminal attack controller, communicates with aircraft here July 23 as part of Exercise Southern Frontier 2012.



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE BASE TINDAL, Australia — Four jets from Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 232 wait to refuel during flight training here in support of Pitch Black 2012 Aug. 15. This is conducted to enhance flight operations and maintain proficiency as well as maintain interoperability between allies and partner nations. A coordinated multilateral response to regional challenges is the best way to increase peace, stability and prosperity in the region.



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE BASE TINDAL, Australia — Sgt. David R. Barnes, a Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 aviation ordnance systems technician, begins the process of building a MK-82/BLU-111 500-pound bomb here July 19, as part of Southern Frontier 2012.



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE BASE TINDAL, Australia — Cpl. Jesse F. Pyle and Cpl. Samantha A. Jones, both Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting firefighters, assist a simulated casualty during structural smoke training in support of Pitch Black 2012 Aug. 8.



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE BASE TINDAL, Australia — Capt. Jason O'Neil, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 232 F/A-18 Pilot prepares to refuel during flight training in support of Pitch Black 2012 Aug. 15.



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE BASE TINDAL, Australia — Capt. Stephen R. Miggins, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 232 F/A-18 pilot and assistant operations officer, refuels from a KC-130J during flight training in support of Pitch Black 2012 Aug. 15.



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE BASE TINDAL, Australia — Capt. Benjamin G. Schmidt and Capt. Daniel J. LaChasse, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 232 F/A-18 pilots, takeoff to conduct blue-air flight training in support of Pitch Black 2012 Aug. 7.



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE BASE TINDAL, Australia — Capt. Taj T. Sareen, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron F/A-18 pilot and quality assurance safety officer, conducts pre-flight checks to ordnance loaded on the aircraft before flight operations as part of Southern Frontier 2012 Aug. 17.



DELAMERE AIR WEAPONS RANGE, Australia — Capt. Ryan T. Scheetz, a 5th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, 3rd Brigade, Supporting Arms Liaison Team Fox joint terminal attack controller, fire power control team leader, explains to Pfc. Jordan T. Navarro, a 5th ANGLICO, 3rd Brigade, SALT Fox joint fires observer, which target will be used during joint training with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 232 here July 23 as part of Southern Frontier 2012.



THE DEVIL MADE ME DO IT



CORPS NEWS

HIGHLIGHTING MARINES AND SAILORS AROUND THE GLOBE



USS IWO JIMA — Marines with Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, move to their firing positions prior to conducting a multiple target, live-fire range on the flight deck of USS Iwo Jima, Aug. 19, 2012. The Marines conduct various live fire ranges while underway to keep their skills sharp during deployment. The 24th MEU is deployed with the Iwo Jima Amphibious Ready Group as a theater reserve force for U.S. Central Command and is providing support for maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts in the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet area of responsibility.

U.S. Marines conduct live-fire training aboard USS Iwo Jima

GUNNERY SGT. CHAD KLEHL  
24TH MEU

USS IWO JIMA — Marines with Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, conducted multiple target, live-fire training on the flight deck of

USS Iwo Jima, Aug. 19, 2012. Marines are constantly training whether on land or sea and executing live-fire ranges at sea is commonplace for Marine Expeditionary Units. The 24th MEU is deployed with the Iwo Jima Amphibious Ready Group as a theater reserve force

for U.S. Central Command and is providing support for maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts in the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet area of responsibility. "It is important that we as the ground combat element for the 24 MEU maintain our shooting

proficiency, no matter the environment. It does not matter if we are firing ranges on shore or at sea, it is paramount to ensure that shoots are creative, challenging, and keep our Marines' warfighting edge sharp," said Capt. Jeremy Wilkinson, operations officer, BLT 1/2.



USS IWO JIMA — Marines with Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, fire their weapons while conducting a multiple target, live-fire range on the flight deck of USS Iwo Jima, Aug. 19, 2012. The Marines conduct various live fire ranges while underway to keep their skills sharp during deployment. The 24th MEU is deployed with the Iwo Jima Amphibious Ready Group as a theater reserve force for U.S. Central Command and is providing support for maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts in the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet area of responsibility.



USS IWO JIMA — Marines with Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, replace their targets after conducting a multiple target, live-fire range on the flight deck of USS Iwo Jima, Aug. 19, 2012.



USS IWO JIMA — Marines with Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, replace their targets after conducting a multiple target, live-fire range on the flight deck of USS Iwo Jima, Aug. 19, 2012. The Marines conduct various live fire ranges while underway to keep their skills sharp during deployment. The 24th MEU is deployed with the Iwo Jima Amphibious Ready Group as a theater reserve force for U.S. Central Command and is providing support for maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts in the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet area of responsibility.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS | CLASSIFIEDS

Briefs

**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.

**Japanese Language Class**  
The Yamaguchi International Exchange Association is sponsoring a Japanese language course at six locations in Yamaguchi prefecture, with one location available to Iwakuni residents. For more information on the class schedule and time, or to participate, contact the Public Affairs Office at 253-5551.

**VRAP**  
The Veterans Retraining Assistance Program provides eligible veterans, those 35 to 60-years-old, with education benefits for up to 12 months of training. For more information, visit [www.benefits.va.gov/VOW](http://www.benefits.va.gov/VOW) or call 888-442-4551.

**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.

**Catholic Mass Changes**  
Catholic Masses will not be held aboard station Sept. 9 or 16. However, a van will be provided for those who do not have a vehicle to go to the Christ The King Catholic Church in Iwakuni. The van leaves the station chapel parking lot at 8:30 a.m. The Saturday Catholic Masses for Sept. 8 and 15 will still take place inside the chapel. Daily Masses for Sept. 3 to 6 and from Sept. 17 to 20 are cancelled. For more information and directions to Christ The King Church, contact the Chaplain's office at 253-3371.

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

**MMEA Visit**  
The Enlisted Assignment Branch is scheduled to visit the station Sept. 12 and 13 to update Marines on enlisted manpower issues and assist Marines in making well informed career decisions.

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

**M.C. Perry Football**  
The Sept. 8 Matthew C. Perry football game, which will take place at the M.C. Perry High School football field aboard station, has been rescheduled to start at 1 p.m. instead of 10 a. m.

**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.

**MCX News**  
Effective Sept. 1, 2012, credit options at all Marine Corps Exchange facilities are limited to the Military Star and all major credit cards. Layaway is no longer available. While existing

layaway agreements will be honored, all MCX facilities will discontinue layaway programs to comply with Department of Defense instructions 1330.09 and 1015.15.

**Brief and Classified Submissions**  
*To submit a community brief or classified advertisement, send an e-mail to [iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil](mailto: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. The deadline for submissions is 3 p.m. every Friday.*

Sept. 11 Memorial Service

A Sept. 11th memorial service will be held in the station chapel Sept. 11, 2012. The service will be at 8:15 a.m. A freedom walk will not take place afterwards as it did last year. For more information, contact the station chapel at 253-3371.

KUNI TOONS: FACE THE MUSIC



SUBMITTED BY PATRICK ROY



INFOTAINMENT

Chapel Services

Roman Catholic	
Saturday	4:30-5:15 p.m. Confession 5:30 p.m. Mass*
Sunday	9:45 a.m. Religious Education
Mon. – Thurs.	For upcoming Catholic Mass times, see the community briefs.
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. Mens' 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 command religious programs or chapel activity, call the Marine Memorial Chapel at 253-3371.

THE IWAKUNI APPROACH CULTURAL LESSONS

Kanji Adventures: Ferry transportation



Japan is known worldwide for its outstanding transportation system. There are multiple modes of transportation available throughout Japan, including airplanes, ferries, busses, local trains and the Shinkansen. This week's transportation information will focus on ferry travel throughout Japan. Japan is an archipelago consisting of four main islands and thousands of smaller ones. The main islands are all connected by bridges or tunnels but most of the smaller islands are only accessible by air or ferry. Even with that fact, ferries can be a relaxing alternative for both short and long distance traveling. While shorter travels may only have smaller ferries available, which typically have the capacity for several vehicles and a few dozen passengers, longer voyages are usually accompanied with larger ferry liners equipped with more room and amenities. Including restaurants, entertainment, public baths and more, large ferries can be compared to luxury cruise liners.

SAKURA THEATER

<b>Friday, September 7, 2012</b> 7 p.m. Madea's Witness Protection (PG-13) 10 p.m. Magic Mike (R)	<b>Monday, September 10, 2012</b> 7 p.m. Madea's Witness Protection (PG-13)
<b>Saturday, September 8, 2012</b> 4 p.m. Brave (PG) 7 p.m. Bourne Legacy (R)	<b>Tuesday, September 11, 2012</b> Theater closed
<b>Sunday, September 9, 2012</b> 7 p.m. The Expendables 2 (R)	<b>Wednesday, September 12, 2012</b> Theater closed
	<b>Thursday, September 13, 2012</b> 7 p.m. Ted (R)

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.

SUMMER SAFETY:

Home Safety Continued

Child proof your home

Approximately two and a half million children are injured or killed by hazards in the home each year. Many of these incidents can be prevented by using simple child safety devices on the market today. Safety devices include electric outlet covers, doorknob covers, toilet seat locks and other home safety equipment.

Any safety device you buy should be sturdy enough to prevent injury to your child, yet easy for you to use.

It's important to follow installation instructions carefully. In addition, if you have older children in the house, be sure they re-secure safety devices.

Remember, no device is completely childproof.

MORE INFORMATION ON HOME SAFETY TO FOLLOW NEXT WEEK.



Tokusagamine Mountain Climbing Race participants climb up the side of Mt. Tokusagamine Aug. 26, 2012. "Naming a reason for doing this is very complicated," said Peter Vergenz, race participant. "Everyone has their own reasons, maybe it stems from childhood if you were picked on too much or maybe we just want to prove to ourselves that we can do something hard. I think that's what it comes down to. There was about 450 meters of elevation gain, that's basically the equivalent of climbing the Kintai (mountain ) twice."



A Tokusagamine Mountain Climbing Race participant stops at a water station while running to the top of Mt. Tokusagamine Aug. 26, 2012. This is the 22nd annual Tokusagamine race.

Station residents test limits during Tokusagamine mountain climbing race

LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN PRYER  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Station residents awoke in the twilight hours of a Sunday morning Aug. 26, 2012, to prepare for the 22nd Annual Tokusagamine Mountain Climbing Race.

"This is my second year hosting this run and this is the hardest course around this area that I know," said Mai Tajima, Marine Corps Community Services recreation specialist. "The first year I was really shocked because they were actually running through the ski resort, but all the Americans I took last year said they loved it."

After the approximate two-hour bus drive from station, enthused athletes discovered their obstacle for the day: a mountain, typically used as a ski resort during winter, with its peak, the final destination, looming overhead.

"I love the competition of being a part of these races," said Nobuhisa Tanigawa, Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force member and third place finisher in the 10-kilometer race. "This was a really hard race, but it was such a unique course, since I was running straight up a mountain. I'm glad I ran it."

Sign in for the event took place at the five-kilometer starting point, with children and younger participants bused to a two-and-a-half-kilometer point and those running the 10-kilometer race transported to a local school for their starting point.

At 8:20 that morning, the starting gun erupted, followed by a thunderous stampede of hundreds of runners beginning their challenging climb up a formidable foe of bends and climbs.

"I have never ran this particular race, but I've done a few trail races in Japan," said Peter Vergenz, Tokusagamine race participant. "This race was rather unique, since we were running straight

up rather than some races that will go up and down, this was quite a climb."

The trees covering the running path up the mountain offered protection from the glaring sun, which blazed overhead, but also prevented any breeze from reaching the shaded path.

"Naming a reason for doing this is very complicated," said Vergenz. "Everyone has their own reasons, maybe it stems from childhood if you were picked on too much or maybe we just want to prove to ourselves that we can do something hard, I think that's what it comes down to. There was about 450 meters of elevation gain, that's basically the equivalent of climbing the Kintai (mountain ) twice."

Shortly after running past the 2K marker, competitors emerged from the shadowy grip of trees and spewed into the final leg of the race, an almost constant uphill endeavor. Devoid of covering, the torrent of sun rays blanketed everyone who continued their battle toward the mountain tip.

It's a great experience to get a group of people together from the station to go running and share the challenge of running a competition like this, said Vergenz.

After conquering the final steps, competitors experienced the 360-degree view from the highest mountain within sight, and a soothing, strong breeze constantly flowing over the peak.

While the race itself tested its competitor's limits, it also provided an opportunity for participants to make new friends and foster lasting experiences.

"This is a great chance for me to bring Japanese and Americans together," said Tajima. "People could stay on the base during the weekend, but there are a lot of things that go on outside of the base that are cheap and fun. I love to give the servicemembers on base the opportunity to go out and have fun doing things with the Japanese."

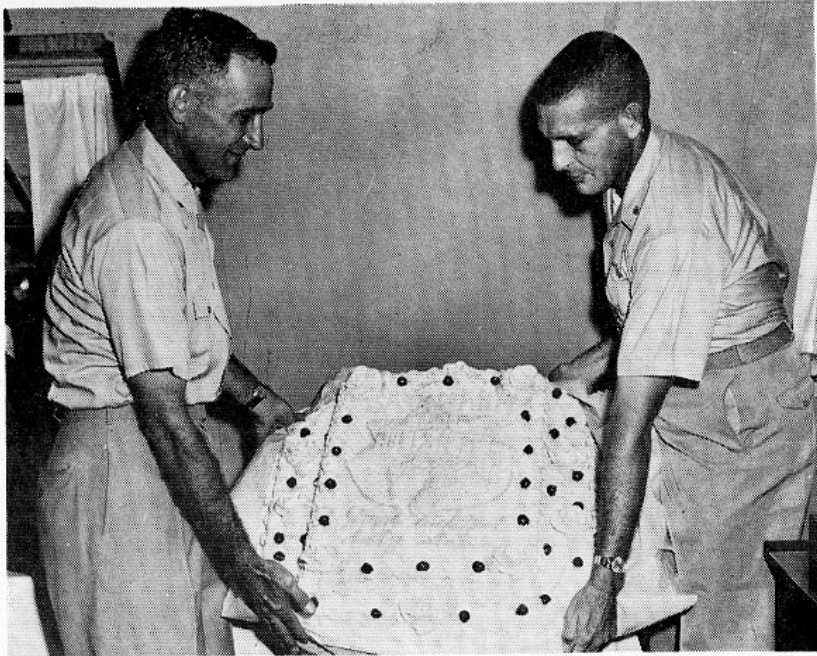


Tokusagamine Mountain Climbing Race participants climb up Mt. Tokusagamine Aug. 26, 2012. Sign in for the event took place at the five-kilometer starting point, with children and younger participants bused to a two-and-a-half-kilometer point and those running the 10-kilometer race transported to a local school for their starting point.



# The Iwakuni Time Machine

In the Sep. 3, 1962, issue of the Torii Teller, Marines reported on The Secretary of the Navy approving a Navy Unit Commendation for Task Group 43.2 and a general military pay raise getting top attention for an Armed Services Committee meeting in 1963.



**SWEET SAYONARA** -- LtCol. Hardy V. Huffstutter, (left), former Commanding Officer of MABS-12, and Maj. Stanley H. Carpenter, who relieved him as CO, examine a cake baked Aug. 25 for change of command ceremonies at the MAG-12 squadron.

## Record Falls As Marines Win Herrick Trophy Match Aug. 23

**Camp Perry, Ohio** - Marine Corps riflemen, inspired by Sgt. David A. Luke's win in the National High Power Rifle Championship, copped the Herrick Trophy Match August 23, with a record-breaking score of 599X600.

The team, coached by GySgt. Don L. Smith of Parris Island, used bolt rifles to fire their near-perfect score in the first team match of the High Power Rifle phase of the National Matches. The old record was held by an Army team.

Members of the winning team were: GySgt. Michael Pietroforte, Sgt. Hayden B. Russell, Jr., Cpl. Jerry B. Tamlin, Cpl. Robert L. Collier, Sgt. Donice R. Bartlett and Cpl. Frank V. Kruk. The six-man team match was fired from the 1,000 yard line. Pietroforte fired a

perfect 100 score. In the National Trophy Individual Matches, also held Aug. 23, SFC. Venon R. Read took first place with a score of 248-27V. GySgt. Pietroforte, as high Marine, finished fourth in the match with a 247-24V.

## Post Office Announces Additional Mail Pickup

Postal Officials have announced that an additional pick-up time of 10 p.m. has been added to some mailboxes here to alleviate the heavy workload on postal workers.

Before the change, postal workers had to work quickly after 1 a.m. to get all the mail out on time. Now they can have a large portion of the 10 p.m. mail sorted before making the rounds again at 1 a.m.

All mailboxes are checked for mail at 1 a.m.

Postal officials also stated that during the present typhoon season the mail sometimes may be delayed in arriving or leaving here due to hazardous flying conditions.

## New Officers Fill Billets In MAG-12 Staff Changes

Four key positions within MAG-12 were filled by new officers Aug. 28, as four Group officers returned to the United States.

LtCol. Paul H. Kellogg relieved Col. Arthur N. Nehf as Group Executive Officer. Before joining the Wing, LtCol. Kellogg was CO, MARTD, NAS, Marietta, Ga. Col. Nehf has been detached for duty at the Naval Missile Center, Point Mugu, Calif.

## New Periodical For Commanders On Public Sale

**Washington, D. C.** - "For Commanders," a semi-monthly world affairs publication issued by the Department of Defense, has been placed on public sale due to a vast number of requests received from outside the military.

The periodical is a concise, factual presentation of a world problem or significant international development with which the United States is concerned.

Cost of the four-page periodical is five cents per copy, one dollar annually, or one dollar and fifty cents for overseas recipients.

Subscriptions, with remittance, should be sent to the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. (AFPS)

Maj. Edward J. Rigby, formerly of HQMC, relieved Maj. John A. Brown as Group S-1 Officer. Maj. Brown has been transferred to MAG-32, MCAS Beaufort, S. C.

Also within the Group, Lt. Thomas G. Maiorine, previously Assistant S-2 Officer, relieved Capt. Fred D. Patterson, Jr., as Group S-2 Officer. Capt. Patterson is now enroute to the 3dMAW at MCAS, El Toro, Calif.

In H&MS-12, Maj. John W. Coffman relieved LtCol. Robert T. Bell as Commanding Officer. Maj. Coffman was formerly stationed with MAD, NAS, Pensacola, Fla. LtCol. Bell has been transferred to HQMC, Washington, D. C.

## Camping Gear Now Available For Checkout

Surplus Boy Scout camping equipment is now available for use by military and dependent personnel on a 10-day basis, according to Lt.(jg) Richard D. Russell, VP-22.

Lt. Russell, who supervises MCAS Boy Scouts on their numerous camping trips, states equipment available for check-out includes pup tents, sleeping bags, air mattresses, entrenching tools, lanterns, axes, water cans, and two-piece packs.

The lieutenant also said he can recommend a variety of camping spots within a 15-mile radius of Iwakuni to interested outdoorsmen. He can be reached by calling extension 2017.

## Bar-B-Q Dinner Planned By Holy Name Society

The Cardinal Doi Holy Name Society here will hold its first annual barbecue dinner on Sept. 9 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at the Wingside race track near the MACS-4 area.

The Society has invited all Iwakuni-based personnel to attend. Admission fee is \$1.00 for adults and 50 cents for children ten years old and under.

## Bored Of Education



**SCHOLARLY SHORTIMER** -- "Only 270 more days until summer vacation," seems to be the thought of young Robert Blum as he warms the curb in front of Matthew C. Perry School upon its opening here. While his classmates, Carolyn Hogg (left) and Lorraine Uelman don't seem especially happy with the advent of a new school year, at least they're headed in the right direction.