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SPORTS



# THE IWAKUNI APPROACH

Issue No. 23, Vol. 2 | Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

## M.C. Perry High School turns tassels

LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Around this time every year many grade schools across the United States break for summer. For a majority of students, the last day of school promises a three-month break before having to go back to school. In contrast, the last day of school for high school seniors is more than just a sign of summer, but in turn a springboard for the future of adulthood. In keeping with tradition, this right of passage is tipped off with caps, gowns and a graduation ceremony.

Eighteen seniors from M.C. Perry High School received their diplomas during a graduation ceremony at the Sakura Theater here June 10.

The ceremony's speakers highlighted the unique circumstances that the children of service members encounter, and how their sacrifices and ability to adapt has better prepared them for a successful future.

Lt. Col. Tray J. Ardesse, commanding officer of Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, was the guest speaker. His speech revolved around making wise choices and living a balanced life. Ardesse illustrated his point by comparing work, marriage and money to trees.

"You will be shaped by the choices you make," said Ardesse. "Like tending to a tree, you reap what you sow."

Ardesse encouraged the graduates to work hard and enjoy the fruits of their labor.

The presentation of the diplomas followed directly after Ardesse's speech.

As graduates received their diplomas, a speaker announced the future plans of each graduate.

A majority of the graduates plan on returning to the United States to attend college in the fall and some plan on joining the military. Most of the students showed their gratitude to their parents and role models for providing stability and support through their grade school careers.

After the school's principal, Gail Anderson, officiated the diplomas, the graduates

SEE SENIORS ON PAGE 3



LANCE CPL. JOHN M. RAUFMANN

Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 commanding officer Lt. Col. Jonathan O. Gackle passes the sword to Master Gunnery Sgt. Maurice Patterson during the MALS-12 post-and-relief ceremony here June 11. Sgt. Maj. James C. Kirkland was relieved by Master Gunnery Sgt. Maurice Patterson after serving as the MALS-12 squadron sergeant major since July of 2006.

## MALS-12 gets new sergeant major

LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Master Gunnery Sgt. Maurice Patterson was appointed as squadron sergeant major of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 during a post-and-relief ceremony at the multipurpose activity center dome here June 11.

Patterson succeeded Sgt. Maj. James Kirkland, who has been the MALS-12 sergeant major for the past three years.

Kirkland said his time as the MALS-12 sergeant major was a heck of a ride and that he would miss every single person he was leaving behind.

Kirkland is slated to report for duty as

the Recruiting Station Twin Cities station sergeant major, 9th Marine Corps Recruiting District at Fort Snelling, Minn.

"I will carry on the legacy of Sergeant Major Kirkland," said Patterson. "He set the bar, and he set it high."

Patterson, whose prior assignment was serving as the MALS-12 aviation supply chief, joined the Marine Corps in July 1980.

During his 29 years of service, Patterson has held posts as a noncommissioned officer-in-charge, staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge, company first sergeant, and has deployed to Southwest Asia in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Patterson said he felt honored to be selected as the MALS-12 sergeant major.

## Facilities to host architectural housing charrette

SUBMITTED BY STATION FACILITIES PLANNING DIVISION

The station facilities planning division is holding a family housing architectural charrette at Talbots Dining at Club Iwakuni today from 2 - 4:30 p.m. to review floor plans for future family housing aboard the air station.

The final plan review will be held at the Club Iwakuni Ballroom Tuesday from 2 - 4:30 p.m.

All station personnel residing in family housing are encouraged to attend and share their thoughts and opinions.

Participation is needed to achieve the best housing possible aboard the air station.

Spouses and BEQ residents are also encouraged to participate.

For more information or to sign up for the charrette, call Dan Reed at station facilities at 253-5888 or e-mail daniel.reed@usmc.mil.



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

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# CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

## 'The inch of your life'

LT. D. ANTHONY BAKER  
MWSS-171 SQUADRON  
CHAPLAIN

There is a relatively unknown poem called "The Dash Between the Years" written by Linda Ellis. It tells of the two dates and the dash in between those dates inscribed on cemetery tombstones. The two dates are the birth date and death date of the individual. The line that separates those dates is the dash in the middle. That dash represents the days and/or years of life.

If you ever had or get the opportunity to visit a cemetery, you quickly arrive to the same conclusion as the author of "The Dash Between the Years," that life really is but a dash. You see, cemeteries are full of people who accomplished amazing feats and were heralded by the world as great. There are former Presidents of the United States, important inventors, famous composers and musicians, movie stars, celebrities and other

notables who all now physically reside in a cemetery. In the end, the dates of their

accomplishments weren't written on the tombstone but the birth date and death date was.

That got me to thinking about life and what happens to us when we die. It got me thinking about eternity. If you can imagine a measuring tape that stretches from here all the way to farthest end of the universe and beyond, that is what eternity is like. It never ends. Our life is represented by 1 inch, just 1 inch, on that measuring tape. It is short. Our physical, Earthly life in comparison with our eternal life is really no comparison at all. So the question is, "What do you do with that inch of your life?" or "How do we spend the precious, few days that we have here on Earth?"

My recommendation is that we spend the inch of life given to us by preparing for life in eternity. If you follow my logic it actually makes a lot of sense and here's why. If we will spend almost all of our time in eternity, shouldn't

we put almost all our effort and energy in preparing for it? We put all our energy into making our life as great as we can while on earth. We build up bank accounts, buy property, fill our lives with entertainment, which these things in and of themselves are not bad. However, they can cause us to be a little too consumed with the right here and now instead of life where we are going. Ten thousand dollars cash will do us no good in a cemetery anymore than a 52 inch plasma screen TV will.

What does matter is the relationship that we have with others and the relationship that we have with God. Unlike the things we acquire in life, the relationship we have with God does carry over into the after-life. But it is our choice, our free-will if we want to have that relationship with God or not. Spending eternity with someone you don't want to sounds pretty miserable to me, so God honors our decision to live without Him if we choose. So there are a lot of important choices to make, mainly how we want to spend eternity. But remember, we only get an inch of life to make the decision. Think about it.



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA

## MAG-12 CO takes final flight

Marine Aircraft Group 12 commanding officer Col. Mark R. Wise steps out of his F/A-18 after his final flight here June 12. Wise's final flight comes after honorably serving in the Marine Corps for 23 years. He served as the MAG-12 executive officer from the summer of 2006 and assumed command of MAG-12 in June 2008. He has accumulated more than 2,700 hours in the F/A-18 and more than 3,500 hours of tactical fighter flight time. For his next assignment he will serve as the command aviation officer of U.S. Forces Afghanistan.

## Ask the Education Office:

### What are CLEP and DSST tests, and when can I take them?

CLEP (College Level Examination Program) and DSST (DANTES Subject Standardized Tests) are tests you can take in place of a class. Remember to always check with your college to find out which CLEP/DSST tests they will accept for your particular degree plan.

Individuals who have a solid foundation in a certain subject can usually pass these tests by reviewing the study guides available at the station library for check out or by visiting the Navy Knowledge Online website at <https://www.nko.navy.mil>.

nko.navy.mil.

There are 34 CLEP and 36 DSST tests available. Each timed test is either 90 minutes for computer-based (CLEP) or 120 minutes for the Internet-based (DSST). Active duty military can take these tests for free. Civilians will pay only \$70 plus a \$20 administration fee for CLEP and \$80 plus a \$20 administration fee for DSST. This is especially beneficial considering you are not paying the full tuition for a class.

Tests are given every Tuesday and Wednesday at 1 p.m. and Fridays at 7:45 or 9:45 a.m.

For more information about CLEP and DSST, please call 253-3392 or 253-3855.

To submit questions to the Education Office, call 253-3855, stop by Building 411 Room 127 or e-mail [jennifer.l.walker@usmc.mil](mailto:jennifer.l.walker@usmc.mil).

## Class of '09 graduates, celebrates new beginnings

SENIORS FROM PAGE 1

turned their tassels and tossed their caps into the air.

Families gathered in the foyer, taking pictures and exchanging hugs, while some began to weep.

Some of the graduates were leaving Iwakuni as soon as the following day, as was the case with Danielle M. Dobson, whose family huddled around her saying congratulations as much as they were saying goodbye.

"I am really looking forward to going back to the states," said Dobson. "But at the same time, I'm really nervous because now I am going to have a lot more responsibilities."

Many of Dobson's peers shared her sentiment.

"I am so excited and so ready for a new beginning and a new chapter," said Brittany N. Gray. "I am excited for all the challenges that are to come."

Over the coming months, the 18 students will disperse themselves across the globe, leaving their little nest at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni.

With this chapter closed a new one begins. Congratulations to the Class of 2009. The station wishes its graduates the best of luck in their future endeavors.



LANCE CPL. CHRIS KUTLESA

Lt. Col. Tray J. Ardes, commanding officer of Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron here, shares words of wisdom at the M.C. Perry High School's Class of 2009 graduation ceremony held at the Sakura Theater here June 10. "You will be shaped by the choices you make," Ardes said. "Like tending to a tree, you reap what you sow." A total of 18 students received their diplomas at the ceremony.

## TRICARE benefits and how they work with other health insurance coverage

SUBMITTED BY BRANCH HEALTH  
CLINIC IWAKUNI

Other Health Insurance is any health insurance coverage available to a TRICARE beneficiary. OHI may be available through an employer, an association, a private insurer, school health care coverage for students, Japanese national insurance or an entitlement program.

Health care through an auto insurance plan is also considered OHI when services are related to an auto accident.

TRICARE is secondary to all other health insurance except Medicaid, State Victims of Crime Compensation Programs and policies specifically designated as TRICARE supplements.

When receiving medical care at a civilian facility, the beneficiary must follow all requirements of the other health insurance such as authorizations or the use of network providers.

If care is received in the United States, it must be rendered by a TRICARE authorized provider. After the care is received, beneficiaries must first obtain payment from their other health insurance then a TRICARE claim must be submitted with the following information:

- Beneficiary Claim Form DD 2642 or provider claim form CMS 1500.
- Itemized provider bill if a CMS 1500 is not included.
- Explanation of Benefits from the other health insurance plan(s).

Due to TRICARE and OHI regulations, TRICARE does not always pay the beneficiary's co-pay or the balance remaining after the other health insurance payment. However, the beneficiary liability is usually eliminated.

Payment calculations essentially differ by provider status, and most inpatient facilities have additional calculations not listed.

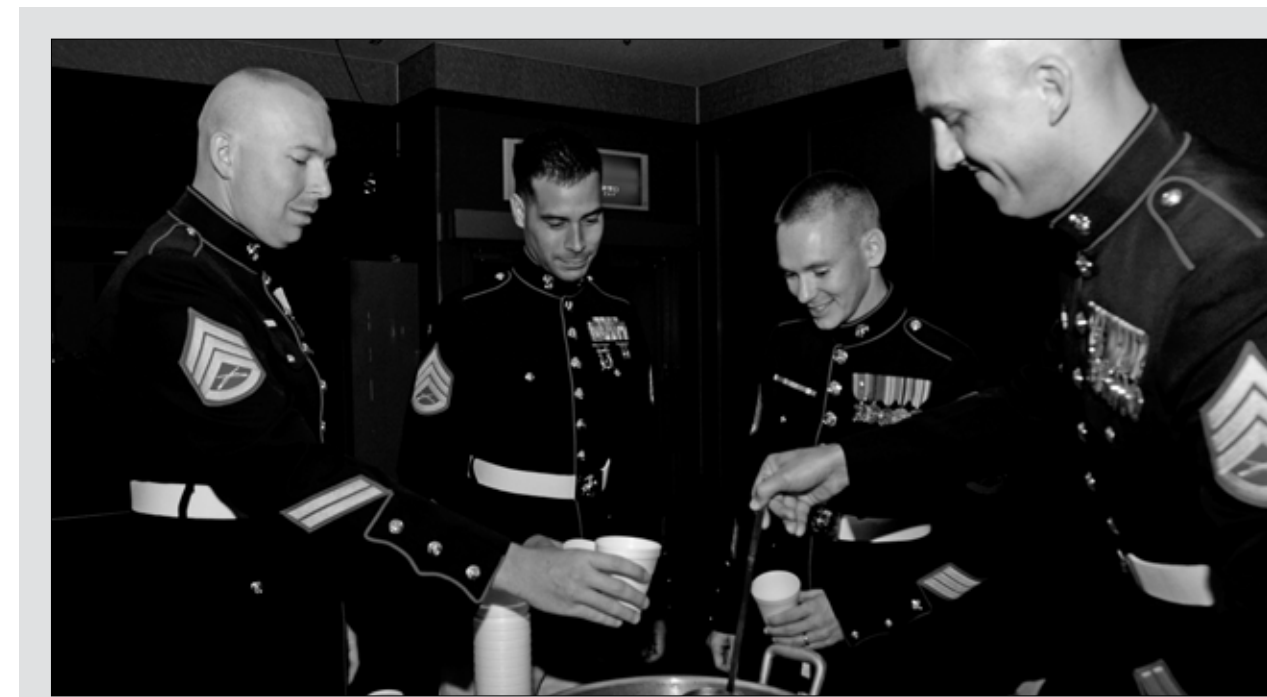
For TRICARE network (contracted) providers and non-network providers that accept TRICARE assignment (participating), TRICARE pays the lesser of:

- The billed amount minus the OHI payment.
- The amount TRICARE would have paid without OHI.
- The beneficiary's liability.

For providers that do not accept TRICARE assignment (non-participating), non-participating providers may only bill the beneficiary up to 115 percent of the TRICARE allowed amount.

If the OHI paid more than 115 percent of the allowed amount, no TRICARE payment is authorized. The charge is considered paid in full, and the provider may not bill the beneficiary. Otherwise, TRICARE pays the lesser of:

- 115 percent of the allowed amount minus the OHI payment.
  - The amount TRICARE would have paid without OHI.
  - The beneficiary's liability.
- For more information, visit <http://www.tricare.mil/mybenefit/home/Medical/OHI> or stop by your local TRICARE office.



LANCE CPL. MELANI R. SULLIVAN

## MAG-12 celebrates tradition of Corps during Mess Night

Marines of Marine Aircraft Group 12 pay fines in the form of drinks from the grog during the MAG-12 Mess Night at Club Iwakuni June 12. A mess night is meant to recognize and pay homage to the Marines who came before, and foster esprit de corps within a company or unit. It also gives Marines a chance, as a band of brothers, to socialize with one another in dress uniform. Lt. Col. Merrill L. Bartlett, retired Marine and accomplished writer, once said, "Except for the annual celebration of the Marine Corps Birthday, no social function associated with the smaller of America's naval services is more enjoyed, admired and imitated than the mess night."



Machiko Hamamoto, affectionately known as Mama-san, and Marines with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 walk along the paths picking up trash beside the Kintai-kyo Bridge during a volunteer cleanup June 13. MALS-12 Marines have been organizing cleanups at the park once a month for nearly two years.

## MALS-12 Marines volunteer time for Kintai cleanup

LANCE CPL. CLAUDIO A. MARTINEZ  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

While some Marines might have spent their early Saturday morning sleeping in, working out or watching television, Marines with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 lead a volunteer cleanup at the Kintai-kyo Bridge area June 13.

MALS-12 Marines have been strengthening ties with the local community while volunteering their time and efforts to clean the park once a month for nearly two years.

"It gives us the opportunity to show the community that we really do care about the area," said Cpl. Raymond Vanwey, the assistant deputy family readiness officer with MALS-12. "It really shows that we are good ambassadors because we are willing to come out here on our own time and clean up a place that we all get to enjoy together."

Approximately 20 Marines took time out of their Saturday morning to arm themselves with trash bags and a willing attitude to clean up the area.

Once arriving at the Kintai-kyo Bridge, the Marines eagerly unloaded off the bus ready to take on the job they came to do.

Marines laughed and enjoyed their surroundings as they walked the paths beside the

Kintai-kyo Bridge, picking up trash.

Vanwey said events like the Kintai cleanup show the community another side of Marines they may not see or hear of too often.

"It's a Saturday. It's the morning time, and nobody is drunk. Nobody is acting silly," said Vanwey. "Everybody is having a good time, and it shows the community that we are not just a bunch of rambunctious Marines."

MALS-12 Marines were glad to volunteer their time and show the community what grateful guests they are by cleaning the Kintai area.

"I think it's imperative that we maintain healthy community relations with our Japanese host," said Sgt. Durojaye Myriedemalcolm, an aviation electrician with MALS-12. "We have a duty to them to maintain this positive relationship."

Events like the Kintai cleanup not only provide Marines with a lesson on giving a helping hand, but also allows Marines new to Japan an opportunity to see and experience a little of the area beyond the station gates.

"I haven't been out too much off of the base," said Pfc. Em Medina, a receiving clerk with MALS-12. He's always liked helping out people, and thought participating in the cleanup would be a good way to take a look around and

experience some of the culture while giving a helping hand, Medina added.

Like Medina, other Marines also enjoyed learning about the people and area during the cleanup.

"I get an enrichment of culture," said Myriedemalcolm. "Being in an environment that is so rich in history, being able to be fully submersed in culture, it gives me insight as to why they conduct

themselves the way they do."

After the morning's cleanup came to an end, the Marines gathered the trash together and loaded up on the bus, waiting to go back to the station.

Some of the Marines were already expressing how much they enjoyed themselves and were looking forward to more clean-ups.

"I hope we keep doing this because it's fun," said Vanwey.



Marines of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 and Machiko Hamamoto, affectionately known as Mama-san, gather around the trash they collected for a group photo during the volunteer Kintai-kyo Bridge cleanup June 13. Approximately 20 Marines took time out of their Saturday morning to go out and clean up the area.

## Community members get down, dirty in Tenno rice patty

LANCE CPL. KRISTIN E. COTE  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

Standing ankle high in mud and water in a rice patty in Tenno, station community members experienced a piece of Japanese history firsthand with the Youth Cultural Program here June 12.

Tenno Elementary School students annually invite community members to spend a day learning how rice was traditionally planted so they can appreciate the process and hard work that goes into it.

Rice has been cultivated in Japan for more than two thousand years, and Japan is the ninth largest rice producer in the world.

Approximately 8.7 thousand metric tons of rice is consumed in Japan annually. Some popular processed rice products include rice cakes, wine, flour and vinegar.

The elementary students and local Japanese volunteers briefly explained the process of how to plant the rice and then entered the rice patty to get down and dirty.

Everyone lined up parallel to a white rope with red hash marks that was strung across the rice patty. Clusters of three rice stumps were placed in the mud at each of the hash marks. When all were in place, the rope was moved over and the process was repeated until they reached the other side of the patty.

"It was a lot different than I expected," said Sydney Jones, a 7-year-old participant. "I thought we were going to plant the rice and then they'd flood the field."

In contrast, some participants

thought the opposite. They anticipated getting wet and muddy and came prepared with towels and clothes they didn't mind getting dirty.

"I thought the field was going to be deeper and muddier, but it was better than I expected," said Abigail DeRossette, an 8-year-old participant. "To plant things, you just have to get dirty."

Most participants agreed the process was a lot different than they expected, but a positive experience nonetheless.

"I learned that rice planters have to work hard, and if someone is volunteering to plant rice, they have to show them it's not that hard and that it's really easy to do," said Joshua Thompson, an 8-year-old participant. "I think people should help farmers plant more rice because with help it goes a lot faster."

"I wish I could do it for a job, but I'd rather not be mucky and dirty all day. I'd rather be clean," said Thompson.

Depending on the region of Japan, the main rice season falls between April and July, and the harvesting season falls between August and October.

Community members agreed that they'd like to take a trip back to Tenno to witness and experience the harvesting season and see the fruits of their labor.

"I thought it'd be pretty cool to learn how to plant rice like they did it in the past and just get down and dirty," said Bailey Jones, a 10-year-old participant who was hesitant at first to enter the patty after seeing how messy things were really going to get. "After doing this, I'm going to start appreciating my rice!"



Seven-year-old Olivia Thompson separates rice shoots before planting them in the rice patty during a Youth Cultural Program rice-planting trip in Tenno June 12. Most participants agreed that the rice-planting process was a lot different than they expected, but a positive experience nonetheless.



LANCE CPL. KRISTIN E. COTE

A Tenno Elementary School student shows 8-year-old Joshua Thompson where to plant the rice shoots in the mud during a Youth Cultural Program rice-planting trip June 12. "I wish I could do it for a job, but I'd rather not be mucky and dirty all day. I'd rather be clean," said Thompson.



LANCE CPL. KRISTIN E. COTE

Community members line up and down the rice patty with Japanese volunteers and Tenno Elementary School students during a Youth Cultural Program rice-planting trip in Tenno June 12. The white rope had red hash marks indicating where the rice shoots should be placed.



LANCE CPL. KRISTIN E. COTE

A Japanese volunteer plants a rice shoot during a Youth Cultural Program rice-planting trip in Tenno June 12. The volunteers and students from Tenno Elementary School taught station community members how rice was traditionally planted.

The Fish Tales Marina offers on-site ocean kayak rentals for \$3 for an hour, \$12 for four hours and \$18 for eight hours. Patrons may also rent kayaks, paddles, life vests, roof mounting kits and helmets at IronWorks Gym's Gear Issue free of charge.



# COOLING DOWN IN HARBOR WATERS ON A

# KAYAK.

“Really — one must have an actual license to operate a kayak here, and for good reason.”

Lance Cpl. Marc Morgenstern paddles around the harbor while learning how to kayak here Sunday afternoon. Kayaking is a simple, inexpensive and exciting outdoor activity for anyone.

EDITORIAL AND PHOTOS BY SGT. JOSH COX  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

**G**liding on the sea's glistening surface under blue skies and the bright sun is a relaxing, yet engaging outdoor activity anyone can experience — on an ocean kayak.

Sunday afternoon, I trekked to Fish Tales Marina equipped with purple board shorts, tinted sunglasses and a few friends.

Our mission was to get outside away from the flat-screens and Internet for a few hours, and provide our readers with a review of the marina's kayaking experience.

At first, I was very skeptical about the activity, mainly because I'm an avid motor boater.

A kayak doesn't have an engine, horsepower or an onboard cooler, which are very important specifications guys often value and consider.

However, a kayak also doesn't have a gas tank, which is a very marketable feature — considering the summer's rising fuel prices.

Our day began in the marina's classroom, where we brushed up our knowledge on safety equipment, hypothermia, dehydration and a skin condition commonly referred to as the sunburn — which can actually lead to skin cancer ... it's a fact.

The brief course concluded with a 10 question test on the covered material. After passing the test, we all received our license to kayak — victory!

Really — one must have an actual license to operate a

kayak here, and for good reason.

Ironically, Marines and sailors can actually get themselves killed going five knots per hour (approximately six miles per hour) — just ask the guys who were stranded out on the high seas for 18 or so hours last summer. The incident could've been deadly for the young men, who apparently didn't have the proper plans, safety equipment or survival training for their kayak excursion.

After our course, we paid \$3 to rent the kayaks for one hour. Two Marines shared a tandem kayak for \$1.50 each. Cheeseburgers cost more than \$1.50.

We pulled the kayaks out to the docks, and launched them one-by-one into the water.

"I have no idea what I'm doing," and "don't run into my kayak," were common phrases among the newly commissioned kayak captains.

We paddled around the harbor, raced to a buoy and viewed dancing jellyfish without incident.

Before going out on a kayak, be sure to hydrate, pack a gallon of additional water and apply a liberal amount of sunscreen.

Moreover, watersports aren't authorized outside the harbor at the marina. Those were our central findings after a day in harbor waters.

An intricate expedition would require much more planning, supplies and perhaps safety training.

Overall, our day was a blast and a great workout.

For more information on kayaking in the local area, visit Marine Corps Community Services Iwakuni's Web site at [www.mccsiwakuni.com](http://www.mccsiwakuni.com).



Lance Corporals Marc Morgenstern, Salvador Moreno and Kristin Cote complete an exam to receive a kayaking license at the marina Sunday. A brief course, passing exam grade and clean bill of health are required to kayak here.



Lance Cpl. Marc Morgenstern prepares his life vest before boarding a kayak here Sunday afternoon. A license and proper safety equipment are required to kayak here.

# Exercise Northern Edge 2009 kicks into high gear



STAFF SGT. ANDREW W. MILLER

Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska — An F-15 Strike Eagle from Mountain Home Air Force Base prepares for take off at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska June 16. The F-15 is participating in Exercise Northern Edge 2009.

## Iwakuni Marines and sailors train with brothers in land of midnight sun

STAFF SGT. ANDREW W. MILLER  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

**EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska** — Exercise Northern Edge 2009 officially kicked off June 15 at numerous locations throughout Alaska, the land of the midnight sun.

Participants from all branches of the military are training together in order to hone their tactics, techniques and procedures associated with defensive counter-air, close-air support, air interdiction of marine targets and personnel recovery missions.

Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni is supporting the evolution at Eielson Air Force Base with various components of personnel including Marines and sailors with Marine Aircraft Group 12 headquarters, Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 224, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12, and augmentees from Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron such as the Provost Marshal's Office and Public Affairs. Additional Marines are also sup-

porting from Marine Air Control Squadron 4 out of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Okinawa, Japan. Also from Futenma, Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152 is operating at Elmendorf Air Force Base. In all,

**“Northern Edge is MAG-12’s best opportunity to get together with the Navy and Air Force to practice advanced tactics in missions that are similar to what we would have to do here in the Pacific area of operations”**

- Lt. Col. James Walker

approximately 290 Marines and sailors from III Marine Expeditionary Force are participating. “Northern Edge is MAG-12’s best opportunity to get together with the Navy and Air Force to practice advanced tactics in missions that are similar to what we would have to do here in the Pacific area of operations,” said Lt. Col. James Walker, MAG-12 operations officer. “We work with large forces here, 50 to 60 aircraft at a time, and that’s not something we get to do on a daily basis. So, this is a good oppor-

tunity for MAG-12 to train in a tactical environment.” Although the event is headquartered out of Elmendorf Air Force Base, activities are taking place across the massive training grounds of Alaska in order to

prepare joint forces to respond to crises in the Asia-Pacific region. According to Air Force Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins, commanding general of Alaskan Command and 11th Air Force, being able to train here is valuable because there are more than 65,000 square miles of available training space over land, and 120,000 when including the Gulf of Alaska. This space includes Alaska’s Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex, Gulf of Alaska restricted air space, and an in-transit corridor connecting military training

air space and live-fire training ranges. “Northern Edge is the premier exercise conducted within the Pacific Command’s area of responsibility,” said Atkins. “It lets our joint warfighters learn about each other.” Learning about each other, and the way the varying services operate is very important according to Air Force Maj. Lyle Dawley, Northern Edge exercise control team chief. “Communication can be a big challenge,” he said. “We don’t always speak the same language whether we are on the ground or in the air.”

That is something he said he hopes service members can learn from and take away from this exercise considering there are almost 5,000 service members participating in the exercise aboard ships in the Gulf of Alaska and approximately 2,000 who are here from other bases and stations across the United States, Japan and Korea. Exercise Northern Edge is an 11-day exercise scheduled to conclude here June 26.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### H1N1 Flu Virus Prevention Tips

There is evidence that the H1N1 virus is present in the Kansai (Osaka) area. Travelers are encouraged to use due caution including implementation of the CDC recommended preventative measures in this vicinity. We encourage everyone to engage in these healthy prevention practices:

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing; if a tissue is not available, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or elbow, not your hands.
  - Wash your hands after coughing or sneezing, wash with soap and water, or clean with alcohol-based hand cleaner.
  - Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- For more information, please visit the CDC Web

site: [http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swine/key\\_facts.htm#](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swine/key_facts.htm#)

### Coupon Distribution Program

The Coupon Distribution Program is available for all personnel aboard the air station courtesy of Marine and Family Services. Coupons are donated by various donors and are good until six months past the expiration date. Stop by Building 411 and pick up your free coupons, look for the baskets marked “Free Coupons”. For more information, please contact Marine and Family Services at 253-6161.

### The Biggest Saver Coupon Contest

The Personal Financial Management Office is conducting a contest for all authorized patrons of the MCAS Iwakuni

commissary May 1 – July 31. Take your receipts to the Personal Financial Management Office in Building 411, Room 201. Once a month, a coupon class will be conducted in Building 411, Room 217, to assist patrons with finding the right coupons and discussing savings options. For more information, call 253-6250.

**MAG-12 Fraud, Waste and Abuse Information**  
The new Fraud, Waste, and Abuse officer for all MAG-12 units is Capt. Augusto D. Ramirez. Please report any instances of FWA to the MAG-12 FWA hotline number, 253-6123. For immediate action, call 090-6861-7127 at any time.

**UMUC Term V Classes**  
University of Maryland

University College registration for online classes runs until June 15 and classes run June 15 – Aug. 23. For more information, contact your local UMUC field representative at 253-3392 or visit [www.asia.umuc.edu](http://www.asia.umuc.edu).

**New Taijutsu Group**  
A new taijutsu group is in the works here in Iwakuni, any Takamatsuden is ok. This will not be an official dojo, simply a place to learn, share and maintain proficiency. Those interested and for further information, e-mail [iwakuni.taijutsu@gmail.com](mailto:iwakuni.taijutsu@gmail.com).

**New Spouse Volunteer Recruitment Brunch**  
The American Red Cross will host a New Spouse Volunteer Recruitment Brunch at the American Red Cross office, Building 1100, 10 a.m. – noon June 26. This is a great way to meet new people, make new friends and learn about the base and its surroundings. As well as learn about what the

American Red Cross has to offer and ways to help out. This brunch is free and children are welcome. For more information, call 253-4525.

### Veteran's Affairs Education Brief

A Veteran's Affairs education brief, including information on the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill, will be held at the Sakura Theater. Everyone is invited to attend one of the sessions. Information presented will be applicable to all active duty personnel, family members and veterans.

June 23:  
9 a.m.–10:30 p.m. and  
3 p.m.–4:30 p.m.

June 25:  
9 a.m.–10:30 p.m. and  
3 p.m.–4:30 p.m.

## 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  
Tues. – Fri. 11:30 a.m. Weekday Mass  
Wednesday 6 p.m. Inquiry Class for adults

### Protestant

Saturday 9:30 a.m. Seventh-Day Adventist Sabbath School  
11 a.m. Seventh-Day Adventist Divine Worship  
Sunday 9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Adult Bible Fellowship  
10:30 a.m. Protestant Service  
11 a.m. Children's Church  
Wednesday 6 p.m. Awana (Bldg. 1104)  
6 p.m. Adult Bible Study (Capodanno Hall Chapel)

### Church of Christ

Sunday 9:30 a.m. Bible Study (small chapel)  
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

### Latter Day Saints

Weekdays 6:30 a.m. Youth 12-17 Activities

### Teen Programs

- High School Meetings (Club – grades 9-12)
- Junior High Meetings (Club JV – grades 7-8)
- HS&JR Bible Studies
- Retreats
- Service Projects
- Missions Trip
- Special Events Volunteer Training & Mentoring
- Parent Support Group

Call at 253-5183 or [potwic@gmail.com](mailto:potwic@gmail.com).

For information regarding divine services, religious education or any other command religious program or chapel activity, call the Marine Memorial Chapel at 253-3371.

## Station Inspector's Office

The Station Inspector's Office is having a meeting with all private organizations 8-10 a.m. on June 26 in the Building 1 auditorium. All private organizations must attend. They will discuss new report requirements and banking procedures.



*"Eat your 80s"* - A live 1-hour radio show that features the best of 80's music. Noon to 1 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, except holidays, on Power 1575.

## SAKURA THEATER

### Friday, June 19, 2009

7 p.m. Ghosts of Girlfriends Past (PG-13)

Premier  
10 p.m. Hangover (R)

### Saturday, June 20, 2009

1 p.m. Up (PG)  
4 p.m. Ghosts of Girlfriends Past (PG-13)  
7 p.m. Hangover (R)  
10 p.m. Observe and Report (R)

### Sunday, June 21, 2009

1 p.m. Hannah Montana: The Movie (PG) Last Showing

4 p.m. Fighting (PG-13)

7 p.m. Hangover (R)

### Monday, June 22, 2009

7 p.m. X-Men Origins: Wolverine (PG-13) Last Showing

### Tuesday, June 23, 2009

7 p.m. Sunshine Cleaning (R)

### Wednesday, June 24, 2009

7 p.m. Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian (PG-13)

### Thursday, June 25, 2009

7 p.m. 17 Again (PG-13) Last Showing

General Admission: Ages 12+ are \$2.50/ Ages 6-11 are \$1/ Children ages 5 and under admitted free. For more information, visit [www.mccsiwakuni.com](http://www.mccsiwakuni.com) or call 253-5291.

# CLASSIFIEDS

## Automobiles

1994 Rover Mini Cooper  
Runs great. Recent tune up. 81K km, Automatic, CD player, Air Conditioning. JCI due Nov 2009. \$2500 OBO. For more information, call 253-2600 or 080-3059-0370 (cell).

1998 Toyota Nonah  
JCI until September 2009.  
Seats eight. In good condition. Just replaced battery and tires. Asking \$900.00. For more information call: 090-7377-0847.

## Mess Hall Menu

### Monday

Bean with bacon soup, shrimp gumbo, Caribbean flounder, country style steak, steamed rice, macaroni and cheese, hush puppies, broccoli combo, wax beans, dinner rolls, peanut butter brownies, double layer marble cake with butter cream frosting, banana cream pudding.  
Specialty Bar: Pasta

### Tuesday

Tomato soup, vegetable soup, lasagna, roast pork, au gratin potatoes, whole kernel corn, mixed vegetables, toasted garlic bread, cream gravy, buffalo chicken, corn dogs, cherry pie, Boston cream pie, oatmeal raisin cookie.  
Specialty Bar: Taco

### Wednesday

French onion soup, cream of broccoli soup, baked tuna noodles, breaded pork chop creole, garlic roasted potatoes, carrots, mix vegetables, dinner rolls, mushroom gravy, chocolate chip cookies, Dutch apple pie, devil's food cake with butter cream frosting.  
Specialty Bar: Barbeque

### Thursday

Manhattan clam chowder, split pea soup, chicken parmesan, Italian sausage, buttered pasta, oven browned potatoes, eggplant parmesan, cauliflower gumbo, alfredo sauce, marinara sauce, garlic bread, sugar cookies, German chocolate cake, with whipped topping, banana cream pie.  
Specialty Bar: Deli sandwich

### Friday

Chicken noodle soup, cream of mushroom soup, southern style fried catfish, chicken cacciatore, French fried cauliflower, steamed rice, candied sweet potatoes, southern style greens, jalapeno corn bread, cream gravy, cheese quesadillas, coconut raisin drop cookies, double layer Florida lemon cake with butter cream frosting, chocolate cream pie.  
Specialty Bar: Mongolian

## Miscellaneous

### Fisher Price Aquarium High chair

Seat height adjusts to 7 positions, reclining seat, folds up for easy storage, easy to remove dishwasher safe food tray and teething toys. Seat cover and straps can be washed in washing machine. \$35. For more information, call 253-2611.

### 10 Month Old Shiba Inu

10 month old Shiba Inu, great family dog, completely housebroken. \$400.00. Call 253-2040.

### 8 Month Old Puppy

8 month old puppy, up to date shots, good with kids, loves the outdoors. Free. Call 253-2107.

## Job Announcements

### NMCRS Job Opportunities

Asking for help is hard. Everyday sailors, Marines and their families come to the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society in emergencies. Be that friendly person who lets them know they've come to the right place. Client Services Assistants volunteers greet clients

To submit an advertisement request, follow the classified link on the station Web site and click on the advertisement request form link. Submit the form via the Web site, or send the e-mail to iwakuni.pao@usmc.mil. Alternatively, you can submit in person at the Public Affairs Office, Building 1, Room 216.

- The deadline for submissions is Mondays at 4:30 p.m.
- Requests are effective for one week. If you want to extend a previously submitted ad for an additional week, notify the Public Affairs Office at 253-5551.

## Pool safety tips you should be aware of

### SUBMITTED BY STATION SAFETY

According to the National Safety Council, drowning is the leading cause of death from unintentional injuries for all ages.

As a result, it is important to follow a few safety tips when swimming.

- Never swim alone. Always swim with a buddy.
- Watch out for the dangerous "toos" - too tired, too cold, too far from safety, too much sun.
- Do not chew gum or food while swimming; you could easily choke.
- Obey "No Diving" signs, which indicate the areas that are unsafe for headfirst entries. If unsure of the depth of the water, you should enter the water feet first.
- Never drink alcohol while swimming. It affects your swimming and diving skills and reduces your body's ability to stay warm.

**Education:** Aquatic safety starts with the education

of parents and pool owners regarding the dangers of swimming pools and all bodies of water (Ponds / Lakes / Ocean / Baths / Buckets etc).

It is also essential to start educating children early and setting rules for the pool. Eg - Adults must be present before you can get in the water.

**Supervision:** There is simply no alternative to "Constant Eyes On" supervision when children are in or near water. Supervision also means being mindful of other aquatic risks when your children are not even in the pool. Whenever infants or toddlers are in or around water, an adult should be within arm's length, providing "touch supervision."

**Barriers:** Your homes walls provide the first barrier between your child and the pool area. The walls doors and windows can be effective only if they are locked and unable to be opened by an infant. A

great barrier between your child and the water in the kiddie pool in your yard is to drain it after each use.

**Skills & Education:** Teaching your child to swim provides him with the final solution should all other layers of protection fail. This is the one layer of protection that goes with your child everywhere he goes, even when he is alone. Being competent in the water provides your child with the basis for a lifetime of enjoyment in the pool.

**Emergency Response:** Having an emergency plan in place may be the difference between life and death for your child or a visitor. If you realize your child is missing, always check the pool first. Know the local emergency phone number. Take a CPR course and maintain your skills. Practice emergency response with your children - including what they should do if they see another child in trouble in the water.

and guide them through the initial intake process. Use your winning smile and good people skills to help our clients. To apply for this opportunity, call 253-5311.

### IronWorks Co-Op Program Openings

There are now openings with the IronWorks Co-Op Program. This program is open to parents with children 5 and under. Meetings are held 9:15 - 11:15 a.m. every Mon., Wed., Fri. For more information about the program, call 253-2836 or e-mail heather\_long@yahoo.com.

### Branch Health Clinic Clinical Psychologist

BHC Iwakuni is seeking to place under contract an individual who holds a current, unrestricted license to practice as a Clinical Psychologist in any one of the fifty states, the District of Columbia, the commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam or the U.S. Virgin Islands. Deadline for submission of solicitation package is 4 p.m. July 2. For more information call Ms. Kobayashi/FISC Contracting at 243-6835 or 046-816-6835 solicitation number: 09-T-0058.

### Branch Health Clinic Pediatric Physician

BHC Iwakuni is seeking to place under contract an individual who holds a current, unrestricted license to practice as a Pediatric Physician in any one of the fifty states, the District of Columbia, the commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam or the U.S. Virgin Islands. Deadline for submission of solicitation package is 4 p.m. July 2. For more information call Ms. Kobayashi/FISC Contracting at 243-6835 or 046-816-6835 solicitation number: 09-Q-2128.

# 2009 Youth Baseball season ends



Players and coaches run from the outfield to the pitcher's mound to receive their hard-earned trophies at Penny Lake here June 13. The baseball season came to an end with the closing ceremony where each player and coach received a trophy for eight weeks of competition.

## Young athletes awarded for hard work, dedication

LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

The 2009 Youth Baseball season came to an end with a closing ceremony at Penny Lake here June 13.

Marine Corps Community Services Youth Sports coordinator Joseph J. Hill led the ceremony as the coaches and teams were presented with trophies.

The eight-week season was a one to remember for the young children of the 3- to 4-year-old T-Ball age group. It was the first

time many of them had played T-ball.

"I believe this season was great. The main purpose is to introduce the concept and fundamentals of baseball to the younger kids," said 3- to 4-year-old T-ball coach Eric Benitez.

At the ceremony, all 21 teams were lined up around the infield, awaiting their hard-earned and much-deserved trophies.

The ceremony was brief, but memorable for the parents, coaches and players as they all waited in anticipation for their

team name to be called forward to receive their trophies.

"The closing ceremony was put together very well. It was the best way to reward the players for their hard work and make them feel appreciated," said 7- to 9-year-old Cardinals coach Esmeralda Cejalua.

The baseball season was open to station residents as well as Japanese nationals between the ages of 3-12.

The baseball season was a learning experience for young ball players and their parents.

The players got the chance to go out and mimic their Major League heroes with every pitch of the ball and every swing of the bat.

For some players, it was more than a learning experience. It was a way to make friends for life and show off their talents on the diamond.

"Coaching for me is a great reward," said Benitez. "Watching and coaching the young players of tomorrow's baseball helps to remind me that the game is still pure and untarnished."



Players and coaches from all 21 teams wait in anticipation on the edge of the infield to have their team called to the pitcher's mound to receive trophies during the 2009 Youth Baseball closing ceremony at Penny Lake here June 13. The baseball season was open to station residents as well as Japanese nationals between the ages of 3-12.

# 2009 Basketball Championships



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

After the award ceremony in which both teams were presented their trophies, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 commanding officer Lt. Col. Jonathan Gackle brings both teams together for a MALS-12 photo. Da FAM lost the first game to the Untouchables June 12, which forced a second championship game. Da FAM stepped up their defense and won 35-33 at IronWorks Gym here Monday.

## *Da FAM takes down number one seed, wins title 35-33*

LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO  
IWAKUNI APPROACH STAFF

From the opening tip to the final buzzer, it was an all Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 championship for both the Untouchables and Da FAM. Da FAM pulled off a hard-earned finish after a rough start, beating the Untouchables 35-33 at IronWorks Gym here Monday.

The Untouchables, with a season record of 10-1, entered Monday night's game knowing they were the number one seed and had the edge on Da FAM after the June 12 win to earn the Untouchables another shot at the title.

Untouchables coach Anthony Alexander said earlier in the season, "We need to play 40 minutes of defensive basketball and focus on fundamentals as a team."

The Untouchables jumped to a five-point lead early in the first half, leading 9-4 with less than 14 minutes left on the clock.

However, the Da FAM bounced back after a few sloppy plays by the Untouchables and quick breaks to even the score just before halftime at 17.

With 1.4 seconds left in the half, Untouchables center Jeremy Press was able to make a shot to take the lead into the half.

By the end of the first half, it was clear that the Untouchables had found their rhythm and were not going down without a fight.

After a much needed break during halftime, both teams got back on the court to finish what was developing into a great championship game.

Both Da FAM and the Untouchables came off the bench with much more intensity than

they had in the first half. Da FAM set the tempo, scoring the first points of the second half to tie it up again at 19.

"They came out with a little more intensity. They played a good game. They are a good team," said Alexander.

The score seesawed back and forth throughout the second half. Neither team could pull away and take a commanding lead, which left the championship up for grabs as the clock ticked down.

With two minutes left in the game and season for the two teams, Da FAM found themselves down by one, trailing the Untouchables 28-29.

After the Untouchables missed a free-throw off a foul, Da FAM rebounded the ball and took it up court to put it in the basket, and take the lead with a score of 31-29 and 1:35 left to play.

The Untouchables took a timeout with 1:03 left after Da FAM scored another basket, making it 34-29, but with the Untouchables having possession and a minute left, both teams knew it wasn't over yet.

"That's a very talented team and very mature," said Da FAM coach Maurice Patterson. "It's never over with the Untouchables. There is nothing on the court they haven't seen."

The Untouchables timeout did manage to help them put another ball in the hoop, but thanks to an improved defensive scheme by Da FAM, they were able to hang onto the lead until the final buzzer and took the championship.

"We did great. I think we deserved it. We came out, shot good and got the job done," said Da FAM shooting guard Albert Miller.



LANCE CPL. SALVADOR MORENO

Untouchables centers Jeremy Press and Mario Brown stand their ground as a Da FAM player tries to make a shot during the 2009 Intramural Basketball Championship at IronWorks Gym here Monday. Defense proved to be the deciding factor of the game in the closing minutes. Da FAM won the game, 35-33, taking the season title.