

Torii Teller

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MAY 28, 2004

Travelers now save online

CPL. DAVE BONI
Press Chief

Government travel cardholders can now look forward to saving a little cash and time by paying incidental travel expenses online.

In a new offer provided by Bank of America, who holds the contract on government travel cards, cardholders can save \$10 by paying online rather than by phone, or utilize the quick posting of payments on the Web site versus waiting days for mail to travel overseas.

"It's very easy and time sensible," said Amy Baker, Station budget technician and travel card agency program coordinator. "The new program will help cardholders keep track of their accounts and make payments immediately."

By logging on to www.myeasy.payment.com, cardholders can pay bills, check balances, and get the time and amount of last payments. Customers can pay online whatever charges are not covered by the government split-disbursement plan. In most cases, split-disbursement covers expenses such as hotels and transportation. The government

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Thai, U.S. Marines survive jungle

LANCE CPL. ROSE A. MUTH
3MEF Combat Correspondent

TUNG PONG BAY, Thailand—Thirty-one Marines from various units here for Cobra Gold 2004, learned what it takes to survive in the Thai jungle, May 16.

In a setting much like a combination of popular TV shows "Survivor" and "Fear Factor," the Marines and their Thai counterparts stayed in the jungle for 24 hours, learning everything from what plants and fruits are edible, to how to kill, skin and cook a cobra snake.

The Marines were taught these skills by the experts of jungle survival, the Royal Thai Recon Marines.

Thai Warrant Officer Somsak Wanmuang, First Company, First Border Command, explained the importance of these unique skills.

"Every year, the Marines come over and we train hand in hand," said Wanmuang. "We have the same weather every year and it is very important to learn how to survive out in the jungle. My unit goes out for three days with only two canteens. We have to find ways to survive for those three days, and we bring back our knowledge and teach it to the Marines here."

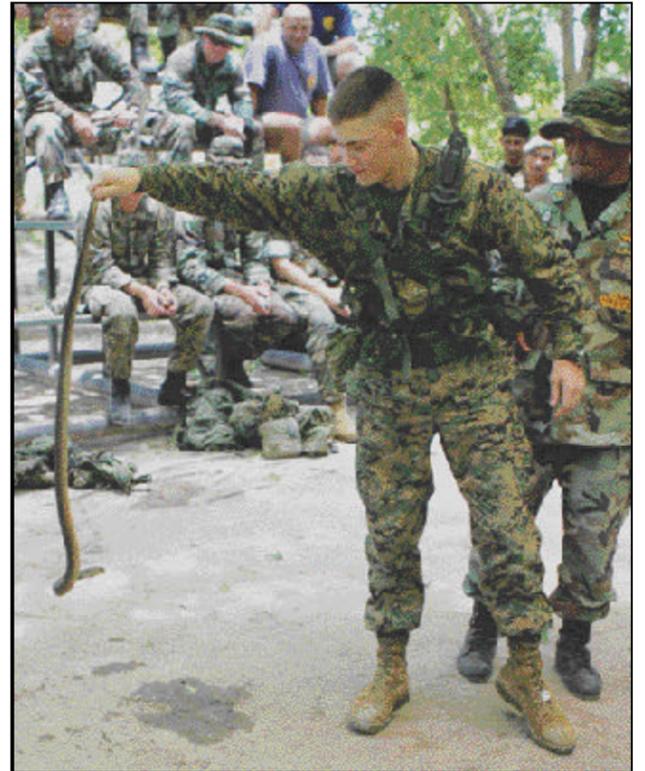
Though the Thai jungles can be harsh, U.S. Marines learned from Thai veterans how a little improvisation and adaptation to local surroundings could

go a long way.

"There are only four things you need to survive in the jungle: food, water, shelter, and medicine. I will show you how to improvise each one while you are here," said Thai Marine Master Sgt. Pranom Yodrak, Amphibious Reconnaissance Company first sergeant, who has been teaching the jungle survival training class for 15 years.

In the beginning of the training, Marines learned which plants can be used as a food source, what they look like, and the Thai name for each. Marines then passed the plants around, allowing everyone a chance to eat. A few facial expressions later, Marines moved to edible fruits. After the demonstration, the Marines flocked to two tables full of fruits and plants to enjoy their jungle smorgasbord.

"I think the training has been good so far," said Pfc. Christopher M. Garcia, Headquarters and Support Battalion, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine



Pfc. Daniel J. Klein

Pfc. Derek Dicus handles a Cobra during a jungle survival class taught by Thai Marines, during Cobra Gold 2004.

Division. "I have never been here before and this is my first deployment. It's good to learn the different things that they have to show us, and we get to work with the Thai Marines also."

For the second part of training, two

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Motor Transport trains for terror
Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 Motor Transportation Company builds up antiterrorism capabilities.

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Nurse Corps celebrates birthday
Navy Nurse Corps celebrates 96 years of service.

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IWAKUNI WEATHER



Today
Partly Cloudy
High: 77



Saturday
T-Storms
High: 77



Sunday
Partly Cloudy
High: 81

www.iwakuni.usmc.mil

Threat levels dictate traveling on leave

CPL. DAVE BONI
Press Chief

All Department of Defense and Status of Forces Agreement personnel 14 years or older need to start watching the news and reading the newspaper if they are interested in traveling to another country while stationed in Iwakuni.

Current events will play a key role in finding out what dangerous threats lie in that country, and whether or not travel there will be permitted.

"If an individual decides to take leave and travel to another country, then a force protection plan is required," said Master Sgt. Rodney Redmon, Station antiterrorism/force protection chief.

The information needed to fill out a force protection package can all be found on the intranet under AT/FP. According to Redmon, the first step to completing the package is to complete a standard force protection sheet, which states travel outside the 50-kilometer radius. The next step is to have a level one antiterrorism brief.

"I give the AT/FP brief every Monday at 8 a.m. at Club Iwakuni, but you can also do it online also located on the intranet," said Redmon.

Once the paperwork and brief is complete, the force protection plans must be signed off, but Redmon said this is where travelers must pay attention.

"If a country is listed as force protection condition alpha, a command lieutenant colonel can approve the plan. For countries listed at FP condition bravo or charlie, a command colonel must approve the plan," he said. "Traveling to countries with PACOM (Pacific Command), the first flag officer (O-7 and above) must approve the plans."

After the plan is approved, a traveler must find out whether a theater clearance and amount of days notice is required. Redmon said some countries might require as much as 45 days of clearance lead time before entrance is permitted.

For Chief Petty Officer Chester Mallari, Station Harbor master, traveling to the Philippines to see his family keeps him posted to the news daily.

"The threat conditions can change any time. Recently, it changed in the Philippines due to the upcoming presidential elections. So, you need to keep track of what's going on," said Mallari.

An important tip Mallari keeps in mind when in another

see THREAT Page 5



Torii Teller

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Quiet the mind ... and remember

CAPT. STEWART T. UPTON
Public Affairs Officer

We walk or drive by it everyday, and after the first time our eyes set upon this memorial located in the middle of the Station, we have it absorbed into the background of our daily lives and busy thoughts.

The 1st Marine Aircraft Wing Vietnam War Memorial lists the names of those killed in action and sits on a piece of grass near a Torii.

This is not a Torii holding a sign, too common a sight aboard this installation, but an appropriate Torii that when looked upon clearly signifies the gateway between the earth world and the spirit world.

Memorial Day each year is a day to reflect upon those who have given themselves in support of their country.

The sound of taps is normally played at Memorial Day ceremonies.

Taps is a sound that seems to cut through the silence and almost instinctively brings you to reflect upon those who have gone before you ... and maybe even have you asking yourself why you have been so fortunate to still be alive today.

Regardless of what religion or life philosophy you have, days that are held to remember those who have given the ultimate sacrifice are also days to remind you to be happy you are alive.

After all, being alive is the essence of our experience in this earth-bound world. Too often though, we get wrapped up in our personal worries while listening to the radio or television and answering e-mails with red exclamation points next to them.

Living in the moment of your current existence is a life philosophy that attempts to have you take a deep breath, quiet the mental noise you have repeating itself every five seconds and take a look around you to realize your current reality.

If you take the time to do this, you just may see the memorial when you drive by it for what it is and what it stands for.

A monument created in remembrance of those who have given the ultimate sacrifice and to show our commitment to them that they will not be forgotten ... and should we give the ultimate sacrifice, that we would not be forgotten.

In observance of Memorial Day, a ceremony will be held at 1 p.m. on Tuesday at the Vietnam Memorial adjacent to the Commissary.

78,000 reasons to say thanks

CPL. ROBERT W. WYNKOOP
Combat Correspondent

Unless you're an avid fan of Marine Administrative Messages, you might have missed something. I was running through the various messages, searching for something that applied to me. For the ribbon hounds, there's a list of new units eligible for awards. For those motivators who are Officer Candidate School bound, you can find out if you made the cut. I skipped around the messages with no resolve until I reached Mar/Admin 206/04.

It was then that I really found something important. Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Michael Hagee reminded me of a special part of the Marine Corps' family that I had overlooked – my wife.

Now, don't get my wrong, I remembered her birthday, our anniversary and Mother's Day, but apparently Military Spouses Appreciation Day slipped my mind.

It didn't take long for the wheels in my head, creaking and rattling a bit, to begin turning and I started waxing philosophically about who had really made the sacrifice to serve America.

Gen. Hagee's message tells us that there are more than 78,000 spouses yanked up by the ring on their finger and plopped down in locations across the globe. Many spouses, female and male, are separated by time and distance from their families, but they still charge on - working jobs, changing diapers, paying bills and more.

I pondered what opportunities my wife might have missed, when she, a recent college grad, was forced to resign from her first big job because we moved across the world. I also thought about my friends' spouses, shuffling careers and raising toddlers under that veil of anxiousness that surrounds the lives of families of forward deployed service members.

Being new to the married life and with only one short deployment under my belt, I haven't endured the same hardships as other Marines and their spouses, but publicly, I want to say thanks to all those who serve our country, and thanks to those spouses who stand behind them. Married Marines, in my opinion, the selfless devotion that comes with the title of military spouse warrants not only one day of appreciation, but daily reassurances that we'd be in big trouble without our “better half.”

Seat belt crackdown to target all drivers

SGT. RYAN M. WILKINSON
Letter to Editor

One of the greatest fears for any parent is the day when their child becomes a teenager and wants to drive the family car.

While they may be old enough to obtain a license, that hardly means they are ready for the responsibilities of the road. Teens are killed at alarming rates in crashes they could have survived had they been wearing a seat belt.

So how do you get teens to buckle up when they think tragedy won't happen to them?

You threaten them with a ticket and then back it up with strong enforcement of seat belt laws.

That's exactly what we'll be doing during the National Click It or Ticket Mobilization, a nationwide law enforcement effort in all 50 states to protect young people and others from the leading risk they face – traffic crashes. The two-week enforcement wave, which runs from May 24 – June 6, is based on a proven public health model to increase belt use called “high visibility enforcement.”

It's the best way to try to reach the nearly 60 million Americans who are still riding unbuckled even though they know the benefit of belts.

We'll be surrounding them with the strong message, “Click It or Ticket; If you won't buckle up to save your life, then buckle up to save yourself a ticket.”

When it comes to seat belts, years of research and unfortunately many thousands of lives lost show us that America's young people don't respond to threats of injury or death, but they do respond to the threat of a ticket.

The laws for seat belt use are on the books to save lives. Fact is, most officers would rather write a thousand tickets and enforce these laws than face one more of these predictable and preventable tragedies.

Our local efforts to save lives are a part of the national Click It or Ticket Mobilization. The military police will conduct seat belt check points, saturation patrols. Remember, it's Click It or Ticket. No exceptions, no excuses.

Hazardous material not as dangerous

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LANCE CPL. GIOVANNI LOBELLO
Combat Correspondent

The Iwakuni Fire Department has integrated a new tool that will help identify possible deadly substances in an expedient manner.

The new HazMat ID (hazardous material identifier) has an abundance of features that will help in identifying unknown substances at spill sites.

"The unit is the first one of its kind on the Station," said Andrew J. Saksa III, SensIR technologies customer training manager. "The HazMat ID has portability capabilities in the carry case and is easy to use. The unit is designed to be used in a hot zone and in fire fighting suit."

Fire Capt. Yoshiharu Tanimoto compared the old unit with the new one and favored the HazMat ID considerably.



Iwakuni Fire Department members take a closer look at how to properly work the hazardous material identifier.

"The identifier we had before took a long time to ID because substances required pretreatment and had to be categorized," said Tanimoto. "The new unit is easy to use with few steps. The material is simply placed on the diamond and



The HazMat ID has the capabilities of identifying almost any type of liquid or powdered substance that may be found at a spill site.

the results come up quickly."

With quickly identifying unknown substances, potential danger sites can be identified right away and the proper procedures can be taken, said Saksa.

The portability and ease of the unit comes with other added benefits in or-

der to ensure the safety of firefighters.

"The fact that we can use this unit with a laptop from a remote location is great," said Tanimoto.

"The unit has wireless capabilities," said Saksa.

"In a spill site the firefighter only has to put the substance on the diamond, and a laptop in a isolated location does everything else. A laptop can be used in a stress-free location to control the unit, so that proper steps

are taken resulting in expedient and accurate results."

According to Saksa, even if the HazMat ID can't identify a substance, it is no problem.

If there is ever a question about any unidentified materials, an e-mail with the information can be sent to our company to identify the substance, said Saksa.

Motor Transportation gears up for training

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
CPL. DAVE BONI
Press Chief

In an effort to build up antiterrorism capabilities, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 Motor Transportation Company spent the better part of May 13 patrolling the perimeter and securing the facility.

MWSS-171, in a crawl, walk, run mentality, are transitioning themselves to a more combat ready unit one step at a time by participating in a random antiterrorism measures exercise.

"Our role as MWSS-171 is air base ground defense. In order for the Marines to be ready for this role, they need to know the proper basic techniques," said Staff Sgt. Ariel Harper, MWSS-171 Motor Transportation, company gunnery sergeant. "Today was just the early stages of what the Marines will be doing in months to come."

The crawl portion for the Marines included securing the building and establishing one entry and exit point for personnel and vehicles. From there, identification cards were checked, vehicles were searched and patrols along concertina wire were made.

"We want the Marines to have the basic techniques down before we go into more things," said Harper. "We have to do the basics continuously because most of our Marines are on one-year tours. So when we get a new crop in here we have to start over."

The day before the exercise began, Harper said the Marines all wore their gas masks throughout the day in another effort to get them accustomed to their gear. In the following days, the Marines will wear flaks and their gas masks throughout the workday.



Lance Cpl. Joshua Sheldon, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 motor transportation operator, walks along the concertina wire during an antiterrorism exercise May 13.



Lance Cpl. Andrew W. McKay and Lance Cpl. Rodolfo A. Espinoza (left) demonstrate a security check, May 13.

the unexpected.

"We are going to try and do everything we can on this Station. It may be small, but you have to crawl before you can run," said Harper.

"If the Marines are used to their gear being on them, then they will have no problem wearing it in combat," stated Harper.

The exercise and the gear did not seem to bother Lance Cpl. Juan Depaz, as he patrolled in the pouring rain.

"This is not something I thought I would be doing when I became a Motor T operator, but I realize the importance of it and I enjoy it," said Depaz, who was participating in his first exercise with MWSS-171.

Depaz and his fellow Marines at MWSS-171 can look forward to future exercises of this nature as the squadron continues to prepare itself for

NEWS BRIEFS

IWAKUNI POLICE STATION MAIL MAGAZINE

Information on incidents and accidents handled by Iwakuni Police Station or criminal cases that are likely to take place in Iwakuni area have been introduced to local citizens via "Iwakuni Police Mail." Registration for membership of the English version of Iwakuni Police Mail can be done at Iwakuni Police Station or the nearest Koban or residential Police Box.

ANNUAL NAVAL INTELLIGENCE ESSAY CONTEST

This contest is open to anyone and the winning essay is published in the February issue of Proceedings magazine. Essays should not exceed 3,500 words and may pertain to any subject relating to naval intelligence or intelligence support to naval or maritime forces. Direct entries to: Naval Intelligence Essay Contest, Naval Intelligence Professionals, P.O. Box 9324, McLean, VA 22102-0324. Entries submitted electronically should be sent to <mailto:navintproessays@aol.com>. The first prize is \$1,000. The deadline for the essay contest is Aug. 1.

STATION TOWNHALL MEETING

There will be a Station Townhall meeting June 3 at the Station Chapel. Doors open at 6 p.m. The meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. All residents are welcome to attend.

Command post rolls into Station

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LANCE CPL GIOVANNI LOBELLO
Combat Correspondent

A new mobile command response vehicle was introduced to the Provost Marshal's Office May 12.

The mobile command response vehicle is the newest addition to PMO's arsenal in maintaining Station security.

"The mobile response vehicle was displayed to familiarize both the Japanese employees and MPs with

what the vehicle is and what it is capable of," said Sgt. Dain Doughty, military policeman.

"The need for this type of emergency response capability was identified in a universal needs statement from the field and submitted to Headquarters Marine Corps and Marine Corps Systems Command," added Maj. Jonathan Foster, Station provost marshal. "This vehicle provides military police and other first responders (fire department, emergency medical technicians,) with a mobile command and control platform to carry incident command operations on scene."

The mobile command response vehicle has numerous features helping users maintain control of a situation.

"The vehicle has advanced communication capabilities, surveillance camera, light sets, a conference room and other enhanced capabilities to carry out emergency response

coordination," said Foster. "The vehicle can also be staged, and used for sobriety check points as well as other special events such as our annual Friendship Day Air Show."

In conjunction with the devices on board, training exercises will be necessary to learn all of its components.

Master Sgt. Eric Drummond, PMO operations chief said that this vehicle is going to be used for

training as often as possible.

"The more we use it the more comfortable we get with it," he added.

"The mobile command response vehicle isn't here just for PMO, its here for the entire Station," added Drummond. "This vehicle is not only for use, but also to give the community reassurance. When they see the vehicle at a scene they feel like everything is under control and have nothing to worry about."



Lance Cpls. Bryan Ledford and Brian Authement, military policemen, look at the some of the new gadgets the mobile command response vehicle offers.



The mobile command response vehicle is displayed in front of the Provost Marshal's Office May 12 for the military policemen and Japanese workers to get acquainted with.

Traveling kept on track by prior planning

PFC. LYDIA DAVEY
Combat Correspondent

Obtaining a working knowledge of the public transportation system in Japan, specifically trains, is essential for Station residents who wish to take full advantage of sight-seeing and entertainment opportunities, as well as those flying commercially.

Osaka hosts one of Japan's major international airports, Kansai International Airport, and many Station residents may travel through it.

Once a Station resident decides upon a destination, he should fill out a force protection sheet. Next, a trip to the Information, Tourism and Travel Office can provide assistance in answering questions and planning a particular route of travel, said Toshiko Tribe, IT&T monitor.

"Our motto here is this, 'If we don't know the answer, we'll find it for you,'" said Tribe.

Train tickets are also available for purchase (given a two days notice) through IT&T, or upon request at local train stations, Tribe added.

There are two train stations in Iwakuni: Iwakuni Station (which is closest to the Station), and Shin-Iwakuni. Iwakuni Station may be reached by taking the bus or a taxi from the four-corners area. Shin-Iwakuni can most easily be reached by taxi.

Once at the train station, one-way or round-trip tickets for the local area may be purchased from an automatic ticket dispenser, while tickets to cities

such as Kyoto, Osaka and Tokyo can be purchased at the ticket windows. Upon request, station attendants will highlight the fastest route for an individual's schedule.

In order to reach Kansai Airport from Iwakuni Station, Station residents must catch three trains: the first from Iwakuni to Hiroshima, the second from Hiroshima to Shin-Osaka, and the third from Shin-Osaka to Kansai Airport, said Tribe.

Changeover cities (cities in which passengers must switch trains) are written in English on the tickets. Information boards display times and tracks for departing trains. Railroad employees will also assist in directing people to the proper track.

When the train arrives at Iwakuni Station's platform, people must move quickly to board, as stops are often very brief.

"It is key to remember that Japanese trains are very punctual," said Tribe. "They will arrive and depart on time except in the case of a natural disaster or serious weather conditions."

Priority seating for pregnant women, women with children, and elderly or disabled persons is clearly marked by uniquely patterned upholstery.

Once the train leaves Iwakuni and arrives in Hiroshima, a flight of stairs to the upper level and a left turn will lead to the Shinkansen tracks. Shops line the hall that leads to ticket gates and the Shin trains.

Track 13, which connects to the Shin-Osaka train station, may be reached by using the escalator

located on the far right-hand side of the hall.

Several resources are available to assist people in identifying their changeover point. Japanese trains are prompt, so simply disembarking at a station according to the schedule is a safe bet. Also, fellow passengers, regardless of the language barrier, are often more than willing to point a Station resident in the right direction. Finally, every train station has a sign that denotes its location on top, and the upcoming and prior city below.

Upon arriving at the Shin-Osaka Station, the individual should take a flight of stairs down to the main floor of the station, and then continue in a straight line, past the central exit, until he reaches the ticket gates. Once through the gates, signs will identify track 11. These signs will be located on the right side of the hall. A flight of stairs leads down to track 11, and information boards list departure times for trains traveling to Kansai Airport.

If at any point a Station resident should become confused, several resources are available. Most major train stations have an information desk, but if one is not readily available, railroad employees, easily identifiable by their uniforms, are standing by to help. Additionally, Shin-trains feature announcements in both English and Japanese.

"I'm always glad to see people get out, and experience the adventure that Japan offers," said Tribe.

Nurses celebrate 96th anniversary

Pfc. LYDIA DAVEY

Combat Correspondent

Marines and Sailors gathered May 12 at the Branch Medical Clinic for a cake-cutting ceremony celebrating the Navy Nurse Corps' 96th anniversary.

"Today we are celebrating who we are, where we came from and where we hope to go," said Cmdr. Rachel Cruiz, Station Branch Medical Clinic's senior nursing officer.

During the ceremony, Cruiz recalled the sacrifices made and the challenges faced by the predecessors of today's Navy Nurse Corps.

This organization of dedicated professionals has served in every major conflict since Congress authorized the establishment of a female Nurse Corps within the United States Navy, May 1908.

According to the United States Navy Web site, the first women to formally serve as members of the Navy were nurses. October of 1908 saw 20 women, who later came to be known as "The Sacred Twenty," appointed to the Corps and preparing for their first assignments at naval hospitals.

During World War I, the Navy nurses not only performed regular hospital and clinic duties, but also trained local nurses in U.S. overseas possessions, and the Navy's male



Pfc. Lydia Davey

A group of Navy Nurses participate in a cake cutting ceremony May 12 at the Station Branch Medical Clinic. This year, the Navy Nurse Corps celebrated its 96th year of existence.

enlisted medical personnel.

By the end of World War I, more than 1,550 nurses had served in naval hospitals and facilities in the United States and abroad.

According to the Web site, World War II brought tremendous growth in the number of nurses serving active duty – nearly 800 nurses by Nov. 1941.

It was also at this time that Navy

nurses were recognized as commissioned officers.

"Our past certainly impacts our daily actions," said Cruiz. "As we continue to serve Marines, Sailors and other service members, we remember the nurses who have gone before us."

During the Korean, Vietnam and Persian Gulf Wars, as well as Desert

Storm and the current War on Terror, Navy nurses have continuously supplied quality care, said Cruiz.

"I see the Nurse Corps as part of a health care team," she said. "The team is made up of the patient and health care providers, and we have to work together to accomplish our mission."

The role that Navy nurses serve during peacetime is important too, noted Cruiz.

"It is very important for our active duty service members to be confident that their families are being given quality care," she said.

"Nurses today serve in many capacities," stated Cruiz. "We act as everything from nurse practitioners to midwives, anesthesiologists to women's health advisors and commanding officers to policy makers."

"It's really an honor to be a part of the Navy Nurse Corps," concluded Cruiz.

THREAT from Page 1

country is to blend into surroundings the best way possible.

"The mandatory AT/FP briefs officers provide you is important information," said Mallari. "You never know what could happen and you need to be prepared. If you follow the force protection plan accordingly, you should be just fine."

For more information regarding traveling to other countries, contact Redmon at 253-3471.

TRAVELERS from Page 1

pays those bills directly to the credit card company.

The new plan is already combating the frequent problem of delinquent or unpaid accounts throughout the Department of Defense, with only two percent late on accounts compared to between 10-18 percent.

"Before, a cardholder would be closing in on the 30-day delinquent list and they would mail in a check, but mailing in a check overseas can be time consuming. Having this direct access by paying online has already helped people here stay off the list," and Baker added, "They also

don't have to see an unhappy sergeant major."

Baker said all the cardholder needs to keep their government accounts in good shape and the sergeant major happy is to have a checking account to make payments with.

"Using www.myeasypayment.com is very easy. Just follow the directions shown on the screen and the payment posts in less than two days," she said. "The most important thing is to stay off that delinquent list. Cardholders must be responsible for their own accounts."

For more information or questions regarding government travel cards, contact Baker at 253-5020.

THAI from Page 1

wooden boxes were dragged into the center of the outdoor classroom. As whispers about the contents of the box were mumbled, Yodrak grasped a metal prodding pole and assistants opened one of the boxes. Sticking the pole in the box, the Thai noncommissioned officer pulled out a baby cobra snake.

Yodrak and his assistants showed the Marines how to tame the cobra by picking it up by the tail, and also allowed the Marines to handle the snakes.

Afterward, the instructors demonstrated how to kill the cobras, skin them, and prepare the snakes for lunch.

"I enjoy teaching the class because this is my home and I learned a lot of these skills from my mother and father," said Yodrak. "It makes me happy to help teach the U.S. Marines the skills I know."

For the final part of training, Thai and U.S. Marines were broken up into three groups and had to find their own dinner. Each Marine was given a hammock to sleep in, but the insects made sleeping a challenge.

Each group then started a fire from

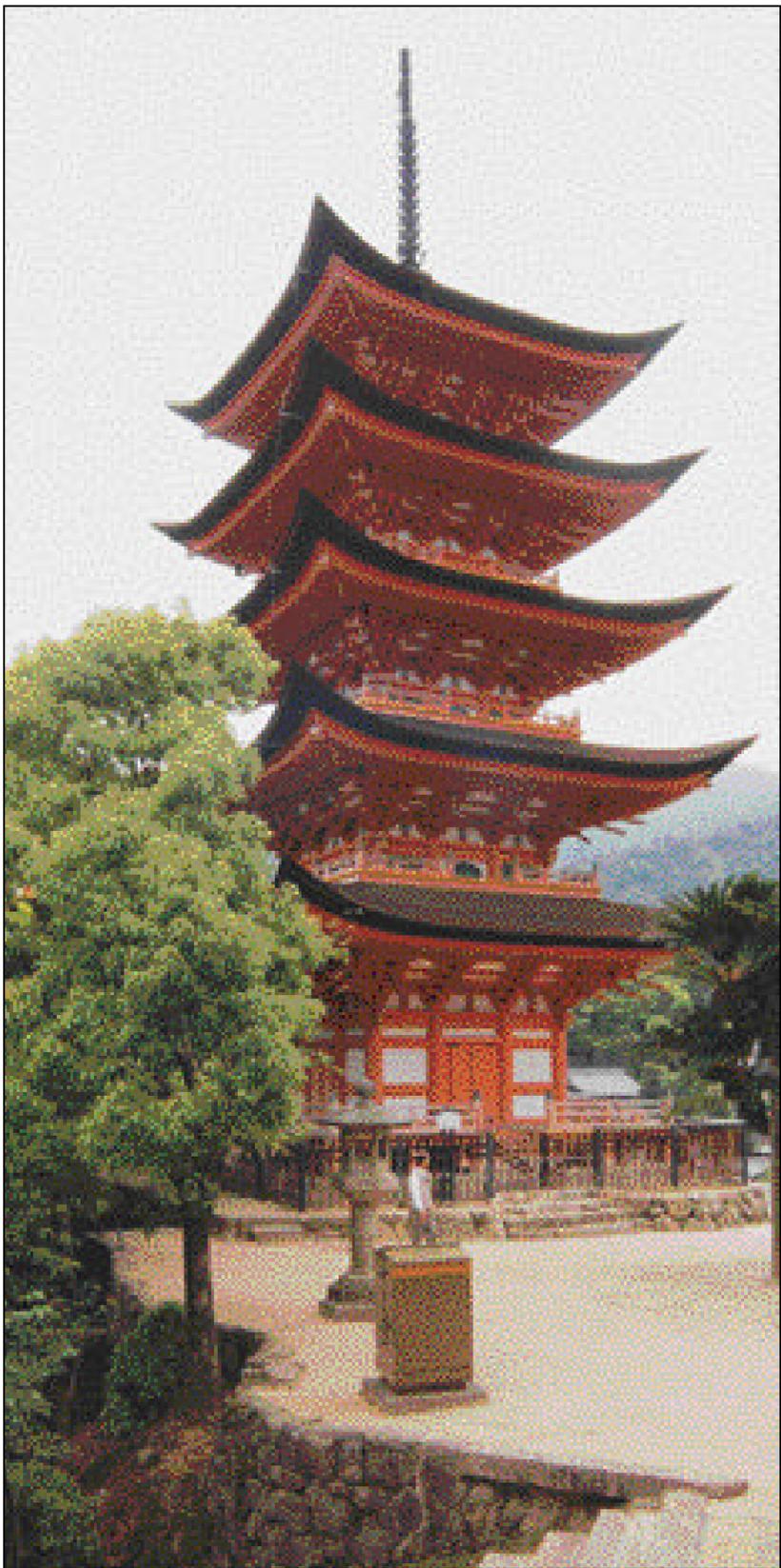
scratch, collected mussels and fruit, cleaned them, and ate them with rice.

As the sun set, the camp's energy began to die down, as the Marines went to their hammocks to sleep in the cool breeze blowing off the ocean water.

"Training with the Thais was an excellent experience," said 1st Lt. Benjamin G. Cook, 3rd Recon communications officer. "The Royal Thai Marines always have something we can learn from. The training was especially good for the younger Marines because they saw what it takes to survive in the jungle. The Thais have a great work ethic and the Thai Recon Marines are very gracious. It has been a really good experience overall."

Like the U.S. Marines, the Thai Marines enjoyed the camaraderie shared by their two countries."

This was a great class to work with, said Wanmuang. "I love to work with U.S. Marines and learn from the experiences they have to offer us. When they come over every year, we try to continue our education. It is very important because it is my country and we are the host. I look forward to working with the Marines next year."



Lance Cpl. Brian Henner

The five-storied pagoda at Miyajima Island offers a unique sight along with history dating back to the 1400s.

LANCE CPL GIOVANNI LOBELLO
Combat Correspondent

Japan is host to many beautiful recreational locations for Station residents to enjoy, but none compare to the relaxed environment of Miyajima Island.

Located in the Hiroshima Prefecture, Miyajima offers visitors a look into some of Japan's customs dating back to approximately the 6th century.

The O-Torii, which some call the symbol of Miyajima, can be seen before stepping foot on the island. The O-Torii serves as the (Grand Gate) to the Itsukushima Shrine.

Also located on the island is a unique five-storied pagoda. The pagoda, which was originally built by Hideyoshi Toyotomi around 1407, serves as a library about Buddha's.

Once at the island, deer welcome visitors near the ferryboat exit.

"I was surprised by how tame the said Ellen Stevenson, a visiting Ame student. "It was really neat to be able from my hand. Small, friendly deer was not expecting to see here at Miyajima."

In Miyajima, the Itsukushima shrine hosts several festivals that occur throughout the year.

"Around every month or so, the Shrine hosts festivals that Station residents attend," said Yoko Seo, cultural specialist. "In August, there is a very popular Fire Festival that is an amazing sight to see."

In addition to the shrines that are on the island, several other attractions are available. "Since everything is within walking distance, visitors are able to enjoy the tradition of all the shrines while learning about the island," said Seo.

Seo added, "Another popular site is a monkey sanctuary that is on top of the island."



Friendly deer await visitors entering Miyajima Island. Food from local vendors



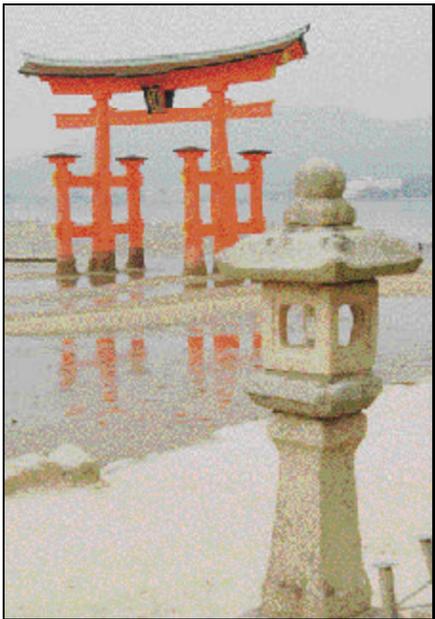
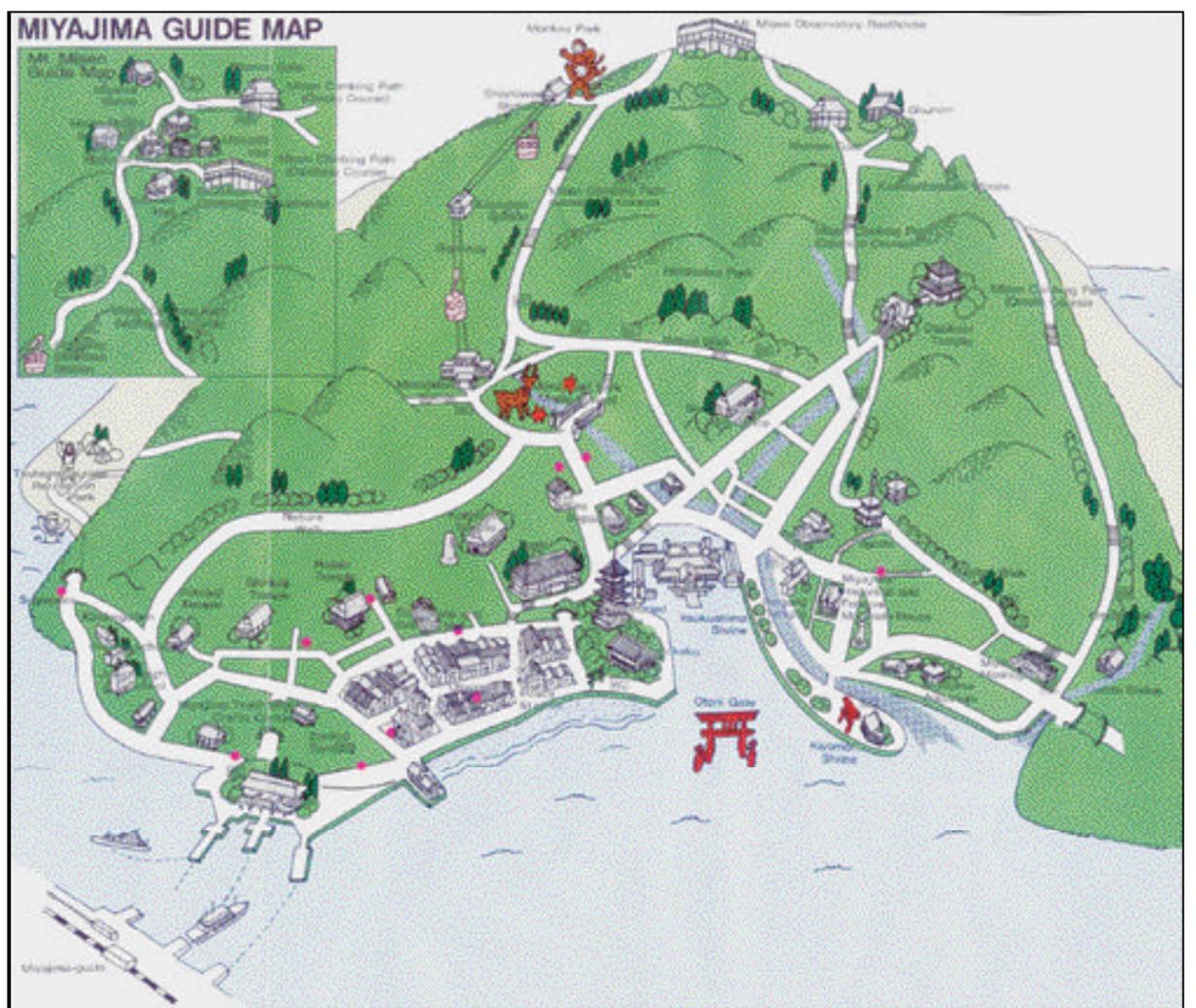
Just be careful with personal belongings, because the monkeys could take them if you are not paying attention. There are several temples and shrines scattered around the mountain too. Each with its own history."

Miyajima is approximately a 20-minute train ride from Iwakuni. The train fare is ¥980 round-trip. By car, Station residents have an approximate 20 km drive ahead of them before reaching the island.

After arriving at the train station, located across the street from the ferryboat port, residents may purchase round-trip tickets to the island by ferry for ¥340.

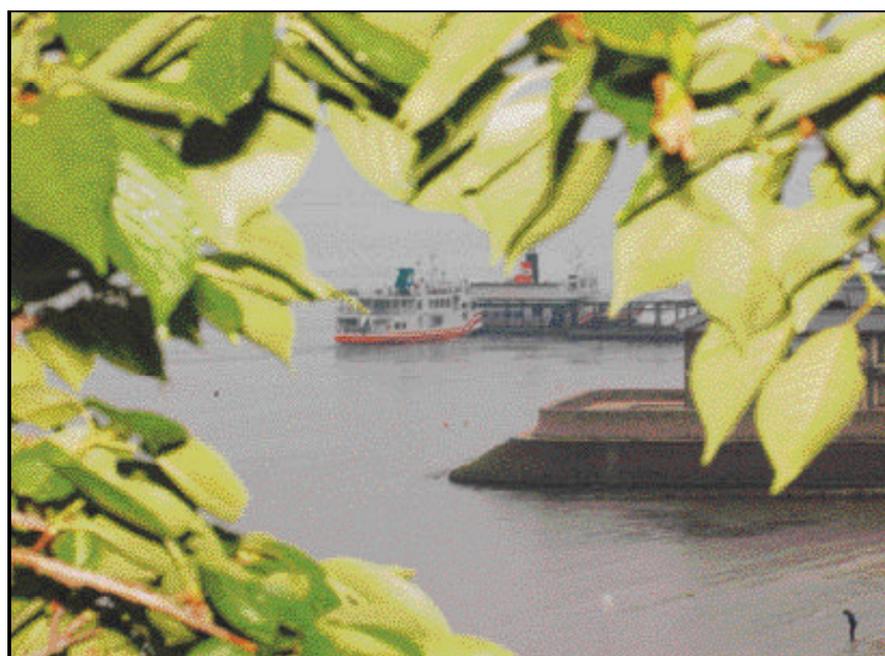
"Miyajima is visited by Japanese people throughout the entire country," explained Seo. "Some come as far as Tokyo just to visit. Living here in Iwakuni, we have a privilege being so close to Miyajima."

For more information, contact Information Tours and Travel at 253-4377.



Lance Cpl. Giovanni Lobello

The O-Torii, which is referred to as the symbol of Miyajima, also symbolizes the entrance to the Itsukushima Shrine, which was built in the latter half of the 6th century.



In order to go to Miyajima Island, a ferry must be taken across the ocean. The ferry costs ¥340 for a round-trip ticket.

Lance Cpl. Giovanni Lobello

Lance Cpl. Brian Henner
 id-fed to them.

Ikebana comes to Station

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LANCE CPL. DAVID REVERE
Combat Correspondent

"Ikebana is not a mere decoration, it is an art," said Sofu Teshigahara, founder of the Sogetsu School of Ikebana. "Ikebana is not for Japan alone, it is for the whole world."

In the same spirit, a Thursday night class from 6-8 p.m. at the Arts and Crafts Store is available to Station residents interested in developing this deeply cultured skill.

According to the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs "Web Japan" Web site, Ikebana is the art of arranging cut stems, leaves and flowers in vases and other containers. To arrange the stems and flowers exactly as desired, a familiarity with many different ways of fastening and positioning them is necessary. These techniques are what classes instruct students in.

The Web site states that Ikebana has developed many different styles of arrangement over its seven centuries of existence. Among the most common are the rikka (standing flowers), seika or shoka (living flowers), and nageire (flung flowers) styles when making arrangements in bowl-shaped vases; and the moribana (piled-up flowers) style when using dish-like containers.

According to Kuniko Tshuhara, the Station's Ikebana instructor, the choice of what flowers to



Kuniko Tshuhara, Ikebana instructor, arranges stems for the benefit of Lynn Theis, Station resident at the Arts and Crafts Store May 13.

arrange is guided by the desire to create harmony between flower and container and to find flowers that blend in well with their surroundings.

"Harmony and contrast is very important," said Tshuhara. "Just like music or a painting, the arrangement

needs to have focus and movement."

Although layer after layer of flowers are used in Western floral arrangements, in Ikebana, the key consideration is to use as few stems and leaves as possible in composing elegant contours that highlight the flowers' beauty.

"I feel the most beautiful when I work with nature," said Tshuhara. "I want other people to know and find this beauty."

Tshuhara's enthusiasm for teaching Ikebana is emphasized by her conviction that anyone can do it.

"Everybody can learn to arrange flowers," she said. "Just a few stems or big arrangements - everybody can learn to do it for any occasion."

Like Teshigahara, Tshuhara believes Ikebana should be shared with the world. She offers a program of study alongside the class that gives Station residents a chance to earn certification as an Ikebana instructor.

For further information about the class, call the Arts and Crafts Store at 253-6621.



Kuniko Tshuhara, Ikebana instructor, puts the finishing touch on a flower arrangement at the Arts and Crafts Store, May 13.



Sunflowers are one of the many plants used in Thursday night's Ikebana class at the Arts and Crafts Store. The arrangements are made using flowers of the current season.

OUT THE GATE

Note: Japanese who do not speak English may answer the phone numbers provided.

Toukasan Festival

This summer festival will take place at Toukasan Enryuji Temple and Chuo Dori Ave. in Hiroshima, June 4-6, 12-11 p.m. The area will be decorated with over 500 Japanese lanterns. Traditional dance parades will be performed at 7 p.m. More than 1,000 booths are set up along the avenue selling snacks,

goldfish scooping and more. For more information, call 082-241-7420.

Nishiki River Cormorant Fishing

A boat tour to watch cormorant fishing (using birds to catch fish) in front of the lit up Kintai bridge on the Nishiki River, will be held Tuesday until Aug. 31. A fee is required. It may be cancelled in case of inclement weather. Call 41-0470 for more information.

Modern Japanese Paintings Display

There will be a display of nearly

30 pieces of Japanese paintings Sunday through July 25, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Chokokan Museum near Kintai bridge. The admission is free. The museum is closed on Mondays. Call 41-0452 for details.

Botanical Displays

Displays are scheduled at the Hiroshima Botanical Garden. Japanese Azaleas will be displayed now through June 3 and Hydrangea will be displayed now through June 6, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The garden is closed on Fridays. Admission fee is required. For more information, call 082-922-3600.



TORII TELLER CLASSIFIED ADS

To submit your ads or announcements: *Torii Teller* accepts ads/announcements from nonprofit organizations and groups only. Briefs run on space-available and time-

priority basis. Deadline for briefs is noon Thursday. *Torii Teller* reserves the right to edit to fit space. Stop by Building 1, Room 216 to fill out a form.

AUTOMOBILES

Honda Civic, 1989, cassette, JCI until Jan. 2006, \$600 obo. Call Dave at 253-5551 dwh or 253-2482 aw.

Mazda Miata, 1990, 2 door convertible coupe, silver, cold A/C, JCI until Dec. 2005, \$3,000. Call 253-2441.

Nissan Serena, 1993, turbo diesel, AWD, 6 CD player, A/C, power everything, just serviced, JCI Feb. 2005, \$2,000. Call Lt Col. Houck at 253-4697 dwh or 253-2038 aw.

Honda Prelude, 1991, 2 door, power everything, sunroof, CD player, JCI until Sept. 2005, \$1,000. Call Rick at 253-4228 dwh or 253-7157 aw.

Toyota Hilux, 1991, 4x4, JCI until Sept. 2004, \$1,200 obo. Call Capt. Weeks at 253-6814 dwh or 253-2379 aw.

VW Golf GLE, 1996, auto, A/C, JCI until July 2005, \$2,500 obo. Call Therese Fitzgerald at 253-4383 dwh or 31-7965 aw.

Mazda Unos, 1994, 1 year JCI, \$2,500. Call MSgt. Lopez at 253-3648 dwh or 31-8484 aw.

Mazda Unos, 1993, 1 year JCI, \$2,000, or \$3,500 with the above Mazda Unos. Call MSgt. Lopez at 253-3648 dwh or 31-8484 aw.

Subaru Sport, 1992, JCI until Sept. 2004, \$1,000 obo. Call Capt. Weeks at 253-6814 dwh or 253-2379 aw.

Nissan Terrano, 1990, 4 door, 4WD, power everything, CD player, tinted windows, JCI until Dec. 2005, \$1,200 obo. Call Rick at 253-4228 dwh or 253-7157 aw.

Honda Accord, 1991, sedan, 10 CD changer, low mileage, heater, A/C, JCI until April 2005, \$2,500 obo. Call Julie Peressin at 253-5089 dwh or 253-2747 aw.

Mitsubishi Pajero, 1987, 2 door, 4WD, diesel engine, JCI until Aug. 2005, \$1,500 obo. Call SSgt. Potter at 253-4333/6776 dwh or 253-2553 aw.

Toyota Town Ace, 1990, 4 door, van, JCI until Nov. 2004, \$550 obo. Call Lt. Espino at 253-6527 dwh or 253-2262 aw.

Honda Ascot, 1991, 4 door, sedan, new battery, A/C, JCI until July 2005, \$950 obo. Call Lt. Espino at 253-6527 dwh or 253-2262 aw.

Honda Integra, 1992, 4 door, sedan, A/C, P/W, radio/cassette, JCI until Aug. 2005, \$800 obo. Call HMI Casares at 253-6647 dwh or 253-2913 aw.

Toyota MPV, 1994, 4 door, V-6, JCI until Aug. 2004, \$1,500. Call 38-0289.

Nissan Serena, 1993, 7 passenger van, JCI until Feb. 2006, \$2,500 obo. Call Jan or Jim 253-2996.

Suzuki Escudo, 1991, new tires, CD, A/C, rims, JCI until Sept. 2004, \$1,200 obo. Call Thomas at 253-

4133 dwh or 253-2384 aw.

Nissan Vanette Exclusive, 1989, A/C, cassette, sunroof, JCI until Dec. 2004, \$1,500 obo. Call Thomas at 253-4133 dwh or 253-2384 aw.

Honda CBR 1100 XX, 2001, 2 helmets, new front/rear tires, corbin seat, fitted cover, tank bra, tank bag, JCI until Feb. 2005, \$5,000. Call MSgt. Brunt at 253-6038 dwh or 253-2281 aw.

Harley Davidson Tour Glide Classic, 1988, mint condition, JCI until March 2006, \$8,500. Call Sean or Jolyn at 253-5549 dwh or 253-2291 aw.

OTHER ITEMS

Misc., 1,200 52ft short berber carpet, beige, padding included, 3 years old, \$1,000. Call 253-2441.

Misc., 21 foot sailboat, 3 sails, 6 life vests, porta-john, 9 horse power engine, \$2,000

obo. Call Lt. Bleile at 253-3331 dwh or 31-8404 aw.

Misc., electric kerosene heaters with jug, \$50; VAIIO computer, \$50; electric heater, \$35. Call MSgt. Lopez at 253-3648 dwh or 31-8484 aw.

Misc., American style small A/C, \$30; large A/C, \$40. Call SSgt. Lynch at 253-3814 dwh or 31-1645 after 5 p.m.

Misc., three kerosene heaters with cans and gates, \$250; JVC 27" color TV with stand, mint condition, \$150. Call 38-0289.

JOB OPENINGS

University Of Maryland Term Hire Field Rep is needed. Benefits include 21 semester hours free per year plus an hourly pay. Call 253-3494 for more information.

Central Texas College Basic Skills Education Program instructor is needed. Call 253-3631 for details.



MOVIE SCHEDULE

FRIDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. My Big Fat Greek Wedding (PG)
 2 p.m./8 p.m. Pirates Of The Caribbean (PG-13)
 11 p.m./5 a.m. "O" (R)
 2 a.m. The Last Stop (R)

SATURDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. Radio (PG)
 2 p.m./8 p.m. The Rundown (PG-13)
 11 p.m./5 a.m. Love Actually (R)
 2 a.m. One Night At McCool's (R)

SUNDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. To Kill A Mocking Bird (PG)
 2 p.m./8 p.m. Honey (PG-13)
 11 p.m./5 a.m. Lost In Translation (R)
 2 a.m. Vanilla Sky (R)

MONDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. Piglet's Big Movie (PG)
 2 p.m./8 p.m. Seabiscuit (PG-13)
 11 p.m./5 a.m. S.W.A.T. (R)
 2 a.m. 28 Days (R)

TUESDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. Riding In Cars With Boys (PG-13)
 2 p.m./8 p.m. Out Of Time (PG-13)
 11 p.m./5 a.m. Sorority Boys (R)
 2 a.m. We Were Soldiers (R)

WEDNESDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. School Of Rock (PG-13)
 2 p.m./8 p.m. Prince Of Glory (PG-13)
 11 p.m./5 a.m. Matrix Revolutions (R)
 2 a.m. Tears Of The Sun (R)

THURSDAY

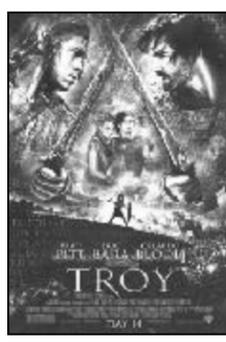
11 a.m./5 p.m. Master And Commander (PG-13)
 2 p.m./8 p.m. Dragon Fly (PG-13)
 11 p.m./5 a.m. Scary Movie 3 (PG-13)
 2 a.m. Next Friday (R)

SAKURA THEATER



THE PRINCE AND ME

Paige, a free-spirited American college student (and motorcycling enthusiast) starting her education at an Indiana university, meets and falls in love with one of her classmates, but what she doesn't know is that he's actually a Danish prince, Frederick, spending his "gap year" (before having to perform his princely duties) by hiding in America disguised as a regular guy. (111 minutes)



TROY

In 1193 B.C., Prince Paris of Troy stole the beautiful Greek woman, Helen, away from her husband, Menelaus, the king of Sparta, setting the two nations at war with each other, as the Greeks began a bloody siege of Troy using their entire armada, led by Achilles, that lasted over a decade. (162 minutes)



MAN ON FIRE

Denzel Washington stars as a government operative/soldier of fortune who has pretty much given up on life. In Mexico City, he reluctantly agrees to take a job to protect a child whose parents are threatened by a wave of kidnappings. He eventually becomes close to the child and their relationship reawakens and rekindles his spirit. (146 minutes)

FRIDAY

7 p.m. Taking Lives (R)
 10 p.m. Never Die Alone (R)

SATURDAY

1 p.m. Agent Cody Banks 2 (PG)
 4 p.m. Hidalgo (PG-13)
 7 p.m. The Ladykillers (R)
 10 p.m. Man On Fire (R)

SUNDAY

4 p.m. The Prince And Me (PG)
 7 p.m. Troy (R)

MONDAY

3 p.m. Troy (R)
 7 p.m. Man On Fire (R)

TUESDAY

7 p.m. Never Die Alone (R)

WEDNESDAY

7 p.m. Man On Fire (R)

THURSDAY

7 p.m. The Ladykillers (R)

This schedule is submitted by the Sakura Theater and is subject to change. For show times call the Sakura Theater at 253-5291.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

EDUCATION

Test Schedule

Tuesdays/Fridays - CLEP, DSST

June 7 - DLAB

June 9 - DLPT

June 16 - ACT

June 17 - SAT

June 24 - AFCT

June 28 - EDPT

For more information, call 253-3855.

CHRO

CHRO Training

■ **Effective Communication Skills:** June 21-23, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

■ **Privacy Act:** June 24, 1-2 p.m.

■ **Human Resources 101:** July 6-9, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information and nomination, call 253-6828 or send e-mail to shiomuram.jp@iwakuni.usmc.mil. Classes will be held at Building one, Room 102.

MCCS

Career Resource Management Center (253-6439)

■ **Local Employment Overview:** Tuesday, 9-10:30 a.m.

■ **Interviewing Skills:** Thursday, 1-3 p.m.

■ **Transition Assistance Program Seminar:** June 7-11, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

■ **Quarterly Military Pre-retirement Seminar:** June 14-

18, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Club Iwakuni (253-3727)

■ **A Touch Of Class:** Enjoy jazz under the stars with the band Just As Nice, Sunday, 8 p.m. on the Club Iwakuni Verandah. Tickets cost \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. All ranks.

■ **Club Closed Memorial Day:** Only the Eagle's Nest is open regular hours Monday.

MCX (253-5641)

■ **Memorial Day Sale:** Monday. Visit our special one-day sale.

■ **Techno Expo:** June 4 and 5. Discount items include portable DVD players, televisions and portable MD players.

Single Marine Program (253-3891)

■ **Sasebo Trip,** June 12, 7 a.m. \$20 transportation. Bring yen for shopping and lunch.

■ **Shuhodo Caves,** June 13, 10 a.m. \$20 transportation. Bring yen for admission and dinner.

Youth Center (253-4769)

■ **Camp Adventure And Panther Cub Camp 2004:** Registration is ongoing for the June 14 through Aug. 20 summer camps, available for 3 to 12-year-olds. Sign-up fees are based on total family income. L.E.S. is required upon registra-

tion. Grade school children may participate in weekly excursions outside the gate.

■ **Oshima Nagisa Aquarium:** June 26, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is ¥100 for children and ¥210 for adults. Register before June 23. The aquarium features a petting fish pool.

Teen Center (253-6454)

■ **Keystone Meeting:** Every Friday, 5-7 p.m.

Sponsorship Training

Thursday, 10-11 a.m. Find out if you have what it takes to sponsor a family moving to MCAS Iwakuni. Call 253-3311 for details.

Semper Fit Healthy Filipino-Style Cooking Class

June 8, 6-7:30 p.m. The Iron-Works Gym Wellness Kitchen. Sign-up for \$5. Call 253-6359 for more information.

Grocery Shopping Tour

June 18, 1-3 p.m. Call 253-6165 for details.

COMMUNITY

Iwakuni City International Youth Program

Japanese students, 13-17 years old, are looking for several American families, living on base, to help them experience the American lifestyle in the afternoon on June 19. Contact the Public Affairs Office at 253-5344/5551 for more information.

Central Texas College

Distance learning term five is Monday through July 24. Call CTC field representative, Jennifer Walker, at 253-3631 for more information.

Crime Stoppers

If you have any information pertaining to a crime please call "Crime Stoppers" at 253-3333. Crime Stoppers is an answering service designed for anonymous callers to give information that would assist the Provost Marshal's Office in solving and preventing crime.

Thrift Store

The Thrift Store is open Mondays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Wednesdays from 5-8 p.m. and the last Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Building 1117, located next to the Chapel. Volunteers and donations are always welcome. Call 253-4721 for more information.

Iwakuni Toastmasters

Toastmasters (TM) International provides an excellent opportunity to learn and practice proper public speaking and invaluable leadership skills. The TM experience also looks very good on your resume. The class meets every 2nd Thursday evening and 4th Friday at lunch. Japanese with intermediate or better English skills are welcome. Call Sallie Donahue at 253-5328 for more information.

CHAPEL SERVICES

Roman Catholic

Saturday	4:30 p.m.	Confession
	5:30 p.m.	Mass
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Mass
	10:45 a.m.	CCD

Protestant

Sunday	8 a.m.	Non-Denominational Christian Worship Service
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School/ Adult Bible Fellowships
	11 a.m.	Gospel Worship Service
	7 p.m.	Liturgical Divine Worship (1st Sunday of the Month)

Cooperative Chapel Ministries

3rd Saturday 8 a.m. Men's Fellowship Breakfast

LAY LED SERVICES

Church of Christ

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service
Wednesday	7 p.m.	Bible Study

Jesus Christ Apostolic

Sunday	12:30 p.m.	Worship Service
Thursday	6:30 p.m.	Bible Study

Seventh-Day Adventist

2nd & 4th Saturdays
9:30 a.m. Sabbath School/Worship

Jewish

Friday 6 p.m. Shabbat

Latter Day Saints

Sunday	1 p.m.	Priesthood/RS Meeting
	2 p.m.	Sunday School
	3 p.m.	Sacrament

For information regarding divine services, religious education or any other Command Religious Program/Chapel activity, call the Station Chapel at 253-5218.



Pfc. Lydia Davey

Christian honored for 40 years of service

On May 18, Robert Christian, Station Manpower management analyst, was presented with a 40-year Length of Service Award by visiting Brig. Gen (Ret.) Richard Rainforth. The award was signed by the Secretary of the Navy, along with a separate letter signed by the Commandant of the Marine Corps. Christian enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1964 and retired as a master sergeant in 1985. While on terminal leave (separation from active duty), he began his Marine Corps civilian career as a Consolidated Civilian Career Training program intern at MCAS Iwakuni.

Filipinos, Americans hoop it up

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LANCE CPL. DAVID REVERE
Combat Correspondent

With less than two minutes remaining, two three-pointers by Team Three guard Romeo Sira secured a 34-30 victory over Team One to take the Filipino American Basketball League championship May 19.

Finishing off the four-team regular season, the teams faced off for the final showdown at the Matthew C. Perry High School gym.

The action was fast, lighthearted and well-matched for both halves, with great defense demonstrated by both sides.

"We kind of struggled for the first half," said Michael Roxas, Team Three coach. "But in the second half, our defense kicked in and we started to relax."

Roxas said that relaxation was key to their ultimate win.

"The players did great work," said Roxas. "They played honest defense and they played hard. After the first half, they adjusted. I told them to relax more, and they did. They just enjoyed the game and that's what helped us win."

Ken Bomongcag, Team Three point guard, said in addition to having fun, good teamwork secured the championship.

"The other team knew to shutdown the ball handlers, but they left everyone else open," Bomongcag said. "We played really good as a team together. There wasn't one person scoring all the points. Everyone was passing the ball around, making points together. We were feeding off each other."

Excellent defense by both teams made for a great game for everyone.

"Defense was key to the game," said Don Albia,



Team One point guard Tony Escalante looks for an opening past Team Three guard Romeo Sira at the Matthew C. Perry High School Gym for the May 19 Filipino American Basketball League championship.

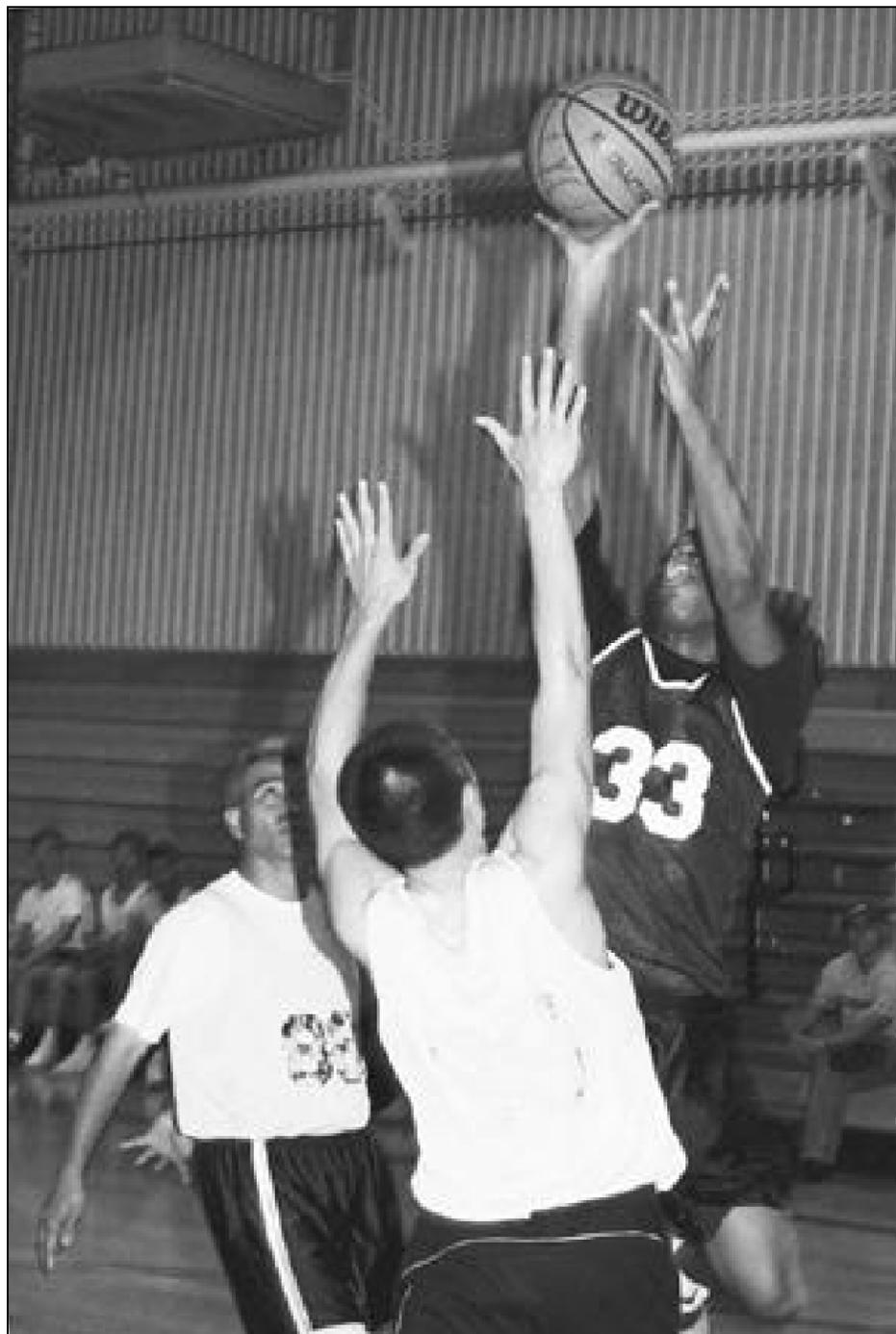
Team One coach. "The team that had the best defense won."

Albia was proud of his team's effort, despite the loss.

"It's important to say they did not run away with the game," said Albia. "It was a very well-defended game by both teams."

According to Bomongcag, the championship wasn't all the Filipino American league was about.

"FilAm is also here to bring people together on base," said Bomongcag.



Team Three point guard Wayne Diaz shoots a jump shot over Team One guard Nathaniel Albia at the Filipino American Basketball League championship at Matthew C. Perry High School Gym May 19.

Albia agreed, adding, "We have young kids coming up here and we want to expose them to the game in a positive environment. That's part of what FilAm is about."

IWAKUNI SPORTS SCENE

ALL MARINE TEAMS

In order to enter the following All Marine Teams, completed resumes must be received by the Semper Fit Athletic Director or the S-1 no later than three weeks prior to the due date to allow for review, commanding officer's endorsement and mail time.

- All Marine Golf
- All Marine Women's Softball Team
- All Marine Iron-Man Triathlon Team
- All Marine Rugby Team

MAIN OUTDOOR POOL

The pool is open daily starting Saturday. Hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., and weekends and holidays from 12-6 p.m. Call 253-4966 for details.

CLUB IWAKUNI OUTDOOR POOL

The pool opens Saturday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Until June 14, the pool is open on the weekends only for these hours. Starting June 14, the pool will be open daily. Call 253-4966 for more information.

MEMORIAL DAY BOWLING SPECIAL

Monday, 1-9 p.m. All games are \$1 at the Bowling Center.

ENERGY AWARENESS ADULT 38 KM AND CHILDREN'S 5 KM BIKE RACES

Saturday, at the Crossroads Amphitheater. Open to the Station residents and family members age 7-years-old and up. Children check in at 7:30 a.m. Adults check in at 8:30 a.m. No advance sign-up or entry fees. Just show up and be ready to race and have fun. Males and females compete separately in age categories. For details, call Chief Robinson at 253-6148 or e-mail robinsonr@iwakuni.usmc.mil.

Skaters ollie through competition

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
Pfc. LYDIA DAVEY
Combat Correspondent

The steady whir of wheels on pavement was suddenly broken as the board leapt from the ramp and hung suspended midair. Breathless silence exploded into shouts of encouragement and victory as the skater, in a seemingly effortless move, torqued his body into a 180-degree turn and gracefully landed his board on the down slope of the ramp.

Seven contenders competed amongst each other May 22 in a Station-wide competition at the Station Skate Park.

A fierce battle was waged among the beginners, but the best scores for the first and second freestyle rounds went to Nick Forti, age 8.

"The best part of the day was seeing Nick win," said competitor Ryan Peters. "I didn't see it coming."

The intermediate/advanced skaters also competed in two freestyle rounds. Each competitor was allowed a total of three minutes apiece to perform his best selection of tricks using the variety of ramps and rails available at the skate park.

"Competition is stressful, and remaining focused

is key," said Hans Holback, a 14-year-old Station resident and competitor. "You have to remember to be steady and not give into the pressure."

The riders were judged according to the difficulty involved in each move, their technical precision and crowd participation, said Alex Perkins, Marine Corps Community Services special events coordinator and skate competition judge.

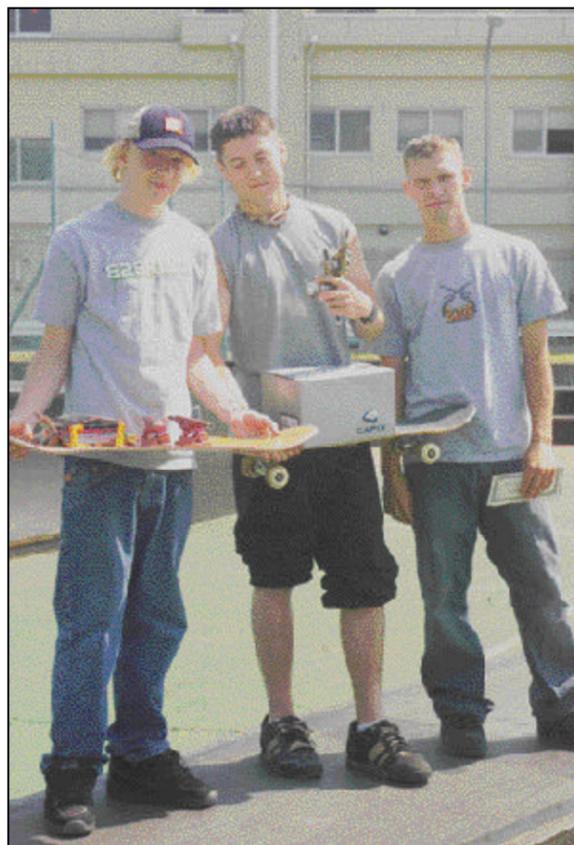
"The most difficult move I performed was grinding along a bar on top of the pyramid," noted Holback. Competitors Ryan Peters and John Eason challenged Holback for first place. However, final scores reflected Holback's effort and confidence, and he came away with the victory.

In an awards ceremony, Forti and Holback, along with second and third place and honorable mention competitors, received prizes provided by the Marine Corps Community Services Special Events Department.

"We give these guys a lot of credit," said Perkins. "They spend hours practicing. Skating isn't for everyone—it's kind of an extreme sport."



Nick Forti, 8, took first place in the beginners' category during the Station-wide skate competition May 22 with smooth tricks and confident skating. Forti surprised many by taking the first place honors, as he received the best scores in both rounds of freestyle competition.



Hans Holback (left), first place skating competition winner, stands next to second place Ryan Peters (center), and third place John Eason (right). The three skaters competed against each other in the advanced category during the May 22 skate competition at the Station's Skate Park.