



2013-2014 Officers & Staff:

Commandant: Jim Brodeur 205-5144
 Sr. Vice: John Bynes 265-0525
 Jr. Vice: Bob Espinosa 367-4180
 JAG: Dennis Larson 272-6785
 Adjutant/Pay Gary Miller 477-1533
 Sgt-at-Arms: Skip Rankin 478-0174
 Qtr. Master: Skip Rankin 478-0174
 Chaplain Dennis Jensen 273-1082

*All numbers are 530 area code



Commandants Message

Another year has gone by and February is soon upon us. I'm hearing many of you have been sick with cold or flu (myself included). I hope you get over it so we can get back on track.



For February we need to get going with elections for this year. Nominations will be in February with late nominations at the March meeting just before the election. Open slots include nominations for Commandant, Sr. Vice Commandant and Jr. Vice Commandant. It would be nice to see some new blood for officers and some new recruits as well.

We had a staff meeting and bantered a few ideas around of things to do as a detachment. Suggestions included a qual day at the range, a potluck at or after our meeting, lunch at a local restaurant etc. We need your feedback and/or suggestions, I'll be bringing it up at the next regular meeting.

Gary tells me the ewaste recycle program

which was slated for January was put on hold until they can procure a better game plan. You'll get an update as soon as we know anything.

The county wants to use our kitchen area in the office for their events and they claim they're going to give us more space, build a wall and a door, and perhaps give us a new carpet. Once they do build the wall we will be tearing down our middle short wall and expanding our office space. We will be asking for volunteers to help with painting and decorating. With any luck it'll look better than it does now.

An upcoming event in July is the air

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Happy Birthday!!!

January:

- Al Hernandez
- Ron Lange
- Gary Miller
- Richard Vizcarra

From the Adjutant's Desk

Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni or MCAS Iwakuni is a [United States Marine Corps](#) air station located in the [Nishiki river delta](#), 1.3 [NM](#) (2.4 km; 1.5 mi) southeast of the [Iwakuni Station](#) in the [city of Iwakuni, Yamaguchi, Japan](#).

US Marine Corps

[Marine Aircraft Group 12](#) (MAG-12) contains the rotary and fixed wing aircraft assets of Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni. MAG-12 is home to four flying squadrons and a logistics Squadron.

[VMFA\(AW\)-242](#) — only permanent Marine F/A-18 Hornet fighter squadron stationed abroad.

[VMGR-152](#) Sumos Moved here from MCAS Futenma commencing in June 2014 with their 15 KC-130J Super Hercules.



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show put on by the local Experimental Aircraft Association. They do a show every other year at our local airport and usually give us a free booth to sell goods and rose pens for donations. We sometimes provide a color guard to open the ceremony. More information is at EAA1175.org website. I will keep you all updated as time nears.

Upcoming conventions—the State convention is in San Diego, Ca. in June 11-14. Info at http://www.mclcal.com/?page_id=302. There is usually a base tour and other events in and around San Diego.

The National convention is in Scottsdale, Az. August 9-15.

Info at <http://2015mclnationalconvention.com/>

I expect I'll be going to at least one of these events. More info can be obtained at the state MCL website.

Until we meet again, Semper Fidelis.

Jim Brodeur
Commandant

Sr. Vice's Comments

To All,

Toys for Tots is behind us now behind us, I wish to thank you all for another successful year. This month we will again be thanking our sponsors with a special event to honor them. The date to be determined.



John Bynes—Sr. Vice commandant
& Toys For Tots Coordinator

For Sale/Wanted Items

Wanted: Top loader washer and electric dryer, working or not. I also want old computers to refurbish.

Call Jim Brodeur—477-5120

(Adjutants Message continued from page 1)

[HSC-25 Detachment 6 Knighthawks with 2 MH-60S helicopters which deploy to the USS Bon Homme Richard \[LHD-6\] as required.](#)

[Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12](#) provides logistics support, guidance, and direction to MAG-12 and other commands aboard the Station. Click on the link to the right for more information on the Marauders.

[Marine Wing Support Squadron 171](#) provides essential Aviation Ground Support to the Station

[Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron](#) provides administrative support and conducts training in general military skills for more than 800 Marines and sailors aboard MCAS Iwakuni.

[Combat Logistics Company 36](#) Provides logistic support to MWSS-171 and MAG 12.

[374th Airlift Wing](#) 374th Communications Squadron provides communications support to H&HS, MAG-12, Branch Medical Clinic Iwakuni, Army Corps of Engineers, and JMSDF.

[Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force](#) Fleet Air Wing 31

History

The Japanese government bought a large portion of what is today MCAS Iwakuni in 1938, with the view of establishing a naval air station. They commissioned the new base 8 July 1940. When World War II started, the Iwakuni air station was used as a training and defense base. The station housed 96 trainers and 150 Zero fighter planes on the airstrip. In September 1943, a branch of the [Etajima Naval Academy](#) was established here, with approximately 1,000 cadets undergoing training in the Basic, Junior and Senior Officer's schools at any one time. American [B-29's](#) bombed Iwakuni in May and August 1945, concentrating on the oil refinery and Rail Transport Office or train station areas. The last air raid took place just a day before the war was brought to a close.

The first allies to reach Iwakuni at the war's end were a group of U.S. Marines who had signed papers ending the conflict for the Japanese air base. After the end of World War II, various military forces from the United States, Britain, Australia, and New Zealand occupied the base and it was repaired by [No. 5 Airfield Construction Squadron RAAF](#). It was designated a [Royal Australian Air Force](#) Base in 1948. The Americans first occupied

the base in 1950 to use it as a springboard for aircraft heading to the [Korean War](#). In 1952, the base officially became a United States military base.

F-51Ds of RAAF No. 77 Squadron in maintenance at Iwakuni Airfield, June 1950.

Iwakuni had scheduled international service by private airlines from 1952 to 1964, during which time it had the IATA airport code IWJ. This code was later reassigned to nearby [Iwami Airport](#).^[7]

[Nuclear weapons](#) were moved from Okinawa to the base for storage during a brief period in 1966. When U.S. ambassador to Japan [Edwin O. Reischauer](#) learned of the presence of the weapons, which was a violation of the [Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between the United States and Japan](#), he told the [United States Department of State](#) that if the weapons were not removed within 90 days he would resign and go public with the information. The weapons were removed shortly thereafter, and their presence at the base did not become publicly known until 2010.^[8]

On 14 July 1970, [African-American](#) soldiers and some anti-war soldiers raised a riot against the [Vietnam War](#) on the base.

It is currently home to around 5,000 [United States Marines](#) (including family members). The base is detailed for Marine [pilot](#) training and air patrol, using [F/A-18 Hornet fighter-attack aircraft](#) among others in compliance with the [Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security](#) obligations to protect Japan. MCAS Iwakuni is also shared with the [Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force](#). MCAS Iwakuni has an air station that many people in Iwakuni want to be made into a public international airport. MCAS Iwakuni is home to a [Department of Defense](#) school, Matthew C. Perry (Elementary and High School).

In 2014, it is planned to move the U.S. Carrier Air Wing from Atsugi to Iwakuni which will further increase the size of the base. However, due to construction delays, the Navy will continue to operate out of NAF Atsugi until 2017.

The USMC's aircraft procurement plan for fiscal year 2010 revealed that the Corps plans to station 16 [F-35B](#) aircraft at Iwakuni beginning in the fall of 2015 to replace the AV-8 and F/A-18 aircraft currently stationed at the base. The F-35B's engines are louder than those of the AV-8 and F/A-18 which may have an impact on the local community.

A new off-shore runway opened at the base on 30 May 2010. The new runway is 2,440 meters in length.

This is a brief history and description of the place Bob Espinosa, Art Leitherer, Tom Lingenfelter and spent some of our enlistment. It was taken from Wikipedia.

Semper Fi

Gary



Our Quartermaster

Please send interesting articles to Jim Brodeur

13288 Devin Ln., Grass Valley, Ca. 95949

email: jbrodeur@theunion.net

Phone: (530) 477-5120 Cell phone (530) 205-5144

Do check out our updated 885 Detachment Web page:
["http://www.mcl885.org"](http://www.mcl885.org)

Other News

I'm using Microsoft Publisher for this newsletter and I'm liking it the more I use it so please send me your articles to fill in the blank spaces. Make them interesting but short. I want to hear what's going on in your life. Try to make it relevant to the MCL if possible or just plain funny is good too. Also, if you have something for sale or have a service to offer let me know and I'll post it.

Thanks,
Jim Brodeur

Upcoming Events

- **Feb 2nd —Regular Meeting**
1800 at the Grass Valley Vet's Hall. Be on time and bring a friend! Officer nominations.
- **March 2nd—Regular Meeting**
Yearly officer elections.
- **June 11-14—State Convention in San Diego**
- **August 9-15—National Convention in Scottsdale, Az.**



Gold Country Detachment #885

Marine Corps League
578 Sutton Way, PMB #375

