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**MCAS Iwakuni, Japan** – The IronWorks Gym indoor pool will reopen to normal business hours Wednesday, April 1 after being closed several months due to the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act (VGB Pool and Spa Safety Act) that became effective Dec. 19, 2008. The pool is open Monday through Friday, 5 a.m. – 9 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. – 9 p.m. and Sunday and Holidays from 11 a.m. – 9 p.m.

The act required the installation of anti-entrapment drain/anti-evisceration drain covers or certification of compliance of existing drain covers by a public engineer.

The public law also stated that all public pools be closed until fitted with upgraded drains or certification of compliance by a public engineer so no human body can block the drains enough to create suction.

Station drain covers were manufactured in Japan; therefore in order to become compliant with the newly enacted federal law, covers would have had to be specially fabricated to meet these specific measurements or a public engineer would inspect the existing drain covers to determine compliance. Station Safety, Engineers, MCCS and Facilities Maintenance explored both avenues in order to open the pools as quickly as possible with safety being the number one priority. As-built drawings, flow rates, construction materials, measurements and various other data were sent to a company that could retrofit the new drain covers and to a public engineer. If the public engineer determined the pools were not in compliance, the new drain covers could be constructed and retrofitted for MCCS Iwakuni pools. The public engineer determined that the MCCS Iwakuni pools are in compliance with the VGB Pool and Spa Safety Act.