

M Hawaii MARINE E

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2005 THOMAS JEFFERSON AWARD WINNING METRO FORMAT NEWSPAPER

NOVEMBER 10, 2006

Hawaii's fallen heroes

Fallen A-3



History B-1



MCM C-1



KIAs D-1

Veterans urged to wear military medals on Veterans Day

Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — With National Veterans Awareness Week under way and the national Veterans Day observance Saturday, the Veterans Affairs secretary is urging all veterans to show their pride by wearing their military medals.

The Department of Veterans Affairs' Veterans Pride initiative encourages all veterans to wear their military decorations this Veterans Day. R. James Nicholson's "Veterans Pride" initiative calls on veterans to wear the medals they earned while in uniform this Veterans Day to "let America know who you are and what you did for freedom," he said.

The campaign is modeled after a tradition in Australia and New Zealand, countries that honor the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, or ANZAC, every April 25. The observance originally commemorated more than 8,000 Australians killed during the battle of Gallipoli during World War I, but now honors all Australian and New Zealand veterans.

Last year, while attending ANZAC ceremonies in Sydney, Nicholson said he was struck to see all the veterans and surviving family members wearing their military medals and campaign ribbons.

"It focused public pride and attention on those veterans as individuals with personal histories of service and sacrifice for the common good," he noted in a message to veterans. "That is why I am calling on America's veterans to wear their military medals this Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2006."

Nicholson and leaders of major veterans groups announced the

See **VETERANS, A-5**

One for 'Old Glory'



Sgt. Sara A. Carter

Marines re-enact the flag raising on Mount Suribachi at the Marine Corps' Birthday Pageant at Dewey Square, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. Marines from Headquarters Battalion dressed in period uniforms representing the different eras of Marine Corps history.

Battleship Missouri Memorial to host sunset Veterans Day ceremony

News Release

Battleship Missouri Memorial Association

The USS Missouri Memorial Association invites visitors and kamaaina alike to join its staff and volunteer crew aboard America's last battleship to salute our nation's present and former military personnel at its annual Veterans Day ceremony from 4:45 to 5:45 p.m. Saturday at the Battleship Missouri Memorial on Ford Island, Pearl Harbor.

The ceremony will be free and open to the public. With "We remember the sacrifices of our veterans" as its theme, the ceremony will serve as a tribute to all United States veterans who have and continue to selflessly defend our nation and freedom.

This year, the association will welcome as its keynote speaker Rear Adm. T. G. Alexander, Commander, Navy Region Hawaii, and Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific. Alexander assumed both commands Aug. 8 and as

See **MISSOURI, A-5**



File photo

Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, U.S. Navy, signs the Instrument of Surrender as United States representative, aboard the battleship USS Missouri (BB-63), Sept. 2, 1945. Standing directly behind him are (left-to-right): General of the Army Douglas MacArthur; Adm. William F. Halsey, USN, and Rear Adm. Forrest Sherman, USN.

CALLING ALL VETERANS

WEAR YOUR MEDALS ON VETERANS DAY

AND

SHOW YOUR PRIDE

The Department of Veterans Affairs calls on all veterans to express their patriotism and pride on Veterans Day and other major patriotic holidays through a display of medals earned in their military service.

Join your comrades in public display of your military decorations. It's a way to show your community the spirit of America's veterans and remind your neighbors of the service and sacrifice of those who guarded democracy.

As we salute America's heroes on Veterans Day, Memorial Day and the Fourth of July, wear your medals and show your pride, whether participating in public observances or relaxing with family and friends. Your medals tell a story of service in the cause of freedom that all Americans need to hear.

For more information, visit the VA's Web site at: www.va.gov/veteranspride

3rd Marine Regiment honored

Press Release

Marine Corps Base Hawaii

The Honolulu Council Navy League bestowed its 2006 American Patriot Award to 3rd Marine Regiment Nov. 4 aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, at an awards banquet at The Officers' Club.

The American Patriot Award is an annual award that recognizes individuals and organizations who exemplify American patriotism. The award is presented at a black-tie dinner and ceremony to those whose actions demonstrate courage, loyalty and patriotism.

"The 3rd Marines are most worthy recipients of this award, and an inspiration to us all," said Robert Dewitz, chair of the American Patriot Award Dinner.

The Regiment was first activated in 1942 and has been stationed at Kaneohe Bay since 1971. They fought in several World War II campaigns that included the infamous Iwo Jima campaign. Following assignments in Japan and Okinawa, the Regiment participated in the war in Vietnam, operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq, respectively.

"Serving on the leading edge of the war on terror, from the opening days of Afghanistan to the toughest battles in Iraq, no unit has seen more combat or made greater sacrifice than Hawaii's own 3rd Marines," said Dewitz. "They are true American patriots."

Ever vigilant



Cpl. Luke Blom

U.S. Marines from the Hawaii-based Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, patrol through palm groves Oct. 15, near the Euphrates River in Haditha, a city of 30,000 in Iraq's Al Anbar province. U.S. military control of security operations in the Haditha region in Iraq's Al Anbar province was transferred to 2/3 late last month. Second Battalion is now part of Regimental Combat Team 7, the U.S. military unit responsible for providing security to more than 30,000 square miles in western Al Anbar province. The "Island Warriors" said they are confident they can bring further stability to the area but know doing so will be a challenging task because of the large number of insurgents in the area.

NEWS BRIEFS

Hawaiian Waters Adventure Park Honors Military With Free Admission to Kick Off Veterans Day Weekend

Hawaiian Waters Adventure Park, 400 Farrington Highway, honors military during Veterans Day weekend with free admission today and half-off general admission on Saturday and Sunday. All active duty, reserve, National Guard and retirees who have a valid identification card are eligible to receive special admission. Dependents, friends and family of military personnel will also enjoy half-off general admission.

Contact Hawaiian Waters Adventure Park at 647-9283 or visit www.hawaiianwaters.com for more information.

National Museum of the Marine Corps

The National Museum of the Marine Corps will be formally dedicated today and will open to the public on Monday. The museum, a joint venture of the U.S. Marine Corps and the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, is located on a 135-acre site adjacent to the Marine Corps base in Quantico, Va. According to the Foundation, the ceremony represents a special opportunity for the project's supporters to "celebrate the creation of a magnificent new complex dedicated to the commemoration of Marine service throughout our nation's history."

Log on to: www.usmcmuseum.org/news_Featu reEvent.asp for more information about the dedication of the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

Post Office to Close for Veterans Day

The Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Base Post Office will be closed today and Saturday in observance of Veterans Day and will reopen 8 a.m. Monday. The post offices in Kailua and Kaneohe will be open for Saturday service.

Call the Base Post Office at 257-2008 for additional information.

United Through Reading

USO of Hawaii is offering deploying service members the opportunity to record themselves reading a children's book and have the finished product shown to his or her child(ren) while he or she is on deployment. Taping sessions are offered today, Saturday and again Nov. 29.

To sign up for a half-hour session and for more information about the project, e-mail: uso-hawaii@uso.org or call 836-3351.

Temporary Closure of Motorcycle Range

During the month of November, the motorcycle range will undergo maintenance to the existing surface. Riders should check with the Base Safety Center for updates and class scheduling.

During the closure, Naval Safety Region, Pearl Harbor has agreed to take Marine Corps Base Hawaii riders until the range is operational.

Courses affected are the Basic Rider Course and Experienced Rider Course. The Group Rider Course will continue to be offered.

Contact the Base Safety Center at 257-1830 for more information.

Important Phone Numbers:

On-Base Emergencies	911
Military Police	257-7114
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Business Management Hotline	257-3188
Pothole & Streetlight Repair	257-2380
Base Information	449-7110
MCBH Duty Chaplain	257-7700
DEERS	257-2077

Hawaii MARINE

www.mcbh.usmc.mil

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\$70 million to be paid back to 70,000 service members

Pfc. Ethan Hoaldrige

U.S. Marine Forces, Pacific

U.S. MARINE CORPS FORCES, PACIFIC, CAMP H. M. SMITH, Hawaii — Certain insurance agencies got caught with their hand in the cookie jar, and now have to pay back more than \$70 million to 70,000 service members after allegedly using misleading business practices.

According to Marine Corps administration message 514/06, American Amicable Life Insurance Company of Texas and its affiliates, Pioneer American Insurance Company and Pioneer Security Life Insurance Company, allegedly committed violations of insurance protection laws while selling their Horizon Life and Wealth Builder insurance policies.

After legal claims were settled by federal and state agencies, approximately 70,000 service members who purchased these policies from Jan. 1, 2000 to July 28, are eligible for cash refunds totaling \$70 million and increased policy benefits. This includes former and current customers.

Now, American Amicable companies are no longer allowed to solicit or sell any of their products on a military installation for five years.

Marines and their families who purchased life insurance products from an American Amicable Company should call the company's customer service center at (800) 736-7311 and give their current mailing address.

The company will contact each policyholder by mail with information regarding their refund and will send a check payable to current and former customers.

"This is why we offer legal assistance," said retired Lt. Col. James O'Donnell, the U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific attorney advisor. "If in doubt, bring the life insurance policy in, or any contract for that matter, to the legal office, and we will interpret the document for you."

There are many other forms of deceptive business practice out there as well.

"Out of my 24 years of service, I've seen almost every type of scam out there. It's better to come to us for help than ask the insurance agent that works off of commission," said O'Donnell.

There are many government agencies that offer assistance as well.

"The State Department of Insurance is here to protect the consumers' rights," said J.P. Schmidt, the insurance commissioner of Hawaii. "Any time the consumer thinks something improper is happening, dealing with a life insurance policy, it is very important to contact the insurance department in your state of residence or where the policy was sold immediately."

"Our main duty is taking policyholders' calls and explaining the situation to them," said Schmidt. "Then we will investigate whether or not there is a violation of insurance or consumer protection laws."

The Hawaii State Department of Insurance and the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors are two good resources to contact with questions about insurance policies, according to Schimdt.

The Hawaii State Department of Insurance can be contacted by calling (808) 586-2790. The National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors can be accessed through its Web site: <http://www.naifa.org> and the U.S. Department of Justice through its Web site: <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/pao/news/pr/2006/aug/americanamicablepress.p>.

Marine Administration Message 514/06 is available on the Marine Corps Web site: <http://www.usmc.mil/maradmin/maradmin2000.nsf>.



10 November 2006

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

On November 10th, 1775, our Corps was born as the Continental Congress raised the "first and second battalions of American Marines." Each year as we celebrate our birthday, we pause to reflect on the Marines of yesteryear who fought in our touchstone battles and forged the modern Marine Corps with their courage, integrity, and undying commitment to their fellow Marines. Each of our storied battles is a link in the long chain that binds all Marines together—from the Continental Marines at Bunker Hill to the *Teufelhunden* crossing the wheat fields of Belleau Wood. This chain binds us to the Marines on the crest of Mount Suribachi; it passes through the ice and snow of the Chosin Reservoir and the steaming jungles of Vietnam, and it anchors firmly today in the desert sands of Iraq.

This year's celebration again finds many from our ranks serving with distinction in harm's way. As we have for the past 231 years, our Corps is answering the Nation's call. I can report first hand that our Marines fighting on the front lines of the Long War on Terror are performing brilliantly, acquitting themselves with honor, dedication, and dignity in difficult and dangerous environments.

All Marines are making a difference. Regardless of where you are serving, you are adding new chapters to the legacy that was earned with sweat and blood on old battlefields. Just as previous generations of Marines shaped today's Marine Corps, your deeds are molding the Corps of tomorrow. Our Corps has never been stronger, and all Americans are extremely proud of your magnificent performance and unwavering commitment to serve our Corps and country. With high caliber Marines like you, our future has never been brighter.

Another irreplaceable element of our success as Marines is the terrific support we receive from our families. Through the long hours, the exercises, and the combat deployments, their support is unconditional and firm. They give us love and devotion, providing us with the strength to drive on when duty calls. Today we should all acknowledge our loved ones for their patient, steadfast service.

To all who have earned the title Marine, to the superb Sailors who serve with us in every clime and place, and to our precious families—I wish each one of you a heartfelt *Happy 231st Birthday*.

Semper Fidelis and Keep Attacking!

Mike Hagee
M. W. Hagee
General, U.S. Marine Corps

Soliciting not allowed on Base

Sgt. Sara A. Carter

Combat Correspondent

Walking into most local stores can sometimes be intimidating – especially on the weekends.

Outside, children holding signs for their youth baseball, basketball or scout organization stop shoppers as they enter and exit the store, asking them to buy cookies, baked goods or candy bars. How does one say no?

Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, has strict policies for soliciting on base.

Individuals can enter facilities around the base without having to worry about being pressured into buying something.

Base regulation P5500.15B, Chapter 2, spells out exactly what is and is not allowed on base.

There are many commercial activities that are prohibited on base. These include:

- Door-to-door solicitation in family housing areas or bachelor quarters.
- Use of retired, reserve, or dependent military identification cards or vehicle decals to gain access to the base for the purpose of soliciting for a commercial activity.
- Salesmen, agents, or representatives of commercial organizations may not make formal or informal presentations on service or products at meetings, class-

es, formations, or other assemblies of military personnel without permission from the commanding general. This does not preclude individuals from sponsoring commercial vendors for personal presentation or official business.

• Active duty personnel who represent any commercial company may not sell or solicit the sale of life insurance, mutual funds or other investment plans, goods or services with or without compensation.

"If an individual wants, for example, a newspaper, the paper can be delivered to their house, but the representative from the newspaper cannot go to the resident's neighbors and try to get them to buy a subscription," said Gunnery Sgt. Petronella Williams, Inspector/Admin Chief.

Another thing individuals cannot do is to come aboard the base and hand out unofficial literature.

The first paragraph of the base order states, "The command policy is to preserve and respect all First Amendment rights to the maximum extent recognized by law consistent with national security, good order and discipline and the mission of the command and tenant units."

Individuals who want to distribute literature on base must submit a written request to the commanding general, enclosing

copies of the materials that are proposed for distribution along with the dates the materials will be distributed, the method of distribution, and the purpose for the distribution.

All materials mentioned must be received at least 10 days before the proposed distribution date.

One type of solicitation that is authorized is home demonstrations, but there are some stipulations.

The group gathering must be solely within the quarters of the sponsor; all attendees must be guests of the sponsor; the sponsor may not take orders for merchandise or services or otherwise act as a representative of the commercial organization; all goods, merchandise or services offered for sale or sold as a result of the activity must be offered and sold at the unit price to each attendee without rebate or other special inducement to the sponsor.

Individuals who want to operate a home business from government quarters must request permission from the commanding general to conduct a business within their quarters.

Also, all fundraisers must be cleared with the commanding general.

For more information or to submit a request to the commanding general, e-mail mcbhinspector@usmc.mil.

Weekend weather outlook

Today



Day — Partly cloudy with scattered showers. Highs around 81. East winds 10 to 15 mph. Chance of rain 50 percent.

Night — Partly cloudy with scattered showers. Lows around 73. East winds 10 to 15 mph. Chance of rain 40 percent.

High — 81

Low — 73

Saturday



Day — Partly cloudy with scattered showers. Highs around 82. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph. Chance of rain 50 percent.

Night — Partly cloudy with scattered showers. Lows around 72. Southeast winds around 10 mph. Chance of rain 50 percent.

High — 82

Low — 72

Sunday



Day — Partly cloudy with scattered showers. Highs around 81. Southeast winds around 10 mph. Chance of rain 50 percent.

Night — Partly cloudy with scattered showers. Lows around 72. Southeast winds around 15 mph. Chance of rain 50 percent.

High — 81

Low — 72

Cpl. Roberto Abad, Sgt. Mark P. Adams, Lance Cpl. Patrick R. Adle, Lance Cpl. Christopher S. Cpl. Andres Aguilar Jr., Lance Cpl. Jeremy A. Ailes, Capt. Paul C. Alaniz, Lance Cpl. Nickalous N. Aldrich, Lance Cpl. Michael J. Allred, Cpl. Nicanor Alvarez, Cpl. Daniel R. Amaya, Lance Cpl. Brian E. Anderson, Cpl. Michael D. Anderson, Cpl. Nathan R. Anderson, Lance Cpl. Nicholas H. Anderson, Lance Cpl. Norman W. Anderson III, Lance Cpl. Levi T. Angell, Master Sgt. Brett E. Angus, Cpl. Bradley T. Arms, Chief Warrant Officer Andrew T. Arnold, Cpl. Carlos Arrelanopandura, Lance Cpl. Alexander S. Arredondo, Sgt. Julian M. Archaga, Staff Sgt. Jimmy J. Arroyave, Lance Cpl. Trevor D. Aston, Maj. Jay Thomas Aubin, Lance Cpl. Aaron C. Austin, Lance Cpl. Andrew Julian Aviles, Pfc. Eric A. Ayon, Cpl. Salem Bachar, Cpl. Riley E. Baker, Pfc. Stephen P. Baldwin, Pfc. Chad E. Bales, Gunnery Sgt. Terry W. Ball Jr., Cpl. Felipe C. Barbosa, 1st Sgt. Michael S. Barnhill, Lance Cpl. Matthew R. Barnes, Cpl. 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Ramon J. Mendoza Jr., Lance Cpl. Raul Mercado, Pfc. Matthew G. Milczark, Cpl. Jason David Mileo, Sgt. Sean H. Miles, Lance Cpl. William L. Miller, Lance Cpl. Ryan A. Miller, Lance Cpl. Robert T. Mininger, Lance Cpl. Scott T. Modeen, Staff Sgt. Jorge A. Molinabautista, Lance Cpl. Brian P. Montgomery, Lance Cpl. Jeremy S. Sandvick Monroe, Cpl. James L. Moore, Lance Cpl. Jason William Moore, Cpl. Nathaniel K. Moore, Capt. Brent L. Morel, Pfc. Geffery S. Morris, Pfc. Ricky A. Morris Jr., Cpl. Jason W. Morrow, Lance Cpl. Nicholas B. Morrison, Lance Cpl. Marty G. Mortenson, Lance Cpl. Robert L. Mosillo, Cpl. Clifton B. Mounce, Lance Cpl. Adam R. Murray, Sgt. Jeremy E. Murray, Pfc. Veashna Muiy, Sgt. Krisna Nachampassak, Cpl. Juana NavarroArellano, Major Kevin G. Nave, Lance Cpl. Troy D. Nealey, Lance Cpl. Randy L. Newman, Lance Cpl. Joseph L. Nice, Cpl. Dominique J. Nicolas, Cpl. Patrick R. Nixon, Sgt. Nicholas S. Nolte, Sgt. Byron W. Norwood, Lance Cpl. Andrew W. Nowacki, Sgt. Justin L. Noyes, Cpl. Mick R. Nygardbekowsky, Gunnery Sgt. Javier Obles-Prado Pena, Lance Cpl. Patrick T. O'Day, Lance Cpl. Shane K. O'Donnell, Cpl. Brian Oliveira, Cpl. John T. Olson, Sgt. Bryan J. Opskar, Pvt. Elijah M. Ortega, Lance Cpl. Eric James Orlovski, Lance Cpl. Deshon E. Otey, Lance Cpl. David Edward Owens Jr., Sgt. Fernando Padilla-Ramirez, Pfc. Rex A. Page, Cpl. Cory L. Palmer, Cpl. Joshua D. Palmer, 1st Lt. Joshua M. Palmer, Lance Cpl. Eric A. Palmisano, Lance Cpl. Bradley L. Parker, Sgt. Elisha R. Parker, Cpl. Tommy L. Parker Jr., Sgt. Harvey E. Parkerson III, Lance Cpl. Brian P. Parrello, Capt. Christopher T. Pate, Lance Cpl. Andrew G. Patten, Sgt. Jayton D. Patterson, Cpl. Bradford H. Payne, Lance Cpl. George J. Payton, Gunnery Sgt. Javier Obles-Prado Pena, Sgt. Rafael Peralta-Guzman, Cpl. Andres H. Perez, Sgt. Christopher S. Perez, Pfc. Geffery Perez, Lance Cpl. Nicholas Perez, Lance Cpl. Richard A. Perez Jr., Lance Cpl. Stephen J. Perez, Lance Cpl. Neil D. Petsche, Lance Cpl. Charles R. Phelps, Lance Cpl. Lawrence R. Phillipon, Lance Cpl. James R. Phillips, Sgt. John P. Phillips, Lance Cpl. Steven L. Phillips, Lance Cpl. Aaron C. Pickering, Cpl. Jordan C. Pierson, Staff Sgt. Raymond J. Plouhar, Pfc. Jason T. Poindexter, Cpl. Carlos Pineda, 1st Lt. Frederick E. Pokorney Jr., Lance Cpl. Robert G. Posivio III, Lance Cpl. Michael V. Postal, Lance Cpl. Christopher M. Poston, Cpl. Chad W. Powell, Lance Cpl. Caleb J. Powers, Cpl. Dean P. Pratt, Lance Cpl. Taylor B. Prazynski, Cpl. Brian P. Prening, Cpl. Michael B. Presley, Lance Cpl. Jonathan K. Price, Lance Cpl. Michael S. Probst, Cpl. Scott J. Procopio, Staff Sgt. Richard T. Pummill, Lance Cpl. Mathew D. Puckett, Lance Cpl. Louis W. Qualls, Lance Cpl. Mourad Ragimov, Lance Cpl. Carl L. Raines II, Lance Cpl. Rhonald D. Rairdan, Lance Cpl. Branden P. Ramey, Staff Sgt. Jason C. Ramseyer, Lance Cpl. Benito A. Ramirez, Staff Sgt. Gene Ramirez, Cpl. Julian A. Ramon, Pfc. Christopher Ramos, Lance Cpl. Hector Ramos, Capt. Patrick Marc M. Rapicaucut, Capt. Gregory A. Ratzlaff, Lance Cpl. Jason C. Redifer, Lance Cpl. Aaron H. Reed, Pfc. Christopher J. Reed, Gunnery Sgt. Edward T. Reeder, Sgt. Brendon C. Reiss, Cpl. Kyle J. Renehan, Lance Cpl. Justin D. Reppuhn, Lance Cpl. Rafael Reynosa-Suarez, Sgt. Yadir G. Reynosa, Cpl. Bryan J. Richardson, Staff Sgt. William D. Richardson, Pfc. Andrew G. Riedel, Staff Sgt. David G. Ries, Cpl. Garry Wesley Tan Rimes, Cpl. Steven A. Rintamaki, Sgt. Duane R. Rios, Pfc. Christopher T. Riviere, Lance Cpl. Anthony P. Roberts, Lance Cpl. Bob W. Roberts, Sgt. Moses D. Rocha, Sgt. Nathaniel S. Rock, Cpl. Yull Estrada Rodriguez, Cpl. Robert M. Rodriguez, Lance Cpl. Juan R. Rodriguez-Velasco, Jeffrey A. Rogers, Pfc. Ramon Romero, Cpl. Timothy D. Roos, Cpl. Randal Kent Rosacker, Cpl. Benjamin S. Rosales, Maj. Alan Rowe, Lance Cpl. David A. Mendez Ruiz, Lance Cpl. Gregory P. Rund, Lance Cpl. Andrew D. Russoli, Cpl. Marc T. Ryan, 1st Lt. Timothy Louis Ryan, Lance Cpl. Gael Saintvil, Cpl. Brian R. St. Germain, Cpl. Rudy Salas, Cpl. William I. Salazar, Capt. Benjamin W. Sammis, Lance Cpl. Efrain Sanchez, Jr., Pfc. Enrique C. Sanchez, Pfc. Leroy Sandoval Jr., Lance Cpl. Felipe D. Sandoval-Flores, Lance Cpl. Jeremy S. Sandvick Monroe, Lance Cpl. Jeremiah E. Savage, Lance Cpl. Michael P. Scarborough, Lance Cpl. Nickolas D. Schiavoni, Lance Cpl. John T. Schmidt III, Cpl. Dustin H. Schrage, Lance Cpl. Brian K. Schramm, Lance Cpl. Edward A. Schroeder II, Cpl. Nathan A. Schubert, Lance Cpl. Joshua A. Scott, Cpl. Brandon S. Schuck, Lance Cpl. Darrell J. Schumann, Cpl. Aaron L. Seal, Capt. Robert M. Secher, Lance Cpl. Juan E. Segura, Lance Cpl. Dustin M. Sekula, Lance Cpl. Matthew K. Serio, Lance Cpl. Nazario Serrano, Lance Cpl. Devon P. Seymour, Lt.Col. Kevin M. Shea, Sgt. Alan D. Sherman, Cpl. Jared M. Shoemaker, Lance Cpl. Brad S. Shuder, 1st Lt. Dustin M. Shumney, Pfc. Kenneth L. Sicksels, Lance Cpl. Dustin L. Sides, Cpl. Erik H. Silva, Staff Sgt. Chad J. Simon, Lance Cpl. Abraham Simpson, Lance Cpl. John T. Sims Jr., Lance Cpl. Aaron W. Simons, Spc. Windell J. Simmons, Pfc. Nicholas M. Skinner, Staff Sgt. Russell L. Slay, Lance Cpl. Richard P. Slocum, Lance Cpl. Thomas J. Slocum, Lance Cpl. Antoine D. Smith, Sgt. Benjamin K. Smith, Pfc. Brandon C. Smith, 1st Sgt. Edward Smith, Lance Cpl. Jason E. Smith, Lance Cpl. Jonathan L. Smith, Lance Cpl. Kevin S. Smith, Lance Cpl. Matthew R. Smith, Cpl. Matthew R. Smith, Lance Cpl. Michael J. Smith Jr., Cpl. Raleigh C. Smith, Cpl. Ross A. Smith, Sgt. Mark T. Smykowski, Cpl. Joshua D. Snyder, Staff Sgt. Gordon G. Solomon, Cpl. Adrian V. Soltau, Lance Cpl. Ryan J. Sorensen, Lt.Col. John C. Spahr, Pfc. Jacob D. Spann, Cpl. Michael R. Speer, Lance Cpl. Jonathan R. Spears, Lance Cpl. Joseph B. Spence, Staff Sgt. Trevor L. Spink, Jr., Cpl. Brad D. Squires, Cpl. John R. Stalvey, Cpl. Jeffrey B. Starr, Lance Cpl. Michael L. Starr Jr., 1st Lieutenant Andrew K. Stern, Sgt. Andy A. Stevens, Cpl. David S. Stewart, Cpl. Lan W. Stewart, Maj. Michael D. Stover, Sgt. Morgan W. Strader, Lance Cpl. Adam J. Strain, Sgt. Kirk Allen Straseskie, Sgt. Jesse W. Strong, Pfc. Brandon C. Sturdy, Lance Cpl. Jesus A. Suarez-Del Solar, Lance Cpl. Vincent M. Sullivan, Lance Cpl. Daniel F. Swaim, Lance Cpl. Harry R. Swain IV, Lance Cpl. James E. Swain, Cpl. Shane C. Swanberg, Lance Cpl. Franklin A. Sweager, Capt. Tyler B. Swisher, Lance Cpl. Steven W. Szywydek, Lance Cpl. Jeremy P. Tamburello, Lance Cpl. Samuel Tapia, Lance Cpl. Bryan N. Taylor, Cpl. William G. Taylor, Staff Sgt. Riayan A. Tejada, Lance Cpl. Miguel Terrazas, Lance Cpl. Jason Andrew Tetrault, Cpl. Jesse L. Thiry, Cpl. Lance M. Thompson, Lance Cpl. John J. Thornton, Cpl. John H. Todd III, Cpl. Joseph A. Tomci, Master Sgt. Timothy Toney, Lance Cpl. Joshua L. Torrence, Pfc. George D. Torres, Lance Cpl. Michael S. Torres, Lance Cpl. Elias Torres III, Cpl. Joseph S. Tremblay, Cpl. Tyler S. Trovillion, Lance Cpl. Tyler J. Troyer, Sgt. Daniel A. Tsue, Lance Cpl. Marc L. Tucker, Staff Sgt. Abraham G. Twitchell, Lance Cpl. Drew M. Uhles, Sgt. George M. Ulloa Jr., Cpl. Steve Vahaviolos, Cpl. Ramona M. Valdez, Lance Cpl. Ruben Valdez Jr., Lance Cpl. Eric P. Valdepenas, Lance Cpl. John J. Vangyzen IV, Lance Cpl. Gary F. VanLeuven, Lance Cpl. Juan C. Venegas, Cpl. David M. Vicente, Cpl. Scott M. Vincent, Pfc. Brent T. Vroman, Lance Cpl. Michael B. Wafford, Staff Sgt. Allan K. Walker, Cpl. Richard P. Waller, Sgt. Justin T. Walsh, Cpl. Joshua J. Ware, Lance Cpl. Richard D. Warner, Cpl. Robert P. Warms II, Cpl. Christopher T. Wardorf, Lance Cpl. Kevin G. Waruinge, Pfc. Nache Little Fawn Washalanta, Cpl. Rusty L. Washam, Lance Cpl. Christopher B. Wasser, Staff Sgt. Kendall Damon Waters-Bey, Lance Cpl. Craig N. Watson, Cpl. Justin J. Watts, Pfc. Christopher L. Weaver, Lance Cpl. Brandon J. Webb, Lance Cpl. Joseph T. Welke, Warrant Officer Charles G. Wells Jr., Lance Cpl. Larry L. Wells, Sgt. Lonny D. Wells, Lance Cpl. Phillip G. West, 1st Lt. Alexander E. Wetherbee, Staff Sgt. Aaron Dean White, Pfc. Christopher N. White, Lance Cpl. William W. White, Lance Cpl. Dion M. Whitley, Lance Cpl. Nicholas J. Whyte, Lance Cpl. Travis M. Wichlacz, Lance Cpl. William B. Wightman, Cpl. Joshua S. Wilfong, Cpl. Andre L. Williams, Staff Sgt. Benjamin D. Williams, Sgt. Christian B. Williams, Staff Sgt. Dwayne E. Williams, Lance Cpl. Michael J. Williams, Cpl. Bryan S. Wilson, Lance Cpl. Lamont N. Wilson, Lance Cpl. Nicholas Wilt, Sgt. David N. Wimberg, Cpl. Christopher D. Winchester, 1st Lieutenant Ronald Winchester, Lance Cpl. Jordan D. Winkler, Lance Cpl. William J. Wisnowicze, Pfc. Colin J. Wolfe, 18, Lance Cpl. Nathan R. Wood, 2nd Lt. John T. Wroblewski, Lance Cpl. Daniel R. Wyatt, Cpl. Matthew A. Wyatt, Lance Cpl. Hatak Yuka Keyu M. Yearby, Pfc. Rodricka A. Youmans, Lance Cpl. Andrew J. Zabierche, Cpl. Adam O. Zanuttu, Lance Cpl. Thomas J. Zapp, Cpl. Christopher E. Zimny, Sgt. Christopher M. Zimmerman, Cpl. Nicholas L. Ziolkowski, Cpl. Ian T. Zook, Lance Cpl. Scott A. Zubowski, Lance Cpl. Robert P. Zurhede Jr., Capt. Matthew W. Bancroft, Pfc. Matthew L. Bertolino, Lance Cpl. Bryan P. Bertrand, Gunnery Sgt. Stephen L. Bryson, Lance Cpl. Billy D. Brixey Jr., Pfc. Sean T. Cardelli, 1st Lt. Brandon R. Dronet, Gunnery Sgt. Theodore Clark Jr., Staff Sgt. Walter F. Cohee II, Pfc. James R. Dillon Jr., Sgt. James F. Fordyce, Lance Cpl. Phillip C. Gernee, Staff Sgt. Scott N. Germosen, Sgt. Nathan P. Hays, Lance Cpl. Kevin B. Joyce, Cpl. Nicholas C. Kirven, Lance Cpl. Samuel W. Laffe, Jr., Sgt. James S. Lee, Sgt. Donnie Leo F. Levens, Cpl. Matthieu Marcellus, Pfc. Daniel B. McClennay, Sgt. Jonathan E. McColley, Capt. Daniel G. McCollum, Capt. Seth R. Michaud, Staff Sgt. Dwight J. Morgan, Lance Cpl. Ryan J. Nass, Cpl. Ronald R. Payne Jr., Cpl. Richard P. Schoener, Lance Cpl. Antonio J. Sledd, Lance Cpl. Nicholas J. Sovie, Lance Cpl. Juston T. Thacker, Lance Cpl. Steven A. Valdez, Capt. Bryan D. Willard, Lance Cpl. Russell P. White, Sgt. Jeannette L. Winters



Hawaii's fallen heroes

Lance Cpl. Richard P. Slocum, 19, Saugus, Calif., Oct. 24, 2004, Iraq
Pfc. John Lukac, 19, Las Vegas, Nev., Oct. 30, 2004, Iraq
Pfc. Andrew G. Riedel, 19, Northglenn, Colo., Oct. 30, 2004, Iraq
Lance Cpl. Jeremy D. Bow, 20, Lemoore, Calif., Oct. 30, 2004, Iraq
Lance Cpl. John T. Byrd II, 23, Fairview, W.V., Oct. 30, 2004, Iraq
Lance Cpl. Travis A. Fox, 25, Coupens, S.C., Oct. 30, 2004, Iraq
Lance Cpl. Michael P. Scarborough, 28, Washington, Ga., Oct. 30, 2004, Iraq
Cpl. Christopher J. Lapka, 22, Peoria, Ariz., Oct. 30, 2004, Iraq
Sgt. Kelley L. Courtney, 28, Macon, Ga., Oct. 30, 2004, Iraq
Lance Cpl. Aaron C. Pickering, 20, Marion, Ill., Nov. 10, 2004, Iraq
Lance Cpl. David M. Branning, 21, Cokesville, Md., Nov. 12, 2004, Iraq
Lance Cpl. Brian A. Medina, 20, Woodbridge, Va., Nov. 12, 2004, Iraq
Sgt. Rafael Peralta-Guzman, 25, San Diego, Calif., Nov. 15, 2004, Iraq
Cpl. Michael A. Downey, 21, Phoenix, Ariz., Nov. 19, 2004, Iraq
Cpl. Michael Ryan Cohen, 23, Jacobus, Pa., Nov. 22, 2004, Iraq
Lance Cpl. Jeffery S. Blanton, 23, Fayetteville, Ga., Dec. 12, 2004, Iraq
Lance Cpl. Franklin A. Sweager, 24, San Antonio, Texas, Dec. 16, 2004, Iraq
Cpl. Sean P. Kelly, 23, Gloucester, N.J., Jan. 26, 2005, Iraq
Lance Cpl. Allan Klein, 34, Clinton Township, Mich., Jan. 26, 2005, Iraq
Lance Cpl. Joseph B. Spence, 24, Scotts Valley, Calif., Jan. 26, 2005, Iraq
Cpl. Matthew R. Smith, 24, West Valley, Utah, Jan. 26, 2005, Iraq
Lance Cpl. Darrell J. Schumann, 25, Hampton, Va., Jan. 26, 2005, Iraq
Lance Cpl. Jonathan E. Etterling, 22, Wheelersburg, Ohio, Jan. 26, 2005, Iraq
Lance Cpl. Hector Ramos, 20, Aurora, Ill., Jan. 26, 2005, Iraq
1st Lt. Dustin M. Shumney, 30, Vallejo, Calif., Jan. 26, 2005, Iraq
Cpl. James L. Moore, 24, Roseburg, Ore., Jan. 26, 2005, Iraq
Lance Cpl. Mourad Ragimov, 20, San Diego, Calif., Jan. 26, 2005, Iraq
Lance Cpl. Brian C. Hopper, 21, Wynne, Ark., Jan. 26, 2005, Iraq
Lance Cpl. Rhonald D. Rairdan, 20, San Antonio, Texas, Jan. 26, 2005, Iraq
Lance Cpl. Michael L. Starr Jr., 21, Baltimore, Md., Jan. 26, 2005, Iraq
Staff Sgt. Brian D. Bland, 26, Weston, Wyo., Jan. 26, 2005, Iraq
Lance Cpl. Gael Saintvil, 24, Orange, Fla., Jan. 26, 2005, Iraq
1st Lt. Travis J. Fuller, 26, Granville, Mass., Jan. 26, 2005, Iraq
Cpl. Timothy M. Gibson, 23, Hillsborough, N.H., Jan. 26, 2005, Iraq
Cpl. Richard A. Gilbert Jr., 26, Montgomery, Ohio, Jan. 26, 2005, Iraq
Cpl. Kyle J. Grimes, 21, Northampton, Pa., Jan. 26, 2005, Iraq
Sgt. Michael W. Finke Jr., 28, Huron, Ohio, Jan. 26, 2005, Iraq
Cpl. Nathaniel K. Moore, 22, Champaign, Ill., Jan. 26, 2005, Iraq
Cpl. Nathan A. Schubert, 22, Cherokee, Iowa, Jan. 26, 2005, Iraq
Lance Cpl. Stephen F. Johnson, 20, Marietta, Ga., Oct. 8, 2006, Iraq
Lance Cpl. Fred L. Maciel, 20, Spring, Texas, Jan. 26, 2005, Iraq
Cpl. Timothy A. Knight, 22, Brooklyn, Ohio, Jan. 26, 2005, Iraq
Lance Cpl. Sean P. Maher, 19, Grays Lake, Ill., Feb. 2, 2005, Iraq
Cpl. Andres Aguilar Jr., 21, Victoria, Texas, April 2, 2006, Iraq
Staff Sgt. Jason C. Ramseyer, 28, Lenoir, N.C., April 20, 2006, Iraq
Cpl. Eric R. Lueken, 23, Dubois, Ind., April 22, 2006, Iraq
Lance Cpl. Blake A. Magaoay, 20, Pearl City, Hawaii, Nov. 29, 2004, Iraq
Lance Cpl. Adam C. Conboy, 21, Philadelphia, Pa., May 12, 2006, Iraq
Lance Cpl. Jose S. MarinDominguez Jr., 22, Liberal, Kan., May 14, 2006, Iraq
Lance Cpl. Hatak Yuka Keyu M. Yearby, 21, Overbrook, Okla., May 14, 2006, Iraq
Sgt. David R. Christoff, 25, Rossford, Ohio, May 22, 2006, Iraq
Lance Cpl. William J. Leusink, 21, Maurice, Iowa, May 22, 2006, Iraq
Cpl. Michael A. Estrella, 20, Hemet, Calif., June 14, 2006, Iraq
Lance Cpl. Ryan A. Miller, 19, Pearland, Texas, Sept. 14, 2006, Iraq
Cpl. Yull Estrada Rodriguez, 21, Alegre Lajas, Puerto Rico, Sept. 20, 2006, Iraq
Pfc. Christopher T. Riviere, 21, Cooper City, Fla., Sept. 26, 2006, Iraq
Lance Cpl. James Chamroeu, 20, Union City, Ga., Sept. 28, 2006, Iraq
Lance Cpl. Derek W. Jones, 21, Salem, Ore., Oct. 8, 2006, Iraq
Lance Cpl. Jeremy S. Sandvick Monroe, 20, Chinook, Mont., Oct. 8, 2006, Iraq
Pfc. Matthew L. Bertolino, 20, Hampstead, N.H., Feb. 9, 2006, Afghanistan
Lance Cpl. Billy D. Brixey Jr., 21, Ferriday, La., January 27, 2006
Lance Cpl. Steven A. Valdez, 20, McRea, Ark., Sept. 26, 2005, Afghanistan
Lance Cpl. Ryan J. Nass, 21, Franklin, Wis., Sept. 3, 2005, Afghanistan
Lance Cpl. Phillip C. George, 22, Houston, Texas, Aug. 18, 2005, Afghanistan
Lance Cpl. Kevin B. Joyce, 19, Ganado, Ariz., June 25, 2005, Afghanistan
Lance Cpl. Nicholas C. Kirven, 21, Richmond, Va., May 8, 2005, Afghanistan
Cpl. Richard P. Schoener, 22, Hayes, La., May 8, 2005, Afghanistan
Staff Sgt. Daniel A. Tsue, 27, Honolulu, Hawaii, Nov. 1, 2005, Iraq
Pvt. Lewis T. D. Calapini, 21, Waipahu, Hawaii, Jan. 23, 2006, Iraq
Lance Cpl. Kristin Marino, Honolulu, Hawaii, March 12, 2006, Iraq
Lance Cpl. Nicholas Anderson, Honolulu, Hawaii, March 13, 2006, Afghanistan
HM3 John Fralish, 30, New Kingstown, Pa., Feb. 6, 2006, Afghanistan
PO3, Julian Woods, 22, Jacksonville, Fla., Nov. 10, 2004, Iraq
HM3 John D. House, 28, Ventura, Calif., Jan. 26, 2005, Iraq

Hawaii Marines prepare for Iraq on the Big Island

Sgt. Jeremy M. Vought

AFN Hawaii

POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA, HAWAII — Nearly 1,000 Hawaii-based Marines will be deployed to Iraq early next year, so with their remaining time in Hawaii, they prepare for the future.

All Marines preparing to deploy from Hawaii are limited in the types of training they can conduct aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, so the Marines of the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, flew to the Big Island of Hawaii to the Pohakuloa Training Area to continue combat preparations.

According to Capt. Jason Borovies, 1/3 Alpha Company commander, his Marines benefit from the opportunities provided during their training at the PTA.

"It's significant because it's just way too difficult to do something like that on Oahu with all the restrictions that we have on us and the limited availability of major resources like training areas and ranges."

Borovies said he was also grateful for the condensed training schedule, saying that the battalion is getting all the training possible to be ready, but also giving the men as much time at home with their families.

"Coming up here on the Big Island gives us the opportunity to do everything we need to over a three- or four-month period in one condensed 10-day block," said the Alpha Company commander.

This training is invaluable for his Marines at a time before a deployment, he said.

"It's absolutely essential," the 29-year-old said. "I would say that if we did not come here to PTA, there would be a very good chance of us going to Iraq not as fully trained as we need

to be to be set up for success."

The Pohakuloa Training Area is located on the island of Hawaii between Mauna Loa, Mauna Kea and the Hualalai volcanic mountains on a volcanic plain that extends to elevations from 6,800 to 9,000 feet. Managed by the Army, it's the largest DoD installation in Hawaii. According to Marine leaders, it is exactly what they need to train properly.

"PTA allows us, if you look all around at all this area that's open to us, to go ahead and train," said 2nd Lt. Luke I. Balthazar, platoon commander, Combat Engineers, Combat Assault Company, 1/3, about the more than 100-thousand acres available for training.

The Marines of 1/3 recently returned from Afghanistan and before that they were the main force in the fight for Fallujah in 2004. This exposure to combat makes for battle-hardened veterans, who, at PTA, are passing down their experiences to the younger and newer Marines in the unit.

"The Marines who have been to a combat zone before learned their little tricks and their little secrets," explained Lance Cpl. Timothy Lacenski, machine gun squad leader with Alpha Company, 1/3.

The Alpha Company commander added, "We're very fortunate in this company right now and in this battalion in general, to have so many veterans of Afghanistan, but also of Iraq and Fallujah in particular," said Borovies. "The skills and knowledge they have and can impart to our junior Marines is going to be absolutely essential in ensuring we can accomplish the mission once we get overseas ourselves."

While at PTA, the battalion conducted much of the training needed to be ready for Iraq. They are ready for everything from executing fire and movement, employing light



Sgt. Jeremy M. Vought

A machine gunner assigned to Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment yells, "Misfire, misfire, misfire," as his squad automatic weapon fails to fire at the Pohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island of Hawaii. Marines from 1/3 are at PTA getting ready for an upcoming deployment to Iraq early next year.

and medium machine guns, convoys, mortars and, more importantly, taking care of their fellow Marines. Besides learning basic tactics, the training also builds a sense of team, according to Borovies.

"We're really fortunate that right now this training evolution is the first time for the last several months that we have been able to get the entire team that will be going to Iraq in place. So this is a great opportunity to start building that sense of team, getting guys used to working with each other, developing their own small-unit standard operating procedures,

and the kind of things that will pay huge dividends when we do get to Iraq," Borovies said.

The Alpha Company commander concluded by saying his Marines recognize the importance of the opportunity they were given at PTA.

"I think the guys are eager to go and do their jobs, but, by the same token, they recognize how serious a situation it is. Because of that, they are taking the training very seriously, and I'm confident that the guys are going to be ready to go over there and do their job and bring each other back alive."

Marines deliver mail in Iraq's Al Anbar province

Cpl. Luke Blom

1st Marine Division

HADITHA, Iraq — The U.S. Postal Service has a saying — "rain or shine." They guarantee mail will be delivered even when Mother Nature is at her worst, but there's a small group of Marines taking this mantra to new heights.

The mail clerks of the Hawaii-based 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, said they don't care if it's raining bullets in Haditha, a city of 30,000 in Iraq's Al Anbar province, where 2nd Battalion is currently deployed. They ensure Marines get their mail.

Processing more than 12,000 pounds of incoming mail per week, Cpl. Timothy W. Brown Jr., and Lance Cpl. David M. Sirvio are the link that connects Marines serving in this war-torn country with their loved ones back home.

"Mail is a key element for keeping guys in the fight. It boosts morale just knowing that there are people back

home thinking about us and supporting us," said Brown, a 22-year-old native of Roseville, Mich.

Both Brown and Sirvio are infantrymen by trade and served in Afghanistan where they deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2005 with 2/3, so they have firsthand experience as to how it feels to get a package full of life's little comforts from a loved one back home.

"This is a complete 180 from doing 'grunt' stuff, but I really enjoy what I'm doing here. Instead of being in the fight, my job now helps everyone else stay in the fight," said Brown.

The mail clerks of 2/3 are on call for incoming mail 24 hours a day, seven days a week and often work well into the night just to ensure the Marines get their mail.

According to Sirvio, all the hard work is worth it.

"Working in the mailroom makes it pretty hard not to be in a good mood all the time," said Sirvio, a 21-year-old native of Ontonagon, Mich. "Guys come

in here who have been out patrolling and fighting for a while, and as soon as they see their name on a package, they get a huge smile on their face."

One Marine in particular is exceedingly excited every time he goes to the mailroom.

Corporal Michael Bales, a 21-year-old native of Mt. Vernon, Texas, visits the mailroom whenever he hears that a new load of mail has arrived.

Bales' wife is 13 weeks pregnant with their first child and sends him ultrasound photos, calendars with important dates in the pregnancy, and photos of the young couple's family.

Although he can't physically be there for his wife while she goes through the pregnancy, all the care packages — what Marines call packages from home — make him feel as close to her as possible, said Bales, a field radio operator.

"The calendar my wife sent me was awesome. Everyday it said something like 'morning sickness' or 'baby kicked,' said Bales. "I can't be there firsthand to help her through the pregnancy, but

because of all the mail and updates I'm getting, I feel like I'm as involved as I possibly could be."

Brown began to notice Bales' enthusiasm for mail and started keeping the father-to-be's mail off to the side so it would be easier to get at when he came asking.

"It definitely makes me feel good that Bales can rely on us to get him the pictures of his child before it's born," said Brown.

Along with hundreds of care packages delivered weekly, the mail clerks are seeing the impact of a relatively new program called "MotoMail."

MotoMail was developed to give Marines' families a much faster way of getting a letter delivered to the Marines. With an average delivery time of 12 hours to two days, a MotoMail message is typed on the family member's computer and sent electronically to post offices overseas. From there, the receiving post office can print the message, seal it, and deliver it, just like a regular letter.

"MotoMail gets here a lot faster than regular mail, which is good for the guys on the front lines," said Sirvio. "They get to hear from their family and friends much faster."

While hearing from family and friends back home may not save lives directly, the Marines of 2/3 said hearing from their families on a regular basis helps them focus on their task at hand instead of worrying about what's happening on the home front.

"If you get that care package, letter or MotoMail, you know what's going on back home. And when you go out on patrol, you're not thinking about that stuff as much. Your mind is much more in the game — which makes everybody perform better," said Sirvio.

While Brown will probably never meet all the people whose packages he sorts, he said he is grateful that they are keeping him so busy, said Brown.

"I hope all the families continue to send so much stuff, Brown said, "because it really does make a difference to everyone out here."

Major tactical weapons exercise held recently

Lt. j.g. Malissa Ford

Patrol Squadron 47

Patrol Squadron 47, "The Golden Swordsmen," recently hosted a major tactical weapons training exercise. The sink exercise, "Sky Shadow," was a multi-platform exercise, involving multiple squadrons and ships. Patrol Squadron 47 is a P-3 Orion squadron based out of Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. The P-3 is a multi-mission aircraft, proficient in hunting submarines, and for land and sea surveillance and weapon delivery on surface and land targets. Participating with the Swordsmen were sister squadrons: VP-4, "The Skinny Dragons" also out of K-Bay; and VP-1, "The Screaming Eagles" out of Whidbey Island, Washington. Hawaii-based guided-missile destroyer USS Chaffee (DDG-90) and the guided-missile frigate USS Cromelin (FFG-37) also participated in the exercise.

The exercise commonly referred to as "Sink-Ex" around the hangar, is an event where military forces

are given the opportunity to train with live weapons in order to sink an actual target. The exercise was done to not only help with getting the ships and squadrons weapon readiness prepared but was done to help create reefs on the ocean floor. The ship that was sunk during this exercise was the former USS Valley Forge.

USS Valley Forge was the fourth Ticonderoga class guided-missile cruiser that was commissioned January 1986 and the first ship in its class to be decommissioned August 2004. Valley Forge's primary mission was to operate with aircraft carrier battle groups in extreme threat environments. The ship's purpose was to detect, classify and track hundreds of potential targets, simultaneously, in the air, on the surface, and under the sea. USS Valley Forge was last home ported in San Diego. The ship was held in reserve at Pearl Harbor.

Weapons training for ships and aircraft is often simulated or conducted against imaginary targets, so any opportunity to get real weapon shots

against actual targets is a unique and immensely beneficial learning experience. Aircrews conducted weapons delivery and targeting training against the target, USS Valley Forge (CG-50), located at Barking Sands Pacific Missile Range Facility off the coast of Kauai. Aircrews' payloads included two AGM-65F Maverick missiles, two AGM-84D Harpoon missiles, and 36 MK20 Rockeye bombs.

Aircraft maintenance, weapon loading, and take-offs were all delayed due to the rain, lighting, and poor visibility associated with last week's storms. Maintainers and ordnancemen, who had been up all night preparing the planes and ordnance, were kept motivated knowing that their sacrifices would lead to successful completion of the mission.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael Goliver, an aviation electrician's mate said, "It is our job to get the planes prepared and working. We had the commodore on board and knew that it was important to successfully complete the mission. Even though it is only for training, we like to know



Petty Officer 3rd Class Kevin S. Beauchamp

Patrol Squadron 47 aviation ordnancemen hand load a Mark 20 Rockeye Cluster Bomb during Sink Exercise, "Sky Shadow," aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. This is one of 36 Mark 20 Rockeye Cluster Bombs that were loaded during this exercise.

that we can perform, if necessary, in a real-world scenario."

These training opportunities are often few and far

between and all the forces involved were easily able to adapt and overcome all obstacles and successfully complete

the mission. The former USS Valley Forge sunk to the bottom of the Pacific Ocean Nov. 2 at 5:45 p.m.

MISSOURI, from A-1

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii, oversees more than 30 local Navy commands, including 12 surface ships, 16 submarines and four aircraft squadrons, as well as 15,000 active duty Navy personnel and 10,000 civilian employees.

As Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, he is responsible for the training, maintenance and readiness of the surface ships homeported at Naval Station Pearl Harbor, ensuring preparedness for forward-deploy fleet operations.

The event will also feature patriotic performances by The Sounds of Aloha Chorus, the Navy Region Hawaii

Ceremonial Guard, and the Pacific Fleet Band Quintet.

The program will feature the parading of colors, Echo Taps and a rifle volley salute in honor of those veterans who paid the ultimate sacrifice while serving our country.

For those wishing to attend, but do not have Department of Defense vehicle access to Ford Island, free trolley service to the Battleship Missouri Memorial will be available between 3:45 and 4:45 p.m. at the Missouri's trolley boarding station near USS Bowfin Submarine Museum and Park. The trolley will also provide return transportation.

Call 423-2263 and press 7 immedi-

ately following the greeting for more information.

For more than a half-century and three wars, World War II, Korea and Operation Desert Storm, USS Missouri compiled an incredible record of service and today serves as a floating museum and an enduring symbol of our nation's legacy of honor.

Its caretaker, USS Missouri Memorial Association, a private, nonprofit organization that does not receive government funding, owes its current level of success in part to the giving aloha spirit of Hawaii's military and civilian communities and the generosity of visitors, volunteers and donors from around the world.

VETERANS, from A-1

initiative during an Oct. 18 ceremony here at the VA headquarters.

Wearing their medals, he said, "will demonstrate the deep pride our veterans have in their military service and bring Veterans Day home to all American citizens."

"We expect Americans will see our decorated heroes unite in spirit at ceremonies, in parades and elsewhere as a compelling symbol of courage and sacrifice on Veterans Day, the day we set aside to thank those who served and safeguarded our national security," Nicholson said at the ceremony.

Nicholson and veteran's group leaders said they hope to start a new tradition in which U.S. veterans wear their military medals every Veterans Day, Memorial Day and Fourth of July.

More information about the Veterans Pride campaign is posted on the VA Web site. The site also helps veterans determine where to go to replace lost medals or to confirm which decorations they're entitled to wear.

Surgical company saves lives at Al Asad

Cpl. James B. Hoke

3rd Marine Aircraft Wing

AL ASAD, Iraq — During the midst of wartime, most people are more concerned with the chaos of the bombs and guns in the conflicts that rage rather than with the scalpel or suture that reassemble what the former tears apart.

For the Sailors and Marines with Charlie Surgical Company at Al Asad, Iraq, the latter is their only concern, as it is their job to resuscitate the men and women who have met with ill fortune on the battlefield.

"Our main mission here at Al Asad Surgical is to provide level-two care for all patients who are brought to us," said Navy Cmdr. Richard P. Sharpe, Chief of Professional Services officer-in-charge, Charlie Surgical Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward). "Level-two care involves any seriously injured or ill patient and their surgical management, stabilization and (medical evacuation)."

"Our routine job is to save people's lives," the 42-year-old native of Chesapeake, Va., added. "Every week we have several people who, if it wasn't for our efforts of stabilizing and operating on them, would probably have died without our level of care."

The present group of Sailors and Marines with the company arrived in early August and has since been loaded down with the cold, hard truth of their job.

"About two or three times per week, we will have numerous very sick or injured patients arrive at once," said Sharpe, a graduate of Cedarville University.

Since it occurs so frequently, it's actually a routine for us now, but it still presents a situation that is very hectic. It necessitates that everyone not only remains organized, but stays focused and does their job, as well.

"It's always, in those instances, a team effort that makes it a success," added Sharpe, who is also a graduate of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, School of Medicine in Bethesda, Md. "There can never be just one nurse, one corpsman or one physician doing their job. It has to be the entire team doing their job right the first time in order to save someone's life."

Although the entire hospital is pushed into overdrive when just one patient arrives at its backdoor, there are the extreme occasions where the men and women working behind the curtains are held in the rush of adrenaline for hours on end.

"We had 24 patients show up in one hour (in early October)," said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Gerard J. Woelkers, executive officer, Charlie Surgical Company. "We were able to take care of them, but not only that, we were also able to effectively utilize more than 160 military professionals, 80 of which belonged to this company and 80 who came from all around Al Asad."

"The folks here are as good as I've seen," added the Detroit native. "I've been in Navy medicine for 23 years and am really proud to be leading these troops here. I've never seen it better. This group not only works well together, but they play well together, too. They put personal agendas aside and save lives."

As a team, the Sailors and Marines of Charlie Surgical Company are considered one of the best, according to Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Chris D. Henderson, corpsman, Shock Trauma Platoon,

Charlie Surgical Company.

"We are the tip of the spear for the Navy," said Henderson, a 25-year-old native of Springfield, Mo. "We are the best at what we do. Everyone came from different places and different units, and we all gelled together. We've had to deal with a lot of things, like the power going out (while treating patients), but we work through them as best we can. I think it's the people that make this hospital run as well as it does."

For some, the fact that they are in Iraq using the profession they've trained for, while saving lives, is an honor.

"It's great knowing that what you have been training for and went to school for is useful," said Navy Lt. Alecia M. Gende, enroute care nurse, Charlie Surgical Company.

It's nice to know that you can contribute to the war effort. It's a privilege to be here and to be able to see the things we do. It's a privilege to work with the Iraqi civilians that maybe would not have gotten the quality of care had we not been here. That helps to give them a better impression of Americans."

Since the hospital treats everyone from U.S. service



Courtesy of Charlie Surgical Company

Marines and Sailors rush to get multiple casualties arriving at the hospital into the Shock Trauma Platoon area for immediate resuscitation at Al Asad, Iraq, Sept. 29. Having a slogan that names them the "Cheaters of Death," the Marines and Sailors with Charlie Surgical Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), strive to do just that every day, as it is their job to save people's lives.

members to Iraqi Army and police to local nationals for care, friendships are formed between the medical personnel and some of their patients.

"We had a couple (local nationals) here for at least a week and a half," said Gende, a 29-year-old native of Princeton, Wis. "They knew our names, and we knew theirs. You form a relationship. You know that they will

know you forever and that you will know them forever, because there was that bond formed between the two cultures."

Although the Sailors and Marines with Charlie Surgical Company save several people's lives other than just the U.S. service members, there is a downside to their job.

"The most difficult aspect, for me, would be pronounc-

ing a U.S. service member's death," said Sharpe.

The toughest part of my job is to realize when any more care for the patient is futile."

Through the despair when those fateful days occur, the Sailors and Marines manage to keep their spirits high enough to continue their jobs and save the next person who arrives in need of their care.

"We have high morale here because we focus on our successes," said Sharpe. "There is nothing more rewarding than saving a Marine who is literally dying after operating on him and fixing him. There's no bigger boost to morale than saving someone's life. It carries us well through those times where we can't."

As the fight in Iraq continues, Sailors and Marines continue to save lives. The unit - originally designed to be mobile and work out of tents wherever the Marines go -- works out of a fixed structure and receives numerous casualties per week via helicopter transport straight to the hospital.

The surgeons, nurses, dentists, corpsmen and Marines are all part of an elite team who witness and fix things and people that only a handful of others ever get to experience.

"If you think about it, we essentially make the war fighter invincible," said Gende, a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire.

"We can take a person who was injured and heal them here and send them off. Maybe they go back to the United States or maybe they come back out here. There is great pride in that."

LIFESTYLES



Marine Regiment *History in the making*

Compiled by Sgt. Sara A. Carter
Combat Correspondent

1/3

Marines of Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit pay final respects to their fallen comrades who died in Jan. 26, 2005, in a CH-53E "Sea Stallion" helicopter crash near Ar Rutbah, Iraq. The Marines also honored three other 1/3 members who were killed in the battle of Fallajuh.



Capt. Burrell D. Parmer



Cpl. Rich Mattingly

3/3

Lima Company machine gunner Josh Ploetz looks over the sights of his M240G machine gun as a CH-47 "Chinook" helicopter prepares to drop medical supplies near the Marines' position high in the Hindu Kush mountains in Afghanistan during Operation Spurs.

Quote from the front

"Without question, the biggest accomplishment (3rd Battalion) made was bringing the Iraqi Army battalion they were partnered with much further in their training and their ability to assume their own battle space."

— Lt. Col. James Donnellan,
Commanding Officer, 2/3

3rd Marine Regiment Lineage

1916-1922

Dec. 20, 1916: Activated as the 3rd Regiment at Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic and assigned to the 2nd Provisional Brigade.

1942-1946

16 June 1942: Reactivated at New River, N.C., as the 3rd Marines and assigned to the Fleet Marine Force.

August 1942: Relocated to San Diego.

September 1942: Deployed to Tutuila, American Samoa, and reassigned to the 2nd Marine Brigade.

March 1943: Reassigned to Fleet Marine Force.

May 1943: Redeployed to Auckland, New Zealand.

June 1943: Reassigned to 3rd Marine Division.

July - Aug. 1943: Deployed to Guadalcanal. Took part in several World War II campaigns: Bougainville, Northern Solomons, Guam and Iwo Jima.

December 1945: Relocated to Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Jan. 13, 1946: Deactivated

1947-1949

Oct. 1, 1947: Reactivated at Tsingtao, China, and assigned to Fleet Marine Force, Western Pacific.

October 1947-May 1949: Participated in the occupation of Northern China.

May 1949: Relocated to Camp Pendleton, Calif.; reassigned to the 1st Marine Division.

Oct. 1, 1949: Deactivated

1951-1964

June 20, 1951: Reactivated at Camp Pendleton, Calif., and assigned to the 3rd Marine Brigade, Fleet Marine Force.

January 1952: Reassigned to 3rd Marine Division.

July 1953: Deployed to Marine Corps Air Station, Kaneohe Bay, territory of Hawaii.

August 1953: Redeployed to Camp Fuji-McNair, Japan.

March 1957: Redeployed to Camp Sukiran, Okinawa.

1965-1969

March-May 1965: Deployed to the Republic of Vietnam.

March 1965-September 1969: Participated in the Vietnam conflict.

October-November 1969: Relocated to Camp Pendleton, Calif., and reassigned to the 5th Marine Amphibious Brigade, Fleet Marine Force.

1970-1996

April 1971: Reassigned to 1st Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force.

June 1971: Deployed to Marine Corps Air Station, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, and reassigned to the 1st Marine Brigade, Fleet Marine Force.

April 1975: Elements participated in the Southeast Asia evacuations.

1970-1980: Participated in numerous training exercises and deployed several elements to the Western Pacific.

Aug. 30, 1985: 1st Marine Brigade redesignated as the 1st Marine Amphibious Brigade.

Feb. 5, 1988: 1st Marine Amphibious Brigade redesignated as the 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade.

September 1990-March 1991: Participated in operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Southwest Asia.

2003-present

2003: 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment participated in Operation Enduring Freedom in the Philippines.

October 2004-present: 3rd Marines has deployed its battalions and other elements multiple times in support of operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

2/3



Sgt. Robert M. Storm

Sergeant Larry H. Courdle, a machinegunner from Willacoochee, Ga., pops smoke to indicate friendly forces to air support, after an attack by Anti-Coalition Militia forces during Operation Sorh Khar. Marines often use combined-arms methods to complete missions.



Sgt. Joe Lindsay

A small Afghan girl (center) appears mesmerized by Cpl. Jose Gonzalez as she leans forward to get a closer look. Gonzalez, an administrative clerk from Hillsboro, Ore., with 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, was in the small village of Yargul as part of a 1/3 humanitarian mission. Marines with 1/3 also provided security during a meeting between Afghan village elders and U.S. personnel.

1/3

3/3



Sgt. Roe F. Seigle

Several Marines assigned to the Hawaii-based Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment rush into an abandoned house June 16, in Barwana, Iraq, to search for explosives and weapons caches hidden by insurgents. Insurgent activity is commonplace in Barwana, but not as commonplace as it was when the Marines arrived and put a dent in insurgent operations by patrolling the city and capturing insurgents. To date, more than 60 insurgents have been captured in Barwana and many have gone on to serve prison sentences. Insurgents are still fighting Marines and planning attacks while threatening contractors who are willing to cooperate with Coalition Forces and help rebuild the city's damaged infrastructure.



Cpl. Luke Blom

Iraqi soldiers and U.S. Marines conduct a foot patrol in Haditha, Iraq, Oct. 31. Iraqi soldiers are taking substantial steps toward eventually taking control of military operations and ultimately relieving Coalition Forces in western Al Anbar province, according to Marine officials. Iraqi soldiers in the Haditha region have spent more than a year learning the tactical, administrative, logistical and decision-making processes they'll need to function as an independent military unit in the Haditha "Triad" region. A Military Transition Team is on hand to provide answers and support. Transition teams are Coalition service members who mentor and assist Iraqi Security Forces' development.

2/3

The History

The 3rd Marine Regiment first came into existence during the period of international unrest in the early 20 Century. The regiment was formed Dec. 20, 1916, by consolidating Marine detachments from the various ships in the Atlantic Fleet then at anchor in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The early days of the regiment were highlighted by campaigns in Mexico and the Dominican Republic.

During World War I, the regiment was heavily involved in the occupation and pacification of the Dominican Republic. As the Dominican crises subsided, the regiment's role in the Republic also lessened.

Between wars, 3rd Marines became a reserve unit stationed in San Francisco, eventually being disbanded in 1937.

The 3rd Marine Regiment was reactivated June 16, 1942, in North Carolina, as part of the World War II military expansion. The regiment fought and bled at Bougainville and Guam. Four medals of Honor were awarded to members of 3rd Marines for actions during this period.

Following World War II, the regiment was ordered to China to aid in the disarming of

Japanese units and to assist the Nationalist government in the occupation of Northern China in an effort to deny land to the communists.

The Regiment did not participate in the United Nations defense of South Korea, but continued to actively train in Hawaii and Japan to remain combat ready.

3rd Marines was quick to respond to the call for forces in Vietnam, providing security for the Da Nang Air Base in early 1965. The Regiment's experience level and ability to adapt led to many innovations including the Combined Action Company and the Civic Action Program. Ultimately, 3rd Marines was to participate in 48 major operations in the Republic of Vietnam.

Following the retrograde of forces from Vietnam, the regiment was initially relocated to Camp Pendleton, Calif., and assigned to the 5th Marine Amphibious Brigade. During April 1971, the Regiment became part of the 1st Marine Division. Two months later, the Regiment was moved to Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, to assume the role of the ground combat component of the 1st Marine Brigade.

The 3rd Marine Regiment was one of the first combat forces to deploy to Saudi Arabia in

response to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait Aug. 2, 1990. The Regiment, which became known as "Task Force Taro" in honor of the state and people of Hawaii, became the first American unit to be engaged by Iraqi artillery, rocket and missile fire Jan. 18, 1991. They countered the Iraqi supporting attacks by conducting artillery raids into Kuwait as the first ground offensive actions of the war. The task force was instrumental in the recapture of Khafji, was the first unit into Kuwait, conducted the only helicopter-borne assault of the war, and secured the Marine Corp's final objective of the war, Kuwait International Airport.

Following the cease-fire Feb. 28, 1991, the Regiment redeployed to Saudi Arabia and completed its strategic redeployment to Hawaii two months later.

Effective Oct. 1, 1994, the 1st Marine Brigade was deactivated and 3rd Marine Division became the regiment's higher headquarters.

In 2003, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment participated in Operation Enduring Freedom in the Philippines.

Since October 2004, 3rd Marines has redeployed its battalions and other elements in support of operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

MCCS Briefs

www.mccshawaii.com

**Kahuna's
Recreation Center**
254-7660/7661

Kahuna's Sports Bar & Grill will be closed today in observance of Veterans Day.

Monday Night Football pre-game begins at 6:30 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m. Offered during the game only are beverage specials and 25-cent wings.

Hot Country Wednesday features Dita Holifield and Red Handed.

Kahuna's Recreation Center and Lava Java is now serving fresh sausage, ham and egg bagel sandwiches from 6:30 to 10:30 a.m. daily.

Staff NCO Club
254-5481

The SNCO Club will be closed today in observance of Veterans Day.

Monday Night Football in the Rocker Room begins at 6:30 p.m. Festivities will include half-time games and king and queen of the quarter recliners. Pupus are available for purchase until half time.

Wednesdays mean wing night starting at 4:30 p.m. Cost is 35 cents a wing for those who dine in. Rocker Room grill menu items are available at 5 p.m.

Fairways to Go is offered seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Call 254-5592 to place an order.

The Officers' Club
254-7650

Today's Pasta Lunch Buffet is offered from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Wednesdays Member Appreciation hours are from 5 to 7 p.m. Show your membership card for half-priced burgers and specially priced domestic and import beverages. Full prices will be charged after 7 p.m.

Mongolian barbecue is offered Wednesday and Friday at 5:30 p.m. in the Lanai Ballroom. Present your card for member discount. Reservations are recommended.

The monthly seafood buffet returns Thursday from 6 to 8 p.m. Menu items include snow crab legs and carved prime rib.

All Hands

The 6th Annual Children's Marine Corps Birthday Party will be held Sunday at noon in the L.I.N.K.S. yard at Building 5082. The free event will include lunch, a traditional cake-cutting ceremony, and other fun activities.

Call 257-2368 for more information.

Marine Corps Birthday Specials are being offered today and tomorrow at the Marine Corps Exchange and the Exchange Annex from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Call 254-3890 for more information.

Anderson Hall will be hosting a Native American Heritage Month Luncheon on Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. A ceremony will begin at 11:30 a.m. with the theme 'A Warrior's Tradition: Contributing to our Nation's Freedom'. Special award-winning guests will be Troy and Liz De Roche, flute player and story talker, respectively.

Thanksgiving Turkey-to-Go Dinner returns to the SNCO Club and Sunset Lanai on Camp H.M. Smith. Place a telephone order now through Friday, Nov. 17 and pick up your complete turkey or ham dinner on Thanksgiving Day. The dinner's main course includes herb and garlic roast turkey with gravy, or honey-baked ham with Hawaiian pineapple sauce (both 10-12 lbs). Sides feature: cornbread, Portuguese sausage and chestnut stuffing, roast garlic mashed potatoes, corn O'Brien, cranberry sauce, rolls and butter, and pumpkin pie. Price for The Officers' Club, SNCO Club members, and E-1 to E-5 are: Turkey dinner \$69.95, ham dinner \$84.95, turkey and ham combo \$105.95. Nonmembers add \$10.00 to any option. Prepayment is required by Nov. 17.

Call 254-5592 or 254-5481 to place an order.

Community event:

Hawaiian Waters Adventure Park honors military with free admissions to kick off Veterans Day weekend

Hawaiian Waters Adventure Park, 400 Farrington Highway, honors the military during Veterans Day Weekend with free admission today and half-off general admission Saturday and Sunday.

All military personnel (active duty, reserve, National Guard, and retirees) with a valid identification card are eligible to receive special admission.

Dependents, friends and family of military personnel will also enjoy half-off general admission.

Regular admission to Hawaiian Waters Adventure Park is \$34.99 for adults and \$24.99 for children, and discounts available for groups, kamaaina and seniors.

Call 647-9283 or visit www.hawaiianwaters.com for more information.

Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree's Top 10 picks from the Marine Corps Professional Reading Program

10. "A Message to Garcia" by Elbert Hubbard
9. "Semper Fidelis: The History of the United States Marine Corps" by Allan Millett
8. "Fields of Fire" by James Webb
7. "Fortune Favors the Brave" by Bruce Meyers
6. "Red Badge of Courage" by Stephen Crane
5. "Black Hawk Down" by Mark Bowden
4. "We Were Soldiers Once ... and Young" by Harold Moore
3. "Art of War" by Sun Tzu
2. "Band of Brothers" by Stephen Ambrose
1. "Flags of our Fathers" by James Bradley

See Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree's book review of 'The Few and the Proud' below.

Book review: 'The Few and the Proud'



Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree

Combat Correspondent

"The Few and the Proud" gives history lessons from the men and women who are the few and the proud

With the Marine Corps birthday upon us, it only seemed fitting to write a review of a book that gives the history of one thing all enlisted Marines have gone through – boot camp.

In "The Few and the Proud: Marine Corps drill instructors in their own words" by Larry Smith, Marine Corps drill instructors give insight into recruit training "From the sands of Iwo Jima to the deserts of Iraq."

The book starts out with Chuck Taliano, who many know from the famous recruiting

poster entitled "We don't promise you a rose garden," giving his story, telling why he joined the Marine Corps, why he wanted to become a drill instructor, and how he ended up being the fierce-looking DI on that poster. This portion of the book gives readers an insight into what techniques are employed by recruiters in order to bring more people in to sign up.

In the first portion of the book, Smith interviews seven retired Marines about their experience going through boot camp, in the Marine Corps, and as a DI's. This portion of the book is called the "Old Breed," which is essentially about Marines who have served during World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

They are called the "Old Breed" for good reasons, as each of them tell how tough recruit training was in those days and how they were taught how to handle recruits when they themselves earned the title of Marine drill instructor.

Marines like retired Sgt. Maj. "Iron" Mike Mervosh, who served two tours as a drill instructor and participated in three wars, including the battle for Iwo Jima, explain how they brought the experiences that they gained from participating in conflicts and applied their experiences to recruit training.

In the second part of the book,

titled "Ribbon Creek," the author tells of the event that occurred at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island and how it changed the way recruits were to be handled by drill instructors from that point forward.

In this section, you will read firsthand accounts of the trial against Staff Sgt. Matthew C. McKeon, the drill instructor who marched his platoon in the middle of the night to Ribbon Creek, ultimately resulting in the death of six recruits. Interviews included are from McKeon's lawyer, court reporter, and McKeon himself. This section provides insight into the incident and about the man who was accused of killing his recruits. The death of these recruits ultimately changed the course how recruits were to be trained from that point on.

The next part to the book is "Marines and the Movies," which is an interview from the most famous Marine drill instructor, R. Lee Ermey. During this interview, Ermey recounts his days as a drill instructor at MCRD San Diego, contrary to Parris Island in "Full Metal Jacket." Here he talks about arguing with director Stanley Kubrick, about the fact that Marine Corps drill instructors never hit recruits above the mid section of the body, which he had to do in the movie.

Next the book covers

Montford Point, the recruit training area used to train African-American recruits. Here, you hear the testimonies of retired Marines who went through Montford Point and how different training was when there was segregation, as compared to today's integrated Marine Corps.

Women Marines too have a say in this book. The women drill instructors talk about how far women have come in the Marine Corps, since the days when they only able to serve as clerks, while the men went off to war. They also talked about how women had to fight in order to change the regulation that now allows pregnant Marines to stay in the Corps.

The final section of the book addresses today's drill instructor. Here, DIs talk about how they personally train their recruits to fight the war in Iraq by either experiencing Iraq firsthand or using techniques they've learned from the "old breed" drill instructors.

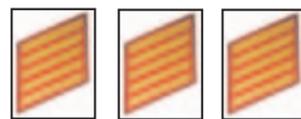
This book is a good book to read about firsthand accounts of what it was and is like to be a drill instructor. But, if you're looking for an action-packed thriller you won't find it here. This book is for those who want to gain insight into the mind of the drill instructor or want to find out what it's like to be a drill instructor.

Movie review: 'The Prestige'



Lance Cpl. Ryan Trevino

Combat Correspondent



Score: 3 out of 4 service stripes

Editors note: Hawaii Marine has taken the initiative bringing back its weekly movie review section. Each week Hawaii Marine's own film critic Lance Cpl. Ryan Trevino will provide readers with in-depth reviews and unbiased ratings of a film currently in theaters or one of the many classics of yesterday.

The rating system requires some explanation before you get started. If the film being reviewed is currently available for rent or purchase it will be assigned a certain number of "microwaves" on a scale of one to four to rate its "reheat factor."

If the film being reviewed is in theaters, it will be assigned a certain number of service stripes on a scale from one to four.

In other words, the more microwaves or service stripes the film receives, the better and more entertaining it is to watch.

In 'The Prestige' brothers Christopher and Jonathan Nolan team up for the first time since their breakout puzzler "Memento," in this equally visually riveting account of two rivaling magicians set in turn-of-the-century England.

The story follows stage magicians Robert Angier (Hugh Jackman) and Alfred Borden (Christian Bale) as they battle it out in a violent game of one-upmanship, each set on destroying the other's career and ultimately, each other's lives.

Each scene is enveloped by the darkest of human emotions: Envy, revenge, betrayal, and obsession set the mood, driving the narrative forward to an end-

ing that will leave you begging for more.

Jackman and Bale handle the complex roles well, adding to the overall quality of the film.

However, Christopher Nolan, with a little help from his brother, is the real star behind the scenes.

Coming off such films as "Batman Begins" and "Insomnia," Nolan is one of the few directors in Hollywood today that can deliver commercially successful films without first stripping it of its artistic value and individuality.

After only five features, Nolan is considered to be one of the truly a masterful storytellers of unparalleled proportions in the film business of today.

For those who aren't familiar with their work, the Nolan brothers are known for their ability to weave a powerful narrative into a nonlinear format that provides the viewer with a truly unique experience.

"The Prestige" is broken down in a triple time line that allows the director to cut back and forth to tell a more in-depth story in the same amount of screen time as a linear-formatted film.

Staying true to the theme of illusion, "The Prestige" is

designed as cinematic magic trick itself, using misdirection and sleight of hand as key elements to keep the audience guessing after each and every twist and turn of this taunt thriller.

We learn from the trailer, via the voice of Londoner Michael Caine, that there are three parts to a magic trick.

The first is called the pledge – when the magician shows his audience something ordinary.

Next, is the turn – when the magician makes that ordinary something do something extraordinary.

The last part, the prestige, is the audience can't go because that is where the secrets lie.

Nolan defies the magician's code and not only takes up backstage to see the tricks of the trade, but puts us right in the middle of the biggest magic trick of all.

There is not much else to say without spoiling the fun for those who haven't seen it.

"The Prestige" is truly a breath of fresh air from an industry that produces 75 percent garbage.

You won't want to leave your seat one the movie begins, because you might miss something.

MOVIE TIME

Prices: Friday and Saturday 7:15 p.m., shows are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children. Sunday matinee is shown at 2 p.m. Shows are \$2 for adults and \$1 for children. Evening showings on Sunday and Wednesday are at 6:30 p.m. and late shows are shown Friday and Saturday at 9:45 p.m. Cost is \$2 for adults and \$1.50 for children.

For ticket pricing, the Base Theater Box Office defines an adult as a patron 12 and older and defines a child as a patron from 6 to 11. Children 5 and younger are admitted free of charge. Parents must purchase tickets for R-rated movies in person at the box office for children 16 and younger. Patrons must present their military identification card when purchasing tickets. Call 254-7642 for recorded information.

Sneak Preview Policy: One hour and 45 minutes prior to the movie, tickets will be issued to first priority patrons waiting in line, then second and third priority patrons.

In an effort to prevent piracy, the following security measures will be enforced on base for sneak preview screenings: bag checks, confiscation of cameras or cell phones with picture taking capability (items will be returned after screening), magnetometer wand, audience scanning with night vision goggles during screening.

The Base Theater and film companies thank you in advance for your cooperation and hope you will enjoy the show. For recorded information, call the Base Theater at 254-7642.

Wicker Man (R)
The Black Dahlia (R)
Flyboys (PG13)
Hollywoodland (R)
Everyone's Hero (G)
Flyboys (PG13)
Little Miss Sunshine (R)
Everyone's Hero (G)
Flyboys (PG13)

Today at 7:15 p.m.
Today at 9:45 p.m.
Saturday at 6:30 p.m.
Saturday at 9:45 p.m.
Sunday at 2:00 p.m.
Sunday at 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.
Friday at 7:15 p.m.
Friday at 9:45 p.m.

ON THE MENU

AT ANDERSON HALL

Friday

Dinner brunch
Roast turkey
Lemon baked fish fillets
Baked macaroni & cheese
Garlic roasted potato wedges
Mixed vegetables
Lyonnise carrots
Cream gravy
Peach pie
Chocolate chip cookies
Spice cake w/lemon butter cream
frosting
Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding
Lemon/orange gelatin

Saturday

Dinner
Pork roast
Chicken cordon bleu
Mashed potatoes
Boiled egg noodles
Simmered broccoli Polonaise
Simmered succotash
Chicken gravy
Boston cream pie
Shortbread cookies
Yellow cake w/butter cream frosting
Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding
Lemon/raspberry gelatin

Sunday

Dinner
Oven roast
Honey glazed Cornish hens
Rice pilaf
Savory bread dressing
Asparagus w/hollandaise sauce
Simmered squash Creole
Brown gravy
Pumpkin pie
Oatmeal cookies
Devil's food cake
Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding
Strawberry/lime gelatin

Monday

Dinner brunch
Veal Parmesan
Braised pork chops, bone-in

O'Brien potatoes
Peas with onions
Spaghetti
Marinara sauce
Mixed vegetables
Mushroom gravy
Pecan pie
Chewy nut bars
Spice cake w/butter cream frosting
Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding
Lemon/strawberry gelatin
Specialty bar: Pasta

Tuesday

Lunch
Barbeque chicken
Battered fish portions
Steak fries
Simmered corn
Simmered asparagus
Chicken gravy
Sweet potato pie
Double chocolate chip cookies
Yellow cake w/chocolate chip frosting
Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding
Cherry/orange gelatin
Specialty bar: Taco & Deli

Dinner

Turkey ala king
Salisbury steak
Parsley buttered potatoes
Glazed carrots
Club spinach
Brown gravy
Desserts: Same as lunch

Wednesday

Lunch
Chili macaroni
Roast turkey
Grilled cheese sandwich
Mashed potatoes
Simmered pinto beans
Simmered mixed vegetables
Turkey gravy
Cheesecake w/cherry topping
Peanut butter cookies
Peanut butter cake

w/peanut butter frosting
Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding
Lemon/raspberry gelatin
Specialty bar: Hot dog & sausage
Dinner
Meat loaf
Pork ham roast
Mashed potatoes
Tossed green rice
Cauliflower combo
Broccoli w/cheese sauce
Brown gravy
w/mushrooms
Desserts: Same as lunch

Thursday

Lunch
Swiss steak w/brown gravy
Chicken Parmesan
Rice pilaf
Oven browned potatoes
Corn on the cob
Simmered peas & carrots
Brown gravy
Blueberry pie
Brownies
White cake w/lemon cream frosting
Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding
Lime/cherry gelatin
Specialty bar: Deli & hot sandwich of the day

Dinner

Beef Yakisoba
Sweet & sour pork
Shrimp fried rice
Steamed rice
Simmered broccoli
Fried Cabbage w/bacon
Chicken gravy
Desserts: Same as lunch



Sounding the conch shell



Lance Cpl. Ryan Trevino

Laurence Camvell sounds the horn to kick off this year's Makahiki Season, the Native Hawaiian season for harvest that runs through March. Approximately 50 native Hawaiians gathered at the Çabanas and Pyramid Rock here to hold ancient rituals and ceremonies to celebrate.

Friends remember fallen corpsman

Gunnery Sgt. Claudia de Leon

Public Affairs Chief

A hospital corpsman ran through the midst of a gun battle, following an explosion that scattered debris in every direction. His objective was a Marine that lay bleeding from his nearly severed arm and leg.

"I don't know how he didn't get hit," said Cpl. Robert D. Fischer, 24, native of Barenton, Fla., and one of Petty Officer 3rd Class Julian Woods' close friends. Bullets hit all around the corpsman as he ran from one amphibious assault vehicle to another. "It's because of him Corporal Johnston is alive today," added Fischer.

That was Nov. 8, 2004, during Operation Al Fajr, the second battle for Fallujah, Iraq. Two days later, the corpsman from Jacksonville, Fla., died trying to save another Marine.

It was the morning of Nov. 10, 2004. The sun slowly rose to greet a typical Iraqi chilly winter day. The Marines and Sailors of 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, were ready for another day of fighting.

Members of Charlie Company were going from house to house in search of insurgents, weapons or munitions.

A call came through on the radio stating Marines were trapped in a building, according to Fischer.

A Quick Reaction Force team was sent out, and although not part of the group, Woods decided to go with



Courtesy photo

Petty Officer 3rd Class Julian Woods (left) relaxes with a fellow corpsman in Kuwait before heading into Iraq, October 2004. Woods was part of Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines during Operation Al Fajr when he gave his life while trying to save wounded Marines on Nov. 10, 2004.

them.

"He grabbed his bag and went," said Fischer.

The corpsman ran under heavy fire with the Marines toward the designated house. The Marine in the house was Lance Cpl. Pickering, but, unbeknownst to anyone, he lay mortally wounded. Woods stepped into the yard, was hit and died immediately, according to Fischer.

Meanwhile, the company headquarters element working out of a bombed out building several hundred yards

away received word that more corpsmen were needed.

That's where another of Woods' close friends was working and heard the call.

Petty Officer 2nd Class, Aaron C. Tucker, 25, native of Santa Ana, Calif., got the word to move out.

He never imagined the call for more corpsmen was because his best friend had been killed.

"First Sergeant Farrell asked if we were ready to go. We said yes and went to the house," said Tucker.

They quickly made their way to the area and arrived at the neighboring house and waited for additional orders.

Tucker walked in and saw some Marines smoking during a tense few moments in the lull of battle. Then one of his mortarmen walked in and said "Sorry, Dude." Tucker looked at him with a confused expression; the Marine continued, "You haven't heard?" Tucker replied with, "Heard what?"

Then he told him Woods had been hit and was dead.

Tucker instantly felt himself crumble, his knees gave way and he broke down. He then began demanding a cigarette and right away five or six Marines surrounded him, all with their arms extending cigarettes. That's when he realized he had to retain his composure.

A heartbroken Tucker alongside the other corpsmen continued the work of fighting next to and saving Marines throughout their tour in Iraq.

Two years later, Tucker and Fischer remember their friend in the legacy of his death and his life.

Fischer, now a martial arts instructor for Regimental Schools, 3rd Marine Regiment, recalled that Woods was nicknamed "Snoop Doc" because he resembled the music artist.

"He was tall, slinky and soft spoken," said Fischer.

According to his friends, Woods' personality aided in putting people at ease.

When he gave shots, Woods would often crack a joke, and as the Marines laughed, he would quickly inject the needle. He could be goofy, but when working on the wounded, he was always calm, cool, and talked to them like nothing was wrong, according to Fischer.

Tucker's memories go back to when Woods first joined the unit.

"I met him right after my trip to the Philippines in 2003. I was his mentor," said Tucker, "took him under my wing and did everything together. He was one of the funniest people I've ever met. We were like brothers, inseparable."

They would see each other at work and hung out afterwards.

"It's like this, either he would be knocking at my door in the mornings, or I'd be at his," said Tucker. "No matter what the situation, he always made it funny."

Even in the chaos of war, in Fallujah, they would check on each other when the opportunity arose.

"He used to come by during chow or re-supply runs and ask how I was doing and if I needed anything," said Tucker.

People were drawn to him by his personality, sense of humor and the passion in which he carried out his mission as a corpsman, even at the cost of his life.

"If you ever needed a friend, he would be there," said Tucker. "I loved him for that."

Corporal lives life never expected

Sgt. Sara A. Carter

Combat Correspondent

Joining the military never seemed like anything he would choose to do when it came down to deciding what to do with his life.

"I was trying to figure out what I wanted to do with my life," said Cpl. Brandon Fields, a block noncommissioned officer, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay range. "I didn't know if I wanted to go to college."

During his time at Inglemoor High School in Kenmore, Wash., Fields said he knew going into the military was an option, but the thought of leaving his family, especially his brothers, kept him from seriously considering it as an occupation.

A misconception of what the military consisted of also added to Fields' doubts that military life was for him.

"I thought the military was for people who didn't have their lives together," the 23-year-old said. "Then I thought - Wait. I don't have my life together."

He wasn't totally naive to what was involved when joining the military. His grandfather, who retired from the Air Force as a colonel, fought in World War II as a bomber pilot.

"He made me want to join the Air Force," Fields said.

Fields said his eyes began to open a little more to what the military was about when his friend decided to join the Marine Corps.

One day, Fields said he was sitting on a couch with a best friend of his who said he had spoken with a recruiter about joining the military and his friend wanted Fields to go too

the next time he went.

Fields said OK, but had no intentions of joining.

His friend filled out the paperwork he needed and the recruiter casually talked to Fields about what he wanted to do with his life. Even after this first visit, Fields still wasn't sold on the idea of joining the Marine Corps.

"I still didn't know what I wanted to do," he said. "I had a job that I didn't know if I wanted to leave, and I still didn't want to leave my family."

A couple of weeks later, Fields found himself at the recruiter's office again with his friend. This time Fields said he started to realize all of the different aspects the Marine Corps had to offer.

"The recruiter motivated and educated me about the fact that there is more to the Marine Corps than I thought," he said. "He also asked me if I wanted to go running with them at a poolee function. I said that I would go."

At this point, Fields said he still had not made up his mind, but he was starting to lean toward joining, especially after attending the poolee function.

Although it was raining, he still participated in the initial strength test and low crawled through the wet grass with all of the other poolees.

"It was great," he said. "All of the poolees were motivated because they were about to leave for boot camp. It was a different type of atmosphere - one that I had never been around before."

The newly motivated Fields then went back to the recruiter's office and took a practice ASFAB test. Although he still didn't know if he wanted to join, he

knew that if he did, he wanted to be infantry.

After two more weeks of attending poolee functions and getting fired from his job, he knew it was now time for him to join.

"I went to my friend and said, 'I'm joining,'" Fields said.

About two months before his friend was scheduled to leave, they once again made the trip to the recruiter's office to see if Fields and his friend could go together on the buddy program.

They were scheduled to leave together, but unfortunately Fields ended up leaving a month after his friend.

"It didn't matter that he left early," the block NCO said, "I was going, no matter what."

Fields left for boot camp February 2003 to become an infantryman and was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Aug. 12, 2003.

He deployed to Okinawa, Japan, and Afghanistan with his unit. He was scheduled to deploy with his unit to Iraq where it is currently deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, but was unable to make a decision quick enough, so he was moved from his unit to Headquarters Battalion in March.

When he checked into his new unit, the Marines there noticed that he is a marksman-ship coach and asked him if he wanted to work at the range



Sgt. Sara A. Carter

Corporal Brandon Fields, block noncommissioned officer, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay Range, walks to the 200 yard line at the range.

where he would be a block NCO, and he said, "Yes." That is where he will continue to work until he gets out of the Corps in February 2007.

Fields said he has enjoyed fighting for his country alongside Marines he has trained and with peers whom he had climbed the ranks with. He said he has especially loved teaching non-infantry Marines marksmanship skills.

He also said the leadership skills he has learned while in the military will help him in the civilian world.

Fields said when he gets out of the Corps; he plans to go to school to learn how to be a master mechanic and hopes to open an auto service shop with his friend.

A look at Mokapu Peninsula's history

Christine Cabalo

Photojournalist

For more than 12 years, the personnel assigned to Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, have been one of many tenants on Mokapu Peninsula who have safeguarded the land. Human presence on Mokapu has a vast history from early Hawaiian inhabitants to the current existing military facilities.

June Cleghorn, cultural resources manager, MCB Hawaii, said visitors to Mokapu Peninsula might have come as early as the 13th century. The oldest archeological evidence found suggests ancient Hawaiians came to the peninsula for short periods to utilize Mokapu's natural marine resources.

Cleghorn noted the peninsula had an abundant supply of marine resources such as seaweed, turtles and fish. The remains of smooth coral and shells have been found there, which she suggests is evidence that fishermen used the rough mineral to shape shells into fishing lures.

Imu, or Hawaiian cooking pits, were discovered at the peninsula with remains of food and charcoal. Evidence of tents were found by researchers, Cleghorn said, because there were remains of wooden posts used to hold up cloth or palm fronds.

"Usually there's not large stone structures that are associated with permanent settlements like stone walls or platforms," said Cleghorn. "So that's how we know it wasn't a

large permanent settlement, because there weren't these large permanent structures."

As the population grew land was altered, said Cleghorn, to accommodate more people. She said the number of fishponds in the area increased, with evidence of Hawaiian inhabitants engineering ponds with stone walls. Ranching activities increased in Mokapu during the 1800s, Cleghorn noted. Though she said no specific evidence currently exists of Mokapu as a military resource during the 19th century, earlier maps of the area suggest otherwise.

"Some of the old written records from the 1800s will give different place names," she said. "One of the place names for up at the crater is Kahakili's Leap. They say that each island had a Kahekili's Leap. Kahekili was one of the chiefs of Maui. When he trained his warriors, he would pick spots on the cliffs. Part of the training for the warriors was to jump off the cliffs and into the ocean. If they survived they were worthy."

Mokapu became more of a military training area in the early 1900s, with the U.S. government buying property in 1918. President Woodrow Wilson by executive order set aside 322 acres of land for use by the Army. The area was first named Fort Kuwaahoe but later known as Fort Hase in 1942. The U.S. Navy, during the mid-20th Century, attained lands in the peninsula for use as a Pacific seaplane

See MOKAPU, B-6



Pfc. Iain A. Schnaible

An F/A-18 "Hornet" fighter jet from Strike Fighter Squadron 201 is refueled at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, in February 2001.

A History of Marine Aircraft Group 24

Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree

Combat Correspondent

In the early days of World War I, Marine Corps aviation played a vital role in providing reconnaissance and finding enemy submarines. Today, aircraft provide ground support to the ground troops in Iraq.

Activated March 1, 1942, at what was then Marine Corps Air Station Ewa, on the island of Oahu, Marine Aircraft Group 24, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, was established to participate in several campaigns during World War II, including the liberation of the Northern Solomon Islands and the Philippine Islands. After the end of World War II, MAG-24 relocated to places such as China and Guam.

In 1949, MAG-24 was relocated to Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., where it was assigned to the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing. Twenty years later, in 1968 MAG-24 again relocated to Hawaii at MCAS Kaneohe Bay where it is to this day.

Marine Aircraft Group 24 was again called up to support its country in the early 1990s in operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

As the Marine Corps celebrates its birthday, Marines assigned to MAG-24 reflect on the MAG of yesterday.

"It was different back then," said Lt. Col. Robert A. Krekel, commanding officer, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24, who was stationed here with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 212 in the early 1990s. "There was a (Marine Expeditionary Brigade) here when I checked in back in 1991. The MAG was the largest permanent composite MAG in the Marine Corps."

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, MAG-24 was comprised of F-4 Phantoms, F/A-18 Hornets, A-4 Sky Hawks, UH-1N Hueys, CH-46 Sea Knights, and CH-53D Sea Stallions.

"The pace was a lot faster back then," said Master Sgt. Vinni Haggard, fiscal chief, who was stationed here from 1985 to 1988. "We had a lot more squadrons back then. Now we just have three CH-53D squadrons and five Navy squadrons. Back then it was all Marines. Once all the other aircraft squadrons pulled out of here, the Navy aircraft started to come over."

In the mid 1990s, other aircraft were reassigned to air stations in Cherry Point; Miramar, Calif.; and Iwakuni, Japan, and all Sea Stallions were consolidated to MCB Hawaii, making MAG-24 the only unit to have CH-53Ds to support the Marine Corps.

It might seem like it would be easier to maintain and control one aircraft as opposed to six, but it was easier back then, because there was a set routine and deployments that made it easier, according to Col. Edward Yarnell, commanding officer, MAG-24.

"One thing that makes it a little difficult today is that we

See AIRCRAFT, B-6

Family mourns loss of eldest son

Sgt. Sara A. Carter

Combat Correspondent

Editors note: This is part two of a three-part series documenting a family's trip to Hawaii to attend a memorial ceremony for their eldest son who was killed in Iraq.

Oct. 20: The memorial

Each of the 11 families who lost a loved one in Iraq was given a table at Anderson Hall Dining Facility aboard Marine Corps Base, Hawaii Kaneohe Bay. The Aguilar family's table was the first one. The families of the fallen met at the facility for a luncheon before the beginning of the memorial ceremony that day.

Marines from 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, most of whom had never spoken to the Aguilar family, walked up to the mother and father, Olivia and Andres, to express their sorrow for the family's loss.

Each Marine told a different story about their son Cpl. Andres "A.J." Aguilar Jr. Many tried to fight back tears as they spoke about their friend. Olivia listened, holding on to every word they said. She occasionally wiped away tears.

The Marines sat intermingled among family members and talked about the brother they had lost. For the moment, the tears were gone. The sad thoughts were overcome by happy memories, memories that could only come from the Marines who served with A.J.

"This is a part of him we didn't know," Olivia said. "Seeing them is like seeing A.J. They all have a little bit of him in them."

The Marines took turns holding A.J.'s 13-month-old niece Krystalyn. A.J.'s sister Amanda told the Marines that A.J. had only met his niece once, at her baptism.

"When he met her, he fell in love," Amanda said. "I'm just glad he got to meet her."

The Aguilar family and the Marines ate together as one huge family, laughing and telling stories.

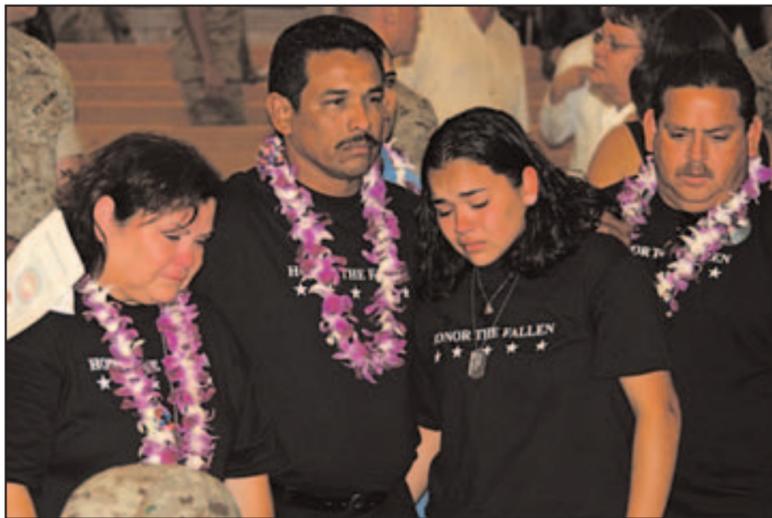
While everyone was talking, Andres walked by holding a tray full of food. Behind him, a Marine who was wounded in Iraq and was supported by a cane followed. Andres walked to the second table and sat the Marine's tray down. After a friendly pat on the back, Andres returned to his seat with his family.

As the families began to leave for the ceremony, Cpl. Christopher Perna, a cook at the facility, approached Olivia and Andres to share his experiences with A.J.

"I served with A.J. in both Afghanistan and Iraq," he said as his voice began to break. "He was a good Marine; a great guy."

Olivia stood up and hugged Perna. Tears began to fall from both of their eyes.

His voice still breaking, he smiled and said, "He used to get off of work late, and I used to go to work early. He would throw his cammies on mine and sometimes we would wear each others."



Sgt. Sara A. Carter

Olivia (left), Andres, Andrea Aguilar and Arturo Hinojos watch as Marines from 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment honor their son, brother and nephew Cpl. Andres "A.J." Aguilar Jr., during a memorial ceremony Oct. 20.

Both Olivia and Andres laughed as they wiped their tears away.

Outside, for the second day in a row, cold rain fell to the ground, heavier than the day before. The ceremony, originally scheduled to take place outdoors, was moved to the Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay Chapel.

Inside the church, the families sat quietly as they waited for the memorial to begin. The pews began to fill with Marines from 3/3. Olivia and Andres sat in the front.

"I didn't know what to expect," Olivia said as she looked down to the ground, "this is so hard."

"I know he is here with me, helping me get through each day."

Because A.J. was the first Marine from 3/3 to die in Iraq, his name was the first one called during the roll call.

Three Marines appeared from the side of the chapel. One carried a pair of boots and dog tags, one carried a rifle, and one carried a helmet. As they appeared, Olivia's sobs softly echoed through the church.

Andres reached out and hugged his wife. They both wiped away the flow of tears that were streaming down their faces. A couple of pews behind them sat the rest of the family, also grief stricken.

The family sat listening, occasionally glancing toward A.J.'s picture as the rest of the Marines were honored. After the ceremony concluded, the family gathered around A.J.'s gear.

Each member of the family stood in front of the boots once worn by their loved one. Red-eyed, Olivia reached for her son's dog tags as Andres put his hand on his wife's back.

The family stood holding each other while they watched hundreds of Marines pay their respects to their son. Many turned to the family and hugged each of them and expressed their sympathy.

"We see how much (the Marines) loved

him," Olivia said. "I feel blessed that my son is never going to be forgotten, and that he will live on in them."

Once the sea of Marines passed by, the family paid their final respects and headed to the office where all of the communication Marines who served with A.J. worked. There was yet another memorial for the family.

Captain Brendan Mooney, communications officer, Communications Platoon, stood in front of the family and his Marines.

"He was an outstanding, dedicated Marine," Mooney said. "He was the most senior (noncommissioned officer) and was someone I could always rely on."

"He knew what he was doing. I would ask him to do something and he would cock his head to the side and say, 'I'll take care of it, sir. I'll take care of you, sir,'" Mooney said as he tried to impersonate A.J. "And he always did."

Mooney opened the floor to all of the Marines. Most said the same thing about A.J. He was a reliable Marine, someone they could depend on. If he thought something was wrong, he would stick up for what he thought was right. He was always someone they could talk to, and he loved to have fun and joke.

"He always made me laugh," Mooney said laughing. "I loved that Marine."

Corporal Omar Guevara, radio operator, 3/3, talked about how much Aguilar meant to him. He then turned to A.J.'s brother and sisters and said through tears, "A.J. was like a brother to me, and I will be a brother to you all, forever."

The unit then presented the family with a shadow box that contained an American flag, all of A.J.'s ribbons, and coins from the deployments that he been a part of.

Andres stood up. He turned to the Marines and said, "Thank you. You are all part of our family now. You will always be in our family's prayers. Please be safe."

Behind the scenes: The making of a Marine Corps birthday cake

Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree
Combat Correspondent

Hunkered down in the corner of the back of Anderson Hall Dining Facility, three people work vigorously to complete one of the many cakes that they are tasked to make for this year's Marine Corps Birthday celebrations.

"This is the second year that I have done this," said Staff Sgt. John Hyatt, fund administrator, Anderson Hall Dining Facility, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. "The first cake I made was a fully edible cake for a retirement eight years ago. Last year was the first year that I made a mock cake."

Most Marine Corps ceremonial birthday cakes are made of 95 percent wood with a small piece of real cake that is made for the actual cake cutting. The wood is decorated as a cake in order to save time and manpower on baking and decorating an edible cake, said Hyatt.

The process of decorating the wood and cake takes about four hours for one cake, according to Hyatt, who currently has seven orders to make cakes for various units aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, as well as for this year's Marine Corps Birthday Pageant.

When Hyatt makes these cakes, he is going to use the ingredients that are best for the ceremonies.

"Other places use whipped cream frostings on their cake," he said. "I use shortening, because it's more decorative."

"When they roll out the cake and it's

topped with whipped cream frosting, the first thing that happens is that it melts – whereas shortening doesn't.

"I also use pound cake for them to cut because most places use white or yellow cake, which breaks apart easily. When pound cake is cut it stays in place."

Hyatt decorates the cakes with the help of his wife Emi and Vikki Konopka, a baker who went to school and was taught by a French chef.

"I'm a perfectionist, and I can't stand ugliness," he said. "We had one unit that wanted the cake cutting part in the front, which would look horrible afterward, because after it's cut, they just roll it against the wall with the front showing because it's the most decorated part."

With almost all of the cake made of wood, Hyatt said it can be difficult to decide where the cakes needs to be cut, but said he decorates his cakes and gives the cutters a clear view of where it should be cut.

"You can't miss where it's supposed to be cut," he said. "I put dotted lines in the frosting so they know to cut right down the middle. Also, the sword lays right under the cake where it should be cut."

Each cake is worth approximately \$300, so Hyatt hopes to attract more business next year.

"I take a picture of every cake I complete, so I can transfer it onto a PowerPoint to show the sergeants major of each unit," said Hyatt. "Each cake is fully customizable to meet with certain unit's criteria."



Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree

Emi Hyatt (left), Vikki Konopka, and Staff Sgt. John Hyatt decorate a cake for Combat Service Support Group 3's birthday ball at Anderson Hall Dining Facility. Each cake is made of approximately 95 percent wood for decoration with a small section of real cake at the base.

MOKAPU, from B-4

base. Starting with 464 acres in 1939, the Navy created Kaneohe Naval Air Station, which eventually increased to all of Mokapu Peninsula except Fort Hase.

Kaneohe Naval Air Station was one of the first military resources Japanese aircraft targeted during the Dec. 7, 1941, bombings of Oahu.

The attack occurred nine minutes before their bombings of Pearl Harbor, leaving 18 Sailors and one civilian contractor dead.

Commander Harold M. Martin was commanding officer of Naval Air Station at Kaneohe Bay during the attacks. A day after the incident, he wrote to the commandant, 14th Naval District.

"Too much praise cannot be extended to the civil service and the contractor's employees," wrote Martin in his narrative which was recorded in "The Forgotten Warriors of Kaneohe," a book compiled by retired Navy officer, John S. Kennedy. "One, Sam Aweau, contractor, was one of the first people to realize this was a real attack and had the intelligence to telephone Hickam Field and Bellows Field but he was not believed. All of the civilians displayed extreme gallantry

in their disregard of personal danger and their attempts to help salvage aircraft and put out fires was commendable ... I would also like to express my admiration for the behavior of both the officers and enlisted men. Although the station has a high percentage of new recruits, they, without exception, lived up to the best traditions of the service."

The area was expanded during World War II by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to include a Naval Defense Sea Area and a Naval Air Space Reservation. In 1949, the Navy decommissioned the area, and all property was transferred to Barber's Point.

The Marine Corps took over Mokapu Peninsula in 1952, creating an air-ground training site. In 1993, the Navy's SH-60B "Sea Hawk" helicopter and P-3 "Orion" squadrons moved to the base.

By 1994, the base began to take the familiar shape it is today when the Marine Corps consolidated all of its holdings under the title of MCB Hawaii.

Mokapu Peninsula's history as a gathering place continues with more than 16,000 personnel and family members on base, according to figures from "Your Military In Hawaii 2006."



An archival photo shows what the Mokapu Gate, to what is now Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, used to look like. The Marine Corps took over operations of the base in 1952 under the name of U.S. Marine Corps Air Station. Before then, the Navy ran the base under the name of Kaneohe Naval Air Station.

USMC photo

AIRCRAFT, from B-5

don't have a Marine Wing Support Squadron here anymore," said Yarnell, who was first stationed here from 1985 to 1990 with, what was then the only Sea Stallion squadron here, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463. "A support squadron is like the equivalent of (Combat Service Support Group) for the air wing. They are the ones who have the trucks and Humvees and provide us support. Since we don't have a support squadron here, we have to coordinate through the base to get things like that, if we need it."

As MAG-24 progresses and prepares for the proposed arrival of MV-22 Osprey in a few years, the Marines are

looking forward to working with the newer members of the Marine Corps.

"The Marines of today are a lot smarter, and, believe it or not, better behaved," said Yarnell. "If I were to take 1985 to 1986 and compare it to today, we're producing better Marines."

"The caliber of workmanship of today's Marines and the leadership we're applying is just phenomenal. The ability to work together and accomplish the mission speaks volumes, and I'm very proud of my Marines and Sailors."

One accomplishment that the Marines and Sailors of MAG-24 have done is the ability to adapt to changes, said Sgt. Maj. Juan G. Camacho Jr.,

sergeant major, MAG-24.

"They're doing great just on the virtue of what product they produce," said Camacho. "The (CH-53s) continue to fly and accomplish the mission. These Marines and Sailors are true professionals at what they do on and off duty and are ready to answer when our nation calls."

Now that MAG-24 is starting to pump Marines and Sailors into Iraq to support Operation Iraqi Freedom, it's one more thing that they are able to adapt to.

"They're doing really well over there," said Yarnell. "When we send them there, they integrate with other MAGs, and they are able to slip right on in and not miss a beat. That's why I'm very proud of them."

Hawaii MARINE SPORTS

HAWAII MARINE C SECTION

NOVEMBER 10, 2006

Another year, another marathon

Kris Connor

Marine Corps Base Quantico

MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, Va. — To many, running the Marine Corps Marathon just once in their lifetime is accomplishment enough. Some run it twice and a rare few run it several times.

For a group of five gentlemen known as the "Groundpounders," they have run the marathon since it began in 1976 when the race only had 2,000 runners.

Groundpounders: Will Brown, 59, of Raleigh, N.C.; Roger Burkhart, 66, of Gaithersburg, Md.; Matthew Jaffe, 63, of Rockville, Md.; Alfred Richmond, 66, of Richmond, Va.; and Mel Williams, 66, of Norfolk, Va., had no knowledge of each other before the first marathon, but it was the term Groundpounders that brought them together.

"We first got some attention around the 20th marathon, and then it came to light at the 25th marathon," said Burkhart.

"I think the Washington newspapers picked up on the names, then the marathon staff coined the term Groundpounder," said Brown. "I had met Mel, Al and Roger separately at press conferences, and the four of us met together for the first time before the 25th race. All five of us met for the first time at a dinner before last year's race."

"I had just come back on active duty in 1976 at reserve headquarters, and they were already in the process of organizing the first (marathon)," said Richmond. "I was working and not planning to run. But in August, I was getting ready to workout and this colonel came in all excited because he had just finished his first 10-miler. I thought to myself, if that old guy can do it, I ought to be able to do it and the rest is history."

See MARATHON, C-5



Cpl. Brandon L. Roach

Service members and civilians deployed to Iraq maneuver a hill during the first satellite Marine Corps Marathon hosted at Al Asad, Iraq, Oct. 29. The participants came from bases across the country to participate in the event, and after finishing it, they went in the record books as completing the stateside event.

Satellite Marine Corps Marathon held at Al Asad

Cpl. Brandon L. Roach

3rd Marine Aircraft Wing

AL ASAD, Iraq — Service members and civilians came from all over Iraq Oct. 29 to participate in the first Marine Corps Marathon hosted at Al Asad, Iraq.

The 26.2-mile race through the streets of the air base included a hill and several obstacles such as speed bumps, sand-covered roadways and rain.

"We are absolutely impervious to weather, and it doesn't affect us," said Thomas Bedell, an AV-8B Harrier pilot assigned to Marine Attack Squadron 211, Marine Aircraft Group 16 (Reinforced), 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward). "We're going 26.2 miles even if it starts hailing on us."

In the cool chill of the morning, runners and volunteers met to prepare for the race, which started at 6:30 a.m. and lasted until shortly after noon.

As they stretched and mentally prepared themselves, the

enthusiasm and shouts of the bystanders brought on a seemingly ecstatic boost of morale for the runners.

"I think this event is awesome," said Alexis Miller a hospital corpsman, Marine Wing Support Squadron 273, Marine Wing Support Group 37 (Reinforced), 3rd MAW.

Something like this helps everyone come together and build camaraderie."

Upon the start of the race, the runners took off at a grueling pace, pushing themselves through the isolation of running a course that had nothing more than sandy backgrounds to look at.

"The out and back twice (style course) made it hard not having different scenery," said Ben Friedrich, operations officer and EA-6B Prowler pilot, Marine Electronic Warfare Squadron 3, Marine Central Command. "Overall, it was a great course, and the weather was excellent."

Friedrich was the first male

See AL ASAD, C-5



Cpl. Brandon L. Roach

Ben Friedrich is congratulated by Jonathan Miclot after completing the satellite Marine Corps Marathon hosted at Al Asad, Iraq.



Courtesy of MarathonFoto

Roger Burkhart, number 32, of Gaithersburg, Md., runs his 31st Marine Corps Marathon in Arlington, Va., as part of the Groundpounders' team, a group of men who have run every MCM.

Runners in 31st People's Marathon pace themselves



Staff Sgt. B.J. Swenson

Defending Marine Corps Marathon champion Ruben Garcia passes Jared Nyamboki near the 22-mile marker on the ramp from Interstate 395, Nov. 5, during the 31st Marine Corps Marathon.

Staff Sgt. B.J. Swenson

Marine Corps Base Quantico

MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, Va. — It was a tale of two races.

Jared Nyamboki of Kenya and Ruben Garcia, a corporal in the Mexican Navy and defending champion of the 2005 Marine Corps Marathon, dominated the 31st running of The People's Marathon Nov. 5 but did not spend much time racing each other.

The weather was sunny and crisp as the record-setting 31,422 participants filled the starting corrals. The two waves of runners; Scarlet for the more experienced runners, and Gold for the novice marathoners, headed out on their 26.2-mile journey through Arlington, Va., and Washington, D.C., beginning the fourth largest marathon in the United States shortly after 8:30 a.m.

By the time the field had

reached the 4-mile marker and the Key Bridge, Nyamboki, 30, was leading a small pack of runners who had distanced themselves from the rest of the field.

He managed to pull away from the small group of runners as he ran through Georgetown in Washington, D.C.

The Kenyan was all alone in the lead as he ran through the National Mall and past the Washington Monument, and on to Capitol Hill and the Lincoln Memorial.

As the course headed south, so did Nyamboki's chances of winning the marathon.

The cold air blew head-on as Nyamboki circled the Tidal Basin and East Potomac Park as he headed for the 14th Street Bridge.

On the bridge, a challenger could be seen in the distance racing for the leader for the first time. At the 21-mile marker, Garcia looked fresh, like he had just started the race, and was

gaining ground on Nyamboki.

Less than a mile later, Garcia blew by Nyamboki on the exit ramp of Interstate 395 and never looked back. He increased his lead while winding through Crystal City and was leagues ahead of the nearest competitor by the time he reached the Pentagon and the pack of 10k finishers.

Garcia, 35, broke the tape at the finish line with a new personal best of 2:21:20, beating his previous best and 2005 marathon time by nearly one minute.

His closest competitor, Carl Rundell, finished three minutes later and his teammate, Jose Miranda, finished five minutes behind Garcia in third.

"I feel very proud and very happy to have won for two years," said Garcia through a translator after winning back-to-back Marine Corps Marathons.

See PEOPLE, C-5

Sports Briefs

Athlete of the Year

Marine Corps Community Services is looking for the best of the best to represent Marine Corps Base Hawaii as male and female athlete of the year. In order to be selected, a package that includes a completed Athlete of the Year application and a recommendation letter completed by a senior noncommissioned officer or higher must be submitted to MCCS Varsity Sports by close of business Dec. 15. Only complete packages will be accepted.

Contact the Athletics Office, Building 219, at 254-759 for application forms and further information.

Armed Forces Bowling Championships

Marines and Sailors stationed aboard MCB Hawaii and Camp Smith, who are interested in competing in the Armed Forces Bowling Championships, should submit an application by Nov. 27.

All bowlers must have proof of current handicap: 210 for men and 160 for women.

Applications are available at the Athletics Office.

Call 254-7590 for more information.

Ongoing

Personal Trainers

For those looking to get into a tailored exercise regimen, or for those just looking for some good advice on weight management and weight control, Semper Fit Center offers free personal training consultation.

Trainers will do all this and tailor a fitness program, based on your physical needs and ambitions. For only \$5 per workout, a professional trainer will actually work with you to ensure maximum efficiency.

Call Semper Fit Center at 257-7597 to schedule an appointment.

Campground and Picnic Sites

For picnic and campsites, Marine Corps Base Hawaii offers some of the most scenic beaches on the island.

Three of those beaches, Pyramid Rock, Hale Koa and Fort Hase are available by reservation from dawn to dusk for picnics and parties. Hale Koa Beach may be reserved for overnight camping. Reservations are required.

Call 254-7666 for Kaneohe or 477-5143 for Camp H.M. Smith for more information.

Deep-Sea Fishing Charters Offered at Base Marina

Fishermen searching for convenient access to deep-sea charters need look no further than the MCB Hawaii Base Marina. Bill Collector fishing charters offers numerous charter packages accommodating up to six passengers.

Avoiding the traffic and crowd of Oahu's South Shore, Bill Collector's charters fish off the uncrowded waters of Windward Oahu.

Call the Base Marina to charter the Bill Collector at 257-7667 or 254-7666.

K-Bay Lanes

Economical entertainment is available, Mondays through Thursdays at the K-Bay Lanes where all E-1s to E-5s can receive free rental shoes and discounted games at only \$1.50.

Call K-Bay Lanes at 254-7693 for more information.

Okinawa Kenpo Karate

Every Tuesday and Thursday, join MCCS Youth Activities contractor for Kenpo Karate Kobudo classes, held from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in Building 1391, located behind the old 7-Day Store.

Adults and children are welcome. Costs for classes are \$35 for adults, \$25 for children, and \$20 for additional family members.

Call MCCS Youth Activities at 254-7610 for information.

Massage Therapy

Massage therapy with certified massage therapists is available at the Semper Fit Center, Kaneohe Bay. The massage therapy program will help relieve your mental and physical fatigue and improve overall circulation and body tone.

Appointments are available by calling the Kaneohe Bay Semper Fit Center at 254-7597.

Semper Fit Center Offers Array of Group Exercise Programs

New classes are now being offered and include a variety of workouts.

The class schedule for Fridays is as follows:

8:45 to 10 a.m.

Step Challenge

11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Gut Cut

4:45 to 5:45 p.m.

Cycling

5:45 to 6:45 p.m.

Pilates

7 to 9 p.m.

Aikido



Final Standings for the Commanders Cup Bowling League

1. Band-itos
2. Flaming Hookers
3. Golden Eagles
4. Effin' H
5. WOW
6. Wiggle Town Mafia
7. O Club
8. Da Jammass
9. Illegal Affairs
10. Rude Doggs
11. Knuckle Heads
12. Team Ramrod
13. Santa's Li'l Helpers
14. Goldbricks

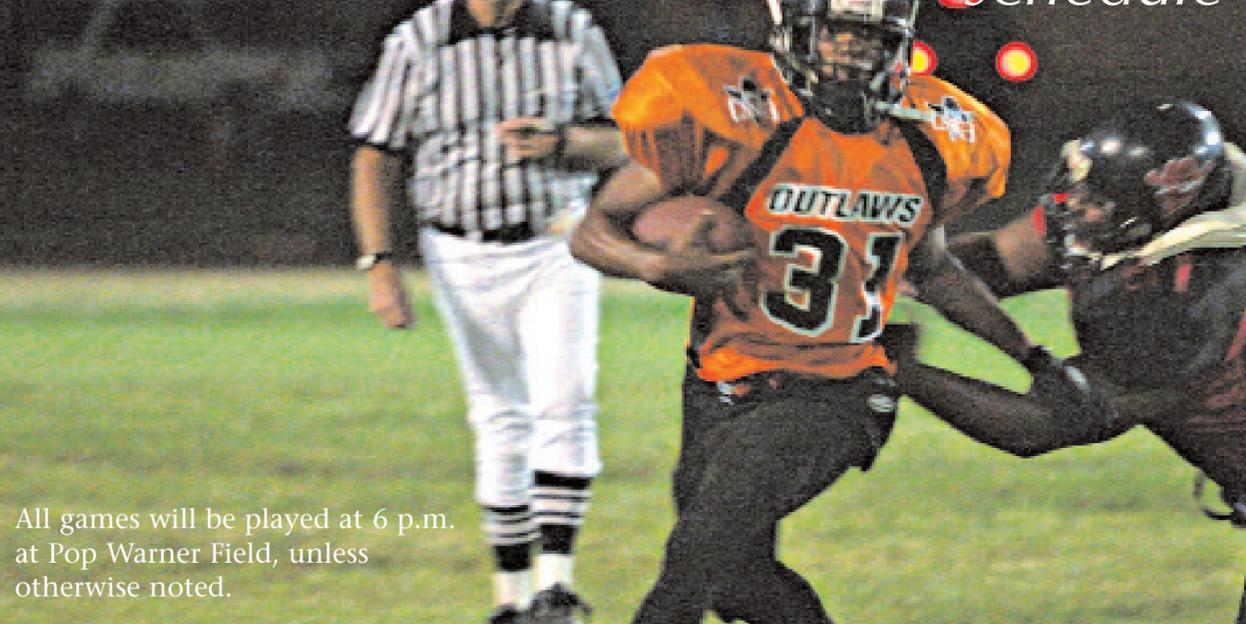


Tackle football standings as of Nov. 7

Team	Win	Losses
Camp H.M. Smith	5	1
CSSG-3	4	1
HQBN	2	3
MAG-24	3	4
1/12	0	4

Playoffs are scheduled for Nov. 13, 15 and 20. Championship playoffs are scheduled for Nov. 27.

2006 tackle football schedule



All games will be played at 6 p.m. at Pop Warner Field, unless otherwise noted.



Annual Turkey Trot

Sign up for the Nov. 18, 9th Annual 3rd Radio Battalion Turkey Trot and Family Fun Run today.

Adults can run the four-mile course while the children can participate in the one-mile Family Fun Run around Pop Warner Football Field.

Entry fees for the Turkey Trot are \$18 per person or \$108 for a six-person formation.

To register, visit <http://www.mccshawaii.com/cgfit.htm> or bring a registration form to the Semper Fit Center.

The Family Fun Run is free and advance registration is not required.

Active duty survivor benefits enhanced

News Release

TRICARE

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — Section 715 of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2006 extends transitional survivor status at the active duty family member payment rate for surviving children of service members who died while serving on active duty for more than 30 days.

The law also enhanced TRICARE benefits for surviving children and spouses of deceased active duty service members.

The enhancements are retroactive for dates of death on or after Oct. 7, 2001, and apply only to medical benefits and payments rates. The Department of Defense and TRICARE Management Activity implemented these changes Nov. 1.

Under the new law, minor children and unmarried dependent children remain in transitional survivor status, at the active duty payment rate, until they reach age 21, or up to age 23, if they are enrolled full-time in a secondary school or institute of higher learning (and if, at the time of death, they relied on their sponsor for more than 50 percent of their financial support).

These children remain transitional survivors

until they reach the eligibility age limit, marry, or otherwise become ineligible for TRICARE.

Children and unmarried dependent children incapable of self-support because of a mental or physical disability (incapacitated) remain in transitional survivor status for the longer of: three years from the sponsor's death, age 21, or up to age 23 if they are enrolled full-time in a secondary school or institute of higher learning (and if, at the time of death, they relied on their sponsor for more than 50 percent of their financial support).

During the transitional survivor time period, eligible children and surviving spouses are eligible to enroll in TRICARE Prime, the TRICARE Prime Remote for Active Duty Family Members program, Overseas Prime, and Global Remote. Normal TRICARE Prime enrollment rules apply.

Transitional survivors are also eligible for active duty-specific programs such as the Extended Care Health Option and hearing aids. Eligibility for these additional programs and benefits is retroactive to Oct. 7, 2001, or the day TRICARE implemented the program, whichever is later.

TRICARE will reprocess medical claims originally processed and paid at the retiree payment rate for affected surviving family mem-

bers and refund the difference in enrollment fees, cost shares or copayments paid at this rate and the transitional survivor active duty family member payment rate that now applies.

TRICARE also mailed letters, beginning Oct. 20, to the homes of all active duty survivors, children, and former active duty survivors listed in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility System whose active duty sponsor died between Oct. 7, 2001, and Oct. 31.

The letter notifies family members of their retroactive eligibility for transitional survivor benefits. It also asks them to contact their TRICARE regional contractor for guidance on reprocessing medical claims and any potential refunds due.

End of Transitional Survivor Status and Active Duty Benefits

Transitional survivor status at the active duty family member payment rate for surviving spouses ends three years from the date of death of their active duty sponsor. At that time, DEERS will reflect their status as active duty survivors at the retiree payment rate.

As retired family members, survivors are not eligible for TRICARE benefits under the TRICARE Prime Remote for Active Duty Family Members program, Overseas Prime. They

remain, however, eligible for TRICARE Prime, Extra and Standard benefits at the retiree family member payment rate.

Survivors (retirees) are also not eligible for active duty-specific programs and benefits such as ECHO and hearing aids as these programs are not available to retirees.

After the transitional survivor period ends, surviving spouses and incapacitated dependent children who become entitled to Medicare Part A due to age (65), disability or end stage renal disease, must purchase Medicare Part B in order to remain TRICARE eligible.

To avoid the Medicare surcharge for late enrollment, surviving active duty family members must purchase Medicare part B coverage when they first become eligible.

Additional TRICARE information for active duty transitional survivors and survivors is available on the TRICARE Survivor Web page at www.tricare.osd.mil/survivors/default.cfm.

About TRICARE Management Activity

TRICARE Management Activity, the Department of Defense agency that administers the healthcare plan for the uniformed services, retirees and their families, serves more than 9.2 million eligible beneficiaries worldwide.

Go cold turkey for a day, a chance to win a turkey

Stephanie Ouano, RN

Naval Health Clinic Hawaii

Naval Health Clinic Hawaii, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, will support the Great American Smokeout Nov. 16.

On the day of the Great American Smokeout, and every day, NHCLH's Health Promotion Department challenges smokers to put down their cigarettes for one day and try to get one step closer to a smoke-free life.

Rules for Entering:

1. If you are a tobacco user, turn in your tobacco products (at least half a pack of cigarettes,

cigars, dip, chew, pipe tobacco, or clove cigarettes).

2. If you are a non-tobacco user, but would like to participate, bring in a tobacco advertisement you have seen in a magazine or newspaper.

Turn in by Deadline:

Turn in all tobacco products or advertisements to the Health Promotion Department, Room 103 or 105A, Makalapa Branch Health Clinic and receive an opportunity ticket.

By Nov. 16, turn in all tobacco products or advertisements at Clinic's booths at the Navy Exchange and Navy and Marine Corps Commissaries from 9 a.m. to noon.

You may also turn in products at the Hickam Commissary from 1 to 3 p.m.

Be sure to stop by our Great American Smokeout Pledge Wall at the Health Promotion Department at the Makalapa Branch Health Clinic and commit to quit.

What better way to reward yourself for kicking tobacco that day. Be a winner and become (or stay) tobacco free now! Quit to win!

All active duty members and beneficiaries, as well as DoD civilian employees, are eligible.

Call the the Clinic's Health Promotion Dept. at 473-1880, ext. 283/282 for more information.

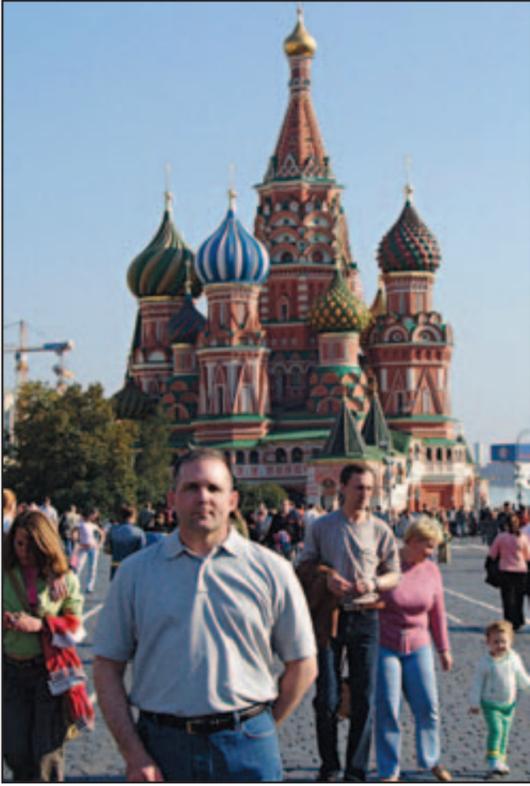
MOTO-vational run



Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree

Lieutenant Col. William G. Perez, commanding officer, Headquarters Battalion, leads a 2.31-mile run to commemorate the Marine Corps' 231st birthday, Nov. 9. The formation included Marines and Sailors from the Traffic Management Office, Post Office, Hawaii Installation Personnel Administration Center, Provost Marshal Office, Kaneohe Range, and Sergeant's Course and Corporal's Course.

Recuperating in Russia



Staff Sgt. Paul N. Whelan poses for a photo in front of St. Basil's Cathedral during his two weeks of rest and recuperation leave in Moscow. Whelan is the adjutant for Marine Air Control Group 38 (Reinforced), 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing. He is a native of Manchester, Mich., and a 1988 graduate of Huron High School. See story on page C6.

Courtesy of Staff Sgt. Paul N. Whelan

MARATHON, from C-1

Some of them had never run a marathon before the first MCM, as others were veteran runners.

"I started competitive running back 1972 and started the Tidewater Striders around the same time," said Williams. The Virginia resident is one of the founding members of the Tidewater Striders, which is a group of runners from Norfolk, Va.

Four of the gentlemen had served in the military in some capacity and felt a connection to the marathon through their service.

"I was a paratrooper in the Army, and we had to run three to four miles in boots every day," said Williams.

"The (Iwo Jima Memorial) never fails to give me goose bumps even after all these years. My father fought and was wounded on Iwo, and I have the utmost respect for his service," said Brown. "I

served in Vietnam, but had it easy compared to him.

"He was a corporal, and I end up a colonel, but I have always felt that he was the senior Marine," Brown added.

Being a member of the Groundpounders added pressure to the five men, because they are now known as a group and not so much as individuals.

"There is pressure not to be the first one to drop out from the group," said Richmond.

This year was no exception, because each of the Groundpounders completed the MCM around 5:45:00 with the exception of Brown, who completed the race in 4:39:00.

"It does not get harder year to year, because of our age," said Richmond. None of them have any plans of missing next year's marathon, but only time will tell as it is a year away and each man will be a year older.

Birthday run



Sgt. Sara A. Carter

First Lieutenant Mark Mooney, platoon commander, 2nd Platoon, Transportation Support Company, Combat Service Support Group 3, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, and fellow Marines participate in a 5-mile motivation run in celebration of the Corps' 231st birthday.

AL ASAD, from C-1

to cross the finish line with a time of 3:06:03. He has participated in other marathons, but this is his first official Marine Corps Marathon.

The top female finisher was Amy Lane, Arabic linguist, 2nd Radio Battalion, I Marine Expeditionary Force, who completed the race with a time of 3:33:54.

"All I wanted was to qualify for the Boston Marathon," said Lane. "I had no idea I was going to be the first female to cross the line, and I didn't expect it."

The race in Iraq started just 11 hours before the well-known Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D.C.

"To have the joint effort here and in the States is a great thing," said Darian Rice, flight surgeon,

MWSG-37. "I think this is a great effort, and the worldwide camaraderie that is built here is wonderful."

After completing the race, all the participants' times were sent back to the official Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D.C., where they were entered into the record books as officially running the race.

"I think it's great that even though we are over here in Iraq, we still have the ability to do this type of an event," said Robert Palechek, first sergeant, Headquarters Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward).

"I know there are a lot of individuals who go on deployments and want to improve their (physical training) and run marathons.

"This is a great way of testing that."

PEOPLE, from C-1

"I felt more pressure this year than last year (to win)."

Garcia joins Jim Hage (1988-89) as the only back-to-back MCM overall winners as well as Brad Ingram (1984, 1986) and Darrell General (1995, 1997) as two-time winners.

Susan Mallery (1976-77) and Cynthia Lorenzoni (1981-82) have won the women's division in consecutive years.

The first female finisher crossed the timing mats right at the three-hour mark, when Laura Thompson finished with a time 3:00:23. Brenda Schrank finished second at 3:02:39, and Suzanne Himes finished third with a time of 3:02:57.

A surprised Thompson commented after the race that she had no idea she had a chance to win the marathon.

"I wanted to run it for fun," she said. "But it turned out to be a good day for me."

Thompson, 31, led the female group of runners, which accounted for more than 55 percent of the registered competitors.

Another large group at the marathon was the first-time competitors. More than 21,700 rookie runners registered for the race, totaling 69 percent of all competitors.

The race also featured Dean Karnazes, who wore bib number 43 to signify that the MCM was marathon number 43 on his quest to run 50 marathons in 50 days in 50 states. He finished the marathon in 3:37:26 and concluded his journey at the New York City Marathon.

The British Royal Navy /Marine team won the Challenge Cup for the ninth consecutive year over the U.S. Marine Corps team.

Five Marine Corps generals laced up their running shoes to run the marathon. They were: Jon Davis (4:00:04), Richard Lake (4:21:54), George Flynn (4:49:41), Michael Regner (5:17:35) and Raymond Fox (5:26:34), they joined fellow

Marines and service members as a demonstration of leading by example during the 31st MCM.

Before the sun had set on Nov. 5, plans for the 2007

Marine Corps Marathon were in motion as attendees to the post-race party were given guaranteed entry forms for the 32nd running of the marathon.

Rest, recuperation leave program: *Deployed Marines, Sailors offered opportunity for foreign travel*

Cpl. James B. Hoke

3rd Marine Aircraft Wing

AL ASAD, Iraq — A year is a long time. In the middle of the desert of a war-torn environment, it can seem like an eternity.

Luckily, service members have the opportunity to take a short, but much-needed break during their year-long deployment to Iraq.

"The rest and recuperation leave program is basically designed to give service members, serving 365 days in the area of operations, a break," said Staff Sgt. Paul N. Whelan, adjutant, Marine Air Control Group 38 (Reinforced), 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward).

They are authorized 15 days leave with the benefit of the military paying for travel to

and from their leave address."

While most service members choose to take their two-week vacation back in the United States with their families and friends, the program also allows them to travel abroad.

"I went to Europe, because I'd never been there before," said Gunnery Sgt. Russell J. Murzyn, information assurance chief, 3rd MAW. "I knew that I would eventually be going back to San Diego, so I went to Europe instead.

"The leave program is great," the 36-year-old Minneapolis native added. "I recommend it for anyone, especially since we are out here for a year and they give you the opportunity to travel anywhere."

Apart from the travel expenses, this program also grants service members the

opportunity to completely relax with their families and friends for a couple of weeks.

"It gives the service members some downtime and allows them to go home and see their families," said Whelan, "A lot of the junior Marines have never been away from home for more than a year in a foreign country. It helps to kind of fall back and regroup a little bit for those who are married or have families.

"It helps the families, too. Then, it gives those of us who are single an opportunity to travel throughout the world wherever we want to go and experience the diversity of culture," said Whelan.

Although this is the first year for the Marines to take advantage of this opportunity, leave programs like this one

have been around since before Vietnam, according to Whelan, a Huron High School graduate.

"Generally speaking, with the Marine Corps, we only deploy for six months at a time, so it's been a while since Marines have deployed overseas for more than 365 days," said Whelan, who spent his two weeks of leave experiencing the post-soviet era of Moscow and St. Petersburg, Russia.

However, there are a few requirements for the service members to meet if they choose to travel abroad rather than go home to see their families.

Leave participants traveling to locations other than Germany or the United States

and its territories or commonwealths must have a civilian passport and visa, if needed, in their possession before departing the Multi-National Forces West area of operations, according to the Rest and Recuperation Leave Policy letter.

"I didn't have a current passport, as I had turned it in several years ago," said Murzyn, a Columbia Heights Senior High graduate. "When I arrived out here, I hadn't planned on doing the two weeks anywhere other than San Diego and Minnesota, but the opportunity presented itself.

"I started the whole process to get a new passport issued to me," he added. "I flew to Baghdad to do my paperwork,

combat camera took my photo for me, and the legal office verified that all of my paperwork was correct for my passport. After about a week and a half went by, I was going back to Baghdad to pick up my passport. It was a simple process."

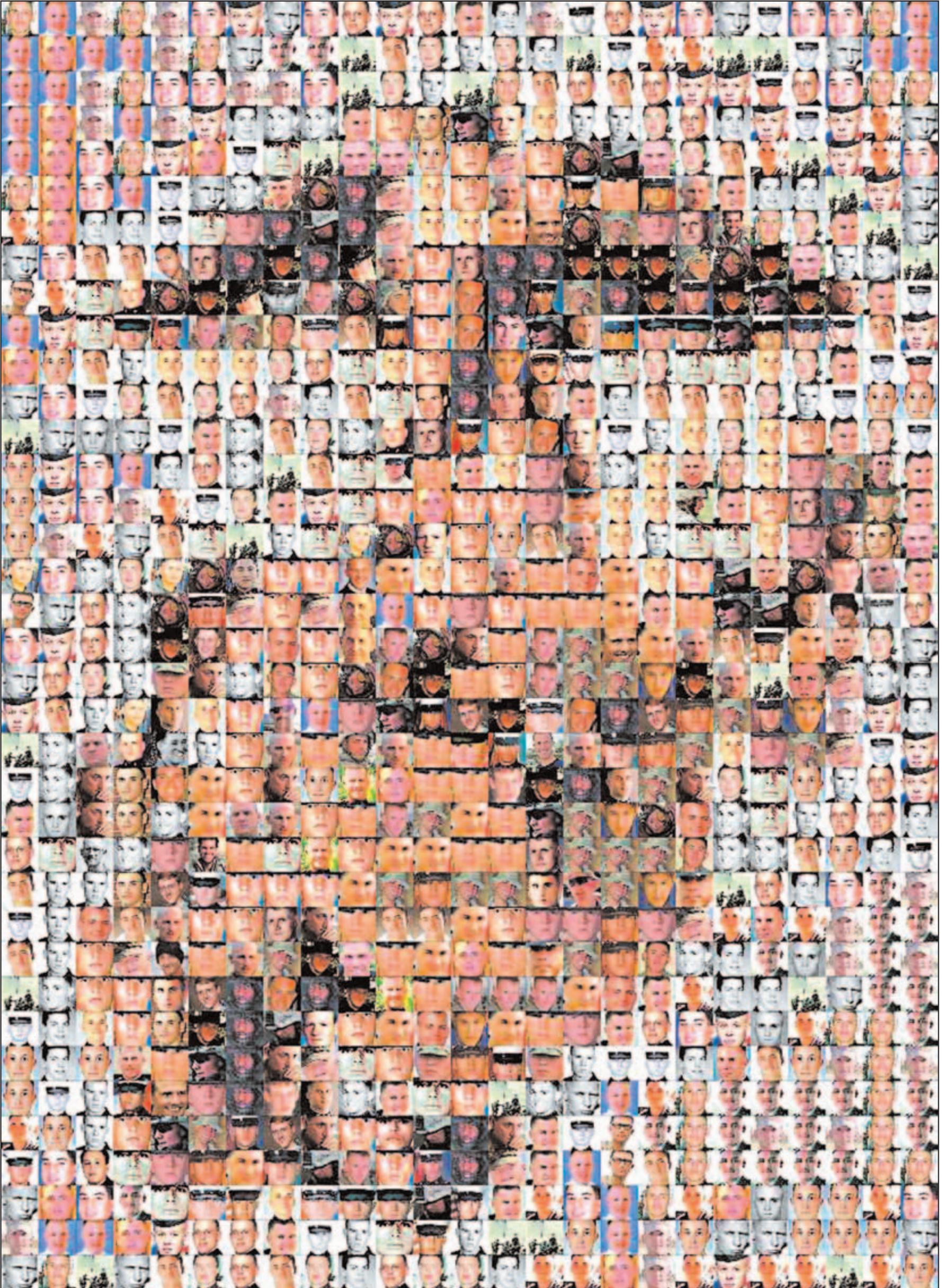
While there are a few things service members must do to enjoy two weeks in foreign travel destinations, the requirements compare very little to the benefits.

"This is probably the best thing you can do while you are out here," Murzyn concluded. "Why not take the opportunity to do something you may never get the opportunity to do again? Why not travel to Europe, travel to Russia or

enjoy some new place?"

ON POINT

For those who made...



the ultimate sacrifice