



Sergeant Maj. Stephen H. Mellinger, Marine Forces Pacific sergeant major, calls "Order Arms" during a brief ceremony for World War II veteran Cpl. Mason Yarbrough, who was killed 58 years ago. Yarbrough was escorted to his hometown in Sikeston, MI, following the ceremony, by his nephew Leroy C. Holmes, standing to the left of Mellinger. He was the first Raider returned home as a result of the Marine Raider recovery effort.

# 2000: A year of continued success for MCBH

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The year 2000 illustrated that Marines, Sailors and family members of MCB Hawaii are prepared to head into the 21st Century to meet the challenges set before them.

Despite beginning 2000 with immediate concerns about computer failures, and finishing the year with a historic presidential election, the Marines of Oahu maintained their focus and accomplished the missions assigned to them.

### Training and Deployments

The tempo of 2000 training was fast and furious and numerous units from MCB Hawaii participated in various exercises throughout the year.

The Rim of the Pacific 2000 exercise involved more than 20,000 military personnel from seven different countries, and took place from May 30 to July 6. Marines from Combat Service Support Group 3, 3rd Marine Regiment, and Marine Heavy Helicopter squadrons 463 and 366 conducted training at the Pohakuloa Training Area, the Pu'u Pa'a Range and Marine Corps Training Area Bellows. A humanitarian assistance exercise, two amphibious assault exercises and weapons firing exercises helped train Hawaii Marines to shoot, move, communicate and work with other branches of service as well as military organizations from other countries.

The Combat Support Company leathernecks from 3rd Marines participated in the six-month Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training exercise. During CARAT, Marines trained with the militaries of other Pacific Rim countries, to include Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore and the Philippines.

Other deployments Marines from MCB Hawaii participated in were Kona Winds 2000, Anti-Terrorism Exercise 2000 and Operation Natural Light, just to name a few.

### 2000 was a year of award winning Marines and units.

Beyond all significant training accomplishments, the year 2000 was also known as a year where many of Hawaii's Marines and Sailors earned high praise and honor from the Department of Defense level all the way down to

local recognition.

The top honor for the base was the 1999 Secretary of Defense Environmental Quality Award for Environmental Excellence. The award is the Department of Defense's top environmental honor recognizing the hard work Marines, Sailors and civilians of the base did to protect the base's natural resources while obeying environmental laws and regulations. Although it was not the first time that MCB Hawaii has been recognized for such dedication to the environment, it typifies the base's continuing efforts to protect natural resources and wildlife.

The Marine Corps Air Facility's Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting section earned an unprecedented three Allen G. Ogden Trophies and the overall Crash, Fire and Rescue Trophy for their hard work and excellence in several categories of Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting.

These awards marked the third year in a row that MCAF's ARFF team earned top honors by surpassing all other Navy and Marine Corps shore-base facilities.

Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362 earned the Aviation Support Element, Kaneohe top honor as squadron of the year. Through their hard work and dedication, they maintained 100 percent readiness while being tasked with several missions at one time, with little advance notice, throughout the year.

The Military Police Department's K-9 teams from MCB Hawaii continued to show the rest of the military community why they are considered one of the best in the Department of Defense. During the DoD Canine Trials at Lackland Air Force Base in April, Cpl. Shaun Gibbons and his German shepherd partner, Amber, were recognized as the top pair in the tactical obedience category.

### 2000 was a year of helping neighbors

Even with all of the training exercises and deployments taking place during the year, Marines still found a way to make time in their busy schedules to help the local community.

The Adopt-A-School Program was able to assist 19 elementary and intermediate schools on the island. Marines took time to help with activities like "Job Shadowing," as well as assisting with large field meets.

Furthermore, the Community

Drug Awareness Program delivered its message to two Big Island schools last year, showing MCB Hawaii's commitment to all youth throughout the state of Hawaii.

The Toys For Tots program delivered plenty of holiday cheer for neighboring communities on Oahu and the surrounding islands. This year more than 50,000 toys were delivered to deserving keiki throughout Hawaii - making it a record year for the Toys For Tots drive.

On a more personal level, Tom Zelko, Ian Buscher and their dog Lucky were glad to get a helping hand from Patrol Squadron 9 and Anti-submarine Squadron Light 37 in October. The three Kailua residents drifted at sea for four days after their 15-foot boat ran out of fuel during a trip to Molokai. After two days of unsuccessfully searching the ocean, the Coast Guard asked the two MCB Hawaii units to assist in the search effort. Within 24 hours, VP-9 spotted the drifting boat and HSL-37 sent a helicopter to rescue the men and their dog.

### 2000 was a year of continued building toward the future

Marine Corps Base Hawaii continued to build towards the future in the year 2000.

The completion of the new Navy barracks for the Sailors MCB Hawaii obtained from the closing of Naval Air Station Barbers Point signified the partnership between Marines and Sailors.

Ground was broken in February to build a new \$4.8 million air traffic control facility for MCB Hawaii. Air traffic increased about 400 percent at the current air facility, warranting the need for a new state-of-the-art tower. Construction is scheduled to be complete by March 2001, but probably is not expected to replace the old facility until the beginning of 2002.

Even the main gate received a few "ornaments" that improved the look of the drive going to and from of the base. The addition of five restored aircraft alongside the main gate road gave visitors and patrons a glimpse of the installation's history.

The year 2000 proved to be a year of growth and building towards the future for MCB Hawaii. 2001 promises to be another stellar year as Team MCBH continues to prove its commitment to be "the base of choice for the 21st Century."



Lance Cpl. Joe E Croak, from the MPD, prepares to enter a room during the Special Reaction Team's close quarters combat training June 23. The team was at



Guests bow their heads in prayer as Reverend Jong Soo Park from Jesus Mission Church delivers the invocation during a ceremony commemorating the 50th anniversary of the start of the Korean War.



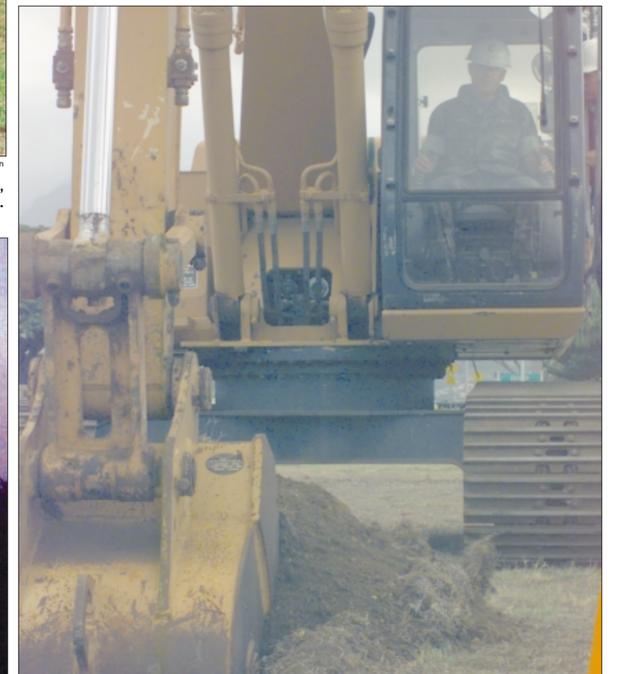
The base's Marine Corps Birthday presentation was ended with a traditional cake cutting ceremony. This year, the Corps celebrated 225 years of being the nation's premier fighting force.



Marines from Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, were able to relax after taking a hill at the Pohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island, as part of the final event in the Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation during the Combined Arms Operation from Sept. 29 to Oct. 29.



Colonel Michael Olson, left, and Capt. T.K. Hohl, places the wreath at the Kaneohe Klipper memorial during a ceremony Dec. 7. Marines and Sailors throughout MCB Hawaii came together for the event near the Klipper Memorial on base.



Brigadier Gen. R.E. Parker, Jr., MCB Hawaii commanding general, takes the helm of a backhoe during the Outside Cable Plant Rehabilitation project groundbreaking ceremony Aug. 2.