

Hawaii MARINE

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April 19, 2002

Marines shoot, move at Schofield

Sgt. Richard W. Holtgraver Jr.
Combat Correspondent

During the past eight months, Marines from 2nd Bn., 3rd Marines, have conducted six Dedicated Training Periods (DTPs), and each evolution builds upon the previous scenarios.

From April 6th - 9th, 2/3 conducted DTP7 using a combined and joint training format with other military and civilian agencies.

The battalion received much of its air assistance during the exercise from various aviation units, including support from Navy Patrol Squadrons (VP-) 9 and (VP-) 47, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363 and the Hawaii Army National Guard's Charlie Co., 193rd Aviation "Heavy Lift."

"Our exercise would have been conducted on a much smaller scale without them," said Capt. Ronald E. Gaines, air officer for 2/3. "They flew the majority of our helicopter missions."

In addition to troop transportation, the 193rd externally lifted four High Mobility Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicles from the Range Training Facility aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, to



Sgt. Richard W. Holtgraver Jr.

Corporal Marquet Gilliland, a radio operator for 2/3 writes the new passwords and codes while Lance Cpl. Paul Whitele, also a radio operator, keeps an eye out for enemy forces during the field exercise.

See 2/3, A-3

British join U.S. forces in

Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — A detachment of 1,700 British Marines are assisting U.S. and other coalition troops in the continuing search for al Qaeda forces in eastern Afghanistan, senior DoD officials said today.

Since April 15, British troops have been engaged in Operation Ptarmigan, the name given their share of military actions with U.S. and coalition forces in the Gardez and Khost regions, DoD spokesman Air Force Brig. Gen. John Rosa Jr. told Pentagon reporters.

The name of the overall coalition action is Operation Mountain Lion. (A ptarmigan is a wild alpine-Arctic bird.)

Army Gen. Tommy Franks, commander of U.S. troops in Afghanistan, had requested the British troops, Rosa said. However, he noted, American and British are not the only forces involved in Mountain Lion.

"There are several coalition folks in that region," Rosa remarked, adding that 31 countries are assisting Frank's U.S. Central Command in the war against global terrorism.

Citing security concerns, Rosa would not elaborate on the numbers of U.S. and other coalition troops involved in Mountain Lion.

He also would not discuss enemy numbers, location or activities.

"If I told you exactly what the enemy was doing and exactly where they are ... that wouldn't be that smart," he remarked.

Department of Defense spokeswoman Victoria Clarke told reporters that the British assistance — and other U.S. allies' involvement in Mountain Lion — is an example of the "extraordinary" support provided by coalition forces in the war against global terrorism.

Clarke also identified the four U.S. soldiers killed April 15 near Kandahar during ordnance-clearing operations. Three — Staff Sgt. Brian T. Craig of Texas, 27; Staff Sgt. Justin J. Galewski, 28; and Sgt. Jamie O. Maugans, 27 — were members of the 710th Explosive Ordnance Detachment in San Diego. The fourth, Sgt. 1st Class Daniel A. Romero of Colorado, 30, was assigned to the 19th Special Forces Group.

Former POWs, MIAs receive honors



Cpl. Jacques-Rene Hebert

Brigadier Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, commanding general, MCB Hawaii, greets Korean War Veterans Association National President Harley J. Coon after the ceremony.

Cpl. Jacques-Rene Hebert
Marine Forces Pacific
Public Affairs Office

HONOLULU — With the morning sun beaming down, warming the gravestones at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl), service members who had been held as prisoners of war and those who are still missing were honored in a commemoration ceremony here April 9.

Retired Marine Col. Gene Castagnetti, director of the Punchbowl, began the emotional ceremony by presenting all of the former POWs with leis.

"I'm not a 'touch-feely' kind of guy," began Castagnetti. "But there's a time when you must 'press the flesh.' These leis are in honor of the sacrifices these heroes have made."

After they accepted their flowers, each service member stepped up

to the microphone and gave their name and unit while the audience honored them with respectful silence.

Marine Brig. Gen. Jerry McAbee, commanding general of MCB Hawaii, introduced the prisoners of war with fitting remarks.

"On behalf of a grateful nation, this ceremony is held to remember the more than 88,000 service members still missing and the more than

140,000 held prisoner," expressed McAbee. "God bless you and God bless America."

Afterwards, Hawaii Governor Ben Cayetano's message proclaiming April 9, 2002, as POW/MIA Day was read by retired Army Brig. Gen. Irwin K. Cockett Jr., director of the Office of Veterans' Services.

A POW medal was presented to Norma

See POW/MIA, A-3

'Tropical Menace' makes its Hawaii debut

Sgt. Robert Carlson
Press Chief

While Marines and Sailors from Marine Corps Base Hawaii are deployed around the world fighting to eliminate terrorism, the base is continuing to keep force protection a high priority.

Base staff recently joined forces with local, state and federal agencies to work through a bio-terrorism tabletop exercise called Tropical Menace.

Tropical Menace helped Hawaii Marines iron out some of the interoperability wrinkles common when so many agencies work together.

"The exercise greatly enhanced our interagency command and control procedures," said Master Sgt. Juan Rivera, MCB Hawaii G-3 chief. "We capitalized on the interagency operations, and realized we need to establish some memorandums of understanding with the other agencies to help us all work together better."

Working out details in command and control issues was just one aspect of the exercise. Other objectives included establishing standard operating procedures, identifying capabilities, limitations and planning conflicts, and exercising the 'first responder' capabilities within each of the orga-

nizations involved.

Rivera said the exercise also gave the base a chance to exercise its antiterrorism and force protection plans.

"This exercise simulated an attack where a biological agent was introduced during a large event on base, and no one knew of the exposure until symptoms started to show two days after the attack," said Rivera. "This was a great chance to test our ability to work with

state, local and federal agencies to neutralize a situation while regaining not only the confidence of the people on the base, but that of the general public."

The tabletop exercise was a precursor to a larger exercise scheduled for later in the year where the participants in Tropical Menace will respond to a simulated attack and will test emergency response and evacuations procedures during role-playing evolutions.



MCBH NEWS BRIEFS

CREDO POSTS SCHEDULE

Marines, Sailors, federal employees or their family members may participate in any upcoming CREDO Personal Growth or Marriage Enrichment Retreat.

Sponsored by the Chief of Naval Operations, the programs support people who desire a more harmonious personal life, as well as growth in their personal and professional relationships.

Meals, lodging and transportation to the site are provided free of charge.

Call 257-1941 or 257-0408 to register for any of the following retreats:

- Personal Growth — April 25 - 28 or May 16 - 19.
- Marriage Enrichment — May 3 - 5.

DEFY NEEDS MENTORS

What is DEFY? DEFY is a unique, comprehensive, one-year program for youth 9 to 12 years old. The program helps reduce risk factors linked to adolescent alcohol and drug abuse, school failure, delinquency and violence. The program delivers leadership and life skills training for youth, by teaching team building, conflict resolution, age-appropriate goal setting and self-confidence skills.

The office is looking for men and women, whether military or civilian, to serve as mentors. A minimum of 15 mentors are needed by May 31. If you're interested in getting involved, call Daryl Picadura, program coordinator at 257-2103, ext. 313.

DOT GIVES REIMBURSEMENTS

All active duty military, appropriated and nonappropriated fund civilian personnel, and members of the reserve serving on active duty are eligible to receive reimbursement or vouchers for commuting costs spent on mass transportation, i.e., on The Bus or VanPools.

These eligible commuters on The Bus or VanPools may receive vouchers or reimbursement of up to \$100 for their expenses; however, they must complete an application form for reimbursement and provide copies of their used or unused bus passes.

Applications may be obtained online at <http://www.fmo.navy.mil/services/tip.htm>.

For more information, contact Roger Badua in the MCB Hawaii G-1 at 257-8807 or email him at baduara@mcbh.usmc.mil.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

On-Base Emergencies	257-9111
Military Police	257-7114
Crisis Hotline	521-4555
Child Protective Services	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852

Hawaii MARINE

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"Why can't they have someone on weekend duty for calls?"

- Submitted by JaiAnn Novak, family member



BRIG. GEN.
MCABEE

"I came home on Friday at 6 p.m. to find my air conditioner was not working.

I called AllStar, only to be told that my address was not on their 'list,' so I would have to wait until Monday before it could be fixed. I then called the trouble desk only to have a recording tell me the same thing.

My husband is deployed right now; so, I and my three children had to suffer through the heat, for the whole weekend, just because the air conditioner didn't stop working during 'office hours.'

That definitely doesn't seem right to me.

Why can't they have someone on weekend duty for calls?

Things can happen just as easily on the weekend as the weekday."

Thank you,
JaiAnn Novak

Mrs. Novak,

I have been asked by the commanding general to research and to respond to your email of April 5, since your recommendation falls within my staff's responsibilities. He appreciates you taking your time to participate in our CG Mail program.

You recommend the base expand its after-hours maintenance for residents of family housing. Specifically, you address the issue of air conditioner repair being an after-hours emergency.

Presently, a maintenance emergency is defined as work requiring immediate attention to correct or prevent loss or damage to government property, to restore essential services, or to eliminate fire hazards and immediate safety and health hazards.

A detailed listing of what is and what is not considered an emergency — for the provision of family housing maintenance services — is found on page 33 of your Family Housing Resident Handbook. This should have been provided in your Housing Binder at the time you occupied on-base housing.

Almost two-thirds of our 2,608 government-controlled family housing units do not have government-provided air conditioning. For those homes that do, air conditioning repair does not qualify for after-working hours or weekend response, unless there is a documented medical requirement to provide uninterrupted service.

Should you desire to submit a medical request for emergency air conditioner repairs, the point of contact at the Family Housing Department is Ms. Lydia Caldwell at 257-1257, ext 221, or email CaldwellLA@mcbh.usmc.mil.

Thank you again for participating in this important program.

Mr. Kent Murata
Assistant Chief of Staff G-4

"I am writing this email because I am tired of going to the chow hall and trying to guess what the choices will be for lunch or dinner.

Myself and a lot of other Marines would like to know what is being served before we even spend time going to the chow hall. That way, we are not wasting any time and can go somewhere else if we don't like what is being served.

My suggestion would be to coordinate a basewide email announcing the menu selection for the whole

week.

Respectfully,
Lance Cpl. Michael C. Cramer
Orders and Directives Clerk
Funeral Honors Clerk

Lance Cpl. Cramer,

We have been asked by the commanding general to research and to respond to your email of April 5, since your recommendation falls within our staff's responsibility. He appreciates you taking your time to participate in our CG Mail program.

You recommend we send out a basewide email announcing each week's menu at Anderson Hall.

Presently, there are two alternate ways for an individual to access the menu: (1) Channel 2, the "MCB Hawaii Commander's Channel," scrolls the weekly menu at various times throughout the day. (2) Anderson Hall places menus at the "Patron Education Table," near the front entrance, for patrons to take home with them.

Starting this week, the base's newspaper *Hawaii Marine* will publish the week's menu. This weekly announcement will include any special meal hours or special events at the chow hall.

We'll continue to look at your recommendation of sending this menu out via email.

We thank you for bringing this to our attention and appreciate your initiative.

Mr. Kent Murata
Assistant Chief of Staff G-4

and

Major Chris Hughes
Public Affairs Officer
MCB Hawaii

The commanding general invites input from the base community via C.G. Mail on the following topics: What are we doing that we shouldn't be doing? What are we not doing that we should be doing? What are we doing that we should be doing better?

Responses should include a recommendation that will help solve the problem and must include your name and return address so that staff may respond.

For more information about how to send C.G. Mail, see the MCB Hawaii C.G. Mail page at www.mcbh.usmc.mil/command/cgmail.htm.

General honors

Brigadier Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, commanding general, MCB Hawaii, awards a certificate for 20 years of service to Delrene L. Reames (second from right), an accounting technician at the Base Chapel, during a ceremony April 12 at the base flagpole. Esther L. Nakao (left of Reames) received an award for 30 years of service, and Jason Hasegawa (right) was recognized as MCCS Management Employee of the Year. Also during the ceremony, Staff Sgt. Toye Hickman received a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and the Local Control Center and the Environmental Department each received a Certificate of Commendation. Leslie Graham was named MCCS Employee of the Year.



Cpl. Ida M. Gilbert



Sergeants and below who dare to become Combat Correspondents and would pride themselves on telling the Marine Corps story can seize the opportunity with a lateral move into the 4341 occupational field.
Contact Gunnery Sgt. Rhys Evans, base public affairs chief, at 257-8832 or 257-8840, for more information.

ANZAC bond shared on Oahu

Cpl. Luis R. Agostini
Marine Forces Pacific
Public Affairs Office

Hawaii's military community will be preparing for the Australia and New Zealand Army Corps Day, which will be recognized in Hawaii Thursday.

Although ANZAC Day is commemorated on the dawn of April 26 throughout Australia and New Zealand, the special bond shared by the United States with those countries extends this day of remembrance to U.S. soil as well.

The holiday is set aside in Australia and New Zealand to remember and honor the 60,000 troops who gave their lives during the battle of Gallipoli.

After a failed attempt to blast through the Dardanelles by the British Royal Navy, the ANZACs became involved in what was to be the first of a series of landings.

The ANZACs were comprised of the 1st Australian

Division and the composite New Zealand and Australian Division, which included the New Zealand Infantry Brigade.

Originally scheduled for April 23, 1915, inclement weather caused a two-day delay on the landing.

When the departure finally commenced, the Australian spearhead misdirected their coordinates by two kilometers and landed nearer to Ari Burnu, which was later named Anzac Cove, a narrower front than originally planned.

As a result of the mistaken landing, the Allied troops faced far more formidable terrain in the form of tangled ravines and spurs. Units were split and mixed.

What made matters worse was the Turkish defense, comprised of only two Turkish infantry companies and an artillery battery. Despite their smaller size, the Turkish units, whom secured the high

ground, used their favorable positioning to drive back the invading ANZACs.

An over-ambitious attack on Baby 700, a high ground which was later secured by the Turks, failed due to poor preparation and coordination.

One of the battalions failed to make its start-line in time.

During the Sari Bair Range Offensive of August 1915, Allied forces failed to seize several opportunities that led to another failed operation.

After the short-lived tactical victories gained by the seizures of Chunuk Bair and Hill Q, Allied forces lost their advantageous positioning back to the Turks, who quickly regained their ground with a massive counterattack.

After the withdrawal of New Zealand troops from the Anzac-Sulva perimeter in September and their subsequent return to Anzac Cove in November, Gen. Sir

Charles Monro, who replaced Gen. Hamilton Oct. 15, 1915, decided an evacuation was inevitable.

The Gallipoli campaign was almost a complete failure. Allied forces suffered 180,500 casualties.

The campaign was halfheartedly launched with five divisions against their formidable enemy. Men were sacrificed in futile attacks on strong positions under inadequate leadership.

However, the efforts of the ANZAC troops contributed to the bigger picture, as the Allied tactical failures created a diversion against the Turkish army, and created an avenue of approach for the succeeding British naval forces.

The campaign also instilled a sense of national identity in both Australia and New Zealand. Australians and New Zealanders were thrilled to know that their countrymen fought honorably under difficult conditions.

2/3: Blazes combined, joint trails

From A-1

Marine Corps Training Area Bellows.

"This was actually our seventh Dedicated Training Period," said Lt. Col. Robert Castellvi, commanding officer of 2/3. "This one had a battalion field exercise incorporated into it. We've been conducting the field exercise for several days now."

The scenario for this exercise focused on the battalion being part of a Marine Air Ground Task Force in a host nation, fighting an insurgency in the war against terrorism.

"As part of the joint task force, we're striking the enemy wher ever the enemy lies," said Castellvi.

The main focus of the evolution was the Marines' ability to attack quickly.

"The first phase of the exercise was a series of raids," Castellvi continued. "One was a planned, mechanized raid on Pyramid Rock, and the other was an airfield seizure at Bellows."

"Our concept for the training scenario was that the entire island of Oahu was our training ground.

"Anywhere we were allowed to train and had the air or service mobility to get to, is where we trained."

For the warriors of 2/3, the Military Operations Other Than War was to be a two-phase exercise with the second phase to be in May.

While at Schofield, the Marines also conducted a battalion night attack at the Military Operation in Urban Terrain facility.



Photos by Army Capt. Joseph Laurel

Above Left — Island Warriors from 2/3 exit the area after disembarking from an Army CH-47 Chinook during training at Schofield Barracks. **The helicopters (Above Right)** were from Charlie Co., 193rd Aviation Heavy Lift, a Hawaii National Guard unit, and supported the Marine battalion by transporting Marines to various training areas. **Below** — A CH-47 Chinook collects Marines after completing their mission and securing the training area.



POW/MIA, From A-1

Higa on behalf of her son, former POW Sgt. Samuel S. Miyahira.

The keynote address was given by Air Force Brig. Gen. Steven Redmann, commanding general of Joint Task Force Full Accounting, Camp H. M. Smith, and it struck a collective chord among the hearts of those attending the ceremony.

"I'm honored to be on this sacred ground," reflected Redman. "I'm more humbled because these heroes have given more than I ever will, and more than anyone should ever ask."

Brigadier Gen. Redmann explained, "If you survived the trip to

the POW camp, you would expect to take in a daily diet of less than 1,500 calories, be subjected to anti-American propaganda, and survive in less-than-desirable living conditions.

"As individuals, you suffered greatly. As a force, you helped stopped millions from suffering. We pledge to bring back every soldier, Sailor, airmen and Marine that doesn't return from war. That's only part of what we owe to you for your heroism."

Among the guests of honor were Yoshio Tamaki, Korean War prisoner; Jerry Silva, representative for Honolulu mayor Jeremy Harris; Jee

Doo Lee, consul general of the Republic of Korea; and Harley Coon, president of the Korean War Veterans Association.

The memorial ceremony concluded with a 21-Gun Salute and words from Punchbowl's director.

"As a nation, we have an obligation to the veterans," explained Castagnetti. "That debt is never to forget."

"In order to pay you (POW/MIA) back, we need to continue these commemorative ceremonies that help remember the contributions you made to the preservation of freedom and the defense of a grateful nation," he added with conviction.

WORD ON THE STREET

"What do you like about being a military kid?"



"You get a lot of discounts on things."

John Manly
10th grader
Biddeford H.S.,
Maine



"I like the traveling. The time I spent in Japan I liked a lot."

Stephen Adams
10th grader
Kalaheo H.S.



"The beaches are great where I've been."

Mouse Smith
8th grader
Kailua
Intermediate
School

"...Moving from place to place, experiencing different backgrounds and cultures."

Dorothea Kyles
A former military child (now a) Relocation assistant Personal Services, MCCS



"I like the new skate spots and making new friends to kick it with."

Justin Laws
8th grader
Kailua
Intermediate
School

K-Bay Sailors qualify as FMF ready

**Petty Officer 2nd Class
Phillip L. Hasenkamp**
ComPacReconForPac

Standing out while wearing a camouflage uniform can sometimes be a good thing.

Five Sailors at MCB Hawaii recently qualified for their Fleet Marine Force (FMF) designation, making them hard to tell apart from their Marine counterparts. The only thing that gives them away is the "U.S. Navy" nametape and the peculiar gray-steel warfare pin, which is above the left breast pocket of their squared-away cammies.

For now, the five Sailors join an exclusive group. However, this may not be for long.

Any Sailor on Type Two or Four sea duty, attached to a Fleet Marine Force unit, is eligible for the designation. However, there's more to being FMF qualified than simply wearing the pin.

"It takes a special breed of Sailor to go FMF," said Chief Hospital Corpsman (FMF) Thomas Peer, leading chief petty officer of Marine Aircraft Group 24. "You must have the ability to embrace the unknown. You must be more flexible," he explained.

"It's a challenge, and it's a program for people who look for challenges," Peer added.

The history of Navy hospital corpsmen teaming with Marines on the battlefield stretches back to the Revolutionary War.

Their chronicles are filled with heroic acts.

Hospital corpsmen have won more Medals of Honor than any other rate in the Navy — most while serving with Marines in the field.



Seaman Adan Fabela

Petty Officer 1st Class John F. McGaha, of MAG-24, gives the ready signal after donning a protective suit. McGaha was one of five Sailors who recently qualified for the Navy's Fleet Marine Force designation during his tour of duty at MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

But according to Peer, in order to get the opportunity to go "above and beyond" in battle, it's necessary to go out of your way to get FMF qualified.

"You're given a maximum of 18 months to complete the Personal Qualification Standard (PQS). Most of that time is spent doing specific Marine training in your off-duty hours, study-

never work with, so it took me a little while to get it straight.

"I took the land navigation class four or five times just to ensure I knew exactly what I was doing, and it was worth it."

Hospital Corpsman First Class (AW/FMF) John McGaha, Marine Aircraft Group 24 leading petty officer, found most of his difficulty getting qual-

ing, and going over things to get ready for the board," he said.

Much of the training a Sailor must complete to be FMF Enlisted Warfare Specialist (EWS) qualified parallels Marine Corps training.

The FMF book teaches the reader about Navy and Marine Corps history, customs and courtesies; Marine Corps amphibious operations, and other related subjects, but much of the real learning takes place outside of the classroom, where the Marines are — in the field.

"I'd have to say, the toughest part of the training was the land navigation part of the course," Peer said.

"It's stuff we

ified came from synthesizing the entire course for examination.

Qualifying involved a complex mix of coordination with experts who could teach him, and proper time management, said McGaha.

"Pulling all of the information I'd learned over 18 months together to study for the oral board was the most difficult thing," explained McGaha.

"Most of the people you learn from aren't very familiar with the FMF program to begin with, so it involves a little cooperation.

"Everybody I worked with was more than helpful and extremely supportive."

To achieve the Fleet Marine Force designation, a Sailor needs to complete the full PQS, demonstrate the required knowledge in a written exam, and prove him or herself through an oral exam. For hospital corpsman, having the FMF designation means they have many abilities other corpsmen do not.

"We're able to do more things in battle as FMF," Peer explained. "I'm now able to call in a MEDEVAC on my own. I don't need a communications guy there with me, because I know how to use the radio myself." In addition, Peer said FMF corpsmen can better maneuver in Nuclear, Biological and Chemical environments.

With the training in land navigation, they can move wounded patients out of danger, as well as any Marine, Peer added. "We're truly self-sufficient in the field."

It may take but a second look to visually see the difference between a Marine and an FMF Sailor.

The true distinction of this warfare designation will be proven on the battlefield.

EVERY CLIME AND PLACE

HMH-165 provides air punch in Anaconda

1stLt. Jeff Landis
13th MEU

ABOARD USS BONHOMME RICHARD (LHD-6) — When the most intense battle in Operation Enduring Freedom kicked off — Operation Anaconda — Marines were called into action to do what they do best: launch a rapid-response, flexible and self-sustaining task force.

The Marines responded on a moment's notice, to conduct offensive operations or other missions as directed.

Helicopter pilots, crews and support personnel from the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) provided the quick reaction force and muscle required to conduct deliberate air assaults on enemy mortar positions and hide sites in Khowst and eastern Afghanistan's Shah-e-Kot Valley near Gardez, Afghanistan, in support of coalition efforts March 4-26 — completing more than 400 combat sorties during Operation Anaconda.

Under the command of Lt. Col. Gregg A. Sturdevant, commanding officer of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 165 (Rein), the 80-plus-member detachment of Task Force 165 performed close air support, airborne

reconnaissance, logistics support and a myriad of other tasks for Coalition Joint Task Force-Mountain, headed by the Army's 10th Mountain Division, with elements from the 101st Airborne and Special Operations Forces.

Marine Super Cobras conducted daily combat sorties to flush out Al Qaida and Taliban forces in the mountainous regions of eastern Afghanistan.

Three Marine CH-53Es, originally scheduled to provide logistics and refueling capability to Cobras on the trek from USS Bonhomme Richard to Bagram, Afghanistan, brought a new dimension in support of combat operations. The Super Stallions provided tactical refueling to every type of rotary wing asset in Afghanistan; ran combat support missions with logistics, supplies, ordnance and water; inserted U.S. and Coalition Special Operations Forces; moved utility and all-terrain vehicles for coalition forces; and operated tactical Forward Arming and Refueling Points.

The Super Stallion pilots flew 191 combat sorties and 257 hours. The 53s proved to be one of the most flexible assets on station.

"We knew we would have some involvement in this



Chief Warrant Officer 2 William D. Crow

A CH-53E Super Stallion refuels over Afghanistan.

operation because of the sheer distance inland," said Capt. R. Brian 'Chimpy' Fanning, a CH-53E pilot.

"I think we brought more to the fight than people realized. We performed a variety of missions — everything from running ordnance and supplies to refueling, even on short notice. All this was a credit to the maintenance crews, who worked miracles, day and night, even in the freezing cold, to keep the aircraft maintained and combat ready."



Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero

Sergeant Andrew T. Eckhard (right), an explosive ordnance technician with CSSG-3's Headquarters Co., receives a noncommissioned officer's sword from retired Sgt. Maj. Robert Holub, left, and Gunnery Sgt. Barry McCool, staff noncommissioned officer in charge of the SNCO Academy. Eckhard was the honor graduate of Sergeants Course 3-02, and Holub was the keynote speaker at the graduation ceremony April 11.

SALUTES

Sergeants Course 3-02

The Distinguished Graduates:

Honor Graduate
Sgt. Andrew T. Eckhard
CSSG-3

Second Place
Sgt. Michael P. Gibbs Jr.
Marine Support Bn.,
Kunia

Third Place
Sgt. Anthony D.
Dragonov
MAG-24

The President of Marine Corps University Honor Roll:

(Awarded to Marines with a final



grade point average of 95% or higher.)

Sgt. Kristofer B. Hocking
CSSG-3

Sgt. Joaquin Navarro
MCB Hawaii
Sgt. Adam D. Hunt
MAG-24

Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Writing Award:

First Place
Sgt. Gerry M. Schiller
Marine Corps Air Facility

Runner Up
Sgt. David F. Hunley
CSSG-3

Honorable Mention
Sgt Kelvin J. Thorton
MAG-24

Worth Repeating: *"Let us watch well our beginnings, and the results will manage themselves." — Alexander Clark*