

Hawaii MARINE

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April 25, 2003

U.S. not seeking lengthy stay in Iraq

Jim Garamone
American Forces
Press Service

WASHINGTON — The United States has neither asked nor considered asking a future Iraqi government for use of four air bases, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said April 21.

Defense Secretary Rumsfeld called a New York Times story that suggested such a thing "unhelpful." He said such articles left people in the Middle East with the impression that the United States is planning to occupy the country. "Not so," he said as he thumped the lectern at the Pentagon briefing studio. "It's flat false."

Defense Secretary Rumsfeld said the United States went in to Iraq to change the regime, find and dispose of Saddam's weapons of mass destruction and stop the country from threatening its neighbors. He said the subject of long-term use of the air bases has not come up during Pentagon discussions.

U.S. forces are using bases in the country, Baghdad International Airport, Tallil in southern Iraq, H-1 in western Iraq and Bashur in the north, as logistics hubs for coalition forces engaged in combat operations and to funnel humanitarian supplies.

The United States will consider the size of the American "footprint" in the area after consultation with allies in the region and outside of it. Rumsfeld did say it is his feeling fewer American service members would be needed in the Middle East without the threat of Saddam Hussein.

Inside Iraq, coalition forces continue to face resistance from the remnants of Saddam Hussein's death squads and the foreign fighters. Defense Secretary Rumsfeld said there are still some number of "dead-enders" that remain in the country.

"As the coalition works to remove the remnants of regime, the Iraqi people are emerging from the shadow of Saddam's tyranny to help coalition forces find death squads, uncover weapons caches, capture regime leaders, recover POWs and restore order and basic services," he said.

See **LONG-TERM**, A-6

'Super Squad' takes all at K-Bay

Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle
Combat Correspondent

After marching 15 miles and swimming 250 meters with a full combat load, there is only one thing left to do - determine who can do it best.

Marines from 3rd Bn., 8th Marine Regiment from Camp Lejeune, N.C., came aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, April 14, to challenge Marines from the 3rd Marine Regiment in the Annual Rifle Squad Competition to earn the title, "super squad."

The grueling competition kicked off at 5 a.m. on April 14 with a detailed inspection of the 782 combat gear followed by the first physical event, where each member of the 13-man squad had to do a max set of pull-ups and crunches. The squad with the highest average won that event.

Still pumped with energy and motivation, the Marines loaded up with all their combat gear and



Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle

Winners of the Annual Rifle Squad Competition from the 3rd Marine Division stand tall and proud after receiving Navy Achievement Medals for their outstanding accomplishments.

stormed onto the "O course" where the squads competed to determine who could get all 13 members through the fastest.

The competition was far from over. The hardest part to many was yet to come. Now carrying a full combat load

of more than 100 pounds, a 15-mile forced march awaited the dedicated Marines. Despite the grueling challenge of the forced march, a water obstacle surprised the Marines half way through the event.

Testing their capabilities in an

amphibious environment, they had to swim 250 meters after jumping off the K-Bay pier carrying their rifles, flak vests and their kevlar helmets.

"The hump and the unexpected water exercise were the hadest part of this competition," said Sgt. Chad Luunas, a squad leader for Lima Co., 3/8. "We were not accustomed to this weather and the water exercise threw us for a major loop. We gave all none-the-less."

With adrenaline pumping through their veins, the Marines then entered a dark tent to compete in a weapons-assembly competition. With no light available, the M-249 squad-assault weapon, M-16A2 service rifle and the M-203 grenade launcher had to be assembled. Afterward, the Marines were tested on their knowledge on how to safely handle and employ several weapons along with the correct safety pro-

See **SUPER SQUAD**, A-7

Home sweet home



Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle

Chief Petty Officer Donny Ayers, deck chief for Helicopter Anti Submarine Squadron Light 37, gets a warm welcome from his family after returning from a six-month deployment to Central and South America.

'Poker Ride' proves safety can be fun



Staff Sgt. Robert Carlson

Motorcycle safety is important no matter what type of bike you ride. Here aboard MCB Hawaii, all possible steps are taken to ensure that all riders are well educated of the dangers unsafe cycling poses.

Base Safety Center
Press Release

On April 5, the Marine Corps Base Hawaii Motorcycle Safety Association held its first major event since its inception in November 2002. The MSA sponsored a "Poker Run" north of Kaneohe at Kualoa Beach Park in support of the troops currently deployed around the world in harm's way.

The object of a Poker Run is to drive to five designated points around the island, draw a card from a bag, then return to the start/finish line with the best possible poker hand out of the five cards drawn.

The route was more than 100 miles long taking riders on a scenic trek around the entire island. The event drew more than 150 motorcyclists, both military and civilian, of which 50 were from MCB Hawaii alone.

Local businesses donated more than \$1,500 in prizes, which were raffled off and handed out for games played at each stop. More than \$2,000 was raised and will be donated to one of Oahu's military charities.

MSA President, Staff Sgt Shawn Marshall, MALS-24, "It is important for all motorcycle operators on base to understand that the MSA is about safety, yet, we can still get to-

gether, have fun, and sponsor an event to benefit those who have served before us.

"Unfortunately, the word 'safety' scares off many riders as they think we are just going to brow beat them about motorcycle safety.

A large number of the participants were our young, sport bike riders. These riders are the ones we want to influence so that our membership will grow," he continued.

"Everyone I talked to during the event said they had a great time. Hopefully, as word spreads, attendance at future events like our May

See **SAFETY**, A-7

MCBH NEWS BRIEFS

'SPIRIT OF AMERICA' ASSEMBLY TO BE HELD, MAY 2

A recognition assembly will be held on May 2 at 3 p.m. in the base theater to honor all individuals who have volunteered for MCB Hawaii programs.

Check in time for volunteers being honored is 2:30 p.m. Attire is uniform of the day, and "patriotic crisp" aloha.

For more information, contact Kim Gates at 257-7786 or 7787.

BASE CHAPEL POSTS SERVICES

In addition to its regularly scheduled services, the Base Chapel aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, will now be open Monday - Friday, with private prayer available Wednesdays and Thursdays until 8 p.m.

An all-faith service will be held every Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

LOST AND FOUND ITEMS AVAILABLE AT MPD

If you are missing valuables or other items, contact Lost and Found at the Military Police Department, to see if anyone has turned in the item(s).

Lost items on hand include I.D. cards, bicycles, wallets, keys, cell phones and miscellaneous jewelry.

An inquiry log is maintained for all item(s) that are retrieved.

Call Sgt. Gordon Scott at 257-2103, ext. 315, for prompt assistance.

The Crime Prevention section of the Military Police Department is looking for neighborhood watch representatives to get involved in their communities, by taking charge of local neighborhoods aboard MCB Hawaii.

If you're interested, contact Crime Prevention Unit at 257-2103, ext. 314 or 315.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

On-Base Emergencies	257-9111
Military Police	257-7114
Crisis Hotline	521-4555
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Business Management Hotline	257-3188

Hawaii MARINE

Commanding General Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee
Public Affairs Director Maj. Cathy Close
Public Affairs Chief Staff Sgt. Robert Carlson
Managing Editor Aiko Brum
Staff Writer Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero
Staff Writer Sgt. Joe Lindsay
Assistant Editor Sgt. Jereme Edwards
Press Chief Cpl. Jason E. Miller
Assistant Editor Cpl. Jessica M. Mills
Staff Writer Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle

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To contact the MCB Hawaii Public Affairs Office use the following addresses:

HAWAII MARINE, BOX 63062, BLDG. 216,
MCB HAWAII, KANEOHE BAY, HAWAII 96863
E-MAIL: HAWAIIIMARINE@MCBH.USMC.MIL
FAX: 257-2511, PHONE: 257-8840

Nation's threat level lowered

USMC
Press Release

WASHINGTON—Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge has lowered the nationwide threat level to "yellow" from "orange."

Ridge said in a written statement that he made the decision after assessing all applicable intelligence and following consultations with the Homeland Security Council.

A yellow level is still listed as a "high" threat. Orange is "elevated." Ridge raised the level on March 17, when President Bush issued the ulti-

matum to Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein. Hostilities started against Iraq on March 19.

"While we continue to be at risk to the threat of terrorism at an elevated level, extensive protective measures remain in place throughout our nation," Ridge's statement says.

"We must be vigilant and alert to the possibility that al Qaeda and those sympathetic to their cause, as well as former Iraqi-regime state agents and affiliated organizations, may attempt to conduct attacks against the U.S. or our interests abroad," he wrote.

Ridge thanked the many civilian leaders and first responders nationwide for their support and cooperation since March 17.

"They have protected our freedom at home in this time of war while their brave counterparts in our armed forces are fighting for this same cause thousands of miles away in Operation Iraqi Freedom," he said in the statement.

"The signal we have sent our enemies over the past few weeks has been clear: We will continue to resolutely defend our nation and its freedom."

MCB Hawaii service members battle terrorists and drugs

Lance Cpl.
Monroe F. Seigle
Combat Correspondent

Almost \$140 million worth of drugs could have ended up on the streets of America and possibly in the hands of some of our youth.

This time they ended up in a much better place — in the hands of federal agents.

Sailors from Helicopter, Anti Submarine Squadron, Light 37 "Easy Riders" aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, set out on a mission Oct. 22 to stop the flow of illegal narcotics from Central and South America.

The mission was more than a success, as drug dealers in Latin America felt a hard loss when the Sailors confiscated eight metric tons of cocaine.

The majority of the illicit substance was found in boats owned by drug dealers, during ocean patrols with the assistance of aerial observation. In most cases, the drug dealers attempted to set the boat on fire before being apprehended.

Most of these attempts



Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle

Commander Don Williams, commanding officer of HSL-37, talks to family members about the accomplishments of Sailors with HSL-37 during their deployment to Central and South America.

were futile because the drugs were seized, and the offenders were caught.

Not only did the Sailors on combat the war on drugs in countries such as Guatemala, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Panama and Nassau, they showed a caring side with several rural humanitarian efforts.

A ship with 157 immigrants off the coast of Ecuador was sinking and those on board had nowhere to go but in the water. They had been adrift

for three days. When the brave Sailors from HSL-37 arrived, the ship was taking on water. Moving quickly, they safely removed all those aboard and returned them to land without incident.

Although the mission was an eye-opening experience for many of the Sailors, their return home on April 22 was a long anticipated one. When the CH 53D "Sea Stallion" Helicopters full of Sailors from HSL-37 landed on the flight

line of MCB Hawaii, anxious family members waiting to see their loved ones stood by to greet them with hugs and tears of joy.

"Everyone in our crew felt we made a tangible impact on the war on drugs while we were in Central and South America," said Navy Lt. Cmdr. James Taylor, HSL-37 detachment officer in charge. "We are ecstatic to be home. It was a huge emotional rush to see our families after a six-month deployment."

Getting better with age



Cpl. Jason E. Miller

Hundreds of base residents gathered in front of Mokapu Mall, Saturday, to celebrate its fifth birthday. Attendees were treated to live entertainment, sumo wrestling, informative booth displays and shopping bargains.

To the Marines and Sailors of MCB Hawaii,

Thank you for your support at Pope Elementary with the help of the Marines, we were able to paint the exterior of two buildings and do some landscaping. I look forward to the future partnerships [of our two organizations]

Ann-Maile Yamasaki, Executive Director Hawaii, 3R's



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 Staff Sgt. Robert Carlson at the Public Affairs Office, 257-8840, for details.



Courtesy of 3rd Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment

A Marine from 1/3 stands his ground with a 50 cal. while on guard duty during Operation Enduring Freedom in the Philippines.

Marines pull duty in the Zambo

1st Lt. Stephen E. Walson
3rd Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment

Pacific aboard a chartered Miami Air flight, the Marines finally arrived at Edwin Andrews Air Force Base, and for most, their first combat zone.

The introduction to their new surroundings began with the sea bag drag from the flight line to the Marine Barracks across the base. For the new arrivals, this provided adequate time for everyone to get acquainted with the sweltering heat endemic to southeast Asia, as well as the pungent smell of burning garbage and sewage that fills the air at night.

Following in-briefs, the Marines were issued live rounds and instructed to defend against an enemy located, "potentially anywhere outside the wire."

Turnover with Charlie Co., 1st Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment, lasted for three days before the new arrivals assumed the mission.

"Learning how to manage several things at once was the most challenging aspect of my new job," said Cpl. Kurtis Hunt, cor-



Courtesy of 3rd Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment

A Marine keeps a watchful eye for anyone attempting to break the perimeter during Operation Enduring Freedom, Philippines.

poral of the guard for 1st Squad.

On any given day, the corporal of the guard is responsible for conducting guard mounts, inspecting Marines before departing for personal security detachments, submitting SALUTE reports to higher

authority, checking on posts and maintaining communication with all convoys that depart.

Marines accustomed to regularity in their daily structure have had to overcome the fact that

See ZAMBO, A-4

3/3 'deters, detects and mitigates'

The days are long at Camp Navarro, where Marines help fight terrorism

1st Lt. Justin A. Garris
3rd Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment

AREA OF OPERATION PHILLIPINES — It was 6:30 a.m. and the acting sergeant of the guard for React Force prepared to test his Marines' readiness to any situation that could arise at Camp Navarro.

Standing post at the 100-man barracks, he yelled, "React! React! React!"

His squad members, only having three minutes to respond, frantically jumped out of their racks, threw their boots on, and ran into the command post in order to grab their gear.

Once in the CP, each Marine — in disarray and half asleep — threw on his flak with sappy plates, kevlar, and bandoleer that carried six full magazines.

Running out of the passageway with a high sense of urgency, they loaded into a tactical vehicle and awaited instructions from Brown.

As the sergeant approached the lead vehicle, an HMMWV, mounted with an M-240G machinegun, he said, "Not bad, but still too slow," about their time of 1 minute, 37 seconds.

He gave his Marines a debrief. "Good preparation, but more hustle is what is going to save lives. The quicker we can react to the situation,



Courtesy of 3rd Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment

A Marine lays down heavy fire at a few stationary targets during a live-fire exercise at Camp Navarro.

the more lives we'll save."

Following the react drill, the squad prepared for daily guard mount procedures, as before every squad goes on post, the SOG must conduct proper guard mount procedures, which entails conducting inspections on the squad's readiness, accountability of gear, weapons, ammo and vehicles.

Calling the Marines to attention, he approached the first Marine in the squad, who snapped and popped his weapon during inspection arms.

He looked over the Marine's weapon and gear, to ensure that he had all the equipment necessary to

stand post.

While the sergeant's squad conducted react drills and guard mount procedures, another squad prepared for a real mission.

As the convoy commander, this squad was tasked to provide convoy security for U.S. personnel and equipment traveling from Camp Navarro to Edwin Andrews Air Force Base.

Whenever U.S. equipment or personnel travel from one site to another, convoy security is required. Prior to departure, detailed and in depth coordination and preparation

See DETER, A-4

WORD ON THE STREET

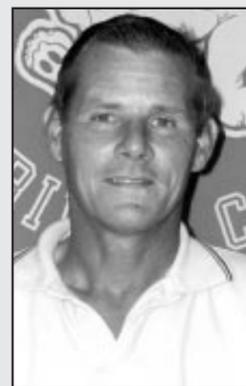
"What is the single best piece of advice you can give a new Marine?"



"I have learned to take the good with the bad, and think positively."

Petty Officer 2nd Class Cisero Heckard

Boatswain's mate HSL-37



"I have learned to appreciate the United States, compared to other countries."

Tim Schmidt

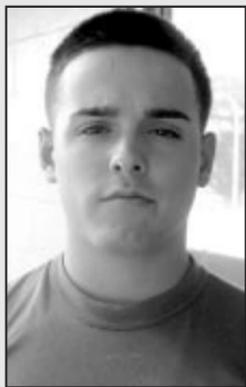
Retired master sergeant & warehouse technician MCB Hawaii



"I learned that having respect for superiors and having good judgement is the key to success."

Lance Cpl. Javier Rodriguez

Administration specialist Headquarters Bn., MCB Hawaii



"I learned the importance of discipline and respect."

Lance Cpl. Dave Reinman

Legal assistance clerk Headquarters Bn., MCB Hawaii



"I learned that being a good leader is knowing how to be a good follower."

Petty Officer 1st Class Steve Blue

Leading administration petty officer Joint Intelligence Center, Pacific

Renovations aid medical care at CSSG-3



Courtesy of Combat Service Support Group 3

Patients can now wait in a furnished waiting room before receiving more efficient medical care at CSSG-3's newly renovated medical aid station.

Lance Cpl.
Monroe F. Seigle
Combat Correspondent

Marines and Sailors from Combat Service Support Group-3 were recently provided with a more suitable environment to receive medical care.

Building 1044 aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, is a Medical Aid Station for Marines and Sailors in CSSG-3. There was a slight problem with it, though. It was not a suitable environment to deliver health care to service members.

The medical facility provides a group aid station and routine medical care. With a renovated facility and more space for medical equipment, the readiness of CSSG-3 has improved.

"We needed a facility that could support equipment needed to deliver health care," said Navy LT. Lana Wilson, com-



Courtesy of Combat Service Support Group 3

State-of-the-art equipment is now readily accessible at the newly renovated medical aid station in Bldg. 1044.

manding officer for Medical Company, CSSG-3. "The floor plan we had made it almost impossible to effectively care for our patients. Something had to be done, but we did not know where to start."

In July of 2002, Wilson took the first steps to renovate the building. After contacting MCB Hawaii Facilities, a new floor plan was made, and the renovations began. Six months later, a newly renovated facility was

opened.

With the new floor plan, patients receive more privacy and medical records are more secure. Along with these benefits, a new waiting area was established and equipment vital to health care is now more accessible.

"The Marines and Sailors are really happy to have a better health care facility," said Wilson. We can notice already that there is an improvement in their overall morale."

ZAMBO, From A-3

there is no end to the workday in the Zambo.

"The heat, and getting accustomed to sleeping during the day after being on duty at night, has been difficult," said Lance Cpl. Donald Blais of 1st Squad. "But, it isn't hard to stay alert on duty when you know that the threat is real."

The familiar sound of reveille has been replaced by daily react drills at arbitrary times. The Marines are not informed that it is a drill until they have loaded the vehicles with all their gear and made their weapons "Condition 1."

Even with the high operational tempo, devil dogs have been afforded a rare opportunity to conduct live-fire training at the small unit level on a

weekly basis.

"Actually, employing a SAW [squad automatic weapon], mounted on a pick-up truck while moving, was something I never imagined we would do," said Cpl. Dennis Everett, third team leader with 1st Squad.

When the Marines are not on post, conducting PSDs, assisting with convoy security missions, or participating in live-fires, most can be found in one of three places: at chow; Morale, Welfare and Recreation; or the gym. Most agree that the chow here is the best they have ever had — other than their mom's of course.

At MWR, Marines have the opportunity to call home, use the Internet, watch movies and play video games. Its weight room has state-of-the-art equipment and offers a

good stress release for them when they come off post.

Perhaps the most educating aspect of this tour has been the friendships developed between Marines and Filipinos.

On a daily basis, the two forces conduct combined, dismounted security patrols in the vicinity of the flight line and stand post together as well.

"The Philippine service members have been a big help when dealing with the local population, and have made a real effort to be our friends," explained Lance Cpl. Ricardo Ramirez, a rifleman with 3rd Bn. 3rd Marines.

In the past three months, Marines with the MSE have overcome numerous obstacles and faced an imminent threat everyday with professionalism and composure well

DETER, From A-3

must be made to ensure that the mission is executed flawlessly.

The morning of the convoy, the squad leader gave a convoy brief to his Marines. Afterward, they prepped the vehicles with communication assets, Meals Ready to Eat, water, gasoline, oil and medical supplies needed for the movement.

Once prepared and ready to go, his squad members put on their body armor and helmets, loaded their weapons and chambered a round for Condition 1. The threat in Zamboanga is real.

Outside the camp gates, anything can happen.

Most streets are narrow and densely populated, some said reminiscent of the movie, "Blackhawk Down."

No matter the setting, the convoy is always at a vigilant and high alert posture. Vehicles keep close to each other as they pass through intersections. At red lights, Marines in the vehicles all face outboard, as a halted convoy is most vulnerable to an improvised explosive device or sniper fire, then.

Marines remain situationally aware

of any threat that they may be approaching and call in at all checkpoints. The procedures ensure that they arrive safely to their destinations — that their mission becomes a success.

These squads are just two of many within the Marine Security Element at Camp Navarro, comprised of Kilo Co. (minus, rein), 3rd Bn., 3d Marine Regiment.

The element is attached to the Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines in Zamboanga, for Operation Enduring Freedom Philippines.

Its primary task is to deter, detect and mitigate all terrorist activity towards U.S. personnel and installations.

The nature of their mission allows Marines little to no days off. Even when they are not on post, they are still required to react within a few minutes' notification of any situation.

Having the ability to participate in real-world missions provides the 3/3 Marines with experiences they will not soon forget.

The Marines countless hours of sweat and perseverance, readily pays off with each mission.

Golden Swordsmen battle terrorism

**Lt. Cmdr.
Morgan Leake**
Patrol Squadron 47

Sixty "Golden Swordsmen" with Patrol Squadron 47 detached to the 5th Fleet's area of operations in February to augment Patrol Squadron 46 in support of the global war on terrorism.

The detachment consisted of two P-3C Aircraft Improvement Program aircraft, Combat Aircrews 7 and 8, and associated maintenance personnel who are assigned to four different remote sites.

Preparations for the detachment proved to be a challenge, but the Sailors of VP-47 were well-versed in detailed deployment planning and completed prerequisites within a week — most of them within two days.

Each Sailor was briefed about the detachment, anthrax and smallpox shots. They signed wills and powers of attorney and completed other administrative requirements prior to departing.

With help from VP-4, the Swordsmen's sister squadron, Sailors requalified all contingency personnel in required small arms fire before the first plane left.

"It was absolutely phenomenal how the Marines and Sailors on this base pulled together to get our contingency personnel ready to go to war," said Cmdr. Gerral David, VP-47's commanding officer. "You could tell that everyone knew it was important to get this right."

The sites that the Golden Swordsmen are detached to are not new. The squadron had deployed to Misawa and Kadena Air Bases in Japan from June to December 2002, and crews augmented VP-1 in 5th Fleet during that time.

As well, both combat aircrews had recently flown successful missions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and flights in

support of Operation Southern Watch.

Their expertise on these sorties made their integration into the VP-46 operations seamless.

"The maintainers forward are living in tents and loving every minute of it," said Lt. Cmdr. Jake Johannson, officer in charge, in a recent e-mail to David. He pointed out that the morale of the detached Swordsmen is high in anticipation of

being part of possible future operations in Iraq, despite having just come back from a six-month deployment.

The P-3C AIP aircraft, carries the standard anti-submarine warfare sensors that all P-3C subhunters carry, in addition to a highly specialized electro-optic and communications suite.

These aircraft are key to the warfighters in intelligence, surveillance

and reconnaissance operations. Additionally, the AIP aircraft can carry a variety of weapons including the Maverick and SLAM missiles.

Meanwhile, the rest of the squadron currently is preparing for its regularly scheduled deployment cycle to begin in December.

Golden Swordsmen eagerly await the safe return of the deployed crews.



Courtesy of Patrol Squadron 47

A P-3 Orion sits poised and ready for duty on the flight-line aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

New Hazmat facility allows disposal of harmful chemicals

Cpl. Jason E. Miller
Press Chief

People everywhere use common chemicals such as bleach, chlorine and window cleaner on a daily basis. With steps recently taken by MCB Hawaii, responsible homemakers now have a safe and environmentally sound place to dispose of these hazardous materials.

The opening of the Household "HazWaste/Hazmin" Facility, which is located inside the Self Help Store aboard K-Bay, makes disposal easily accessible to base residents who want to properly rid of certain household products that cannot be disposed of in regular garbage.

Hazardous Materials such as kitchen cleaner, paint and other chemicals will be accepted at the new

facility, while regular household trash and recyclables will continue to be discarded in their original receptacles.

The materials will be held at the Self Help Store, and may be reused by base residents wishing to save money and time, instead of purchasing new chemicals.

"We decided to do this as a service to the on-base community, after a recommendation from the Environmental Department," said Jo Park, director of Family Housing aboard MCB Hawaii.

"These are the kinds of things you don't want ending up in the trash because they're obviously bad for the environment."

The HazWaste/Hazmin facility will be open for drop offs and pickups Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Wednesday and Saturday from 8 a.m. until noon.



LONG-TERM,
From A-1

Rumsfeld called it "a sign of the growing trust between coalition forces and the majority of ordinary Iraqis."

The secretary said that U.S. support for the men and women in uniform is heartwarming. The USO has distributed more than 80,000 CARE packages to men and women in Southwest Asia and delivered more than 100,000 calling cards to service members.

"I'm told that a man from North Carolina and a woman from Illinois found foster homes for pets of deploying forces and between them they've placed roughly 2,000 dogs, cats and



R.D. Ward.

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld answers a question from the audience of military and Department of Defense civilian employees at a town hall meeting at the Pentagon, Thursday.

at least one pot-bellied pig,"

he said. He said there are hundreds of similar stories.

Finally the secretary thanked the families of those deployed overseas. "It can often be harder to be the one left behind, especially when the loved one is leaving for war," he said. "In wartime, military families endure extended periods of separation, not knowing where their loved ones are, what they're doing, and whether or not they are safe or in danger or whether they're going to be coming home.

"These are burdens that the families of the men and women in uniform have carried in the course of this war," he continued.

"They've carried them for the country, and the country is grateful and proud of their service and sacrifice as well as that of our men and women in uniform."

SUPER SQUAD, From A-1

cedures.

Since that every Marine is a rifleman, the competition would not be complete without an infantry trophy match. This tested the warriors' marksmanship skills on all the basic weapons utilized in an infantry squad.

Exhausted yet determined to complete the challenges ahead, the salty infantrymen were loaded onto a helicopter and flown to Bellows Training Area to demonstrate their abilities to successfully carry out ambush patrols and deliberate attacks. They were also tested on how to conduct military operations in urban terrain in a nuclear, biological and chemical environment. This was the longest portion of the event, lasting more than 36 hours.

For the final event, the exhausted Devil Dogs had to prove their capability to call for indirect and direct fire and take a written exam on general knowledge.

After adding up the score of all events, the judges determined that the Marines from 3/8 had earned the Annual Rifle Squad Competition championship. All members of the squad received the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and will go to Headquarters, Marine Corps in Washington, D.C to receive the 3rd Marine Division Annual Rifle Squad Competition Infantryman's Badge by the commandant of the Marine Corps.

It took a lot of courage

and perseverance to adapt and overcome to win this competition," said Cpl. Elijah Stewart, a fire team leader for Lima Co., 3/8. "We sacrificed so much to prepare for this training. We know we are reaping the fruits of our labor."

"The prestige of our nation, whether we fail or succeed, rests with a rifle squad and its squad leader," said Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, commanding general for MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, after he presented the NMCAM to the winning squad. "Throughout every battle in American history, the infantry squad and its leader were the key to success."



Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle

Brigadier Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, commanding general of MCB Hawaii, passes the Annual Rifle Squad Championship guidon to Sgt. Chad Luunas, a squad leader with 3rd Bn., 8th Marine Regiment.



Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle

Sergeant Chad Luunas a squad leader with Lima Co., 3rd Bn., 8th Marine Regiment, receives a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement medal from Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, commanding general of MCB Hawaii.

SAFETY, From A-1

26th Memorial Day ride will be even larger."

Staff Sgt Marshall said he would like to thank all who volunteered their time and Sgt Vincent Smith, MALS-24, for assisting in organizing the event.

Also, the following local businesses were recognized for their charitable contributions: The Shack-Kailua, Hawaii Kai; Hooters-Honolulu; Pfluger Honda-Waipahu; South Seas Harley-Waipahu; Cycle City-Honolulu; Pacific Rim Cycle-Honolulu; Mooses Boots and Scoots-Pearl City; Domenico's Harley-Kaneohe; Scotty Boy's BBQ-Kailua; Gordon Biersch-Honolulu and Gun-point Tattoo-Kailua.