

# Hawaii MARINE

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April 26, 2002

## Mellinger hangs up his uniform

30-year veteran to stay connected to Corps — from comforts of home

**Cpl. Jacques-Rene Hebert**

*Marine Forces Pacific Public Affairs Office*

After 30 years of dedicated service to the Marine Corps, Marine Forces Pacific Sgt. Maj. Stephen Mellinger was relieved and retired in an impressive ceremony at Dewey Square April 19.

Sergeant Maj. Royce G. Coffee, most recently the sergeant major of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif., assumes the title of MarForPac force sergeant major.

The title was transferred from one sergeant major to the other in the traditional passing of the sword. As the oldest form of martial weapon still in use, the sword has become a symbol of leadership, while those who carry the sword also carry the burden of responsibility that comes along with it.

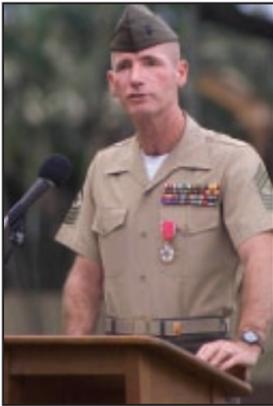
Mellinger, a Bastrop, La., native, entered the Corps in August of 1972, as a 17-year-old eager to serve his country. Two years later, then-Sgt. Mellinger went to San Diego as a drill instructor. Despite his youth, he did not disappoint; the young but disciplined Marine picked up staff sergeant by the time he left in 1977.

As a gunnery sergeant, Mellinger was deployed with the 24th Marine Amphibious Unit in Beirut, Lebanon, in 1983, during the terrorist bombing that took the lives of 241 Marines and Sailors.

The cost of freedom is never cheap, Mellinger explained. There is no cost too great to maintain freedom, and sometimes, it's necessary to pay that price, he added.

Moving beyond the tragedy, Mellinger continued to excel throughout the rest of his career, becoming a sergeant major well before his 20-year mark, one of his proudest moments, he said.

After setting high standards at numerous commands, Mellinger assumed the position of Force Sergeant Major of



MELLINGER

MarForPac in October 2000, replacing Sgt. Maj. Robert Holub, who left large shoes to fill as one of the command's most-beloved sergeants major.

It was a long, illustrious career that was remembered and discussed at the ceremony, while guests and family — Mellinger's parents, brothers, daughters, son and wife — looked on.

I'm very, very proud of him and all of his illustrious accomplishments, Mellinger's 21-year-old daughter Katie stated after the ceremony. He is totally dedicated to his job, and I've never known him to not be proud of what he does.

Mellinger wasn't the only one remembered and honored during the ceremony.

**"We have a smarter Marine Corps ... we are still 'hard as woodpecker lips', though."**

Retired Sgt. Maj. Stephen Mellinger

"If I was to publicly tell how much I loved my wife and how much being called her husband means as much to me as being called a Marine, she would probably be embarrassed," Mellinger explained.

After 30 years of faithful duty, Mellinger also noted the metamorphosis the Marine Corps has undergone since he first entered.

"Today, we have a smarter Marine Corps. We are still 'hard as woodpecker lips,' though. Marines still only come in two ways: big and mean, and small and mean."

Mellinger now looks to his future in Hawaii, where he plans to stay.

"I'm still going to keep up with the Marine Corps," he explained. I'll never be able to let that go.

"Semper Fidelis," he concluded.



Cpl. Mark S. Allen

Marines from India Co., 3rd Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment, formed a line to protect U.S. citizens evacuating the U.S. Consulate in Tinian during a Noncombatant Evacuation Operation training exercise March 18.

## 'America's Battalion' responds

**Cpl. Mark S. Allen**  
*MCB Camp Butler*

**CAMP OZBOURN, Tinian** — Screaming and threats of terror were heard from a nearby crowd. U.S. citizens who relied on the U.S. Consulate in Tinian to safeguard them from the violent mob forming only yards away from the

building's perimeter could feel the tension and danger level rising.

Intimidation from the crowd fell short of its target, as more than 130 Marines from India Co., 3rd Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment, proudly known as "America's Battalion," demonstrated a Noncombatant Evacuation Operation (NEO) training exercise.

The Marines controlled the crowd, secured the consulate and evacuated all U.S. citizens, while attempting not to escalate the aggression of the crowd or the situation. The consulate, realizing the situation was out of hand, called for additional support.

See 3/3, A-6

## HMH-463 gets creative at WTI

**Sgt. Robert Carlson**  
*Press Chief*

The Marines of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463 rejoined their squadron with significantly more combat readiness after getting some help from the USS Peleliu Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) and the Russians during their trip to and from Weapons Tactics Instructor (WTI) Course in Yuma, Ariz.

With the Air Force's Air Mobility Command spread thin supporting military deployments around the world, the squadron had to find creative ways to get its five CH-53D aircraft and 85 Marines to MCAS Yuma and back for the valuable training.

The normal embarkation method for deployment to WTI is through Strategic Air Lift, where the CH-53Ds and crews are transported



Photo courtesy of HMH-463

**Marines from HMH-463 work with the crew of a Russian AN-124 to load CH-53D Sea Stallions onto the Russian aircraft at MCAS Yuma.**

aboard C-5B Galaxy aircraft. Alternate transportation for this deployment came in the form of the USS Peleliu ARG.

The ARG, which included the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), was stopping in Pearl Harbor on the way

home from operations in Afghanistan. The squadron was able to piggyback for the trip to San Diego.

The benefits of riding with the ARG were many, but the most noticeable was elimination of the maintenance involved in aircraft breakdown, build up and flight testing.

The CH-53D, in order to squeeze into a C-5B, needs to have all protruding parts, and several large assemblies, removed. Since the vessels in the ARG were built to support a MEU, none of that was necessary.

Not only was the breakdown, build up and flight test maintenance eliminated, the pilots and crews were able to fly during the 8-day trip to San Diego, and then continue on to MCAS Yuma.

See HMH-463, A-5

## Medal of Honor recipient speaks to Navy chiefs, recalls events of 1941

**Karen S. Spangler**  
*Hawaii Navy News*

At age 93, John Finn is the oldest living Medal of Honor recipient from any war, and the last surviving Medal of Honor winner from Dec. 7, 1941.

However, the well-acclaimed hero staunchly downplays his role in the Dec. 7 attack.

"I've never said that I shot down anything, but I've been credited with shooting down the whole Japanese fleet," he joked.



FINN

ty officers.

In the 1940s, he was a chief petty officer ordnanceman assigned to Naval Air Station, Kaneohe Bay, on the day of the attack that launched

the U.S. into World War II.

To hear him tell it: "I didn't have enough sense to come in out of the rain.

"The Japanese came in, early in the morning, kicked the hell out of us, and left.

"That's the whole story," he explained humbly.

Awakened on that Sunday morning by the sound of airplanes flying overhead, Finn recalled, "I was lying in bed in my beautiful new quarters, with my beautiful blonde wife, and I said, 'It's

Sunday. Who's flying those planes?"

Soon after, he received a message to go to the air station in Kaneohe — driving the short distance at a sedate 20 mph pace. As he neared the installation, he saw that the base was under attack and pushed the car into full throttle on a race to the airplane hangars.

"I saw the red meatballs on the bottom of the wings of the planes that were fly-

See FINN, A-4

## MCBH NEWS BRIEFS

**BASE SAFETY CONDUCTS CHILD SEAT INSPECTIONS, TOMORROW**  
Mokapu Mall will be hosting a Child Passenger Safety Seat check-up event Saturday.

Parents wishing to participate need to arrive between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. with their safety seat, vehicle and child on hand.

### “OFF LIMITS” AREAS POSTED

The following areas and establishments have been declared and placed “off limits” to all military personnel, until rescinded by the Armed Forces Disciplinary Control Board:

- Hawaii Natural High at 343 Saratoga Road in Honolulu.
- Nimitz Mart at 3131 N. Nimitz Highway in Honolulu.
- Pearl Kai Mini-Mart at 98-199 Kamehameha Highway in Aiea.
- The Dungeon/Temple/Atomics at 142 Mokauea Street in Honolulu.
- The Shelter/Club 1739 at 1739 Kalakaua Avenue in Honolulu.

### THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN OPENS, MAY 15

Younger servicemembers can especially benefit from and exploit the compound growth potential of the thrift savings plan — the federal government-sponsored savings and investment program with a portfolio of five plans.

This year’s participants can save up to \$11,000. Contributions are made with pre-tax dollars, and earnings grow tax free until withdrawn. The earlier in life you enroll in the program, the greater your opportunity to accumulate wealth.

Whether young or old, be smart and participate. Enroll during “open season” May 15 to July 31. Log onto [www.DFAS.mil/emss](http://www.DFAS.mil/emss), or visit your personal administration office for assistance. See ALMAR 021/02 for more details.

### CREDO SCHEDULES WORKSHOPS

Marines, Sailors, federal employees or their family members may participate in any upcoming CREDO Personal Growth or Marriage Enrichment Retreat. These programs support people who desire a more harmonious personal life, as well as growth in their personal and professional relationships. Meals, lodging and transportation are free.

Call 257-1941 or 257-0408 for more.

- Marriage Enrichment — May 3 - 5.
- Personal Growth — May 16 - 19.

## Hawaii MARINE

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## — C.G.’S MAIL BOX —

# “I am writing in regards to the sidewalk system...”



BRIG. GEN.  
MCABEE

- Submitted by Capt. Mike Wilonsky, commanding officer, Golf Co., 2/3

“I would like to take this opportunity to address your second question [in the CG Mail Program]: “What are we not doing that we should be doing.”

My name is Captain Mike Wilonsky, commanding officer of Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 3d Marines.

I am writing in regards to the sidewalk system located in officer housing.

My wife and I recently became parents. Last night we took our newborn on his first walk/stroll around the neighborhood.

I have lived on base since September and have traveled the walk route daily with our dog. However, last night we took the stroller out on the same route. It was then that I noticed something I never noticed before.

The sidewalks do not have ramps to accommodate strollers/wheelchairs.

I see families pushing their strollers in front of my house, daily, and never gave it thought. But last night my wife and I had some difficulty maneuvering the stroller down many of the walkways because of the relationship of the sidewalk to the street.

I think it makes sense to install ramps to accommodate wheelchairs, strollers, and kids’ bicycles.

Sir, thank you for your time, and I look forward to hearing from you in the future.”

Captain Mike Wilonsky

Capt Wilonsky,

Thank you for participating in the Commanding General’s CG Mail Program.

He has asked that I research and respond to your email of April 12 since your recommendation falls within my staff’s responsibility.

You have definitely pointed out an inconvenience that affects many of our housing residents.

I agree with you that this is an is-

sue that we need to address. That is why the base is committed to include the addition of sidewalks in our road repair projects for streets that do not have either sidewalks or lighting.

An example is a recently completed project for “G” Street where we installed new sidewalks. These new sidewalks include ramps at intersections, as you have described, and will continue to do so for the very reasons you have highlighted.

Thank you again for participating in this important program and congratulations to you and your wife on your new baby.

Mr. Kent Murata  
Assistant Chief of Staff G-4  
and  
Major Rouse  
Director, Environmental Compliance and Protection Department

**“I think it would be nice if there was a program to recycle plastic shopping bags.”**

Forgive me if the recycling center does in fact accept them, but from the information I have been given, they do not.

All of the grocery stores I had been to in New York and Connecticut, before I came here, had a box to drop off your old bags to be recycled. Perhaps it is not cost effective, but it seems like such a waste to throw perfectly recycleable bags in the landfill when they can be reused.

I have saved all my bags from the commissary since I got here, and the closet they are being stored in is becoming full.

If it could not work to have a recycling program for them here on the base, maybe a sign at the commissary letting people know where they could take them would at least help keep them out of the landfill.

Thank you very much for your

time and consideration.”

Laura Lewis

Ms. Lewis,

We have been asked by the commanding general to research and to respond to your email of April 3 since your recommendation falls within our staff responsibility.

He appreciates you taking your time to participate in our “CG Mail” Program.

Your recommendation is that we recycle plastic bags. Our MCB Hawaii Recycling Program goal is to meet the needs and expectations of our residents.

Although we have explored recycling plastic bags in the past, we discovered that with our limited resources, we could not afford adding plastic bags to the many items we already accept for recycle. Plastic bags, if we were to accept them, must be shipped to the mainland for recycle.

However, the good news is that we have spoken to the manager at Safeway (the Aikahi Park store), located right outside the back gate, who has a recyclable plastic bag bin available in front of the store. The used plastic bags are shipped to the mainland, where they are recycled.

Safeway is the only supermarket chain that offers this service. The company can run this program because it can consolidate recycle bins from throughout the islands and collect enough to make the program work.

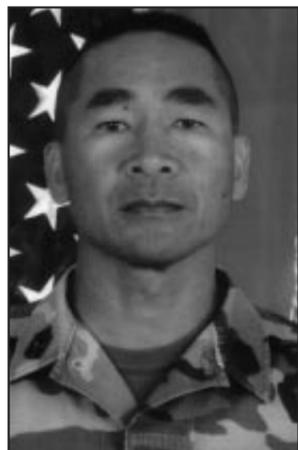
We hope that we have provided an avenue for you to pursue your noteworthy recommendation. We will continue to explore all recycling opportunities and thank you for your interest in this important program.

Mr. Kent Murata  
Assistant Chief of Staff G-4  
and  
Major Rouse  
Director, Environmental Compliance and Protection Department

*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](http://www.mcbh.usmc.mil/command/cgmail.htm).*



PUAMPAI

## 2/3 gets new sergeant major



Sergeant Major Lek W. Puampai (left) assumed duty as sergeant major for 2nd Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment, April 18 during a post and relief ceremony at Dewey Square. Puampai replaced Sgt. Maj. Albert R. Hamm, who is retiring and returning to Lansing, Mich. Puampai previously served as the battery first sergeant for Headquarters and Service Battery, 1st Bn., 12th Marine Regiment. He was promoted to his present rank April 1.



HAMM



**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.**

## 'Tailgate Party': Wing Marines get their sea legs



Photo courtesy of HMH-363

Marines from HMH-363 get training in Amphibious Assault Vehicles at Ft. Hase Beach February 22. The squadron's Marines started the day with a professional military education session on the battle of Iwo Jima, then received training on embarking and disembarking the AAVs. The evolution included a splash into the ocean and an amphibious assault on the beach. "As a wrench-turner, I thought it was cool to learn about other jobs in the Marine Corps," said Cpl. Luke T. McGurl, a mechanic with HMH-363. "I was told that riding in an AAV wasn't fun, but I believe the rest of the Marines and I would beg to differ."

# Rumsfeld revises commands

PACOM to add arctic region, NORTHCOM will defend North America

**Jim Garamone**  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Defense officials this week announced the establishment of U.S. Northern Command as part of the changes in the Unified Command Plan.

At a Pentagon press briefing, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Air Force Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, called the plan the most sweeping set of changes since the unified command system was set up in 1946.

"(The plan) realigns and streamlines U.S. military structure to better address 21st century threats," Rumsfeld said. For the first time, commanders' areas of operations cover the entire Earth.

The biggest change is U.S. Northern Command (NORTHCOM).

This new command will stand up Oct. 1, 2002, at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

The NORTHCOM commander will be responsible for homeland defense and

also serve as head of the North American Aerospace Defense Command, a U.S. - Canada command.

The current North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) commander is also the commander of U.S. Space Command, which is also located at Peterson. It will not go away, but it will have a separate four-star officer heading it.

Northern Command's area of operations will include the United States, Canada, Mexico, parts of the Caribbean and the contiguous waters in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

"The new commander will be responsible for land, aerospace and sea defenses of the United States," Rumsfeld said. "He will command U.S. forces that operate within the United States in support of civil authorities."

The command will provide civil support not only in response to attacks, but for natural disasters.

The Northern Command will also take the homeland defense role from the U.S. Joint Forces Command (JFCOM), which is headquar-

tered in Norfolk, Va.

Currently, JFCOM's commander is dual-hatted as NATO's supreme allied commander, Atlantic. That

alliance command will be split off, and United States officials will consult with NATO allies to see how they want this handled.

The U.S. European Command will increase its area of responsibility, Myers said. It will include the remainder of the Atlantic area off the East Coast to the shores of Europe, he said, and it will pick up primary responsibility for Russia.

Previously, Russian relations were handled in the Pentagon.

The change allows more cooperation and coordination between the U.S. and Russian militaries, Myers said.

"It is one more signal that our post-Cold War relation-

ship is improving," he said.

General Myers said U.S. Central Command and U.S. Southern Command will remain as is.

The U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM) will help European Command with the far eastern part of Russia and will add Antarctica to its area of responsibility.

One anomaly is Alaska. The U.S. Northern Command will cover the state, but the troops based there will be earmarked for PACOM.

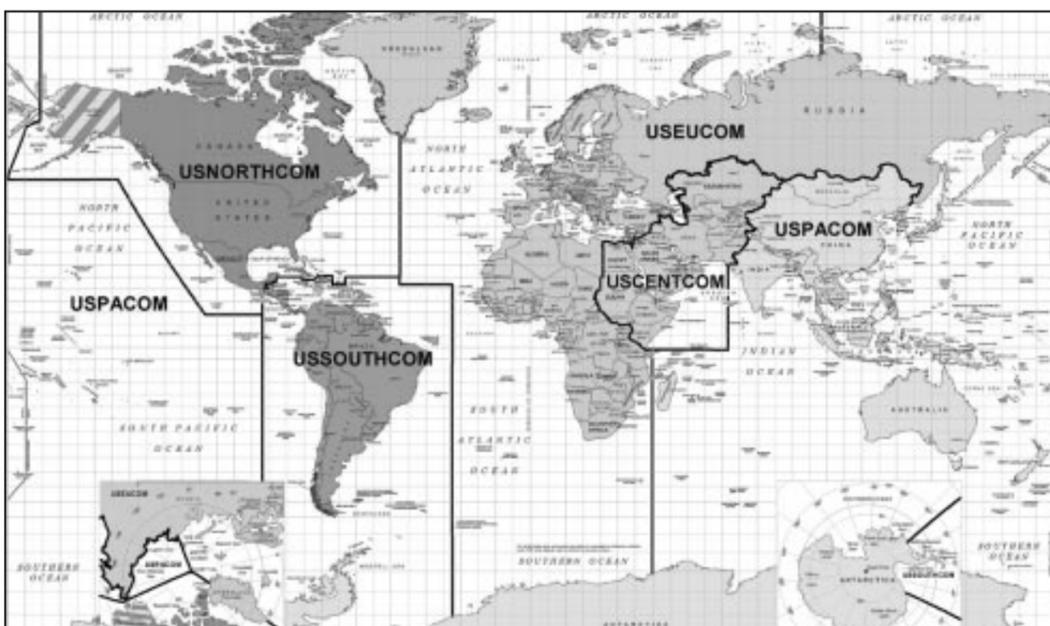
Both Rumsfeld and General Myers emphasized that the Department of Defense's most important mission is to defend the U.S. homeland.

"The changes made to the Unified Command Plan will help us to defend, to transform and to help us stand solidly with our friends and allies across the globe," Rumsfeld said.

The chairman is responsible for reviewing the Unified Command Plan on a three-year cycle; it's early in response to the changed world in which we live, since the events of September 11, 2001.



**RUMSFELD**



The amended geographic scope of the Unified Command Plan

Under the re-aligned Unified Command Plan, U.S. military commanders will have areas of responsibility that, for the first time ever, cover the entire earth.

## WORD ON THE STREET

"What are you doing to help the Earth?"



"I have a dog to help keep away feral cats."

**Ileana Bradley**  
Base resident and family member



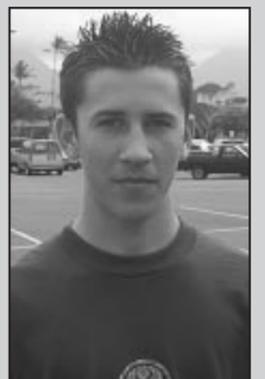
"I recycle my old pizza boxes."

**Leonardo**  
Teenage mutant Ninja turtle



"I try to recycle everything that I can."

**Cpl. Matt Seaver**  
Special intelligence communicator 1st Radio Bn.



"I drive a 4-cylinder car to help conserve gas and lower air pollution."

**Max Scala**  
Senior, Castle High School



"I reduce, reuse and recycle."

**Lance Cpl. Jean Paul**  
Gunner Alpha Battery, 1/12

# EVERY CLIME AND PLACE

## Marines find winter wonderland at Forest Light

**Sgt. S. L. Standifird**  
*MCB Camp Butler*

**MYOKO VILLAGE, Japan** — As if it were a poem by Robert Frost or a painting by Thomas Kincade, the snow fell and provided a picturesque landscape for Marines participating in cold weather training here.

Deep within this winter wonderland, at the Sekiyama Training Area, Marines from 3rd Bn., 2nd Marine Regiment, currently deployed here as part of the Unit Deployment Program, picked up a few new skills and techniques from 1st Co., 30th Infantry Regiment, Japanese Ground Self Defense Force (JGSDF).

The Marines were here to support and conduct operations within a cold weather environment during Forest Light 02-02.

"Forest Light is a bilateral exercise that takes place every year between 3rd Marine Division and the Japanese Ground Self Defense Force," said Capt. Ben T. Edwards, company commander, Kilo Co. "(The exercise) is used to build relations between the two military units, and it's also an opportunity for us as Marines to improve our cold weather skills."

After a few days of acclimatization, the Marines put on their skis and began their initial cold weather training, which included basic ski movements as well as stopping on flat ground.

Following the flat ground skills, the



Sgt. S. L. Standifird

**Second Lt. Duane Durant, platoon commander, 1st Platoon, Kilo Co., 3rd Bn., 2nd Marines, gathers his squad leaders together for final instructions prior to positioning themselves for an upcoming attack.**

training moved downhill. Some of the Marines spent a good portion of the first few days face down in the snow; however, they all skied away with the ability to move forward.

"For a company that has 75 percent (of its Marines) who have not been on skis, they did a good job," said Staff Sgt. Angel Febles, platoon sergeant, 3rd Platoon,

Kilo Co. "For the Japanese, being able to take a company this size in that amount of time and make them ski mobile is pretty awesome."

Febles, who spent some time as an instructor at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare School in Bridgeport, Calif., added this was a good stepping-stone to prepare for the extended training at the

Mountain Warfare School sometime in the near future.

"The instruction we received overall was outstanding," echoed 2nd Lt. Scott Stephan, platoon commander, 3rd Platoon, Kilo Co. "There was a really good student to teacher ratio."

"They had a well-organized program, starting from the basics, realizing we were not proficient in skiing."

"It was a good experience just to get into this kind of environment that we don't usually get exposed to on the East Coast."

At the conclusion of two days of rest — which included sports, a dinner visit to prominent members of the community surrounding the Camp Takada area, and a visit to a castle and the local shopping area — the Marines dove back into the cold weather-training package with survival skills training and final preparations for the field training exercise (FTX).

"The purpose of the FTX was to combine all of the skills that we learned here, whether it was skiing, movement techniques in this type of environment or the firing positions we learned," Stephan said. "We put them all together to see if we were capable of using them in measuring our own proficiency level."

At the conclusion of the FTX, words and mementos of appreciation were given for all of the instruction, laughs and good times experienced at Forest Light 02-02.

### FINN, From A-1

ing," he recalled.

Finn, who pulled a .50 caliber machinegun into an open area and proceeded to launch his own attack as the air hangar behind him burned, was in plain sight of enemy diving planes as he began to fire. He didn't stop firing until the last plane left.

"I was all charged up," he remembered. "I was mad!" With sadness in his voice, he recalled, "It was terrible — the loss of life, the loss of property."

He was badly injured and bloody, from at least 21 shrapnel wounds, when the battle ended. He had lost the use of his left arm and could barely walk, but felt there was still work to be done.

Instead of reporting to the aid station, he pulled fragments of shrapnel from his chest and returned to the air station to supervise the re-arming of planes. It was not until the following day when he fi-



Artist Jim Laurier's "The Warriors of Kaneohe"

**The painting depicting John Finn defending NAS Kaneohe, Dec. 7, 1941, hangs in Building 6468: the Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet headquarters.**

nally checked into the hospital where he remained until Christmas Eve.

The rest is history.

Finn was presented with the Medal of Honor by Adm. Chester Nimitz on Sept. 15, 1942, on board the carrier Enterprise.

Admiral Nimitz spoke then of "Finn's

magnificent courage in the face of almost certain death. ...His complete disregard for his own life, in staying with his machinegun although [he was] many times wounded, is the kind of American fighting spirit necessary to victor."

Feisty and keen of mind, the golden-ager with the thinning white hair and sharp blue eyes easily remembered names and details from 60 years ago.

Around his neck he wore a blue ribbon displaying his Medal of Honor. And the shoes he wore were the same ones he was wearing when Adm. Nimitz presented him with the coveted award.

Building 6468, which is the John T. Finn Building — headquarters for Command, Patrol and Reconnaissance Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, at Kaneohe — was dedicated and named in his honor. Finn traveled to Hawaii in July 1999 to attend the ceremony.

Finn maintains a sometimes hectic schedule, attending speaking engage-

ments and reunions of Pearl Harbor survivors.

During a visit to Hawaii at the age of 91, he was asked if he would ever slow down. "There's too many places to go and too many people to meet," he retorted.

Born in 1909 in a little log cabin in Los Angeles, Finn joined the Navy at the age of 17. These days, he makes his home on the southern California ranch where he and his wife Alice had lived after he retired from the Navy in 1956. Alice, however, passed away in 1998.

Now 60 years after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Finn speaks candidly about how it feels to be the oldest Medal of Honor survivor of World War II.

"Well, it makes me feel sad," he explained. "I'm the oldest and the last."

"What's the future of being the oldest and the last?"

Smiling, the American hero added, "I'm happy to be anywhere these days."

# MILITARY BLOTTER

There were a total of 120 traffic citations issued.

## The Blotter

-A Marine was arrested by the Honolulu Police Department for driving under the influence after he was observed lane weaving. The suspect was processed and released on \$500 bail.

-A Marine reported a larceny of private property after unknown person(s)

had stolen 60 compact discs and their carrying case from his vehicle.

-A civilian was apprehended by the Military Police Department for shoplifting after attempting to steal miscellaneous articles of clothing.

-A Marine was involved in a traffic accident while traveling and failing to maintain sufficient distance from a retired airman's vehicle. Both vehicle sustained minor damage.

-A Marine was apprehended by MPD

for driving without a driver's license.

-A Marine reported a larceny of private property after unknown person(s) stole his Playstation 2 and various components from his bachelor enlisted quarters room.

-A military family member reported a larceny of private property after unknown person(s) stole her child's bicycle from the carport of their quarters.

-A Marine reported a hit-and-run traffic accident after he noticed damage to

his vehicle caused by an unknown vehicle.

-A civilian was apprehended by MPD for trespassing after a records check revealed that she was barred from MCB Hawaii.

-Four civilians were apprehended by MPD for trespassing after they were observed surfing at Fort Hase Beach.

-Two civilians were apprehended by MPD for trespassing after they were observed spear fishing at Pyramid Rock

## HMH-463, From A-1

Classes at WTI included three weeks of ground training followed by three weeks of flight training. The main mission for the squadron was to train three Marine Aircraft Group 24 pilots and three crew chiefs, according to Capt. Norbert Karczewski III, detachment officer in charge. The pilots and crew received training in aerial gunnery, long-range raids, and rapid response planning, both during the day and at night.

"Rapid response planning is the most difficult," said Karczewski. "The mission involves all of the different Marine aviation platforms, and all forms of artillery and mortars."

The MAG-24 pilots trained to be pilot instructors for their

squadrons, and the WTI curriculum makes them resident aviation experts once they return to their home station.

"The biggest challenge for the new graduates will be planning missions on a scale they're not usually training with, and integrating it into their scheme of maneuver," Karczewski explained.

When the Marines graduated April 12, and started their retrograde, they again received no strategic air lift support and had to get creative.

The squadron enlisted the help of a Russian AN-124 Condor. The AN-124, the world's largest transport aircraft, and its crew, were contracted to carry the Marines and their aircraft back to Hawaii.

The Russian plane, although slightly larger than a

C-5B, still couldn't fit two intact CH-53Ds, so the maintenance crews worked through their normal embarkation procedures.

The AN-124 allowed for easier loading, since there was slightly more clearance, but limited space for passengers and other cargo make the C-5B the preferred form of transport.

Since the runway at MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, is not long enough to support a fully-loaded AN-124, the detachment had to do its build up and flight testing at Hickam Air Force Base, before making the final flight home.

The Marines returned to K-Bay this week, and MAG-24 now has three new pilot instructors and three new crew chief instructors — one for each of the tactical squadrons.



Sgt. Robert Carlson

**Lance Cpl. Oscar Espinosa, an airframes technician with HMH-463, jacks the front of a CH-53D in Hangar 7 at Hickam Air Force Base April 19. The aircraft had to be stripped and drained prior to its flight from Yuma, and a crew from HMH-463 worked to make it flight-ready upon its return to Hawaii.**

## 3/3, From A-1

Two CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters flew overhead, sending back reconnaissance to India Co. Commander Capt. Sal Viscuso, who evaluated the situation and ordered the first wave of Marines to fly in on the CH-53Es, in an attempt to control the disgruntled crowd and clear a pathway to the consulate.

Once on the ground, one platoon broke through the crowd and separated the mob from the consulate, while the rest of the Marines in the first wave took to the nearby woods, to secure a pathway to and from the consulate and to begin processing all U.S. citizens for extraction.

The crowd of aggressors, made up of Marine volunteer role-players from various units of 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, played an essential role in providing training to the rifle company, keeping constant pressure on the consulate. Some of the aggressors simply taunted the infantrymen, while others decided to assault the platoons and reach for their weapons, resulting in the aggressor on the ground in restraints.

As more platoons were inserted via helicopters, the crowd continued the uproar, but remained under control, while the U.S. citizens were lifted from the consulate to safety within the hour-and-a-half after the initial wave engaged, finishing one-half hour quicker than the two-hours estimated in planning.

"Insertion is usually easy," Viscuso said. "Extraction is the thing to work on. But everything went as planned. My Marines did a real good job, and we got out of there quicker than originally planned."

The idea of a NEO is to protect the citizens without having to resort to deadly force, but with an angry crowd at hand, Marines may have to make lifesaving decisions.

"NEOs, security and anti-terrorists training are three things we have to be good at, but I don't really make the hard decisions that the junior Marines do," Viscuso said. "The hardest decision for a young Marine to make is whether or not to take a life."

"A lot of what Marines do now is peacekeeping," said Cpl. Danny M. Barker, team leader, India Co. "When you make a plan, it acts as a base for what should happen; but when you hit the ground, you have to make decisions depending on the crowd. You have to know your rules of engagement."



Cpl. Mark S. Allen

**First Lieutenant Clay H. Folk, supply officer, MWHS-1, pretended to be an aggressor opposing the U.S. Consulate in Tinian. Marines tackled, restrained and took him prisoner during the exercise.**

## Step right up



Cpl. Jason E. Miller

**Headquarters Battery, 1st Bn., 12th Marines, promoted 1st Sgt. Robert A. Ledford to his present rank at the Pacific War Memorial April 17. Schedule promotions, retirements and awards ceremonies through unit operations and training offices.**

**The buck stops here**