Hawaii MARINE

INSIDE

Crosswalk Safety	A-2
1/3 at Bellows	A-3
2/3 Marine	A-4
Navy Volunteers	A-6
Shark's Cove	B-1
MCCS	B-2
Personality Features	B-3
Word to Pass & Menu	B-6
Ads	B-8
Flag Football	C-1
Sports Briefs	C-2
The Bottom Line	C-3
Coach Hess Feature	C-5

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Helo crews prepare for Iraq

1st Lt F.R. Neubert
Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363

As the CH-53D Sea Stallion community prepares for squadron-sized rotations into Iraq, one priority is at the front of everyone's mind: training. Difficult and complex training, and more is better. The Marines of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363, Marine Aircraft Group 24, 1st Marine Air Wing got just that on the evening of July 27. As usual, the Lucky Red Lions assigned to Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, were up to the task, despite some unexpected weather.

Two divisions of aircraft were launched sequentially to practice external load procedures, the mission of hauling a massive load suspended beneath the belly of the aircraft. Picking up a load requires detailed planning, deft piloting, exact direction from the crew chiefs and helicopter support team, and quick work from the Marines on the ground.

The pilot begins by going into a hover over the load. Once in place, the pilot can no longer see the load and must rely on directions from the crew chief who looks at the load through the "hell hole" in the floor of the helicopter. As 15 tons of helicopter descend to hover 10 feet off the ground, the HST approaches to hook up the load. One Marine touches the dangling cargo hook with an insulated grounding wire to discharge the surge of static electricity produced by the whirling mass of metal above. Other Marines reach up and securely hook the sling onto the pendant, which connects the load to the helicopter. Two more Marines give visual signals, one standing just ahead of the chin bubble and another 50 feet further forward. Of course, a Navy hospital corpsman is always on hand to render assistance, in case of an injury. The downwash from the helicopter blades can produce winds upwards of 100 mph, enough to knock over unprepared bystanders.

In a combat environment, the external load might be food, mail, a Humvee, or anything else required by ground forces, weighing less than 10,000 pounds. On this evening, however, the Red Lions practiced with a 4,000-pound concrete training block.

During this training sortie, the aircrew dropped off the HST at a landing zone in the mountains near Schofield Barracks and warmed up at another landing zone while the team put slings on the block. At about 6 p.m., the helicopters began taking turns "externaling" the load.

As night closed in, the weather closed in as well. With no moon, conditions were difficult, even without the poor weather. Starlight is too faint to give a full range of contrast to the picture provided by the night vision goggles. This makes life harder for pilots and crew chiefs alike. The deteriorating weather conditions eventually forced the Lucky Red Lions to move their operations out of the landing zone and back to the West Field training area north of the runway at Kaneohe Bay.

In the upcoming weeks, the Red Lions will hone their skills by practicing defensive measures against various aggressors: other CH-53s and Army Kiowa helicopters, Air Force F-15 jetfighters, and ground-based threats. Through their rigorous training and maintenance, the Marines and Sailors of the Lucky Red Lions continue to maintain the excellent reputation of Marine Corps Sea Stallion squadrons.

Photo Courtesy of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363

The Lucky Red Lions of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363, along with Navy hospital corpsmen, train using CH-53D Sea Stallion helicopters, July 27, in preparation for upcoming deployments to Iraq.

Corpsman saves Marine's life

Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson
Combat Correspondent

"I wasn't even supposed to be at work that day," said the Mount Pleasant, Texas native. "It's really ironic how everything ended up working out, it almost seems like I was meant to be there."

Petty Officer 3rd Class Allen M. Elliott, a Navy hospital corpsman assigned to Waterfront Operations on Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, said he had always wanted to work in the medical field but had never thought he'd see a man's life fading away before him, allowing him only moments to save him. This exact occurrence happened to him July 31.

"I was taking duty for a friend, so I was at the office that day, otherwise I wouldn't have been there," said the 22-year-old. "I suddenly heard BM3 Yenor shout for me and say that a man had collapsed."

Sgt. Aurevoir R. Carbonell, garrison property control supply chief assigned to the Consolidated Material Support Center, Consolidated Logistic Division, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., was in Hawaii visiting in-laws with his family when he collapsed on base, said Master Sgt. Thomas E. Burke, staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge, CMSC.

According to Burke, Carbonell was playing with his children when he suddenly passed out and went into cardiac arrest.

Elliott said that he ran out to where the incident happened, while Petty Officer 2nd Class Drake grabbed the medical kit in order to get it to Elliott as quickly as possible.

When Elliott reached the flagpole behind Waterfront Operations, he saw the man who had collapsed and noticed immediately that the man's condition was life-threatening.

"I could see that, at first, he was giving agonal breaths, which means he would take a deep breath but since his heart wasn't beating, it wasn't doing anything," said Elliott. "That was my first sign that he was going into cardiac arrest."

Elliott said he immediately tried to feel for a pulse, but could find nothing. A woman on the scene was trying to perform CPR, but was not applying enough pressure during compressions to be successful, he explained.

"I could see that the compressions weren't as deep as they should have been, so I took over," said Elliott. "My medical kit wasn't in reaching distance for me, so I was forced to perform mouth-to-mouth without the CPR mask."

Elliott continued CPR for approximately six minutes before the ambulance arrived. Another man on the scene aided Elliot with

See ELLIOTT, A-7

Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson

Petty Officer 3rd Class Allen M. Elliott, a Navy hospital corpsman assigned to Waterfront Operations, sits on the spot where he performed CPR on Sgt. Aurevoir R. Carbonell, July 31.

Bronze Star awarded to fallen Marine

Gunnery Sgt. Rusty Baker
4th Marine Aircraft Wing

DALLAS — The wife of fallen Marine 1st Lt. Dustin M. Shumney was presented the Bronze Star (posthumously) with the Combat 'V' device, Aug. 4, as a result of his heroic actions in Fallujah, Iraq, while serving as the commander of 2nd Platoon, Charlie Company, Battalion Landing Team for Hawaii-based 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

SHUMNEY

Members of the Fort Worth based 14th Marine Regiment as well as dozens of local supporters, active duty Marine Corps units, Marine auxiliary units and Marine Corps support organizations were on hand at the Dallas restaurant, Paul's Porterhouse, where 14th Marines' Regimental Inspector/Instructor, Lt. Col. Wayne Harrison, presented the award to Julie Shumney and her children Jordan, 12; Mallory, 8; and Conner, 3.

The Dallas/Fort Worth based Marine Corps support organization Metroplex Marine Coordinating Council, which has been meeting regularly at Former Marine Paul Sermas' Porterhouse since 1992, helped organize the ceremony after their involvement with Shumney's funeral in February, according to Metroplex Marines' president Mike McCollum. Several former Marines and other military members were on hand to witness the event, including Medal of Honor recipients Cmdr. Tom Norris, MOH-Navy; Sgt. Robert O'Malley, MOH-Marines; Col. Bob Howard, MOH-Army; and Col. Jim Fleming, MOH-Air Force.

Harrison said, "I am thankful for living in the Dallas/Fort Worth area where such a strong group of Marine Corps supporters, like the Metroplex Marines, can come together in such a time of need. The Metroplex Marines are as powerful a support group that any I've seen. We say, 'Once a Marine, always a Marine.' They take it to the next level and go out of their way to support."

Metroplex Marines' support was already well underway by the time it was learned that Mrs. Shumney really didn't know many people in the Dallas area, but choose to stay because she was living with her sister here when her husband died, said McCollum.

"I am forever grateful that, not only do the Marines not leave each other behind, but they also do not

See SHUMNEY, A-8

Sniper school

Adm. William J. Fallon, commander, U.S. Pacific Command, receives an explanation of Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay's Scout Sniper Program from Gunnery Sgt. John E. Trotta, staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge, Scout Sniper School, 3rd Marine Regiment. Base Commander Col. Michael C. O'Neal escorted Adm. Fallon during his visit to various units around K-Bay, Monday.

Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

News Briefs

Manana Housing Traffic Slow-Down During August 2005

Traffic on Acacia Road, in and out of the Manana Housing Area in Pearl City, will be reduced to one lane until Aug. 31, due to construction work near the Manana Housing Area gate. Residents should expect traffic delays through this area during morning and evening peak traffic hours.

Increased Training and Aircraft Activities

Marine Corps Air Facility will conduct 24-hour flight operations to support Exercise Silent Fury, from Friday to Aug. 30; and again from Aug. 31 to Sept. 1 in support of Patrol Squadron 47's Operational Readiness Evaluation. Local residents should expect increased and after-hours aircraft activity during these periods.

The American Legion to Co-Host National Job Fair

The American Legion Job Fair, co-sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor in support of Department of Defense Transition Assistance Program will take place at the Hawaii Convention Center, Hall III, 1801 Kalakaua Ave., Honolulu. All active duty service members, reserve members, National Guard members, military spouses, and America's veterans are welcomed. The following is the schedule for the job fair:

- Today: 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Saturday: 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Sunday: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Monday: 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Tuesday: 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Hawaii Military COLA Survey

All military, Coast Guard, U.S. Public Health Service and National Oceanic & Atmoshpheric Administration uniform service personnel stationed in the state of Hawaii are encouraged to complete a military Cost of Living Allowance survey sponsored by U.S. Pacific Command until the end of September 2005.

The Office of the Secretary of Defense requires Headquarters Pacific Command to conduct the survey once every three years to adjust COLA rates for Hawaii uniform service personnel. Service members will have the opportunity to complete the survey over the Internet. Accuracy in completing the survey is critical to the COLA determination process. The Living Pattern survey is available online through September at www.perdiem.osd.mil/oscola/lps/hawaii.

Point of contact at HQ USPACOM is Eddie Fowler at 477-1396 or e-mail eddie.fowler@pacom.mil.

Service Member's Group Life Insurance to Increase to $400,000

Effective Sept. 1 all members eligible for SGLI will become insured for the maximum coverage of $400,000. Due to the increased coverage, maximum monthly premiums will then be $26.

- SGLI will be available in increments of $50,000 vs. the current $10,000.
- The SGLI increase does not affect Family SGLI.
- If a married member designates a primary beneficiary for their SGLI coverage other than their current lawful spouse, the member's spouse will be informed that the member has made such a designation.

Members who submit a new SGLV 8286 declining or reducing their SGLI coverage by Sept. 30 will not be required to pay the full $26 premium for September 2005. Election changes made after Sept. 30 will result in a pay deduction of $26 for September coverage.

Contact your CSS for additional information.

Important Phone Numbers

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

Drivers urged to exercise caution near crosswalks

Pfc. Edward C. deBree
Combat Correspondent

With the new school season soon to begin aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Base Safety officials are urging drivers to be cautious of pedestrians — especially children — who are crossing streets.

Hawaii recently passed a new crosswalk law that states that drivers must stop whenever a pedestrian is in the half of the crosswalk nearest to the driver's car or if a pedestrian is too close for a vehicle to safely drive through a crosswalk. This is a change to the old law, which allowed drivers the discretion to yield or slow down at crosswalks and stop only when necessary.

"Our main concern are the children," said Mario Diprete, 45, a traffic safety specialist assigned to the Base Safety Office. "With school starting August twenty-fourth, we want drivers to take more caution in watching out for children — especially around Mokapu Elementary School."

Pfc. Edward C. deBree

Ricardo Villanueva (left), 13; Zac Cox (center), 11; and Matt Johnson, 14, cross Mokapu Road aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, to get to the skate park, Monday, to enjoy their last days of summer vacation. As school starts, drivers should pay close attention to pedestrians.

Drivers should pay attention to the road, and if they do come upon a pedestrian crossing the street, they should slow down or stop and wait for them to cross, according to Diprete. But the drivers aren't the only ones who need to be careful. Pedestrians can also cause an accident if they don't use the crosswalk or look both ways before crossing a street.

"It all goes back to when we were kids," said Diprete. "Our parents taught us to look left, then right, then left again. Those crosswalks aren't defensive walls. All they are is paint on the ground to show drivers where people might cross."

Most pedestrians don't have that much to worry about because the traffic on K-Bay is very regulated which makes it one of the safest places on Oahu, said Diprete.

Between the years 1996 and 2003, there were 165 pedestrian fatalities on Oahu; eight were in Waikiki, six in Kailua, and three in Kaneohe.

In hopes of preventing unnecessary pedestrian fatalities, police have been aggressive in the enforcement of the new crosswalk law. According to Diprete, driving instructors are now starting to reinforce the importance of obeying law, and police are being trained on how to enforce it.

Veterans dispose of unserviceable flags properly

Cpl. Megan L. Stiner
Press Chief

American flags are displayed in many various ways throughout the United States and the world. The national ensign, as it is also referred to, can be seen flying from vehicles; flagpoles at privately owned homes, corporate and government office buildings; and from flagpoles aboard military bases, daily.

Although Americans display their patriotism by flying "Old Glory," according to members of local Veterans of Foreign Wars posts, many are unaware of the correct way to dispose of the flag once it has become tattered, faded or deemed unserviceable.

On Oahu, the local Veterans of Foreign Wars posts serve as a convenient solution to properly retiring the American flag. Nearly every month, members of local posts hold a ceremonial flag burning of "the colors" that have been donated by members of the community who deemed their flags undisplayable.

The American flag is not the only flag that can be donated to the posts for proper destruction. State flags, Prisoner of War flags, and nearly any other flag that is flown in honor of their country or state can be justifiably burned in the honorable fashion.

There are more than two-dozen VFW posts on the island of Oahu alone. The closest to Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, are the Christensen-Whiteman Post 3824 and Windward Post 10154, both of which are located in Kaneohe.

The proper means of retiring the flag is a ceremonial burning during which the flag is displayed, the Pledge of Allegiance is recited, the flag is burned in a dignified manner and its ashes are then buried.

Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

A member of a local Veterans of Foreign Wars post retires a Hawaiian flag by ceremoniously burning it.

According to Gil Alejo, a veteran of the Korean War and member of VFW Post 1572, in Waipahu, the post members perform the ceremony every three months — when enough flags have been gathered from the local community.

"Not enough people know we perform the ceremony," said Alejo. "But we do get a lot of flags each month, so we burn them honorably, out of respect for what our nation stands for."

With honors

Maj. Albert S. Calamug (left), staff secretary to the commanding general, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, and 1st Lt. Matthew B. Clinger, aide-de-camp, display their citations presented to them by Col. Michael C. O'Neal, base commander, MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. Calamug received a Meritorious Service Medal and Clinger received a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for exceptional service to the commanding general, Friday.

Sgt. Joseph A. Lee

Weekend weather outlook

Today

Day — Mostly cloudy with scattered showers; easterly winds, 15 to 20 mph; 50 percent chance of rain

Night — Mostly cloudy with scattered showers; easterly winds, 10 to 15 mph; 50 percent chance of rain

High — 83
Low — 76

Saturday

Day — Mostly cloudy becoming partly cloudy with scattered showers; easterly winds, 10 to 15 mph; 50 percent chance of rain

Night — Mostly cloudy with scattered showers; easterly winds, around 10 mph; 50 percent chance of rain

High — 83 Low — 76

Sunday

Day — Partly cloudy with scattered showers in the morning, then isolated showers in the afternoon; easterly winds, around 10 mph; 40 percent chance of rain

Night — Partly cloudy with scattered showers; easterly winds, around 10 mph; 40 percent chance of rain

High — 83 Low — 75

Hawaii MARINE

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Marines with Combined Anti-Armor Team Platoon, Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, conduct a three-point turn during a training exercise Tuesday.

Leave 'em in the dust

Weapons Company, 1/3 performs force on force training

Story and Photos By Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

Press Chief

MARINE CORPS TRAINING AREA BELLOWS, Hawaii — Slowly they make their way up the dusty street in a staggered column, maneuvering with radio communications as well as hand and arm signals, on the lookout for the ambush they anticipate ahead.

Once contact is made, the columns quickly moved into a sweep with hammerhead fighting position in order to lay down fire and subdue the enemy.

The Marines of Combined Anti-Armor Team Platoon, Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, trained at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows, Tuesday, in the scenario described above.

The differences between CAAT Platoons and other infantry units that perform patrols through dangerous streets, is every move they make is in a CAAT vehicle rather that on foot.

The Marines inside the Humvee must coordinate and be ready to make sudden moves at a second's notice. These maneuvers take organization and concentration in order to work properly. For the Marines in the vehicles, that was the focus of the training this week.

"We learn a lot from the more experienced Marines when it comes to techniques and the best way to do things," said Pfc. Benjamin D. Birch, machinegunner, CAAT Platoon, Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment. "It isn't hard to take it all in, since we have good, solid leadership that lets us know what to do in different situations."

According to Birch, a Pensacola, Fla. native, since arriving to Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, and becoming a part of CAAT platoon, he has understood that everything he is doing is preparing him for his unit's upcoming deployment to Afghanistan.

Once the vehicles had practiced moving into the various fighting positions, while on the move, they circled up their vehicles and waited for further word while their section leaders received orders to perform force on force missions through the narrow dirt roads in the training area.

The Marines of CAAT Platoon were split into two sections in order to perform the force on force training. Once the mission ordered by Lt. Ziad Fakhoury, platoon commander, CAAT Platoon, Weapons Company, 1/3, the action began and CAAT 2 began to patrol through the training area.

Contact was made twice, and the ambushes were successful, which meant it was now CAAT 1's turn to patrol and CAAT 2 to set up an ambush and wait.

The biggest setbacks during the training evolution were through failing communications, which was evident once the missions were completed and the critiques began.

After the entire cycle was complete, the Marines received an after-action report and the strategies that they had used throughout the day were evaluated. This provided them with feedback -- both positive and negative — about the performance of both sections.

"This training is really important right now," explained Cpl. Leroy Diaz, machinegunner, CAAT Platoon, Weapons Company, 1/3. "Although the roads in Afghanistan will be very narrow and harder to maneuver in, the techniques we are becoming familiar with now will help us out in the long run."

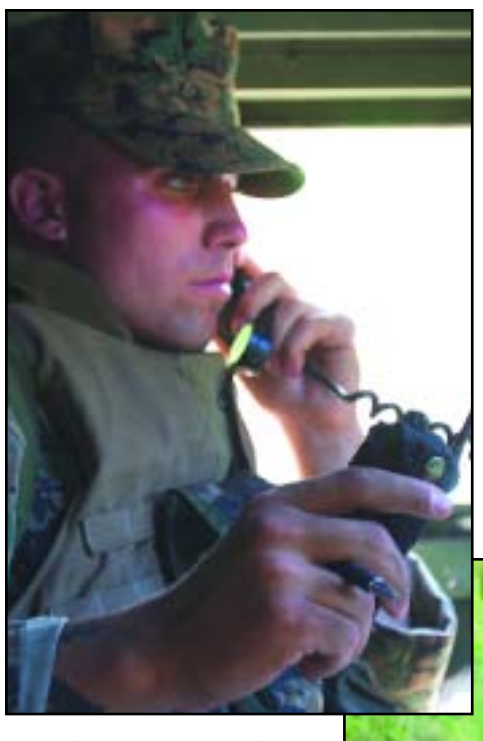
Diaz, a veteran of Iraq, said the training being performed now is to familiarize the newer Marines with the way the Company conducts operations as well as familiarizing them with the vehicles and methods they will be using during deployment.

"We still have cold- and hot-weather training in California coming up, to prepare us for Afghanistan," explained the Hemphill, Texas native. "Each upcoming week will become more and more intense in order to get us ready to go."

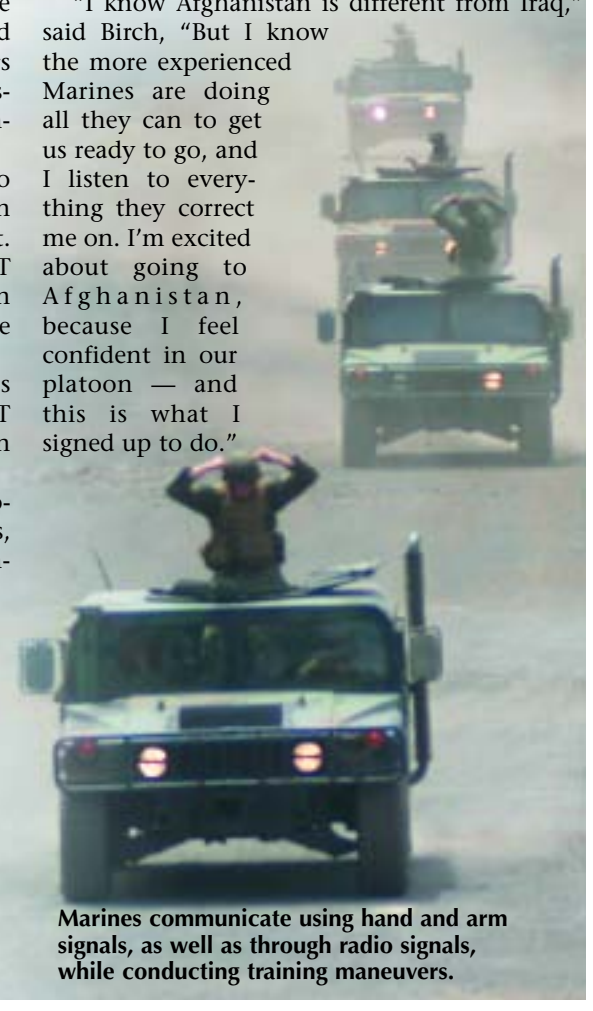
Although many of the Marines in CAAT Platoon are new to the unit, many of them understand the importance of what is ahead of them, and they are preparing themselves for what the more experienced Marines have already been through.

"I know Afghanistan is different from Iraq," said Birch, "But I know the more experienced Marines are doing all they can to get us ready to go, and I listen to everything they correct me on. I'm excited about going to Afghanistan, because I feel confident in our platoon — and this is what I signed up to do."

Below — 1st Lt. Ziad Fakhoury, platoon commander, Combined Anti-Armor Team Platoon, Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, conducts an after-action report with his Marines following a training evolution, Tuesday, at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows.



Above — Lance Cpl. Ben Herring, radio operator, Combined Anti-Armor Team Platoon, Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, and West Pittston, Pa. native, listens to his radio to pick up information on what his section's next move will be.



Marines communicate using hand and arm signals, as well as through radio signals, while conducting training maneuvers.

Right — Marines riding in turrets are responsible for not only keeping an eye out for enemy ambushes, but also serving as the first line of defense, in case of an attack.

French citizen becomes U.S. Marine

Sgt. Robert M. Storm
Combat Correspondent

JALALABAD, Afghanistan — As Cpl. Matthieu T. Brule sits on his "rack," he knows that his experiences in Afghanistan will live with him forever. He doesn't complain or try to make himself into a hero, he merely takes the knowledge that he is there to do a job and accepts it. Brule said he joined the Marine Corps because he thought Marines were tough and because the Corps offered him a meaningful job.

"I love the Marine Corps because when I wake up in the morning, I have a sense of purpose. Other jobs don't give you that, they are just the same boring routine everyday," said Brule. "Sometimes this job is miserable, but it's never boring, and as Marines, we simply do what needs to be done."

Brule is a machinegunner with 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, who is currently deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Like many others, Brule said he wanted to do his part in the War on Terrorism, so after earning a degree in communications from Notre Dame, he enlisted in the Marine Corps. When he joined the Corps, he knew there would be the possibility that he would deploy to a combat zone, and, too, there were other priorities in his life.

"I wanted to become a United States citizen before I left on deployment," said Brule. "It was real important to me. I begged them to swear me in before I left."

Brule's parents brought him to live in the states from France when he was 10. His parents have been living in the U.S. for 20 years, so he considers America his home.

Because he grew up in a different country, Brule said he believes he is more open-minded about different cultures and experiences. He said that this has helped him whenever Marines have to take on a more passive role, such as providing security for meetings with local officials and working with the Afghanistan National Army.

Brule said that even though he spent most of his life in America, his friends still tease him about being a foreigner.

"I get a lot of teasing from fellow Marines. Sometimes it gets old because I've been here so long, I consider myself American," said Brule. "But when you spend as much time together as we do, you get to be pretty close and now they don't give me as hard of a time."

Brule said he plans to stay with his wife, Rachelle, in the U.S. and become a police officer, after his enlistment is over. Brule said that the deployment to Afghanistan is easier because of the support he gets from his wife.

Cpl. Matthieu T. Brule, a machinegunner with 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, from San Jose, Calif., and a native of France, stands in front of his unit's sign while on deployment to Afghanistan, Aug. 1. Brule has lived in the United States since age 10 and was sworn in as a U.S. citizen before leaving to do his part in the War on Terrorism.

Sgt. Robert M. Storm

'Golden Eagles' soar with battle efficiency

Lt. j.g. Adam Pace
Patrol Squadron 9

"By their truly impressive and distinctive duty, the men and women of Patrol Squadron 9 reflected credit upon themselves and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service," is how the citation for the Battle Efficiency Award read. The Navy's Battle "E" was presented to VP-9 for their contributions to operations in the 5th and 7th Fleet during 2004.

Vice Admiral James Zortman, Commander, Naval Air Forces, Pacific Fleet, presented the award to Commander Perry Yaw, the squadron's commanding officer.

The award also comments on the excellent performance of VP-9's combat aircrews throughout their inter-deployment readiness cycle and the entire squadron's rapid transition to deployed operations. With a 98 percent mission complete rate and meeting all unit combat readiness requirements, the "Golden Eagles" are paving the way for future patrol squadron accomplishments.

"As you all are well aware, the Golden Eagles were selected as the 2004 Pacific Fleet Battle E award recipients. For those of you who are not familiar with the Battle E, it is awarded annually to one VP squadron on each coast who, over the past year, is recognized as being the best of the best. On July 8, Vice Admiral James Zortman, Commander, Naval Air Forces Pacific Fleet, formally presented the award to the squadron. While I was honored to physically receive the award for the squadron, I know that it was the men and women of VP-9 who earned this prestigious award. I also know that the tremendous support that you all, on the home front, provided during last deployment was largely responsible for the squadron's success.

"Simply put, you all earned this award too. We could not have done it without you, and I am eternally grateful for the love and support you provided and continue to provide to the Sailors here at VP-9. Many Mahalos!"

Read the *Hawaii Marine* online at www.mcbh.usmc.mil.

Zodiac sign

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Derrick C. Goode

Service members assigned to the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command bench press their Zodiac raft during training at Hickam Air Force Base, Friday. The Zodiac training is meant to increase the unit's readiness for possible water-recovery missions.

Microchips make lost pets easier to find

Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson
Combat Correspondent

The month of August is upon us and service members are encouraged to take part in Microchip Madness Month, in an effort to ensure that if missing, family pets can be located and returned to their homes.

This month, the Hawaiian Humane Society has teamed up with veterinarians on the island to provide pet owners with lifetime microchip identification for $5.

"The average price range for the microchips is twenty-five to thirty dollars," said Jacque Smith, director of community relations, Hawaiian Humane Society. "This is a terrific opportunity for people to get the microchips for their pets. It is a permanent ID, so the animals can be located if lost."

According to the Hawaiian Humane Society, nearly 5,500 lost animal reports were filed with the society last year. Only 4,300 animals were actually reunited with their families, and most of the reunions were because the animals had microchip records on file with the society.

The microchips are roughly the size of a grain of rice and are injected under the skin between the animal's shoulder blades. The process is similar to a vaccination and should take no more than five minutes, according to Smith. Each microchip has an individual code that can be scanned with a hand-held scanner.

If a lost animal that has a microchip implant is found and brought to the humane society, the microchip is scanned for the code that is stored in the humane society's database. This information has information about the owner. Once identified, the pet is reunited with its owner. Pets that have microchips or other forms of ID are held at least nine days prior to being made eligible for adoption and pets without any form of ID can be put up for adoption after 48-hours.

Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

Mikioi sits on the waiting table at the Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Veterinary Clinic. This month, the Hawaiian Humane Society has teamed up with veterinarians on the island to provide pet owners with lifetime microchip identification for $5.

Smith said that she wants to stress that people who do microchip their pets need to always keep the humane society updated on any address changes that may occur.

"Especially for the military, who I understand tends to move a lot," said Smith. "We need to keep updated addresses on record so if we find the pet, we can easily find its home of residence."

For a list of participating veterinarians in the microchip implants, and for more information on pet identification or the Humane Society's lost and found services, call 946-2187, ext. 290, or visit www.hawaiianhumane.org.

Research can make buying a home less stressful

Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson
Combat Correspondent

When coming to live in a state like Hawaii, people are often confused and frustrated by the major differences in location and prices of the homes that they have to choose from. Here on the island, there are realtors who are willing to help to make the transition from mainland living to island living less painless.

"I deal with more than fifty military families a year who are looking to either rent or buy a home here," said Judith Anderson, realtor. "The most important advice I can give is to ensure that the families do their homework and get as much information as they can about the areas and prices before even arriving."

The Glendale, Calif. native suggested that families who have access to the Internet, log on to www.dodreferral.com. This Web site is designed to serve members of all branches of the military who are moving to the Hawaiian Islands. The Web site offers a site in which property managers, owners, real estate agents, and people who are looking to share their homes, can list properties or vacancies. Service members can find homes for sale, apartments for rent, or even a roommate, all within a location that fits their needs.

"The site is so informative, but I don't even know if that many people know of its existence," said the Stanford University graduate.

According to Anderson, one of her biggest concerns is the person who purchases or rents from a Web site without actually going to see the property. She said a potential owner should do their own investigation by actually seeing the place with their own eyes before making a purchase or signing a rental agreement.

"A lot of the times a big issue for families is the local neighborhood and schools," said Anderson. "To really see what the they're like, the buyer or renter needs to go to the areas themselves. Honestly, it seems insane for them to buy homes when they haven't even seen what the area is like."

Once a place interests the potential buyer or renter, that person should then check the place out online and also contact the realtor or person renting the property, suggested Anderson.

"Another reason that someone should go check out the properties themselves is because, a lot of times, realtors won't advertise rentals," said Anderson. "A realtor's main job is to sell homes, not rent them. So whenever possible, they're going to try and sell something to someone, so they may not always advertise available rentals."

Anderson also recommends that when going to see a realtor, that you have an up-to-date credit report. There are Web sites that offer this information free. Because the realtors who rent out homes are also responsible if the rent isn't paid on time, they require good credit scores to ensure the customer is able to make good on rent payments.

"A potential homeowner should have a good past credit rating when attempting to rent or purchase a home, " said Anderson. "We call former landlords to ensure that they have always been reliable."

"quotable"

"Above all things, never be afraid. The enemy who forces you to retreat is himself afraid of you at that very moment."
— Andre Maurois

Petty Officer 1st Class Bobbi Maxwell

Sailors from Patrol Squadron 47 pose with students and faculty from Kapunahala Elementary School after participating in a Partnership with Schools program event.

Sailors clean, paint at Kaneohe school

Petty Officer 2nd Class
Jennifer L. Bailey
Patrol Squadron 47

KANEOHE, Hawaii — The "Golden Swordsmen" from Patrol Squadron 47 volunteered their off-duty hours to participate in a "Partnership with Schools" project Aug. 6 at Kapunahala Elementary School.

Navy commands assigned to Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Adopt A School program adopt local schools to help with tutoring programs and beautification projects on their off-duty hours.

Two months ago, VP-47 Sailors cleaned and painted the library, and two weekends ago, 25 squadron members came back to the school to paint the cafeteria.

"The command master chief asked the 1st Class Association who wanted to head up this project, and I volunteered. So that was it," said Petty Officer 1st Class Samantha Jimerson, an aviation ordnanceman.

"We share Kapunahala Elementary School with VP-9," she said. "They get to be more hands on and help with tutoring, but we get to fix up the school."

Karen Segawa, the Kapunahala principal, said, "The children now have newly painted classrooms, improved campus lighting, and installed a drainage system between buildings in preparation for returning students this school year — thanks to the student's families and volunteers."

"The principal told us the kids loved what we did to the library," said Jimerson. "They only needed the cafeteria painted this time, but if they needed anything else fixed then we would definitely do that."

As with all good partnerships, both sides benefited from this project the students have a newly painted school cafeteria and the Sailors presented the Navy to the local community in a positive light.

"I like painting for a good purpose," said Petty Officer 1st Class Sharon BrandyHill, a yeoman for the squadron. "Everybody was working and participating, which made it a fun way to spend a Saturday afternoon."

Petty Officer 1st Class Bobbi Maxwell

Petty Officer 2nd Class Jalonie Chapman, assigned to Patrol Squadron 47, paints the outside walls of the Kapunahala Elementary School cafeteria. Sailors from VP-47 volunteered to paint buildings at Kapunahala Elementary as part of the military's Partnership with Schools program.

Petty Officer 1st Class Bobbi Maxwell

Petty Officer 2nd Class Noeli Harrison and Petty Officer 2nd Class John Salomon both assigned to Patrol Squadron 47 paint the inside walls of the Kapunahala Elementary School cafeteria.

"quotable"

"Life's most urgent question is: What are you doing for others?"
— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr

Monk seal sightings becoming rare

Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson
Combat Correspondent

When visiting the beaches of Oahu, people often see surfers, swimmers, and, on occasion, a shark. There is something else that they might also see. Although it is extremely rare, visitors and residents alike may spot a Hawaiian monk seal — just one of the animals on the endangered species list.

Of the three known species of monk seals, only two still exist today. The first to become extinct was known as the Caribbean monk seal. The second type, which is critically endangered, is the Mediterranean monk seal. The third and last of the endangered species is the Hawaiian monk seal.

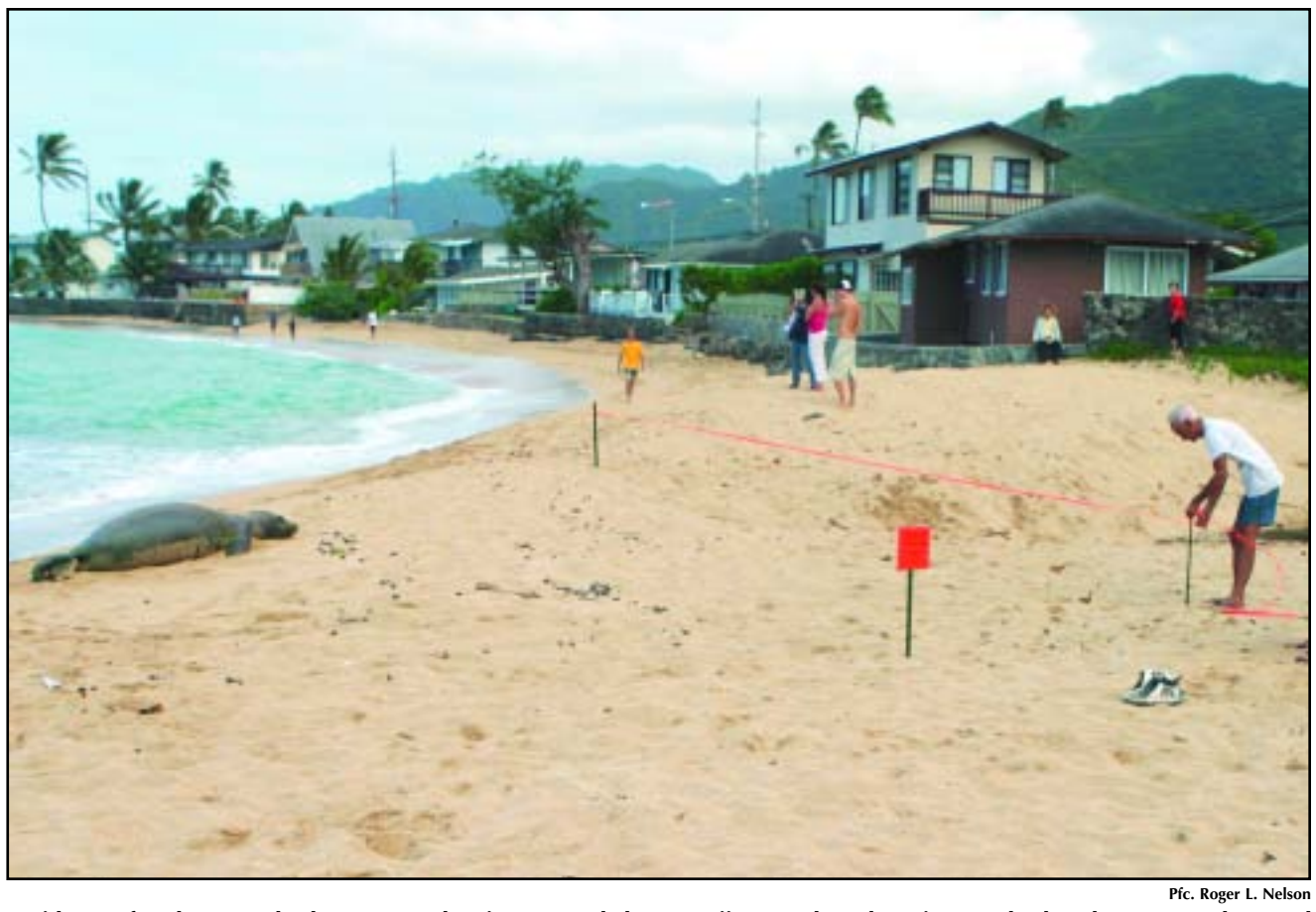
Pfc. Roger L. Nelson

A Hawaiian monk seal rests on a beach on Oahu's North Shore. Beach-goers are warned to stay away from monk seals since they are on the endangered species list and can be aggressive. Of the three known species of monk seals, the Hawaiian monk seal is one of two remaining. The last count puts their numbers at approximately 1,500, worldwide.

In the 1800s, hunters, whalers and fishermen slaughtered monk seals. Since the seals were placed on the endangered list, the slaughter has stopped. There are, however, new threats to the lives of the seals. Some of these include their incidental capture in fishing gear; ingestion of toxic substances from debris from fisheries, intentional kills and decreased availability of food. These threats, along with shark attacks, mobbing (females being injured and sometimes killed by the aggressive sexual behavior of some males) and a slow reproductive rate threaten what is left of the Hawaiian monk seal population.

These seals were listed as endangered in 1976 under the United States Endangered Species Act. They are also listed as endangered under the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources Red List of Threatened Species.

Between 1958 and 1996, the average beach reproductive populations of the seals had declined by 60 percent. The current population of the seals is estimated at approximately 1,500. The population continues to be on a downfall at an average of four percent per year.



Pfc. Roger L. Nelson

Residents of Oahu's North Shore set up barriers around the Hawaiian monk seal resting on the beach. As an endangered species, monk seals are to be protected from harm and harassment.

The monk seal leads a solitary existence, keeping to itself — unless it is a mother, and then she is usually in the company of her pup. According to those who have sighted these seals, they seem to be far more sensitive then other animals to human intrusion into their environment. This is especially true for a nursing mother who becomes so stressed by the presence of a human that she may neglect or not provide the proper care for her pup. This may cause an increase in the death rate among seal pups.

A Hawaiian monk seal can sometimes be found resting on one of Oahu's shores. Chances are that a seal on the beach is either resting or digesting food. Whatever the reason, because of its aversion to humans, it should not be approached.

According to guidance from agencies that oversee endangered species programs, anyone who spots a monk seal in the water or on dry land, and has injuries such as a fishing hook lodged in its mouth or body, should call (888) 256-9840. Also, to report anyone disturbing, harassing, harming or feeding monk seals, call (800) 853-1964.

ELLIOTT, From A-1

compressions while Elliott performed the mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

When the ambulance arrived on scene, Elliott had been successful in gaining a pulse; however, Carbonell's pulse died so the ambulance workers were forced to shock him with an Automated External Defibrillator.

"I honestly couldn't believe that this all was happening for real," said Elliott. "It seemed unreal with everyone crowding around, I knew I just had to keep calm though and do my job."

Carbonell was again resuscitated, and is currently being treated in a local hospital. It is not yet determined when he will be released, said Burke.

Ironically, the following day, Elliott was scheduled to take a CPR instructor course, which would enable him to teach CPR courses.

"I don't look at it as anything special," said Elliott. "I just did what I've been trained to do. It's just a part of the job."

Did You Know?

This month in Marine Corps History

Aug. 17, 1942: Just prior to dawn, the 2nd Marine Raider Battalion under Lt. Col. Evans F. Carlson landed on Makin Island from the submarines Nautilus and Argonaut. The next day the Marines left the island after destroying a seaplane base, two radio stations, a supply warehouse, and killing about 100 Japanese soldiers.

Aug. 21 1968: Pfc. James Anderson Jr., was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor by Secretary of the Navy, Paul R. Ignatius, for heroism in Vietnam while serving as a rifleman with Company F, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines in February 1967. This was the first Medal of Honor presented to an African-American Marine. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Anderson Sr., received the award during ceremonies at Marine Barracks, 8th and I.

SHUMNEY: Marine died a month after Bronze Star-awarding actions

From A-1

leave their brothers' families behind when they have given the ultimate sacrifice," said Julie Shumney. "I feel so grateful that my husband picked the Marine Corps. The Corps was a decision we made as a family; a sacrifice as a family."

Of the many supporters who were on hand, the Marine Corps Law Enforcement Foundation's Vice President, James D. MacPhail, presented the Shumney family three separate $20,000 patriot bonds to be used for scholarships for each of the children. Since its 10 years of existence, the Denville, N.J., foundation's donors have generated more than $24 million for the children of Marines and law enforcement personnel who have been killed.

"I am very proud and grateful that this organization looks out for us, and it just blows my mind how the organization made sure my children were provided for. I feel like I am not alone and that I have a lot of support from everyone," said Julie.

Shumney's Bronze Star covered a span from Nov. 8 to Dec. 9, 2004, during his platoon's involvement in the invasion of Fallujah, otherwise known as Operation Al Fajr. His death and the fate of his platoon would be a separate incident more than a month later.

According to the summary of award submission approved by I Marine Expeditionary Force Commanding General Lt. Gen. John F. Sattler, from the onset of Operation Al Fajr, Shumney's confidence, proficiency and warfighting spirit made a positive impact on his platoon's ability to fight. While staged in the company attack position outside Fallujah, he calmly ensured his Marines vigilantly "dug in" while receiving sporadic mortar rounds and small-arms fire. As they moved toward the breach sight in armored tracked vehicles, he kept his platoon focused and ready to attack, while four seriously wounded Marines were medically evacuated amid the barrage of mortars, rocket-propelled grenades, machine-gun and small-arms fire that met the company as they moved toward the breach.

The summary goes on to report during the initial penetration into Fallujah, Shumney led his platoon through the breach site and into the city to gain a foothold for the battalion landing team. Designated as the second platoon to cross the breach site and gain the battalion's initial foothold inside Fallujah, Shumney and his Marines did not hesitate to attack into the city when the breach lane was not proofed or marked by engineers. He fearlessly led his platoon through an area that was known to be mined. Because of difficulties in the engineering effort at the breach site, tanks were unable to maneuver through the breach and provide far side security for the dismounted infantrymen of Charlie Company. Demonstrating great initiative, flexibility and proficiency, Shumney directed his Marines to seize a foothold west of Phase Line Charles, approximately 100 meters northwest of BLT Objective Bravo, the Al Tawfiq mosque. On the darkest night of the month, he led his platoon in clearing insurgent held buildings, securing a jump off point for the rest of the unit. Once tanks crossed into the city, Shumney coordinated with the tank platoon commander and prepared his Marines to attack south into the heart of Fallujah. As they moved to BLT Objective Bravo, his platoon came under fierce enemy RPG, machine-gun and small-arms fire. As the battle ensued, with complete disregard for his own safety, Shumney unflinchingly moved about the battlefield identifying targets, coordinated fires with the tanks and ensured all sectors of fire were covered. Shumney's courage and leadership were instrumental in the BLT's ability to establish a foothold in the city and keeps line of communications open.

The company remained in contact with the enemy with little interruption through each BLT objective. Shumney's 2nd Platoon was engaged in ferocious firefights along the way. Under nearly constant RPG and small-arms fire, Shumney's poise and courage on the battlefield allowed him to keep track of positions of all his platoon members and provided the company commander the required situational awareness to coordinate with higher and multiple adjacent units to fight the enemy through the city.

After nearly 16 hours of fierce urban warfare, the company secured BLT Objective Charlie. Shumney's infantry skill and warrior spirit was the catalyst for his platoon's fearless and violent push from the breach site to the Mahajareen mosque. Overcoming an improvised explosive device attack that seriously wounded three Marines en route to the breach site — a breach that was not proofed or marked — he crossed without tank support or far-side security. With an unknown disposition of enemy forces in zone, Shumney's leadership contributed immeasurably to Charlie Company's successful main effort attack into the heart of Fallujah and set the stage for successful supporting effort attacks by Alpha and Bravo companies.

Once the penetration was complete, Shumney continually volunteered his platoon for the most challenging missions. Ever conscious of the risk of clearing buildings in a city filled with terrorist cells, Shumney led his Marines into buildings and blocks known to house insurgent cells. His leadership and mental agility helped identify and eliminate numerous large weapons caches, IED factories and insurgent propaganda production sites. His efforts resulted in the capture or elimination of more than 100 insurgents, 500 enemy weapon systems, and thousands of ordnance items and ammunition.

On Nov. 10, 2004, Shumney and his platoon began clearing buildings adjacent to their temporary firm base. After clearing the first floor of a building, insurgents on the second floor opened fire, killing one Marine and wounding six others. Ignoring grenades being dropped from the second floor and armor-piercing, machine-gun fire coming through the ceiling, Shumney coordinated reinforcements from his platoon and directed fires within the building to suppress the enemy. With wounded Marines requiring urgent medical care trapped inside the building by enemy fire, Shumney quickly coordinated for a D-9 bulldozer to punch a hole into the building, creating an evacuation route for the casualties. His quick thinking under fire saved the lives of his wounded Marines, prevented further injuries, and resulted in two enemy killed-in-action, according to the summary of award submission.

One month after his actions in Fallujah, Shumney and his Marines received a mission to relocate near the Syrian border and provide security for the long-awaited Iraqi election. According to the Defense Department, on Jan. 26 the CH-53E Sea Stallion helicopter he and his men were using for transport crashed due to a sandstorm about 200 miles from Baghdad near Ar Rutbah, Iraq, killing all on board. Approximately 30 Marines and one Sailor perished in the crash making it one of the deadliest days for U.S. troops since the initial invasion of Iraq in March 2003.

"It was hard in the beginning," said Julie. "I remember trying to find anything positive for the kids to hold on to. One of the first things that came to mind was the Bronze Star. I spoke about it frequently, giving the children something to look forward to. So you can imagine the joy and smiles on our faces when Lt. Reis (Now Capt. Matthew D. Reis, 14th Marine Regiment Adjutant) called to say the ceremony was being set up."

"I was honored, privileged and humbled to represent the Marine Corps and the commandant of the Marine Corps in presenting Mrs. Shumney the Bronze Star," said Harrison, a 40-year-old Fort Worth, Texas, resident with a wife and small children of his own. "The most moving experience of that day was sitting with Lt. Shumney's mother and wife at the dinner table. I was humbled when I realized just how strong they were. Not strong like a lance corporal that's going into battle, but just as strong as anybody I've ever met."

"We have been looking forward to this day," Julie said. "It was a time to celebrate. It made us realize the mourning was over, for the time being. We stay very positive, as we know that Dustin would not have it any other way. We are so proud to be the wife and children of Lt. Dustin Shumney. Dustin's biggest goal in life was to always make us proud … and he accomplished that with flying colors."

Before earning his commission, Shumney lived with his widowed mother, Shama Shumney, in Benicia, Calif. He was her only child. Shumney graduated from Benicia High School in 1992 and later obtained his degree at Sacramento State University.

"Dustin believed in what he did," Shama Shumney said in a Vallejo Times interview. "He was proud of what he was doing. I've gotten my strength from him."

"He led from the font," said Harrison after learning of the Marine's actions in Fullujah. "His Marines respected him, and he would have done anything for them. He constantly put himself in harm's way to get the mission accomplished."

Recommend Citation: For heroic achievement in connection with combat operations involving conflict with an opposing force while serving as Platoon Commander, 2nd Platoon, Company C, Battalion Landing Team 1/3, Regimental Combat Team 7, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force from November to December 2004, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II. First Lieutenant Shumney's bravery, tactical ability, and leadership prowess contributed substantially to unit success during Operation Al Fajr, the assault on the city of Fallujah, Iraq. From the initial penetrations into the city, to the numerous firefights and engagements encountered over four weeks of continuous combat operations, First Lieutenant Shumney consistently led the Platoon from the front. On 10 November, while clearing the first floor of a building, insurgents on the second floor and armor piercing machine gun fire coming through the ceiling, First Lieutenant Shumney coordinated reinforcements and directed fires within the building to suppress the enemy and move the casualties out of the line of fire. With insurgent machine gun fire cutting off the exit route out of the building, he quickly coordinated for a D-9 bulldozer to punch a hole in the wall so the severely wounded Marines could be evacuated. His quick thinking under fire saved the lives of his wounded Marines, prevented further injuries, and resulted in two enemy casualties. By his zealous initiative, courageous actions, and exceptional dedication to duty, First Lieutenant Shumney gallantly gave his life for his country and reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.