

Hawaii MARINE

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Marines look to return to Waikane for jungle training

Press Release

MCB Hawaii Public Affairs Staff

Jungle Warfare. It's been a part of the Marine Corps' repertoire since the beginning. Whether in Nicaragua, Vietnam or the Philippines, leathernecks have always demonstrated panache for fighting in the jungle. Marine Corps Base Hawaii took the first step to ensure that Marines remain proficient in these skills by an-

nouncing July 18 the intent to resume jungle training in Waikane Valley, here on the windward side.

Col. Earl Ellis recognized this requirement. In 1921 this visionary stated, "It is not enough that the troops be skilled in-fantry men or artillery men of high morale; they must be skilled water men and jungle fighters who know it can be done — Marines with Marine training."

Oddly enough, jungle training for

Marines here in the Pacific is extremely limited. When considering the many potential hot spots Marines could be called upon to serve, the Jungle Warfare Training Center, Camp Gonsalves, Okinawa, Japan, is the only realistic training package available for Devil Dogs stationed in the Pacific Command.

"This will be a basic maneuver area, suitable for something around a company-sized element," said Maj. John

Claucherty, deputy assistant chief of staff G-3 of MCB Hawaii. "It will be just another tool that Hawaii Marines have to get more and better training."

It's important to note also, that the proposed training in Waikane Valley is focused entirely on maneuver, small-unit, navigation skills. The use of live fire weapons and ammunition would be

See WAIKANE, A-6

Island Warriors Wrap up RIMPAC



Cpl Jose A. Trevino, left, a squad leader with Echo Co., 2/3, and Pfc. Artem Chanturya, rifleman, Echo Co., 2/3, secure Marine Corps Training Area Bellows during an amphibious landing rehearsal July 14. The landing was in preparation for another on Kauai near the end of RIMPAC 2002. See page A-3 for RIMPAC wrap-up story.



Cpl. Jason Miller

Lieutenant Col. William Fearn IV, commanding officer of 1/3, addresses the returning Marines in front of the battalion headquarters Monday.

Lava Dogs return from Operation Enduring Freedom

Cpl. Jason E. Miller
Combat Correspondent

With marching tunes provided by the Marine Forces Pacific Band, more than 60 Marines from Charlie Co., 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines, returned from the Philippines Monday, after a month-long deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The Marines arrived at Hickam Air Force Base and quickly boarded buses to MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, where they were reunited with family members and friends in front of the battalion headquarters.

While overseas, the 1/3 Marines provided security for a Navy construction task group which was making improvements in Philippine villages.

Marines also trained with Philippine armed forces in an effort to share knowledge on fighting terrorists rumored to be in the area.

The commanding officer of 1/3, Lt. Col. William Fearn IV, held a special ceremony at the battalion's

See 1/3, A-6

Long-term care enrollment season opens

Sgt. 1st Class
Kathleen T. Rhem

American Forces Press Service

A period of early enrollment into the new Federal Long-Term Care Insurance Program is open from now through Dec. 31. Federal personnel managers estimate as many as 20 million people are eligible to use this new benefit.

The federal Office of Personnel Management has contracted with John Hancock and MetLife insurance companies to provide this additional benefit to active duty personnel, retired service members, adult children (over 18 years old) of active duty, and retired members who are receiving a survivor annuity, federal employees, and some categories of the next of kin.

The insurance program is designed to cover expenses associated with long-term care in a nursing home or in the beneficiary's home. Federal employees will be able to purchase the insurance for themselves, spouses, children and parents. Federal retirees are entitled to enroll only themselves, and their spouses, according to information on the program's Internet home page, <http://www.ltcfeds.com>.

Those who still have questions on the FLTCIP will have a chance to ask questions in a series of 26 information briefs open to all Federal employees, active service members, and civilian employees as well as retirees.

The sessions will begin Aug. 26 and run through Sept. 6. During early enrollment, pre-packaged poli-

cies can be purchased for three or five-year periods, with daily benefits of \$100 or \$150.

Individuals wishing greater flexibility can buy policies with daily benefits from \$50 to \$300. Additional plan options, including an unlimited benefit, will be available during the regular open enrollment, according to an OPM news release.

For individuals between ages 18 and 30, premiums are \$8.40 per month for a policy that offers daily benefit of \$100 over three years and after a 90-day waiting period; the same policy with inflation protection starts at \$32 a month.

After age 30, premiums will vary based on age, amount and length of

See LONGTERMCARE, A-6

Thrift shop opens Monday, seeks manager

Sgt. Robert Carlson
Combat Correspondent

The All Enlisted Spouses Club will reopen the popular MCB Hawaii Thrift Shop Monday, continuing its tradition of offering base residents hundreds of items at bargain-basement prices.

The shop was closed temporarily for maintenance, and will now feature a more shopper-friendly layout and hundreds more items.

The AESC is still looking for a store manager and volunteers to run the



Sgt. Robert Carlson

Alison Ghiselli checks out the bargains at the All Enlisted Spouses Club Thrift Shop.

Thrift Shop, and is offering enticing benefits to anyone interested.

"Anyone who volunteering in the shop for two hours can get 50 percent

off any items in the store on the day they volunteer," said shop coordinator Wilma Melvin. "Volunteers can come down anytime, and help with shop upkeep as well as sorting and displaying the merchandise."

The store manager opening is a paid position, and the person who fills it will be responsible for opening and closing the store, and managing the day to day operations.

"All of the funds generated go to help the club

See THRIFT, A-6

Attention to orders



Cpl. Jason Miller

Blake Bishop, 8, receives an award from Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, commanding general, MCB Hawaii, for his winning entry in the Hurricane Awareness Poster Contest. Bishop's drawing was selected as the poster best representing the importance of hurricane awareness on MCB Hawaii. See Page A-8 for Bishop's winning poster.

MCBH NEWS BRIEFS

JOB OPENING AVAILABLE AT THRIFT SHOP

The All-Enlisted Spouse Club is looking for a new Thrift Shop manager. Interested applicants should call Wilma at 254-6523, or Allison at 685-5531.

K-BAY ROD AND GUN CLUB

The K-Bay Rod & Gun Club will meet at 7 a.m. on Aug. 6, in the conference room at the Bachelor Officer Quarters. Anyone interested in shooting, hunting, or fishing are welcome. Focus of meeting will be on hunts on Oahu and neighboring islands. For information call Wally Heyer at 254-5739.

NEW IMMUNIZATIONS GOVERN 7TH-GRADER ADMISSIONS

Hawaii has new school immunization requirements for all 7th graders who attend school here.

The new law requires that all students entering the 7th grade must have completed the following vaccinations by the first day of school:

- 3 Hepatitis B,
- 2 MMR, and
- 1 or 2 Chickenpox (Varicella, or a physician-documented history of chickenpox disease).

A 7th grader may only attend school on the first day if their school has received one of the following:

- A yellow 7th grade Student Immunization Record card, signed by the student's doctor, indicating that he or she has completed all required vaccinations (or the documented history exception),
- A signed note from the doctor, indicating that the student has started but not yet completed the vaccination series, or
- A physician note indicating that the doctor does not currently have a supply of required vaccine and the student will be recalled when the shortage has improved.

Students who have not complied with the new school immunization requirements will not be allowed to attend school.

There are also new immunization requirements for children entering preschool and kindergarten, and children who are entering school for the first time ever in Hawaii.

Visit the DOH Web site at www.VaxToSchool.com or call 586-8323 for details.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

On-Base Emergencies	257-9111
Military Police	257-7114
Crisis Hotline	521-4555

Hawaii MARINE

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CG'S MAIL BOX

"...I was wondering if there was some way to install a fire escape."



BRIG. GEN.
MCABEE

Submitted by Lance Cpl. Carol A. Oglesby, CSSG-3 HQ Company Group Supply

Good afternoon Sir,

I am writing to your mail about base housing.

Sir, I live on the second deck of base housing by the rifle range. There is only one exit and that is the front door.

However, if there was a fire, and it was in front, I would have no way to get my family and myself out.

I have thought about ladders that can be bought and draped from the window, but my son is only 14 months old and it would be extremely hard to climb down a ladder with him.

I was wondering if there was some way to install a fire escape. This would ensure that everyone could be capable of getting out.

Thank you for your time in considering this matter.

Lance Cpl. Carol A. Oglesby HQ, Company, CSSG-3

Lance Cpl. Oglesby

I have been asked by the commanding general to research and respond to your email of July 11, since your recommendation falls within my staff's responsibilities. He appreciates that you've taken the time to participate in the "CG Mail" program.

The Family Housing Department has contacted the Base Safety Office and discussed your concerns regarding fire escapes in base housing. Because the existing

stairs at your home comply with the Uniform Building Code and meet all state and federal fire safety codes, a second means of egress is not required. However, being prepared for emergency situations is important for the safety of your family and for your piece of mind. As such, the Base Safety Office and the Federal Fire Department are available to assist you in practicing fire safety and in creating an emergency evacuation plan to be used in case of an emergency.

A representative of the Base Safety Office will visit your quarters, at your convenience, and provide training on emergency procedures and help in developing an escape plan. Please contact them at 257-1730 to set up an appointment.

Also, the Federal Fire Department conducts mandatory fire prevention training for residents assigned to government family housing. Training is located at building 276 and is held every third Wednesday of the month at 9 a.m.

In addition to this mandatory classroom training, the Federal Fire Department, Fire Prevention Division will perform a courtesy fire inspection at your quarters.

You may contact the Base Fire Station at 257-2022/2080 between the hours of 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. to schedule an appointment.

Thank you again for bringing your concerns to my attention and participating in the "CG Mail" Program. If you have any additional questions regarding this issue, please contact Ms. Lydia Caldwell at 257-5933.

Mr. Kent Murata, Assistant Chief of Staff, G4



Sgt. Robert Carlson

The Federal Fire Department works in conjunction with the Family Housing Office and the Base Safety Center to ensure base housing residents know how to prevent fires and how to make an emergency plan.

(Editor's Note: Letters of any length may be trimmed and edited in the interest of good taste and brevity.)

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.



1/12 gets new



Lieutenant Col. Patrick L. Redmond, left, replaced Lt. Col. John M. Sullivan as commanding officer, 1st Bn., 12th Marine Regiment, during a change of command ceremony at Dewey Square July 25. Redmond previously served as Joint Doctrine Officer, Doctrine Division, Marine Corps Combat Development Command, Quantico, Va. Sullivan is scheduled to attend the U.S. Naval War College in Rhode Island.

Charlie 1/3 helps reconstruct local trail

Hawaii Marines take long road while helping to clear overgrowth, stop erosion on Na Ala Hele Trail

Cpl. Jason E. Miller
Combat Correspondent

First Lieutenant John Garcia and 35 of his Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment motivators, recently volunteered a full day of training to improve a trail system here on Oahu.

Waimano Trail, located in the hills outside Pearl City, had recently become very overgrown and eroded, leaving it in desperate need of maintenance.

Most public trails on the island of Oahu are maintained and regulated by the Na Ala Hele Trail Organization.

While the organization has only one full-time worker, it cares for more than 70 of miles of wilderness trails, mainly through the work of volunteers.

Enter the Marines.

"Our battalion commander put this out as a volunteer opportunity for the Marines," said Garcia. "We ended up doing quite a lot of work, and we all got some blisters and wound up sore from it, but I think it was good for the unit."

Three Na Ala Hele workers were on site with the Marines giving instruction on how to help out with the trail.

Most of the work was done with pick axes and shovels, and consisted of clearing out overgrown areas.

After a 5-mile hike in, the Marines slowly began working their way back, fixing the trail along the way. In all, the Marines managed to clear close to a mile of eroded trail in about a 4-hour time period.

"For a lot of the groups we have come out and volunteer, the five-mile hike alone would have just about killed them," said Ryan Peralta, Na Ala Hele trail technician. "Not so with the Marines. We went to the end of what we manage and started working back, so when other groups come out, they won't be as hard pressed to get any work done."

Ideally, we love to have military guys come out, and the Marines are a perfect example of what we needed. They were in shape, and there's already an established leadership. Everyone is so well disciplined and ready to work, so much more just gets done," Peralta added. "We really appreciate them for coming out and doing what they did. This was definitely one of the best groups we've had yet."

"We had a really good time helping out the people at Na Ala Hele," said Garcia. "In the future, we hope to do a little more extensive work. What will hopefully happen, is an overnight trip that will allow us to work all day, and then practice some things more relevant to our training once night rolls around."



Photos courtesy of Ryan Peralta

Above — Marines made a dent in the brush along the trail, working mostly with pick axes. **Below —** Overgrown vegetation wasn't the only thing blocking the trail. The Marines also removed fallen tree limbs.



RIMPAC draws to close for Hawaii Marines



Sgt. Alexis Mulero

Above — Marines arrived with Light Armored Vehicles at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows during an amphibious landing rehearsal on July 14. **Below —** Marines from Echo Co 2/3 clear the trenches during a maneuver and assault exercise at Range 10, Pohakuloa Training Area on the "Big Island."



Sgt. Alexis Mulero
Combat Correspondent

The roaring sound of Light Armored Vehicles reverberated throughout the deserted landscape as U.S. Marines, Sailors and allied forces stormed the beaches side by side during one of the amphibious landing rehearsals as part of the Rim of the Pacific Exercise 2002.

The month-long joint international training exercise consisted of more than 2,000 U.S. service members who were attached to Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force 3 and air, sea and land support elements from both U.S. and allied forces.

During the bi-annual RIMPAC exercise, warriors attached to SPMAGTF-3 performed a wide variety of evolutions to fine-tune their combined arms live fire training and amphibious landing capabilities.

"This exercise afforded the Marines a unique opportunity to work with several allied nations and to work with the best navy in the world," said 1st Lt. Jeffrey S. Green, adjutant, SPMAGTF-3.

Additionally, this exercise was of utmost importance in cross training with U.S. allies.

"Working with our allies was an amazing experience," explained Green. "It promoted teamwork and was a great learning experience to see how our brothers-in-arms fight."

The RIMPAC exercise was essential in gaining overall proficiency in combined arms live fire training, amphibious landings, and small unit training.

"The amphibious assaults were significantly important to the combat readiness of the SPMAGTF-3," said Green. "The Marines and Sailors attached to the task force performed superbly across the board."

WORD ON THE STREET

"What inspired you to join the Marine Corps?"

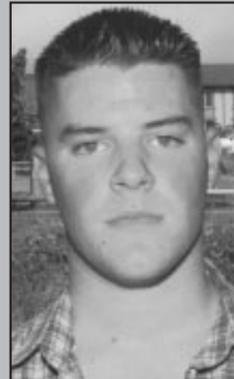


"The challenge, discipline, and the fear of the unknown followed by retirement."

Sgt. Marvin Hutchins,
Assistant chief cook,
Anderson Hall
HQBN

"I wanted to change the direction I was headed in and gain life-long experience."

Lance Cpl. Christopher Bennett,
Dispatcher,
Base motor pool,
HQBN



"I wanted a challenge and wanted to get away from my psycho father."

Lance Cpl. Katrina Carl,
Operator analyst,
1st Radio Bn.

"I wanted to blow stuff up everyday, and that's what I do."

Cpl. Nathaniel Morrow,
Ammo technician,
Alpha Battery,
1/12



"I wanted to jump-start my life with a challenge, and put an end to all the time I wasted in earlier years."

Sgt. Lonny Kelley,
Quality control
NCO,
Maintenance Co.,
CSSG-3

EVERY CLIME AND PLACE

U.S., Japanese firefighters keep overseas bases safe

Story and photos by
Cpl. Kurt Fredrickson
MCAS Iwakuni

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI, Japan—Fire has been destroying what man created since the beginning of recorded history.

For thousands of years, fire has wreaked havoc on the cities of the world, but man has continuously fought back. Although the ability of firefighters has changed drastically since the famous fires of Rome, London and Chicago, one thing remains the same - the fire.

"Fire has been the enemy of mankind forever," said Devin Johnston-Lee, Iwakuni Fire Station fire chief. "And with all the technology we have, the smart bombs, landing on the moon and computers, the basic job of fire fighting is still applying water to the fire."

Although firefighting may look as simple as dousing flames with a hose, what firefighters endure when they go into the inferno is only truly known to those who have crossed that threshold. It is a labor of caring, professionalism, pain and sacrifice.

"Every city has firemen and they are always those nameless faces that you wave at in the fire truck," said Johnston-Lee. "They are the ones who show

up in the middle of the night no matter what, with the sole goal of protecting you and your family."

The Station has its own group of 45 protectors who stand watch day and night. The Japanese Nationals who operate the Station Fire Department maintain two fire engines, one reserve engine, one 110-foot ladder truck, and a command vehicle.

Whether Station firefighters, or those who serve around the world, when firefighters arrive on the scene of a fire, each is assigned a specific job. This begins the process of firefighters focusing in on what they have to do, in a very short period.

"When we go into the fires we have a basic idea of what the fire is, and a basic knowledge of the building," said Johnston-Lee. "We actually feel our way in and crawl on the ground because the visibility is down to zero and the heat is above us. All this time, within your suit, the temperature is getting up around 200 degrees, and the big thing on the back of our minds is that our air bottles on our backs only allow us 30 minutes of breathing."

Once inside the building, firefighters face far more hazards than just fire.

They are also engaged in a

race against time.

"Because of all the synthetics used in construction, and the laxing of some fire codes, structures are becoming cheaper without the concern of fire safety," Johnston-Lee pointed out. "Structures are falling in 30 minutes, and it takes us five minutes to get there."

Facing the heat of fire can be a daunting task, as temperatures can range from 400 to 1,600 degrees in a house fire, and as high as 2,000 in a fuel fire.

"I remember one time, the water on the floor was so hot, I had to stand on a couch to keep my feet from burning while spraying water at the fire," said Johnston-Lee. "Sometimes when you're crawling you can see the water boiling off the floor and it hurts your knees, and you can feel the intense heat coming down from above you."

Their protective suits allow firefighters to penetrate deep into an environment destructive to all life. Yet they push on without hesitation to the point of emerging with steam burns from their own sweat, noted Johnston-Lee.

"The shock and urgency of a mother screaming that her child is inside is enough to make firefighters throw caution to the

wind, and risk everything to head into places where nobody should be," said Johnston-Lee. "They start searching around desperately, trying to bring that child back to her mother."

Johnston-Lee added that in his 25 years of being a firefighter, he has discovered that firemen are the same everywhere. They all have that sense of humor, dedication and willingness to go that extra mile to help. The station firefighters are no different.

"The department here has a lot of pride," he explained. "The Japanese understand the mission of the Station, and they are proud to be firemen protecting that. It's a really great responsibility because of the mission of this base. If world events dictated, service members would have to deploy, and firefighters are tasked with the responsibility of protecting your most precious items - your family."

As it has been throughout history, firefighters may walk away having won the fight against fire, or having lost. Either

way, one thing is for certain - firefighters are needed.

"I do not have customers," Johnston-Lee said emotionally. "Target and K-Mart have customers. When you call 911, they don't ask what fire department you want. What I have are investors. You invest in my men, my equipment, my training and me. The dividend you get is that no matter what it is, no matter what time it happens, we'll come."



Firefighters work together to douse the last remnants of a fire during training aimed at building their confidence to face blazes.



Lance Cpl. Nick Riddle

Yard of the 1/4

Winners of the yard of the quarter competition gathered near Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee's residence July 23, for an awards presentation. Brigadier Gen. McAbee, MCB Hawaii commanding general, recognized several families and unit representatives for their efforts in keeping the landscape around their residences and unit areas in top condition. In addition to commanding general recognition, the winners will have signs posted in their yards, and will receive special parking privileges at the commissary and exchange.

Celebrating right



Staff Sgt. Jesus A. Lora

Fox and Golf companies, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines, cook up some hearty chow, July 23, at Risley Field for the battalion of hungry Marines, Sailors, family, and friends, as well as some joint military service members who all recently returned from Hawaii Combined Arms Exercise 2002.

MarForPac Officer named best of the best

Cpl. Luis R. Agostini
MarForPac Public Affairs Office

CAMP H. M. SMITH, Hawaii — "I'm honored." Those were the words of Maj. William E. Hidle, avionics officer and future operations aviation plans officer, Marine Forces Pacific, who was recognized recently as the 2002 Marine Corps Aviation Association Aviation Ground Officer of the Year.

Hidle was recognized for this prestigious award for a myriad of achievements that encompassed vast aviation logistical support for on-going real-world military operations throughout MarForPac area of responsibility.

The Graham, Texas, native directly supported aircraft involved in Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Southern Watch, Northern Watch and Noble Eagle. With limited avionic resources, he ensured all aircraft on combat missions or scheduled to support a combat mission were logistically supported.

Hidle also managed the aviation logistics ship exercises of the USS Curtiss, one of only two ships that the Marine Corps owns, and improved the ship's strategic mobility posture.

He managed MarForPac's mobile facility program, implemented a new inspection process, and helped grant funding to repair mobile facility generators, which enhanced Marine air flexibility and deployability.



HILDE

According to Lt. Col. Jeffrey N. Stickel, MarForPac aviation plans officer, Hidle implemented sanity and clarity to the aviation operational/strategic planning and in the process, reduced the aviation logistic size, making it more mobile, flexible and survivable.

He also revised the aviation logistic portion for two major operational plans and reduced the logistics footprint ashore by more than 7,225 short tons.

According to Hidle, the aviation logistics problems and deficiencies that he examined and solved were not discoveries. "The problems already existed, but funds were hard to come by."

After Sept. 11, however, priority for funding escalated, which provided Hidle with an opportunity to take on the challenge of improving the command's aviation logistics program.

Hidle refused to take sole responsibility for his award. "Teamwork and reliance of my enlisted corps helped contribute to the success of the program. It's the NCOs who are on the road and inspecting the mobile facilities and coming back to us with the reports."

Hidle will receive his award Sept. 15, at the Marine Corps Aviation Association Reunion/Symposium in Norfolk, Va.

Looking for a few good photos

Maj. Whitney Mason
Marine For Life Public Affairs Officer

QUANTICO, Va. — Calling all Veteran Marines!

Whether you are retired, serving in the reserves or served way-back-when for one tour of duty, if you have a photo of yourself in uniform and one of yourself post active-duty, Marine For Life is looking for "before and after" photos for a promotional video currently in production.

The video will be shown to Marine Corps leadership, Marine-affiliated organizations, transitioning Marines, and Marine-friendly employers.

Marine For Life is a new program that provides networking assistance to Marines transitioning from active duty to the civilian world.

Photos must be received by Aug. 30. Electronic copies are preferred.

To send photos electronically, the e-mail address is: MarineForLife@MarineCorps.com. Only two photos may be sent per e-mail due system space constraints.

All hard copy photos will be returned.

They should be sent with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

Marine For Life
3280 Russell Road
Quantico, VA 22134
Attn: Video photos

For more information, contact Maj. Whitney Mason at (703) 614-4309/784-9140 or send him an e-mail message at masonw@hqmc.usmc.mil

WAIKANE, From A-1

prohibited.

"We felt that this was an important concession to make to the surrounding communities," said Maj. Chris Hughes, Director of Public Affairs, Marine Corps Base Hawaii. We have areas already we can develop these skills, what we need is an area to develop the jungle maneuver skills," he added.

There are some obstacles to resuming training in Waikane Valley. Used as a live-fire training areas from 1939-1976, the 187 acres was purchased through condemnation in 1994. Basically, the federal government purchased the property because it could not be cleaned to a suitable standard to be returned to private use. This has caused some concerns with the neighboring communities. Briefs are ongoing to ensure residents living in the

vicinity of the property that the Marine Corps' need is justified and that the training would not danger sensitive cultural sites, wildlife and vegetation. An environmental assessment study is also underway to assess these issues and dangers posed by unexploded ordnance in the valley.

"This area would offer a completely different kind of terrain than we're used to," said Claucherty. "It's basically a triple canopy jungle. There are places out there where you can't see five feet in front of you."

Training in every "clime and place" has always been a requirement for Marines. While a number of concerns and an EA will need to be addressed prior to the resumption of training, the requirement is exceedingly important now, post 9/11.

LONGTERM, From A-1

coverage, the waiting period before benefits kick in, the release said. Long-term care is not medical care but rather is designed to help people with chronic conditions to perform life functions.

Experts caution that since long-term care is not medical care, it isn't covered by many medical insurance plans, including Medicare and TRICARE.

For full details, visit the OPM Long-Term Care Insurance Web site at <http://www.opm.gov/inure/ltc/>. The point of contact for MCB Hawaii is Doris Chu at 257-1376.

1/3, From A-1

headquarters to celebrate the Marines' return, and spoke to the returning Marines and their guests about the importance of the mission they completed in the Philippines.

"I believe you made a difference," he told the Marines. "The violence in the area lessened. Rifle shots aren't heard throughout the night anymore. You made an impact and contributed to the long-term stability in the region."

It was really an interesting mission and I'm glad the Marines got to go. I'm also glad they all returned safe and sound."

THRIFT, From A-1

give scholarships to military spouses," said Melvin. "The AESC also does donation drives and holiday gift-wrapping events, but the majority of the funds for scholarships come from the Thrift Shop."

In addition to getting discounts on merchandise in the store, volunteers have the chance to do something helpful for the community while working at the Thrift Shop.

"It's really a lot of fun," said Bobbi Van Dyke, a volunteer for more than a year now. "We get to meet a lot of neat families, and it helps to get together with other spouses during deployments. The whole idea behind the club is to support each other."

While the main benefit of the AESC is military spouses supporting each other, the main benefit of the Thrift Shop is savings.

The Thrift Shop offers ball gowns for \$3, jeans for a dollar, turtleneck sweaters for 50 cents, and silk shirts for 75 cents.

The shop is full of brand-name items and all are in excellent condition.

Clothes aren't the only items customers can find in the Thrift Shop.

Antiques, dishes, furniture, sporting equipment, stuffed animals and Navy and Marine Corps uniform items are also available for extremely low prices.

The great buys at the store are also beneficial to new parents. Cribs with mattresses are \$10, strollers, high chairs and swings are \$3, and blankets, crib sheets and bumper pads are all under a dollar.

The Thrift Shop is a good place to find a variety of obscure items too. Hula skirts, 4-foot-tall stuffed animals, antique pottery, and vintage computers like the Commadore 64, are just a few items the shop makes available to customers.

The Thrift Shop also has a consignment program where customers can offer items for sale on the floor of the Thrift Shop.

"We're always accepting donations, and we have a big shed outside to keep donations protected when the shop is closed," said Melvin. "Anything we can't use for the Thrift Shop is donated to one of the community charitable organizations."

The Thrift Shop does not accept mattresses or items that are broken, and any items donated but not used in the store are transferred to Goodwill Industries, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, United Cerebral Palsey, and many other groups.

The Thrift Shop makes so many donations, it was recently recog-



Cpl. Jason Miller

Corporal Jose Maynes, left, Cpl. Benito Garza, center, and Chief Warrant Officer Robert Nazien, were recognized by the commanding general for their work.

CG honors 3rd Marine

Cpl. Jason E. Miller
Combat Correspondent

Three Marines from the 3rd Marine Regiment, Personal Services Center were recognized Monday by Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee in a ceremony aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

Chief Warrant Officer Robert Nazien, personnel officer at 3rd Marines PSC, Cpl. Jose Maynes, operations clerk at 3rd Marines PSC and Cpl. Benito Garza, new joins chief at 3rd Marines PSC were recognized in a letter to the commanding general from a member of the Key Volunteers.

When the Marine spouse apparently ran into troubles regarding a deployed spouse's pay, the PSC Marines came to her rescue by fixing the prob-

lem and making sure all was in order. She then took time to thank the Marines by writing a letter to the general, commending them for all their help in the situation.

"We were basically just doing our everyday job," said Maynes. "It still feels nice to be recognized like that, because it lets us know we are really doing something here."

The Marines were awarded the commanding general's coin in front of a formation in the Personal Services Office.

"It was a pretty informal deal," Maynes said. "The general came in and also recognized that we were only really doing our job, but that we'd done it well and really helped someone out."

nized as the Community Donor of the Year.

Specials at the shop bring prices even lower, with sales like brown bag day where customers can buy whatever fits in a brown paper bag for \$4 on the last Friday of every month.

The Thrift Shop is located on the corner of 3rd and E Streets, adjacent the Staff NCO Academy and Pless Hall, and across the street from the car wash and the Base Safety Center.

The shop is scheduled to open at 5 p.m. Monday, and regular hours will be announced once a new Thrift Shop shop manager is located.

For more information about volunteering, or to apply for the Thrift Shop manager position, call Mari Rollins at 254-8134, Wilma Melvin at 254-6523, or Alison Ghiselli at 685-5531.

Commandants of the world visit MCRD Parris Island

Marine Corps' top generals visit yellow footprints, Crucible, Leatherneck Square as part of U.S. tour

Cpl. Matt Preston
MCRD Parris Island

MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT/EASTERN RECRUITING REGION, PARRIS ISLAND, S.C. — General James L. Jones, Commandant of the Marine Corps, visited Parris Island, July 19, as part of the Inaugural Worldwide Commandants Conference.

General Jones, toured the depot with Marine commandants and commanders of naval infantry from 32 foreign countries.

They came to the United States to tour U.S. Marine Corps installations, share ideas, form goals and forge new relationships.

"During my tour as Commandant, I've had opportunities to meet with smaller regional groups of commandants. I've always found the conversations interesting and beneficial," said Gen. Jones. "I've looked forward to this conference for over a year."

While on Parris Island, the comman-



Cpl. Matt Preston

General James L. Jones, Commandant of the Marine Corps, steps onto the yellow footprints as part of the World Wide Commandants Conference July 17. With him came leaders of Marines and naval infantry from 32 foreign countries, who shared knowledge about each other's military capabilities.

dants toured The Crucible, the recruits' culminating event in training, observed the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program at the new Leatherneck Square and even

took their turn standing on the yellow footprints as recruits do when they first arrive on Parris Island.

The conference not only gave the lead-

ers an opportunity to discuss common issues, it was a chance to take back what they've learned from the U.S. military and other nations.

"It's been very, very, very interesting," said Capt. Karl Storgards, Finland's Coastal Jaegers' representative. "We have a very positive view of [the Marine Corps'] capabilities."

Though hosted by the United States, international cooperation was the focus for the conference.

"While the WWCC is held in the United States, the discussion is not intended to be driven solely by the United States," said John Boardman, political advisor to Gen. Jones. "These nations bring so much varied expertise to the table. Some are modeled upon the U.S. Marine Corps, some are small commando-type forces and some, particularly the Latin and South American forces, are built around riverine operations. We can all learn so much from each other."

Storgards said he was looking forward to working with regional ally Sweden, who also attended the conference.

Before coming to Parris Island, the guests visited Camp Lejeune, N.C., to observe a II Marine Expeditionary Force capabilities demonstration.

The conference wrapped up with a visit to Officer Candidates School in Quantico, Va.

No Mandatory Wait Period for Service Members to Become Citizens

Sgt. 1st Class Kathleen T. Rhem
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — All military members who are legal resident aliens can now apply for citizenship without a mandatory wait period.

There is a five-year conditional period from the time individuals get their green cards through the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service until they can apply to become naturalized U.S. citizens, INS officials said.

Under previous rules, that mandatory wait time was reduced to three years for military members. After a July 4 executive order, there is no mandatory wait period for military members.

"Thousands of our men and women in uniform were born in other countries and now spend each day in honorable service to their adopted land.

Many of them are still waiting for the chance to become American citizens because of the waiting period for citizenship," President Bush said in a July 4 speech in West Virginia.

White House officials said as many as 15,000 service members affected by the waiting period could now be eligible to apply for citizenship under the new rules. Department of Defense statistics put the number of legal resident aliens serving in the military at roughly 31,000.

"If someone got out of the military before the change, but has served since Sept. 11, that individual is still eligible to apply for naturalization," said INS spokesman Chris Bentley.

He explained the naturalization process typically takes eight to 10 months from the time an application packet is submitted until the oath of citizenship is administered.

An application packet must contain several INS forms, all available on the Internet, a set of fingerprints, and other documentation. Information on naturalization is on the Internet at www.ins.gov or available by calling the National Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-800-375-5283.

Individuals can also get assistance from INS field offices or the Application Support Center. Locations of these offices can be found on the agency's Internet site.

MAG-24 changes command, remains focused

Sgt. Robert Carlson
Combat Correspondent

Colonel Gregory C. Reuss took command of Marine Aircraft Group 24 during a change of command ceremony between Hangars 101 and 102 July 26.

Reuss replaced Col. William R. Murray, who is scheduled to report to Quantico, Va., for duty with the Marine Corps Combat Development Command.

Prior to reporting to MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Reuss served as executive assistant to the deputy commander in chief at U.S. Pacific Command.

Reuss enlisted in the Navy in 1972, and was commissioned a Marine 2nd lieutenant after graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1977.

Under Murray's command, MAG-24 deployed to every clime and place, including 10 locations around the Pacific.

The Group set the standard by flying more than 11,500 mishap-free hours and standing up the Unit Deployment Program again.

One of the biggest changes

came when the Group, known since 1995 as Aviation Support Element, Kaneohe Bay, was redesignated as MAG-24 in February.

"I'm really proud of the wonderful work they've done over the past two years," said Murray. "We even got to do some real [Marine Air Ground Task Force] training in Thailand during the most recent Cobra Gold exercise."

Squadrons in MAG-24 include Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362, currently on the UDP, HMH-363, HMH-463, Marine Helicopter Training Squadron 301, and Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24.

The Marines from HMT-363 were the first from MAG-24 to deploy for the UDP in more than five years, and Murray said that the program is one of the reasons MAG-24 is as ready for combat as it has ever been.

"We've always been focused on combat readiness, but now it's with a vengeance," Murray said. "I'm fully convinced that if we get called to go anywhere, we're ready."



Lance Cpl. Nick Riddle

Colonel Murray, facing away, passes the MAG-24 colors to Col. Reuss July 26.

Looks like a winner

The winning poster in the 2002 MCB Hawaii Hurricane Awareness Poster Contest was submitted by 8-year-old Blake Bishop. Bishop, who is a home-schooled 3rd grader, received an award from Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, commanding general, MCB Hawaii, Wednesday, for his efforts. The poster will be used in hurricane awareness materials throughout the hurricane season in Hawaii.