

# Hawaii MARINE

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Cpl. Jason Miller

Marines fast rope with Australians from an HMH-363 CH-53D "Sea Stallion" as Japanese observers watched.

## Japanese officials visit Marine, Australian training

**Cpl. Jason E. Miller**  
Combat Correspondent

While training between the 1st Royal Australian Regiment and 1st Battalion 3rd Marine Regiment continued on for its second consecutive week, 11 officials from Osaka and Kansai Japan were invited aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay to witness training events Tuesday.

The group, which consisted of Japanese scholars, journalists, politicians and other public figures were escorted by Col. Joseph Medina, commanding officer, 3rd Marine Regiment, and other commanders from within the regiment.

The trip to K-Bay was made in an effort to help key Japanese figures better understand the missions, objectives and capabilities of today's Marine Corps.

"We go to Japan and train all the time," said Maj. Andrew Kostic, executive officer of 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment. "We're showing them a little of the way we train to help increase their knowledge of what Marines can do. We want to sit them down with some of the young Marines and junior officers so they can see what we're really like."

During their tour, the guests witnessed several training evolutions including hand-to-hand combat training, fast-rope, an amphibious landing at Ft.



Cpl. Simon Martin

Eleven officials from Japan visited K-Bay Tuesday.

Hase Beach and a raid performed at the MCB Hawaii Range Training Facility. The visitors also dined on Meals Ready-to-Eat as they talked with some of the Marines.

The day's events allowed the officials a chance to see many aspects of Marine training, while still allowing time to meet Marines on a personal level.

"We're basically just increasing awareness," said Kostic. "The better they understand what we do and what we can do, the better we'll be able to work together in the future."

## SACO debunks myths about drug abuse, consequences

**Roger O'Guin**  
MCB Hawaii SACO

Seasoned Marines and Sailors have frequently learned the hard way that "barracks lawyers" or "sea lawyers" gouge and advice can get them into

serious trouble. Yet many of our people are choosing to listen to and make decisions based on bum scoop from drug users and dealers - then realizing their ill-informed decisions are going to make them miserable now and haunt

them for years to come.

Such bum scoop includes:

"The tests are so inaccurate, you can get the results thrown out if it ever gets to NJP or court martial, and only some of the samples are tested."

"Slip some Clorox into the cup or drink vinegar and you won't pop positive."

"Passive inhalation of marijuana will show up positive."

See DRUGS, A-2

## MCB Hawaii honors fallen Marine, friend

**Staff Sgt. Jesus A. Lora**  
Press Chief

Friends, family and fellow Marines remembered Gunnery Sgt. Noel J. Ramirez during a memorial service at the Base Chapel July 31.

Ramirez, 38, was a communications chief assigned to the 4th force Reconnaissance Co., on additional duty orders to communications chief school at Marine Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

His death July 7 sent shock waves through his family, friends and the Marine Corps.

The memorial service for Ramirez opened with heavenly sounds of bagpipes played by 1st Lt. Justin B Stodghill, assistant aircraft maintenance officer, Marine Helicopter Training Squadron 301

"To each of us, Noel was something different,"



Staff Sgt. Jesus A. Lora

Photos of Ramirez and his family were on display during the service.

said retired Gunnery Sgt. George Gagne. "To Diana his wife, he was a soul mate and husband. To Sarah, Crystal, Erica and Darlene he was teacher, disciplinarian and father to others a fellow Marine. To me, Noel."

Ramirez was, and still is, a teacher and very dear friend, who continues to touch my heart and soul," Gagne continued. "If I could take all the memo-

See MEMORIAL, A-6



Cpl. Jason Miller

The P-3 "Orions" can accomplish an array of missions.

## Skinny Dragons help locate, rescue kayaker

**Petty Officer 2nd Class Phil Hasenkamp**  
COMPATRECONFORPAC Public Affairs

With his cell phone battery dead, John Stockton knew that his best chance to stay alive was to be seen, not heard. Luckily for him, help was on its way.

An aircrew aboard Navy P-3C Orion aircraft saved a man's life off the coast here, July 30, after he had been adrift at sea in a kayak for more than two days.

Stockton met his rescuers for lunch last Friday. The crew members presented the survivor with myriad memorabilia, even though forgetting his experience is an impossibility.

The Patrol Squadron Nine aircrew spotted John Stockton, of Phoenix, Ariz., 188 miles southeast of Honolulu, and 100 miles west of Kona, Hi. From there they directed the response from a Coast Guard C-130 and rescue helicopter, which pulled the man to safety.

"We continued to orbit the site, as if to say, we're not going to leave you," said Navy Lt. Keith Demetriades, mission commander for the VP-9 P-3C Orion.

Spotting a tiny kayak in a huge ocean is a tall order. "I didn't know how to improve my chance for being seen. I didn't have flares or anything to shoot up to get their attention, but finally all of their hard work paid off and I was spotted. It was a miracle," said Stockton.

Aviation Warfare Technician 1st Class Gary Phillips and Aviation Warfare Technician 2nd Class Chad Lemerick saw Stockton from the P-3's windows nearly six hours into their search-and-rescue mission.

"We were all very tired when we found him. We had

See VP-9, A-5

## MCBH NEWS BRIEFS

### BIRDS, BUSHES AND BOULDERS

The MCB Hawaii Environmental Compliance and Protection Department will offer a chance to learn about the rich cultural and historical past of the Mokapu Peninsula during a "Birds, Bushes and Boulders" presentation Wednesday. The presentation will focus on the native wildlife and fauna found aboard MCB Hawaii, and will give insight into resource conservation and the environmental management practices of MCB Hawaii. Additionally, the presentation will touch on the Marine Corps mission and how it relates to the environment in Hawaii. The class will be Wednesday from 7 - 8:30 p.m. in Bldg. 1359 on Mokapu Road. For more information, or to sign up, call Michele Chang at 257-6920, extension 241. Please register by Monday.

### 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 is welcome. The focus of meeting will be on hunts on Oahu and neighboring islands. For information call Wally Heyer at 254-5739.

### MARINE CORPS MARATHON

For twenty-four years, the All-Marine Marathon Team has competed against the British Royal Navy/Marines at the Marine Corps Marathon. The team that wins the challenge wins the coveted Challenge Cup. In Addition, the All-Marine team competes against our sister services in the Armed Forces event. This year, the Marine Corps is determined to beat the British Royal Navy/Marines and take back the Challenge Cup and also the Armed Forces title. Last year was a royal Navy/Marine Corps victory. We are looking for male runners with a sub 2:55 marathon time, and female runners with a sub 3:30 time, to try out for the All-Marine Marathon team. Help the Marine Corps regain the accolades that are rightfully ours. Marines should refer to MARADMIN 297/02 on how to apply, or visit the MCCS web site at [www.usmc-mccs.org/running](http://www.usmc-mccs.org/running) for more information. Beat the Brits!!

### IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

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

## Hawaii MARINE

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# Civilian Marine resource web site launched

Press Release  
HQMC

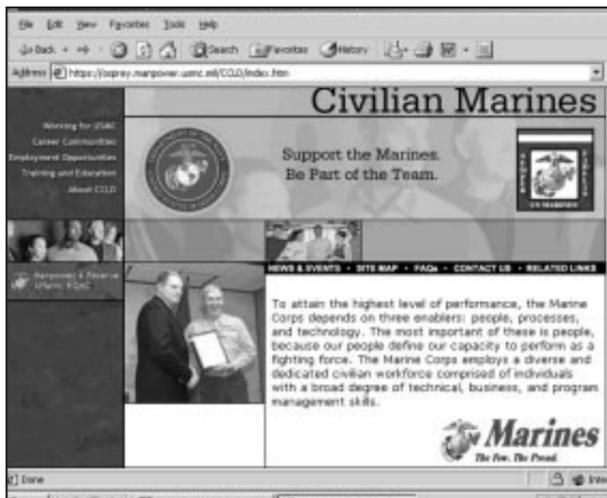
QUANTICO, Va.— The Civilian Career and Leadership Development Branch has launched a comprehensive web site that is available to all civilian Marines as well as to the general public.

The site will serve as a tool for providing pertinent information not only to those already in the USMC family, but also to those interested in starting a career as a civilian Marine.

Accessible through the USMC Internet homepage, the site offers details of the role of civilian Marines and the Marine team environment.

It has links to job opportunities for both civil service and non-appropriated fund positions.

The site incorporates or links to such information as education and development programs, human resources management programs, civilian career communities and quality of life programs.



The new Marine Corps Civilian Marines web site features resources to help civilian Marines in any job to succeed. Mentors, networking tools, manuals, guides and more can all be found with the click of a mouse.

At the stroke of a mouse, anyone can find a plethora of leadership development information.

Leadership competencies and definitions have been posted to this site as well as a leadership skills assessment that can be taken online.

Under the Mentoring headline can be found a

handbook to guide mentors and participants in establishing and maintaining career development relationships.

A major feature of the web site is the section on Career Communities.

The section will include information on the Communities of Interest as they are implemented.

It will include occupational information such as the core competencies and career paths for each community as well as the location of positions in each community.

The Career Communities section will have information that current and future employees can use to plan their careers.

According to Mr. David Amaral, CCLD Branch Head, "The possibilities for future uses of the web site are limitless. By taking advantage of the technologies we have today and beyond, we will be able to continue to improve how we communicate with our work force. This web site is one more step toward the Commandant's vision to make the Marine Corps the employer of choice."

To access the Civilian Marines web site from any USMC official web site, click on Careers, Civilian on the menu. You can also access it at <https://osprey.manpower.usmc.mil/CCLD/index.htm>.

## Pending bills to provide tax breaks for service members

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

WASHINGTON — Several initiatives in various bills before Congress now could sweeten military members' tax benefits if they become law.

Sure to be the most popular with the troops are proposals to extend combat-zone tax exclusions to Korea and members serving unaccompanied tours outside the United States. Lieutenant Col. Tom Emswiler, an Army tax lawyer and executive director of the Armed Forces Tax Council, said tax exemptions are immensely popular with service members but may not be the best thing for the troops or the Defense Department.

"A lot of our junior members don't pay a lot in the way of federal income taxes," he said. "If we're trying to target a problem, there may be more efficient ways than with a broad tax exclusion." Another break ad-

ressed in several pieces of pending legislation in both houses of Congress would exempt service members from a normal two-year residency rule for claiming a tax exclusion on an amount of profit on a home sale.

Under current law, individuals who live in a house at least two of the five years prior to the date they sell it, can exclude a certain amount of their gain from taxes. Each homeowner can exclude the first \$250,000 of gain, up to \$500,000 for married individuals filing jointly, Emswiler explained.

The current bind for some military members is that owning the home isn't enough — if military service were to take them away from the home long enough, the two-out-of-five-years rule might disqualify them for this tax break.

A third issue is the exemption from federal taxes of the whole \$6,000 death gratuity paid to families of military members who die on active duty.

## DRUGS: Drug use consequences extend beyond Marine Corps

From A-1

"Over the counter medicines cause false positives." "Eating poppy seeds cause false positives." "Using a Vick's inhaler causes a false positive for met amphetamines." "If you don't want to go on pump (deploy), do some drugs. They'll get rid of you quickly and your discharge is automatically upgraded after 6 months. No sweat."

If you believe all of that, I've got some swampland for sale...

What do you lose if you get discharged for drugs with a dishonorable or bad conduct discharge?

No military payment for accrued leave. No transportation for dependents and household goods. No mileage. No Naval Discharge Review Board. No disability, no medical benefits. No educational benefits or vocational rehabilitation. No job counseling, training, and placement. No home loan or business loan. No burial benefits. No federal job preference.

No employment with police, fire, or education departments. No farm loans. No naturalization benefits.

While each state offers different kinds of benefits to veterans, it doesn't matter for you - you're not eligible. Examples are educational benefits, computer training, subsidized home loans, and job preference.

Several military members have attempted to get the courts to restore benefits to them after being discharged for drug use - without success. Some quotes from cases include:

"Since the vast majority of discharges from the armed forces are honorable, the issuance of any other type of discharge stigmatizes the ex-serviceman. It robs him of his good name. It injures his economic and social potential as a member of the general community." *Sofranoff v. United States*.

There can be no doubt that a military discharge on other than honorable grounds in punitive in nature,

since it stigmatized the serviceman's reputation, impedes his ability to gain employment and is in life, if not in law, prima facie evidence against the serviceman's character, patriotism or loyalty," *Kauffman v Secretary of the Air Force*.

"Discharges 'under honorable conditions' and 'general' discharges do not establish eligibility for chapter 30 of Title 38 United States Code (education benefits under the Montgomery GI Bill)." Department of Veterans Affairs

Simply put, most employers ask for a copy of your discharge and make decisions based on the type of discharge or length of time served.

So remember how you feel when you swab decks, clean toilets, mow grass and pick up trash?

Do drugs on active duty and you'd better get used to the idea. Hello! Did you really believe a dealer had your best interests in mind?

Get real! Get straight.



## MCB Hawaii HQBN gets new commander



Lieutenant Col. Joseph G. Bowe, left, took over for Lieutenant Col. Bruce A. White as commanding officer of Headquarters Bn., MCB Hawaii, in a ceremony at Dewey Square Aug. 2. Bowe previously served as an assistant judge advocate at U.S. European Command in Stuttgart, Germany. White is scheduled to report to Camp Pendleton for duty with 1st Force Service Support Group.

## Pendleton Sailors stop at K-Bay for LCAC turnover

**Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero**  
Combat Correspondent

Four Landing Craft, Air Cushioned (LCAC), carrying more than 40 Sailors from Detachment Swap, Assault Craft Unit 5, based at Camp Pendleton, Calif., hovered onto Hale Koa Beach, aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Aug. 1.

The California-based unit is using Kaneohe Bay to exchange two old landing crafts with their forward deployed detachment based in Sasabeo, Japan.

"We rotate aircraft every three years," said Navy Lt. James T. Aikin, officer in charge of the detachment. "While here we will be performing all of the procedures to turnover the aircraft. Afterwards we will send two of their older aircraft back home to get overhauled and give two that

are ready for training."

Furthermore, it's essential for these aircraft to be in top-notch shape to transport weapons, equipment, cargo and personnel of the assault elements of a Marine Air-Ground Task Force both from ship to shore and across the beach.

The LCAC is a high-speed, over-the-beach fully amphibious landing craft capable of carrying between 60-75 tons.

"When the detachment returns to California the two returning LCAC's will undergo corrosion control inspections and every electronic and control system on the aircraft will be recalibrated," said Navy PO2 Joe White, craft engineer, LC-75. "In other words, all major machinery is removed, overhauled, and reinstalled."

The Sailors from ACU-5 will be aboard K-Bay till the end of August.



Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero



Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero

During the unit's month long stay; a series of inspections will be completed to perform a proper turnover of these LCACs.



Cpl. Jason E. Miller

## Close Combat

Sergeant Brian Harrell, a Marine Corps martial arts instructor at 3rd Marine Regiment's Regimental Schools, instructs Marines on the basics of hand-to-hand combat Aug. 2. The students are participating in a 3-week training program aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, to get their qualifications.

## Machinist delivers goods, thrives under pressure



Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero

Lance Corporal Michael Parke, a machinist with Combat Service Detachment 77, molds a thread similar to the six he made at Pohakuloa Training Area.

**Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero**  
Combat Correspondent

Amphibious Assault Vehicles played a major role during two amphibious landing evolutions performed by Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force 3 during the Rim of the Pacific Exercise July 14 and 18.

But the performance of the AAVs could have turned out somewhat different during both evolutions if it weren't for the endless hours of dedication from a machinist with maintenance platoon, Combat Service Support Detachment 77, attached to SPMAGTF-3.

While at Pohakuloa Training Area, Lance Cpl. Michael Parke fabricated six thread inserts needed to repair a tow hitch on an AAV.

The work was accomplished one day prior to the SPMAGTF-3 boarding the ship.

"There was a time limit on when the AAV was supposed

to splash and with a missing hitch it wouldn't have been safe to go in the water therefore causing a strain on the training evolutions," said Parke.

It took seven hours for Parke to design and make the inserts and more importantly to fabricate it from a \$15.00 piece of steel.

"The hardest part of machining is when you are forced to rush," said the Rehoboth, Delaware native. "It's easy to make a quick mistake that could ruin your work."

Fortunately for SPMAGTF-3, they had a machinist with the focus and ability of Parke.

"It's the nonstop efforts of junior Marines like Lance Cpl. Parke that the Marine Corps envisions for a better future," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Celestino M. Perales, maintenance platoon commander, CSSD-77. "This Marine is a hard worker and has unlimited potential."

## WORD ON THE STREET

### Australian Army:

"How did you like training with the U.S. Marines in Hawaii?"



"It's been a great chance to see the way you all work and operate some interesting weapons systems"

**Pvt. Michael Bobon**  
Engineer,  
3rd Combat  
Engineer Reg.

"It's good to learn how you blokes operate. It's all been a great learning experience."

**Pvt. James Cole**  
Group  
commander,  
8th Plt., Charlie  
Co.



"It's good to see the similarities and the differences we have."

**Pvt. Carl Littlejohn**  
Group  
commander,  
8th Plt., Charlie  
Co.

"I've seen a lot of differences in the ways we work in everything from logistics to PT."

**Pvt. Jared Fellows**  
Combat clerk,  
Charlie Co. head-  
quarters



"The training has all been good working with the Marines. Comparing the ways we work has been really great, and I think we've all learned a lot."

**CWO-2 Steven Boye**  
Company sergeant  
major,  
Charlie Co.

# EVERY CLIME AND PLACE

## Marine Forces UNITAS finishes pre-deployment training

**Sgt. Sam Lille**  
Marine Forces UNITAS

**ABOARD THE USS PORTLAND (LSD-37)** — Political unrest sweeps through a nation and American lives are at risk. Sitting offshore is a Marine amphibious force—reinforced with a platoon of amphibious assault vehicles— anxiously awaiting any mission that may come its way.

As revolt spreads, tension increases. While U.S. citizens try to reach safety, panic ensues at the gates of a beleaguered American embassy.

Soon, the Marines receive their marching orders: get the civilians out of harm's way. Plans are drawn; the Marines are briefed.

Soon, they will load into their Amphibious Assault Vehicles and splash toward shore.

Though the aforementioned scenario is fictitious, the possibility of it happening is all too real in today's world. Keeping this in mind, reserve Marines of Marine Forces UNITAS, launched from the well deck here, July 29, to perform a simulated noncombatant evacuation operation at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

The NEO capped off a week-long series of amphibious exercises, in Onslow Bay, designed to prepare the unit for its upcoming deployment to Latin America.

"The Marines were clearly enthusiastic about the training," said Lt. Col. Anthony Hattey, commanding officer, MarFor UNITAS. "They knew it was a milestone they needed to reach before we head to South America."

In addition to the NEO, the Marines conducted a pre-dawn practice raid and learned the art of planning for sea-based

operations. Observing the exercises were active duty and reserve Marines from II Marine Expeditionary Force.

The observers' critiques were a valuable asset.

"The opportunity to hear from the subject matter experts in amphibious operations was outstanding," said Hattey. "We gained a lot of valuable insight from them."

It was motivating for the Marines too.

"Apparently, we got the stamp of approval from them," said Lance Cpl. Alan Reifenberg, a fire team leader from New York. "Being reserves, some of us went into this feeling second class. To have them give us the 'good to go' really boosted our confidence."

Hattey's Marines seemed to understand the importance of their training.

"It's best that we learn to do these things now, not when it's time to do it for real," said Lance Cpl. Jim Larrow, an AAV crewman from Riverview, Fla. "During training, you can make and learn from your mistakes. We know that we don't want to be doing something for the first time when it's a matter of life and death." According to Lance Cpl. Mike Brown, an infantryman from Boston, the experience was priceless.

"After these workups, I know how my fellow Marines work," said Brown. "Now I know what my squad leader is thinking, even without him saying a word."

With the evolution behind them, the Marines are looking forward to nearly a week of training and liberty at Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek, Va. They are scheduled to depart the United States in early August and to return in December.



Sgt. Sam Lille

An amphibious assault vehicle, from Marine Forces UNITAS, splashes off the USS Portland (LSD-37) during a noncombatant evacuation operation as part of their pre-deployment training off the coast of Camp Lejeune, N.C., July 29.

## Like father, like son: Marines serve country together aboard 11th MEU

**Sgt. Brian J. Griffin**  
11th MEU (SOC)

**ABOARD THE USS DENVER** — For CWO-2 Armando Garcia, Battalion Landing Team 3/1 Gunner, taking his son on a six-month deployment with him never crossed his mind.

At least not until the Marine Corps sent both his son, Cpl. Armando Garcia, and him to BLT 3/1, 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable).

Now the father and son team are traveling the world together, just on different ships.

"I see deploying together as being something unique, out of the ordinary and a great opportunity for me and my son," said CWO-2 Garcia, aboard the USS Belleau Wood (LHA-3). "We had to leave our family back in San Diego, but at every port, we reunite with each other. It is just like having a piece of home wherever we are."

Corporal Garcia, who lives on the USS Denver (LPD-9), understands the deployment with his father is something not many people get to experience.

"My dad and I went out and had dinner while out on liberty in Singapore," said Cpl. Garcia. "How many people can say that?" Both father and son also point out the fact they get to



Sgt. Brian J. Griffin

While in port in Singapore, CWO-2 Armando Garcia and his son Cpl. Armando Garcia, stand on the flight deck of the USS Denver. Father and son are deployed with Battalion Landing Team 3/1, 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) to the Western Pacific and Arabian Gulf Regions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

watch over one another and make sure each stays safe.

"I'm concerned at times from the parent standpoint, but I know the training provided has prepared him for anything, and that puts me at ease," said CWO-2 Garcia.

Worry not only falls on the father's shoulders, but also the son's, who has the same concerns about his father.

"Of course I naturally worry about him, because he's my father. But I know he can take care of himself and he knows I can

take care of myself," said Cpl. Garcia. "It does make me more comfortable though."

Sergeant Jose Bernal, a friend of the family also on the deployment, sees this as a good experience for the Garcias, and is slightly envious of their oppor-

tunity to deploy together.

"One of the best parts must be they don't have to worry about each other as much," said Bernal. "They know almost exactly what the other is doing because they are with each other, just on different ships. Seeing them together makes me wish I had my dad here also."

Traveling the world as a father and son team is a rare experience for Marines, and the Garcias know it. They are looking forward to future stops and spending more time together.

"I'm looking forward to visiting other places in the world with my dad," said Cpl. Garcia. "This is really something not many other people can say they have done."

His dad couldn't agree with him more, as he looks forward to spending time together with his son on deployment.

When the deployment is over, he looks forward to going home together to tell stories about his once in a lifetime opportunity to have his son on deployment with him.

"I'm glad we're here together. This is a great opportunity for both of us," CWO-2 Garcia said. "We are looking forward to a safe return, together, back to the States."

# Marines, Aussies finish training, face off during sports day

Story and Photos by  
**Cpl. Jason E. Miller**  
 Combat Correspondent

After more than a week of intense training that included live-fire drills, martial arts training and fast-ropeing all around the Island of Oahu, Marines from the 3rd Marine Regiment and Royal Australian Army Soldiers gathered together at Risely Field aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay for an outdoor sports day.

The 118 Australian soldiers who are currently training with 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines, matched up against their counterparts in several athletic activities. Softball, rugby, pugil sticks and even hackey sack were featured at the day-long event.

"It's always good to get out and spend a little time for some physical training on the playing field," said Chief Warrant Officer Steven Boye, Charlie Co., sergeant major, Royal Australian Army.

Before the event formally began, a competition was held at the base obstacle course, to see which group could make it through the course in the least amount of time.

The Australians managed to beat out the Marines by a significant time on their own course.

Both the Australians and the Marines remained competitive throughout the day. In softball, the Marines managed to hang on to a victory after the Australians, who do not practice the sport in their home country,



**Above — The highlight of the sports day was the friendly pugil stick battles. Right — The Australian warriors had the opportunity to show the Marines how football is played "Down Under."**

made a last-minute run to bring the game to a near tie.

"It's a lot like cricket," one Australian said. "We don't play softball, but we're used to this kind of game, so we didn't do so bad."

Sometime around noon, 1/3 Marines fired up the barbecue, and the events were put on hold as service members dined on hot dogs, hamburgers and a variety of other fresh foods.

When it came time for pugil stick matches, the rivalry between the Marines and Aussies was heated, and needless to say, the battles that raged were very intense.

In the end though, both sides won their share of matches and good sportsmanship by both sides made the events enjoyable to everyone in attendance.



## VP-9, From A-1

been looking out the window at the water for about six hours and our eyes had begun to glaze over a little when suddenly, there he was," said Lemerick.

A wave of relief washed over Stockton.

"It was so encouraging to just see them flying over. By that time, I was so excited about even the possibility of getting rescued," he said.

When the aircrew made a positive identification they dropped a smoke signal and continued to circle Stockton while they directed the incoming Coast Guard C-130 to his location.

The C-130 dropped a life raft and continued to circle the site as well.

At that point the P-3 crew moved to 1,300 feet and switched roles to Scene-of-Action commander, which included responsibility for directing the efforts of the rescue helicopter.

The Coast Guard helo came in, pulled Stockton to safety, sunk the kayak and life raft, and transported the survivor to the hospital.

"This is one of the greatest moments I've had as a pilot," said Demetriades.

Although Stockton was not seriously injured, his condition was beginning to deteriorate.

Over the previous two days, he had capsized over 20 times in rough seas, and his body was beginning to show signs of exposure. "We went out there in the morning with a really focused mentality. The last we had heard was that [Stockton] was calling for help from his cell phone 2 days prior, but his cell phone died. So by our calculations he had been in the water for over 50 hours, and that this was our best shot to find him," he continued.

"It's the best mission in the world," said Phillips. "We do all kinds of neat stuff. We track foreign submarines, we shoot missiles. But of the missions that we do, this is what really matters. Somebody can go home with their wife, that, if we hadn't been there, wouldn't."

Although the rescue was a significant event, VP-9 aircrews are no strangers to search-and-rescue missions. In fact, P-3C Orion aircraft are the bailiwick of maritime patrol and reconnaissance. If you want to find something, ask a P-3 crew to help.

"SAR is part of our bag of tricks. Living on this island we are aware that we're an asset for many SAR operations. Even when we go on deployment, we're put on many, many SAR missions," Demetriades said. "It's hard to tell your aircrew that you're going out to look at water for nine hours. But we're always vigilant, because if we were in [Stockton's] shoes, we would

definitely want someone out there looking for us. It boils down to compassion, and the fact that this is our job," he continued.

"When I saw the Navy plane circling above, I just knew that America's finest were up there and that if anyone was going to find me, it would be them. They deserve all the credit they get regularly because they really do work their tails off. Everything they do, all the training and hard work paid off big time for me. That's why I'm here today. So I'm very appreciative to them and of all of their hard work and training," Stockton said.

VP-9's home is Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. The squadron was on station during the Sept. 11th attacks, and was instrumental in Operation Enduring Freedom.

# Recycling satellite program needs support to continue

**Sgt. Robert Carlson**  
*Combat Correspondent*

The MCB Hawaii Base Recycling Center set up a pilot program to collect recyclables in the housing areas aboard the base, and has had less than 1 percent participation over the past two months.

The program was initiated because of base resident requests to start collecting recyclables in the housing areas.

A trailer in the Rainbow housing area is set up to collect cans, bottles, newspapers, and other recyclable materials, and a separate bin is in place to collect cardboard.

Marine Corps Base Hawaii cut the curbside recycling program more than a year ago, and residents had been required to take materials to the base recycling center near the marina if they wanted to participate in the recycling program.

"We can expand the program in the future, and set up more collection locations, if the program is successful," said James Sibert, program manager at the MCB Hawaii Recycling Center. "We

need more people to participate in order for us to consider expanding the program."

Sibert said his goal is to get 5 percent of the roughly 2,200 occupied base housing units to participate in the pilot program.

While that is only half of the participation the curbside collection program had, Sibert said that participation in the satellite collection program should increase if more collection points are deployed.

To continue the program, and add other collection points, the recycling center needs more households to participate.

"The curbside program was not cost effective," said Sibert. "The money spent on collection was more than double what the recyclables were worth."

With much less overhead, the Base Recycling Center can help base residents keep their recyclable materials from making it to the landfills.

The MCB Hawaii Recycling Center is completely self-supporting, and money generated from recycling operations goes to pay for staff salaries, and opera-



Sgt. Robert Carlson

**The satellite collection facility is on the corner of Pancoast Street and Bingham Way, in the same parking lot as the lending locker, housing office and veterinary clinic.**

tional costs associated with running the operation.

In addition to supporting nearly 2,200 households on the base, the center supports every Marine and Navy tenant unit.

Supporting the pilot program, and enhancing the recycling program aboard MCB Hawaii is easy. Residents need on-

ly bring their recyclables to the satellite collection point, and make an entry in a log book. The payoff may be increased collection points, which means even more convenient recycling.

If at least 5 percent of households on base participate, the program can continue, and MCB Hawaii can have an efficient, convenient recycling alternative.

## MEMORIAL, From A-1

ries and build a stairway,  
 I would build a stairway  
 to heaven and use it to  
 bring you back to us, but  
 I cannot. Your friendship  
 and love will live on in  
 my heart. Rest well my  
 friend, my brother. Until  
 we meet again."

The Marine Forces Pacific Band played taps, and the notes filled the chapel and blessed everyone within earshot.

The crisp, sharp notes ended the memorial service, and began a new time of healing, as condolences, prayers and support were offered to the Ramirez family.

Guests shared words of support with the family, and their hugs and embraces raised hopes.

Memories from family, friends and Marines were shared, but no one conveyed more emotion than one of his daughters. Sarah Ramirez, 16, expressed her feelings with a poem:

*Now it's time to say good-bye,*

*It hurts so very much  
 I don't think we'll ever  
 understand why*

*Our souls forever you  
 touch*

*All the good times that we  
 had*

*Mean so much to us  
 Even the times you made  
 us mad*

*We'll always love you,  
 can't you see?*

*It'll be hard to know your  
 not here*

*To know that you are gone  
 We will always keep you  
 near*

*Even more when we feel  
 we can't move on*

*To the man we are proud  
 to call our dad*

*We love you with our  
 whole entire hearts*

*When we think of you  
 we'll never be sad*

*We owe our lives to you,  
 and we'll never ever part*

*We love you Dad*



**RAMIREZ**