

Hawaii MARINE

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December 20, 2002

'Mele Kalikimaka'



Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero

Brigadier Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, commanding general, MCB Hawaii, personally delivered his warmest holiday greetings to the community of Waimanalo during the Waimanalo Christmas Parade, Saturday.

MCB Hawaii extends to all 'Happy Holiday' greetings

Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero
Combat Correspondent

A group of more than 30 Marines including the commanding general of MCB Hawaii, and members of the Marine Forces Pacific Band displayed their neighborly love to the Waimanalo community by participating in its seasonal parade, Saturday.

This year's Waimanalo Christmas Parade began at Waimanalo District Park and dissolved at Waimanalo Beach

District Park.

An MCB Hawaii color guard piloted more than 100 marchers, 18 vehicles and five floats across the city strip of more than three miles.

Meanwhile, the MarForPac Band marched right behind the color guard entertaining the crowd with such patriotic tunes as the "Marines Hymn," "Battle Cry of Freedom" and the immortal John Phillip Souza's "Semper Fidelis."

Following the band was Brig. Gen Jerry C. McAbee, commanding general, MCB

Hawaii, and his wife Margaret.

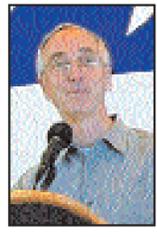
They rode inside Chevrolet Corvettes and wished all those who gathered a "Happy Holiday" and "Happy New Year."

"One of our training areas is Marine Corps Training Area Bellows, which is part of Waimanalo," said Brig Gen. McAbee. "That makes the people in Waimanalo our neighbors."

"Our participation in the parade pro-

See PARADE, A-8

SecNav sends holiday message



"During this Holiday season, Sailors and Marines around the globe stand watch over our nation.

ENGLAND

"For the second year in a row, you serve during a defining moment in our history — the war on global terrorism. Whether you sail off distant shores, stand the point on foreign soil, or serve at home, I know that every Marine, Sailor and civilian in the Department of the Navy is ready to answer our nation's call.

"We all have something in common during this season. At this time of year, mankind pauses in spiritual reflection and thoughts turn to peace, harmony and joyous celebrations with family and friends.

"This Christmas, the mere image of a Sailor or Marine in uniform will evoke special meaning to Americans at home and our friends around the world.

"By providence, your service is making a difference in the pursuit of "peace and harmony" that is the true spirit of the holidays.

"Americans are proud of you, and so am I for the gift you give us everyday.

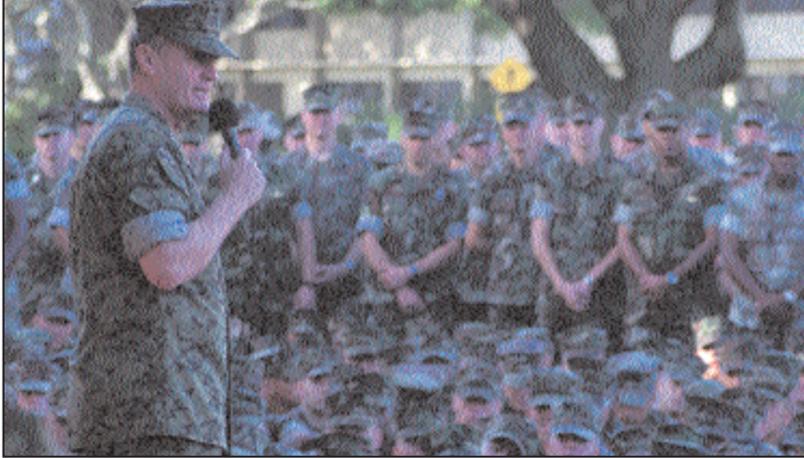
"It has been a privilege to serve with you in these historic times.

"During this season of hope, please accept my best wishes for a safe and joyous holiday season.

"Thank you for your service, and God bless each of you, your families and the United States of America."

Honorable Gordon R. England
Secretary of the Navy

CMC makes final rounds, stops at MCBH



Cpl. Richard W. Holtgraver

General James L. Jones, Commandant of the Marine Corps, says farewell to the Marines and Sailors of MCB Hawaii.

Cpl. Jason E. Miller
Combat Correspondent

General James L. Jones is preparing to move on in his career after spending more than three years as the Commandant of the Marine Corps, but not before making his final rounds at numerous Marine Corps bases and stations around the globe.

The commandant and Sgt. Maj. Alford L. McMichael, Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, arrived at MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Tuesday, for a final chance to speak with Hawaii Marines

and Sailors and attend several ceremonies for the occasion.

After an 8:30 a.m., all-hands formation of Marines and Sailors at Dewey Square, where he gave a speech to hundreds of on-lookers, the commandant proceeded with his envoy to the new housing area of the base to present keys to a newly finished house for a couple waiting to move in.

"Last time I was here, less than a year ago, this area was not yet finished," said Gen. Jones. "It's really a great thing to be standing here in the completed new

housing for our Marines and Sailors."

The commandant then proceeded to the Pacific War Memorial where he presented awards and re-enlisted more than 30 Marines and Sailors. Those in formation were also presented with coins as the commandant broke ranks to present the awards.

The Officers' Club was the next stop for Gen. Jones, where he spoke and dined with key personnel and commanders. A symposium was then held at the base

See CMC, A-8

Readers, enjoy *Military Sun Press* Dec. 27 and Jan. 3; *Hawaii Marine* returns Jan. 10.

MCBH NEWS BRIEFS

K-BAY BIRDS GET COUNTED

In partnership with the National Audubon Society, MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, will conduct its annual bird count on Saturday from 8:45 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.

The Christmas bird count is a coast-to-coast annual bird census held throughout the U.S. for more than 100 years because the trend analysis provides an indication of the overall health of our environment.

Anyone interested in assisting in the Mokapu Peninsula count can call Dr. Eric Vanderwerf at 377-7114. To support any effort on Oahu, call Arlene Buchholz at 988-9806.

To support MCB Hawaii's natural resources programs, contact Dr. Diane Drigot at 257-6920, ext. 224.

SATELLITE POST OFFICE UP AND RUNNING

To help ease holiday lines, the Base Post Office has opened a satellite facility in the old Photo Shop located in the Mokapu Mall, Kaneohe Bay. Patrons may mail letters or items at the satellite location through Monday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., today and Monday, and from noon to 8 p.m., Saturday. The satellite location will be closed on Sunday, and cash only transactions will be accepted for parcels, stamps and express mail.

CLINIC SETS HOURS

The hours for the Branch Medical Clinic aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, will change for the holidays. The clinic will be open Tuesday and Dec. 31 from 7:30 a.m. until 12 p.m. It will be closed on Christmas Day.

On New Year's Day, the K-Bay BMC will be open for sickcall from 8 a.m. until 10 a.m. Family appointments will be scheduled from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m.

The Acute Care Clinic aboard Pearl Harbor will be open on Tuesday and Dec. 31 from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. The Acute Care Clinic will be open on Christmas and New Year's from 8 a.m. till 4 p.m.

IMPORTANT NUMBER

On-Base Emergencies 257-9111

Hawaii MARINE

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Heroic Marine gets award

Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero
Combat Correspondent

The barracks manager for Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24 was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation by the Honolulu City Council and a Certificate of Commendation by the Honolulu Fire Department at the



Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle

Corporal John C. Kolb, the barracks manager for Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24, was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation by the Honolulu City Council and a Certificate of Commendation by the Honolulu Fire Department.

HFD training facility, Nov. 20.

Corporal John C. Kolb received these awards for heroic actions and selfless service to the community while attempting to save the life of an elderly woman who was struck by a vehicle, Sept. 7.

"It's nice to receive recognition for what you have done, but no award compares to knowing you did all you could during someone's time of need," said Kolb.

On the morning of the incident, Kolb was driving towards Kalaeloa, to compete in a triathlon. While driving, he slowly approached a car that was parked in the middle of the road. That's when he noticed a man overlooking a woman who was lying face down on the gravel pavement.

Kolb then decided to park his vehicle, call 911 and find out the overall situation. He approached the nervous gentleman and asked him what happened. The gentleman replied, "I didn't even see her coming."

"I didn't know what to think of the situation," said Kolb. "I went from thinking about the course of events for the triathlon to a life-saving mode."

After assessing the situation, Kolb began rescue breathing.

"The training I had received since enlisting in the Marine Corps kicked in, and I knew what to do, what to check and who to call," said Kolb.

Kolb performed the five cycles of rescue breathing when a nurse on her way to work stopped on the scene and assisted.

A couple of minutes later, emergency medical technicians from the Honolulu Fire Department arrived and took charge of the scene. Kolb was asked to resume rescue breathing.

"You sit through these classes and Marines think, 'when am I ever going to use this,'" said Kolb. "This brings the evolutions full circle. Because we are trained to know how to do something, when the task arrived, I performed it flawlessly."

Although the woman received timely emergency care, her massive head trauma was too serious. She was pronounced dead on the scene.

"I felt like I was in a movie, and I separated myself from the events that occurred," said Kolb. "When reality and yourself combine, it becomes a surreal moment when you suddenly realize that someone has just died."

Despite the traumatizing events, Kolb still maintained his composure to place third for his age group at the triathlon with a time of 1:08:47.

"Kolb's actions displayed a high-level of fortitude, mentality and charisma that epitomizes what a Marine is all about," said Lt. Cdr. Hugh Rankin, executive officer, MALS-24.

Choy judges Chef of the Year

Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle
Combat Correspondent

The Chef of the Quarter winners tried to take it all during the Chef of the Year competition Wednesday at Anderson Hall Dining Facility.

Each of competitors' dishes were judged on appearance, taste, presentation and individual knowledge in cooking.

This year's guest judges included world-renowned chef Sam Choy, along with representatives from Outrigger Hotels, Food Solutions, United Benefits Financial Association and Marine Corps Community Services' Chef Renato.

Each of the competitors began preparing ingredients along with choosing decorative garnishes for their dishes the night prior

to the competition.

After tasting all the wonderful dishes, the judges' had to make the decision as to which competitor deserved the coveted title of Chef of the Year.

Sergeant Wilfred Castillo, a food service specialist from Headquarters Co., 1st Bn., 12th Marine Regiment, walked away with top honors after winning the judges' approval with his mouth-watering pork with chili sauce, simmered beans, Mexican style rice, layered bean dip and a caramel custard dessert.

Castillo was awarded a 96-hour pass, a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and a personal trophy donated by Outrigger Hotels, along with a ten-inch chef's knife and a three-day, two-night stay at the Outrigger Waikiki Hotel.

"It is major accomplishment to win the competition," said Castillo. "My wife supported me all the way. I know she was proud of me."

Castillo got the idea for his dish when another Marine said he should create an ethnic dish from a Hispanic cookbook.

"I had a hard time choosing the winner," said Choy. "I could tell that each competitor put a lot of time and hard work into their dishes."

"It is easy to think of a great dish, the challenge is putting it together and making it taste good. Castillo did just that."



Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle

World-renowned Chef Sam Choy looks over various dishes in the Chef of the Year competition.

COMMENTARY

'Is it a wonderful life?' chaplain asks

Navy Chaplain (Lt.) Cartus Thornton
Headquarters Bn.,
MCB Hawaii Chaplain

I have to say, that of all Christmas movies Frank Capra's film "It's a Wonderful Life" is my favorite. My wife Cathy and I make it a point to sit down and watch it each year during the Christmas season. It is a delightful story that causes us to focus on what is really important in life and how our lives influence those around us. It's a story about prayer and how God can help us "see" the silver lining in life's adversities.

Of course there is a little fantasy that is built into the story line, like Clarence, the second-class angel trying to get "his wings" (when we know that angels already have wings!).

The story begins with prayers being offered by residents of Bedford Falls, N.Y., for a man named George Bailey who was at the end of his rope, and was contemplating suicide,

"Every decision we make affects countless other people in many ways."

Navy Chaplain (Lt.) Cartus Thornton
Headquarters Bn., MCB Hawaii Chaplain

"throwing away God's greatest gift" as the film says.

George Bailey believes that it would have been better if he had never been born. God, through the agency of Angel Second Class Clarence Oddbody, grants him that wish. George Bailey gets to see what the world would be like if he had never been born.

In an instant the world changes. Bedford Falls, the Currier & Ives village in upstate New York, becomes a Sodom and Gomorrah. People are dead who were alive because of George Bailey.

People's lives are ruined because they haven't been saved by George Bailey. In the end, George realizes that with all its problems and sufferings, his life is still a wonderful life.

"You see, George [Clarence says] you've really had a wonderful life. Don't you see what a mistake it would be to throw it away?"

Every person's life affects other lives in many ways — that's the message of the film.

The other day I was talking to a Marine about the effect that the decisions we make have on our lives and the lives of others, especially those closest to us.

Every decision we make affects countless other people in many ways. The attraction of "It's a Wonderful Life" is that it is about a man who felt his life was unimportant. He wanted to travel to far away places, but never got out of his small hometown.

See LIFE, A-6



Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero

Marines from CSSG-3 pack up gear after completing the group's deployment to MCTAB Dec. 2 to conduct a Field Training Exercise and to participate in a command post exercise labeled Ryukku Express.

Marines, Sailors assist during Ryukku Express

Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero
Combat Correspondent

More than 800 Marines and Sailors from Combat Service Support Group 3, returned home from Marine Corps Training Area Bellows, today.

The group deployed to Bellows Dec. 2 to conduct a Field Training Exercise and to participate in a command post exercise labeled Ryukku Express.

"This is the first time CSSG-3 has deployed to the field to exercise field craft and combat service support at the same time," said Maj. Janet M. Doerning, tactical logistics operations center officer, CSSG-3. "Additionally, this is the first time we have included other elements from a Marine Air-Ground Task Force."

During the scenario-driven Ryukku Express, 3rd Force Service Support Group designated the group to serve as a Direct Support

Group in support of maneuver elements.

"We would get Intel feeds and react to the situation in regards to resupply missions, rapid request for maintenance and to support the maneuver elements with all functions," said Doerning.

Besides assisting 3rd FSSG with Ryukku Express, the group got an opportunity to practice its field craft skills as well as combat service support in conjunction with Marine Aircraft Group 24 and 3rd Marine Regiment.

"We need to practice our service support capabilities while performing our field crafts," said Doerning. "When we deploy, we are in direct support of a MAGTF. Therefore, by conducting an exercise in conjunction with the other elements, we're enhancing our capabilities to work together."

Some of the field training included nuclear, biological, and chemical decontamination scenarios; evacua-

tion control center scenarios; a helo support team exercise; rear area security; perimeter defense; patrolling using aggressor platoons; night driving using night vision goggles; and supply and maintenance capabilities in a field environment.

"By conducting these exercises, we were able to better understand the planning process of a combined evolution," said Doerning. "It allowed us to understand the importance of military occupational specialty proficiency and basic field craft that all Marines should know."

All in all, the evolutions that evolved at Bellows served as a learning experience for the group as a whole and for the individual Marine.

"These exercises let me get out of my normal work routine," said Lance Cpl. Will Hogue, small computers specialist, CSSG-3. "It also provided me an opportunity to sharpen my skills as a Marine in the field."

CSSG-3 refines NBC techniques

Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero
Combat Correspondent

Based on the threat from the "axis of evil" of which President George W. Bush has spoken, there may be a high risk that terrorists or hostile countries will either have developed the technology or already have the capability to employ weapons of mass destruction.

More than 120 Marines and Sailors from Combat Service Support Group 3, Marine Forces Reserve and 3rd Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment, honed their nuclear, biological, and chemical techniques while performing a thorough decontamination exercise at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows, Dec. 10.

"We have to be prepared to counter that threat," said Staff Sgt. Caleb D. Eames, NBC officer, CSSG-3. "It all comes down to accomplishing the mission in a nuclear, chemical, biological or radiological environment."

During the exercise, the warriors from CSSG-3 sharpened their skills of decontaminating both equipment and personnel.

Some of the equipment



Lance Cpl. Samantha Kast

Marines from CSSG-3 hose off contaminated vehicles during a decontamination exercise, Dec. 10. This evolution provided the group and other units involved with the opportunity to enhance their NBC skills for a real-world situation.

decontaminated during the exercise included Humvee's, 5- and 7-ton trucks and amphibious assault vehicles.

"CSSG-3 rarely ever gets to practice decontaminating AAVs," said Sgt. Rex Johnson, NBC chief, CSSG-3. "Today's exercise will familiarize Marines with vehicles and equipment outside their everyday scope."

According to the NBC gurus at CSSG-3, this was

the first time in the last year that the group as a whole participated in a decontamination exercise.

"This exercise sharpens our edge by letting us practice what we preach," said Cpl. Clint Schwartz, NBC training NCO, CSSG-3. "In addition, it allows Marines to learn how they are going to need to operate in a real-world situation."

All in all, this exercise provided the group and

other units involved with the opportunity to enhance and sustain some much-needed survival training while still performing their everyday tasks.

"If the support is not ready for this type of threat, then we can't perform our mission of supporting the infantry," said Sgt. Keith Miller, NBC specialist, CSSG-3. "That's what combat service support is all about."

WORD ON THE STREET

"Is it better to give or to receive, and why?"



"It is better to receive when you are on a fixed income like I am."

Lance Cpl.
Eric Ginter

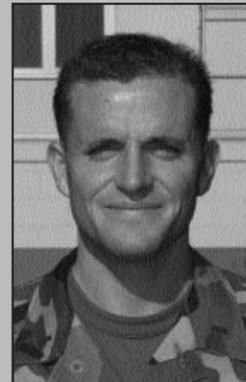
Rifleman
Bravo Co., 1/3



"It is better to give because there are a lot of people who need help in the world today."

Ernest Wong

Custodian
Mokapu
Elementary School



"The key is to find the proper balance between giving and receiving."

1st Lt.
Sean McCarthy

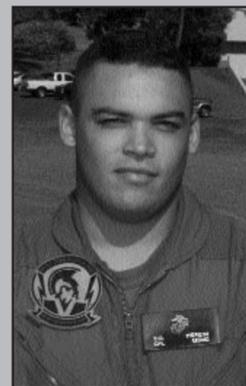
Research, Evaluation and Analysis officer
Headquarters Bn.,
MCB Hawaii



"The beauty of giving is that you get to receive as well."

Camara Sherp

Social Services
assistant
Personal Services,
MCCS



"It is better to give because you can brighten up someone's day."

Cpl. Tom Hereim

Crash crewman
Aircraft, Rescue and
Firefighting,
MCAF

All the day long, repair, troubleshoot

Maintenance's the way of life for an aviation electrician

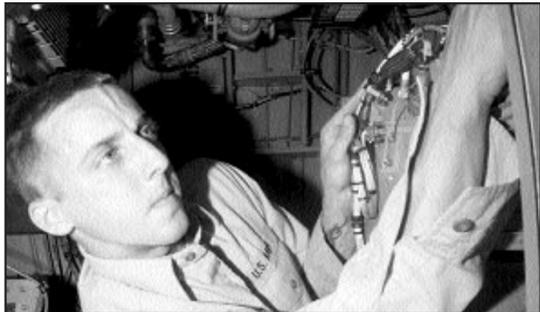
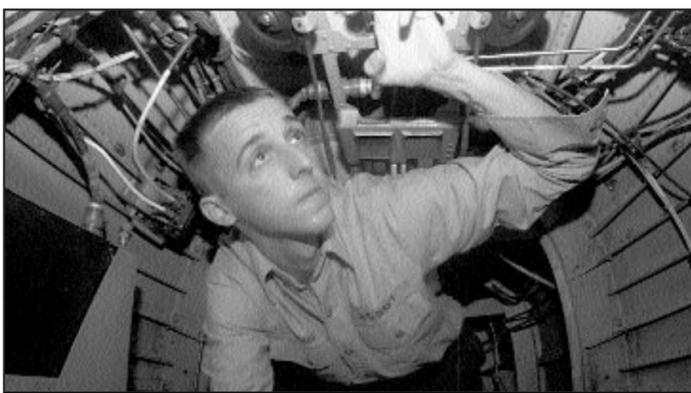
Story and Photos by
Lance Cpl.
Monroe F. Seigle
Combat Correspondent

The sun beats down on a Sailor aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, as he diligently inspects hundreds of wires. One of those wires is malfunctioning and can render the SH-60B helicopter he is working on as inoperable.

This is one of the many settings in a day's work for an aviation electrician at the Helicopter Anti Submarine Squadron Light 37.

An aviation electrician's job entails several hours of troubleshooting electrical systems that operate the SH-60B helicopter, repairing electrical wires, maintaining the rotors and repairing the systems that guide the aircraft during flights.

In a typical malfunction, an aviation electrician can be looking for one wire in a group of 100 to find the one malfunctioning wire.



From top to bottom and all around the aircraft, Petty Officer 3rd Class Larry Drake, an aviation electrician with Helicopter Anti Submarine Squadron Light 37, diligently inspects wires in the engine of SH-60Bs before flights.

"One malfunctioning wire can make an entire aircraft inoperable," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Larry Drake, an aviation electrician for HSL-37. "Just trying to find the one wire when it

has 100 around it can be just as hard as actually repairing it."

At the beginning of each work day, the aviation electricians at HSL-37 meet to discuss which repairs need to be made

on each helicopter. Some repairs can take minutes, while others can take up to days to complete.

After determining which repairs are necessary, the aviation

electricians must conduct an inspection before making any repairs. Sometimes in these inspections, the aviation electrician will find more malfunctions. In either case, after making necessary repairs, pilots must fly the helicopter in order to ensure the repairs were successful.

"I have become very knowledgeable about the components of the SH-60B, said Drake. "Even though it can be difficult to learn all the components, you begin to remember the electrical system and their functions after constant practice."

Although an aviation electrician's job can be quite stressful with all the maintenance and repairs, it can be quite rewarding seeing a helicopter in the air after spending hours making aircraft repairs.

"I get really stressed trying to make repairs and sometimes just trying to find the problem," said Drake. "It is very rewarding to see the bird go back in the sky, knowing that you made the necessary repairs."

"I know what I have learned as an aviation electrician has given me the stepping stone for a successful future."

'And the winner is...'



Staff Sgt. Jesus A. Lora

Battling against all odds, 3rd Squad, 3rd Platoon, Kilo Co., 3rd Bn., 3rd Marines, beat out its fellow squads when they all competed head-to-head in the company's Squad-a-thon Dec. 5. To rein as best, the squad demonstrated running, knowledge and field training prowess. Its next challenge will be to triumph in the contest with 1st Bn. and 2nd Bn. Ultimately, that victor will travel to Okinawa for Division-level competition. Stay tuned to the *Hawaii Marine* for more on 3/3's hungry pursuit for Super Squad competition honors.

LIFE, From A-2

He wanted to go to college. He never did. He wanted to have a career designing buildings and bridges. But, he stayed at home while his brother and friends went away and received an education, wealth or fame.

He could not even enlist to fight in World War II because of his deaf ear. He had a dead-end job and barely made enough to support his family. Talk about discouraging.

With one mistake by his Uncle Billy, George finds himself facing bankruptcy, scandal, and maybe even imprisonment.

He saw his life as ordinary and going downhill. But he learned

that his life was really a wonderful life. He learned that things don't always go quite the way we want or even expect. He learned that life itself is filled with many twists and turns, but it is up to us to make the most of what we have been given. George Bailey learned the secret to having a "wonderful life."

During this Christmas season, take time to let others know how much they mean to you. Show your loved ones how much you care.

Look around you and take note of who is impacted by the choices you make and consider them. And you may even want to stop and thank God for your wonderful life.



Merry Christmas Marines and Sailors!

Organizations unite to collect items for needy

ASYMCA
Press Release

The All Enlisted Spouses Club and the Armed Services YMCA have joined together in a new program to help needy military families aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

These organizations will be collecting new and used clothing, household items, furniture and toys. The items collected will go to the AESC Thrift Shop.

If the command identifies a needy family, they can send the family to ASYMCA or the unit chaplain for a voucher to be redeemed at the AESC Thrift Shop.

The mission of the All Enlisted Spouses Club is to encourage friendship, unity and camaraderie among enlisted spouses while supporting military personnel and their families.

The Armed Services YMCA is a non-profit organization, separately incorporated with the sole mission of serving military service members and their families.

Its focus is junior enlisteds, primarily in pay grades E-1 - E-5, offering low cost educational, social and recreational programs.

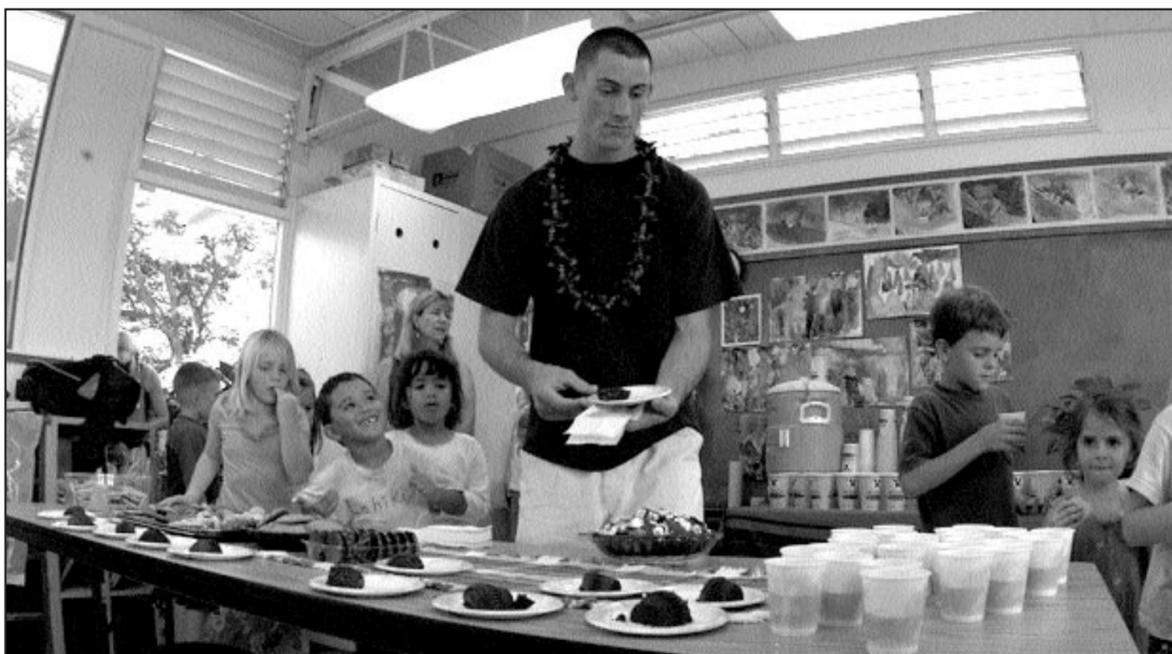
Due to the number of needy families on MCB Hawaii, these organizations have joined together in an effort to help military families.

If you would like to help by donating items, you can drop items off at the AESC Thrift Shop on Mondays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Items can be dropped off at the Armed Services YMCA, Bldg. 579, Mondays through Thursdays 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Fridays from 8 a.m. to noon.

Arrangements can be made to have large donations picked up by calling the ASYMCA at 254-4719 or the AESC Thrift Shop at 254-0841.

Also, both organizations are in need of volunteers. If you would like to volunteer for this new program, call the AESC or the ASYMCA.



Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle

Corporal Brandon D. Link, an Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting noncommissioned officer, waits in line with children from Lanakai Elementary School to eat cookies in the new art room constructed by Marines and Sailors.

MCAF helps make art possible for Lanakai Elementary School

Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle
Combat Correspondent

Lanakai Elementary School opened its new art room after a dedication ceremony Dec. 8 to honor the devil dogs and Sailors from Marine Corps Air Facility, MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, who participated in its construction. The project was made possible through a grant from the Adopt-a-School program.

Service members assisted building tables, painting the walls and ceiling, and resurfacing the floors.

"It was a great feeling to help

these kids build the art room," said Staff Sgt. Michael Seiner, training chief for Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting. "The Marines who volunteered were very eager to assist.

"They spent a lot of time [here] to complete this project; the majority of their work was completed during their liberty."

Before MCAF constructed the classroom, students had limited space to practice and develop their artistic abilities.

"I was teaching in a cafeteria before the classroom was built," said

Connie Deanskin, an art teacher for Lanakai. "There were several distractions in [the cafeteria], and I had a hard time teaching with such limited space."

The adopt-a-school grant not only made the construction possible, but also provided the students with a variety of art supplies.

"I really like the new art room," said Sophie Friedman, a fifth grader at Lanakai. "The Marines are very kind to us, and I am glad we have an art room since we haven't had one for the three years I have been here."

CMC, From A-1

theater for other officers and staff noncommissioned officers.

"I'm here as part of a last minute farewell tour," said Gen. Jones, when he was interviewed by Sailors from the Navy Marine Corps Media Center. "I wanted to come and say goodbye to all the Marines and Sailors and their families whom I have had the privilege of leading over the past three years.

"I feel fortunate to have led an organization that has proven itself on the fields of battle. I feel glad to be a Marine today."

PARADE, From A-1

vides us the opportunity to know our neighbors better."

At the conclusion of the parade, more than 100 members of Waimanalo's community awaited the marchers with a myriad of food selections, live music, rides and games.

"We really enjoyed the parade this year," said Cpl. Justin Krcha, a clarinet player with the band. "The locals gave us a lot of support, and I think they truly enjoyed our presence."



Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero

The Marine Forces Pacific Band entertained Waimanalo with patriotic tunes like "Semper Fidelis."

Renovations to begin at Kaneohe Branch Medical Clinic soon

Cmdr. Kathy Loveless
Clinic Director,
Branch Medical Clinic,
Kaneohe Bay

Commencing Jan. 2, the pharmacy at Branch Medical Clinic, Kaneohe Bay, will be getting an internal "facelift." This renovation project will include new cabinetry, counters and shelving. The project is expected to last for approximately one week.

"The contractor has agreed to work over the weekend to help minimize impact on our patients," said Joe Bosak, pharmacist at the K-Bay BMC and coordinator of the renovation. "The project will improve pharmacy aesthetics and setup.

"These improvements will serve to enhance the productivity of the staff and ultimately benefit the patients who are served.

"Due to storage and space constraints during the renovations, a select amount of medications may be temporarily unavailable to our patients," explained Bosak.

Some medications prescribed by specialty or civilian providers may not be available during the renovation. Yet, patients

have several options in regards to filling those specialty or civilian prescriptions. They may fill these prescriptions at BMC Makalapa, at Tripler Army Medical Center or at a civilian pharmacy.

Pharmaceutical services will return to normal immediately following the renovations; therefore, some patients with non-emergent prescriptions may opt to wait until this time.

Patrons are reminded, however, that prescriptions filled in the local community incur out-of-pocket expenses.

To avoid any inconveniences, you're best bet is to refill and pick up routine prescriptions prior to New Year's Eve, according to Bosak.

Once the renovation begins, if you have any questions or would like to check medication availability, call the K-Bay pharmacy at 257-3365, ext. 107; BMC Makalapa at 473-1880, ext. 229; or TAMC at 433-7880.

For more information on filling prescriptions in the civilian community, contact Petty Officer 1st Class Steven Ford, Health Benefits advisor at the BMC, 257-3365, ext. 251.

Providing big bucks from Patrol Squadron 4



Karen Burns

Chandra Beasley, president of the Patrol Squadron 4 Spouses Club, presents a check in the amount of \$4,000 to Stephan Kula, chief executive officer and president of Hospice of Hawaii. The nonprofit organization provides supportive care for terminally ill patients and their families locally. The VP-4 monies were raised recently at the Spouses Club's annual service auction, which featured a wide variety of items donated from members of the command and their

spouses. Prizes included French lessons and a weekend getaway to the Turtle Bay Resort. Lieutenant j.g. Matthew Rutherford donated his Hawaii Kai home for the event while Lt. j.g. Robert Novotny, a Naval flight officer, served as the auctioneer. "I was both amazed and proud at the generosity of VP-4 wardroom members, and I took great joy in extracting as much money as possible from the senior officers of the command," said Novotny. "Donations enable us to

continue providing compassionate care to terminally ill patients and their families in our community. Although Medicare, Medicaid and other types of medical insurance help to offset the cost of patient care, one-third of all services are facilitated through direct community contributions," explained Jon Rogers, development specialist for Hospice of Hawaii. Individuals can make donations at the Hospice of Hawaii Web site, www.hospicehawaii.org.