

# Hawaii MARINE

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Volume 30, Number 50

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December 21, 2001

## MCBH helps aid laid-off Hawaii workers

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

A group of eight state workers and a crew leader joined the battle against "Silent invaders" or invasive species at MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Dec. 10.

The groups' primary objective is to remove invasive plants such as mangrove, which chokes out native bird habitats in the Nu'upia Ponds Wildlife Management Area.

In a time span of three months, the group will concentrate on keeping K-Bay's invasive species prob-

lems under control in the ponds and other environmentally sensitive areas such as at Ulupa'u Crater, which provides sanctuary to a colony of Red-Footed Booby Birds, and at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows.

Weed control at the crater and at MCTAB also reduces the risk of brush fires, which interrupt valuable training time for Marines.

These environmental laborers are part of a new program called the Emergency Environmental Workforce (EEWF), developed by the state of Hawaii and hosted by fed-

eral, state, and private landowners who need help.

"The core of the program is to employ individuals adversely affected by the Sept. 11 disaster or otherwise unemployed and use these individuals to augment ongoing invasive plant, fire ant, coqui frog species control/Dengue Fever eradication efforts," said Dr. Diane C. Drigot, senior natural resource management specialist, Base Environmental Department.

The EEWF program here at K-Bay

See ENVIRONMENT, A-9



Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero

John Hennesy, field team leader, and a newly employed state worker, pulls invasive plants from the Nu'upia Ponds at Kaneohe Bay.

### Safe Holiday Pointers

*- Follow these procedures if you witness suspicious activities. -*

MCBH Hawaii residents, employees and patrons should report the following types of actions to appropriate law enforcement agencies:

- Suspicious personnel, particularly those carrying suitcases or other containers, or those observing, photographing or asking questions about military operations or security measures.
- Unidentified vehicles parked or operated in a suspicious manner on, or in the vicinity of, U.S. installations, units or facilities.
- Abandoned parcels or suitcases.
- Any other activity considered suspicious.

Report suspicious activity to the military police by calling 257-2123.

If an emergency situation exists, call 257-9111.



Officers from CSSG-3 wave to fellow Marines on the ground as they hang several hundred feet in the air, from the bottom of a CH-53D Sea Stallion.

## Reservists, CSSG-3 take adventure 'ride'

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

More than 40 Marine reservists, one Navy reservist and 30 officers from Combat Service Support Group 3, at MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, made the trip across the flightline to West Field Dec. 6, to participate in some adventure training.

The reservists came from all over the United States to spend their annual two weeks of active service aboard K-bay during the holidays. They will support many active Marines stationed here that are expected to take leave in the next month.

The CSSG-3 officers have participated in a variety of training exercises, ranging from hikes to live-fire ranges, said Capt. Paul Zambelli, S-3 training officer for CSSG-3. This was another evolution that allowed the officers to take part in as much different training as possible.

"For most of the officers, this was the first time they have taken part in this evolution. Some had done it maybe one time before," Zambelli said.

"The Marines, both officer and enlisted, handled the training admirably. This was a great opportunity to take part in training that most Marines may not

get a chance to do again," he added.

The day's training regimen consisted of only one training evolution: SPIE rigging.

Special Patrol Insertion and Extraction rigging is designed to be used when the terrain or situation of an area prevents aircraft from touching down in the area where personnel need to be either dropped off or picked up.



Ten reservists SPIE rig on Dec. 6, as part of their annual training at K-Bay.

With air support provided by the HMH-463 Pegasus, the Marines were strapped, 10 at a time, to the bottom of a CH-53D Sea Stallion helicopter.

They were then lifted 450 feet off of the ground for a flyover of part of the base and Kaneohe Bay itself at a speed of 70 knots.

"We are taking training to a level that has probably never been reached before in a support element," said Staff Sgt. Edgar Catala, training instructor and HRST master at CSSG-3.

As always, safety was a huge consideration to the training evolution when the instructors were working with the Marines.

Not only were the Marines decked out in Kevlar helmets and safety goggles, but each group of SPIE riggers was taken

See CSSG-3, A-6

### New lance cpls.



Lance Cpl. Tyler Hardin

Instead of simply gaining crossed rifles under one stripe, four security guard Marines from Marine Forces Pacific received an added bonus Dec. 13. They received their early morning promotions from the MCB Hawaii Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee. The general also led the four in reconfirming their oath of enlistment.

## Crew saved by 1st Rad. Marines

**Story and Photos by Staff Sgt. Jesus A. Lora**  
*Community Relations Chief*

Three Marines from Charlie Co., 1st Radio Bn. are receiving Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals for their heroic actions saving the life of a crewman pinned under a UH-1N "Huey" helicopter at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma Arizona on Oct. 21.

Sergeant William Gustafson and Lance Cpl. Lance Nicholes Schwab, both signal operators, and Lance Cpl. James Zambito, a motor trans-



ZAMBITO



GUSTAFSON



SCHWAB

port mechanic — all from second support team — were taking part in an exercise monitoring communication of air and ground traffic during the Weapons and Tactics Instructors Course on Chocolate Mountain, Marine Corps Air Station, Yuma, Arizona, when a

mishap occurred.

Evening came and their exercise came to a close. Then, the Marines called in for an extract off Chocolate Mountain.

What happened next is a blur of images to all three Marines.

Zambito was waving a "buzz saw", which is a

chemical light tied to a rope that is used for a marker for the inbound Huey Helicopter.

After two passes by the Huey, it finally came around a third time. What seemed like a normal landing then turned into a nightmare as Zambito was pushed off the side of the mountain by the force of the crashing Huey.

The Huey had to make a hard landing that thumbed down the side of Chocolate Mountain. It came to rest on an incline near Observation Point

See 1ST RADIO, A-9

-Readers, get your next Hawaii Marine, Jan. 11. Enjoy the Military Press Dec. 28, Jan. 4.-

## MCBH NEWS BRIEFS

### MARKSMANSHIP COMPETITION

Marine Forces Pacific and MCB Hawaii tenant commands are encouraged to select as many competitive teams as desired (up to the competition's maximum of 192 individuals) for the MCBH FY02 Intramural Rifle and Pistol Competition, which will run Jan. 4 - 18 at Puuloa Range.

The intramural competition will be followed by the FY02 Pacific Division Matches, Jan. 28 - March 1.

Week one of the Pacific Division Matches will consist of the Marksmanship Instructors Course, for MOS 8531, with a maximum of 50 individuals holding the 8530 MOS; weeks two and three, the qualification course of fire with the rifle and pistol; and weeks four and five, the Pacific Division competition itself. Closing ceremonies will be held March 1.

Look for full details in Base Bulletin 3591.

### BRANCH CLINIC HOURS

The Branch Medical Clinic at Kaneohe Bay will observe the following holiday hours:

- Christmas Eve, limited service only for acute patients.
- Christmas, closed in observance.
- New Year's Eve, limited service only for acute patients.
- New Year's Day, closed in observance.
- Ambulance service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by calling 257-9111.

### COMMISSARY HOLIDAY HOURS

The Kaneohe Bay Commissary will operate according to the following holiday schedule.

- Christmas Eve, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Christmas, closed.
- Dec. 26, closed.
- New Year's Eve, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- New Year's Day, closed.
- Jan. 2, closed.
- Jan. 3, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The Commissary is regularly open Tuesday through Sunday.

### WAHIAWA SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

Wahiawa Intermediate School needs up to 40 volunteers to help move furniture and prep classrooms for painting by covering floors and fixtures, Jan. 5-6. Step ladders are also needed for this self-help project. If you're interested, contact Ryan at 831-7957.

### IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBER

On-Base Emergencies 257-9111

## Hawaii MARINE

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To contact the MCB Hawaii Public Affairs Office use the following addresses:

HAWAII MARINE, BUILDING 216, MCB HAWAII  
KANEHOE BAY, HI, 96863

E-MAIL: HAWAIIIMARINE@MCBH.USMC.MIL

FAX: 257-2511, PHONE: 257-8840

# Hawaii Marines ascend Mt. Suribachi, Iwo Jima

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

Iwo Jima is a small strip of land that lies alone, surrounded by the blue water of the Pacific Ocean. In early 1945, during World War 2, the island was heavily infested with Japanese forces intent on defending it to the death.

On the opposite end of the spectrum, the American forces needed to secure the island for their own needs. It would provide a landing strip for long range bombers to conduct missions on the mainland of Japan.

This set the stage for one of the most historic battles in history. The island, which is only five miles long, claimed the lives of thousands of fighting men from both sides. Some 60,000 U.S. servicemembers stormed the beachheads and took over the island in two months of grueling fighting. Five Marines and one Navy Corpsman, ascended the island's pinnacle, Mt. Suribachi, and raised the stars and stripes upon a makeshift flagpole, unaware that all the while they were being photographed.

The picture that resulted has become one of the most



Lance Cpl. Tyler Hardin

**Above Left — Marines and Sailors gather up sand on the beach while on the island of Iwo Jima Dec. 4. Above Right — Corporal J. Whann of Headquarters Bn., MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, is presented with the Navy Achievement Medal by Col. P. Adams, commanding officer of the CSSG-3, Dec. 4., during a formation while at Iwo Jima.**

recognized monuments in the world. Iwo Jima did not only go down in history, but has become a great landmark to today's Marines and Sailors.

December 6, 2001, a hundred Marines and Sailors from Combat Service Support Group 3 and other commands based here at MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay made the pilgrimage over the Pacific to visit Iwo Jima.

"This trip was organized to give the Marines and Sailors attending the opportunity to visit one of the most historical landmarks in Marine Corps and Navy history," said 1st Lt. Steven Shultze, assistant operations officer for CSSG-3.

Enroute, the group stopped at another small atoll imbedded in Marine Corps lore. Wake Island was the refueling point before the group could arrive at Iwo Jima.

A tour was given of the island and the battlefield by members of a small Japanese Naval Garrison currently located there and manned by two to three hundred Japanese sailors.

Much of the history of the island came to life for the visitors. They walked along the beaches and even explored caves where Japanese soldiers hid from view and the fire of the American forces.

Bottles of wine were still

embedded in the walls of the caverns where they once lived, fought and died.

"No amount of reading or PMEs in the world can compare to actually walking the field of battle," said Schultze.

"It is much more effective to walk up Mt. Suribachi and to walk the sands of the beach than it is to try to explain how much of a factor the terrain was," he added.

The group ascended the historical Mt. Suribachi to its summit, where several of the Marines would take the opportunity to reenlist in the branch of service that captured the island during World War II.

Several Marines also were promoted and given awards on top of the mountain.

"It was a motivating experience, being on a sort of hallowed ground where many Marines lost their lives to take that island," said Cpl. Joshua Whann, a legal assistance clerk with Headquarters Bn. at K-Bay.

Whann was presented with a Navy Achievement Medal by Col. P. Adams, the commander, CSSG-3, while on the trip.

"Being there as a Marine on active duty made the trip worth its weight in gold," he added.



Lance Cpl. Tyler Hardin

**When touring the island of Iwo Jima Dec. 4, Marines and Sailors from MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, explored and took pictures of caves that Japanese soldiers used during World War II's battle for Iwo Jima.**

## Remains of six return from Laos, Vietnam

Petty Officer 1st Class  
**Tim Paynter**  
JTF-FA Public Affairs

**CAMP H.M. SMITH, HAWAII** – Over the past several days, televisions around the world have been filled with scenes of U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Army honor guards carrying flag-draped caskets of fallen comrades from Afghanistan.

Much like those scenes, Joint Task Force-Full Accounting joint honor guards solemnly escorted six sets of remains, thought to be those of fallen Americans from the Vietnam War, during a repatriation ceremony Dec. 11 at Hickam Air Force Base.

While many think of the country of Vietnam when referring to the Vietnam



Petty Officer 1st Class Tim Paynter

**A joint service color guard and funeral detail escorted the remains of six servicemembers off the plane at Hickam Air Force Base Dec. 11. The remains were recovered in Laos and Vietnam.**

War, a substantial number of servicemembers were lost in Laos, Cambodia and China as well.

Out of these six sets of remains, all thought to be Americans, four were re-

covered from the provinces of Savan-nakhet and Kham-mouan in Laos, while two sets were recovered in the Cao Bang province of North Vietnam and the Nam Binh province near Hanoi.

The search does continue for the remaining 1,948 unaccounted-for Americans, and the responsibility falls on the shoulders of Joint Task Force-Full Accounting. The 160-person, Camp H.M. Smith-based task force is responsible for the research and investigation of sites where Americans were lost in Southeast Asia.

Based upon JTF-FA's investigations, several factors are carefully considered

See JTF-FA, A-4



A 4th Force Reconnaissance Co. Marine assaults his target during the accuracy drill portion of training at the Koko Head Law Enforcement Range Dec. 8. The company practiced its combat shooting skills with members of the Honolulu Police Dept.

## 4th Force Recon trains with HPD

Story and Photos by  
**Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero**  
Combat Correspondent

A small platoon of reconnaissance Marines from 4th Force Reconnaissance Co., MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, practiced combat shooting skills at Koko Head Law Enforcement Range, Honolulu, Dec. 8 at 8:30 a.m.

The platoon, which consisted of 14 Marines and two Navy corpsmen, was assisted in its shooting of the M-4 rifle by the Honolulu Police Department, Special Services Division.

"We try to train at least quarterly with the HPD Special Services Division, and besides, it's our job to be training constantly," said Staff Sgt. Jose Tablada III, platoon sergeant, first platoon, 4th Force Reconnaissance Co.

Furthermore, the company has not shot the M-4 rifle in three to four months. Within that time span, it has received new Marines who have not fired with the weapon at all.

"We have to teach these newly arrived Marines how to properly use this weapon and get them up to speed with the rest of the company," Tablada added. "The HPD donated 10,000 rounds for us to shoot.

"Some of the techniques that we'll be practicing are the different shooting stances (prone, kneeling and standing), control shooting at various distances (5, 15, 25, and 50 yards), buddy-team



Marines from 4th Force Reconnaissance Co. are assisted by the Honolulu Police Department's Special Services Division during their shoot at the Koko Head Law Enforcement Range.

shootings and stress shooting," said Tablada.

The platoon started the day by splitting into smaller four-man teams and shooting accuracy drills from the distances mentioned above.

The teams moved on to double-tap and multiple target engagement drills.

To improve their tactical skills, they practiced a walk and shoot drill and a 10-yard pivot drill in which they could make 180-degree turns and shoot at their targets.

Also, the platoon practiced barricade shooting from 25-yards.

The platoon finished their training day with some friendly relay competitions. The competition involved mal-

function and run and shoot drills.

"We scheduled this competition to develop time, accuracy and competitiveness in the platoon," said Staff Sgt. Patrick Sterling, operations chief, 4th Force Reconnaissance Co.

The training day ended at 3 p.m. The warriors of 4th Force Recon then returned to K-Bay and prepared scuba equipment for some reconnaissance diving scheduled for the next day.

"People think that reservists only train once a month, but we come out on our own and train several times," said Tablada.

"We're Marines, and we have to be ready to fight when we're called upon," he added.

## ARFF Marines tackle courses to earn certification, college credit

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

Knowledge is power. The more a person knows about the job he is doing, the better he will be able to do it.

That's what the Marines at the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting unit at MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, had in mind when 18 of them enrolled in college level classes that will help them perform their daily jobs better.

The training will not only help the ARFF Marines excel in their jobs now, but it will also make them much more marketable in the civilian job market as well.

Once they complete all the necessary courses, they will be certified by the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications. They will then be eligible for certification by the Department of Defense.

The ARFF Marines will receive college credit for the classes they complete in the program.

"This is the first time a Marine ARFF unit has done this," said Sgt. Saulo Ugarte, training NCO at ARFF. "From here, the Marines can move on to take other courses



Lance Cpl. Jason E. Miller

ARFF Marines absorb and digest valuable information from a University of Maryland professor during a course designed to help them maximize their performance in emergencies.

es that will lead to board certification for fire fighting."

Instructors from the University of Maryland's Fire and Rescue Institute give the classes to the Marines in a classroom located within the ARFF complex.

The students have already completed a course called Fire Instructor 1 since the program began. They are now working to complete Fire Officer 1, a course designed to help the ARFF Marines understand differ-

ent techniques of teaching and learning about emergency situations.

The program is helping the unit in numerous ways, Ugarte said.

The Marines will be more educated and know how to act as leaders during emergency situations.

The Marines who complete the courses will also be eligible to complete more advanced training that will help not only the unit, but also benefit MCB Hawaii as a whole.

## WORD ON THE STREET

*What will be your New Year's resolution?*



"...To quit smoking."

**Cpl. Bret Burg**  
Field radio operator  
2/3

"...To study and prepare extra hard for advancement exams and correspondence courses."

**Petty Officer 3rd Class Andrew P. Roque**  
Naval aviation ordnanceman  
VP-9



"...To cut down on all alcohol intake."

**Pfc. Marvin L. Dennard**  
Range coach  
Headquarters Co., CSSG-3

"...To stick to my fitness program and stay smoke free."

**Angelina V. Murray**  
Military spouse and student



"...To improve my job performance to better my composite score."

**Cpl. Courtney Comardelle**  
Field radio operator  
2/3

# Holidays are not joyous occasions for everyone



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

With the holidays upon us, many Marines and Sailors aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, are taking advantage of annual leave to head home for the holidays and to visit with their family and friends.

Other servicemembers, however, who may not be so fortunate as to take time off or afford holiday travel may be stuck at home or in the barracks during Christmas and New Year's celebrations.

The vast majority of servicemembers will be able to cope with a Christmas away from home. Some, however, may become increasingly depressed and even suicidal, particularly during the holiday season. This brings about a need for suicide prevention awareness.

"Usually, suicide attempts are a cry for help," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Sheila Hicks, a neuropsychiatric technician at the Branch Medical Clinic at K-Bay. "A lot of times, if the person is helped, he or she will not follow through with trying to kill him or herself.

"There is a need for education and awareness, because suicide attempts can be prevented, and NCOs are some of the major people that can help a junior Marine or Sailor in trouble," she added.

There are several warning signs that someone who may be contemplating suicide could show before anything actually happens.

## Preventing SUICIDE



Unexplained changes in behavior and productivity in the workplace are near the top of the list, said Hicks. Other things that a suicidal person might do include abusing alcohol or drugs, or reflecting upon death themes, either in clothing, music or journal entries left lying around.

Large increases or decreases in sleep could also signal a problem, as could changes in a person's personal appearance due to lack of appropriate grooming habits.

"Oftentimes, when a person is contemplating sui-

cide, he or she will begin collecting weapons and giving away personal possessions," said Hicks. "The person may also begin giving goodbyes to people they care about for no apparent reason."

When friends, coworkers or family notice any of the signs, they should first ask the individual if he or she is planning on hurting him or herself. If so, get help immediately or take the person to the nearest medical facility.

Once the individual is brought to the medical facility, medical personnel will assess the need for assistance and recommend appropriate treatment.

Those in need who refuse treatment and continue to pose a safety risk to themselves or others will be involuntarily admitted.

Help and counseling are also offered to military members through chaplains or the Personal Services branch of Marine Corps Community Services.

Here are several simple things a person can do to help prevent holiday stress and suicidal tendencies, according to Hicks.

Eating right and getting regular exercise can be an effective stress reliever, as can getting proper amounts of sleep. Decreasing or eliminating alcohol is also effective, as alcohol is a depressant.

Saving money and making plans for the future are still other ways to prevent stress and depression.

"And since it's the holidays, communicating with family can work wonders too," said Hicks.

### JTF-FA, From A-2

and sites are selected for excavation. The excavation process is a joint endeavor between JTF-FA and the U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii, based at Hickam Air Force Base.

Once recovered, remains are brought to Hawaii where CILHI then embarks on the ID process using dental and medical records and mitochondrial DNA testing, if necessary.

Once remains are positively identified, they are then returned to the families and interred.

The Dec. 11 ceremony brings the number of remains repatriated to 537 since 1992, when JTF-FA was established — a total of 27 sets this year alone. JTF-FA and CILHI have recovered and positively identified 322 Americans.

For more information about the process, visit the JTF-FA web site at [www.pacom.mil/jtffa.htm](http://www.pacom.mil/jtffa.htm).



## Base Safety encourages everyone to use 'common sense' during the holidays

**George Crowder**  
*Base Safety Center*

As you reflect on challenges of the past year, you may be able to recall safety incidents that you observed or in which you were intimately involved.

Annually, our nation's workforce incurs injuries and casualties that may have been easily prevented.

The Naval Safety Center's holiday safety message reminds everyone to use "common sense" and risk management when planning their Christmas holiday season celebrations.

For example, in keeping with risk management, each year, the nation's elementary schools commemorate National Fire Prevention Week by help-

ing students to develop a Home Fire Evacuation Plan and to assess the fire risk in their homes.

When was the last time you analyzed this risk? It really doesn't matter, whether at work, at home or at play, risks must be assessed and a plan must be developed to ensure the safety of your friends, coworkers and loved ones.

Incorporate risk management in all types of activities. Develop Emergency Action Plans for your workstation, and don't forget to develop an EAP for your home and family.

Similarly, give your boating and hiking plans to friends and families. Wear the proper personal protective equipment, based on the type of recreational activity you're

planning.

Plan your holiday parties to include the "one-to-one rule," provide non-alcoholic drinks and ensure safe transportation for each one of your guests. Make it your responsibility to ensure that everyone arrives home alive!

Remember, injury and casualty statistics are the result of a failure to use common sense and to impose risk management. So, plan your holiday celebration with safety in mind.

*More holiday safety tips:*

- Test your smoke detectors.
- Establish and practice your fire evacuation plan.
- Dispose of dried Christmas trees, immediately.
- Post your emergency reporting number.
- Cook smart by dressing

for cooking and by not leaving your stove, oven or barbecue unattended.

- Follow strict hygiene practices with food preparation.

- Don't mix medications and children.

- Extinguish lights and candles before departing your home.

- Always buckle – up for your safety and that of your children.

- Naturally, do not drink alcoholic beverages, then drive.

- Leave your recreation plan with a responsible person, i.e., let someone know the who, what, when, where and why for your activities.

The Base Safety Center also reminds base patrons and residents that fire-works are prohibited on military installations.

**CSSG-3, From A-1**

aside and given a class on how to rig up.

Marines wore safety ropes underneath their harnesses as an added precaution in case the harnesses failed.

Each Marine was checked by an instructor, in order to make sure that everything was in its proper place before takeoff.

At the time of liftoff, instructors individually attached the Marines the SPIE rigging rope on the bottom of the helo.

"It is important to understand that CSSG-3 has come a long way since Col. Adams took command," said Catala, in praise of Col. Paul Adams, commanding officer of CSSG-3.

"We began with basic leadership principles and moved on to preparations for a 25-mile hike. We've accomplished tasks with extreme confidence and really exploited the first word in

CSSG, Combat.

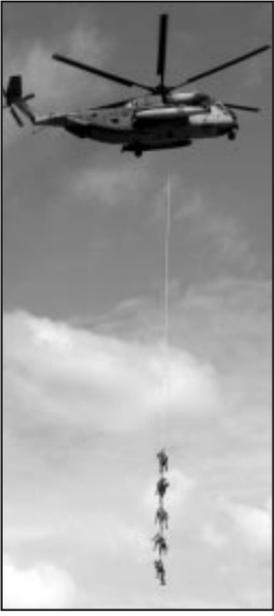
"Unless you try to do something beyond what you have already mastered, you will never grow," Catala added.

The Marines seemed to enjoy their time training for the day. Each time a helo would lift off, they would shout and wave to their fellow servicemembers leaving the ground.

As the helo returned, the Marines had to hit the deck running to make sure everyone got down safe. Several of the Marines fell, but no one was hurt during the evolution.

"You gotta try that," one reservist said. "That was the ride of a lifetime."

"Any training the reservists get is extremely important. They will be able to leave here with a better understanding of SPIE operation," said Catala. "Just talking to them, I don't think they'll ever forget hanging from a helicopter over Hawaii."



**The SPIE riggers traveled up to 450 feet in the air at a speed of 70 knots.**



**Col. Paul Adams, commander of CSSG-3, and several other CSSG-3 officers receive a class on how to rig up for SPIE rigging.**

## Government Travel Cards

# Charge card's only for official business

### Press Release

Headquarters Marine Corps

Using the Government Travel Charge Card for other than what it is intended for is punishable as a violation of either Article 92 or, in limited circumstances, Article 121 of the UCMJ.

Government Travel Charge Cards are issued to and used by Department of Defense personnel for the explicit use of charging official travel expenses to pay for all costs incidental to official business travel, to and from temporary duty sites.

Authorized charges of the Government Travel Charge Card include, but are not limited to:

-Local transportation, i.e., taxis, rental cars, gas and parking fees.

-Lodging at hotels and government quarters and meals.

-Commercial air transportation. (Temporary duty tickets may be charged to the Government Travel Charge Card only when travel orders authorize the member to do so.)

-ATM advances.

Some of the items for which the Government Travel Charge Card is not authorized include, but are not limited to:

-Purchasing items for personal use, i.e., home electronics.

-Purchasing Christmas gifts for friends and family.

-Purchasing airline tickets to go on leave or vacation.

-Privately owned vehicle repairs.

-Paying personal expenses, for example, telephone bills, home mortgages and car payments.

-Paying for home improvements.

-Paying medical bills.

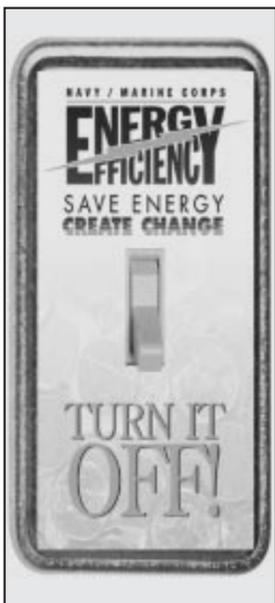
-Paying for vacations.

-Gambling

For more information, refer to MCO 4600.40 provides detailed guidelines regarding proper usage of

## 'I want six more years, please'

Twenty-nine Marines in 1st Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment, reenlisted in a mass formation on Dec. 7, while on deployment at Camp Hansen, Okinawa. Lieutenant Col. Jody Osterman, battalion commander, administered the oath of enlistment to the Marines, who will be leaving the unit in 2002 for new assignments. Battalion Career Planner, SSgt. Michael Dunn, said that 10 other Marines in 1/3 reenlisted in December, bringing the total to 39.



# EVERY CLIME AND PLACE

## 26th MEU joins forces fighting Taliban near Kandahar

**Sgt Thomas Michael Corcoran**  
26th MEU

**ABOARD THE USS BATAAN** — Marines from the Combined Anti-Armor Team and Light Armored Reconnaissance of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) left the USS Bataan and arrived at a forward operating base near Kandahar on Dec. 4.

This was the second Marine unit to land in Afghanistan.

The 15th MEU (SOC), from Camp Pendleton, Calif., has been at the base near Kandahar for nearly two weeks. Now they are joined by elements of the 26th MEU (SOC), based at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

The elements of the 26th MEU that have been called forward to join 15th MEU assets already in place may prove to be valuable if the remaining Taliban forces continue to resist.

The Marines of CAAT/LAR can provide a vital projection of firepower to the battlefield, and

the speed and maneuverability of their combat vehicles far exceeds that of their foes'.

Although, these Marines may be facing combat in the days that lie ahead, they are well prepared, assures Sgt. Derek J. LaClair, LAR scout section leader. He has been closer to real combat than many Marines in his unit. A few years ago, he was fired upon while performing an embassy evacuation in Sierra Leone.

"We were all excited until we heard the first round," said LaClair. "Instantly, all our training came into focus. When you hear rounds and they're not a part of training, you become part of the ground."

Despite his men's lack of actual combat experience, LaClair is totally confident in their abilities. "With what we could be facing soon, I wouldn't want to go with anyone else. We know our weapons and are ready to employ them. We're ready for combat - that's our job!"

One of the reasons LaClair speaks with such confidence is

that he trusts his experienced leaders such as Staff Sgt. Gregory L. Snyder, LAR platoon staff noncommissioned officer in charge, who has more than 10 years experience, including time spent in the Gulf War. Snyder, like many staff NCOs, is able to train his men based on past experiences.

"He told us not to get excited or too pumped up," said Cpl. Ryan M. Malarsie, Light Armored Vehicle gunner. "Lately it's been, 'We're going, then we're not.'"

Malarsie said he is not surprised his unit is the first from



Lance Cpl Nathan E. Eason

**Landing Craft, Air-Cushioned (LCAC) vessels carried Battalion Landing Team 3/6 Marines from the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) into Pakistan recently. The 26th MEU (SOC) is currently deployed in the Arabian Sea off the coast of Pakistan.**

the 26th MEU to 'hit the ground.'

"We would have to launch first despite any orders to go ashore. Our vehicles are staged on the [air-cushioned landing crafts] LCACs," said Malarsie.

The Marines' families are more nervous than the Marines, said Malarsie. "But, I guess that's how mothers are. [Mine] understands that after Sept. 11, we are doing what needs to be done."

One of Malarsie's

'teammates,' Cpl. Erik Luker, LAV crewman, understands the nervousness of family members back home and knows they all await the safe return of their sons and daughters.

"I guess you could call me the 'worry wart' of the family," said Linda DeCesare, Luker's aunt. "I always have to know what's going on. I constantly watch the news and wait for news about Erik and all our troops, and their safe return."

Malarsie explained that, "As Marines, we don't get stressed-out in these situations. We keep things under control so if anything new 'pops up,' we'll be able to deal with it."

Right now Malarsie said he and his Marines are more concerned with the tasks at hand, like getting their gear ready, and less about the state of their future operations. "Small steps," said Malarsie.

"If we pay attention to what we're doing here, we'll be ready for what happens down the road," he added.

**1ST RADIO, From A-1**

Five of the Desert Warfare Training Facility.

"Everything just clicked. We had to do whatever was needed to help save the downed crewmen," said Gustafson.

The three ran down the dark side of the mountain towards the crash site. Screams of fellow Marines were heard within the darkness. Sounds of metal clashing from the turning rotors filled the air.

Orders came from Gustafson, planning the rescue of a staff sergeant pinned under the Huey helicopter. All three Marines followed without hesitation and lifted the Huey from the trapped staff sergeant.

"I was clear-headed and knew what had to be done. It was an immediate response to orders from my NCO," said Zambito.

The staff sergeant as well as the rest of the crew were pulled to safety. First aid was rendered to all the crewmen and the crash site was inspected for leakage of fuel or other dangers. Later, a medical evacuation transported the crew to a medical facility.

"This was an eye opener that it happened in our own backyard," said Gustafson.

"It's shocking to know stuff like this can really happen to you."

The accident is still under investigation.

**ENVIRONMENT, From A-1**

was planned and built in less than a week, when a University of Hawaii professor, and EEWf program administrator, Dr. Dave Duffy told Drigot about it.

"One week after we heard about the program, we were expeditiously doing the work," said Drigot. "In true tradition to the Marine Corps expeditionary and team spirit, MCBH became the first to host these EEWf workers "on the ground" on all Oahu," she added.

Thanks to the swift way the Marine Corps volunteered to take on this program, and team support from all units, the EEWf crew will have their first paycheck before Christmas.

**What's new?**

**Brigadier General Kevin M. Sandkuhler, Staff Judge Advocate for the Commandant of the Marine Corps, visited MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Dec. 10, as part of a yearly visit given to legal centers throughout the Marine Corps. During his visit, Sandkuhler spoke to the legal Marines about issues and concerns regarding the future of the legal service career field in the Corps.**



Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero