

Hawaii MARINE

INSIDE

Electronic W-2s	A-2
NBC Presentation	A-3
Tarawa	A-4
DUI Listing	A-8
Salutes	A-8
Pottery	B-1
MCCS & SM&SP	B-2
Word to Pass	B-4
Ads	B-4
Menu	B-6
Special Olympics	C-1
Sports Briefs	C-2
The Bottom Line	C-3

Volume 33, Number 48

www.mcb.usmc.mil

December 5, 2003

Waterfront Ops saves couple

Sgt. Joseph A. Lee
Combat Correspondent

Two students from the University of Hawaii were rescued Saturday from Kaneohe Bay by MCB Hawaii Waterfront Operations, after their 20-foot sailboat capsized near Sampan Channel.

According to one of the first responders on-scene, Petty Officer 3rd Class Brandon Yenor, a boatsmate with Waterfront Ops, a call came in from the U.S. Coast Guard at approximately 11:30 a.m., identifying a bleeding woman clinging to boat wreckage near Marker 4 in Kaneohe Bay.

"After we made our notifications to local emergency response units, we sent out a small craft to Marker 4, which is within eyesight from the shore," said Yenor.

Less than five minutes from the time the call came in, Waterfront Ops provided a boat on-scene to evacuate the woman to an awaiting ambulance onshore.

"She was cut up pretty

See BOATING, A-2



It's been 62 years almost to the day since America was catapulted into World War II. On Dec. 7, 1941, Japan launched a surprise attack on U.S. military bases in Hawaii. That Sunday morning, military personnel and their families awoke to machinegun fire and bombs, as two waves of Japanese planes swooped down on Oahu bases, destroying hundreds of planes, disabling 18 warships, and killing 2,403 people, including 18 civilians.

Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, will commemorate the attack during the Commanding General's morning colors ceremony. The national ensign flies high mere yards from the Kaneohe Klipper Monument that is dedicated to the 18 Sailors and one civilian who lost their lives during the two waves that barraged Mokapu Peninsula.

The commemoration will begin at 8 a.m.

Right — A USS Arizona Memorial Association historical photograph depicts the view down Battleship Row of the USS California and the USS Maryland next to the capsized USS Oklahoma during that fateful day.



USS Arizona Memorial Association

'101 Days of Summer' celebrates safe, healthy lives

Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24 comes out on top

Kristin Herrick
Sports Editor

In its first year of implementation, the "101 Days of Summer" program showed promising results in helping Marines and Sailors aboard MCB Hawaii live safe and healthy lives.

The program, which was led by the

Single Marine & Sailor Program along with Drug Demand Reduction and Health Promotions coordinators from Marine Corps Community Services, put together a number of activities, both fun and educational. The main focus of the program was to educate Marines and Sailors on the consequences associated with illegal drug use, to promote responsible alcohol consumption and to provide healthy alternatives.



unit scores; units with more members tested received more points. Attending substance abuse training also earned unit points. Based on the overall numbers, a 24 percent reduction in positive tests was recorded in the months during the 101 Days of Summer Program compared with the same months during 2002.

Drug testing played a key role in the success of the program and factored into the total

Units were awarded points based on their participation in a variety of athletic activities such as BayFest 2003 competitions, flag football, the Swamp Romp and soccer, and swimming and softball tournaments from June through September. Points were also earned for volunteering at the MCCS Aloha Fair and for attending the SM&SP Beach Bash.

More than 300 participants came out for the fair and the Beach Bash drew 257. The Swamp Romp had the highest number

See 101 DAYS OF SUMMER, A-2



Dewey Square will be the location of Sunday's Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at 6:15 p.m.

Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero

Holiday concert to be held Sunday

MCB Hawaii Staff
Press Release

The Christmas season is here and the commanding general of MCB Hawaii will host the 5th Annual MCB Hawaii Holiday Concert to ring in the yuletide season in merry tradition, at the Kaneohe Bay base theater, Sunday at 5 p.m. The concert will feature the Marine Forces Pacific Band, and will be followed by the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at Dewey Square at approximately 6:15 p.m.

At the concert, the MarForPac Band will

entertain guests with traditional holiday melodies. Afterwards Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee along with a group of special needs children will "flip the switch" that lights up the large pine tree in Dewey Square.

For the last five years, the base has elaborately decorated the Christmas icon and the community has gathered 'round to kick-off celebrations proclaiming the joyous season.

The holiday concert and tree lighting is free-of-charge and open to all military and civilian personnel, their family members and the local community.

Hawaii Marine readers, enjoy the Military Sun Press Dec. 19 – Jan. 2.

MCBH NEWS BRIEFS

MSG Team Seeks U.S. Embassy Security Guards

You're invited to join an elite team and become a member of Marine Security Guard Battalion. Marines assigned to "B" billet duties with MSG Bn. will guard U.S. embassies around the world, providing security for the embassy and its personnel.

This special duty assignment provides many benefits in addition to worldwide travel, such as extra pay, accelerated promotion opportunities and the chance to experience foreign cultures.

The MSG Screening Team will give an overview of job opportunities and answer your questions in the Conference Room of the Kaneohe Bay Bachelor Officers Quarters on Dec. 10 and 11 at 8 a.m.

For additional information, contact your career planner or visit the MSG Web site at www.msgbn.usmc.mil.

K-Bay Chapel to Host Several Christmas Season Events

The MCB Hawaii community is invited to the following events at the base chapel, Bldg. 1090. For more info, call 257-3552.

- Saturday, 8:45 a.m. until noon: Join the MCB Hawaii community for "The Challenges of Advent," a time for personal reflection followed by lunch. Make reservations at 254-2148. Advent activities will be provided for children ages 4-plus.

- Sunday, 2- 4 p.m.: All branches of the military are invited to the Special Needs Children's Worship Service, a special time for disabled people and their families. In addition to the service, enjoy the petting zoo, face painting and special music.

- Monday at 11:45 a.m. & 6 p.m.: Roman Catholics will celebrate Holy Day, Immaculate Conception.

- Dec. 14 at 3 p.m.: Mark your calendars now for the Ecumenical Children's Program and Party.

- Dec. 17 at 7 p.m.: Roman Catholics will hold a Penance Service.

- Dec. 24 at 6 p.m.: Protestants will celebrate Christmas with a Candlelight Service.

- Dec. 24 at 7:30 p.m. & 11:30 p.m.: Roman Catholics will celebrate Christmas with Mass.

- Dec. 25 at 9:30 a.m.: Roman Catholics will celebrate Christmas with Mass.

Hawaii MARINE

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Electronic W-2s debut next year

1st Lt. Joshua P. Bahr

Finance Officer, MCB Hawaii

"MyPay", formerly known as E/MSS, offers enhanced services, security, accessibility and reliability to all customers of the Defense Finance and Accounting Services (DFAS) worldwide. It uses strong encryption and secures socket layer technology with your social security number and your personal identification number (PIN) to safeguard your information from any unauthorized access.

The myPay system allows users to take control of their personal finances through the capabilities of viewing and printing LESs, W-2s and travel

vouchers, amending tax withholdings, managing bonds and allotments, controlling Thrift Savings Plan allocations, as well as updating electronic funds transfer and address information. All these tools allow you, the member, to take control of your personal finances and become an effective financial manager.

Next year, myPay is taking another step forward in its services through the electronic delivery of W-2s. All civilian employees and military members, who have obtained a PIN for access to the myPay system, will *only* receive an electronic copy of their W-2. No hardcopies will be sent to members with access to the system. The electronic W-2 is compati-

ble for all tax purposes and will remain available on the system for the entire year.

If you have forgotten or misplaced your PIN, all military and civilian personnel may receive a new PIN via the MCB Hawaii Finance Office. The process only takes a few moments, and all that is required is a personal identification card.

"myPay" enhanced designs help you find the information and complete the transactions you want in just three simple clicks. The system is available around the clock and eliminates the hassle of waiting in lines or holding on the phone.

Surf www.dfas.mil/myPay/ for more details.

Reservists will now reap their commissary benefits regardless of active duty status

Cpl. Luis R. Agostini

Marine Forces Pacific

CAMP H. M. SMITH — Thanks to the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2004, Marine reservists can kiss their commissary privilege cards goodbye.

The card, which granted 24 commissary shopping days per calendar year, has been replaced with full commissary benefits for members of the ready reserve (which includes members of the selected reserve and individual ready reserve), members of the retired reserve who possess a Uniformed Services ID card and their family members, according to a Headquarters Marine Corps press release dated Nov. 24.

That means more than 50 reservists currently mobilized by the Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific Headquarters will be able to return home and shop at commissaries on the mainland, in the islands, and around the world, once they complete their obligated tour of service.

One Marine reservist, Cpl. Cedric Smith, a service record book clerk for Headquarters and Service Bn., MarForPac, is in the process of departing Hawaii. He looks forward to the benefits awaiting him.

"I'll definitely use it [the commissary] a lot more now," said Smith, a Vallejo, Calif., resident. "Travis Air

Force Base is only 15 minutes away from where I live, so now I'll get to go weekly, or whenever I want, instead of once a month."

Fortunately, commissary privileges haven't been a problem for many Marine reservists, especially the hundreds who have been activated since post-Sept. 11, 2001.

"I've been on [reserve] orders for two years already," said Cpl. Medehania Baheta, also an SRB clerk with Headquarters and Service Bn. Here. "I might extend after January, so I really haven't needed the commissary card, since I've been able to go for a while."

For others, like Staff Sgt. Tanya Longbine, the staff noncommissioned officer in charge for the MarForPac security branch, commissary privileges have not been an issue.

"I've been on orders ever since I got out," said the Rochester, N.Y., resident. "I don't even know where the closest commissary is back home."



Cpl. Luis R. Agostini

Reservists are no longer required to present commissary privilege cards, as they now receive full benefits and privileges as commissary shoppers, courtesy of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2004.

Either way, the Defense Commissary Agency plans on immediately making the shopping experience more convenient for all service members: active duty, reserve and retired, and their family members.

"Instructions have gone out to all continental U.S. stores informing them that reservists now have unlimited shopping, and telling store managers how to welcome members of the National Guard and Reserve to the full use of the commissary benefit," said Patrick Nixon, deputy director of DECA. "Commissary shoppers will begin to see banners saying 'Welcome Guard and Reserve to Full Time Savings,' along with other events recognizing these new full-time shoppers."

101 DAYS OF SUMMER: Program was a success

From A-1

ber of participants with more than 1,000 Marines and Sailors taking part in the run.

"We had a lot of people out for the events and they had a lot of fun," said Drug Demand Reduction Coordinator Quentin Redmon. "A few teams were really close in points, and they became very involved and engaged in the program."

With 6,220 points, Marine

Aviation Logistics Squadron 24 came in first place and was awarded \$1,000 for its unit recreation fund. Marine Corps Air Facility came in second place with 5,700 points and received \$750. Third place and \$500 went to Headquarters Bn., MCB Hawaii, with 5,667 total points.

The 101 Days of Summer winners will be honored at the base flagpole as part of the Morning Colors Ceremony, today at 8 a.m.



Cpl. Jessica M. Mills

Two Marines attack each other during the sumo wrestling competition at the McKenna Motors Bay Fest 2003 aboard MCB Hawaii.

BOATING, From A-1

bad," said Yenor. "There were some really deep lacerations on her legs and on her back. She was wearing her life vest, and it's a good thing, because with the injuries she sustained, I'm confident that the life vest alone saved her life."

Throughout the rescue, the woman cried out for her boyfriend, according to Yenor, asking if he had been found yet.

"When we found out there was another person still missing, the U.S. Coast Guard dispatched a helicopter, and we sent another boat out to assist in locating him," said Yenor.

Found clinging to a buoy at Sampan Channel, the boyfriend was ejected from the boat as it capsized. He could not catch the wreckage and his girlfriend as the current quickly swept them into Kaneohe Bay.

"He said that he tried swimming after her, but when he realized he was not gaining on the wreckage, he turned back to the nearest floating object, a buoy at Sampan Channel, at the southern mouth of Kaneohe Bay, about 2,400 yards from where his girlfriend and the boat's wreckage were pulled from the water."

Though small craft and high surf advisories had been posted by the U.S. Coast Guard, the two made a fateful decision to sail anyway, which nearly cost them their lives.

"Why people go against the advise of the U.S. Coast Guard, we'll never know," said Dino Leonard, assistant aquatics manager for MCB Hawaii, "but you should always listen to weather forecasts and advisories warning of dangerous conditions."

"The water can be an extremely dangerous place, especially in stormy conditions like we had last weekend."

Information on maritime safety can be located at www.uscgboating.org or www.safeboatingcouncil.org. To find out the current local weather conditions and posted surf advisories, call 973-4382.



Outbreak!

No one's blood can be considered safe. Anyone — even people you know and trust — can have infected blood, and it should be considered dangerous."

Staff Sgt. Caleb Eames, NBC staff NCO in charge
Combat Service Support Group 3

Hotel staff trained by NBC Marine

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

A clean hotel room with a freshly made bed can be a warm and welcoming site to a tourist weary from traveling many miles. However, Staff Sgt. Caleb Eames, the nuclear, biological and chemical staff noncommissioned officer in charge with Combat Service Support Group 3 aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, knows that same welcoming room can be hoarding numerous blood-borne pathogens invisible to the human eye.

Giliw Abenes, the Sheraton Hotels and Resorts human resources manager, Risk Management, contacted Eames, and she asked if he could give a presentation to hotel workers in accordance with the hotel's annual regulation. Eames was more than eager to assist in the presentation.

During the Nov. 25 class, Eames explained to several workers how to prevent the transfer of the deadly infections such as hepatitis and acquired immune deficiency syndrome at the Sheraton Princess Kaiulani Hotel in Waikiki. He explained that they are the first line of defense against these harmful pathogens.

"We are required to educate our workers on the dangers of dealing with the public regarding possible exposure to blood-borne pathogens," said Abenes. "I wanted to make the presentation interesting, but I also wanted to be able to stress to them the importance of being cautious."

"I knew that if a Marine were to give the presentation, it would definitely be interesting enough to capture the audience's attention and stress the seriousness of what could happen if they are in an environment where they're exposed to pathogens,"

Eames explained.

After he entered the classroom wearing mission-orientated, protective posture (MOPP) gear, Eames explained to the workers that although they are not equipped with MOPP gear, they could still protect their body with the use of gloves and by constantly washing their hands.

"No one's blood can be considered safe," said Eames. "Anyone — even people you know and trust — can have infected blood, and it should be considered dangerous. These pathogens can be anywhere, and when you are cleaning or working in areas where these pathogens are likely to exist, you can never be too careful."

The workers also learned how the pathogens could enter the blood-



Staff Sgt. Caleb Eames dons full MOPP gear into the presentation.

stream. Eames explained that something as simple as a bandage could have blood on it, and the harmful pathogens could live for up to five days in the open air.

He again stressed the importance of washing their hands and not putting them anywhere near the mouth.

"This training was designed to provide a basic understanding of blood-borne pathogens and common routes of entry into the blood stream," said Eames. "I am glad they found my class interesting because it's a serious matter when an individual comes in contact with pathogens such as hepatitis and AIDS."

"They learned methods of prevention and a wealth of information that is pertinent to dealing with these life-threatening diseases."



Eames begins to remove his MOPP gear, while Giliw Abenes, the Sheraton Hotels and Resorts human resources manager, Risk Management, introduces him to the hotel staff.



Staff Sgt. Caleb Eames, the nuclear, biological and chemical NCOIC with CSSG-3, explains the ins and outs of the M40 series protective mask to an engineer at the Sheraton Princess Kaiulani Hotel.

M40/42 Chemical/Biological Protective Mask

Primary function: Provides respiratory, eye, and face protection against field concentrations of chemical and biological agents.

Protects against: Chemical and biological agent vapors, aerosols, toxins and radiological fallout particles.

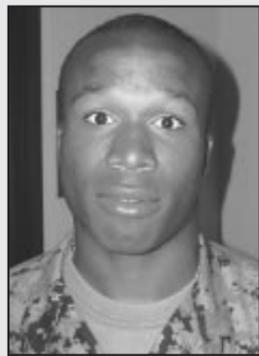
Protection probabilities:

- 95% against 5,000 mg-min/m³
- 75% against 20,000 mg-min/m³
- 50% minimum probability of achieving no more than .002 % penetration of Bacillus globigii.

Features: The M40/42 mask consists of a silicone rubber face piece with an in-turned peripheral face seal and binocular rigid lens system. A face-mounted canister (gas and aerosol filter) can withstand a maximum of 15 nerve-, choking-, and blister-agent attacks. It will also withstand a maximum of two blood agent attacks providing the user with unobstructed forward vision. Corrective lenses are available. The mask permits intelligible speech, hearing and allows drinking during wear. Because of these features, the mask can be worn continuously for eight to 12 hours.

Word on the Street

"With all the recent rains, how would you prepare for a flood?"



"I would buy canned goods, drinking water and flashlights."

Pfc. Tashiem Curtis
Radio operator
3rd Marine Regiment



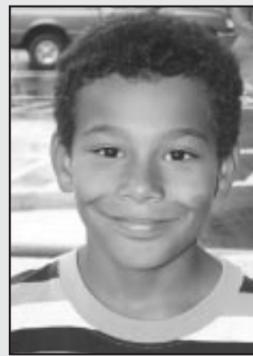
"I would stock up on batteries, food and invest in a good radio."

Ash Dotta
Program coordinator
Chaminade University



"I would find routes to work and the nearest hospital that would not accumulate much water in case of emergency."

Petty Officer 2nd Class David Moscarello
Air traffic controller
MCAF



"I would buy plenty of food and freeze it, and also put my car in the garage."

Jarred Lauzon, 10
Fifth grader
Lanikai Elementary School



"I would sandbag areas of the house where water can enter."

Cpl. Dale Hopkins
Avionics electrician
HMH-363

Camp Smith Marines head for Tarawa

Pfc. Bernadette Ainsworth

Marine Forces Pacific

ABOARD THE USS HOPPER — Fifteen Camp H. M. Smith Marines and three from Camp Lejeune, N.C., deployed aboard the U.S.S. Hopper Nov. 13 for the 60th anniversary ceremony of the landing at Tarawa.

For most of the Marines, this is their first deployment aboard a naval vessel, and life aboard ship for the first time is proving to be an eye-opening experience.

“Every Marine should experience a

deployment aboard a ship,” said Lance Cpl. Brian Daniels, a color guard rifleman with 2nd Marine Division. “We are part of the Navy, and being aboard ship follows those Naval traditions.”

“I’ve always dreamed of going on a ship,” said Pfc. Robert Baker, a warehouse clerk and part of the rifle detail with Headquarters and Service Battalion, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific. “Everyone should go on a ship if they get the chance. Marines tend to stereotype Sailors; [however,] being on a ship gives us a chance to find out if those stereotypes are true.”

Days can be long for Marines on ship, but the monotony is broken up by various daily activities.

“We practice everyday for the ceremony, participate in [physical training], square away our uniforms, have classes on Marine Corps knowledge and history, and basically get ready for the ceremony,” said Daniels.

After their daily routine, when the Marines are secured before chow every evening, there are several amenities that the Hopper offers during their off time.

There are two computer rooms, one with Internet access and one for gaming.

Two libraries offer a wide selection of paperback books, along with several televisions with VHS and DVD players.

“On my free time I watch movies, write e-mail home and play board games,” said Lance Cpl. Scott Gibson, MarForPac manpower statistician clerk and a color guard rifleman.

With daily routines to keep them busy and active during their sea deployment, these Marines will not only experience Naval life firsthand, but also witness and log still other memorable experiences at the ceremony that awaits them on Tarawa Atoll.

Marines stormed beaches taking Tarawa in three days of 1943

Marines participate in 60th anniversary ceremony of the landing at Tarawa

Pfc. Bernadette Ainsworth

Marine Forces Pacific

BETIO, Tarawa Atoll — Sixty years after one of the bloodiest battles in the Pacific during World War II, Marines from U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific and the 2nd Marine Division returned to Tarawa to honor more than 1,000 killed.

The ceremony began at the Battle of Tarawa Memorial, which was dedicated to the Marines and Sailors wounded and killed, during the 76-hour attack on Nov. 20-23, 1943. That battle changed the

face of amphibious warfare forever — and the impact of words iterated by the Imperial Marine Japanese commander in charge of the defense of Tarawa, Rear Adm. Keiji Shibasaki. He had haughtily predicted, “A million men cannot take Tarawa in 100 years.”

It took about 4,000 Marines and Sailors three days.

“The Japanese enemy was tough, but we were tougher,” said Harry Jackson, a Tarawa veteran, who was one of the first 1,500 Marines to storm the beaches of Tarawa.

Jackson was one of many prestigious guests that attended and spoke at the ceremony.

During his speech, Jackson recalled the U.S. entering the war in 1941, continuing through the

See *TARAWA*, A-6



Pfc. Bernadette Ainsworth

The Marine firing detail from Camp H. M. Smith marches from the Battle of Tarawa War Memorial in Betio to Red Beach 2, one of the three beaches that the first wave of 1,500 Marines from the 2nd Marine Division landed on, Nov. 20, 1943.

USS Hopper remembers Tarawa

Lt. j.g. Tiffany Hill
USS Hopper Public Affairs

ABOARD THE USS HOPPER — On Nov. 20, 1943, U.S. Marines landed on the island of Betio in the Tarawa Atoll, seizing it from the Japanese after 76 hours of intense and grueling battle. Once the smoke had cleared, 3,301 Americans had been killed, wounded or injured. On Nov. 20, 2003, exactly 60 years later, Sailors from the USS Hopper (DDG 70), 15 Marines from Marine Forces Pacific and three Marines from the 2nd Marine Division Color Guard, Camp Lejeune, N. C., participated in a commemorative ceremony there.

The ceremony was held at the U.S. Marines War Memorial in Prince Philip Park in Betio and

on Red Beach 2, where the 2nd Battalion of the 2nd Marine RCT landed. Once again, the American flag flew tall and proud on the same beach where Marines shed blood, tears and sweat on 60 years ago.

The trip made by the Marines and the crew of the Hopper was filled with mixed emotions. The excitement of traveling to a new place and the pride of participating in a ceremony in the remembrance of a battle that was extremely significant in the lives of all Americans and the world 60 years ago was, at times, overcome by sadness for the lives lost there.

The USS Hopper arrived the evening of Nov. 19, much anticipated by the people of Tarawa. Many of the local people were awed at the sight

See HOPPER, A-6



Lt. j.g. Tiffany Hill

Marines and Sailors deployed on the U.S.S. Hopper commemorated the Battle of Tarawa at the U.S. Marines War Memorial in Prince Philip Park in Betio and on Red Beach 2.

HOPPER, From A-5

of the Hopper anchored at the entrance of the channel. The harbor landing was crowded by hundreds of locals, as the first boat came ashore, attesting to the locals' excitement.

At sunrise on Nov. 20, both Sailors and Marines attended the memorial ceremony coordinated by the U.S. Peace Corps. In attendance was the President of the Republic of Kiribati, his Excellency Anote Tong, and the U.S. Ambassador to Kiribati, Mr. David Lyon.

The first part of the ceremony was elegant in its simplicity. All regional Peace Corps volunteers of the Tarawa Atoll, young trainees of the Marine Training Center of Kiribati, the Betio police band, government officials, numerous locals and the Hopper's crew attended the ceremony.

A dedication and remembrance was paid to all those that fought 60 years prior. Ambassador Lyon and President Tong each spoke about the importance of the battle and placed wreaths at the foot of the U.S. Marines War Memorial.

The Marines, sharp and unwavering,

proudly displayed the American Flag and the U.S. Marine Corps flag while honoring those Sailors and Marines who had gone before them with a 21-gun salute.

The ceremony then moved to Red Beach 2, one of the three designated landing beaches assaulted by Marines. The ceremony then took a more personal turn for some of the ceremony's participants.

Also in attendance were two veterans of the battle, Mr. Harry Jackson and Mr. Joe Sobol. Jackson spoke about his experience exactly 60 years earlier. The memory, clear and concise, detailed the horrors of the battle, the valor displayed by both sides and the relief felt when ultimate victory was achieved.

Jackson and Sobol then walked side-by-side and laid a wreath on the seawall of the beach that they stormed more than a half-century ago. The wreath accompanied one that was presented earlier by Cmdr. Michael Selby, commanding officer of the Hopper. Chief Gas Turbine Systems Electrician (SW) Jerry Hunt best summarized the morning's events.

"It says something for our country



Marine Corps History Archives

This portrait, "Tarawa, South Pacific, 1943" by Sergeant Tom Lovell, is part of the Marine Corps Combat Art Collection and is a lifelike rendering of the event.

and military, that we would travel such a great distance to show other countries our dedication to honoring the memory of those who sacrificed before us for the freedom we now enjoy," said Hunt.

Although the USS Hopper's stay was brief, it was beneficial for many of her

crewmembers. Petty Officer 3rd Class Genea Sonner noted the educational value of the trip by emphasizing that these events increase the cohesiveness and teamwork of the military by bringing members together to reflect on triumphs of those who have passed before.

TARAWA, From A-4

Pacific island-hopping campaign, and most importantly, fighting for the Tarawa Atoll.

Because of the way in which the Japanese were dug in, the air support provided before the attack did very little to disrupt the 4,700 Japanese defenders.

That problem was compounded by a low tide, which made it impossible for the Higgins boats to get over the coral reef.

Stuck on the reef, Marines became an easy target for Japanese machine-guns and mortars as they waded to shore.

That's when the Marines employed hundreds of the newly introduced Amtracs. The Japanese were expecting the vehicles to get stuck on the reef, just like the Higgins boats. They were

surprised when the tracked vehicles rolled right over it. Although the vehicles made it over, Japanese bullets pierced the lightly armored vehicles.

As he spoke of the battle, Jackson recalled the ferocity of the Japanese enemy, never giving up, even when their battle was lost.

In the end, the Marines won, and Betio, the southernmost island in the Tarawa atoll, was officially declared secure at 1:10 p.m., Nov. 23, 1943. The island, which was used for a landing strip soon after, was bought with the blood of more than 1,000 Marines and Sailors killed and 3,000 wounded.

A Marine firing squad honored the courageous Marines with a 21-gun salute.

"We are here today to honor our fallen Marines, [both] United States Marines and Japanese Marines. They were a great enemy," said Jackson.

Dedicating our time



Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle

From left — Cpl. Michael McClain, a military police officer with the Military Police Co., Lance Cpl. Bernabe Hernandez, supply clerk with Marine Corps Air Facility and Cpl. Jeff R. DeGuzman, personnel clerk for Marine Forces Pacific, were recognized for their superior work performance and contributions to the community through volunteer work by the Young Men's Christian Association Nov. 28 at the Ohana Outrigger East in Waikiki.

Environmental asks all to better manage waste

Lance Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson
Combat Correspondent

With November trade winds blowing hard across MCB Hawaii, containment of landfill garbage is difficult. However, the consequences of not containing the rubbish can be crippling.

The landfill aboard Kaneohe Bay opened in 1978, and "Subtitle D," the 1994 regulation that governs landfills, provides that all garbage be contained within landfill confines. Further, an MCB Hawaii directive states that all garbage must be bagged and tied before being thrown into a dumpster.

Not bagging and tying loose garbage leaves trash to easily blow out into the ocean and throughout base areas. Wind and perimeter fences barricade a vast majority of garbage from getting into the environment, but the fences can't catch all of the rubbish.

A fine can be levied when individuals and units do not follow the base order — up to \$25,000 a day, or the landfill can be closed permanently. Because the base landfill saves people more than a million dollars a year, closing the landfill would be a distressing action.

Thanks to support by Marine Corps Air Facility, weather information allows the landfill operator to plan for high wind conditions that can close the landfill due to excessive blowing rubbish.

There are recycling bins for paper and aluminum cans throughout areas of the installation, but there may be individuals or units not using them. Entire bags of paper and cans are



Cpl. Jessica M. Mills

Base Facilities unloads trash from dumpsters into the K-Bay landfill each week.

sometimes thrown into giant garbage dumpsters because individuals don't want to take the couple of extra steps to recycle waste to its correct destination, explained George Lingle, environmental protection specialist and solid waste manager at MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

Before individual unit dumpsters are emptied, the Base Facilities truck driver inspects each one to see if there are untied bags, recyclables, wood, metal or hazardous waste that should have been separated from the rubbish. If there are any of these items in the trash, the driver will not empty the dumpster until the

items are removed. The information is then logged onto a dumpster report that goes to the logistics officer assigned to that dumpster. All dumpsters are labeled with these prohibited items.

Environmental claims that there are too many of these instances coming up.

"People don't bother taking the extra steps to bag their garbage and others suffer the consequences of having to dumpster dive," said Lingle. "The garbage blown out of the landfill not only looks terrible; it is also very harmful to the wildlife living here. Animals can ingest the garbage, and many can get

stuck on six-pack rings from soda cans. These situations are causing needless deaths to many living things, and there is no need for this to be occurring."

To further educate Marines and Sailors about recycling awareness and proper disposal of waste, the Environmental Compliance and Protection Department provides a quarterly course.

The course covers 11 topics that range from environmental training and hazardous waste disposal, to archaeology and storm water drainage. The two-day class also includes a bus tour that travels to environmental sites aboard base, including the base landfill.

There is only one other landfill on the island of Oahu, and it is located approximately 50 miles away from Kaneohe Bay.

"If the K-Bay location is closed down, there won't be an easy alternative," said Lingle.

It is up to the Department of Health and the State Environmental Regulator to decide whether or not fines will be levied or closure will result for noncompliance with rubbish and landfill policies. It is up to MCB Hawaii to ensure neither penalty are imposed by disposing of trash and recyclables in a responsible manner.



SALUTES

**Headquarters Bn.
MCB Hawaii**

**Marine Helicopter
Training Squadron
301**

**Certificate of
Commendation**

Sgt. Joseph A. Lee
Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero

**Promotion to
Lance Corporal**

Richard F. Ness III
Clayton A. Pressley
Wesley Smith
Joseph M. Timmins

**Promotion to
Lance Corporal**

Michelle M. Dickson

(Editor's Note: Per the commanding general of MCB Hawaii, those convicted of DUIs or drug-related offenses shall be publicized in the Hawaii Marine newspaper.)

- Lance Cpl. Benjamin Crossman of the Military Police

Co., MCB Hawaii, refused a blood alcohol content test when pulled over on Nov. 24. He was taken into custody for driving under the influence. His license was suspended, his decal was removed and the vehicle was taken off base on the same day.



DUIs are career killers

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reminds that impaired driving is not merely a traffic offense. Don't be fooled. Impaired driving is no accident nor is it a victimless crime.

Too many people still don't understand that alcohol, drugs and driving don't mix. If you also find this too hard to figure out when you've had too many drinks to drive, don't risk it. If you're feeling "buzzed," you are most likely impaired. And, if you drive impaired, law enforcement will arrest you.

You drink & drive. YOU LOSE!

TO DO LIST

Before any activity that involves alcohol:

- Plan ahead.

- Choose a sober designated driver.

- Take mass transit or a taxicab, or ask a friend to drive you home if you didn't plan in advance.

- Spend the night where the activity is being held.

- Celebrate responsibly.
- Report impaired drivers to law enforcement.