

Hawaii MARINE

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Looking ahead to HCAX



Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero

Private First Class Jonathan Lucas, a crew chief with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362, gets a bird's eye view of the breathtaking Hawaiian landscape while transporting supplies to Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force 3 on the "Big Island." For full story see page A-3.

Base Tax Center saves money

Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero
Combat Correspondent

The 2003 tax season is in full swing and the Base Tax Center has already assisted more than 2,000 Marines, Sailors and family members in filing their income taxes.

During its first three weeks of operation, the tax center has e-filed more than 2,000 federal returns, and approximately 1,500 state returns, returning nearly \$2.7 million in tax refunds to service members and their families.

Based on the current cost of tax preparation and loan fee services off base, said Capt. Ramin M. Olson, a legal officer and in charge of the tax center, the tax services provided here have saved roughly \$330,000 for taxpayers who have utilized this service.

"Rumors about obtaining larger refunds at commercial tax preparation services out in town are, for the most part, false, especially relative to taxpayers who are filing simple 1040EZ or 1040A federal returns, which is the vast majority of our clientele," said Olson.

The free-of-charge tax assistance has been open to base residents since Jan. 27, and is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. (doors close at 6 p.m., due to high volume during those hours) and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. During the month of March, the hours of the center will be reduced due to lower volume of tax returns anticipated.

The Marines and civilian volunteers who provide the assistance can handle almost every level of tax filings and can file the returns electronically. Simple 1040EZ and 1040A federal income tax filing are taking tax assistants an average wait time of five to ten minutes during normal business hours, but in the evenings it may take longer.

"The tax center gets crowded after 4 p.m., because all the people who drop by to get taxes done after work," said Olson. "This is the reason we extended February hours this year to cover four evenings per week, vice only one evening per week last year."

The center is currently operating on a walk-in basis only, except for personnel who are itemizing deductions or who have otherwise complex tax returns.

All personnel seeking tax assistance must bring with them all proper documentation to include original power of attorney documents, complete dependent information, and complete bank account information in order properly file a return.

See TAXES, A-6

MCBH spotlighted for safety excellence



Staff Sgt. Robert Carlson

Sergeant Timothy Kemp, safety specialist at the MCB Hawaii Base Safety Center, demonstrates the Fit Test equipment the center uses to train people who are exposed to air particles and vapors, or those who work in enclosed spaces.

Staff Sgt. Robert Carlson
Press Chief

For the second year in a row, MCB Hawaii was named the safest Marine Corps installation and given the Commandant's Excellence in Safety Award.

The Marine Corps Center of Safety Excellence recognizes Marine Corps bases, units, managers and individuals for significant contributions and accomplishments in the field of safety and mishap prevention.

"The training we do here plays a big role in our success," said Master Sgt. David Welker, traffic program manager at MCB Hawaii's Base Safety

Center. "Having Marines, Sailors and civilians take back the training they get here, and implement it back in their work areas, helps support the effort."

The Base Safety Center conducts training for traffic safety, explosive safety, motorcycle safety, Occupational Safety and Health issues, and other topics. Programs like these help keep interest in safety alive aboard the base, and find new ways to bring safety and loss prevention to everyone, according to Welker. "Our worker's compensation insurance costs have come down a lot as a result

See AWARD, A-6

K-Bay safety concerns now submitted anonymously

Staff Sgt. Robert Carlson
Press Chief

Marine Corps Base Hawaii is a safe place to live and work because the Marines, Sailors, family members, and civilian Marines take risk management seriously.

Taking safety to the next higher level, commands aboard MCB Hawaii are expanding anonymous safety reporting procedures to enable everyone aboard the base the ability to identify and start processes to put an end to unsafe practices and situations.

Anonymously reporting safety concerns is an opportunity all employees must be afforded according to Occupational Safety and Health guidelines. Currently, it is provided in the Unsafe and Unhealthful Program administered by the Base Safety Center.

See SAFETY, A-6

Local leathernecks show 'trade secrets' to soldiers

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

Three flag officers and 32 officers and command sergeants major from the Army's 25th Infantry Division (Light) at Schofield Barracks visited MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Feb. 13, to orient themselves with Marine capabilities in Hawaii.

Major General Eric T. Olson, commanding general of the 25th Infantry Division (Light), and Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, commanding general, MCB Hawaii, envisages these visits to be a quarterly program of exchange visits between the Army and Marines on Oahu for Professional Military Education.

"Oahu is unique in hav-

ing a Marine Corps base in close proximity to an Army garrison," said Maj. Gen. Olson. "We would like to exploit this opportunity with a periodic exchange of 'trade secrets' to enhance the joint warfighting potential."

During the visit, some of

the visitors received instruction on the use of the base's Modular Amphibious Egress Trainer, and then experienced it firsthand.

"This is a tremendous training device," said Maj.

See SOLDIERS, A-6



Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero

Army Maj. Gen. Eric Olson, observes the egress trainer being swallowed by thousands of gallons of water during his visit to MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Feb. 13.

MCBH NEWS BRIEFS

EE AND I BONDS CHANGE

The Department of Treasury recently announced that the minimum holding period for Series EE and I bonds has been increased from six to 12 months as of Feb. 1, 2003.

This change means people who purchase EE or I bonds on or after Feb. 1 must wait one year before they can redeem those bonds. People who purchase bonds will receive a notification of this new policy with their bonds until the preprinted bond stock that incorrectly states the previous holding period is used up.

More information is available at www.savingsbonds.gov.

MCX'S SUPER STAR STUDENT PROGRAM STILL RUNNING

The 2002 Marine Corps Exchange Super Star Student Program has been a huge success. There have been four \$1,000 U.S. Savings Bonds winners so far this year.

To win, MCX patrons in grades 6-12 must bring their B average or better report card to the MCX to receive a scratch off card. The scratch off card reveals a prize including phone cards, disposable cameras, portfolios, dictionaries and other great prizes.

Each MCX also has at least two scratch off cards with \$1,000 U.S. Savings Bonds on them.

The Super Star Student Program is entirely vendor supported. The MCX partners with these valued vendors to support the military community and encourages students to earn good grades.

W-2s AVAILABLE ONLINE

All personnel with access to myPay (formally Employee/Member Self Service) can now access their W-2 forms necessary to file tax returns. The W-2 tax form is available for download for the current year, and previous years to 1998.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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

Hawaii MARINE

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CG'S MAIL BOX

"I recommend that families be allowed to bring their children in the club until a certain time."



BRIG. GEN.
MCABEE

Submitted by Mary Pratt, family member

"I went to the Staff NCO Club Rocker Room this evening with my husband and son. It being a Wednesday, Wing night.

My husband planned on playing darts and some pool with our son. However, I was told that he could not be in the club since he was under the age of 18.

We came from Camp Lejeune this past year, and we have belonged to the Staff Club for several years. We always were able to bring our son in the club to play darts and pool with us.

I hear that the club needs members, but this is a sure way for our family not to stay members of the club.

We have taken our son in there several times before, and nothing was said.

Where on this base are we able to take our son in shoot pool and throw darts?

I recommend that families be allowed to bring their children in the club until a certain time."

Respectfully,
Mary Pratt

Ms. Pratt,

The commanding general asked

me to respond to your e-mail of Feb. 5 as your concern and recommendation falls within my area of responsibility. He appreciates that you have taken the time to participate in the "CG Mail" program.

Let me start by saying that we appreciate your continued patronage and membership support of the club.

Our current base regulation titled "Staff Noncommissioned Officer (SNCO) Club Constitution and Bylaws" prohibits minors under the age of 18 in areas of the "Rocker Room" where alcohol is served.

The only exception to this policy applies to active duty personnel and military spouses who are between 18-20 years of age; they are allowed to enter areas of the club that serve alcohol, but are prohibited from consuming alcoholic beverages.

These regulations were developed and implemented by the Staff NCO Club Committee. The committee was created to ensure members have an appropriate voice in the operation of your club and includes representatives from each unit.

Your experience and opinions will continue to be a valuable asset in making the club a place that patrons will use and enjoy. The committee chairman, Sgt. Maj. Filipo Ilaoa, will discuss your suggestion at the next meeting and encourages

all members to contact their unit representatives with recommendations for the club.

As an alternative aboard base, might we suggest "The Impact Zone" at the Mokapu Mall. This facility has several pool tables and is open each day (including weekends) until 10 p.m. It also has numerous other games that are excellent alternatives for family fun.

In addition, MCCS will be renovating the Staff NCO Club during the month of April. Renovations are scheduled to be completed in June and will include a new dining room, separate Staff NCO Club restroom facilities, and new furniture and fixtures.

This plan will provide a larger facility as well as a new dining option for our Staff NCOs, their families, and guests.

What's more, we are planning the construction of a new amusement and recreation center adjacent to the golf course driving range. Construction is tentatively scheduled for next year.

We truly appreciate your feedback concerning the rules that pertain to the use of the Staff NCO Club, and thank you again for participating in the CG Mail Program.

Mr. William B. Lindsey
Assistant Chief of Staff,
Marine Corps Community Services

*(Editor's Note: Letters of any length may be trimmed and edited in the interest of good taste and brevity.)
The commanding general invites input from the base community via C.G. Mail on the following topics: What are we doing that we shouldn't be doing? What are we not doing that we should be doing? What are we doing that we should be doing better?
Responses should include a recommendation that will help solve the problem and must include your name and return address so that staff may respond.
For more information about how to send C.G. Mail, see the MCB Hawaii C.G. Mail page at www.mcbh.usmc.mil/command/cgmail.htm.*

Child support changes for reservists

Press Release
American Forces Press Service

CLEVELAND, Ohio — Guard and Reserve members who have child support obligations and whose civilian income is larger than their military one should review their rights before they get orders.

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service's Garnishment Operations Directorate has been working with the Federal Office of

Child Support Enforcement to address child support payment issues related to activated reservists.

One scenario of concern, said Rod Winn, director of Garnishment Operations, is a reservist whose child support order is based on civilian income and doesn't take into account a possible loss of income caused by military activation.

Neither the obligation nor the payment due is affected automatically by

military service except as the support order may state.

Reservists who need relief have to ask for a review and modification of the child support obligation from their appropriate state's child support agency, he said.

For more information on child support, he said, visit these Web sites below:

• Visit state child support enforcement agencies gateways at www.acf.hhs.gov/

programs/cse/extinf.htm#exta.

• The Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement Information Memorandum (IM)-01-09 at www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cse/pol/im-01-09.htm.

• Department of Defense guidance is provided under "Family Law Matters" at the secure Web site operated by the Army Judge Advocate General's Office at <https://www.jagcnet.army.mil/Legal>.

COMMENTARY

'Unconditional love is what matters'

Chaplain (Lt. Cmdr.)
Arthur Brown,
3rd Marine Regiment

A pastor tells of a husband and wife who came to him for marriage counseling. The woman began by saying, "My husband is a 'neatness fanatic.' Everything's got to be spic and span; in fact, that's my little nickname for him — I call him 'Spic and Span.'"

"When he comes home at night, I've have to have the house immaculate; the kids have to be cleaned up. Then, after he gives the kids and the house the white-glove test, he hugs me and shows me the affection I need."

However, if the house isn't clean and the kids aren't neat and the dinner isn't delicious, he's cool, distant, I get no affection, no signs of love."

At this point, the husband interrupted, saying, "She's right. I work hard all day; when I come home at night I think I have the right to a clean house, clean kids and a good meal. Right?" The wife answers, "But I have to know that he loves me whether I have the house cleaned or not. That's what gives me the strength to do the cleaning and all the rest."

I contend this is a wonderful commentary on the "unconditional nature" of Divine Love. It begins with our understanding of God's love.

We can't earn God's love. We can't

force God's love. We can't buy it or bargain for it.

The truth is that God genuinely loves us freely and unconditionally.

In our relationships with one another, that is the only kind of love that helps us to grow in our humanity. Like God's love, it is a love that says, "You have my love. You didn't earn it. You didn't force it. You didn't have to prove you deserved it.

"You didn't buy it. You simply have it. I love you, freely and unconditionally: no fine print; and no balancing of the scales."

Truly, that is a reflection of Divine Love and it is the only kind of love that can help us grow into wholeness of life.



Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero

Training for high-density altitude flying is necessary prior to performing a logistics flight to PTA.

Ugly Angels deliver while acing high-density skills

Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero
Combat Correspondent

A Marine logistics flight to the Pohakuloa Training Area on the "Big Island" is a common and ordinary flight for most pilots at Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362.

However, for 1st Lt. Clint Collins and 1st Lt. Donald Blume, the Marine logistics on Feb. 6, in support of Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force 3, served as a training tool to sharpen their flying skills at high altitude.

"This training was critical because I will not always be operating at sea level," said Collins. "For us to transport Marines to the areas where they need to be, we have to be able to operate in different environments."

What pilots can lift at sea level is going to be greatly reduced when flying in this type of environment.

"When you're at PTA, air work is critical," explained Capt. Duane Vila, assistant maintenance officer. "You

have to shoot good approaches.

There is very little room for error." Even though the aircraft weren't carrying a large load, the flight still served its purpose for the pilots.

"We weren't too heavy, and we had a decent power margin," explained Vila. "But, the pilots still got a good taste of operation in high-density altitude."



Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero

Captain Duane Vila, a pilot and assistant maintenance officer with HMH-362, is a veteran of many flights to the "Big Island."

Reflective gear required on base

Staff Sgt. Robert Carlson
Combat Correspondent

Wearing reflective gear is one of the simplest things everyone aboard MCB Hawaii can do to prevent accidents and injuries involving vehicles and pedestrians.

While base regulations require everyone to wear reflective gear whenever they're outside walking or running during the hours of darkness, base residents are still getting caught outside at night without the proper equipment.

To help keep everyone safe, the Base Safety Center is encouraging everyone aboard the installation to abide by a policy where "hours of darkness" are from evening colors until morning colors.

"Part of the problem is that if someone leaves his house at 6 p.m., for example, and it gets dark while he's out, he may not have the proper reflective material to be seen by motorists," said Master Sgt. David Welker, traffic program manager at the Base Safety Center. "It's also difficult to distinguish exactly what time it gets 'light' in the morning."

The Base Safety Center, while working to encourage commands aboard the base to adopt the standard policy, is working with the commanding general and his staff to update the regulations.

In the mornings, when traffic on base is heavy because people are driving to work, reflective material helps keep Marines, Sailors and others safe as they walk or run. The early morning hours are more dangerous because there are more vehicles on the road, and people running or walking without reflective gear are less visible, even though it may be late enough to not be considered "the hours of darkness."

The Military Police Department is stepping up enforcement of the regulations, and the Base Safety Center is always looking for suggestions on how to keep base residents and employees safe.

In addition to wearing reflective material from evening colors until 8 a.m., following other regulations regarding walking or running on the roadways will also keep pedestrians safe.

Individuals, and small groups of

runners, walkers or joggers, are required to run on the left side of the road, facing traffic, when there is no walkway adjacent the roadway. When there is a walkway, small groups, and individual runners, walkers and joggers, are required to use them, and not enter the roadways when vehicles are present.

Pedestrians, including those performing unit physical training in formations smaller than battalion-sized groups, have the right of way in crosswalks and walkways only, and should remain off of the road whenever possible. Base regulations specify other specific rules for formations running or walking aboard MCB Hawaii, and leaders of those formations are required to know the rules before stepping off.

Keeping everyone safe on the roads of MCB Hawaii requires residents and employees to put their risk management skills to work, according to Welker. In a situation involving vehicles and pedestrians, it's always better to use common sense and avoid a collision than to argue about who was at fault after a tragic accident.

Relief Society relocates office for privacy

Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle
Combat Correspondent

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, moved from Bldg. 216 and relocated to Bldg. 4016 in Rooms 77, 79, 81 and 83, behind the Provost Marshal's Office, next to the PMO kennel.

The NMCRS, a nonprofit, charitable organization designed to pro-

vide financial, educational and other assistance to members of the Naval Services of the United States, moved to better serve clients in a more suitable, confidential location.

"We needed to relocate to a building where we could provide our services and ensure our clients' confidentiality," said Dawn Josiah, an office assistant for the NMCRS. "We can now provide our services in a more comfortable environment."

The new office opened for assistance to all active duty service members and their family members, today, at its new location.

"We want Sailors and Marines to remember that we are here for them," said Josiah. "All of our proceeds go back to supporting Marines and Sailors in need of assistance."

For more information on the services available at the NMCRS, call 257-8807.

WORD ON THE STREET

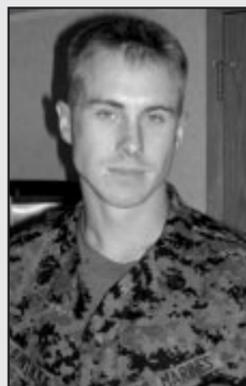
"What do you think NASA's focus should be now?"



"I think they should plan a flight to Mars."

April Jackson

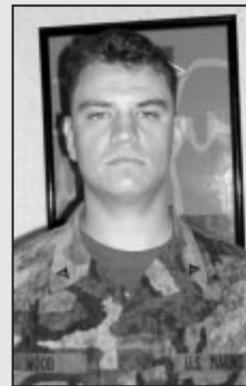
Family member



"They need to keep pressing on. In the last 50 years, they have only had two accidents. That is a good flight record."

Staff Sgt. Scot Juntikka

NBC defense chief
3rd Marine Regiment



"They should try and show some hard scientific evidence, proving why they should continue the space program."

Lance Cpl. Cullen Wood

Regimental vehicle coordinator
3rd Marine Regiment



"They should keep pushing forward, expanding towards the heavens."

Petty Officer 2nd Class Damien Williams

Aviation life support technician
VP-U2



"I think they should keep going forward. Men are from Mars right?"

Leslie Clemons

Family member

Marines support Kailua Elementary's Career Day

Sgt. Joe Lindsay

Combat Correspondent

Though skies were overcast and the rain was coming down hard, the inclement weather didn't seem to dampen the children's spirits at Kailua Elementary School's first ever Drug Free Career Day Feb. 14 — thanks to three Marines from MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, who were there to spread a little sunshine, along with an important message.

Two Marines from the Marine Forces Pacific Band, Sgt. Gary Gilbert, a saxophonist from Gettysburg, Pa., and Sgt. Martha Johnson, a flutist from Westminster, Md., joined Master Sgt. Juan Rivera, the Headquarters Bn. operations chief and native of Chicago, to support the school's effort in educating its students on the importance of main-

taining a drug-free lifestyle.

"It is vital that we instill in the children when they are young an understanding of the dangers of illegal drugs," said Lanelle Hibbs, a native of Kaneohe and the principal of Kailua Elementary. "There is no better spokesperson for this type of issue than the Marine Corps."

The kids all respect Marines because they know the Marines are the people who protect them, and for the Marines to come to our school and pass on the message of the importance of being drug free is really a positive reinforcement."

The three K-Bay Marines were also joined by members of the local fire and police departments, as well other members of the community, including veterinarians, nurses, and martial arts instructors. But it was the Marines who seemed to steal the show.

"To get the kind of reception from the kids that we did gave me a good feeling," said Rivera, referring to the ovation the Marines received when they took center stage. "They made us feel like celebrities, but really we are just Marines, doing the right thing for the right reasons. The Marine Corps isn't just about what happens inside the gates of the base. We are deeply committed to the community as well."

Roselani Potts, an educational assistant at Kailua Elementary from Kailua, Hawaii, said she couldn't agree more.

"The Marines were treated like rock stars here," said Potts. "The kids really look up to them, and take to heart what the Marines say. Events like this wouldn't be possible without the continued support of the Marine Corps."

"I can't tell you how many times they have supported us, and the children of Kailua. I don't think the Marine Corps gets enough credit for all they do for the



Sgt. Joe Lindsay

Marine Forces Pacific Band member Sgt. Martha Johnson, a flutist from Westminster, Md., performs a solo at Kailua Elementary School during the school's Drug Free Career Day Feb. 14.

community. But, I can tell you this, the parents, students and teachers here know."

One parent who can vouch for that is Betty Ross, a registered nurse from Kailua whose son Webster, 10, is a fifth grader at the school.

"As a parent it means a lot to me to have the Marine Corps come here and deliver a positive message on the importance of being drug free," said Ross. "To see people face to face who've accomplished so much with their lives by being drug free, such as the Marines, brings the issue a little closer to home for the kids. They understand that to be a Marine you have to be drug free — to be anything successful in life you have to be drug free."

For their part, Rivera, Gilbert and Johnson said they were just glad to help.

"As Marines, we have a responsibility

to be role models for children," said Johnson. "If we touched just one child's life today, and kept that child from giving in to peer pressure to try drugs, then it was all worth it."

"I know it sounds like a cliché," added Gilbert, "but the children really are our future. What we are doing is giving them a strong foundation so they have the knowledge and strength to say no to drugs."

That message didn't seem to be lost on the students during Drug Free Day.

"Drug's are bad," said Kayla, 6, a first grader at Kailua Elementary, who, though not quite sure how to spell her last name, seemed to have little trouble with what the Marines were trying to spell out for her. "Marines don't do drugs. I like my school, my friends, my teachers and the Marines. We don't do drugs, ever, ever, never."



Sgt. Joe Lindsay

Master Sgt. Juan Rivera, the Headquarters Bn., MCB Hawaii, ops chief, chats with 6-year-old Kayla, a first grader at Kailua, about the dangers of drug use.



Lt. j.g. Calloway

Corri Thomas, fiancée of Patrol Squadron 4 aviator Erik Cyre, tries her hand at the P-3 Orion Flight Simulator at the John W. Finn Building aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

Spouses from VP-4 make flying look as easy as pie

Lt. j.g. Calloway
Patrol Squadron-4

A new crop of replacement pilots was added to the cadre of aviators at Patrol Squadron 4 recently, as the VP-4 Officer Spouse's Club was invited to the John W. Finn Building aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, to try their hand at flying the P-3C Orion simulator.

With Navy Lieutenants Eric Cyre and Mark Burns as their guides, the "Skinny Dragon" spouses enthusiastically fastened themselves into the Operational

Flight Trainer to experience first hand the thrill of flying the mighty Orion.

"They made it look easy," said Burns.

The ladies spent two hours taking turns at the flight controls. Burns noted that many of the women were natural-born aviators. He was particularly impressed by the ability of Lisa Avalos, who "trimmed out the flight control forces like a pro."

When asked how she knew so much about flying, she said her husband, Lt. j.g. Peter "Steve" Avalos, gave her "some

pointers so that I wouldn't make the same mistakes he made in flight school."

"I don't know what he makes such a big deal about," exclaimed Robin Payton, wife of VP-4's commanding officer, after her flight. "It's easy!"

The ladies made it clear that they didn't think it was too difficult.

"They should let me fly these," said one spouse.

Bravo Zulu to the officer spouses of VP-4. If the call comes up, the squadron should have no problem finding new pilots with "the right stuff."

'Skinny Dragons' outfit mission support in Nevada

Lt. j.g. John Wickham,
Patrol Squadron-4

NAVAL AIR STATION FALLON,



Nev. — Members of Patrol Squadron 4, the "Skinny Dragons" based out of MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, recently traveled here to participate in training exercises with squadrons from Carrier Air Wing 11.

Carrier air wings routinely train at Fallon, Nevada under the direction of the Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center as an essential part of their Interdeployment Training Cycle.

Since 1999, P-3 squadrons have participated in the training to highlight the platform's capabilities and to better integrate VP into the strike support mission, which has gained more prominence since the advent of the Aircraft Improvement Program modification to the P-3, that brings with it new capabilities that lend support to the Navy's Strike Warfare mission.

Additionally, the Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center is the Navy's model manager for the Air Combat Training Continuum, which includes programs and instruction for all aviation communities that lead to designation as weapons tactics instructors.

Since 2000, selected Patrol Squadron aircrews have received this training. Currently, some 35 weapons tactics instructors have been designated in the fleet. A total of 22 aircrew and maintenance personnel from VP-4 participated in the training.

In addition to the crews and aircraft, four WTIs from Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Force, Pacific in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, brought their expertise to assist in the training.

This was the first time that multiple fleet aircrew and WTIs participated simultaneously in an airwing detachment.

"It was the first of many — this is

exactly the direction that VP has been working toward," said Cmdr. Robert "Rocky" Racoosin, executive officer of VP-4.

The Fallon detachment brought together all of CVW-11's squadrons for four weeks of complex training in strike warfare, amphibious operations, joint battlefield operations, combat air support, and combat search and rescue.

The exercises were used to evaluate the overall effectiveness of the airwing in each of its primary missions.

During the last phase of the exercise, both squadrons' aircrews flew daily, providing intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance to the CVW. The training was especially crucial to the CVW staff, who were receiving training in asset management and employment, including assets not normally assigned to the airwing.

"We were able to locate simulated mobile surface-to-air missile systems, and we provided near real-time imagery to the airwing," said Navy Lt. Todd Izydorski, VP-4's intelligence officer, about the value of data collection from P-3 units. "Having the P-3 on-station allowed the strikers to successfully carry out their missions."

The P-3 aircrews flew more than 50 hours during eight events. The maintenance personnel assigned to the detachment worked around the clock to service the aircraft.

"The location provided great cold-weather training for uploading and downloading the Standoff Land Attack Missile," said Airman Amy Durand, a member of the ordnance load team.

"It was a great time in Fallon," said maintainer Petty Officer 2nd Class Robert Cummings. "It was difficult being away from family so close to the holidays, but we still gained experience and learned about new gear."

Thanks in part to the "Skinny Dragons," the "Fighting Marlins" and the WTIs, CVW 11 is now mission-ready for its upcoming deployment.



More than 50 officers and senior enlisted soldiers visited training facilities on MCB Hawaii, Feb. 13.

SOLDIERS, From A-1

Gen. Olson. "It offers the opportunity to perform realistic training in a safe environment. The knowledge gained by the use of the trainer will save service members' lives."

The group also viewed a static display between Hangars 103 and 104. The display included Navy P-3 Orion and SH-60 Sea Hawk helicopters, and Marine CH-53D Sea Stallion helicopters.

To cap off the day, Marines, Sailors and soldiers gathered at the Officers' Club for Happy

Hour to socialize and quench their thirst.

"I appreciate Brigadier General McAbee and the

Marines on this base for letting us use your training facilities," said Maj. Gen. Olson.



Army Maj. Gen. Eric T. Olson, commander 25th Infantry Division, speaks to Spc. Heath Robinson, an aircraft mechanic, 25th Infantry Division, who was undergoing the egress trainer here on base.

TAXES, From A-1

Complete bank account information includes account and routing numbers, which may be found on account statements or blank checks; complete dependent information includes full names and social security numbers.

Customers involved in any type of divorce or separation proceedings are required to bring any relative court orders.

"The tax center is a great saving in money and time, and it's a lot more ac-

curate than doing it yourself," said Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, commanding general, MCB Hawaii. "It's a wonderful service provided at no expense to the Marines, Sailors and their families."

The tax center is located in Bldg. 455, between the Family Gym and the 7-Day Store, and it's scheduled to stay open until April 30.

For more information, call the Base Tax Center, call 257-1026 or 257-1946.

(Editor's Note: See page B-3 for information regarding changes you can expect in the 2003 tax laws.)

SAFETY, From A-1

"These anonymous safety reporting programs has been working in the aviation and civilian community for some time now," said Danilo Tolentino, deputy director of the MCB Hawaii Base Safety Center. "We're expanding the aviation anonymous program to the other military commands on the installation, while maintaining the Unsafe and Unhealthy Program."

"These programs helps people identify safety concerns at the any level," added Tolentino. "If someone is asked to do something unsafe or allows an unsafe condition to continue, anyone has an anonymous way to identify the concern directly to the unit safety representatives, the next person up in the chain of command, or the Base Safety Center."

Sometimes safety issues are not perceived as being critical to supervisors, and the anonymous reporting program gives those con-

cerned with safety an opportunity to address the issue with a third party without fear of reprimand or harassment.

A lot of the focus of modern safety programs is on empowering everyone within an organization to make the workplace a safer environment. With the expansion of the anonymous reporting programs, individuals working aboard MCB Hawaii can report concerns no matter if they are riflemen in the field training or civilian Marines working in a maintenance shop.

Cultural changes are necessary sometimes to improve safety within the workplace, according to Kainalu Picl, a safety specialist, and with the command's endorsement, this anonymous reporting program will provide an easy means to correct safety issues in a timely manner and provide for a quicker response to reported concerns.

Programs for all tenant units aboard MCB Hawaii

are scheduled to be in place by mid March, with anonymous reporting boxes in place, and safety officers, company gunnery sergeants, and lead petty officers briefed on the proper procedures for handling submissions.

Boxes will be checked weekly or semi monthly, depending on the unit, and safety concerns will be passed to the unit commander before being forwarded to the base safety center.

Safety concerns reported anonymously will be addressed to units during formations and will be discussed at unit staff meetings until the issue is resolved.

The program has received great feedback from the aviations units using anonymous reporting for safety concerns, and according to Picl, implementing the program within the other units aboard MCB Hawaii will make certain that safety issues are taken care of, no matter who notices the problem.

AWARD, From A-1

of our OSH program here.

The tactical safety program, implemented by MCB Hawaii to help with risk management during training, is one of the unique programs that helped MCB Hawaii stand out and win the award.

Another unique aspect of the MCB

Hawaii safety program is that the Base Safety Center director has direct interaction with the commanding general and the base staff. Other installations have the safety program as a part of other staff departments, and the difference helps MCB Hawaii excel in providing core safety services not just in garrison, but in the field as well.

