

Hawaii MARINE

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CSSG-3 tested in HCAX



Lance Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson

Lance Cpl. Sam Floyd, supply clerk for CSSG-3, fires the M249 SAW on the range during training at the Hawaii Combined Arms Exercise on the Big Island of Hawaii.

Lance Cpl.
Michelle M. Dickson
Combat Correspondent

POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA — Combat Service Support Group 3 is broken up into different areas of training, as exercises get underway here on the Big Island of Hawaii. The machinegun team, comprised of Marines from five different companies, has been firing a series of weapons to prepare itself for potential battle.

The machinegun team has practiced honing its firing skills in extreme conditions. Each member is undertaking a two-week course before shooting at PTA. Each will be taught how to field fire the M249 Squad Automatic Weapon, the M250 and the MK19. Each Marine will qualify with the M240 Gulf on Range 12.

Lance Cpl. Nicholas R. Devoe, a bulk fuel specialist with Engineer Company, CSSG-3, said the hardest thing to deal with at the range is the

cold weather; however, all his fellow Marines qualified.

"Pretty much everyone has their ups and downs out here, but you can really tell that everyone is putting out and trying their hardest," said Devoe. "I'm so happy I got to do this because I'll be able to teach my Marines the same thing one day."

Gunnery Sgt. William Chambliss, the Rear Area Operations Center

See HCAX, A-5

Tax Center makes sense of '03 credits

Lance Cpl. Rich Mattingly
Combat Correspondent

From the number of tax professionals that advertise their services this time of year, it's easy to be intimidated by the thought of having to not only prepare your tax return, but also wade through the new and complicated changes that occur each year.

The Tax Center at MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, can help, but it's important to understand the basics of the biggest tax change that's affecting service members: the child tax credit.

According to the officer in charge of the base Tax Center, the child tax credit was increased to \$1,000 in 2003, an increase of \$400 from the previous year's credit. The government sent taxpayers a check for the \$400 difference per child, based on the number of children claimed on the taxpayer's 2002 tax return.

Marines and Sailors who qualified for the credit, but did not receive the advance check, can take advantage of the full \$1,000 credit on this year's tax return.

"The money that's coming back to taxpayers works first as a credit against what you owe in taxes," said 1st Lt. Christopher Winchell, officer in charge, base Tax Center.

Winchell continued, saying that the government decided to send checks for the difference if a taxpayer owed less money than the tax credit.

The Tax Center can determine whether or not you qualify for the child tax credit. Winchell said the main reason service members didn't receive advance checks is that they moved or changed duty stations without notifying the post office or IRS.

The Tax Center can also help determine if Marines or Sailors should receive extra credit for errors in previous years' returns.

Winchell said the Tax Center can now also print service members' W-2 forms if they are having difficulty with the MyPay Web site.

The Tax Center is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., except Wednesday when the hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Appointments can be made by calling 257-1534, and all walk-ins are welcome.

The Tax Center is located next to the Seven Day Store.



Lance Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson

The Herald C. Clinger travels year-round to bring supplies and equipment to PTA, such as these Humvees that are about to be off-loaded, for both Marine Corps and Army exercises.

Clinger outfits PTA

Lance Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson
Combat Correspondent

POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA — Transporting training cargo to the Hawaii Combined Arms Exercise is something that cannot just be completed by putting gear on planes or helicopters. High mobility multi-purpose wheeled vehicles, also known as humvees, and other heavy equipment, need to be transported as well, so this movement

happens by using a Logistics Support Vessel.

The Herald C. Clinger, an LSV originally built in 1988, can hold 7,500 square feet and 2,500 tons of tied cargo at a time. The vessel is 272 feet long and 60 feet wide, but only carries a total of 32 people as a crew on any given shipment. It was the second LSV built out of a current six; a seventh has been built for the reserves, but it is not currently in the

See CLINGER, A-5

Band sets the tone from Outback

Gunnery Sgt.
S. D. Richardson
Marine Forces Pacific

BALLARAT, Australia — The Marine Corps Forces Pacific Band shined from down under recently during the 6th Annual Australian Federation Tattoo here.

The band performed three nights over the Australia Day weekend, sharing the line up with musicians, dancers and bands from New Zealand, the United States and all over Australia.

This year's overall theme was "Scotland the Brave," a celebration of the Scottish clans.

The band performed a number of tunes during the two-and-one-half-hour show that began at sunset each evening, on an open field with a castle-like backdrop and a multitude of lighting effects.

"The idea was to have a variety of performances for this year's show," said Stephen Cole, Tattoo producer. "... Something colorful and memorable."

"It was quite an experience for us all," said Staff Sgt. Gary Gilbert, saxophonist. "The fact that it was an international Tattoo, where we met and played with foreign bands, made it even more memorable for everyone."

Cole said the diversity of this year's show has always been his intent over the past years, but something always fell through.

"We were scheduled to perform in last year's Tattoo but lost our transportation at the last minute due to operational needs," said Gunnery Sgt. Richard Bean, Marine Forces Pacific Band Master.

But this year, things worked in the band's favor, and it landed a

See MARFORPAC, A-5

Chapel to break ground for new K-Bay location

Lance Cpl. Megan L. Stiner
Combat Correspondent

The Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, base chapel is holding a groundbreaking ceremony for the new religious ministry facility. The event is scheduled for today on Craig Street, adjacent to the post office, at Bldg. 6644.

Brigadier Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, commanding general of MCB Hawaii, will host the official ceremony beginning at 10 a.m. at the new site. Festivities will include the Marine Forces Pacific Band playing music before the ceremony at 9:45 a.m. Chaplain (Capt.) Joseph W. Estabrook, command chaplain at MCB Hawaii, will welcome guests and kick off

the ceremony. Then a Hawaiian blessing will be performed for the new building as the final step before the official groundbreaking.

The MarForPac Band will end festivities with music around 11 a.m., followed by complimentary refreshments for guests.

Contact the base chapel at 257-3552.

MCBH NEWS BRIEFS

TAX CENTER NOW OPEN

Service members, retirees and family members can make appointments to complete their 2003 federal and state tax forms at the MCB Hawaii Tax Center.

Walk-in appointments will also be available at the Center, which will be open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Wednesday hours of operation will be 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

The Tax Center is located next to the 7-Day Store, Bldg. 455, on Lawrence Road.

Be sure to bring your W-2 forms, bank account routing and checking/savings account numbers, a copy of your 2002 tax returns, and any other forms that will be required for your tax application(s).

To schedule, call 257-1534 or visit www.mcbh.usmc.mil/sja/sjntax.htm.

BASE CHAPEL TO HOST MINISTRY WORKSHOP FEB. 7-11

Vince Ambrosetti, a mission director, will be performing a ministry workshop Saturday through Wednesday at the MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, base chapel. A series of events are planned, which follow:

• *Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.:* Ministry Workshop

At 5 p.m.: Mass: Music and Homely Reflections

• *Sunday, 9:30 a.m.:* Mass of Music and Homely Reflections

At 4 p.m.: Concert

At 5:30 p.m.: Cookout and potluck

• *Monday, 7 p.m.:* Service of Light

• *Tuesday, 7 p.m.:* Resting on God's Presence: Reconciliation and Light

• *Wednesday, 7 p.m.:* Gathering at the Banquet Table, The Mass of Thanksgiving.

PRAYER BREAKFAST SCHEDULED

Marine Corps Base Hawaii will observe the annual National Prayer Breakfast, Feb. 26 at the Anderson Hall dining facility aboard Kaneohe Bay, Bldg. 1089. Colonel Jeffrey Patterson, commanding officer of 3rd Marine Regiment, will be the guest speaker for this event.

The cost for the prayer breakfast is \$1.70. Anderson Hall will open at 6 a.m., and the program will start at 7 a.m.

Hawaii MARINE

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

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IN THE CG'S MAIL BOX



BRIG. GEN.
MCABEE

Comment submitted by Mrs. Snider

"Earlier this year a sign was posted restricting traffic from Makapu Point. Military police accordingly — and rightfully — chase people away who venture past the sign."

Last year, I spent numerous hours up near the rifle range watching whales. It was one of the most awe-inspiring events of my stay here on Oahu and at MCB Hawaii. The whale traffic passing past Makapu Point is astounding.

Earlier this year, however, a sign was posted restricting traffic from Makapu Point. Military police accordingly — and rightfully — chase people away who venture past the sign.

In the March 8, 2002, article "Watching for the Whales: Lookout's Your Best Viewing Option," by Michael Tsai of the "Honolulu Advertiser," Makapu Point aboard MCB Hawaii is listed as the second best place on Oahu for watching whales. Nowhere else aboard base is there such an ideal place to watch whales. The location is easily accessible and provides a spectacular, elevated viewing position close to whale migration routes.

I don't recall seeing any article in the base paper announcing the closure of the route—and understand that I am not necessarily entitled to an explanation. I also understand safety concerns during the week when Marines and Sailors are firing weapons on the range.

I would like to offer, however,

that weekends and early evenings are opportune times for my family and I to watch whales. Can access be modified to only include specified hours, such as 5 to 8 p.m. during the week, and no restriction during the weekend? This would allow for ample whale watching time at one of the finest points on the island.

Thank you for your time,
Mrs. Snider

Dear Mrs. Snider,

The commanding general asked me to respond to your e-mail of Dec. 26, 2003, because your concern falls within my area of responsibility. The commanding general appreciates that you took the time to participate in the "CG Mail" program.

The Fort Hase Beach fishing/whale watching area — adjacent to the rifle range road — was closed to the public due to recent explosive safety inspections. It was determined the area is within an explosive safety zone.

As a result, MCB Hawaii restricted access to unauthorized personnel. Subsequent to the findings, MCB Hawaii submitted a waiver to Headquarters Marine Corps requesting that this area be reopened for recreational use. We

expect a decision within six months.

During the period, this area of Fort Hase Beach is closed; certain areas are open to the public. Even within these areas, conditions and restrictions still exist. These measures were carefully selected and designated to provide our Marines, Sailors and family members recreational enjoyment while assuring safety and environmental compliance.

We understand that the closure of this popular whale-watching site represents an inconvenience to many service members and local residents; however, safety is our paramount concern, and MCB Hawaii simply cannot reopen this area until the proper waiver has been granted and access permitted for public use.

We appreciate your thoughtful comments and concerns. If you have additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 257-8900, or Mr. Harold Sharrer at 257-1830.

Again, thank you for taking the time to participate in the "CG Mail" program.

Sincerely,
Mr. Bo M. Irvine
Director, Safety Office
MCB Hawaii

(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.

TRICARE simplifies steps for care at civilian hospitals

American Forces Press Service Press Release

WASHINGTON — People covered by the TRICARE Standard military health care plan no longer need approval from their military treatment facility to seek inpatient care at civilian hospitals.

The need to get a nonavailability statement before seeking civilian inpatient care expired Dec. 28 under a provision of the 2002 National Defense Authorization Act. A nonavailability statement indicates that care is not available from the military facility and authorizes care at a civilian facility.

An exception in the law continues the requirement for TRICARE Standard beneficiaries to get a nonavailability statement before seeking nonemergency, inpatient mental health care services. However, officials said, this applies only to beneficiaries who use TRICARE Standard or Extra, who are not Medicare eligible, and who have no other health insurance that is primary to TRICARE. The Defense Department does not require preauthorization for TRICARE beneficiary inpatient mental health care when Medicare is the primary payer.

"With this change in policy, beneficiaries now have the freedom to choose a military treatment facility or a civilian facility, without any extra paperwork," said Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant secretary of defense for health affairs. "However, I urge TRICARE beneficiaries to still look to the military health system as their first choice for health care because I believe the services we offer are second to none."

A military treatment facility may request a departmental waiver of the new policy in certain specific, but limited, circumstances. But those requests don't apply to maternity services, unless the affected beneficiary began her first prenatal visit before Dec. 28, officials said.

Any military treatment facility granted a waiver must publish a notice in the Federal Register that a nonavailability statement is required for a certain procedure; the treatment facility, the services and the TRICARE Management Activity will notify the affected beneficiaries if this occurs, officials said.

Maternity patients should check with their local military treatment facility to compare maternity services there with those available in civilian facilities, Military Health System officials said.

officials said.

A recently implemented "Family-Centered Care" program offers enhanced services and recognizes the unique needs of military families in today's climate of increasing deployments and high operations tempo, officials said.

Beneficiaries can review the enhanced military treatment facility maternity services online and with their military medical care provider.

Beneficiaries can check the TRICARE Web site if they are seeking an inpatient service and want to know if their nearby military treatment facility applied for a nonavailability statement waiver.

They also may contact the beneficiary counseling and assistance coordinator or health benefits adviser at their nearest treatment facility, officials said.

Before seeking care at a civilian facility, military health system officials urge beneficiaries to check with their nearby military treatment facility to compare services and ask questions. Even if the facility could not provide the needed services in the past, the facility's staffing levels and capabilities may have changed, and they might now be available, officials said.



Sergeants and below who dare to become Combat Correspondents and who would pride themselves in telling the Marine Corps story can seize the opportunity with a lateral move into the 4341 occupational field. Contact Gunnery Sgt. Rhys Evans at the Public Affairs Office, 257-8840, for complete details.

MPs wrestle with issues



Sgt. Joseph R. Chenelly, Kandahar, Afghanistan

Throughout the Corps, military police provide support in diverse ways such as protecting personnel, equipment and assets, and investigating criminal matters. They keep abreast of their skills with constant training and real-world scenarios.



Sgt. Allan J. Grdovich, Camp Fox, Kuwait



Cpl. Jason E. Miller, MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay

Provost Marshals from around the Corps gather at K-Bay

Lance Corporal Megan L. Stiner
Combat Correspondent

Provost Marshal Office representatives from military installations ranging from Camp H. M. Smith to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni Japan came together at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, for the 2004 Military Police and Corrections Conference, Jan. 26-30. The conference is an annual event hosted at different Marine Corps bases each year, and the main objective of the gathering is for military police to discuss problems and share new, helpful information with the rest of the Marine Corps.

"These conferences are a great way for military police members to discuss issues and solve problems, country-wide," said Maj. Thomas E. Little, provost marshal of Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

Lieutenant Col. Christopher B. Martin, provost marshal of MCB Hawaii, welcomed the visiting Marines Jan. 26 during the first of almost 20 briefs the groups would receive throughout their time here. Each day representatives discussed important, military police specific issues such as military working dogs, physical security and overall manpower throughout the Corps.

This year's conference, however, was slightly different than in previous years. "We've opened the conference up to more people that we deal with on a daily basis," said Maj. Stephen J. Macklin,



MCB Quantico, Va., security officer.

Members of the Naval Criminal Investigation Service attended the conference and discussed everything from increasing NCIS manpower to returning home from Baghdad.

"We try to identify ways to become more versatile and relevant to the needs of the Marine Corps," said Macklin.

Each year similar issues return from previous years, and the 2004 conference was no exception. Better support forces, brig manpower and overall reorganization of forces were a few of the recurring topics.

Many new issues debuted this year too, most notably Iraq issues, deployments and terrorism awareness.

"It's a dynamic world with things changing every year. There are constantly new issues to discuss," said Maj. John M. Manson, Camp Smith force protection officer.

The conference provided the opportunity for officials to present and discuss portable, closed circuit television and cameras — similar to portable surveillance cameras and equipment — to the group. This equipment could prove very useful in the future.

"It would be very useful on Presidential support trips. It would help to keep the immediate area secure," said Macklin. "It is not too difficult to secure a base, but a portable unit would be extremely helpful."

See MPs, A-4

Marine reservist earns Hawaii 'Top Cop' award

Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle
Community Relations Clerk

HONOLULU — The son of a San Francisco police officer, Staff Sgt. Patrick Sterling, a reconnaissance Marine with the 4th Force Reconnaissance Company aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, knew before he graduated from El Camino High School in San Francisco, Calif., that he wanted to be a police officer just like his father.

He also knew that by joining the Marine Corps, he could better himself in many different ways before accomplishing his dream of being a law enforcement officer.

Full of motivation to get his life on the road and begin a bright future, Sterling enlisted in the Corps in 1988, only a few days after graduating from high school.

"The four years I served in the Marine Corps, I was stationed in Hawaii," recalls the hard-charging police officer.

"They instilled the values in me that all good policemen should have, such as integrity, respect and having pride in the uniform you wear."

After leaving the active duty ranks in 1992 as a corporal, Sterling found himself at the police academy training to be a Honolulu police officer, less than a month later. And although Sterling said he was excited to begin his new career in law enforcement, he decided to continue to serve his country in the Marine Corps Reserve.

Sterling quickly established himself as being a top-notch police officer that strived for the best in every task at hand — just like all good Marines do. He became a member of the Specialized Service Division, working mostly in downtown Honolulu.

Working in the SRD gave Sterling the chance to distinguish himself as an elite police officer by being one of the officers that are first on the scene to dangerous

situations, resolving them using special weapons and tactics.

Sterling continued to serve in the Marine Corps Reserve, as a husband and as a father to five children, now ranging in ages from seven months to 13 years old. In early 2003, Sterling was recalled to active duty, along with many Marines from the 4th Force Recon, to deploy to Iraq and fight the war against terror in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"I knew there was always a chance that I would get deployed to fight in combat, and so did all the other guys in the unit," said Sterling. "We knew beforehand that there was a pretty good chance we would have to go, so when the time came, we were not too disappointed."

"We knew we were going to face danger. It was all around us, just like it was the first time I went to fight in Operation

See TOP COP, A-4



Courtesy of Staff Sgt. Patrick Sterling

Sterling earned the title "Top Cop" of the Honolulu Police Department during the annual competition in November.

Word on the Street

"To what extent do you think equality exists in this country?"



"There are always going to be problems, but I think we have improved over the years."

Staff Sgt. Larry Tyler
Quality assurance
VMFA-212,
MCAS Iwakuni, Japan



"Sometimes there is a double standard, depending on what you're dealing with."

Petty Officer 1st Class Thomas Brewer
Aviation electronic
technician
CPRW-2



"We have improved some, but if you watch the news, you would know that problems still exist and are getting worse."

Jacquetta Ahmad
Family member



"Equality has a double standard now. Not everyone is allowed to do everything."

Sgt. Carlos Mena
Squad leader
Kilo Co., 3/3



"I think it has improved greatly. The leaders have learned more about how to deal with such issues."

Doreen Seaton
Family member

Joint service re-up honors Mighty Mo

USS Missouri
Memorial Association
Press Release

PEARL HARBOR — The U.S. was more than three years into World War II when it launched its last battleship, the USS Missouri, from Brooklyn Naval Shipyards on Jan. 29, 1944. Sixty years later to the day, more than 50 soldiers, Sailors, airmen and Coast Guardsmen stood on her deck at 7:05 a.m. to reaffirm their commitment to the U.S. armed forces in one of the largest reenlistment ceremonies held on board a naval vessel.

The mass re-enlistment date also marks the 5th anniversary of the Missouri's opening as a memorial in Pearl Harbor.

Admiral Thomas Fargo, commander, U.S. Pacific Command, presided over the ceremony while the re-enlistees' friends, family and fellow service members looked on. As the senior U.S. military commander in the Pacific and Indian Ocean areas, Admiral Fargo leads the largest of the unified commands and directs Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force operations across more than 100 million square miles. He is responsible to the President and the Secretary of Defense through the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff. He is the U.S. military representative for collective defense arrangements in the Pacific.

As part of the ceremony, re-enlistees restated the "Oath of Enlistment" beneath the Missouri's trademark 16-inch guns. The memorial has offered re-



Courtesy of the USS Missouri Memorial Association

Admiral Thomas Fargo, commander, U.S. Pacific Command, presided over a mass re-enlistment, which took place exactly 60 years to the day after the USS Missouri was christened and launched from Brooklyn Naval Shipyards on Jan. 29, 1944.

enlistment ceremonies to U.S. military personnel at no charge since it opened in 1999, but rarely in numbers as great as this. It has hosted approximately 3,000 military re-enlistments since opening.

The USS Missouri proudly launched

onto water for the first time as it slid into New York's East River on Jan. 29, 1944, at 1:05 p.m. More than 20,000 admirers and patriots surrounded the Missouri as Mary Margaret Truman, the daughter of then U.S. Senator (and soon-to-be

President) Harry S. Truman, christened the ship with a magnum of champagne made from Missouri-grown grapes.

The Missouri was the last battleship completed for the U.S. Navy and held 90 miles of piping, 15,000 valves, 900 electric motors, 844 doors, 852 manholes and 161 hatches within her majestic hull.

The USS Missouri would later earn worldwide attention on Sept. 2, 1945, when Gen. Douglas MacArthur and representatives of 10 nations assembled on her deck in Tokyo Bay, Japan, to sign the surrender documents that brought World War II to an end.

The Battleship Missouri Memorial opened to visitors exactly five years ago on Jan. 29, 1999, and now serves as a national icon and unique Hawaii experience that stands as a lasting tribute to the ship's proud history, crew and the American Spirit.

However, the continuing restoration of the 60-year-old battleship is a monumental task, and the association relies on the generosity of donors and volunteers to supplement the costs of renovation and maintenance for the 887-foot vessel.

The memorial is also supported by admissions, retail, concession sales and grants. It is not supported with government funding.

The nonprofit association was formed in 1994 and includes a cross-section of leaders from Hawaii's business, civic, political and retired military communities. Former President George Herbert Walker Bush is the memorial's honorary chairman of the board.

TOP COP, From A-3

Desert Storm. Going back out there gave me a chance to once again appreciate all the things we take for granted in life."

Not long after Sterling returned from serving in combat, he was presented with the chance to distinguish himself as the "Top Cop" on the Honolulu Police Department for the third year in a row.

The Top Cop competition challenges police officers in a variety of law enforcement competition skills, including firearms, arrest and control tactics, and the proper deployment of baton strikes and vascular neck restraints.

During the firearms competition, the police officers challenged each other in their marksmanship skills while firing 40-caliber hand pistols at numerous targets.

Sterling showed off his ability to handcuff, employ knee strikes and use oleoresin capicum, commonly known as "pepper spray." Sterling also demonstrated how to restrain and physically disable unruly suspects with a police baton and vascular neck restraints.

The final challenges were the 300-yard sprint, push-ups and sit-ups. Sterling completed 86 push-ups in a one-minute time limit, along with 81 sit-ups in a one-minute time limit — all before running a 300-yard sprint in 42 seconds. His scores surpassed 53 of his fellow HPD officers, earning him the title "Top Cop" for the third year in a row.

"The competition started right after I got home from Iraq," said Sterling. "I did not think I would do as good as I did in the past two years, because I gained 15 pounds

while eating [Meals Ready to Eat] out in OIF. I did what the Marines taught me to do — my best at everything."



Courtesy of Staff Sgt. Patrick Sterling

Sterling (center) has received the "Top Cop" honor three years in a row from HPD.

MPs, From A-3

When the conference came to a close, attendees said the information they gained gave them a "heads up" on problems and new technology, and it increased their knowledge.

Down the road, the provost marshals hope the conferences will help them to perform their jobs more efficiently in the military police career field.

"Everyone comes away with something," said Manson. "The value of the conference cannot be underestimated."

CLINGER, From A-1

water. The Clinger travels year-round to bring supplies to PTA, not only for Marines, but also for the Army.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Larry Kraus, the third mate aboard the vessel, said the ship will travel to a variety of locations and assist with hurricane relief and locating sunken vessels as well.

"You call; we haul," explained Kraus, "whatever the mission dictates."

So that time can pass a little easier during trips, below the deck, there is a weight room for physical training and an area for basketball and boxing.

"Sometimes, it could be 30 days between ports," said Kraus. "We try to always have something to do."

Upon the end of their training at PTA, HCAX leathernecks will return to Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, with their heavy equipment, which will be the end of the line for Marines participating in this year's



Lance Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson

It took approximately one hour to drive all of the humvees off of the Clinger's deck.

HCAX. The Herald C. Clinger, however, will turn away from port to make another trip, in support of still other exercises, training and operations that need heavy equipment transport.

HCAX, From A-1

chief for CSSG-3, said the point of the whole training revolution is to build confidence and improve basic skills with a machinegun.

"It's good to get everyone behind any one of these and get them to hit their target, said Chambliss. "You can see them get more confident and

skilled with their firing."

After the team concludes on the range, it will return to the main camp at PTA for the remainder of the Hawaii Combined Arms Exercise.

The CSSG-3 Marines will resume their duties as before, but be much more capable of defending this country and/or global missions if that time should arise.

MARFORPAC, From A-1

two-day flight to Melbourne, Australia, on a Marine Corps C-130.

Although it was a long flight, the band members agreed it was worth it.

"It was great! It wasn't anything like the shows we do at home, said Cpl. Renee Wheeler, flutist. "I didn't expect it [Tattoo] to have so much interest, and have such a nice setting."

"This opportunity to perform has been immeasurable," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Lauren LaVine, MarForPac Band Officer. "Music builds bonds and leaves a more personal, more pleasant

memory."

While in Australia, the band also performed downtown Melbourne at Federation Square, a public meeting place in the city's central business district, and on the grounds of Ballarat Grammar School, where the Tattoo was held, during a Sunday morning Celtic Festival.

Cole said he'd always wanted an American military band in his show but had been unsuccessful until this year.

"Finally getting the Marines here to perform was a dream come true for me."

The three-day Tattoo attracted an estimated 10,000 people.



Gunnery Sgt. S. D. Richardson

Leathernecks from Marine Corps Forces Pacific captivated the audience as they simulated the raising of the American Flag on Mount Suribachi as the MarForPac Band played "Apotheosis," the prelude to "The Marines Hymn," behind them.