

Hawaii MARINE

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President-elect nominates new SecDef

Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — President-elect George W. Bush nominated Donald H. Rumsfeld as defense secretary.

If confirmed by the Senate this will be Rumsfeld's second tour at the Pentagon. He was secretary in the Ford Administration from 1975 to 1977.

Rumsfeld, 68, would succeed William S. Cohen. "He's going to be a great secretary of defense — again," said



Rumsfeld

Bush during the announcement Dec. 28.

During the announcement, Bush said he wants to restructure the department to make forces more mobile. During the campaign, Bush said he would look into skipping generations of military hardware to ensure U.S. forces have the best weaponry. Bush also reiterated that he would add \$1 billion to the budget for a higher military pay raise.

Rumsfeld will preside over the next Quadrennial Defense Review. "One of Secretary Rumsfeld's first tasks will be to challenge the status quo inside the Pentagon, to develop a strategy necessary to have a force equipped for warfare in the 21st Century," Bush said.

Bush called Rumsfeld "a decisive leader" who will work well with the rest of the National Security experts in the administration. Bush has nominated former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Army Gen. Colin Powell, as secretary of state and Condoleezza Rice as national security advisor.

In addition, Vice President-elect Dick Cheney also served as defense secretary.

Rumsfeld is from Illinois and served in the administration of Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford. He is a former Navy fighter pilot and Illinois congressman. He was U.S. ambassador to NATO.

Since leaving the Ford administration, he served as the chief executive officer of the

pharmaceutical company G.D. Searle in Skokie, Ill. until 1985. He was also chairman of General Instrument Corp.

He has kept close to national security issues. In 1998, he chaired the U.S. Ballistic Missile Threat Commission. The Rumsfeld Report concluded that rogue nations could threaten the United States with ballistic missiles topped with weapons of mass destruction. Two months after the report, North Korea launched a missile over Japan that underscored the threat.

He is a trustee of the Rand Corp.

Rumsfeld was born in Chicago in 1932. He graduated from Princeton in 1954 and went into the Navy. He married Joyce Pierson and they have three children.

Aiming for the future



Cpl. Roman Yurek

A Marine from 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, fires his M-16 A2 service rifle at a target that is 25 yards away. This was a training evolution that took place earlier in the year to hone the Marines' skills in the field fire portion of their annual rifle qualification. For a complete pictorial review of base events and history made in the year 2000 aboard MCB Hawaii, see pages A-4 and 5.

DoD slates BAH raise this year

Department of Defense
Press Release

The Department of Defense announced the 2001 Basic Allowance for Housing rates, giving servicemembers one of the largest increases ever. The new rates are part of the DoD initiative to eliminate servicemembers' out-of-pocket expenses by 2005 and incorporate a number of major changes to the BAH program. In total, the planned increase in housing allowance funds for fiscal 2001 above the fiscal 2000 amount is more than \$700 million.

"These changes in the BAH process, resulting in one of the largest increases ever, represent our commitment to the preservation of a compensation and benefit structure. They will provide members with a suitable and secure standard of living, one that will sustain a trained, experienced, and ready force in the future," said Under Secretary of

Defense for Personnel and Readiness Bernard Rostker.

Two components of the improved program are geographic rate protection and a change in the survey process.

Geographic rate protection maintains BAH rates at last year's level while the planned buydown in out-of-pocket expense is phased in. Newly arrived members to an area will see BAH rates equal to those of current members' rates.

An important part of this year's BAH process was an improvement in the measurement of local housing costs. Services and local military housing offices actively participated in the data collection process, under which improvements were made in how utility costs are estimated as well.

The DoD's goal is to bring out-of-pocket expenses for housing to zero by Fiscal Year 2005. Fiscal 2001 BAH rates can be found at <http://www.dtic.mil/perdiem/bahform.html>.

'Ugly Angels' head for desert terrain

Cpl. Roman Yurek
Combat Correspondent

Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362 "Ugly Angels" prepared to send the last of their assets to Marine Air Ground Combat Center 29 Palms, Calif., today as part of the Combined Arms Exercise.

The first group was sent to CAX Saturday to prepare for the main body's arrival today. Both groups will be

spending 60 days in the desert environment.

"Our mission is to support Marine Air Ground Task Force 6," said Lt. Col. Carl J. Fosnaugh III, the commanding officer for the squadron. "In addition to CAX) six of our helicopters and 65 Marines will be sent to support Weapons Training Instructors at MCAS Yuma, Ariz."

While at CAX, the

squadron will work with the MAGTF to support ground units and also work with other aircraft and squadrons during this training event.

For many of the Marines in the unit, this will be the first time for them to participate in a CAX at 29 Palms.

"This is an opportunity to give Marines in the squadron training in a desert environment as part of a MAGTF," said Sgt. Maj. Richard W.

Dorsey, the squadron sergeant major.

Even though the environment won't be the same as the tropical afternoons and cool evenings of Oahu, business for many of the sections will continue as normal.

"This is my first time and I am very excited," said Sgt. James Pancerella, a crew chief with the flightline section. "It's something new to try."



Cpl. Roman Yurek

Marines from HMH-362 break down a CH-53D Sea Stallion for embarkation in preparation for their CAX deployment.

CSSG-3 calibrators earn Corps honors

Calibration techs' dedication to excellence make MCB Hawaii tops

Cpl. M. Trent Lowry
Combat Correspondent

From motor transport tools to artillery battery howitzers, if a piece of equipment has moving parts, chances are it's been affected by the skilled hands of calibration technicians.

That is why the Marines of the calibration section of Maintenance Co., Combat Service Support Group 3, take their jobs so seriously.

Their dedication to the calibration arts has earned the section the Master Gunnery Sgt. D.D. Cutchers Award for the 2000 Most Improved Fleet Marine Force Calibration Lab in the Corps.

The calibration section here earned

the award by improving some of the techniques and processes by which they operate, said Staff Sgt. Kevin W. Wood, calibration chief of the section.

"We improved the processes in everything we do to make it more efficient," Wood said.

The honor, which is awarded by the Marine Corps Systems Command, was presented to the section from CSSG-3 in August 2000 at the calibration conference in Palm Springs, Ca.

The section is responsible for the intricately detailed repair and calibration of tools and other devices. The Marines in the section must ensure that they complete their tasks with the utmost precision.

The calibration technicians have always been governed by the regulations and standards of the Marine Corps and Department of Defense.

Dedication to precise service prompts the technicians to conduct yearly audits of their section, assuring themselves that their commitment to near perfection has not wavered.

Recently, however, Marine calibra-

tion techs also have to be synchronized with the federal standards, making the level of precision on a par with that of government agencies and top corporations, Wood said.

The calibration technicians at CSSG-3 said that they receive an average of 1,200 pieces of equipment to repair or calibrate per year.

That's a large quantity of machinery, but the techs take pride in their ability to finish the job with the utmost precision.

"Often there's gear we've never

See CALIBRATION, A-8



Cpl. M. Trent Lowry

Calibrators from CSSG-3 recently earned Corps-wide honors.

Base kicks off year with new website, online Hawaii Marine

Cpl. M. Trent Lowry
Combat Correspondent

The image of the information site of the Base of the 21st Century has undergone a facelift.

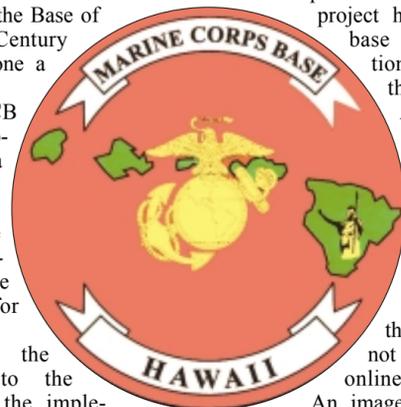
The MCB Hawaii website has a new look, as of Dec. 22, and more improvements are planned for the site.

One of the additions to the website is the implementation of the Hawaii Marine newspaper on-line. The first edition is scheduled to appear Friday. The other changes to the site

were made to improve the accessibility to information for the computer user. The change was the first phase of a bigger web project headed up by

base communications (G-6) and the Public Affairs Office, said David Britanik, web technician with base communications. Additions to the website are not limited to the online publication.

An image archive and links to other sites related to MCB Hawaii and military-oriented subjects will also be accessible to website users.



MCBH NEWS BRIEFS

MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER TO VISIT K-BAY

Former Marine and motivational speaker "Cleb" McClary is scheduled to speak at the MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, theater Tuesday at 9 a.m. All are welcome and are encouraged to attend. McClary served during the Vietnam Conflict where he was severely wounded. To date, McClary has spoken in every state and 29 countries.

ORGANIZATION NEEDS HELP

Habilitat, a non-profit, non-sectarian, tax-exempt substance abuse treatment organization located in Kaneohe, is requesting the support of MCB Hawaii.

The organization has specialized in helping people overcome problems with drugs and alcohol abuse as well as other anti-social behaviors since its founding in 1971.

In order to help the program, Habilitat members are asking for the donation of military fatigue trousers, which are used by the patients as work pants. The drive for the utility trousers will continue through Jan. 19. They will be collected at Building 216 in the Base Inspector's wing, Room 25. For more information, call Michelle Scott at 257-7720.

RECON MARINES WANTED

Currently, 4th Force Reconnaissance Co. aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, is in search of Marines to fill its ranks. Marines of all military occupational specialties are welcome, but must be willing to change their current MOS to one in the infantry or intelligence occupational fields. Any Marines (enlisted or officer) leaving active duty status and desiring to enter the reserves should contact Staff Sgt. Gerald Rohn at 257-2758 or 257-1077 ext. 221.

TAX CENTER NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

The MCB Hawaii Tax Center, located near the 7-Day Store, is seeking volunteers for the 2001 Tax Season. Call 257-2110 for more information.

OFF-LIMITS ESTABLISHMENTS

Investigative reports have been submitted for the following establishments: Hawaii Natural High, Nimitz Mart, the Pearl Kai Mini Mart, The Dungeon/The Temple/The Shelter, located at 142 Mokauea St., Honolulu, and Club 1739/After Hours/The Shelter located at 1739 Kalakaua Ave., in Honolulu.

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CHURCH SERVICES

An inspiring church service highlighting the life and times of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his contributions to modern society is scheduled for Sunday at 8 and 11 a.m. at the MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, chapel.

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT BRIEFING

The monthly A-76 Study Brief given by the Business Management Team, is scheduled for Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. in the base theater

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

Base Emergency	257-9111
MPD	257-7114
Crisis Hotline	521-4555
Child Protective Services	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852

Hawaii MARINE

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Public Affairs Director
Public Affairs Chief
Press Chief
Editor

Brig. Gen. R. E. Parker Jr.
Maj. Jeffrey Nyhart
Gunnery Sgt. Rhys A. Evans
Gunnery Sgt. Rhys Evans
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== SERGEANT MAJOR'S CORNER ==

Planning for futures now is important

Sgt. Maj.
Stephen H. Mellinger
MarForPac Sergeant Major

CAMP H.M. SMITH – If you, whether single or married, were asked about your personal future financial plans, would it bring a confident smile to your face or the "deer in the headlights stare?" Unfortunately many of us think that words such as "future" and "financial planning," are words not meant to be used in the same sentence.



Mellinger

As young adults our future financial plans generally consist of the upcoming weekend and how much we need to pay for it. Unless you Marines are a lot wiser than I was at your age (and I hope you are), then I'm probably right. It's sad to say, but even the majority of older Marines have not bothered to think about their financial future.

Most of us have a false sense of financial security because we get that pay every two weeks and the bills are getting paid. Also, we as a society, seem to embrace a "live for today" lifestyle which leaves no room (money wise) for emergencies or financial security investments

for our "golden years."

I know a few very senior Marines who recently retired from the Corps with 20 to 30 years of service. And they walked out the gates with not much more than their last active-duty paycheck. I wondered how they were going to make it financially in the "after life" from the Marine Corps. You could see the uncertainty in their eyes.

Without exception, every Marine that is in that type financial situation wishes they were not. What a horrible way to start what should be the "worry free, kick back and smell the flowers" part of your life. Instead they are wondering where the money will come from to continue paying their creditors.

No matter if we serve for just one tour of duty in the Corps or stay the course for 30 years, we all must realize the importance of preparing now for our financial security.

Would you agree that we do a much better job providing for future needs of Marines in our charge then we do for our own family? We've all received the financial planning pitch while in recruit training. For me it went in one ear and out of the other.

For years (as a bachelor) my priorities were cars, parties and fun times but then I married. We had children. Would you believe it? My priorities changed dramatically. When I did begin to

think about "life after the Corps," and even retirement not setting money aside decades ago as a young bachelor.

For me it was only about 15 years ago when I started taking steps to be financially secure when I reach my "golden years." Prior to that time, my family's total assets were limited to what cash my wife and I had in our pockets after paying the monthly bills.

I wish I had been smart enough to set aside even a couple of dollars a payday when I first came in the Corps 28 years ago.

Because I waited so late in life to begin preparing for financial security (or total retirement where I don't have to work any more), my family has had to make real sacrifices. But now we see that our aggressive investments and savings the last 15 years is paying off.

Each of you hard chargers should have a financial plan aimed at making life comfortable for you and your family later in life. I don't believe any of us want to "have" to work until we're 90 years old just to survive.

The saying, "Money can't buy happiness," is an accurate saying, but I suggest that having financial security will sure make life less stressful and more enjoyable. There's another saying I agree with, "Love makes

the world go around, but money greases the axle."

There are numerous ways to save or invest. They include (but are not limited to) bank/credit union savings, stocks, mutual funds, bonds or Individual Retirement Accounts.

I encourage all of you, who currently don't have a financial plan, to please seek consultation from a professional. But before you do that you first must set financial goals for yourself. For example, do you want to stop working by age 60? Then to do that you must figure out how much money you would need to have saved as you reach age 60.

Not everyone (to include me) will be a millionaire, but those that set goals and start a plan early in life, have a much better chance of getting there than those that put their hopes in winning a state lottery!

Marines, 30 years from now it won't seem too important to you who you bought beers for in Hawaii, what super car stereo system you had to have or how much those cool rims on your ride cost you.

You will, however, remember back to this time (one way or another) concerning your finances.

If you do begin now to save for the future, you will have fond memories. If you don't start now, you'll look back 30 years from now thinking, "If only I had started saving ..."

Nation recalls King's equality efforts Monday

Lance Cpl.
Iain A. Schnaible
Combat Correspondent

Imagine separate drinking fountains for white people and black people, "colored balconies" in movie theatres, seats in the back of the bus and paratroopers called out to protect children who were simply trying to go to school.

It may be difficult to believe, but these are examples of conditions in the United States less than 40 years ago.

The backdrop of the short life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was formed by the struggle to change these conditions, and to win equal protection under the law for citizens of all races.

Baptist minister Michael Luther King and his wife Alberta had no idea the gift they had given the world when their son, Michael Luther King Jr. (later renamed Martin), was born Jan. 15, 1929.

The younger King, unbeknownst to his parents, would grow up to be arguably the single one of the most important persons in the battle for racial equality in the United States.

King spent his life traveling the country, speaking at rallies, leading boycotts and sit-ins and organizing non-violent demonstrations in the name of racial equality.

Of the hundreds of speeches King made, not one is as memorable or as famous as his address on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial Aug. 28, 1963.

On this day, King spoke of his dream — a dream in which "little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls and walk together as sisters and brothers."

He had a dream that day, and his dream called for the United

States to make good on a bad check, a check that had come back marked "insufficient funds."

"When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir," said King in his speech. "The note was a promise that all men would be guaranteed the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

King longed for the day that every man, woman and child, regardless of the color of their skin, could join hands and sing the words of the old Negro spiritual, "Free at last! Free at last! Thank God almighty, we are free at last!"

To this cause, King devoted his life. He devoted his life until the day it was taken by an assassin's bullet April 4, 1968.

The nation began its perpetual tribute to the greatest leader of the civil rights movement with the celebration of the first Martin Luther King Day Jan. 20, 1986.

Martin Luther King Day will be observed on Monday.

In celebration of this day, the base equal opportunity advisor, in conjunction with the African American Heritage Committee has scheduled a Sunday church service at 8 and 11 a.m. at the MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Chapel.

The service will reflect on the life and times of King and his contributions to civil rights and humanity.

For more information on base activities, contact Master Sgt. Duane Keys, the base Equal Opportunity Advisor at 257-7721.

Commandant's Dr. Martin Luther King Day message

The 16th National Observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday will be celebrated Monday, 15 January, 2001. Established by Public Law 98-144, congress designated the third Monday in January a national holiday in honor of Dr. King, beginning in 1986.

"I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up, live out the true meaning of its creed, we hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal." An erudite scholar, Dr. King not only uttered these words that touched the hearts of many Americans and people from around the world at the march on Washington in August of 1963 but also dedicated his life to fulfilling this "dream" and gaining civil rights for all people.

Through Dr. King's visionary legacy of hope, he set the tone for a more just and peaceful America through nonviolent means. The Montgomery, Alabama Bus Boycott, Birmingham Campaign, Selma Campaign and the march on Washington were significant milestones that established the foundation of the Civil Rights Movement. By his strong nonviolent leadership of the Civil Rights Movement, Dr. King improved opportunities for all Americans. Dr. King's crusade to secure equal rights for all was ultimately recognized in December 1964, when, at age 35, he was the youngest person ever to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

This year's theme, "Remember! Celebrate! Act! A day on, not a day off!" Encourages all Marines to reflect on the life of a man who dedicated his life in search of equality for all people. It reminds Marines of their obligation to be the role models of our core values of honor, courage and commitment and exemplify the highest standard of excellence at all times. The theme encourages all Marines to act on the vision that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. had when he delivered the "I have a dream" speech at the march on Washington.

All personnel are encouraged to participate in local celebrations in honor of an American hero who left an indelible mark on the world.

James L. Jones
General, USMC
Commandant, USMC



Gen. Jones

Visitor lauds MCB Hawaii personnel's professionalism

Dec. 6, 2000

To commanding general,

I recently moved to Hawaii and wanted to tell you about your Marine Base as I see it. Many years ago, I would visit in Kailua with my daughter who lives there with her family. I shopped in the old exchange and the commissary. Now that you have new stores, I do also shop there, and being a handicapped person, I am very pleased with the stores. All of your clerks are well-trained and helpful.

I spend part of my time in Kailua and part here in Kalaheo on Kauai where I bought a house. I am pleased with your entire base. The people at your pass office are always polite and helpful.

You can be very proud of your entire base. My late husband was the commanding officer of a Naval Base in New Orleans, so I know how important it is to have a good base. I wish you much success in the future.

Sincerely,

Ms. Jacqueline Kuklighter
Kalaheo, Hawaii

NFL's 'Rookie of the Year' credits Corps with success

Robyn Norwood

Los Angeles Times Staff Writer

On a Wednesday or Thursday night in the fall at Camp Pendleton, you can find a football game manned by Marines so eager to compete they've been known to practice before roll call at 6 a.m.

On Sunday afternoons, some of those same players gather at spots like the Grand Avenue Bar & Grill in Carlsbad or Rookies sports bar in Oceanside to pull for one of their own.

It wasn't so long ago that Mike Anderson, the Denver Bronco running back who set an NFL rookie rushing record with 251 yards against New Orleans, was just another Marine who played on the base.

Kurt Warner's rise from grocery store stock boy to Super Bowl champion was the story of last season. Anderson—the NFL's third-leading rusher—is one of this season's. He didn't even play football in high school in Fairfield, S.C., playing drums in the marching band instead.

Then he became a U.S. Marine. "When I was a little kid, I would always see the commercial, 'The Few, The Proud,' and I always thought of it as a challenge. Could I do that?" Anderson said. "I wanted to get away from the neighborhood, and it was a good way to earn money for school, so I joined."

He became a lance corporal, working as a communicator in an artillery battery. He went to Somalia and Kenya on peacekeeping missions.

And he played football. Bob Turley, a retired lieutenant colonel who scours the base for players as an assistant coach at Mt. San Jacinto College, first saw Anderson play for the 11th Marine Regiment—the Cannon Cockers, as they're known.

"It was obvious he was an exceptional athlete with great talent, speed and toughness," Turley said. "He

looked like a pretty strong young Marine."

After Anderson's four years in the Marines, Turley recruited him to Mt. San Jacinto, and he still remembers the day in practice when a tough defensive back named Lawrence Walls—another former Marine who delivered hits so devastating the coaches called them anti-tank rounds—finally grew weary of hitting Anderson.

"All of a sudden, he sort of backed off. All the coaches looked like, what the heck? 'Lawrence, why didn't you take a shot?'" Turley said.

"I think I'm done tackling furniture," Walls told them.

"You can't just pop [Anderson]," Turley said. "He has great balance. He can take a hit."

After two seasons at Mt. San Jacinto, Anderson went on to Utah, where he rushed for 150 yards against Utah State in his first game as a junior and finished his career the next season with consecutive 200-yard games against New Mexico and Fresno State.

The Broncos made him a sixth-round draft choice.

Then Terrell Davis and Olandis Gary both were injured, and Anderson rose from obscurity to become the latest 1,000-yard rusher to work behind Denver's vaunted offensive line.

During the regular season, the 27-year-old rookie has 1,353 yards and six 100-yard games—251 against New Orleans, 195 against Seattle, 187 against Oakland.

His jersey from the Saints game has been shipped to Canton, Ohio, to be displayed at the Pro Football Hall of Fame in honor of his rookie rushing record.

Talk about the few and the proud.

"That's hard for me to put in words. For me, that's unbelievable," Anderson said. "Never in my wildest dream could I have imagined that or even pondered that thought in my

mind. For that to happen, it's just remarkable. It is a big-time honor."

Richard Gomez, the master sergeant Anderson worked for in an artillery battery at Camp Pendleton, would like the base to recognize Anderson too.

"I mentioned to my boss, we should do something like rename our football field in honor of him," Gomez said. "He really thinks the Marine Corps, being in the military, gave him the foundation to be where he is now. I heard somebody ask him about training camp, and he said it's nothing compared to boot camp."

Anderson's high school career fell by the wayside when the coach wouldn't let him try out for running back. "He said, 'You go with the offensive linemen,'" Anderson said. "I just walked away and did other things."

On the base, they were happy to give the 6-foot, 235-pound Anderson the ball. "I think without going into the military, I probably wouldn't be at this point right now. I probably wouldn't be playing," he said. "I walked away from it my ninth-grade year in high school. I never looked back and thought about playing again until I got into the Marine Corps."

He was a standout player among the dozen or so teams, but nobody has the precise stats. The base paper, The Scout, covers the games, but there is nothing official. "There were times he broke 100 or maybe a couple of times he had a couple of hundred yards," Turley said. "The statistics are not as detailed. But you walked away with the impression he was the leading rusher."

Anderson isn't the only Camp Pendleton player to move on and make his mark.

David Minnich, who followed him to Mt. San Jacinto and broke Anderson's records there, was the leading rusher at Washington State this season.

"For those that do have plans and



Photo re-printed with permission from Denver Broncos

Denver Broncos runningback Mike Anderson, credits his stint as a Marine for his success in the NFL. Anderson was recently named the NFL's "Rookie of the Year."

think they have athletic talent, Anderson has opened doors for them," Turley said. "His experience in the Marine Corps just improved his resilience and ability, I think, to perform and cope with stress."

He'll get no argument from Anderson. "It put a lot of discipline in my life, gave me a sense of direction and changed my whole demeanor about the way I approached life," he said. "At a young age, I was looking for some direction. When I got into the Marine Corps, I got a chance to go overseas and go to Africa, and that just changed me, that experience, going over there and seeing a third-world country as opposed to seeing it on TV

like most Americans do.

"When you go to a third-world country, you see people struggling, just surviving one day to the next. When you come back over here, you appreciate every little thing you have and don't complain about the things you don't have."

"For me, the situation I'm in now, I'm just so thankful to have the opportunity to have the success and have fun at something that I love doing. But at the same time, I'm not taking it for granted."

"If it was to end tomorrow, I could walk away and say I'm just so thankful for that opportunity."

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Top junior Sailor faces division rivals

Cpl. M. Trent Lowry
Combat Correspondent

Of all the junior Sailors assigned to Marine units aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, perhaps none shines more brightly in his performance than Petty Officer Third Class Darwin Thomas.

While the base is fortunate to have high-quality naval personnel working in a variety of units, something about Thomas makes him stand out amongst his peers.

Possibly it is the fact that his physical fitness is on a par with the strongest of Marines. Or maybe his esteem is based on the fact that he was one of the first Sailors to graduate from Corporal's Course.

Whatever he does to stand out has paid off for him in the form of being honored as the 3rd Marine Regiment's Junior Sailor of the Year. The accolades may not stop there, however, since Thomas left Hawaii Tuesday for Okinawa, Japan, to compete on the 3rd Marine Division Junior Sailor of the Year board.

For Thomas, 25, a hospital corpsman with Headquarters Company, 3rd Marines, all of his accomplishments have come from a love for the Navy and personal pride in doing his best for his country, his family and himself.

"There are so many reasons to be excited about being in the Navy. I've done a lot of

exciting things in the Navy, and the military has a lot of benefits," said Thomas, who counts attending the Basic Underwater Demolition School, better known as SEAL (Sea, Air and Land) training, as one of the opportunities he's had in the Navy.

While Thomas didn't complete BUDS, he has tackled some of the top schools that Marine units here offer. The corpsman completed the Water Survival Instructor course through 3rd Marines' Regimental Schools, and as a source of pride for Thomas and his unit, he earned a perfect score of 300 on the Marine Corps physical fitness test while completing Corporal's Course in December.

"I think physical fitness is very important to me ... since we're part of the Fleet Marine Force. Sailors have to be in just as good shape as Marines. It comes down to respect: if the Marines see that the Sailors are doing the same things that they are, then the Marines gain a mutual respect for us," Thomas said.

His hard work and outstanding accomplishment's have earned Thomas the respect of his supervisors, too.

"By his PFT score, his appearance, and the fact that he completed Corporal's Course and the Water Survival Instructors Course, those things have motivated the junior Sailors in the unit," said Chief Petty Officer Charles E. Steinbrook, the lead chief petty

officer of 3rd Marines Regimental Aid Station.

"Now that he's the Junior Sailor of the Year for 3rd Marines, he's got big shoes to fill. He's got a responsibility to the junior Sailors to do his best and hold his head high, win or lose," Steinbrook said of Thomas' impact on the unit.

Thomas' slender frame and quiet demeanor may hide the fact that he is an aggressive perfectionist, taking special care to make sure that he excels at everything he does.

"I always look at the highest goal — what do I have to do to be perfect — and that's all I care about," Thomas said of his inner motivation.

That attitude has driven him to participate in rigorous off-duty physical conditioning. The corpsman put his conditioning to the test when he competed in his first triathlon during last year's 1st Marine Air Wing/Aviation Support Element Sprint Triathlon, held aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

Thomas placed first in his age division during that contest, and decided to continue participating in triathlons. He took first in the military division and first in his age division at the Honolulu Tinman Triathlon.

See SAILOR, page A-6



Photo courtesy of Petty Officer 3rd Class Darwin Thomas

Thomas competes in the Lava Man 2000 triathlon on the Big Island. Accomplishing such physical feats as this have earned Thomas much respect from both Sailors and Marines alike.

Morning routine



Cpl. Roman Yurek

At 8 a.m. every morning, the firefighters of Federal Fire Department, Station 8, MCB Hawaii, prepare their engines for any situation they might be called on during their shift. Joshua F. Aberilla, one of the station's firefighters, checks the pump gauges on firetruck "Pumper 8" as part of his daily tasks.

EVERY CLIME AND PLACE

AAAV: Faster, more powerful assault from the sea



Division of Public Affairs

The AAAV is currently the Marine Corps' highest priority ground program designed for more efficient assaults from the sea.

Capt. Steve A. Butler
Division of Public Affairs

General Jones, Commandant of the Marine Corps, said it best with the statement to the Direct Reporting Program Manager Advanced Amphibious Assault following the Pentagon's approval to proceed into the final phase of development: "...you have transformed a revolutionary concept into the reality of a revolutionary weapons system. Your efforts have ensured that the AAAV will remain a keystone capability in support of the Corps' vision of warfighting in the 21st century."

The Advanced Amphibious Assault Vehicle (AAAV) is the Marine Corps' highest priority ground program designed specifically for the signature mission of the Service. This advanced warfighting system moves three times faster and carries greater firepower than the legacy amphibian, providing Marine warriors from the sea greater flexibility and a superior tactical advantage.

The 21st century Marine Corps' is being shaped today through the transformation of revolutionary warfighting concepts into the reality of revolutionary weapons systems towards a strategically agile, operationally mobile, and

tactically flexible expeditionary force. In the 1980's, the Navy and Marine Corps developed the concept of Over-The-Horizon (OTH) amphibious operations to avoid enemy strengths, exploit enemy weaknesses, and protect Navy ships from increased land-based missile threats and sea-based mine threats.

The AAAV, along with the MV-22 Osprey tilt rotor aircraft and the Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC), form the "Amphibious Triad" designed to provide true expeditionary maneuver warfare capability.

As a ground-up new design by and for Marines, the AAAV is built to correct deficiencies inherent in the legacy amphibian in addition to providing a modern, integrated platform capable of operations across the full spectrum of future Military operations in accordance with emerging Marine Corps concepts and doctrine.

In addition to its greatly increased speed on the water, the AAAV will provide superior land mobility, greatly increased firepower, integrated Command and Control functionality, and advanced survivability features that will be absolutely essential for effective 21st century

See AAAs, A-7

AAAVs, From A-6

Marine warfare.

To quote the Commandant: "...the AAAV will remain a keystone capability in support of the Corps' vision of warfighting in the 21st century."

The AAAV's unique capabilities will include: (1) over three times the water speed of the current AAV; (2) nearly twice the armor protection of the current AAV; (3) the ability to defeat future threat light armored vehicles; (4) land mobility equal to or greater than the M1A1 tank; (5) effective command and control with subordinate, adjacent, and higher units; and (6) NBC protection for both the crew and embarked personnel.

The Marine Corps AAAV Technology Center, located in Woodbridge, Va., has successfully developed, built, and tested various new integrated systems for incorporation into the AAAV.

Development will continue into full rate production leading to the initial operational capability (the first complete AAAV company) for the Fleet Marine Forces in fiscal year 2006.

The 1,013 AAAVs will continue to be fielded to Marine units as production rates allow through the years 2007-2016. AAAV production will conclude with Full Operational Capability in 2016.

Currently, the Advanced Amphibious Assault Vehicle (AAAV) Program has been approved by the DoD Defense Acquisition Board (DAB) for entry into the next phase of development, known as Engineering and Manufacturing Development (E&MD) as of 29 November 2000.

This major milestone approval was granted after a thorough review of the AAAV Program's accomplishments over the past four years by senior Pentagon officials, as well as the future plans that will lead to further production of the AAAV starting in fiscal year 2004.

With the program on schedule, within budget, and fully funded, the AAAV Program is developing the E&MD contract to be negotiated with the AAAV prime developer, General Dynamics. Plans for five years of developmental effort to include the production and test of 10 second generation prototypes are being discussed.

During E&MD, extensive reliability and live fire testing will be undertaken. This phase also incorporates design changes into the AAAV design that reduce its unit cost prior to production. Finally, the E&MD phase initiates and conducts manufacturing and production planning at the prime and subcontractor sites. At the conclusion of this phase, the design is complete and ready for production in preparation for fielding of the AAAV.

The AAAV Program Office is considered a pioneer of joint Government/Industry teaming because it was the first major programs to occupy a shared development facility with their prime contractor.

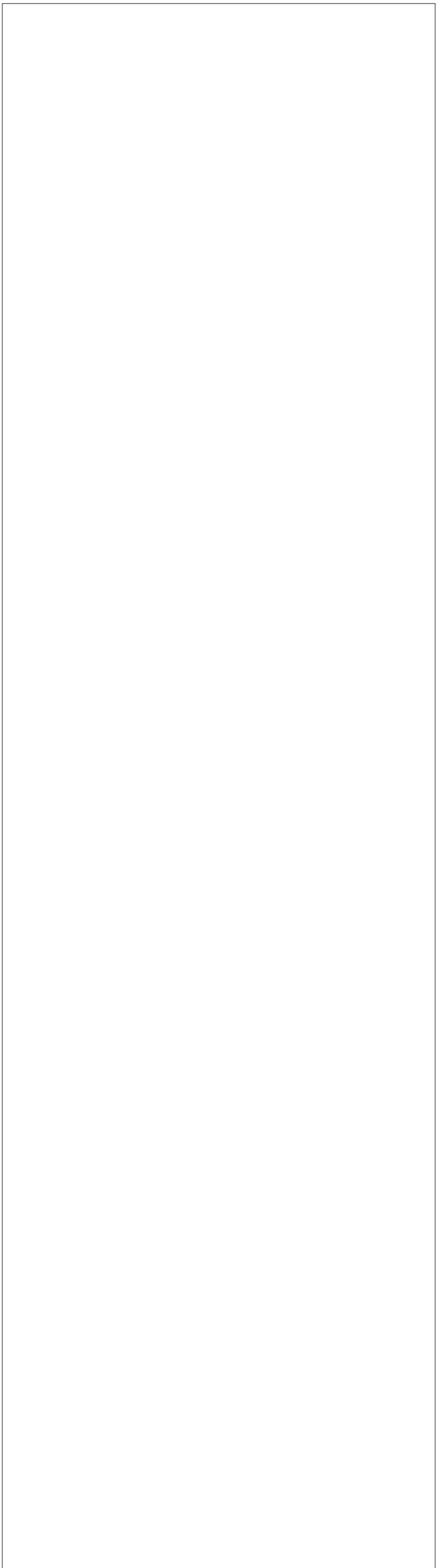
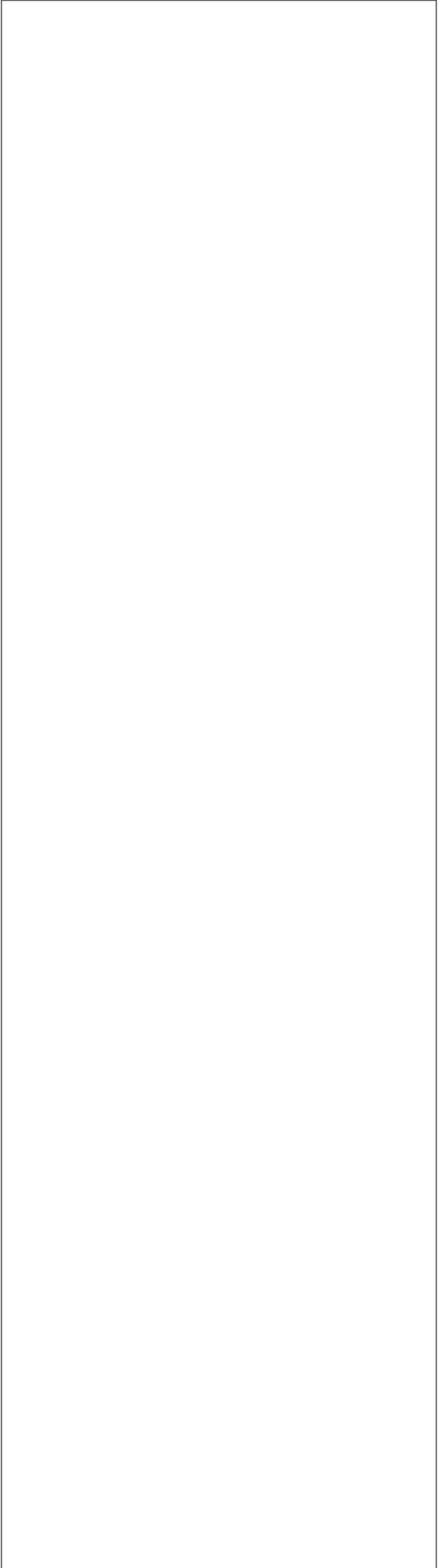
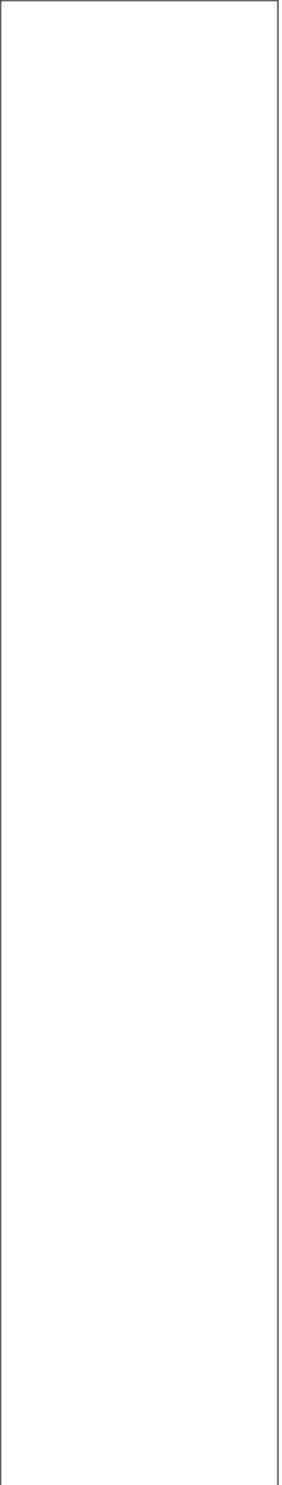
The combined DRPM AAA/General Dynamics Amphibious Systems Team, working together since the inception of the program, has evolved into a seamless, synergistic, advanced technology weapons systems development organization, capable of maxi-

mizing the combat effectiveness of the AAAV while maintaining the System Total Ownership Cost affordability for the Marine Corps. The AAAV Program has been recognized throughout the Department of Defense and especially within the Department of the Navy as a model acquisition and logistics program and has received numerous awards.

Following the E&MD phase, the program will transition to the Production, Fielding/Deployment, and Operational Support phase in 2006. During this phase, AAAV's will be produced and delivered, along with support infrastructure, to the field for operational use.

Additionally, follow-on operational Test and Evaluation may be conducted during this phase. Finally, the system is continuously monitored during this phase to ensure that it meets all established requirements throughout the system's overall life cycle.

The Production Site for AAAV is being evaluated at this time by a joint integrated product team (IPT) comprised of AAAV Program Office and General Dynamics personnel conducting a rigorous trade study for the purpose of finding the most appropriate and cost-effective site. Site selection is planned for 2002.



CALIBRATION, From A-1

seen before, and we have to fix it," said Wood.

Working on such items as oscilloscopes, torque wrenches and power supplies, the calibration techs have about 25 different types of equipment they adjust, each with a myriad of subtypes.

But though the variety is enough to make one's head swim, the techs seem undaunted by the job ahead of them.

"Knowing that the job is done correctly – that the rounds can go down range, the vehicles can go down the road and the communications are heard clearly – that's what's satisfying about the job," said Sgt. Neal J. Chandler, quality assurance and assistant calibration chief.

Knowing that the plethora of tools, equipment and machines that Marines and Sailors use aboard MCB Hawaii each and every day have been calibrated properly should help workers aboard base rest easier.

And though their efforts may only indirectly affect each person on base, the calibration section Marines can feel that sense of pride that comes with a job well done.

SAILOR, From A-3

His interest in triathlons has kept him active in community service, as well. Thomas helps organize triathlon events, and has devoted volunteer time to Wave Riders Against Drugs, a group of surfing and water sport enthusiasts that talks to Oahu high school students about the perils of using drugs.

The son of a former Sailor and native of Oahu, Thomas receives a lot of moral support from his family, who live in Pearl City.

"My family was caught off-guard when I told them I was joining the Navy, but I knew it was the best for me because at the time I didn't have any direction. They were sad that I was going away, but they are really happy that I am back in Hawaii," Thomas said, noting that

being close to his roots and his family has helped him with his Navy career.

Thomas still has an interest in eventually becoming a SEAL, and also has aspirations to learn the explosive ordnance disposal field. But in five years as a corpsman he has embraced the opportunity to help people.

"He likes taking care of the patients. He's the type of person that fits perfectly in this field. I can count on him to take care of patients, give them the proper medical treatment and not make them wait," said Petty Officer First Class, and independent duty corpsman with the Regimental Aid Station.

As Thomas is facing the board members who will decide the winner of the division-level Marine and Sailor of the Year competitions, the

bearing and confidence that Thomas has cultivated as part of the regimental aid station will give him an edge against the competition, he said.

"This is probably the hardest duty station I've been at. Being with Marine has brought out motivation that I thought I never had. It has built me up mentally," Thomas said of the personal strengths he's gained working with the Corps.

Whether or not Thomas earns the title as 3rd Marine Division Junior Sailor of the Year, the junior Sailors in his charge have someone to look up to, his supervisors have a Sailor they have confidence in as a future leader, and his family have one of their own to be proud of.

And Thomas will just find another, higher goal to pursue, trying consistently to better himself.