Hawaii MARINE

VOLUME 38, NUMBER 2 | WWW.MCBH.USMC.MIL | JANUARY 11, 2008

Howitzer A-3

Hike B-1

Soccer C-1

Marines earn Bronze Stars, respect

Cpl. Chadwick deBree

Lieutenant Col. Max A. Galeai, commmading officer, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, pins a bronze star with a combat device onto Cpl. Travis Zabroski after pinning one on Cpl. Joshua P. Gainey, Jan. 9, here. Both Marines earned bronze stars for actions while deployed with 2/3.

Cpl. Chadwick deBree
Combat Correspondent

When a Marine is under fire from enemy positions, this could be the time their actions determine whether or not they are "heroes."

If asked, two Marines stationed here will say they were just doing their job.

Corporals Joshua P. Gainey and Travis Zabroski received Bronze Stars with combat devices here Wednesday.

Both Marines deployed with the Island Warriors of 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, last year in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and were recommended for the medal for their actions while deployed to al Anbar province.

Though the Marines had different experiences while deployed, both shared the same thought process after being injured during fire-fights.

"After I was wounded, I continued to lead my fire team," Gainey said. "I didn't think that I was injured bad enough. I still had movement, so I knew that I could still continue; besides, it's my job."

On Sept. 20, 2006, Gainey and his fellow Marines were

See BRONZE, A-6

Lance Cpl. Achilles Tsantarliotis

Private First Class James Nelson, field military policeman, checks the identification of traffic entering the base, a task soon to be shared with civilian policeman. The once all-Marine Corps security force will soon be supplemented by civilian police officers, allowing a consistent force to ensure the safety of the base.

Military Police Department slowly infusing civilian police into base's security force

Lance Cpl. Achilles Tsantarliotis
Combat Correspondent

The Military Police Department here will begin infusing civilian employees to their police force this year as part of a Marine Corps wide program.

The reinforcement is necessary because Marine military policemen are heading to newly structured units within the operational forces. The Marine Corps is replacing the Marines they're moving with civilian police officers, said Master Sgt. Patrick Torkelson, services chief, MPD, Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

"The Marine Corps plans to hire 1,200 civilians and disperse them throughout the Marine Corps," Torkelson said. "We'll be getting about 35 police officers a year for the next three years and about 10 the fourth year. We plan on having a 60/40, civilians to military split, by the end of the transition."

Torkelson said there would be no difference between the civilian or military police officers' authority. The civilian police officer will be vested with the same authority that Marine military policemen have. The civilian officers will add to base security and allow for a more robust law enforcement presence here.

The civilian police officers receive eight weeks of training locally, geared toward police functions within the Marine Corps. Eventually the Marine Corps will establish a police academy at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., and Camp Lejuene, N.C., to standardize all Marine Corps police training, Torkelson said.

The added assistance will eventually eliminate the need for augmentees from base units that place Marines about to finish their enlistment on gate duty and

See POLICE, A-6

Tax Center offers free services for service members, family

Cpl. Chadwick deBree
Combat Correspondent

With tax season upon us, Marines and Sailors here don't need to go off base to do their taxes.

The Tax Center here opens its doors Jan. 22, to service members, retirees, eligible family members and reservists who've activated for 30 days or more.

Service members should take advantage of the free service the Tax Center offers rather than spending unnecessary money off base.

"Basically those services are done by paid professionals that prepare people's taxes," said Staff Sgt. Trent Williams, director, Tax Center, Headquarters Battalion. "Here we have Marines that are qualified do it for free."

Another downfall of doing taxes with an outside agency is so-called rapid refunds. A rapid refund is a loan the agency gives customers after providing them tax service.

When the calculation is done, the agency will offer its patron a check worth the same amount of their return but will take back the amount when the customer receives their actual return.

"They also add on interest sometimes; it's pretty much a payday loan," Williams said. "The Marines shouldn't use these places if we offer the same thing for free."

Before going to the Tax Center, customers must remember to bring their W-2 forms, bonds, state tax refund from the previous year, social security cards for family members. The also need to bring copies of any alimony, unemployment, gambling earnings, education expenses, home mortgage, charitable contributions, receipts for childcare and childcare provider's identification number, bank account and routing number, and a copy of power of attorney if their spouse is deployed.

Some tax payers may not be able to file taxes until Feb. 11, due to the Alternative Minimum Tax legislation, which is currently working to reprogram its systems, Williams said.

"A majority of the population will not be affected by this, but a small percent will," Williams said. "If they are affected by this then they will not be able to file their taxes until Feb. 11."

See TAX, A-6

Cpl. Chadwick deBree

The Marine Corps Base Hawaii Tax Center personnel stand in front of their sign Wednesday. The Marines and Sailors of the Tax Center are currently preparing for the scheduled opening Jan 22. Service members are encouraged to take advantage of the free services.

News Briefs

Tax Center

The Marine Corps Base Hawaii Tax Center is scheduled to open Jan. 22. It is located in Building 279 on the second deck. The hours for the Tax Center are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Wednesday.

For more information call (808) 630-8296.

Employer Support Freedom Award

The Department of Defense is currently accepting applications for the 2008 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. Reserve, National Guard, and family members are eligible to nominate employers that have shown support to their military employees.

For more information, log onto http://www.esgr.mil.

CLEP Scams

Avoid sales representatives and internet advertisements offering CLEP study materials.

These individuals and internet advertisements are simply offering to sell you materials that are otherwise available for free at the MCBH Kaneohe Bay Education Center and the Base Library.

USAA Scam

Phony e-mails claiming to be USAA are currently being set out asking members to update their information via a fake website.

USAA would not ask for personal information via the internet. If you have received any of these e-mails call (877) 632-3002.

Chinese Garden Closure

The Chinese Garden is closed now through Jan. 31 for renovations. The Tennis Shop and Game Room will reopen Dec. 26.

For more information, call Normand Cote at 254-7639.

Swamp Romp

Marine Corps Base Hawaii's biggest race is just around the corner, and is currently accepting applications from participants. It is open to the public and cost $120 per six man team.

For registration, log on to http://www.mccs.hawaii.com/cgfit.htm to register.

Hawaii Marine Accepts Letters

Hawaii Marine invites its readers to e-mail its editor at hmeditor@hawaiimarine.com with their comments and letters.

All submissions will be edited for clarity and length. Comments must be signed with a full name and a telephone number.

Hawaii Marine also accepts news briefs containing relevant information pertaining to Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

Important Phone Numbers:

On-Base Emergencies	911
Military Police	257-7114
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Business Management Hotline	257-3188
Pothole & Streetlight Repair	257-2380
Base Information	449-7110
MCBH Duty Chaplain	257-7700
DEERS	257-2077

Hawaii MARINE

www.mcbh.usmc.mil

Commanding Officer	Col. M. A. Dungan
Base Sergeant Major	Sgt. Maj. Daniel J. Fierle
Public Affairs Officer	Maj. Christopher M. Perrine
Deputy Director	1st Lt. Binford R. Strickland
Public Affairs Chief	Gunnery Sgt. Demetrio J. Espinosa
Managing Editor	Ken Griffin
Press Chief	Sgt. Macario P. Mora Jr.
Layout/Design Editor	Priya S. Jenkins
Photojournalist	Christine Cabalo
Combat Correspondent	Cpl. Mark Fayloga
Community Relations	Cpl. Rick Nelson
Combat Correspondent	Cpl. Chadwick deBree
Combat Correspondent	Lance Cpl. Regina Ruisi
Combat Correspondent	Lance Cpl. Brian Marion
Combat Correspondent	Lance Cpl. Ronald W. Stauffer
Combat Correspondent	Lance Cpl. Alesha R. Guard
Combat Correspondent	Lance Cpl. Achilles Tsantarliotis

Hawaii Marine is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense.

Hawaii Marine is published by MidWeek Printing, Inc., a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Marine Corps, under exclusive contract to the U.S. Marine Corps.

Contents of *Hawaii Marine* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the United States Government, the Department of Defense or the U.S. Marine Corps.

The appearance of advertising in *Hawaii Marine,* including inserts and supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the DoD, Department of the Navy or the U.S. Marine Corps of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in *Hawaii Marine* shall be made available for purchase, use, or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

Editorial content or public service announcements (i.e., all content other than paid advertisements) is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii. Opinions expressed are not to be considered an official expression of the DoD, DoN or the USMC.

Submit items for *Hawaii Marine* to the managing editor no later than noon on the Friday prior to publication, using the following address:

Hawaii Marine, Box 63062, Building 216,
MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii 96863
E-Mail: hmeditor@hawaiimarine.com
Fax: 257-2511, Phone: 257-8836

Hawaii Marine implementing changes for new year

Ken Griffin
Managing Editor

If you haven't noticed already, the Hawaii Marine has changed to better suit your needs. During the first few weeks of 2008, we'll continue to implement new features to our design.

This week, we highly recommend you check out our "Pass in Review" section on page B2. As we promised in our Dec. 7 edition, the first book review of the year is Ray Rippel's monthly column. The retired Army lieutenant colonel served as an infantryman, aviator and civil affairs specialist in several areas of operation, including tours in Kosovo and Iraq.

In addition to the standard movie and book reviews, the page now includes "Better Know a Critic," so readers can learn a little about the Marines (and a couple civilians) writing for you. Also, we've opened up a space for rebuttals – so if you think a movie, or book someone reviewed is garbage or vice-versa, feel free to write in with your opinion.

With a sleeker look and improved features, we ultimately hope to serve our readers better with a more aesthetic appearance and a continued focus on accuracy.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our current readers, and ask that if there's something you enjoy about our product, please recommend it to your Marines, Sailors, friends or family. The more people we reach, the better.

Submitting an ICE Complaint?

Let us try to address your issue

Sharon Zauner
Business Performance Office

File photo

ISSUE: Pets in base housing

Service members and their families residing aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii must control and care for their pets in a manner that is humane and compliant with federal and state laws, and base and/or Forest City rules and regulations (residents can review their Resident Handbook).

Reports of violation should be sent through normal command reporting channels to the responsible owner (i.e., the sponsor, if the pet is owned by a family member) for appropriate correctional and remedial actions.

Owners are responsible for the supervision and actions of their pets, as well as their guests' pets at all times aboard MCBH. Owners will provide veterinary care as necessary for a healthy pet to prevent illness and prevent suffering, and restrain pets to ensure they don't become vicious, a hazard or nuisance to neighbors, other pets or wildlife.

Pet owners will take all necessary precautions to ensure their pets are controlled on and off their premises. State la, and MCBH and Forest City policy hold pet owners liable for any damage done by pets.

Any tenant aboard MCBH can request to register more than two pets. This request would be an exception to policy letter addressed to Forest City or the Base Housing Office (802 Housing) requesting this privilege.

If the pet owner has a history of inability to control their pets, the base magistrate will make the determination on disposition for this pet. Any subsequent misconduct by the animal or animal's owner may result in the removal of the animal from MCBH, or eviction of the owner from MCBH quarters.

ISSUE: MCBH Klipper Golf Course tee time reservation policy

The policy authorizes all military and family members assigned to and supported by Marine Corps Base Hawaii to reserve tee times (for a minimum of two players) beginning at noon six days prior to your requested tee time. For example, you can make a tee time for a Saturday beginning at noon on the prior Sunday. This is two days prior to all other active duty categories. All other authorized patrons categories have less priority.

Patrons that do not reserve tee times in advance may use the Klipper's standby list. The policy for all standby play designates priority to active duty and family members assigned to and supported by Marine Corps Base Hawaii over all other patron categories on the standby list. It does not allow priority over those who have already reserved a tee time.

The Klipper staff is diligent in ensuring these policies and procedures are followed. The intent of the policies gives the opportunity to active duty and family members assigned to and supported by Marine Corps Base Hawaii to use the facility before anyone else.

File photo

ISSUE: Approving signature required on decal application form:

Per Base Order 5500.15B w/Ch 3, completed decal application forms are required to record the Self Reported Violation History when applying for a decal. A separate application is required for each vehicle because in most cases multiple vehicles are not registered/deregistered at the same time.

Separate vehicle registration further assists the Military Police Department in identifying vehicles and their registered owners in the event something happens to the vehicle or it is found abandoned.

Although not a DoD form, the document used by the MPD is specifically designed by the MPD and approved through the MCBH Forms Manager. The information is required for identification purposes and subject to the Privacy Act. All information collected can only be released as required by FOIA and used within the rules of law enforcement related data. Per the order, completion of this form is required for all active duty personnel.

To date, all tenant commands aboard MCBH have designated in writing personnel who are authorized to approve the Decal Application Form.

Weekend weather outlook

Today

Day — Isolated showers after noon. Partly cloudy, with a high near 78. East wind between 7 and 9 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Night — Isolated showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 69. Southwest wind around 7 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

High — 78

Low — 69

Saturday

Day — Isolated showers. Partly cloudy, with a high near 76. Northeast wind around 11 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Night — Scattered showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 67. Northeast wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40 percent.

High — 76

Low — 67

Sunday

Day — Scattered showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 76. Northeast wind around 18 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

Night — A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 67. East wind around 17 mph.

High — 76

Low — 67

Photos by Lance Cpl. Achilles Tsantarliotis

The newly acquired M-777 howitzers sit at 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment s Motor Pool. The weapon was redesigned to fit into an MV-22 Osprey Tilt-Rotor Aircraft.

New M-777 Lightweight Howitzers for 1/12

Lance Cpl. Achilles Tsantarliotis
Combat Correspondent

First Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment is replacing its old M-198 howitzers with new M-777 Lightweight howitzers beginning this year as part of a Marine Corps wide artillery upgrade.

The new howitzer is a large improvement over the previous howitzers for a number of reasons. It's roughly 5,000 pounds lighter, enabling an MV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft to transport it.

"The whole reason they designed it was to fit in an Osprey," said Sgt. Alan Simmons, section chief, Charlie Battery, 1/12. "It's also more efficient; you need half as many Marines to operate it and with all the technology for it you'll be able to eliminate the [fire direction center.]"

The Marines operating it here are excited to learn how to operate the new weapon and are looking forward to firing it.

"It's exciting and I can't wait to use it," said Pfc. Eric Eisenreich, recorder, Charlie Battery, 1/12. "It's going to be a lot of hard work learning how to use it and getting used to it, but we're all eager to learn. We're used to the [old] weapons but we're ready for a change. The weapons were so old that we encountered a lot of problems and had to cease training because of firing problems, so instead of six howitzers, we'd only have five and we'd be less effective."

The new howitzers are scheduled to replace all the old M-198s by 2010.

"We're looking forward to replacing them. They were becoming outdated and with the new ones we'll be able to use some of the more advanced ammunition like the Excalibur precision-guided projectile," Simmons said.

The M-777 also features a new digital fire control system, allowing cannoneers to receive coordinates directly and further aid precision using a global positioning system, Simmons said.

"The gun is also very mobile; it'll only take a few minutes to set it up and start firing on a requested location, and that's a big difference," Simmons said.

Marine Corps Base Hawaii is one of the last bases in the Marine Corps to receive the new weapons, said Maj. Omar Sanchez, executive officer, 1/12.

"It's been a long time coming," Sanchez said. "The rest of the Marine Corps has already started receiving them, and we're ready to start training on them. We have a lot of leadership that has had experience with them and a lot of cannoneers have already started training with them at Fort Sill [Oklahoma]."

1/12 Marines are familiarizing themselves with the M-777 for their first live fire training in February to ultimately be as effective as possible on their next combat deployment with the new howitzers.

Marines with Charlie Battery begin familiarizing themselves with the new M-777 howitzer. Marines are trained with them at their occupational school but haven t seen them here until recently.

Sergeant Jon Reppert, section chief, Charlie Battery, 1/12, explains to the junior Marines proper operation of the M-777 howitzer. The new howitzer will take fewer Marines to operate than the old M-198 howitzer, increasing the cannoneer s fire support efficiency.

Marine Corps Base Hawaii began receiving the new howitzers after a Marine Corps wide artillery replacement of the M-198 howitzers. The new howitzer features technology to make fire support response time much quicker and more accurate than the old gun.

The new howitzer is slowly replacing the M-198 and is a significant upgrade. It's able to use advanced ammunition, is roughly 5,000 pounds lighter, and features technology not found on the old howitzer.

Bush praises reconstruction teams for progress

Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

Sgt. James R. Richardson

The leader of Regimental Combat Team 2's provincial reconstruction team speaks with locals in Hit, Iraq, prior to attending an Al Anbar Provincial Council meeting last year.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — President Bush Wednesday hailed provincial reconstruction teams operating in Iraq as vital partners in the strategy that has improved security and helped to create conditions for the Iraqi government to succeed.

Speaking in the White House Rose Garden after meeting with PRT members and their brigade commanders, Bush praised the members for progress they've helped make possible during the past year and emphasized the important work they're doing in communities throughout Iraq.

Also participating in the meeting were Vice President Richard B. Cheney, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Joint Chiefs Chairman Adm. Michael G. Mullen, Deputy Defense Secretary Gordon England, U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Ryan C. Crocker. They spoke via teleconference to representatives from PRTs and brigade commanders in Baghdad, Kirkuk, Najaf, Karbala, Diwaniyah, Ramadi, and Diyala provinces.

"PRTs are a central part of the new strategy in Iraq that I announced a year ago," the president said.

He cited the strategy's three elements: the troop surge into Iraq to protect the Iraqi people from terrorists, insurgents and illegal militias; a surge in offensive operations to drive terrorists and militias from their strongholds; and the so-called "civilian surge" of PRTs.

These teams doubled in Iraq during the past year, with 24 PRTs now serving in all 18 provinces, many embedded with military units to support their operations.

"Their mission is to help strengthen moderate leaders at the local, municipal and provincial levels, providing assistance to help create jobs, deliver basic services and build up local economies," the president said.

The PRTs help provincial governments make the most effective use of their funding in ways that ensure military successes taking place are followed up by "real improvements in the daily lives of the Iraqi citizens," he said. These activities are helping Iraqis work together so reconciliation can take place from the ground up and form a foundation for national reconciliation, the president added.

Bush cited examples of PRT operations and successes discussed during today's meeting.

PRT leaders in Baghdad reported that they have mentored district councils and public works departments in several neighborhoods, have provided funding for generators to help build up local markets, and have supported a micro-grant program to help small businesses reopen across their district in the city.

Leaders in the PRT in Kirkuk told the president they've helped broker a settlement that brought Sunnis back into the provincial council after a yearlong boycott. They also helped the provincial government institute a budget, helped local enterprises with small-business loans, and helped establish a major crimes court in the province that provides citizens equal justice under the law.

PRT leaders in Najaf, one of Shiite Islam's holiest cities, reported they're working with Iraqis to build a modern airport so Shiite pilgrims from around the world can travel to the city.

"These PRT leaders briefed us on the changes they're seeing on the ground in Iraq," Bush said following the meeting. "As they live and work among the Iraqi people, they see the progress that is taking firsthand."

The PRT leaders reported changes since violence began dropping during the troop surge. "As the security improves, life is returning to normal in communities across Iraq, with children back in school and shops reopening and markets bustling with commerce," Bush said.

Improvements on the ground in Iraq are creating conditions for U.S. forces to begin returning home, the president said. He noted that an Army brigade combat team and Marine expeditionary unit already have returned home without being replaced, and that four additional BCTs and another Marine battalion will follow suit in the coming months.

As the United States draws down these forces, it will continue pursuing al Qaeda and other extremists in Iraq, the president said. "Our enemies in Iraq have suffered blows in recent months, but … they're still dangerous. They're not yet defeated," he said.

Bush pointed to yesterday's terrorist killing of the leader of an Iraqi concerned local citizens group as evidence that the enemy there "remains capable of horrific violence." He insisted that the United States won't allow the extremists to get the upper hand.

"We're not going to allow these terrorists to find respite anywhere in Iraq, and we're not going to allow them to regain the strongholds that they've lost," he said.

Bush called the PRTs an important part of the strategy that ensures terrorists don't succeed in Iraq and that the Iraqi people are able to live in peace. He praised PRT members who "are helping improve the lives of citizens they never met before" as they serve on the front lines in the war on terror.

"In so doing, they're making this country more secure, and they're helping lay down a foundation for peace," he said.

3/3 Marines help Iraqi police students overcome differences

Pfc. Brian D. Jones
2nd Marine Division (FWD)

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Bronco Suzuki

Iraqi National Police practice patrol techniques during an incident management class at the Iraqi Military Academy Rustamiyah in Iraq. Weapons Company graduated 59 newly trained Iraqi Policemen in Zaidon, Iraq, Dec. 20, 2007.

ZAIDON, Iraq — "I would unite with anybody to do right and with nobody to do wrong."

These are famous words by Frederick Douglas speaking about overcoming struggles in the progress for human liberty. More than a century later, these words may express the sensitivity of how Iraqis feel toward their struggle for a better future.

Iraqi Police students waited for an interpreter to translate their instructor's commands. The instructions were to work as a team and depend on the cohesion of one another's strength and cooperation to execute a physical exercise. This was a challenge set forth for the students to help them rise above possible ill feelings toward one another that may have separated them, keeping them from working together to achieve a common goal.

"They're civilians that have been guarding checkpoints for months and are looking for some recognition," said 1st Lt. Todd Richardson, a platoon commander with Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 6. "They're looking for some actual authority as opposed to just being civilian watch and they're finally getting their chance."

Weapons Company graduated 59 newly trained Iraqi Policemen in Zaidon, Iraq, Dec. 20, after they reconciled tribal differences among their students.

Early on in the training, the Marines realized they would have to put forth an extra effort in building camaraderie among the class. They needed their Iraqi students to overcome their social differences that were causing disruptions. They relied on teamwork building exercises that required their students to set aside their differences.

Arguments interrupted the first day of instruction, almost leading the instructors to immediately fail students, a loss neither the Marines nor the police force wanted.

"I don't understand Arabic, but I understand complaining," said 26-year-old Ocala, Fla., native, Sgt. David R. Dahl, a chief instructor.

"It started out with a few hitches in the beginning," Dahl said. "There were tribal differences and things of that nature. They were put into situations where they were forced to be next to people they didn't like. Either they were going to be a team or they weren't going to be a part of this."

"You're still a member of your tribe and you're still a member of your community, but you're not going to worry about your tribe and community as much as you're going to worry about the country as a whole," Dahl told his students.

Throughout a period of six training days Marines taught their students a wide range of professional security force skills, from marksmanship and detainee handling to human rights and medical aid.

All the Marines agreed there were moments their blood pressure rose, but they were glad to be teaching the students things they may not get a chance to learn elsewhere.

"Training was condensed into long hours, leaving them little free time, which was good because it kept them focused on what they were doing," Dahl said. "They were physically training, studying or sleeping. They weren't given any time to think about anything else."

Discipline was on display from the Marines, who hoped the Iraqis would pull together and emulate their actions.

"The Marines actually came together really well on it and worked hard," Dahl said. "Every Marine was very professional on how they gave their class and they were very hands on with them. When it was their time to go in front of the Iraqis they were experts on what they were talking about."

As Dahl taught a detainee handling class, he showed techniques to take down a resisting detainee. One student challenged him saying the moves wouldn't work on him. Dahl offered him the chance to stand before the class and demonstrate his resistance to what Dahl had shown them. In a short few seconds, the student found himself on the ground restrained with a surprised look on his face to be proven wrong. The whole class sat there, admiring the skills of their instructor.

Dahl said he and other instructors would sit the students down after a long day of classes and speak with them to make sure the students appreciated the magnitude of their situation and the new responsibilities the students would take on upon graduating as police.

"I had a lot of talks with them about the importance of what they're training for and the responsibilities that come along with the job," Dahl said. "The change in their life they will have to make now and how they're going to have to set examples for their community. They're going to have to hold themselves above everyone else and do what is right for everyone, not just for themselves and their family."

Dahl said they seemed to fully understand what he was stressing. He wanted them to know that this job meant more than just a paycheck to support their families, it was a chance to unite as a stronger force for the protection that would serve a greater and less selfish cause.

Dahl admitted he didn't really believe it was going to work at first because of how argumentative the students were among each other, but in the end he said he was satisfied with the result.

"We have seen a difference in them," Dahl said. "They're working together and they're trying to accomplish everything without any arguments. I think it was good for them and they learned a whole lot from it. It gave them such a focused look at it that I think they've made a dramatic change."

After completing the course, the students graduated as the newest addition to Zaidon's police force. With diplomas in hand, they each extended heartfelt congratulations to one another and thanked their instructors.

Sharing the wealth

Base Thrift Store donates profits to charities, scholarships

Lance Cpl. Alesha R. Guard
Combat Correspondent

Courtesy photo

Nancy Shingler, All Enlisted Spouses Club member, sets up a booth in the Base Thrift Store to sponsor the Light The Night Walk for the Leukemia/Lymphoma Society. One AESC member's daughter has leukemia, so this event was done for her. The AESC raised $1,500 in October for the Leukemia/Lymphoma Society.

The Base Thrift Store raised and donated approximately $6,000 in charity, and issued $4,000 in scholarships this past year.

Operated by the All Enlisted Spouses Club, the store's donations of clothes, household items and other goods are separated, cleaned and sold by club volunteers.

"One person's junk is another person's treasure," said Particia Fierle, All Enlisted Spouses Club member. "The thrift store is a non-profit organization that gives all profits to charities that benefit military families."

The store is about raising money for charity and giving back to others. Elderly, handicap, military and foster families all take advantage of the store's discounted items, Fierle said.

The AESC chooses charities that the base residents have personally been involved with, Fierle said. For example, some of the volunteers are cancer survivors.

"I like volunteering here because I feel I'm supporting the AESC and their charities," said Wednesday Davis, AESC member and store volunteer. "I enjoy working at the store and recycling things because I hate to see anything thrown out."

Volunteers only need to work two hours a month to be part of the AESC and in turn receive a 50 percent discount at the thrift store. Volunteers can sort merchandise or help operate the store. Anyone who wants to help out can volunteer.

"Volunteering here is really easy because the store is very flexible," Davis said. "I can just come in and work whenever I have some free time."

She doesn't consider it work but simply a way to give back to the base community.

"I enjoy meeting people at the store, and I feel I'm contributing to the base in a positive way," Davis said.

The volunteers noticed the store gets a lot of new and modern clothing donations as well as gently used uniform items that young service members and their families really appreciate.

"We have several regulars who are so grateful for this place," said Sabrina Baker, sales associate. "People are very appreciative of how organized the store is and the quality of the items."

Many customers know the volunteers by name and greet them as they shop around the store.

"I love my job here," Baker said. "It makes you feel really good interacting with the customers and seeing the possibilities the store is creating for many of them."

Some customers tell the volunteers what they need so they can call them when the items come in. One foster mother needed a baby stroller, and the next day the store called her and let her know someone donated a brand new stroller.

"It's more than just a store to us," Fierle said. "It's a way of being involved with our community. We are always looking for volunteers and appreciate any time they may have to offer at the store."

The Base Thrift Store is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., as well as every payday Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information on volunteering, call (808)-254-0841.

Education on scams helps save service members money

Lance Cpl. Regina A. Ruisi
Combat Correspondent

> ***"Service members should never disclose personal financial information to anyone offering CLEP services or college entrance."***
>
> — Capt. Christopher Burnett
> legal assistance attorney
> Base Legal Office

Service members seeking further education have many free services available to them, and a quick visit to the Joint Education Center here can provide valuable information on those services.

Tuition assistance, the G.I. Bill and College Level Examination Programs are free to service members, but Marines and Sailors hoping to benefit from these programs should be wary of potential scams.

"At the education center and the library, service members can find materials to help them prepare for CLEP exams," said Capt. Christopher Burnett, legal assistance attorney, base legal office. "The exams and materials are free; however, businesses are popping up offering to sell materials for CLEP exams. That is where the fraud begins."

The fraud Burnett refers to is businesses that set up kiosks at malls or popular areas visited by service members, which offer to sell exclusive preparation materials. These "salesmen" offer equipment like encyclopedias, laptops and study materials, which they promise will help service members pass upward of 20 CLEP exams, gaining them college credits for each course for one low price.

"The claims they make are completely made up," Burnett said. "They ask for an initial payment and say they will give you materials. Service members will either never receive these materials or the ones they receive are grossly inadequate. You sign a contract to pay, say, $100 a month for two years. Once you stop paying, they'll try to get payments out of you."

Because the initial transaction isn't necessarily criminal, a signed contract can result in legal action against a service member. The best way for service members to protect themselves against fraud is to contact the base legal office before signing any contracts.

"Try to avoid them all together, but if you think it's reputable, ask to see the contract and bring it here," Burnett said. "If they say they won't give you a contract, that should be the biggest red flag that they aren't reputable. There's no need to rely on outside materials. Everything you need is available here."

Scam artists trying to sell these services to service members target them specifically because of their drive and motivation to go above and beyond what's required of them, Burnett said.

"If you've got that kind of mentality and someone is saying 'I'll give you that edge to succeed,' for any ambitious, young Marine that sounds too good to be true," Burnett said. "They prey on the mentality that Marines want to go further. With the services these people are offering, Marines feel they have some control over their lives, but if it sounds too good to be true, it usually is. In this case, it definitely is."

These scams aren't new to military installations, and scam artist have tried to scam service members for years.

"I remember back to the 1970s when companies would come on base and try to sell Marines info when it was all free," said Loretta Cornett-Huff, command education services officer, JEC. "It's kind of devious. The sad thing is that there's schools and services like that which prey on our service members."

Service members shouldn't give up on CLEP exams, however, but should be informed about what's available to them.

"If [service members] will familiarize themselves with education opportunities they can get for free, they will be richly rewarded," Cornett-Huff said. "There are all kinds of exams and practice exams that you can get on DVD that we ordered and put in the base library. There are all sorts of study guides available there. If an individual brings a disk or thumb drive to the JEC, we'll load up practice tests for them. We even have computers here they can take tests on."

Even family members can benefit from the CLEP services available on base. While family members can't take CLEP exams for free, they can use study guides or practice exams available at the library and JEC.

It is important for service members and their families to know what's available to them, and be aware and cautious of potential scammers.

"Service members should never disclose personal financial information to anyone offering CLEP services or college entrance," Burnett said. "They'll tell you you can use your G.I. Bill to pay for it, they'll claim their passage rate is 100 percent, they'll tell you they're affiliated with a certain college and if you use their program there's a better chance you'll get in to, say, Harvard. They make some rather bold statements, when all of it is blown out of proportion."

For more information on the CLEP program, visit the JEC here or call (808) 257-2158.

Regarding fraud ...

There are many services available for service members and their families who want to know more about potential fraud, including the Federal Trade Commission, the National Fraud Information Center, the Federal Student Aid Information Center and the base Legal Assistance Office.

Federal Trade Commission
Call (887) FTC-HELP, or visit their Web site http://www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams.

National Fraud Information Center
Visit NFIC's Web site http://www.fraud.org.

Federal Student Aid Information Center
Call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at (800) 4FED-AID.

Legal Assistance Office
Visit the Legal Assistance Office, or call 257-2110 to speak to a legal assistance attorney.

Cpl. Chadwick deBree

Corporals Travis Zabroski and Joshua P. Gainey hold up their citations for bronze stars with combat devices they received Thursday.

BRONZE, from A-1

tasked to provide security around a suspected improvised explosive device site in the city of Barwanah, Iraq, when they received fire from insurgents.

"When we were attacked we were focused on getting the Iraqi civilians out of the way," said the 22-year-old Sheridan, Ind., native. "In that time I was hit."

With his training in mind, Gainey, serving as a rifleman in Fox Company, 2/3 at the time, continued to lead his Marines until the insurgents broke off their attack.

Zabroski experienced a different encounter with insurgents.

On Oct. 25, 2006, the 22-year-old native of Thornton, Colo., was conducting a mounted patrol in southern Haditha, Iraq. His patrol was hit by, as he described, "the most well organized ambush they received."

"We were on a mounted patrol in southern Haditha when we noticed a vehicle that had been following us the whole time," said the rifleman, assigned to Echo Company, 2/3 at the time. "We stopped the vehicle to detain it, and that's when it all began."

Zabroski's patrol began receiving fire from insurgents. In the midst of the firefight, he was hit by a round that went through his thigh. Despite his injury, he kept fighting.

"Our two other patrol leaders got hit," Zabroski said. "When I saw that I thought to myself that somebody had to stay behind and make sure things were being done right, and my Marines didn't stop when I got hit. They saw that I was hit and knew I wasn't going to leave them so they kept right on, just as I wanted them to."

Zabroski stayed through the entire 45-minute fight, despite his injury, though those minutes seemed like seconds to him.

"I know it probably happened for a long time, but the adrenaline made things go by really fast," he said. "I honestly can't tell you how long it lasted because it didn't seem that long, but according to the citation and what the other Marines were saying, it lasted a long time."

Neither Marine is currently assigned to 2/3, but Gainey, with Headquarters Company, 3rd Marine Regiment, and Zabroski, a block noncommissioned officer at the Base Rifle Range, were both honored by the battalion.

"It feels rewarding to be recognized for the things that we have done out there," Zabroski said.

Gainey shares the same emotion with Zabroski.

"It's a great honor to even have been put up for this award," he said. "But I know that there are even more Marines that deserve it too."

POLICE, from A-1

other supplemental support, Torkelson explained.

"Some of the benefits of the additional security support is that you'll have consistent personnel that don't rotate," Torkelson said. "That'll slowly eliminate the need for [Fleet Assistance Program Marines], and you'll have a security force that's familiar with MCBH instead of constantly rotating and training new Marines. There'll be some longevity to the security, someone who's been here for some time."

Ultimately the new initiative means a larger force with more Marines and civilians patrolling, Torkelson said.

While some Marines may be skeptical of the change, the MPD is welcoming the change, Torkelson said.

"I look forward to having a more robust PMO," Torkelson said. "Being understaffed puts a wear on your permanent personnel; we have to use a lot of FAPers to complete the job. We've condensed nine weeks of training [military occupational training] into two weeks and then train a new group of Marines every six months. It's tough, especially when they become proficient at what you've taught them and then they leave the Corps. As police officers start coming in we'll be able to eliminate that."

Torkelson's Marines echoed his praise for the program.

"I think the civilian police will do well; I think they'll adapt without too many problems," said Pfc. James Nelson, a military policeman here. "I love the field and I look forward to being able to go back. It's hard with the lack of people, but once they start employing the police it'll help a lot."

The Marine Corps is abandoning its exclusive self-provided security, and adapting in order to provide the community here a secure environment.

TAX, from A-1

The people who may have to wait are the ones who have to fill out the forms 8863 (educational credits), 5695 (residential energy credit), Schedule 2 Form1040A (child care and dependent care expenses), 8396 (mortgage interest credit) and 8859 (District of Columbia first-time homebuyer credit).

The Tax Center does accept walk-ins, but prefers customers with complex filings such as rental and business property returns to make appointments due to the amount of time it takes to work on them.

The Tax Center is on the second deck of Building 279 and will be open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Wednesday.

For more information on the Tax Center log onto http://www.mcbh.usmc.mil/sja/sjatax.htm.

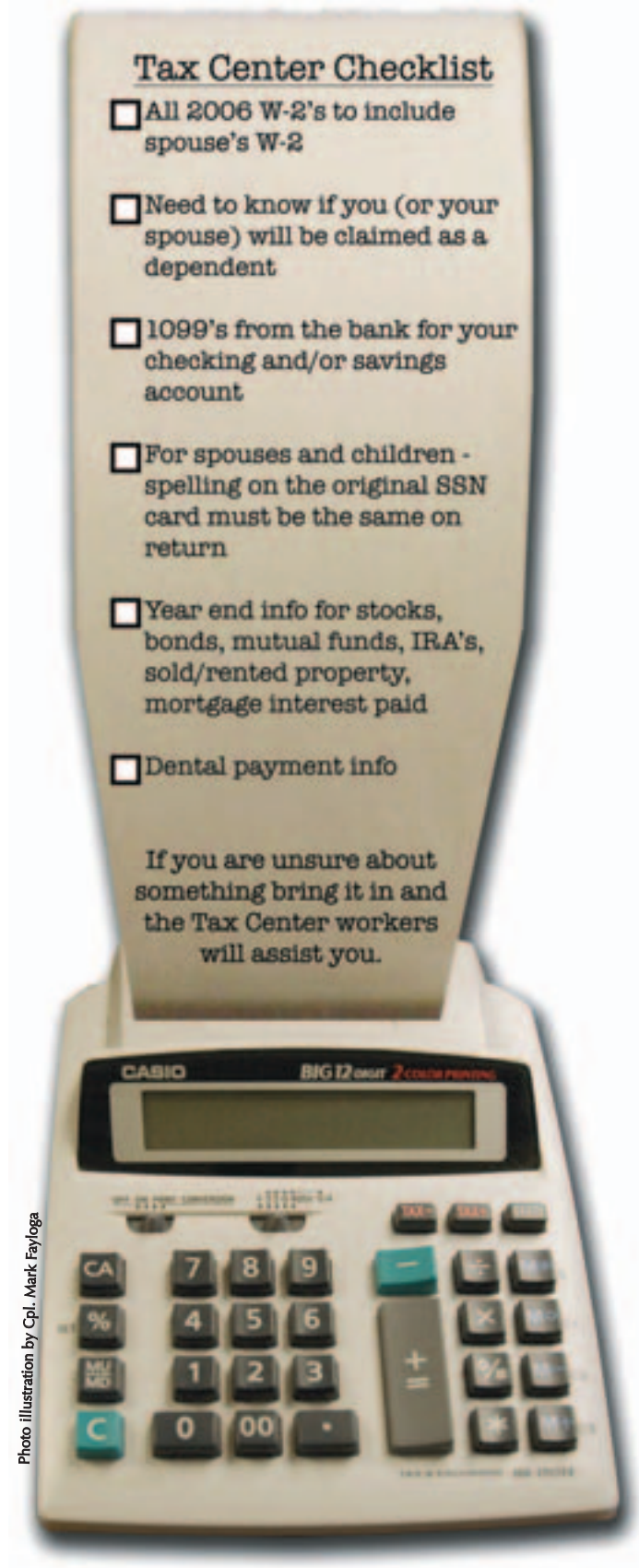

Photo illustration by Cpl. Mark Fayloga

Photos by Christine Cabalo

A carpenter builds a support beam for the ceiling in K-Bay's Chinese Garden. Workers installed ceramic floor tiles and part of a Formica

A sign in front of the 24-Hour Laundromat in Building 1255 tells customers construction dates for Chinese Garden. Businesses in the building, such as the Tennis Shop and Gameroom, are still open.

Chinese Garden overhaul builds support

Christine Cabalo
Photojournalist

People hungry for K-Bay's Chinese Garden restaurant will have to wait until Jan. 31 to satisfy their appetites.

The restaurant's reconstruction continues all month, as workers install new fixtures and equipment. Neighboring businesses, such as the Tennis Shop and 24-Hour Laundromat, are still open.

"So far we've been asking that people call ahead if they want to come to the shop," said Laisa Napau, Tennis Shop worker, Marine Corps Community Services. "Most people see the construction on the street and think everything is closed, but we're still open."

Napau said construction noise isn't a problem, and customers can take their children inside the building. The Tennis Shop worker said she's noticed fewer people walk by the store to check out its services.

"We wanted to get it open for people, so they could still go to the Gameroom and Tennis Shop," said Norman Cote, business operations specialist, MCCS. "We also wanted to ensure children didn't stumble into the main construction area, so we've set up barriers."

The renovation costs an estimated $100,000 for the 4,400-square-foot space, Cote said. Crews are focused on resurfacing the building's ceiling after installing new tougher ceramic floor tile. Customers can expect to see newly painted walls and Formica paneling to replace the restaurant's older wooden boards.

"Funding for the work came from the vendors, Ming and Janice Liang," he said.

"They've been with us for the last five years, and they've extended our contract for another five."

Cote said the restaurant's menu would expand with the addition of new kitchen equipment. Workers are scheduled to install more windowed counter space, and cooks will have room for extra heated or cooled dishes. Construction crews are set to install new appliances for kitchen staff, including an automated dishwasher, to make food preparation time faster.

A family-run business, some restaurant staff is on vacation during the renovation. Other staff members like Paul Agag, cook, MCCS, work at nearby restaurants such as the K-Bay Lanes Snack Bar. The MCCS cook said he normally works during the breakfast rush, and he's currently doing double-shifts at the snack bar to fill in for vacationing MCCS workers.

"I'm the only cook available right now," he said during Friday's lunch shift. "It's hard because today there's no cashier to take orders or help."

Agag said he's seen regulars from K-Bay's Chinese Garden ordering lunch at the snack bar. The MCCS cook said it's tough to say if there's been an increase at the snack bar because there's a steady customer base already eating there.

Cote, who managed restaurant renovations at other Oahu bases, said when renovations finish he hopes customers notice the restaurant is upgraded for their comfort. The business operations specialist said construction is progressing at a good pace, and he's eager to see a wider menu selection.

"I'll be looking forward to eating chicken katsu or any of the other broccoli dishes they serve," he said. "I like there are healthy options with nutrient-enforced food. You can have a nice salad or some lean meat."

What's open during renovations?

The 24-Hour Laundromat, Tennis Shop and Gameroom are open during January.

The Tennis Shop is open for customers during regular business hours, but customers are encouraged to call ahead.

For more information, call 258-8081 or visit the shop's Web site at http://marinecorpstennis.wordpress.com/.

AROUND THE CORPS

Marine ETTs climbing mountains, helping build ANA

Staff Sgt. Luis P. Valdespino, Jr.
Combined Security Transition Command – Afghanistan

KONAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan — Marines in eastern Afghanistan are literally climbing the mountains they currently make home to bring progress to the Afghan National Army soldiers they mentor.

Sergeant Seth E. Lewis of Chattanooga, Tenn., and Lance Cpl. Michael J. Subu of Jacksonville, N.C., are the sole embedded training team mentors for an ANA platoon of soldiers at a border checkpoint near Bari Kot village in eastern Konar province. Subu and Lewis are deployed to Afghanistan as part of Embedded Training Team 7-2 from 3rd Marine Division in Okinawa, Japan. They are posted at the checkpoint to mentor the ANA soldiers during ongoing missions and to assist them as ETT liaisons.

These responsibilities call for leadership, initiative and a lot of mountain climbing for the young Marines.

The checkpoint is an Afghan Border Police post with an ANA observation post about 500 meters up a mountain and just across the Konar River from Pakistan.

Since arriving, Lewis estimated he has climbed up the mountain to the OP at least 50 times. Most of the ANA soldiers they mentor work and sleep at the OP on top of the mountain, and part of Lewis and Subu's job has been to help make it possible for the ANA to build up and secure the post.

The two Marines, meanwhile, are housed in a billeting hut at the bottom of the hill, as are additional ANA soldiers, a platoon of U.S. soldiers and some ABP. It's an environment Lewis and Subu have seemingly adjusted to as Marines.

After recently going for a few days to Forward Operating Base Naray, Konar province, about 10 miles west, the 22-year-old Subu announced at a meeting, "I'm going home," as he and the other ETT mentors discussed the upcoming drive to the checkpoint.

Lewis was first assigned to the checkpoint in early autumn, and Subu joined him in November. The team is based out of FOB Naray, but mentors are divided throughout the area in six groups of two or three Marines – with one Navy hospital corpsman at FOB Naray and another at FOB Kamdesh.

Most of the ETT Marines arrived in country during August, and have been involved in operations throughout eastern Afghanistan with 3rd Kandak (Armored), 3rd Brigade, 201st ANA Corps – a kandak is an Afghan battalion. A couple Marines, including Subu, joined the team in mid-November. The ETT was divided into two on arrival to Afghanistan, to mentor the 3rd and 5th Kandaks with 3rd Brigade, 201st ANA Corps – 5th Kandak and its Marine ETT mentors are based out of Jalalabad.

"Because the teams are split up ... the job here requires [noncommissioned officers] to step up," said 1st Sgt. Matthew S. Seamans, 42-year-old Shorewood, Minn., native and senior enlisted mentor with the ETT. The expectation during training was that the NCOs would be mentoring NCOs, staff NCOs would mentor staff NCOs, and officers would mentor officers, but as the ANA has grown, so have the ETT mentor responsibilities.

Lewis and Subu, however, say they appreciate their responsibilities and the experience they are getting. Lewis was the sole Marine and ETT mentor at the checkpoint for weeks before Subu joined him.

"I was actually pretty happy ... because I would be able to prove my worth as a sergeant," the 29-year-old Lewis said.

Staff Sgt. Luis P. Valdespino, Jr.

Petty Officer 1st Class Reynaldo S. Datu is followed by Afghan National Army Maj. Abdul Latif, executive officer of 3rd Kandak (Armored), 3rd Brigade, 201st ANA Corps, as they make their way back from an observation point on top of a mountain to a border checkpoint 500 meters below. Datu is part of an embedded training team deployed to Afghanistan from Okinawa, Japan, to work with the ANA.

Working with the ANA has helped him learn to better handle responsibility and maturity, and has afforded him the opportunity to see the results of his efforts.

"I see leaps and bound with the ANA at certain points," Lewis said.

During a recent visit from the kandak commander and ETT leaders, Lewis led ETT mentors up the mountain to the OP with ANA soldiers. Seamans and Lt. Col. James F. Werth, ETT chief, commented that the OP structures had been substantially improved since his last climb up the mountain.

The sergeant had coordinated the hiring of local labor to get supplies to the ANA soldiers for solidifying the post with sufficient living facilities at the OP.

Aside from coordinating logistical support for the ANA soldiers, Lewis said he focuses much of his efforts on trying to help ANA see leadership as the Marine Corps uses it – with NCOs and staff NCOs having leadership roles and responsibilities as well as the officers. And with consideration for the ETT goals, he encourages the ANA to accomplish tasks on their own.

"I try to push that if they want something done – something that's simple – to do it themselves [instead of hiring labor to do the work]," Lewis said. "What are they gonna do when the [American-provided] money goes away?"

Lewis said he wants ANA soldiers to be able to deal with various challenges and projects on their own – as they will have to when they are no longer supported by ETTs.

"The ultimate goal is for the ANA to function without ETTs," he said, adding that he believes his tour will be worth his efforts when he is done.

The ANA leaders said they have benefited from the relationship with Lewis, Subu and other ETT mentors.

"We have the best relations with the ETTs," said ANA Lt. Col. Mohammad Naseem, 3rd Kandak (Armored) commander.

The ETTs have worked close and provided much logistical and operational support for the ANA soldiers. And, Naseem said, the terrain has not slowed Marines.

"The Americans, especially the U.S. forces are powerful and [athletic] – all the time ready to climb mountains," Naseem said.

He said they have also proved to be ready for any tactical missions that have come up.

Lewis and Subu continue their roles, climbing mountains and overcoming any other obstacles to mentor the ANA.