

# Hawaii MARINE

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## Commandant passes torch

**Staff Sgt. Kevin Dolloson**  
Headquarters  
Marine Corps

WASHINGTON — Amid preparations for war, Gen. James L. Jones heads for Europe Jan. 14 to assume duties as Supreme Allied Commander, Europe.

General Jones relinquished his duties as the Corps' top Marine a day prior to Gen. Michael W. Hagee, formerly the commander of I Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

General Jones' last big "hoorah" was the stop loss/stop move policy, which states that no Marine will separate from the Marine Corps for one year, and no Marine will change duty stations for one year. That year began Jan. 7, 2003 and is in effect until Jan. 8, 2004.

General Jones said the stop loss/stop move policy was put into effect

with the expectation that over the next few weeks, or months, we'll clearly know which way we're headed.

"It's a prudent hedge against what we see as a serious evolving situation," he said. "And, we want to make sure the Marine Corps is able to execute the totality of its potential missions should, in fact, the crisis with regard to Iraq deepen, and we go on to offensive action."

General Jones also expressed that he doesn't see this as a long-term policy, but as a short-term policy "that we need as [insurance] for whatever it is we might be asked to do."

General Jones now steers his focus toward his duties as SACEUR, which concentrates primarily on preserving the peace, security and territorial integrity of Alliance member states.

General Michael W. Hagee assumed command as the 33rd Commandant of the Corps Jan. 13 in a ceremony attended by thousands on the tradition-rich grounds of the United States Naval Academy.

Hailing from Texas, Gen. Hagee, a 1968 graduate of the academy, promised to continue the legacy passed to him through generations of those privileged to bear the title of Commandant.

"The health of the Marine Corps is strong," he said. "I hope to make it just a little stronger."

"We may have new technologies in the future, but the strength of our Corps will continue to be the resourcefulness of the individual Marine."



Staff Sgt. Kevin Dolloson

**Former Commandant Gen. James L. Jones (right) passes command to Gen. Michael W. Hagee at a ceremony Monday.**

## CSC supports environment

Marines, AAVs churn in the mud to clear invasive weeds

**Story and photos by Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero**  
Combat Correspondent

Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, conducted its annual amphibious assault vehicle assistance to improve the endangered bird habitat at the Nu'upia Ponds Wildlife Management Area Jan. 8 and 9.

For 21 years, the Marines have been enhancing homeland security for the Hawaiian stilts on base with the annual "Mud Ops" program.

This year's exercise used four AAVs and a crew of 17 Marines from Combat Support Company, 3rd Marine Regiment, to plow up invasive plant species that would otherwise overrun the ponds and crowd out the endangered birds from their homes.

"What took place here was some much needed assistance from the Marines and their Amphibious Assault Vehicles in the combat against invasive species," said Dr. Diane C. Drigot, senior natural resource management specialist for MCB Hawaii's Environmental Protection and Compliance Department.

The best place for birds to nest is on top of mud-flat mounds in wetlands such as Nu'upia Pond Wildlife Management Area, according to Drigot, but an abundance of invasive plants there, such as mangrove and pickleweed, literally crowd the birds out of their nesting habitat.

It was first noticed in the 1970s that stilt were following the 26-ton tracked AAVs as they traveled along the northern shoreline of Nu'upia Ponds on their daily transit to the ocean at Kailua



**Above — Dr. Diane C. Drigot, senior natural resource management specialist for MCB Hawaii's Environmental Protection and Compliance Department, explains the training objectives for the day to the Marines from CSC.**

**Below — The Marine AAVs take advantage of this once a year opportunity to manipulate a terrain not normally available to them.**



Bay. This six-ounce bird was attempting to nest on the mounds of mud along

the watery trail left behind by the AAVs on their travel routes. However, by es-

tablishing nest sites along a busy travel corridor, the birds and their nests were placed in jeopardy, explained Drigot.

"The Marines and biologists put their heads together and figured out a way to turn this into a 'swords into plowshares' win-win opportunity, rather than a hindrance to military training and a hazard to the birds survival," said Drigot.

The Marines moved

See MUD-OPS, A-6

## New pet policy governs MCB Hawaii

**Staff Sgt. Jesus A. Lora**  
Operations/Training Chief

In an effort to better enforce pet registration requirements, and address control of potentially dangerous and vicious dogs aboard MCB Hawaii, a new policy is in effect now to ensure the safety and security of all base residents.

Recently, three dog attack incidents (involving two Rottweilers and one Husky) occurred aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, and none of the three dogs involved were registered with the family housing department or the base Kaneohe Veterinary Clinic.

The existing pet registration policy process requires pets (dogs and cats) to have had all their vaccinations before they can be registered. Sometimes this requirement results in pets being aboard base for up to four months (the age at which they

can receive the last of their required shots) without being registered.

The new base policy requires temporary registration within 10 days of bringing a pet aboard MCB Hawaii, and permanent registration will occur after the pet has received its shots, but before it is 16 weeks old.

Other changes include a requirement that the Provost Marshal's Office and Kaneohe Veterinary Clinic receive a weekly roster of residents who have pets.

Also, Rottweilers were added to the "banned" list of pets; however, current residents and those in transit who own Rottweilers will be able to keep these dogs. The policy still bans Pit Bulls from base.

Pets outside the owner's quarters or fenced yard are required to be under strict control of the owner, or a responsible person who must be able to physically and positively

control the animal.

All Rottweilers, and any other dogs that have previous bite incidents must be on a leash and wearing a muzzle when out of the owner's quarters or fenced yard. Further, pet owners may only walk one dog at a time.

The base is offering a registration amnesty period for pets that are not currently registered. The amnesty period will continue until Feb. 10, and the veterinary clinic offers vaccinations, microchip installation, and base registration.

The new guidelines will help keep residents safe, and PMO will be stepping up enforcement.

Base Order P5500.15a has all of the details about pet registration and accountability.

Contact the vet clinic at 257-3643 for details about registration, and call the base inspector to report any violations of the new policy.

## Stop loss, move Q&A released

**Headquarters Marine Corps**  
Press Release

(Editor's note: The following is an excerpt of current Stop Loss/Stop Move policy. Marines should refer to MarAdmin 007/03 for further guidance.)

**Q: Why did the Secretary of the Navy institute Stop Loss/Stop Move?**

**A:** The Marine Corps requested Stop Loss authority from SecNav to stabilize personnel to meet unscheduled deployments in support of current operational requirements. The Marine Corps implemented Stop Move for the same reason. Stop Move did not require SecNav authority for implementation.

**Q: What is Stop Loss?**

**A:** Stop Loss is a short-term policy that stabilizes Marines in their current assignment by preventing them from leaving at the end of their service.

See Q&A, A-5

## MCBH NEWS BRIEFS

### PET REGISTRATION CLINIC SCHEDULED JAN. 25

The Kaneohe Veterinary Clinic Facility, Bldg. 455 (next to the Housing Office), will be running a "registration only" clinic Jan. 25 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Marine Corps Base Hawaii will offer a 30-day amnesty period to register existing pets.

Only vaccinations and microchips needed for registration will be performed that day. No sick pets will be seen.

Call the Kaneohe Veterinary Treatment Facility at 257-3643, or stop by and make an appointment for Jan. 25.

Bring your pets' vaccination records and your military I.D., if you've never processed through the facility.

### W-2S AVAILABLE ONLINE NOW

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

### SHEARWATERS BEGIN FLEDGING

During the months of November through January, certain species of seabirds are fledging from their nest sites throughout the main and offshore Hawaiian islands.

Often during the hours of darkness, Wedgetail Shearwater Juveniles, upon leaving their nest, are sometimes disoriented by lights. You may find the birds on your porches or in your yards, work areas, and often on roadways after being struck by cars.

If you observe a shearwater — or any sea bird or birds that may be federally protected and disoriented or injured — call the Provost Marshal's Office game warden at 257-1821 or 257-2123.

You may also contact Mr. Gordon Olayvar, MCB Hawaii's biological science technician, at 257-6920, ext. 230.

### IMPORTANT NUMBERS

On-Base Emergencies 257-9111  
Military Police 257-7114  
Crisis Hotline 521-4555

## Hawaii MARINE

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## CG'S MAIL BOX

*"My complaint is that we are only allowed two keys. ...Now we've been stolen from, and I feel unsafe."*



BRIG. GEN.  
MCABEE

Submitted by Paula W. Ross, family member

According to base regulations, we are only allowed two keys for our quarters.

I am the mother of two boys, ages 16 and 18. Due to the fact that they drive and I work in Honolulu, we come and go at different times. This has caused us to have to hide a key so that we can get into our quarters.

Having had to do that, their friends have seen them retrieve the key to get in. Now today, someone I apparently know, came into my home and stole my son's PlayStation 2. Of course, they knew how to get in.

My complaint is that we are only allowed two keys. I understand that to a point. However, now we've been stolen from, and I feel unsafe.

My husband is in the field, and I have no one to turn to. I really feel violated, especially since it's obviously someone we know.

My suggestion is that we go through the housing office if more than two keys are needed. We obviously do, considering our sons' ages and the fact that I work in Honolulu.

I'm sure that they [housing] could come up with a way of recording how many keys an individual has to the quarters, especially if they are issued or logged by the housing office.

Maybe they could give a formal

paper that could be taken to the key shop on base for copies.

No one could get an extra key made without the paper (like a request chit).

Upon checking out with housing on vacating the quarters, they [housing] would then know how many keys the family has to turn in.

This is the only solution I can come up with.

We moved on base to be safe. We lived out in town where there were drug deals going on at the corner by our house. Yet, we want to feel safe, especially when our husbands are gone, and we're so far from home.

This has really ruined our Christmas, but obviously made someone else's.

Paula W. Ross

Dear Mrs. Ross,

We have been asked by the commanding general to research and respond to your email of Dec. 5 since your recommendation falls within our staff responsibilities. He appreciates that you have taken the time to participate in the "CG Mail" program.

The Family Housing Department provides tenants with two keys. Additional keys will be provided to tenants upon request.

Residents living in any of our older housing areas may also have additional keys made at any key shop.

Key security is very important aboard MCB Hawaii. We require residents to turn in all keys upon termination of quarters, to include those keys they have duplicated themselves.

Failure to do so will result in unnecessary lock changes and the resident being required to reimburse the government for the cost.

Keys for our newer homes aboard MCB Hawaii may not be duplicated by anyone other than the Family Housing Department.

Regarding the alleged theft of your son's PlayStation 2, the Provost Marshal's Criminal Investigation Division conducted an investigation into the lead you provided them.

Unfortunately, that lead did not yield any further evidence, and as you are aware, the case was subsequently closed.

Thank you for bringing this issue to our attention, and thank you again for taking the time to express your concerns via the "CG Mail" program.

Mr. Kent Murata  
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-4  
and  
Lieutenant Col. Marc Lambert  
Provost Marshal

*(Editor's Note: Letters of any length may be trimmed and edited in the interest of good taste and brevity.)*

The commanding general invites input from the base community via C.G. Mail on the following topics: What are we doing that we shouldn't be doing? What are we not doing that we should be doing? What are we doing that we should be doing better?

Responses should include a recommendation that will help solve the problem and must include your name and return address so that staff may respond.

For more information about how to send C.G. Mail, see the MCB Hawaii C.G. Mail page at [www.mcbh.usmc.mil/command/cg-mail.htm](http://www.mcbh.usmc.mil/command/cg-mail.htm).

## COMMENTARY

### 'What is your measuring stick?'

Chaplain (Lt.)  
Winnie J. Walmsley  
MCB Hawaii Base Chaplain

Everyday I talk with Marines and Sailors regarding challenges they are dealing with in their lives.

Some of the first questions I like to ask are these: "What is your moral measuring stick? What do you use to determine if something is right or wrong?"

I get a variety of answers. Some say they do not have a measuring stick. Others respond that God, the Bible, or religious conviction helps them make good decisions.

These questions regarding a moral measuring stick are the foundation to the majority of problems we face on a day-to-day basis. To those who respond to my question, "I don't have one", I respond that this is

**"Let our lives reflect the legacy that Martin Luther King Jr. fought so hard to make a reality for every American."**

Chaplain (Lt.) Winnie J. Walmsley  
MCB Hawaii Base Chaplain

the heart of your difficulty in making good choices. You must have something to motivate you to make decisions that will have a positive impact on your life.

I share with Marines and Sailors my motivators. I have two. Because I am a person of faith and believe in God, he is my main motivator. The laws and rules that God gave are the foundation of my decision making each day.

The second motivator I

have is my parents. I am very fortunate to have both parents still married almost 50 years.

My parents have given me the example of their lives to motivate me in doing my best. In my career, social life and ministry, I represent them.

I do not want to do anything that will bring dishonor or shame to God or my parents. That is what motivates me.

In just a few days we will, as a country, celebrate

Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. As we take this day to honor and remember the life of a man who had a moral measuring stick — that is still having an impact on others — let us strive to do the same.

Let our lives reflect the legacy that King fought so hard to make a reality for every American.

Will your measuring stick continue to have an impact on others long after you leave this earth? Although your life may not impact the numbers that King's did, every single person that you influence by your good choices and decisions is significant.

What is your moral measuring stick? Find that something deep inside to motivate you, and let no one stand in your way as your life has a positive impact on those around you.



Sergeants and below who dare to become Combat Correspondents and would pride themselves on telling the Marine Corps story can seize the opportunity with a lateral move into the 4341 occupational field. Contact Gunnery Sgt. Rhys Evans, base public affairs chief, at 257-8832 or 257-8840, for more information.



Staff Sgt. Robert Carlson

Corporal Brian Flatt, point man, scopes his target while Cpl. Jeremy Haase, also a point man, spots for him.

## 15th MEU fires at U'lupau

**Staff Sgt. Robert Carlson**  
Press Chief

Reconnaissance Marines from the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) stopped at MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay Dec. 8 to hone their sharp shooting skills from the rim of the U'lupau Crater at the Range Training Facility.

The high-angle firing positions of Range 10 on the lip of the volcanic crater gave the 10 Marines valuable experience shooting at targets from high above with their A-3 rifles.

The Marines are part of the MEU's Battalion Landing Team 2/1. They said they were able to shoot a little during the workups for this deploy-

ment, and got some practice shooting off of the fantail of the USS Tarawa, but weren't able to shoot at any long range targets.

With more than 1,000 rounds fired on the Known Distance Range, and several hundred more from the high-angle range, the shooters had the practice they needed to prepare for whatever missions may come their way while deployed.

Marine Corps Base Hawaii supported the reconnaissance Marines with the flexibility and combat training they needed to increase their combat readiness.

The shooters set up targets at distances ranging from 600 to nearly 1,000 yards, and firing from the lip

of the crater gave the Marines a chance to shoot at an angle of more than 19 degrees.

Since the Marines have been using the new A-3 rifles for only four months, the training was valuable because it allowed them to become familiar with the calculations and adjustments necessary to reach out and touch a target from 600 yards away, even from a point 800 feet above the target's level.

The 15th MEU(SOC), from Camp Pendleton, Calif., and the USS Tarawa Amphibious Ready Group got underway for their six-month deployment to the Western Pacific region Jan. 6. They pulled out of Pearl Harbor Wednesday.

## 1/12 trains to decon on the go

**Staff Sgt. Robert Carlson**  
Press Chief

The Marines and Sailors of 1st Bn., 12th Marines, recently completed a Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation on the Big Island, but the final test of their ability to fight in a nuclear, biological or chemical environment was proven when they successfully executed an operational decontamination evolution at the Boondocker Training Area Dec. 8.

The scenario was to show an evaluator from 12th Marine Regiment from Okinawa that the Marines know how to process contaminated equipment and personnel, and get them back in the fight.

While the exercise could have been done as part of the MCCRE, the logistical challenge of taking the required amount of water to the Pohakuloa Training Area made completing the training at the Boondocker Training Area much more practical.

"When a commander knows his men and equipment are contaminated, he can make the decision to do this type of operational decontami-

nation," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Michael Burns, 12th Marines NBC officer. "The idea is not to completely wash the vehicles and personnel, but to get the gross contamination off, and change out the protective suits so they can get back in the fight."

Burns said that protective suits can protect for much longer, but in this scenario, the commander decided to change after six hours.

More than 30 Marines from Alpha, Bravo and Headquarters batteries participated, and the exercise was a great chance for the NBC experts from the batteries to cross train and learn new techniques.

"We're also doing this to help train technical experts within the batteries on this type of operational decontamination," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Michael Chaney, 1/12's NBC officer. "We would do a more thorough cleaning after the Marines and equipment were completely away from the contaminated environment."

The Marines did a hasty decontamination of a humvee, a 7-ton truck with a trailer, and a squad of



Staff Sgt. Robert Carlson

Corporal Ky Gingerly, an administrative clerk (left) and Lance Cpl. Jose Martinez, a supply clerk, both with Headquarters Battery, change their Mission Oriented Protective Posture suits.

Marines. Using hot water and high-pressure, the decon process dissipated the simulated chemical agent, and helped the Marines and the gear stay in the fight without further spreading any contamination.

## Service beyond the call of duty

Lance Cpl. Miguel Hernandez (right), a military policeman with Headquarters Bn., MCB Hawaii, receives a Certificate of Commendation from Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, commanding general, MCB Hawaii, during a colors ceremony at the base flagpole Friday. Hernandez, Sgt. James Ryan of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, and Sgt. Adam M. Tack of Headquarters Bn. — who also received certificates — played key roles during a multi-jurisdictional narcotics seizure. Staff Sgt. Samuel Cubberly, Staff Sgt. Patrick Keith and Cpl. Richard B. Cauley with the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal; Mr. Edward Howard with the Narcotics Enforcement Division, State of Hawaii, a Certificate of Commendation; Douglas Campbell and Lui Tangaro a certificate in recognition of 30 years of service; and Kerstin Ehn and Edward Wong certificates for 20 years of service.



Cpl. Jessica M. Mills

## WORD ON THE STREET

*"What did Martin Luther King Jr. accomplish for our nation?"*



"He showed that it could be done, attaining freedom and rights using nonviolent means."

**Master Gunnery Sgt. Freddie Porter**

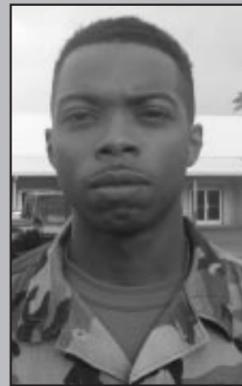
Deputy Inspector, Headquarters Bn., MCB Hawaii



"He helped minorities get more rights than they had in the past."

**Eric Echevary**

Vending technician, Marine Corps Community Services



"He helped establish racial equality for everyone, so that now we all come together as one."

**Lance Cpl. Donald Hosea**

Warehouseman, CSSG-3



"He helped push the constitution by giving people equal rights that they should already have gotten."

**Airman Brian Derhan**

Avionics technician, VP-47



"He rejuvenated what President Abraham Lincoln tried to do. His efforts gave civil rights to African Americans and all other minorities."

**Master Sgt. Juan Rivera**

Operations chief, Headquarters Bn.

# Tax Center opens

**Cpl. Jason E. Miller**  
*Combat Correspondent*

The coming of January signaled the beginning of the ever-dreaded tax season.

Marines, Sailors, family members and retirees have a place to turn for help beginning Jan. 27, when the Tax Center, MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, opens its doors to personnel in need.

The center offers its services free of charge, and allows income tax returns to be direct deposited into the accounts for those who file there.

"Although we're capable of handling everything from simple 1040EZs to complex returns, our program is geared primarily toward our junior enlisted Marines and Sailors, who often lose a large percentage of their tax refund on fees for preparation and high-cost loans," said Capt. Ramin Olson, director of the Tax Center.

"In many cases, using the Tax Center can save these young Marines and Sailors hundreds of dollars. They get fast, free, high-quality tax preparation and e-filing service, and they will get back every dollar they're entitled to by direct deposit, normally within two weeks."

The Tax Center is located in Bldg. 455, next door to the 7-Day Store.

To provide enhanced service to military personnel and dependents this year, the Tax Center has extended its hours and will be open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays.

Walk-in service will be available every weekday, and appointments will be available by calling 257-1026.

When reporting to the Tax Center, patrons should bring the following: a checkbook or bank account and routing numbers for direct deposit, a copy of all tax forms (W-2s, 1099s, etc.) and personal tax information, plus a copy of last year's return, if available, and any tax forms sent by the IRS.

# 102-year-old patriot honored at K-Bay

**Cpl. Jessica M. Mills**  
*Sports Editor*

Imagine living through an entire century, seeing two world wars, numerous international conflicts and the transformation to modern day conveniences.

Retired Army/Air Force Colonel William "Frank" Steer has lived through all of these occurrences and much more.

In celebration of his 102nd birthday, Steer received an honorary promotion to Provost Marshal General of the Army and Air Force, and was hailed by a variety of guests including Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, commanding general, MCB Hawaii, who hosted the event; Major Gen. Eric Olson, commanding general, United States Army Hawaii; Rep. Guy Ontai, R-Mililani/Waipio, representing Governor Linda Lingle; and the former Mrs. Hawaii 2002, as well as many others, during a birthday party held at the Officers' Club Sunday.

"I think it's great; this promotion was long overdue," said Retired Army Criminal Investigative Division John Fitzpatrick, who traveled all the way from Dixon, Calif. "I came this far because I admire Frank Steer for being the soldier that he is. He was true and honest.

All those who served with him will remember him forever."

Steer enlisted in the Army at the age of 17 and deployed to France during World War I. During that time, he saw combat action in St. Mihiel Forges and Meus Argonne, and was recently awarded the French Legion of Honor for his participation.

In 1920, the governor of Oklahoma appointed Steer to West Point.

After duty in the Philippines during the 1930s, Steer was assigned to Hawaii as the Provost Marshal for the Hawaiian Department. Following the fateful Dec. 7, 1941, he became the martial law provost marshal. Later, he was appointed Mid-Pacific Provost Marshal and was responsible for thousands of prisoners of war.

Steer left the Army in 1947 to become a member of the Air Force, which by then had become a separate branch of the military. He was appointed as the first provost marshal of the entire Air Force and retired from the service in 1949.

Steer now lives in Kailua, and at 102 years old is the sole surviving member of the West Point Class of 1925, the oldest living graduate of West Point, and one of the few remaining World War I veterans.



Cpl. Jessica M. Mills

**Major Gen. Steer receives his honorary promotion to Provost Marshal General of the Army and Air Force from dignitaries attending his 102nd birthday celebration Sunday at the Officers' Club.**

After the honorary promotion ceremony, Brig. Gen. McAbee presented Steer with orders making him an honorary MCB Hawaii policeman.

"This was a great day for the U.S. Army, MCB Hawaii, and the State of Hawaii," said Brig. Gen. McAbee. "It was a privilege to honor and recognize an American patriot par excellence."

Ending the call to arms, Maj. Gen. Olsen presented Steer with a black beret, representing the "Army of One" transformation and his place in that history.

By proclamation, Rep. Ontai announced that Jan. 12 was offi-

cially "General Frank Steer Day."

"This is the greatest thing that could happen to anyone," said Steer.

The West Point Society of Hawaii closed the event with a cake cutting ceremony, and former Mrs. Hawaii presented him with a lei and kiss.

"Today was climactical; it is an unexpected honor for him," said Don Devaney, unofficial aide-de-camp to Steer. "You can see on his face how proud he is today. I feel he can spend the rest of his days feeling fulfilled, knowing how much he has done for his country."

**Q&A, From A-1****Q: What is Stop Move?**

A: Stop Move is a policy that stabilizes Marines in their current assignment by preventing their move to another unit.

**Q: Who is affected by Stop Loss?**

A: Under the current policy, all Marines — officer and enlisted, active and reserve components — are affected by Stop Loss.

**Q: Can general officers still allow Marines to EAS/EOS/ECC/retire?**

A: The first general officer in the Marine's chain of command can authorize the Marine to separate. Headquarters Marine Corps retains final approval authority for retirements.

**Q: When was the last time a Stop Loss/Stop Move was implemented this large?**

A: The Marine Corps implemented a Stop Loss policy of this magnitude during the Persian Gulf Crisis, in the 1990 and 1991 timeframe.

**Q: How long will the Stop Loss/Stop Move last?**

A: On a weekly basis, manpower officials will review the current Stop Loss and Stop Move Policy to ensure that it still supports the missions given to the Marine Corps. As these missions change, the policy will change to remain relevant.

**Q: Can Marines EAS/ECC/EOS/retire earlier than the 12 months involuntary extension?**

A: The current Stop Loss policy does not dictate the length of time a commander will involuntarily extend Marines. It only specifies that Marine's will not be held longer than 12 months from their original separation date.

As the situation changes, Commanders may determine that the separation of a Marine will not have a negative impact upon the accomplishment of his mission.

**Q: Will Marines promised orders by their monitor, still receive them once the stop move is lifted?**

A: It is our full intent to honor all planned assignments as they are if the situation permits. This was the driving force behind our decision to initially direct that all current orders issued be held in abeyance vice being cancelled in total.

**Q: How will the Stop Loss affect promotions for officers and enlisted Marines?**

A: Stop Loss will have very minimal effects on enlisted promotions. We are still analyzing the effects of Stop Loss on officer promotions.

**Q: If a Marine has been approved for retirement, can his/her command request a cancellation/delay?**

A: Marines with an approved retirement of 1 April 03, or earlier, will retire as planned. Marines with an approved retirement date after April 1, 2003 will retire, unless their commanders request the retirement date be delayed or canceled. These requests must include justification for the request, the desires of the Marine, and a concise statement of the impact on the Marine.

**Q: If a Marine was previously denied further service, will he/she also be eligible for an involuntary 12-month extension?**

A: No. If a Marine is denied further service, he/she will separate from the Marine Corps at EAS. Per MARADMIN 007/03, "commanders will continue to separate and retire those Marines who are denied further service due to service limits, retirement, or removal dates.

"Additionally, commanders will continue to process and separate Marines for reasons of hardship, disability, involuntary administrative separation, or violation of the UCMJ, as appropriate."

First term Marines disapproved due to lack of boatspaces in their MOS are not considered "denied further service" and may not separate.

**Q: I have a Marine that laterally moved and is scheduled to go to an MOS school. How will the Stop Loss/Stop Move affect him/her?**

A: All Marines approved for lateral move and scheduled to attend an MOS - producing school before Feb. 15, 2003, will not be affected by the Stop Move.

Marines who reenlisted and are accepted for lateral move with orders to attend an MOS-producing school after Feb. 15, 2003, may only execute orders at the discretion of their command.

Marines approved for lateral move in MOSs 02XX, 2336, 26XX, 2823, 2834, 4429, and 6276 will execute orders, regardless of the Stop Move.

Marines approved for latmove to all other MOSs may attend school at the discretion of the command the Marine currently belongs to.

**Q: What if a Marine has been approved an early out for school?**

A: Marines approved for an early out for school who have an end of active service after Jan. 15, 2003 and who have not departed on terminal leave are affected by the stop loss policy.

**Q: Will enlisted Marines still be able to request a lateral move during Stop Loss/Stop Move?**

A: All enlisted Marines may continue to request lateral moves. The First Term Alignment Program requirement must be filled for FY03 and latmoves assist with the needed MOS balance. However, Marines selected for latmove will have to wait until Stop Move is lifted before they are sent to school, unless the command requests the Marine go to school.

**Q: Does Stop Loss affect those on light duty (and nondeployable), rather than just physical disability?**

A: Stop Loss affects Marines in a light duty status. Light duty implies that a Marine may return to full duty. If the medical problem facing the Marine is treated and resolved and the Marine returns to full duty, then the current stop loss policy will apply to the Marine as he/she approaches separation, retirement, or transfer date.

# SALUTES

## Promotions

Lance Corporal Dejean Daniel Jr.  
Lance Corporal Brandon A. Gac  
Lance Corporal Molly R. Gresham  
Lance Corporal Matthew M. Long  
Lance Corporal Ruben L. Villegas

## Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal

Sergeant Gabriel Cruz  
Petty Officer 2nd Class  
Michael G. Downes  
Corporal Richard B. Cauley

## Good Conduct Medal

Gunnery Sergeant Henry E. Stewart

## Certificate of Commendation

Chief Petty Officer John K. Gay  
Sergeant Eric R. Schleher  
Corporal Erik J. Klueber  
Corporal Brandon D. Link  
Corporal Thomas O. Hereim  
Lance Corporal Leopoldo D. Servo

## Meritorious Mast

Lance Corporal Thomas R. Coffey

GUNG-HO



Lance Corporal Ruth Corrigeux  
Lance Corporal Renae M. Diener  
Lance Corporal David Garcia  
Lance Corporal George A. Mellone  
Lance Corporal Tony M. Moya  
Lance Corporal Scott A. Murry  
Lance Corporal Todd D. Patrick  
Private First Class Ezekiel D. Roush  
Lance Corporal Ashley J. Zoza

## Letters of Commendation

Petty Officer 1st Class  
Erik G. Walters  
Petty Officer 2nd Class  
Michael Downes

## MUD-OPS, From A-1

their daily transit path to the ocean northward so that the habitat was not disturbed on a daily basis. The natural resources staff calls upon the AAV unit to deliberately perform specific "checkerboard pattern" plow-like maneuvers in the mudflats. once a year, prior to nesting season, which peaks late March through September.

"If not plowed back every year with the AAVs' assist, the pickle weed mass would grow so thick that the stilt and the other waterbird species that use the Nu'upia mudflats would have no maneuver room or available mudflats for bird foraging and nesting," said Drigot.

"We started this tradition in 1982 and have continued ever since," she added. "Over the years, we have commissioned various studies by monitoring scientists who have confirmed our observation that there is a synergistic, win-win relationship evolved now between the 26-ton AAV "hog" and this six-ounce bird."

In addition to this operation being

helpful to the local ponds, it also serves as resourceful training for the Marines who receive the opportunity to "break out of the box" of controlled training elsewhere in Hawaii.

"This was a great opportunity for our junior Marines to manipulate this type of terrain while also helping out the environment," said Staff Sgt. David Hickman, section leader, AAV platoon, CSC.



**For the past 21 years, Marines and their AAVs have been improving the homeland security of endangered birds at K-Bay.**