

MARINE HAWAII

INSIDE

Sgt. Maj's Corner	A-2
CSC Training	A-3
Mary Sorenson Feature	A-4
Evaery Clime and Place	A-6
Karate Class Feature	B-1
MCCS	B-2
Improved Klipper	B-3
Word To Pass	B-4

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Incoming!



Lance Cpl. Iain A. Schnaible

A Combat Support Company Assault Amphibious Vehicle hits the waters at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows after traveling from Ft. Hase Beach aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay Jan. 10. For a full story on CSC's training evolution, see page A-3.

Tax Center opens Monday

Capt. D.J. Evans

Officer-in-charge, Tax Center

The Tax Center aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, is scheduled to open for business Monday morning.

This will afford base residents the opportunity to file their 2000 tax returns free of charge.

The Tax Center, located next to the 7-Day Store, will remain open through April to assist Marines, Sailors, retirees, and family members with their Federal and State taxes.

Last year, the Tax Center helped more than 8,500 service-members and their families file their taxes. More than 6,500 tax returns were electronically filed free of charge. This service facilitated the refund of more than \$4 million to Tax Center consumers. The total value of the services rendered in 2000 totaled more than \$415,000.

The Tax Center can file Federal and most States electronically. You can expect to get your tax return within 10-14 days upon filing. Electronic filing also reduces the rate of errors in tax preparation from 15% to less than 1%. This means your tax returns are getting done right the first time

See TAX, A-8

Construction slows base traffic soon

Sgt. Scott Gilbert
Staff Writer

Getting around base may be a little more difficult than usual beginning Jan. 26 for MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay motorists.

A restoration project is scheduled to close 3rd street for re-surfacing from G Street to Selden Street from Jan. 26 to Feb. 8, followed shortly thereafter by the closure of G Street and two base parking lots.

One and one half inches of asphalt will be replaced from the road, and new stripes will be painted during the two weeks it will be closed.

The roadwork contract was awarded to Road Builders Corporation to the sum of approximately 1.1 million dollars.

Although the street construction seems arduous, construction would not deny motorists access to services located in the affected areas said Lt. Cmdr. Matthew L. Early, the MCB Hawaii public works officer.

"It shouldn't be that inconvenient for people, there will always be access to the E-Club and the Temporary Lodging Facility," said Early. Early explained the reason for the construction was that "roads aren't made to last forever; time, traffic and normal wear cause the roads to erode."

For those who work in Building 1086, the parking lot will be resurfaced in two phases, allowing half of the lot to be used at all times. However, it will be closed on April 7 and 8 to lay parking area paint.

Third Marines Building 1087 will have its parking lot re-surfaced in three phases, beginning March 8 and ending April 6, receiving the striping

See ROADS, A-7

Government charge cards can mar credit

Cpl. David Salazar
Editor

Marines and other service members who think their government travel charge cards can't hurt their personal credit reports should think again.

Since May 1999, when the Department of Defense began issuing charge cards for government travel, Bank of America, the bank that facilitates these transactions, has reported hundreds of Marines delinquent on payment of their accounts.

As with any other credit card company, the bank has reported to DoD officials that delinquent accounts will be reported to credit agencies for appropriate action if they are not settled by April this year.

Audit reports show that delinquent cardholders are using their travel settlements for

purposes other than paying their charge card bills. Some government charge card holders believe that because the charges on their accounts are for government purposes that they don't have to worry about being late on payments. According to base officials, this couldn't be less true.

Marines must be aware of the fact that they are responsible for settling these accounts. Not only may remaining delinquent on payment for these accounts result in financial trouble and unfavorable marks on their credit reports — it is also punishable by the UCMJ, according to MCO 4600.40.

When in a financial bind, Marines and other cardholders should take it upon themselves to notify the bank of difficulties in paying the bill. Most of the time, the bank will work out

See CARDS, A-8



Cpl. David Salazar

Government charge card neglect can cause just as much damage to one's credit if payees are delinquent.

MCCS dollars improve MCBH quality of life services

Debbie Aisoff
MCCS Public Affairs

It's often stated that things transpire in "threes." Well, apparently, sometimes they happen in "tens."

Marine Corps Base Hawaii's Marine Corps Community Services is approved to spend non-appropriated funds to construct several new facilities over the next three years beginning in April with a new 50-room Temporary Lodging Facility for \$6.7 million, and later this year MCCS will begin work on a new \$1.6 million 7-Day Store and a \$1.7 million Self-storage facility.

Next year, MCCS will spend \$1 million to improve the Enlisted Club and the Officer's Club will receive over \$500,000 on

improvements.

In 2003 construction continues with approval to spend and erect a \$5.3 million Youth Activities Center, a \$3.4 million Marine Corps Exchange Warehouse, a \$740,000 auto car wash facility and \$1.2 million for golf course cart paths.

In addition to these greatly anticipated projects, MCCS will also fund \$1 million to renovate the Staff Noncommissioned Officers Club's lounge and Golf Clubhouse.

"All of this is made possible by the patronage and support MCCS programs receive from our Marines, Sailors and their family members. They are truly the reason MCCS programs and services exist and it is through their patron-

age that we are able to generate the funds necessary to make improvements to our on-base programs and services.

We are absolutely thrilled to be able to build new facilities and renovate old ones that will enhance everyone's quality of life here at MCB Hawaii," said Bill Lindsey, MCCS' Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff.

According to Capt. Doug Kuhn, Director for MCCS' Personal Services, this could not have happened at a better time.

The new Youth Activities Center will provide ample space and serve as a state-of-the-art focal point where MCBH's youth may continue to etch a place all their own.

"As military family members,

our youth face many challenges and opportunities. This new Youth Activities Center is a welcome addition to our on-going MCCS efforts to increase the value and quality of life for our MCB Hawaii families," said Kuhn.

And with "value" in mind, elevating the customer service and increasing home appliance and furniture selections at the Marine Corps Exchange is a goal that Retail Director, Linda Gulosh and her staff is about to meet with the completion of the MCX Warehouse.

"The new warehouse will allow for same-day pick-up of large items and the staff will be able to provide quicker service with an

See MCCS, A-8

Hardship duty pay adjustment improves QOL

Department of Defense
Press Release

The Department of Defense announced today the implementation of a new special pay to recognize members assigned to areas with extraordinarily arduous quality-of-life conditions. The new Hardship Duty Pay for designated locations will replace the Certain Places Pay that has been in effect since 1949. CPP, which is restricted to enlisted persons serving in specific locations outside the continental United States, currently provides \$8 to \$22.50 per month. Those rates have not been updated for many years.

The new HDP-L began Jan. 1 to active and reserve officers and enlisted servicemembers serving in 110 countries at rates of \$50, \$100, or \$150 a month, depending upon the severity of

conditions in the area. Although most members will not see this new pay until the Feb. 1, 2001, payday, the pay will be retroactive to Jan. 1. Other areas qualifying for the new pay may be designated in the future based on requests submitted by unified and component commanders.

Servicemembers assigned to these areas will be grandfathered through Dec. 31 to allow time for their unit commanders to review the new HDP-L criteria and apply for it by submitting a DoD hardship duty location assessment questionnaire. If the area is approved for HDP-L, personnel will begin receiving the new pay within one month of approval. The most significant boost in pay is aimed at members serving under the most arduous of conditions. To qualify, members must be assigned to the areas permanently, or on a temporary basis for more than 30 consecutive days.

America's Battalion Change of Command



Close

Lieutenant Col. David L. Close will assume command of 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment from Lt. Col. Mark H. Bean at a ceremony today at Dewey Square at 9 a.m.



Bean

MCBH NEWS BRIEFS

AERO CLUB MEETING

The Marine Corps Air Facility, Kaneohe Bay, will be hosting an introductory MCAF Kaneohe Bay Navy/Marine Aero Club meeting at 5 p.m. on Jan. 25 at the Kaneohe Bay Officer's Club Lanai Room. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss a possible future Aero Club at the Air Facility. There will be a short brief given followed by a question and answer period. If you are a pilot, interested in becoming one, or just have an interest in aviation, please come by and show your support.

The Aero Club will be open to all active duty military personnel, National Guard and Reserve personnel, family members, retired military personnel and their family members, disabled veterans and their family members and their widows/widowers, and Medal of Honor recipients and their widows and family members, DOD civilian employees and their family members, Military Academy Midshipmen or Cadets, Retired Civilian DOD personnel, Federal Government employees working on a military installation, foreign military personnel and their family members who are authorized exchange privileges, Civil Air Patrol personnel and the Federal Aviation Agency. For more information please call Maj. Brian Kapple at 257-3579.

ORGANIZATION NEEDS HELP

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

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

H-3 CLOSED

The Interstate H-3 Freeway between the Halekou Interchange and the Halawa Interchange will be closed in the Honolulu bound direction only on Saturday and Sunday from 7 pm to 7 a.m. Traffic will not be allowed to access the Honolulu bound Interstate H-3 from Kamehameha Highway or from the Likelike Highway onramps. Honolulu bound traffic on the H-3 between the MCB Hawaii and the Helekou Interchange will be detoured to Kamehameha Highway.

OSO TEAM VISIT

The Officer Selection Office (OSO) team will make a command visit next week to Marine Corps Base Hawaii on 23 Jan 2001 to brief on the Enlisted Commissioning Program (ECP), Meritorious Commissioning Program (MCP), Marine Corps Enlisted Commissioning Education (MECEP), Broadened Opportunity for Officer Selection and Training Program (BOOST), and the Warrant Officer (WO) Program.

In addition to this brief, the team will be available to advise Marines not selected for ECP, MCP, MECEP, or BOOST on how to improve their application, and conduct one-on-one interviews.

All Marines are highly encouraged to attend the briefing. Marines who desire an interview are required to have in their possession a copy of their test scores from the Marine Corps Total Force System.

This will take place at the Fairways Club on the 23 Jan 00. A schedule of the specific brief times will be disseminated via Email. For more information contact your Career Planner.

Hawaii MARINE

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SERGEANT MAJOR'S CORNER

You have to have a sense of humor

Sgt. Maj.
Stephen H. Mellinger
MarForPac Sergeant Major

CAMP H.M. SMITH — Every now and then something unpleasant happens to us. And though we find nothing amusing about it at the time, later on we look back and actually find humor in what happened. I'd like to share with you one of my personal sea stories.



Mellinger

Recently, my oldest daughter came up to me and said we needed to talk. Normally, when my children initiate conversation with me, it most likely involves money or them attempting to do an "end run" around their mom. You know. Mom already told them no to their request and now they come to me believing there's a slim chance to catch me off-guard and countermand my wife's marching orders.

Turns out that this particular conversation involved money. My daughter's green, Ford Escort needed servicing.

I told her to drop it off at the dealership we normally use, tell me when it's ready for pick up and I'll accompany her there to pick it up and pay the bill.

Neither my daughter nor I bothered mentioning any of this to my wife because it was just routine vehicle maintenance.

Nothing my wife would be

concerned about.

A few days later, as planned, my daughter informed me her car was ready for pick up, so I took her to the dealership to pay the bill. Also that morning I grabbed the checkbook from my wife's purse (without telling her) to write a check to the dealership.

I went to the cashier's window to pay for services done to the Escort. A friendly lady cashier told me the total costs and I began writing out the check. As I got to the "Pay to the order of," line on the check, this nice lady says, "You don't have to fill that in. I have a stamp." She stamped my check with the company stamp, but I was negligent to fill in that line on the carbon copy check that stays in the book for a record of the transaction.

I didn't know it at the time, but not filling in that line on the carbon check set me up for a whole lot of unpleasantness in days to come.

That afternoon I went home, returned the checkbook in my wife's purse (again without letting her know I took it) thinking life was great. Mission accomplished.

A few days later it was quite apparent that I said or did something that had my wife upset with me. I didn't know why or what was upsetting my wife, but I knew she had not been this riled at me in the 20 plus years of our marriage. I was getting the silent treatment from her like you wouldn't believe!

To give you an idea of how bad things were between us, I

would politely ask, what's for dinner sweetie," and she would respond, "Whatever you fix is your dinner!" And of course, to my total bewilderment, I was made a guest in my own house. I was invited to sleep on the couch (a side note here, married guys should take an active part in choosing the couch for your home, so if/when the situation requires, you have a comfortable backup place to sleep).

My wife and I love each other very much and very rarely get upset with one another. Now, out of the clear blue sky, I'm two weeks in to my own version of "SURVIVAL!" Normally, if we have a disagreement about something, we give each other extra space for a while (a cooling off period so we don't say or do something we might later regret).

After we cool off emotionally, we usually talk things out, apologize to each other, kiss and make up. But such was not the case this time! I had become totally frantic trying to figure out what I did or didn't do to deserve such wrath from what used to be a sensitive, loving wife.

After two weeks of a living nightmare, I again tried what normally works for me when all else fails. I would tell her I was sorry (though I didn't know what for). However this time she ambushed my attempt at apologizing by asking me what was it that I asked for forgiveness (damn she's good at this psychological warfare). I had to come clean and tell her I didn't have a clue why she had been so

upset with me (talk about pouring gas onto the flames).

Needless to say she was not impressed with my response. But give me credit, I hung in there like a true Marine, determined to bring closure to this horrid situation.

At that moment, she stomped over to her purse, ripped out the checkbook and launched it in my direction. She then asked, "Does this help to refresh your memory?" As much as I hated to tell her, I informed her it did not help. I told her I simply had no idea why she was so upset with me.

"Turn to check number 'xxxx'," she replied. "See if that jogs your memory." I nervously fumbled through the carbon copies. My mind was racing, trying to recall what a check had to do with the living hell I had been put through for two weeks.

I turned to the check that I made out to the dealership, for work done on our daughter's Ford Escort, and began to study my markings. Bingo! It all made sense as I focussed on the "Memo" line (the line to give yourself a "clue" later on as to what you wrote the check for).

Looking at that check I realized that I had made several mistakes during this whole evolution. It was a mistake not informing my wife I was paying for our daughter's car repairs. It was a mistake not filling in the carbon copy's "Pay to the Order of" line.

But the biggest of my mistakes was in filling out the "Memo" line with the words, ESCORT SERVICE!

Former Marine, skinhead discusses reality of racism in ranks, life in base seminar

Cpl. Roman Yurek
Combat Correspondent

Racism was the topic for the two day extremist training, Jan. 8 and 9, at the MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, theater when T.J. Leyden, former Marine and skinhead, came to talk to base personnel about his life as part of a hate and separatist group.

He began his presentation by talking to Marines about his life from the beginning of his skinhead affiliation, to his racist family, and ending with his current mission of making people aware of the dangers of racism.

The path to racism for Leyden began with his involvement in the punk rock movement during the 1980's. This is where skinheads saw his violence towards other people. Soon he was one of them.

At the age of 21, Leyden found himself in trouble and needed to escape. So he joined the Marine Corps in 1988.

Once stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, he kept his devotion to the white movement through a swastika flag and racist books kept in his wall locker.

According to Leyden, the old order on being part of a gang was that the Marine had to be a "passive member."

Even the countless tattoos with racist intentions were considered passive.

"I think the only time the Marine Corps

knew I was a racist was in the last few months of my career," said Leyden. "I had Nazi SS lightning bolts tattooed two inches high on my neck."

With the books, tattoos and flags, Leyden did not receive an other than honorable discharge for racism. In fact, received it for alcohol abuse and fighting.

"My discharge papers said that I was an outstanding Marine eight hours a day," Leyden said.

So once out, he went back to his skinhead group and continued to recruit, but now with more knowledge.

"Separatist groups use the military as a training ground," explained Leyden. "People from all over the world want to train with the best in the world."

After getting out of the Marine Corps, he met a girl, and 15 months later she became his wife. One year after that, his first of two children was born.

One day, while watching a children's television show, his oldest son came into the room and turned off the television set because there was a man of dark skin as the host of the show.

"I was in front of a mirror that I couldn't turn away from," said Leyden. "The biggest monster that my two boys would ever meet in their life was sitting on the couch not more than five feet away."

This was when Leyden realized that his two sons would some day end up like him, a man who has spent countless days in county jail, been shot at and stabbed. Or they could become like the six friends he had to bury or the handfuls that fill state and federal prisons.

Still, he did not leave the movement. The final blow was at a skinhead compound in Idaho that was later closed, according to Leyden.

There he asked a question that gave him an answer that "awakened" him.

"What if we wake up tomorrow and the Aryan race has won the race war, then what?" questioned the now 15-year skinhead. "Before the man could answer me, another of my fellow skinheads looks up at me, tells me to sit down because 'we'll discuss hair color next.'"

This was when he realized that no matter which race becomes "supreme," they would start to turn-on themselves. They will fight over hair color, shades of skin color, eye color and even physical defects such as glasses.

He then decided to move in with his mother in California. Shortly after moving to California, he returned to Idaho and kidnapped his kids, then filed for divorce and custody of his children.

Currently, he and his wife have joint custody of the kids, but she is still a skinhead. The courts also allowed his wife to take the children to racist rallies as long as she is there to supervise.

In August 1996, Leyden made his first speech to a Junior High School and has been doing so ever since with the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

There is one draw back to his attempt to educate people on racism and their goals; he now lives in solitude. Even though he was on a military base, he had security guards at the doors.

"I own two pistols, an AR-51 automatic rifle and a magnum load shotgun," Leyden explained. "Plus I have inside and outside surveillance cameras."

These measures are needed due to the hatred that his former skinhead friends now have for him. One of their websites even has a picture of him with the words "terminate on sight," below it.

"I have given up my freedom for this," Leyden said. "All I hope for is that one person took what I said to heart and now has a tool to fight back with."

If a Marine or Sailor is suspected of being a racist or has been approached by a racist group, report the incident to the chain of command.

Two other contacts are the unit equal opportunity representative or base equal opportunity advisor.



Cpl. Roman Yurek

T.J. Leyden, a certified speaker, former Marine and former skinhead, visited MCB Hawaii, Jan. 8 and 9 to educate base personnel on the harms of racism.

AAV platoon marches to Bellows by sea

Lance Cpl.
Iain A. Schnaible
Combat Correspondent

Marines of Combat Support Company, 3rd Marine Regiment, conducted a 7.5 mile march Jan. 10 to Marine Corps Training Area Bellows for a field exercise.

This march, however, was by no means normal. This march was over water. Leathernecks of CSC's Assault Amphibious Vehicle Platoon loaded onto their AAVs and hit the waves for the two-hour ride to Bellows.

The training was primarily in preparation for the platoon's upcoming deployment to the Pohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island with Marines of 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines.

"There were two goals for this operation," said Gunnery Sgt. George W. Young, commander of AAV Plt. "The first goal was to provide a break-in period for each new vehicle. The idea is to have 20 operational hours for each AAV prior to the deployment. The second, most important goal for this exercise was to properly train AAV drivers in the operation of our new vehicles. We want every driver to have at least five hours of driving time before going to PTA."

Combat Support Company received a fleet of 14 new AAVs recently. The new vehicles improved upon the older ones with the addition of a new engine and suspension

intended to drastically improve performance.

The new vehicles, according to Young, have 100 more horsepower than the older ones and have significantly better handling.

The Marines that operate AAVs feel that although the infantry is the backbone of the Marine Corps' mission of being an amphibious force in readiness, they have a place nearly as important.

"I feel my job is one of the most important in the Marine Corps," said Cpl. Justin Jacobsen, an AAV crew chief with AAV Plt. "The Corps' mission has always been to act as an amphibious assault force and secure beachheads. Without us, the grunts would have a lot more trouble taking beachheads and would take more casualties."

An operation such as the water march takes quite a bit of planning, said Young. The platoon must arrange for a refueler to meet them at Bellows, due to the large quantity of fuel used to make the voyage. They must also request the use of the training area, secure safety pyrotechnics (flares) and coordinate with Waterfront Operations to provide safety boats.

Without problems, the trip takes about two hours and with problems it can take up to four, said Young.

For the majority of the vehicles participating in this exercise, the trip only took about two hours, however, two vehicles were at sea for almost four. One vehicle had a problem with



Lance Cpl. Iain A. Schnaible

Assault Amphibious Vehicle crewman with Combat Support Company look over their vehicle after completing a 7.5 mile amphibious march from MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay to Marine Corps Training Area Bellows Jan. 10.

its steering system and had to be towed by another vehicle almost the entire way to Bellows training area.

"The trip went really well for the most part," said Jacobsen. "We had a problem with one of the AAVs, but we have that taken care of now."

"The Marines' performance during the march was superb," said Young. "Our water driving skills are very high, especially after our five-month

deployment for the Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training Exercise from May to November."

Upon the completion of the training at Bellows, which included night operations and familiarization with the new, more powerful engine, the work was not over. The Marines of AAV Plt. had to get back to K-Bay. This was accomplished by another water march.

"The march back only took about one and a half hours," said Staff Sgt. John M. Glauner, AAV Plt. platoon sergeant. "We didn't have any problems during the trip."

The leathernecks of AAV Plt., CSC, 3rd Marines, benefited greatly from the training, said Glauner.

They are now far more capable of effectively playing their roles as support vehicles in a combat situation.

Regiment FSTs hone skills with CAST

Sgt. Scott Gilbert
Staff Writer

Marines were intensely focused on their mission as they gathered around a room-filling map and practiced their fire direction skills at the Combined Arms Staff Trainer Jan. 10 and 11.

Marines from 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment are heading to the Big Island for Hawaii Combined Arms Operations this week, and having their fire support teams spun up on the task of directing mortars, artillery, and close air support is paramount.

Marines practiced guiding simulated mortar rounds, artillery rounds, and airdropped munitions onto a map of the live-fire range at Pohakuloa Training Area.

"What we're doing on the map is

what 1/3 is actually going to do at PTA," said Capt. George M. Robinson, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment assistant artillery liaison officer.

"This training does the Marines who operate the radio a lot of good," said Robinson. They get good training value. Live rounds are limited when they are over there on the hill directing fire; they are working on time lines. The training helps keep them from getting stressed, just as all combat training helps a Marine overcome the fog of war."

"These Marines have definitely improved since the beginning of this training evolution," added Robinson. "It helps the Marines get used to each other and become a better team in combat."

Marines reveled at the opportunity

to conduct this hands-on training.

"I love being a forward observer," said Cpl. Curt E. Woodard, a forward observer with Weapons Company, 1/3. "I don't think there is any other job in the Marine Corps that you can call in fire and blow stuff up while having as much fun as I do."

"I'm here to work with and bond with my Fire Support Team, and be able to put rounds on target as quickly as possible," said Woodard.

"I don't think any other branch of service can pull it together like we do—it takes a lot of planning to combine all these arms," said Woodard.

"Being an FO allows me to see all the firepower the Marine Corps has to offer, from the 81-millimeter mortar, to the 500-pound bombs dropped by F/A-18s, continued Woodard. "I wouldn't want to be our enemy."



Sgt. Scott Gilbert

Marines and Sailors from throughout the 3rd Marine Regiment congregate at the CAST to ensure that every facet of the MAGTF knows their role in the upcoming exercise.



Sgt. Scott Gilbert

Marines from 3rd Marine Regiment work hurriedly over a map of the Pohakuloa Training Area in preparation for their HCAO deployment.

WORD ON THE STREET

If you could go on liberty anywhere in the world, where would you go?

"Germany — I have family there."

Lance Cpl. Chris J. Henning
Machiner Gunner
Kilo Co., 3/3
27, Alexandria, Va.



"Italy — I've never been, and have always wanted to go on a Mediterranean cruise."

Sgt. Ignacio Santiago
Food Service Specialist
HQBn., Anderson Hall
25, Brooklyn, NY



"Venice."

2nd Lt. Brian T. Hasheider
Platoon Commander
Weapons Co., 3/3
28, St. Louis, Mo.



"Portugal — my wife is Portuguese, and I want to find out where her roots are."

James A. Robbims
former Marine and retired
Air Force Senior MSgt.



Former Marine assists new arrivals

MCB Hawaii TLA supervisor's Corps experience adds to expertise

Cpl. M. Trent Lowry
Combat Correspondent

The life of a Marine invariably involves untold miles of travel, within the United States and to the four corners of the globe.

Deployments, temporary assignment of duty and permanent change of station orders all contribute to the reasons why there are always Marines on the move.

Perhaps no one understands the rigors of Marine Corps travel as much as Mary E. Sorenson.

Sorenson's life has been linked closely both with the Marine Corps and travelling for 35 years, but it's her position as the Temporary Lodging Allowances supervisor, helping personnel with their travel expenses, that has benefited Marines aboard MCB Hawaii since 1989.

Sorenson knows what it's like to have a family and have to deal with moving around while in the military; she was a Marine from 1966 to 1969 and married a Marine who spent more than 20 years in the Corps.

"There's enough stress during a move, especially in a place like Hawaii. Hey, we were there before; I know what the Marines and their families are going through," Sorenson said with a warm, motherly tone.

While Mary and husband Roger — who retired in 1992 — were on active duty, the Sorenson family had been stationed in places like Iwakuni, Japan; Cherry Point, N.C.; and El Toro, Ca. But for Sorenson, who said she is the first Guamanian female Marine, the journey began in 1966 on a small island in the Pacific Ocean.

The eldest of seven children, Sorenson said she knew early on that she wanted to be a Marine.

"I wanted to see what was outside our island; I just wanted adventure. The Marine Corps uniform looked so sharp, and I knew right away that's what I wanted to do," said Sorenson with a hint of pride as she sat just below the picture, taken in 1968, of Roger and her in their dress blues.

The beginning of her travels led her to Parris Island, S.C., for recruit training. She said her romantic idea of adventuring got a swift jolt upon arriving on the yellow footprints.

"That's when the culture shock hit. I didn't have any idea about life away from Guam, and I sure didn't know what to expect from the drill instructors," Sorenson recalled.

Despite the abrupt change in her life, she said she did well in boot camp, and then went on to excel in school for administration field duty. Her first duty station was El Toro, where she met the Marine she would marry in 1967.

Due to pregnancy, Sorenson was discharged from the Corps — as was the practice in those days, she said — and she followed her husband to new duty stations. She began working for the Marine Corp in a civilian capacity in 1975 on Guam, and then continued her service at each of Roger's new duty stations.

The travels finally brought the Sorensons to Hawaii in 1989, and after an unfulfilling tour of duty at the disbursing office, she joined the TLA office.

"The finance office wasn't bad, but it wasn't a people-person type of job. I like to be involved with people, being able to talk with them face-to-face and help them," Sorenson said.

The variety of duty stations and the number of times her family moved gives Sorenson a sympathetic ear when helping Marines and their families when they check into or out of MCB Hawaii.

"I would say that the toughest thing to see is when a Marine arrives without a sponsor, with no car, and having problems finding housing. The impression I try to leave with the customers everyday

See SORENSON, A-8



Photo courtesy of Mary Sorenson

Mary Sorenson, pictured at right with her husband, Roger, served in the Marine Corps until 1969.

DoD releases comprehensive report on pesticide use during Gulf War

Department of Defense
Press Release

The Department of Defense released today an environmental exposure report examining the use, and potential long-term health effects, of pesticides during the Gulf War.

Some Gulf War veterans have reported a wide array of unexplained illnesses that many suspect may be related to their use of and exposure to pesticides during the war. As a result of the health risk assessment conducted at the Office of the Special Assistant for Gulf War Illnesses, analysts conclude they could neither prove nor rule out any connection between pesticide exposure and chronic health effects.

In general, the pesticides and repellents used by U.S. personnel in the Kuwait Theater of Operations were approved by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Food and Drug Administration. They belonged to five major categories: organophos-

phorus pesticides, such as malathion and chlorpyrifos; carbamate pesticides, such as bendiocarb; the organochlorine, lindane; pyrethroid pesticides, such as permethrin; and the insect repellent DEET. During the Gulf War, all these pesticides were approved by EPA and the FDA for general use, and were not considered harmful when used according to instructions. Some pesticides were purchased locally by authorized personnel for unit use or by individuals for their personal use. Some of these locally purchased products may not have been registered with the EPA.

The interim report notes that several select groups of military personnel, because of their job responsibilities, were potentially at greater health risk from pesticide exposure.

These include trained and certified pesticide applicators, field sanitation teams and military police who conducted delousing operations. Only one documented case of pesticide exposure resulting in an adverse health effect was found during the

course of the investigation. There were, however, anecdotal reports by several Gulf War veterans that they sought medical treatment due to exposure to pesticides while in the Gulf.

The report stresses the results of the health risk assessment alone do not prove that overexposures occurred during deployment or that any connection exists between pesticide exposures and chronic health effects months or years after exposure.

But the assessment does conclude that some groups may have been exposed to concentrations of pesticides which exceeded conservatively derived, risk-based levels of concern, and that because of the overall lack of data, there is not enough evidence to rule out possible long-term effects resulting from exposures to pesticides during the Gulf War deployment.

Analysts say an important question regarding organophosphate and carbamate pesticides is: If individu-

als had no signs or symptoms at the time of exposure, how likely is it that such exposures could result in adverse health effects months or years later?

There is no simple answer that can be given with a high level of confidence, as there is conflicting information in the literature on this subject. The relevant information comes mainly from published studies of civilian pesticide handlers in the United States and foreign countries.

Some reports in the literature suggest that unless individuals had signs and symptoms of serious pesticide poisoning or toxicity at the time of the initial exposure, health effects months or years later are unlikely.

However, according to the RAND literature review for pesticides, there is also evidence of modest long-term effects following repeated asymptomatic exposures. This issue can be resolved only by further research.

Furthermore, analysts say, it's unlikely that exposure to these pesticides is the sole explanation for myr-

riad health problems reported by Gulf War veterans, since few veterans' symptoms are uniquely characteristic of pesticide exposure alone.

To help evaluate the possible health effects of pesticides exposure on Gulf War veterans, the Special Assistant's Office commissioned the RAND Corp. to review the existing scientific literature on the health effects of pesticides.

The scientific literature search completed by RAND suggests that pesticides, specifically acetylcholinesterase inhibitors such as organophosphates and carbamates, could be among the potential contributing agents to some of the undiagnosed illnesses reported by Gulf War veterans.

Therefore, exposure to these pesticides cannot be ruled out as a potential contributing factor to some of these undiagnosed illnesses.

The complete environmental exposure report is available on GulfLINK, DoD's Internet website, at <http://www.gulfink.osd.mil/pest/>.

NMCRS scholarship info available

Heather Hesslink

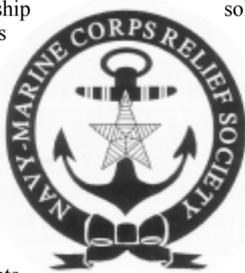
Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society

Applications for the 2001-2002 Vice Admiral E. P. Travers Scholarship and Loan Program are now available.

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society named the scholarship in honor of NMCRS's eleventh President. The program provides financial assistance to spouses of active duty Sailors and Marines and to children of both active duty and retired Sailors and Marines.

Vice Admiral Travers Scholarships provide students with grants up to \$2,000. The VADM Travers Loans provide interest-free loans to service members for a family member's education. Awards may be used for tuition, books, fees, supplies, room and board, and curriculum required computers.

Scholarships are provided for spouses of active duty Sailors and Marines and unmarried children under 23 years of age



of active duty and retired Sailors and Marines. The student must be pursuing an undergraduate degree at a college, university, or technical/vocational institution eligible to participate in the U. S. Department of Education's Federal Grant and Loan Program. Awards are based solely on financial need.

Loans ranging from \$500 to \$3,000 are available to service members who have a family member meeting the scholarship criteria. In order to receive an interest-free loan, service-members must repay via an allotment not to exceed 24 months.

Students may accept a scholarship even if the service member does not sign a loan. Students may receive up to 4 years of assistance, but must reapply every year. Application deadline is March 1, 2001.

For more information and/or an application, call NMCRS Pearl Harbor at 423-1314 or Kaneohe Bay at 254-1327. Print your own application online at <http://www.nmcrs.org/travers.html>.

Top ten reasons to volunteer at K-Bay's Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society

Heather Hesslink

Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society

Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) is looking for new volunteers. Below are ten reasons why you should consider donating your time.

1. You will make a difference in the lives of fellow Marines, Sailors, and their family members.
2. NMCRS pays for childcare and mileage.
3. You can build your resume and gain new job skills.
4. You can increase your self-confidence.
5. You can set your own hours.
6. You will meet interesting people
7. Free snacks while you volunteer.
8. You will get the opportunity to spend millions of dollars without touching your bank account.
9. You can have fun while experiencing adult conversation.
10. You will be appreciated for your efforts and time.

If you are interested in Volunteering, please call the Kaneohe Bay Office at 254-1327.

Relief recognition



Lance Cpl. Iain A. Schnaible

Brigadier Gen. R.E. Parker Jr., Commanding General of MCB Hawaii, stands with the awardees at the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society Awards Banquet at the Officers' Club here Friday. Award were given out to volunteers who had reached the 100, 300, 500 or 1,000 volunteer hour landmarks. The award for volunteer of the quarter was also presented. Pictured from left to right are: Brig. Gen. R.E. Parker, Jr., commanding general, MCB Hawaii, 100-hour donors Rebecca Pearson, Deborah Rodriguez, Cheryl Milca, 500-hour donor Kristine Goodfred, 1000-hour donor Melinda Egging, and Patricia Perry, the Kaneohe Bay branch NMCRS director. For more information on the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society volunteer of the quarter, see next week's issue of the Hawaii Marine.

Children's scholarship deadline Feb. 15

Department of Defense
Press Release

FORT LEE, Va. — The Feb. 15 deadline is fast approaching for students to apply for \$1,500 scholarships in a new program funded by manufacturers and business partners of the military commissary system.

The Scholarships For Military Children program expects to present hundreds of \$1,500 awards — roughly one for every commissary in the Defense Commissary Agency net of nearly 300 commissaries worldwide.

The program is open to quali-

fied college-bound or college-enrolled sons and daughters of U.S. military ID card holders, including active duty, retired National Guard and Reserve members. Survivors of deceased members are eligible if college-bound and under age 21, or already enrolled as a full-time student and under age 23. Completed applications should be returned to a local commissary by close of business Feb. 15. A store official must validate applicants' eligibility by checking their dependent ID cards.

Applicants must have a 3.0 grade point average and write a

short essay on "What Being a Military Dependent Means to Me." Application forms are available at the stores or can be downloaded at www.commissaries.com. A "Frequently Asked Questions" section can also be found at the site.

Fisher House Foundation administers the program. DeCA and Fisher House are not involved in selecting scholarship recipients.

Scholarship Managers, an independent contractor, will select winners on the basis of merit. Winners will be notified by April 30.

EVERY CLIME AND PLACE



Sgt. Kevin Dolloson

Marines of the 24th MEU fastrope from one of HMM-266's CH-46 helicopters atop an abandoned building in the heart of downtown Savannah, Ga., as part of the TRUE exercise.

24th MEU storms into Georgia town for TRUEX



Lance Cpl. Jeffrey Sisto

Local city and military officials consult a map during a VIP tour of the city of Savannah, Ga. aboard a CH-46 helicopter on Jan 10 sponsored by HMM-266 as part of the 24th MEU's TRUE Exercise.

Sgt. Kevin Dolloson
24th MEU Public Affairs

SAVANNAH, Ga. — A loud thump from propellers of a CH-46 helicopter cutting through the cold air, combined with the first daytime snowfall in ten years to hit the city of Savannah caught the attention of many local residents Jan. 9, as the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (24th MEU) kicked off its next phase of predeployment training - Training in an Urban Environment Exercise, or TRUEX.

TRUEX XXXIX began for the Marines and Sailors of the MEU at an all-hands brief held in a hangar bay aboard Savannah's Air National Guard Combat Readiness Training Center, where MEU Marines are living for the next two weeks. The brief was held so local officials could formally welcome the MEU. Additionally, members of the MEU learned the details concerning TRUEX, which are vital to successfully completing the exercise.

Following the brief, several personnel from local and national news media were afforded the opportunity to interview Col. Richard P. Mills, 24th MEU Commanding Officer and other key personnel involved in the overall operations of TRUEX.

Once interviews were com-

plete, it was time to see some of what TRUEX is all about.

CH-46 helicopters from HMM-266 participated in training at Forsyth Park - in the heart of downtown Savannah - which entailed Marines from the MEU's Maritime Special Purpose Force (MSPF) fast roping from the helicopters onto the roof of a nearby building.

Several passersby stopped to witness the spectacle of helicopters and Marines engaged in rope suspension training.

According to local newspapers, Savannah residents were impressed with the urban training.

"Civilians never get to see what they do for real," said Misty Kendall, a Savannah resident, as reported in the Savannah Morning News. "It's educational."

Kendall further explained that she enjoyed watching the exercise because she never got to see what her husband did when he was in the Army.

The Marines and Sailors participating in TRUEX enjoyed the training in Forsyth Park as well.

"Being a part of MSPF is nothing like a typical battalion field operation," said Cpl. Kevin Berry, Security Element, from Diamond Springs, Calif. "Here we're more challenged, training is faster paced and we get to work with Force Recon."

"All Marine Corps training is

good, but the type of training we're doing here gives you more of a rush," added Berry. "Also the public gets to see what we do so they have a better understanding of the capabilities of the Marine Corps."

"This is high-speed training that's very intense," said Hospitalman Apprentice Filipe Fortes, from Mendham, N.J., MSPF Corpsman. "But it's good familiarization for us before we get to the [Mediterranean Sea]."

The commanding officer of HMM-266, LtCol. Edward Walsh, took to the air for the training alongside his Marines.

"This is a great kickoff to a unique training opportunity," said Walsh. "It also provides our pilots the insight they need to perform urban operations."

"It was good to be able to fly in a city environment," said Capt. John Lindsey, CH-46 pilot, HMM-266, from Orlando, Fla. "It was a challenging and rewarding experience and it gave us good familiarization with urban terrain for when we deploy to the Mediterranean Sea."

In addition to training in downtown Savannah, Marines of HMM-266 flew several local, city and state officials on VIP flights throughout Savannah and Ridgeland, S.C.

Follow 24th MEU predeployment on their website at www.usmc.mil/24meu.

SALUTES

Headquarters Bn., MCB Hawaii

Navy & Marine Corps Commendation Medal
Staff Sgt. Bryan T. LeDrew

Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal:
Sgt. Michael F. Barrett
Cpl. Marcus R. Chapman

Certificate of Commendation

Lance Cpl. Mark J. Freeby
Lance Cpl. Mark A. Willoughby

Promotions effective 1 January 2001:

Capt. James C. Fitzhugh
Gunnery Sgt.
David S. Myers
Sgt. Stephen M. Fassett
Sgt. Geoffrey D. Kahl
Sgt. Gregory S. Meeuwesen
Sgt. Hans T. Prah
Sgt. John E. Motley
Sgt. Jeremy T. Riclesberger
Sgt. Ignacio Santiago
Sgt. Racheal L. Yopez
Cpl. Eduardo Alatorre
Cpl. Karyn R. Denniston
Cpl. Christopher M. Hession
Cpl. Javon L. Holloway
Cpl. Justin A. Melton
Cpl. Lovie L. Osbourne

Cpl. Mike T. Pelchat
Cpl. Alan D. Rice
Cpl. Salvador Rodriguez
Cpl. Joel R. Rubillo
Cpl. Ethan J. Swasey
Cpl. Brian M. Thayer
Cpl. Ricky J. Tukufu
Lance Cpl. Jose A. Castaneda

Lance Cpl. Rachel Darmsteadt
Lance Cpl. Jason M. Meyer

1st Radio Bn.

Joint Service Achievement Medal

1st Lt. B.T. Berry
Sgt. Rachael L. Pitchford



Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal

Gunnery Sgt.
Terry W. Petersen
Staff Sgt.
E. Cardenas II
Sgt. Chandler T. King
Cpl. Anthony C. Joiner

Certificate of Commendation

Sgt. Richard B. Baker

Fleet Logistics Support Squadron 51

Promotions

Petty Officer 3rd Class
Linh Pham
Petty Officer 1st Class
Floyd Atwell

VR-51 Sailors of the Quarter (4th)

Petty Officer 1st Class
Michael O'Malley (TAR)
Petty Officer 2nd Class
Paul Artero (SELRES)

VR-51 Sailors of the Year (2000)

Petty Officer 1st Class Eric Dixon (TAR)
Petty Officer 1st Class Kimberly Rutigliano (SELRES)

ROADS, From A-1

Users of the parking lot need to remember to have their vehicles removed from the lot during the striping to prevent further delays.

The major work being done, however, is the complete rebuilding of G Street. "They're going to tear it all the way down to the road bed, add gutters, curbing, wheel chair ramps and a eight-foot-wide sidewalk," said Early.

The work will begin Feb. 20 at the intersection of 3rd street, stretching to just past the Barracks 5071 parking lot, forcing residents to use a temporary driveway.

The second phase will go up to the entrance of the Semper Fit Center, causing the residents of the new Barracks 7021-7026 to access their parking lot through a temporary driveway to be installed in the Semper Fit Center parking lot.

The final phase will cover the remainder of the distance to Mokapu Road, ending in the addition of a right-turn lane. The timing of the lights at that intersection is under review, Early said. Semper Fit Center users will need to use the same temporary access driveway to get to the parking lot.

Although phase three is scheduled to be completed on June 15, delays in construction due to unforeseen problems may push that date further into the summer.

KILL • A • WATT

IT'S EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY
TURN OFF WHEN NOT IN USE



COURTS MARTIAL

A lance corporal from 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, was found guilty of two counts of article 134 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice for wrongfully committing adultery and wrongfully committing an indecent act with another.

He was sentenced with a Bad-Conduct Discharge, confinement for 90 days and reduction to private.

A private from 1/3 was found guilty of article 86 of the UCMJ for unauthorized absence from Oct. 13 to Nov. 2, article 121 for stealing military property (IBM laptop computer) in excess of \$100, and article 134 for wrongfully and falsely altering an Armed Forces Identification card. He was sentenced with a Bad-Conduct Discharge and confinement for 100 days.

A private from 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, Aviation Support Element Kaneohe, was guilty of article 89 of the UCMJ for disrespect toward a superior commissioned officer, article 91 for disobeying the lawful order of a staff non-commissioned officer, article 92 for violating a lawful general order (in possession of nunchukas), article 121 for wrongfully appropriating a vehicle, and two counts of article 134 for breaking restriction.

He was sentenced with 120 days confinement and forfeitures of \$300 pay per month for four months.

A private first class from 1/3 was found guilty of article 86 of the UCMJ for unauthorized absence terminated by apprehension.

He was sentenced with a Bad-Conduct Discharge, confinement for six months and reduction to private.

A corporal from Combat Service Support Group 3 was found guilty of articles 81 of the UCMJ for conspiracy and article 121 for larceny.

He was sentenced with restriction for 45 days, hard labor without confinement for 45 days, forfeitures of \$500 pay per month for two months and reduction to private.

A private from 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, was found guilty of article 86 of the UCMJ for unauthorized absence terminated by apprehension.

He was sentenced to confinement for 55 days.

TAX, From A-1

around. If we cannot file your return electronically, we will also have paper State and Federal tax forms available.

All active duty and family members are welcome at the Tax Center. Retirees and their family members are also welcome. The Tax Center is located in building 455, right next to the Seven Day Store. Before coming in, you should bring all relevant information, including last years' returns, income

statements (W-2, 1099, interest paid on bank accounts, etc.), credit information (child care, etc), and bank account number, including the routing number, military identification cards, and powers of attorney, if applicable.

The office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and on Wednesday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Tax Center can also make individual and unit appointments. Call the Tax Center clerk at 257-1686 for details after Monday.

MCCS, From A-1

improved delivery schedule," said Gulosh.

And while scientific proof that an upgraded, concrete golf cart path will greatly improve your game at the Klipper Golf Course may not exist, you'll soon judge for yourself. The path will extend the life of golf carts as well as elevate the overall aesthetics.

"It is my goal to make the Kaneohe Klipper the #1 Military Golf Course on the island. This project is an improvement of excellence that our Marines and Sailors can take pride and ownership in," said Klipper Manager, Todd Murata.

Take a good look around—our base just keeps getting better.

CARDS, From A-1

a payment plan, in lieu of having to pay the entire amount at once.

"In delinquency cases, it is best for the Marine to notify the company of their problems in making the payment," said Maj. Jeffrey Zeller, the MCB Hawaii Assistant Chief of Staff, Comptroller.

In most scenarios, the bank will offer to make some sort of attempt to aid the cardholder by setting up an installment plan even though it's not quite the policy outlined by the order. "The company would rather not turn an account over to a collection agency — they would prefer to

receive installment payments rather than nothing at all," Zeller said. "The company is not out to ruin anyone's credit — (the bank) will try to work with you most of the time."

The best way for Marines and other cardholders to avoid this situation is to learn the rules and responsibilities attached to the charge card, according to Capt. Shane Goodwin, the Deputy Comptroller. This should not be an issue since Personal Support Centers are required to brief cardholders on the rules and regulations before being issued the card.

Aside from education, Goodwin said that base finance

officials are doing all they can to ensure that card holders receive their reimbursements in a timely fashion.

"Our finance office has a goal of reimbursing individuals who have submitted travel claims within three days," Goodwin said.

Although the order strictly outlines what items are authorized for purchase with the charge card and which are not, reports indicate that many delinquent card holders have been making unauthorized purchases with their cards — all of which are not reimbursable by the government. On top of that, Marines and DoD

employees who make these unauthorized purchases may face punitive action.

Cardholders who find themselves in these predicaments should contact their agency program coordinator at their personnel admin offices, notify their commands, and contact Bank of America and let them know about the difficulties, Zeller suggested.

Cardholders who wish to learn more about the Government Charge Card program should contact their agency program coordinators or logon to www.usmc.mil/directiv.nsf/web+orders and search for MCO 4600.4 in the "logistics" category.



Cpl. M. Trent Lowry

Sorenson helps a TLA customer.

SORENSEN, From A-4

is that they know they can count on me to help them at any time. If I didn't love this job I wouldn't be so passionate about it," Sorenson said.

Marines who arrive in Hawaii for duty at MCB Hawaii already have an ally, whether they know it or not, from a former active duty leatherneck who continues to adhere to the ideal of helping fellow Marines.

"People may laugh when I say this, but 'once a Marine, always a Marine.' It's like I'm destined to do this job," Sorenson said with pride and a smile.