

Hawaii MARINE

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Photo montage by Cpl. Jessica M. Mills

Reflections on another year

Hawaii Marine Staff

MCB Hawaii Public Affairs

This week the Hawaii Marine looks back at 2003, recognizing both its fall-backs and accomplishments.

Through-out the year, countless events have taken place to mold the timeless memories which make up the banner year, 2003.

While we are not able to include all of the events and images captured last year, here are a few moments that colored 2003.

Readers can browse the Hawaii Marine archives to review detailed stories at www.mcbh.usmc.mil.

MCB Hawaii

Improvements for the year 2003 aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, have been primarily geared towards the safety, comfort and well-being of Marines and families stationed here.

The first major improvement of 2003 was the installation of a new playground facility at Reiseley Field on Mokapu Road. The construction began at the end of January and was completed in the spring.

Funding to replace the almost 65-year-old post office finally became available this year and the grand opening for the

new building, located adjacent to McDonalds on Mokapu Road, was celebrated Nov. 26.

Features of the new Post Office include more sales windows, advanced computer systems, a state-of-the-art security system, as well as being a much larger facility overall.

The needs of members enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member Program were addressed with the creation of the Military Committee for Persons with Disabilities.

To help improve services for special needs family members, stickers were placed on the entrances of their homes to ensure service members, who are

responding to an emergency call, are aware of possible special needs situations.

The installment of new street signs has also improved the safety awareness level toward families with special needs members. The new signs will inform drivers and pedestrians to be more cautious and pay special attention to what is happening around the homes of special needs families.

More improvements towards special needs youth activities are slated for upcoming years.

BayFest 2003 was a very successful

See *YEAR IN REVIEW*, A-4

Tax Center offers free services

1st Lt. C. M. Winchell

MCB Hawaii Tax Center

As the new year begins, Marines and Sailors eagerly await their W-2s and look forward to any refund they may receive. This year Marines and Sailors can download their W-2s at the DFAS <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx> website.

Defense Finance and Accounting Service will make the W-2s available sometime between Jan. 13 - 21 for Marines and Jan. 16 - 26 for Navy personnel.

The MCB Hawaii Tax Center is scheduled to open for business Jan. 26.

Before rushing off base for some quick cash at a local tax preparation company prior to the Tax Center opening, Marines and Sailors should consider the costs involved in filing their taxes off base,

See *TAXES*, A-8

Shoplifting is not worth the price

Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle

Combat Correspondent

The Marine Corps Community Services, along with the base magistrate and the base inspector, want to send out a message to the residents of MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, about shoplifting.

They simply want to say, "don't even think about it."

It has become an all-too-familiar, and embarrassing scene recently when a service member has to go down to the Provost Marshall's office aboard MCB Hawaii because

he or she received a call from a military police officer stating a family member was apprehended for shoplifting aboard the base.

After the offender is released from custody, they can look forward to being on the blotter, and being presented with a stiff fine. Since service members are financially responsible for their families, it is their responsibility to make sure any imposed fines are paid.

"There are a number of things that can be done as far as punishing a

See *SHOPLIFTING*, A-8



Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle

The Marine Corps Exchange is equipped with state-of-the-art security equipment to catch any miscreants in the act.

MCB Hawaii mourns for those lost

Chaplain (Capt.) Joseph W. Estabrook

Base Chapel

Bad things do not stop happening during the holidays! All kinds of problems, sickness and even death, will often follow us into what should be our most joyous celebrations.

The deaths of three very important people in the life of this base occurred

this past holiday season and spread a blanket of sadness on all of us.

Corporal Corey West, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment and temporarily assigned to Headquarters Bn. at Anderson Hall, died tragically Dec. 27 while visiting his family in Michigan when the car in which he was a passenger overturned. His funeral was Jan. 1 in Conklin, Mich., and his memorial service was Wednesday, at

the MCB Hawaii Base Chapel. West's many friends will not forget what he has brought to our lives here.

Shari Lavine, the spouse of CWO2 Lauren Lavine, died of Leukemia Dec. 26. Chief Warrant Officer 2 Lavine is the Band Officer for the Marine Corps Forces Pacific Band and his wife Shari was a dynamic and involved member

See *MOURNS*, A-7

MCBH NEWS BRIEFS

Marines requested to complete customer survey by Thursday

The Public Affairs office requests that all Marines and civilian Marines throughout the Marine Corps complete the online public affairs customer survey necessary to provide research data for the strategic planning process.

Please answer the questions with serious and relevant answers to the best of your ability. All information given will be treated as confidential and will only be viewed by an independent contractor. The research data will then be compiled for use in the USMC public affairs strategic planning process.

The survey can be accessed at www.usmc.mil/plansurvey. For help with or to report online problems, please contact Master Sgt. James Bower at 703-614-1494, or e-mail bowerjd@hqmc.usmc.mil for assistance.

Neighborhood Watch Volunteers Sought

The Crime Prevention section of the Military Police Department is looking for neighborhood watch representatives to get involved in their communities by taking charge of local neighborhoods.

For more information or to volunteer, call 257-1148.

Lost & Found Items Collected at MPD

If you are missing valuables or other items, contact Lost and Found at the Military Police Department, to see if anyone has turned in the item(s).

Lost items on hand include ID cards, bicycles, wallets, keys, cell phones and miscellaneous jewelry. An inquiry log is maintained for all item(s) retrieved.

Call Sgt. Gordon Scott at 257-8556, ext. 315, for prompt assistance.

Important Numbers

On-Base Emergencies	911
Military Police	257-7114

Hawaii MARINE

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IN THE CG'S MAIL BOX



BRIG. GEN.
MCABEE

Comment submitted by Mrs. Darcy Segobia

"The Head Start signs are not posted at all, so if you are driving by, you cannot tell if it is Head Start or just hourly day-care. [And] the playground is home to centipedes, ants, and scorpions."

There is a matter that has become very upsetting to me as well as other parents of children who attend the Head Start Program on MCB Hawaii.

During the past few months, the staff of Mokapu/Head Start have been trying to figure out a way to get their classroom back in working order and create a safe environment.

The previous location behind the housing office was no longer an option for the classrooms, so at the end of the summer, the Head Start classrooms were moved to the Child Development Center's hourly building.

This was a positive move in the sense that the students at Head Start gained air-conditioned classrooms and a beautiful view.

However, there have been some negative sides to the move. The Head Start signs are not posted at all, so if you are driving by, you cannot tell if it is Head Start or just hourly daycare. The playground is home to centipedes, ants, and scorpions. The phone lines still have not been installed after many months now.

So if anything happens to a child, the parents cannot be contacted in a timely fashion. The teachers and or aids have been using their own personal cell phones to get in contact with the parents. However, some of the cell phones don't have caller ID so parents do not know who called if they are not home.

Parents are stuck in a bind because of the poor communication situation. Hourly CDC refuses to offer use of the phone lines and the way they treat their new neighbor is not with much "Aloha."

This whole process can be very frustrating to the parents as well as to the teachers and staff trying to do their jobs.

If you are able to offer any positive advisement on this dilemma it would be greatly appreciated by both parents, teachers and the students.

Thank you for your time and support,
Mrs. Darcy Segobia

Dear Mrs. Segobia,

I have been asked by the commanding general to research and respond to your e-mail of Dec. 17, 2003 since your questions fall under my staff's responsibility. The CG appreciates that you have taken the time to participate in the "CG Mail" program.

You have expressed concerns about the Marine Corps Community services support of the Head Start program. While Head Start is administered by the Hawaii Department of Education rather than MCCS, we do perform liaison services for them. Those services include renovating the space they are currently occupying.

I agree that the new space is superior to their previous location. Head Start is a great program and we are fortunate that they are located on MCB Hawaii.

Three other great programs, the Hourly Child Development Center, LINKS, and the Key Volunteer Program, are located in the same complex with Head Start. These programs all have large signs and banners since they continually have customers that are new to the base for the services offered.

Though Head Start does not generally have new customers after the session begins, there is a sign located at the Head Start entrance gate. Since this sign may be difficult to spot among the other larger ones, a new large banner for Head Start will be placed on the fence adjacent to the Head Start classroom before the start of the new session.

Prior to the relocation of Head Start to the new facility, Head Start representatives and the Hourly CDC personnel entered into an agreement to establish guidelines for the facility's usage. This agree-

ment specified the sharing of a number of common areas such as the staff lounge, playground, and parking areas. Head Start assumed responsibility for their telephone installation and we have been informed that their telephones should be operable by Jan. 15.

Of course, Head Start personnel are welcome to use the Hourly CDC phones whenever needed. I apologize that this information had not been communicated to you and the other parents prior to your CG Mail.

A healthy and safe environment for our children is a high priority within MCCS. We take great care to insure that our shared playground at the Hourly CDC is treated for pests regularly and safely. An experienced Pest Control Specialist visits the facility and the playground every other week. Additionally, the building is specially treated inside and outside when the Hourly CDC and Head Start are closed for holidays. These procedures are effective.

During the three years that Hourly CDC has been open, no child has been injured by a centipede or a scorpion while using the playground, Head Start or the Hourly CDC.

It is our intention to continue the collaborative effort with organizations like Head Start to create quality programs for all children on MCB Hawaii. Involved parents like yourself are key to great Children, Youth and Teen programs.

Marine Corps Community Services will strive to keep you and other parents informed on all relevant issues.

Again, I appreciate your interest and participation in the Head Start program and thank you for using the CG Mail program.

Sincerely,
William B. Lindsey
Assistant Chief of Staff
Marine Corps
Community Services

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

Marines obliged to say "no"

Legal Services Center MCB Hawaii

All Marines, regardless of rank or time in service, are fully aware of the Marine Corps' position on illegal drugs.

From the moment we sign our enlistment documents, we become obliged to follow, and are often reminded of, the simple order not to use, possess, distribute, or manufacture illegal drugs. For most of us, commitment to the oath, self-discipline, self-worth, concern for others, and a regard for the law provides sufficient motivation to stave off any interest in participating in any activity involving illegal drugs.

However, for a very few of our fellow Marines, the phrase "Zero Tolerance" is nothing more than the immediate response to the question, "What is the Marine Corps policy on drugs?" For these very few who choose not to follow the simple order

to refrain, military justice provides ex post facto motivation in the form of harsh and exacting retribution.

An increasingly common avenue of enforcing the zero tolerance policy in the Marine Corps is trial by court-martial. Military law provides strict penalties for service members convicted of drug use, possession, and distribution. The article following explains federal, and state punishments for typical drug offenses.

Uniform Code of Military Justice

Article 112a of the Uniform Code of Military Justice states, "Any person subject to this chapter who wrongfully uses, possesses, manufactures, distributes, imports into the customs territory of the United States, exports from the United States, or introduces into an installation, vessel, vehicle, or aircraft used by or under the control of the armed forces [an illegal drug described in this Article] shall be punished as a

court martial may direct."

Punishment authorized by the UCMJ for violation of Article 112a for the wrongful use, possession, manufacture, or introduction of amphetamine, cocaine, heroin, LSD, marijuana (30 grams or more), methamphetamine, opium, phenylclidine, secobarbital, and Schedule I, II, and III controlled substances is a Dishonorable Discharge, five years confinement, total forfeiture of all pay and allowances, reduction to pay grade E-1, and a letter of reprimand.

For the wrongful use, possession, manufacture, or introduction of Schedule IV and V controlled substances, marijuana (less than 30 grams) and Phenobarbital, the punishment is a Dishonorable Discharge, two years confinement, total forfeiture of all pay and allowances, reduction to pay grade E-1, and a letter of reprimand.

See DRUGS, A-7

You've Got Mail!

US Postmaster General praises new Post Office

Lance Cpl Megan L. Stiner
Combat Correspondent

It took John E. Potter, postmaster general of the United States, two-and-a-half years to make it out to Hawaii since he achieved the position in 2001. Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, made sure his trip here was worth the plane ride over.

"I wish all the post offices in America looked like this one," said Potter, after his visit to the new Base Post Office on Mokapu Road.

Potter arrived on Oahu on Dec. 27 with meetings and appearances scheduled at several different locations before his departure on Jan. 2. He had a meeting with the management at the main post office in Honolulu, introduced a new stamp, helped dedicate the King Kalakaua Building, and in the midst of all that, still made time to visit Kaneohe Bay.

Potter's job requires him to make scheduled stops to post offices throughout the country, but he admits that is the part of his job he looks for-



ward to the most.

"I like talking with the workers when I visit plants. It is a friendly way to figure out what needs to be done to improve the postal system," he said.

Potter spent more than thirty minutes touring the post office and visiting with the Marines working there. He was very impressed with the new facility and its employees and wanted service members here to know that he intends to make sure the U.S. Postal Service remains committed to serving its customers.

He is very proud and honored to be involved with delivering mail all over the world, especially to those serving their country overseas. He believes they are the first priority when the mail is being delivered. He believes military post offices are some of the more impressive facilities that he gets to tour and the post office aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay is no exception.

"It is a beautiful building, in a fantastic location," said Potter. "The service runs smoothly here and the Marines are very friendly. I am more than impressed."



Lance Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

Postmaster General John Potter (center), Richard Krekel, the G-1 chief of staff for MCB Hawaii, and two Marines from the post office, discuss the state-of-the-art improvements of the new post office building aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

Manana residents are top housing priority

Major improvements planned for Manana Housing community

Cpl. Luis R. Agostini
Marine Forces Pacific

MCB HAWAII, MANANA HOUSING, PEARL CITY — Manana Housing residents should expect major improvements to the quality of life within the next two years, some of which were explained during the Manana Housing Town Hall meeting Dec. 10.

"Manana is the base's number one priority for housing right now," said Jo Park, MCB Hawaii housing director.

Attendees and speakers during the meeting included Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, commanding general of MCB Hawaii and representatives from the MCB Hawaii Provost Marshal's Office, MCB Hawaii Family Housing Department and Marine Corps Community Services.

The plans call for a Public-Private Venture to revamp Manana Housing within three years. The contract will be awarded in fiscal year 2005 with construction starting Oct. 1, 2005. Floor plans have already been designed for the new family quarters.

Some of the other new features expect-



Cpl. Luis R. Agostini

Brigadier Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, commanding general, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, stressed the importance of families working together in resolving issues aboard Manana Housing at a town hall meeting Dec. 10.

ed aboard the Manana community include a new gas station with two gas pumps and an expanded 7-Day Store. The Manana 7-Day Store will increase by 40 percent, up to 20,000 square feet.

In the April town hall meeting, some residents questioned whether Manana housing units would be considered

"substandard."

During the 1970s, under a special authorization by the United States Congress, some military family housing units were designated as "substandard." The residents of these quarters were provided with partial basic allowance for housing to make up for the substandard

Improvements expected for Manana Housing

- A Public-Private Venture to revamp Manana Housing within three years.
- The contract will be awarded in fiscal year 2005 with construction starting Oct. 1, 2005.
- A new gas station with two gas pumps.
- The Manana 7-Day Store will increase by 40 percent, up to 20,000 square feet.

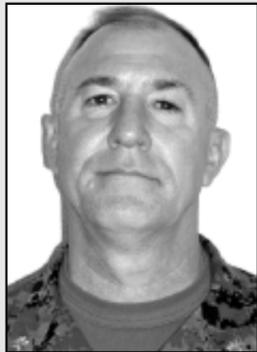
living conditions. There have been no new additions to the designated substandard government housing list since the authorization.

There are a large number of houses around the Department of Defense equal to or worse than Manana, said Park. "[Manana] Houses are equal to what's available in the local community when all of the amenities are included," explained Park.

Other issues addressed by residents and speakers: the services provided by MCCS OneSource, housing maintenance, child supervision, driving regulations and housing security and safety aboard Manana.

Word on the Street

"What was your impression of the new SM&SP Recreation Center?"



"Wow! This is outstanding. In the 31 years I've been in the Corps we have made tremendous changes toward Marines."

Lt. Col. Danny Strand
 Anti-terrorism officer
 Headquarters Bn.



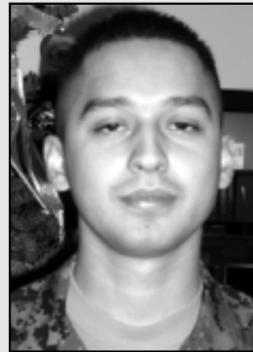
"I really like it. I think the gaming and Starbucks will be the most popular things."

**Petty Officer 2nd Class
 Travis Powell**
 Parachute rigger
 MALS-24 Paraloft



"It's a really great place set up for all different interests. The video games are great, there are different types for every one."

John Morita
 Operations assistant
 Recreation Center



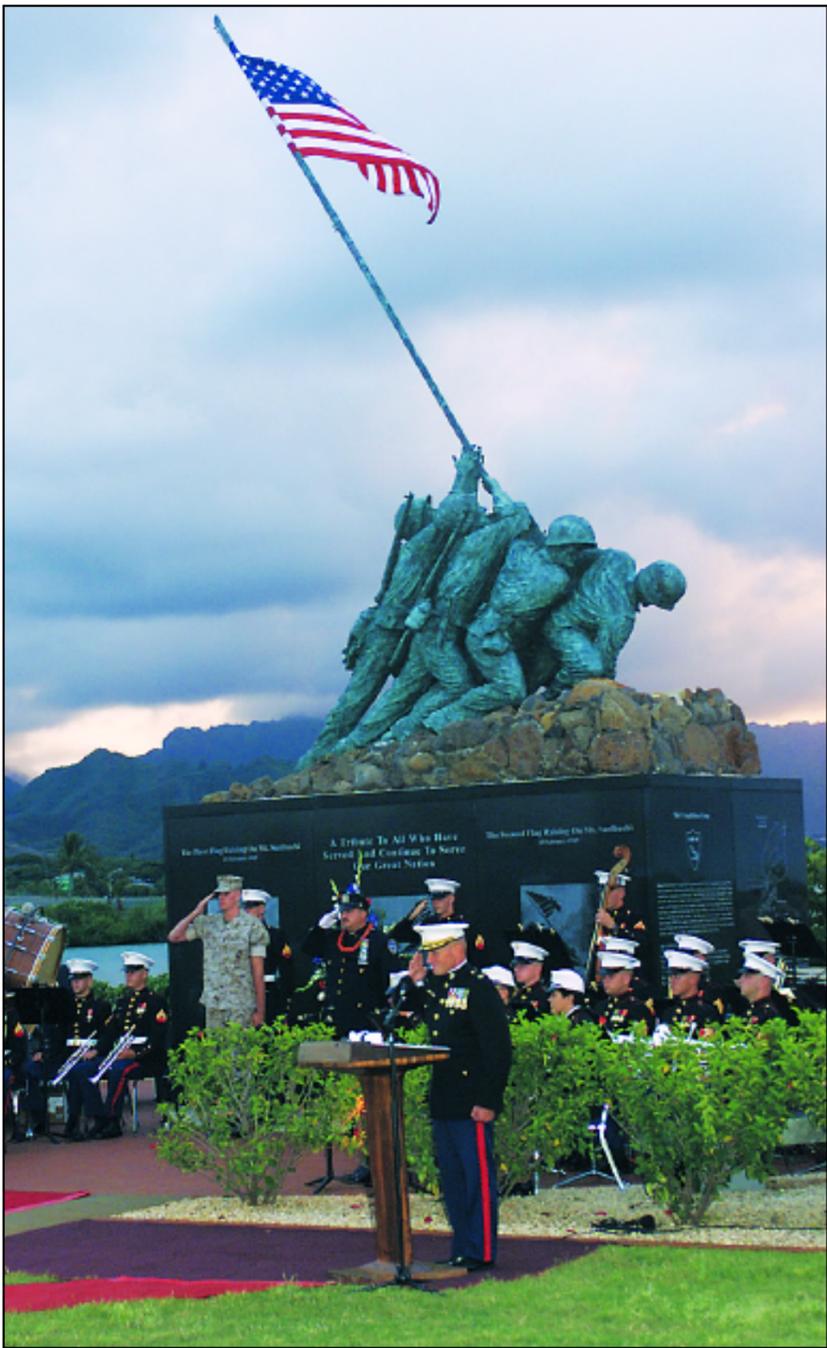
"It is very nice. The movie theater is real comfortable. It is a good atmosphere and the sound system is awesome."

Cpl. Juan Aprendon
 Administration Clerk
 MAG 24



"I think it is a state-of-the-art facility. Something Marines will be able to enjoy for years to come."

Adam J. Barrow
 Former Marine



Cpl. Jessica M. Mills

Two years to the day after the Sept. 11 attacks, Marines paid tribute to the victims in a morning ceremony at the Pacific War Memorial aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.



Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero

Lava Dogs from 1st Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment, apprehend and attempt to stabilize an "out-of-control" protester at a noncombatant evacuation exercise during Cobra Gold 2003 in the Kingdom of Thailand. The Marines learned riot control techniques during a combined exercise with the Royal Thai Marines.



Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero

Marines from Headquarters and Service Co., 1/3, don their riot control gear and form themselves up for non-lethal formation drills during combined non-lethal weapons training May 15-19 while at Cobra Gold 2003.



Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle

Lance Cpl. Jared Shaver, a scout sniper with Weapons Co., 2/3, keeps a low profile and moves slowly across a field at the Waipia Peninsula as he attempts to move in close to the observers to fire off one deadly shot.

The Year in Review

From A-1

event with musical performances by Everclear, Joan Jett and The Blackhearts and Pepper.

Marines, Sailors and family members welcomed the public on base to enjoy three days of relaxation and fun in July.

The most recent improvement of 2003 was the new alcohol-free Enlisted Club Recreation Center. The grand opening of the facility was on Dec. 17.

Located jointly with Kahuna's Sports Bar and Grill, the center is fully equipped with many recreational amenities including Starbucks Coffee, a theatre and computers with full Internet access.

The year has drawn to a close but sketches implementing more improvements for next year are already underway.

The atmosphere here at MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay is one of constant change toward a more positive environment.

Marine Corps Forces Pacific

Marine Corps Forces Pacific has been through a lot in the last year — from a change of command to Marines returning from Iraq.

After two years as commander of the largest field command in the Marine Corps, with nearly 18 months spent leading Marine Forces in the war on terrorism, Lt. Gen. Earl B. Hailston ceremonially passed the MarForPac colors to Lt. Gen. Wallace C. Gregson.

A change of command was not the only thing going on at Camp H. M. Smith.

Camp Smith Marines were involved with Ulchi Focus Lens, one of a series of exercises involving forces from the U.S. and the Republic of Korea.

Although many Marines from Camp Smith were on deployment, Headquarters and Service Bn. kept the home front torches burning with many community events.

One hundred and forty-nine service members and civilians met for the Seventh Annual Camp H. M. Smith 5k Grueler at the Sunset Lanai and Bordelon Field Oct. 15.

Later that month, Gen. Gregson visited Korea to watch more than 300 Okinawa Marines and 100 California Sailors offload 11,000 items from maritime preposition ships, enhancing the Corps' ability to improve rapid emergency response.

The service members transferred 680 combat vehicles, tanks, amphibious assault vehicles and 260 containers with ammunition, tools and spare parts between the ships, starting Oct. 26.

In November, Camp Smith Marines once again embarked aboard a ship, this time headed for Tarawa. Marines from Camp Smith and Camp Lejeune deployed Nov. 13 aboard the USS Hopper for the 60th anniversary ceremony of the landing at Tarawa.

3rd Marine Regiment

Third Marine Expeditionary Force's ground combat element in Hawaii, 3rd Marine Regiment, continued constant training in 2003 under conditions as close to combat as possible.

Comprised of three infantry battalions, a combat support company and a headquarters company, the Regiment also became an integral contributor to the war on terrorism with their activities in the Philippines.

Elements of the Regiment were sent to the South Pacific island nation to combat terrorism — part military assistance and part humanitarian assistance — and to prevent the island nation from becoming a haven for Al Qaeda members.

The number of training exercises for the Regiment and its elements stretched from the islands of Hawaii all the way to the Western Pacific.

From Hawaii Combined Arms Exercises (HCAX) on the "Big Island" to Marine Tactical Warfighting Scenarios in the Philippines and Sri Lanka, the regiment projected its warfighting capabilities throughout the year and demonstrated combat readiness.

CSC

The Combat Support Company (CSC) of 3rd Marine Regiment supported training exercises in Hawaii and abroad throughout calendar year 2003.

After assisting with HCAX, the Marines from CSC, 3rd Marine Regiment, helped the endangered Hawaiian Stilt reform their nesting habitats for the pre-nesting season with the assistance of their Amphibious Assault Vehicle platoon.

The AAV platoon was deployed with 3/3 to serve as the AAV platoon for the 31st MEU and elements of the AAV platoon were also augmented with Marines in California this year.

1/3

The Lava Dogs of 1st Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment kicked-off their year of combat training by participating in HCAX 1-03 before deploying to Japan with the 4th Marine Regiment.

There, they spent the majority of the year training with their sister command under 3rd Marine Division where they were able to utilize the Okinawan training environments to enhance their jungle warfare fighting skills.

2/3

The Island Warriors of 2nd Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment returned from deployment overseas just in time to cross-train with Bravo Co., 1st Royal Australian Regiment during exercise Gold Eagle in preparation for HCAX 2-03 in June.

In September, the Island Warriors visited Australia to train on the Aussie's turf during exercise Crocodile 2003.

Currently deployed in Okinawa, Japan, the Marines of 2nd Bn., 3rd Marines are serving as the Battalion Landing Team for the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit.

3/3

After participating in Hawaii Combined Arms Exercises 1-03 in February and March, 3rd Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment participated in training aboard the USS Nimitz on its way to assist in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

After conducting regeneration and reconstitution training in the spring, the battalion was deployed — with short notice — to Okinawa, Japan to serve as the Battalion Landing Team for the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU).

1st Bn., 12th Marine Regiment

Early in 2003, 1st Bn., 12th Marines were on the move transferring units back and forth as part of the Unit Deployment Package to Okinawa, Japan, as Alpha Battery deployed and Charlie Battery returned to Hawaii in time to participate in the first HCAX of the year on the Big Island in February.

The deployed Marines took part in live-fire exercises at Camp Fuji, Japan, while the Marines at home prepared for upcoming deployments to Thailand in support of exercise Jagged Thrust and to Australia for Crocodile '03.

In May, 1/12 trained with the Army at Schofield Barracks during a joint-fire



Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle

Above — Marines from Fox Co., 2/3, board a CH-53D "Sea Stallion" helicopter after rescuing a downed pilot in an enemy territory during a training mission at HCAX.

Bottom — Island Warriors from 2/3 submerge into the waters of the base pool in the Modular Amphibious Egress Trainer during a training exercise designed to improve the chances of survival in a water crash.



Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle



Cpl. Jason E. Miller

Lance Cpl. Mike Ackerman and Cpl. Nelson Santiago from Charlie Battery, 1/12, load a 155mm live round into an M198 Towed Howitzer while at the combined arms live fire exercise during Exercise Crocodile 2003 in Shoalwater Bay Training Area, Queensland, Australia.



Sgt. Jerome Edwards

Above — Corporal Frank Prinea, a member of 4th Force Reconnaissance Co. returning home from Operation Iraqi Freedom, holds daughter KaceyLine and gives an interview Sept. 16 during the welcome home celebration.

Below — The new post office aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, officially opened on Nov. 26. It is designed to serve more customers than ever, and remain open longer, including Saturday.



Lance Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson

exercise, and continued annual training during HCAX 2-03 in June.

The warriors of 1/12 recently completed K-Fires training at the Pohakuloa Training Area and are ready to kick off the 2004 calendar year.

MAG-24

Many occurrences over the past 12 months have made 2003 a memorable year for MCB Hawaii's Marine Aircraft Group 24.

Service members have busied themselves with everything from participating in triathlons to earning medals in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

At the beginning of February, MAG-24 set out to PTA for a month-long deployment to conduct combined arms training with other Hawaii-based units.

Together, they formed Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force 3. Their mission was to conduct training that exemplified fighting the enemy while engaged in maneuver warfare.

To accomplish this, they underwent command and control exercises, conducted unit live-fire ranges, worked on close air support and extensive logistics support, and completed drills in maneuver warfare training.

During April, Marines and Sailors of MAG-24 came together for a battle of vigor. The annual MAG-24 Olympics took place on the 25th, with both land and water events.

The games, which included golfing, a pull-up competition, tug-of-war, and relay events, turned squadron against squadron in a challenge to beat the competition.

In the end, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463 came out victorious and was recognized as the overall champions.

May brought the Seventh Annual MAG-24 Triathlon to Kaneohe Bay. More than 250 service members and civilians participated in the challenge.

The triathletes began the competition with a 500-meter swim in Kaneohe Bay before paddling 11 miles around the



Cpl. Monore F. Seigle

Sergeant James Wildman, police sergeant for Fox Co., 2nd Bn., 3rd Marines, demonstrates to soldiers in the Australian Royal Army the proper way to fast rope.

base, and ending with a three-mile run across the flightline to the marina.

In May, Marines at MAG-24 traveled to Thailand to participate in Operation Cobra Gold as the Air Combat Element.

Marines combined with all four services as well as Singaporean and Royal Thai Forces in this annual joint/combined multilateral exercise. One purpose of the training is to promote a positive relationship between the different nations.

Cobra Gold is one of the Pacific's largest peacetime exercise that the United States military participates in.

Captain John E. Marshall, fragmentation officer for MAG-24, said one of the biggest events this year was when Headquarters and HMH-363 worked with all the other services while acting as the ACE in Operation Cobra Gold.

Another positive achievement that took place for MAG-24 was the recognition of Capt. Anthony Muralt, administrative officer for Marine Helicopter Training Squadron 301, who was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with a Combat Distinguishing Device for his actions in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Muralt was deployed in January with 1st Tank Battalion, Twentynine Palms, Calif. to Basra, Iraq.

Muralt and his unit were trying to protect a bridge — their only means of traffic to and from the city — when he got word that an attack by enemy soldiers was underway. He radioed that they were in need of close air support and without the help of grid coordinates, gave their position using only visual prominent terrain features.

Forty-five minutes later, after four AH-1W Super Cobra helicopters answered the call, Muralt's unit, along with British soldiers, had a stronghold on Basra.

The end of the year brought a sense of accomplishment to MAG-24 because it was the unit's tenth consecutive year without a major mishap on the flightline.

A major mishap means damage to government property in excess of \$1 million and/or death, dismemberment or serious incapacitation of a military member. Nothing of that magnitude has occurred at Kaneohe Bay since 1994.

Another positive year filled with

accomplishments has expectations rising to uphold the successful operations in upcoming years for the Marines and Sailors at MAG-24, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii.

CSSG-3

When the Training and Exercise Employment Plan (TEEP) for Fiscal Year 2003 was put together, no one at the Combat Services Support Group 3 thought it would be as challenging or rewarding as it turned out to be.

In a typical year, CSSG-3 provides support for the two HCAX conducted by 3rd Marine Regiment and 1/12. Additionally, they might add on a field exercise or two to be completed as a group at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows or the Kahuku Training Area.

This year, however, the group was much more ambitious. In Hawaii, they supported the two HCAX's — MCB Hawaii and Fleet Marine Forces — and conducted a group level exercise in Kaneohe Bay.

In addition to their duties at home and overseas, they supported III Marine Expeditionary Brigade (III MEB) at Cobra Gold 2003 in the Royal Kingdom of Thailand and Crocodile 2003 in Australia.

In January, CSSG-3 was well into the planning phase for Cobra Gold and HCAX 03-1. Group personnel were Thailand conducting site surveys and attending planning conferences.

After a short workup phase, Combat Service Support Detachment 79 stood up for HCAX 03-1 and deployed to the "Big Island" from Feb. 7 - Mar. 21. Combat Service Support Detachment 79 was comprised of 225 Marines and Sailors who worked and billeted in an area that became affectionately known as "The Dust Bowl," Firing Point 303.

The mission was to provide combat service support to Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force 3 while exercising Navy and Marine Corps Intranet and Common Logistics Command and Control System in a deployed environment. The CLC2S is an experimental logistics command and control system that CSSG-3 has been testing in conjunction with the Marine Experiment Center in the Fleet Marine

Forces. Hawaii Combined Arms Exercise 03-1 proved to be a success for both testing and support.

By the time personnel returned from the "Big Island," Brigade Service Support Group 3, headed by Col. James Harbison, had already stood up for Cobra Gold 03.

Equipment heading to Thailand had to be prepared earlier than usual to accommodate the three-week shipping time and to meet the rigorous inspection process for all incoming shipments.

The BSSG-3 was comprised of 450 Marines and Sailors from Hawaii and Okinawa, which left only 300 Marines and Sailors with CSSG-3 back in Hawaii to conduct HCAX 03-2 and provide limited support to MCB Hawaii.

Cobra Gold was considered the pinnacle exercise conducted by CSSG-3 in 2003 because of the functions the unit provided to III MEB, and the force they brought to Thailand.

They deployed more than 50 percent of CSSG-3's personnel strength and combined them with select augments from Okinawa. They were able to test the reorganization that had been in effect for just about a year when this exercise was conducted. Supply and maintenance companies were combined to give the supported units a one-stop shop where they could get fixed and resupplied simultaneously. Transportation support and engineer companies were also combined for efficient employment due to similar assets.

While BSSG-3 was supporting Cobra Gold, CSSD-79 headed out once again to support HCAX 03-2. The detachment was only marginally smaller than the original detachment with 165 Marines and Sailors because of the organic functions of Combat Service Support going with the BSSG-3 instead.

The mission of CSSD-79 during this HCAX was to serve as a bridge between the first HCAX and Crocodile '03, which occurred less than two months after the

See YEAR IN REVIEW, A-6



Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle

Lance Cpl. Jonathan Spangler, a motor transport operator for CSSG-3 uses a Chemical Agent Monitor to check Staff Sgt. Christopher Menning, platoon sergeant for CSSG-3, for contaminants.



Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle

Corporal Brian Perez, an aviation supply clerk with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24, swings a pickaxe while breaking the soil to lay the foundation of the ramp at Kailua Elementary School in Kailua, part of the unit's adopt-a-school partnership.

YEAR IN REVIEW, From A-5

return of the personnel and gear to MCB Hawaii.

Then in November, while CSSD-79 was standing down, CSSD-75 stood up to head out to K-Fires in support of 12th Marine Regiment at PTA. Ninety-eight Marines went out with CSSD-75 to provide combat service support to 12th Marines.

While CSSD-75 was deployed, they took advantage of the training available and conducted live-fire training on the ranges. They continued the tradition of supporting units from out in the field, not the base camp.

With the frequency that Marines and Sailors deploy to the fields of PTA, operating out in that environment has become second nature for CSSG-3.

At the end of the year, there was still no sign of slowing down even though it was the holiday leave period. Planning is well under way for the next HCAX, HCAX 04-1. Roughly 350 Marines and Sailors are getting ready to deploy to the Big Island as soon as today.

2003 has been an extremely busy year for CSSG-3, but it was rewarding every step of the way.

The CSSG-3 Marines and Sailors can honestly say that they are living up to the guidance of their commanding officer, Col. James Harbison. They have met the mission for every exercise and supported operations outside of their area of responsibility.

Most importantly, they have brought everyone home safely.

3rd Radio Bn.

The 3rd Radio Battalion aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, has marched

through another year with flying colors.

Though they battled with an operational tempo that very few Marines had encountered, they continued to meet the demanding missions that the Marine Corps has set for them without ever missing a step.

The Battalion is staffed with more than 500 Marines that, at any given time, can be deployed any place in the world to fulfill any obligation with their special skills.

This year, the battalion was renamed 3rd Radio Bn. as part of a larger initiative to make way for a new radio battalion; this will enable the Marine Corps to provide a radio signal battalion to each of the Marine Expeditionary Forces.

Third Radio Bn. provided signals intelligence and electronic warfare to warfighters of the Marine Air Ground Task Forces — the Marines on the front lines.

The biggest mission the battalion underwent this year was their support of I MEF during their deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. A contingent of 250 to 300 Marines deployed to Kuwait in support of I MEF's attack on Iraq and 1st Marine Division's march into Baghdad, Iraq.

The Battalion has had a great number of its Marines on deployment supporting OIF, but it has also continued to support other operational commitments. It currently has a detachment of Marines supporting the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) out of California and a detachment that is in the process of linking up with the 11th MEU to start their work up.

"We had a detachment with 15th MEU that supported OIF and we also had detachments with both the Alpha and



Sgt. Joseph A. Lee

Two Marines with Combat Service Support Group 3 execute the proper way to shoot a M240-Golf during a training exercise.

Bravo companies of the 31st MEU," said Lt. Col. Mark Aycock, commanding officer of 3rd Radio Bn. "We also provided detachments to support the CAX in Twenty-Nine Palms, Calif.

"We also sent a detachment to the Weapons Tactics Instructions in Yuma, Ariz. To support III MEF and Marine Forces Korea during exercise Ulchi Focus Lense in Korea, and throughout the year, we sent a few of our Russian linguist Marines up to the Northern Pacific to ride Maritime Patrol boats to train with the U.S. Coast Guard as they monitor the Russian fishing fleet as they encroach on our fishing waters off the coast of Alaska.

"I say this battalion has a revolving door, because there are always Marines going out in support of something or returning from supporting something, and it is not unusual for a Marine to return from a major deployment and in

30 to 60 days go back out on another commitment. That was a big issue for us this year because we had Marines return from an eight-month deployment in support of OIF and in about 40 days go to Okinawa on a six-month deployment."

The high operational tempo was just as tough on the support Marines that were left behind because they had to fix all the gear that was broken in the field.

Radio battalions have specialty gear that is only found in those battalions that have to be fixed and ready to be deployed relatively quickly.

Third Radio Bn. has accomplished each mission that they have been tasked with precision and poise. Its work ethic and devotion to duty have been evident in the unit's accomplishments this year. Even with such a high-paced operational tempo, and it will certainly carry Third Radio Bn. into another great year of accomplishments.

(Editor's Note: Per the commanding general of MCB Hawaii, those convicted of DUIs or drug-related offenses shall be publicized in the Hawaii Marine newspaper.)

•Pfc. Maximiliano A. Ruiz-Bricco of Maintenance Co., CSSG-3, was taken into custody Dec. 26 for operating a motor vehicle after consuming a measurable amount of alcohol with a blood alcohol content of 0.06 percent and committing underage drinking. His license was suspend-

ed Dec. 26, and his vehicle and decal were removed from base Dec. 29.

•Pvt. James E. Navarro of Lima Co., 3rd Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment, was taken into custody Dec. 28 for driving under the influence while using someone else's vehicle. The subject refused a blood alcohol level check, and was driving under a suspended license. His license was suspended once again on Dec. 28.



DUIs are career killers

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reminds that impaired driving is not merely a traffic offense. Don't be fooled. Impaired driving is no accident nor is it a victimless crime.

Too many people still don't understand that alcohol, drugs and driving don't mix. If you also find this too hard to figure out when you've had too many drinks to drive, don't risk it. If you're feeling "buzzed," you are most likely impaired. And, if you drive impaired, law enforcement will arrest you.

You drink & drive. YOU LOSE

TO DO LIST

Before any activity that involves alcohol:

- Plan ahead.
- Choose a sober designated driver.
- Take mass transit or a

taxicab, or ask a friend to drive you home if you didn't plan in advance or spend the night where the

- activity is being held.
- Celebrate responsibly.
- Report impaired drivers to law enforcement.

SALUTES

Marine Aircraft Group 24



Navy Commendation Medal
Master Sgt. Johnny E. McCray

Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal
Gunnery Sgt. Chad A. Southard
Chief Petty Officer Crispin Montalla
Petty Officer 1st Class Alex Littlecreek
Sgt. Gerald I. Ibardaloza
Cpl. Christopher Czumak

DRUGS, From A-2

Possession of drug paraphernalia is also prohibited conduct. Drug paraphernalia is defined as "All equipment, products, and materials of any kind that are used, intended for use, or designed for use, in planting, propagating, cultivating, growing, harvesting, manufacturing, compounding, converting, producing, processing, preparing, testing, analyzing, packaging, repackaging, storing, containing, concealing, injecting, ingesting, inhaling or otherwise introducing into the human body controlled substance."

Possession of drug paraphernalia may result in a Dishonorable Discharge, two years confinement, total forfeiture of all pay and allowances, reduction to pay grade E-1, and a letter of reprimand.

As an example, suppose Lance Cpl. X goes to Waikiki and gets two ecstasy pills from a girl he meets at a nightclub. He takes one pill at the club and saves the other for later. When he returns to the barracks, he tells his roommate about the ecstasy. Having never used ecstasy, Lance Cpl. X's roommate asks if he could try the other pill. Lance Cpl. X gives the second pill to his roommate.

In a resulting court martial, Lance Cpl. X could be convicted of all of the following: drug use (taking ecstasy), introduction of drugs on a military base (for bringing the second pill on base), and distribution of ecstasy (giving the pill to his roommate) totaling fifteen years confinement, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, reduction to E-1, and a Dishonorable Discharge.

The roommate, in this scenario, could also be charged with a 112a violation. His use could result in a five year term of imprisonment, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, reduction to E-1, and a Dishonorable Discharge. Also, if either Lance Cpl. X or his roommate were in possession of drug paraphernalia, an additional two years could be added to their sentence.

Because MCB Hawaii

shares concurrent legal jurisdiction with the State of Hawaii, Sailors and Marines aboard MCB Hawaii are subject to military, federal, and state laws.

Federal Law

In certain circumstances, a service member can be prosecuted in a federal district court for misconduct involving illegal drugs. Federal law requires mandatory minimum sentences for violations involving illegal drugs. A first offense for possession requires a minimum fine of \$1,000 and up to one year in federal prison. For second offenders, the penalty increases to a minimum fine of \$2,500 and imprisoned for a minimum of 15 days and a maximum of two years. Third time drug offenders will be imprisoned for a minimum of 90 days and pay a minimum fine of \$5,000. Subsequent offenders and larger volumes of drugs are subject to greater penalties.

Drug distributors face fines up to a maximum of \$250,000 and five years imprisonment. Federal offenses may include probation, asset forfeiture, and supervised release from imprisonment.

If the Marines are convicted in a federal district court, Lance Cpl. X's punishment would be a minimum \$1,000 fine and one year in prison for possession of ecstasy and up to \$250,000 and five years in prison for distribution, totaling six years imprisonment, and a \$251,000 fine, plus a term of supervised release and/or probation.

State Law

Under certain circumstances, the state may charge a Marine with violations of its laws. If the state elects to

prosecute a Marine, the Hawaii Revised Code sets forth the state's penalties for drug offenses.

Both possession and distribution of controlled substances is a felony in the State of Hawaii. They are punishable by a maximum of five years confinement and a fine of \$10,000. Possession of drug paraphernalia is a felony, punishable by five years imprisonment and a fine of \$10,000.

Under Hawaii state law, the crimes in the previous example would subject Lance Cpl. X to five years confinement and a \$10,000 fine for possession of ecstasy and an additional five years confinement and \$10,000 fine for giving the drug to his roommate. The total penalty for Lance Cpl. X's misconduct would be 10 years confinement and a \$20,000 fine.

Administrative Measures

The Marine Corps also requires mandatory administrative processing for all drug-related offenses. Again using the example above, if Lance Cpl. X was prosecuted by the State, the State cannot award Lance Cpl. X a Bad Conduct Discharge. Instead, either before or after his state trial, the Marine can expect to be processed for separation and receive an Other Than Honorable Discharge from the Corps.

One Simple Instruction

The order to refrain from conduct involving illegal drugs is a simple instruction. For those Marines who fail to follow this simple order, military, federal and state laws provide harsh penalties for noncompliance. Are you motivated yet?

MOURNS, From A-1

of our base community. She was able to celebrate the season until her condition took a sudden and unexpected turn for the worse on Christmas Day. Shari's Memorial Service will be held at 10 a.m. today at the Base Chapel. Shari's life-giving spirit will most certainly live on in those of us who knew her.

Lieutenant Col. John James, G-2 base intelligence officer, died Dec. 31 after a year-long struggle with cancer. James, a vibrant and energetic leader, was a tremendous inspiration and mentor to many Marines and aviators. While his death is a tremendous loss, his continual zest for life has been a cause of transformation for the many friends who walked with him on his heroic journey. James' funeral will be held today at 3 p.m. at the Base Chapel. Colonel James will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D. C.

While suffering and death, anxieties and problems do not take a holiday, neither must we take a holiday on our vigilance. Evils in life are powerfully present and ready to erupt at any time. It's especially sad when they could have been avoided.

One of the ways evil triumphs is whenever any of us think that we are not that significant or what we have to say or do is not that important. Sometimes the smallest action or slightest word can bring great healing.

It's important that those who suffer and grieve know that they are not alone. We all need to know that there is strength and hope that will outlast and outweigh the evils of the day — even when they surprise us on holidays.

SHOPLIFTING, From A-1

shoplifter," said Lt. Col. Laulie Powell, staff judge advocate and base magistrate for MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. "We can ultimately restrict the individual's base privileges and even possibly evict them from housing.

"If and when the shoplifter is under the age of 18, we can ask the state to prosecute the minor whereas adults, who are not subject to the (Uniformed Code of Military Justice), can be prosecuted in a federal court by a military lawyer who is appointed as a special assistant U.S. attorney."

The majority of the individuals apprehended for shoplifting were caught because they were seen committing the act on one of the many high-tech cameras and sensor devices placed throughout the Marine Corps Exchange.

"The cameras are very effective and state-of-the-art," said Ken Lum, director of Management and Control Security. "The cameras have the ability to read the price on each item and ensure the correct amount is being paid at the registers."

According to Powell, the majority of the individuals caught shoplifting are service members' children who are under the age of 18. Along with possible prosecution in state family court, the child can also find him or herself spending time on the weekend doing community service aboard base.

"When a child is given community service by the SJA, they will spend their weekends collecting trash and cleaning beaches, camp grounds, annex and PX parking lots and several other areas aboard the base used by the MCB Hawaii community," said Master Sgt. Juan Rivera, deputy base inspector for MCB Hawaii. "We stress the fact that the crime was committed on base, therefore, the restitution must be completed on base."

If a child fails to complete his or her community service or does not complete the tasks given, he or she will go before the base magistrate once again.

"The bottom line here is the shoplifting has to stop," said Powell. "It is embarrassing for the families and it is a burden for all involved. It's just not worth it."

TAXES, From A-1

including the exorbitant interest and fees charged for refund anticipation loans. The fees could vary depending upon individual circumstances.

A refund anticipation loan is a loan made by a bank for all or a portion of the taxpayer's anticipated IRS tax refund. The loan process begins after the tax preparation company has electronically filed the tax return with the IRS, and it has been accepted, the company notifies the designated bank and the bank then lends the taxpayer all or part of the refund amount, minus cost of fees.

This process usually takes one to two days. The taxpayer then agrees to have the IRS forward the refund directly to the bank to pay off the loan. The bank usually receives the IRS refund within seven-14 days and the loan is paid off. The tax preparation company then receives a fee for processing the loan.

The annual percentage rates for these "fast" refund loans can range from 97.4 percent to over 2000 percent according to a 2003 report issued by Consumer Federation of America and the National Consumer Law Center.

These interest rates are paid by Marines and Sailors for loans only lasting seven-14 days. If you wouldn't pay 97.4 percent — 2000 percent interest for a car loan or on a credit card, you shouldn't pay it for a "fast" refund.

Unfortunately, many times these costly fees and interest charges are not fully explained to consumers who are not aware of other alternatives.

Instead of wasting a significant portion of your refund on these exorbitant fees and interest charges, you have an option. Military person-

nel, dependents, and retirees have the great opportunity to have their taxes prepared electronically on base, free of charge, with the full refund deposited directly into their bank account in as little as seven days.

Last year, the MCB Hawaii Tax Center helped more than 5,099 Marines, Sailors, retirees and family members with their taxes. Tax Center personnel electronically filed more than 8,000 federal and state returns free of charge.

This service facilitated the refund of more than \$5,450,000 to Marines, Sailors, retirees and family members, right here in Hawaii. The total value of these services last year was more than \$700,675.

All active duty and family members are welcome at the Tax Center. Retirees and their family members are also welcome. Reserve military on active duty for more than 30 days, along with their family members, can also use these valuable services.

The Tax Center welcomes walk-ins during office hours. The office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., and on Wednesday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. The Tax Center can also make individual and unit appointments. Call the Tax Center clerk starting Jan. 26 at 257-1534 for details.

The Tax Center is located in Building 455, next to the 7-Day Store. You should bring all relevant information with you, including last years returns, income statements (W-2, 1099, interest paid on bank accounts, etc.), credit information (child care, etc.), and bank account numbers, including routing numbers. Also, remember to bring your military identification.

Don't forget to use these valuable services this tax season. Tell your friends and family members. The MCBH Tax Center is here to serve you and save you money!