

Hawaii MARINE

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July 16, 2004

NSA honors 3rd Radio Bn.

Unit recognized for contributions to signals intelligence

Lance Cpl.

Bernadette L. Ainsworth

U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific

CAMP H. M. SMITH, Hawaii — The Marines of 3rd Radio Battalion received the National Security Agency

Director's Trophy for the third consecutive year, July 8. The NSA director recognized 3rd Radio Bn. (formerly 1st Radio Battalion) at the Worldwide Awards Ceremony at the NSA Headquarters in Fort George G. Meade, Md.

The NSA Director's Trophy is awarded annually to the single best tactical cryptologic unit from each service that has made the most significant contribution to the signals intelligence

mission for the previous year.

"This distinction recognizes the accomplishments and personal sacrifice of Radio Battalion Sailors and Marines deployed throughout the world. It is a privilege to serve as their commanding officer," said Lt. Col. Mark T. Aycock.

In 2003, the Marines and Sailors of 3rd Rad. Bn. participated in and supported many



operations and exercises in their role of providing signals intelligence and electronic warfare:

to Marine Air Ground Task Forces, as a contingent of 250-300 Marines deployed to Kuwait in support of I Marine Expeditionary Force's attack on Iraq; during 1st Marine Division's march into Baghdad; and many others.

"We are tasked with provid-

ing MAGTF commanders with effective electronic warfare and special intelligence communications support. The Director of NSA believes we are the best in the Marine Corps at accomplishing this mission," said Aycock.

The battalion also participated in combined arms exercises at Twentynine Palms, Calif., and at Weapons and Tactics

See NSA, A-6



Cpl. Gregory A. Russell

Marines from 2/3 who were attached to the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit's Battalion Landing Team recently returned from their deployment. The unit performed exercises in the Republic of South Korea, Japan and Thailand.

2/3 returns from MEU operations

Sgt. Joseph A. Lee

Combat Correspondent

A battalion from 3rd Marine Regiment deployed in November on what was to be a "normal" Unit Deployment Program to Okinawa, but soon wound up aboard ship.

Second Battalion, 3rd Marines, was tasked in December — just one month after arriving in Okinawa on their UDP — to supplement the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit as its Battalion Landing Team for a series of training exercises stretching across the Far East.

According to Capt. Daniel Kalson, Fox Company commander, Marines from 1st Marine Division in California normally supplement the 31st MEU, but because of operations in the Gulf, the Marines from 2/3 were required to assist.

"Normally on a UDP, we spend the whole time on the island of Okinawa, involved in jungle warfare and other somewhat conventional training, but our Marines were more than happy to supplement the MEU instead," said Kalson.

The MEU rapidly brought 2/3 Marines up to speed on MEU opera-

tions. First, 2/3 participated in several exercises to prepare the battalion for its Special Operations Capable qualification test, or "SOCEX". As well, 2/3 participated in training in preparation for the TRUEX and MEUEX exercises.

Their first, TRUEX, took place in Guam. While Fox Company executed airfield seizures and urban training at the Barrigada Training Facility, the Maritime Special Purpose Force platoon honed its tactical skills at Anderson Airfield.

See 2/3, A-4

Base Safety to inspect child seats

Trained technicians will instruct parents, July 24, at the Marine Corps Exchange

Cpl. Jessica M. Mills

Sports Editor

Most parents would go to any length to prevent injury to their child, and rightfully so. This natural instinct to protect our children should extend to all situations, including car travel.

The Base Safety Center will sponsor a free child safety seat checkup, July 24 from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Marine Corps Exchange parking lot here, to help minimize the risk of injury to children in case of a car accident.

With the wide variety of child restraint systems, belt systems and passenger vehicles, however, correctly installing a child restraint system can be challenging.

"Many parents don't understand how to properly install a car seat," said Sgt. Timothy Kemp, the safety noncommissioned officer at the Base Safety Office here. "There are many common mistakes that are made during installation, and rather than taking the chance with your child's safety, parents should come and learn the correct methods."

During the inspection, technicians will look for correct seat belt routing and verify the height and weight standards for each seat.

In accordance with Hawaii state law, youngsters traveling in vehicles must be buckled in a child restraint system at all times until they are four years old and 40 pounds. Children must meet both requirements before being taken out of a child restraint system.

Further, safety technicians will review the most recent recall lists to verify that particular car seats have no defects and have not been subject to a recall. Technicians said they will not install the car seat for parents; instead, they will spend as much time as needed to train parents on how to properly install their child's car seat.

See SAFETY, A-6



What: Child safety seat check-up

When: July 24, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Where: Marine Corps Exchange parking lot

Who should attend: Parents of young children

Changes on the way for TRICARE patients

Navy Capt. Kevin Berry, M.D.

Tripler Army Medical Center & Pacific Regional Medical Command

HONOLULU — The month of July brought many changes to the health care system serving military and their families in Hawaii. First and foremost, TriWest Healthcare Alliance, the current health care civilian partner with TRICARE, replaced HealthNet Federal Services.

The contract changed to help control government costs and improve customer service — the reason our military health care system exists. Still, there may be incorrect perceptions that customer service is suffering.

Tripler Army Medical Center currently supports more than 92,000 people enrolled in its TRICARE Prime health care system. Altogether, that translates into 1.2 million outpatient visits at military and civilian TRICARE

clinics each year. With that much health care being provided, there are bound to be concerns and problems as we transition.

First, beneficiaries who are not enrolled in TRICARE Prime should contact TriWest. For assistance in finding a primary care manager or learning about your TRICARE benefits, call TriWest at (888) TRIWEST (874-9378),

See TRICARE, A-5

MCBH NEWS BRIEFS

Pyramid Rock Beach Closes

Pyramid Rock Beach will be closed until 11 a.m., Monday, due to an amphibious training exercise for Rim of the Pacific.

Early School Registration Urged

Military service members are encouraged to register their elementary school-age children for school as soon as possible, in order to avoid missed class time. Registration for kindergarten through sixth grade for children who live aboard Kaneohe Bay is held at Mokapu Elementary School, 1193 Mokapu Rd., on a first-come, first-served basis.

When classes are filled at Mokapu, registering students are referred to other elementary schools (such as Kainalu or Kailua Elementary), and arrangements for bus transportation must be made. However, off-base elementary school start dates vary, depending on whether the school is on a traditional or year-round schedule. Mokapu Elementary, which is on a traditional schedule, will begin classes on Aug. 24 (both Kainalu and Kailua Elementary begin classes on July 29).

To register for school, parents or guardians must bring with them each child's social security card, his or her original birth certificate and a copy of the child's most recently completed physical examination. Parents should seek Form 14 from their physician to meet the physical exam registration requirements. Each physical must include the child's updated shot record and tuberculosis test results.

Parents who have an exceptional family member must also bring a copy of their child's individual education plan.

Children do not need to be present.

Physical-A-Thon Goes July 24

Naval Medical Clinic Pearl Harbor will offer school sports physicals from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on July 24, at Base Medical Center Makalapa. Physicals will be by appointment only. Call 473-0247 for Physical-A-Thon appointments.

Important Numbers

| | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| On-Base Emergencies | 257-9111 |
| Military Police | 257-7114 |
| Child Protective Service | 832-5300 |

Hawaii MARINE

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
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| Public Affairs Officer | Maj. Patricia Johnson |
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| Staff Writer | Lance Cpl. Megan L. Stiner |
| Staff Writer | Pfc. Rich E. Mattingly |
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Political dos and don'ts

DoD encourages employees to vote while keeping workplaces neutral

Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — With election activity steadily picking up, defense officials remind members of the military and Department of Defense civilians that they're subject to rules regulating their involvement in political activities.

Gone are the days when the military posted troops at the polls after the Civil War, an act that Steve Epstein, director of the DoD General Counsel's Standards of Conduct Office, said intimidated many southerners into not voting.

Today, Epstein said two sets of rules help protect the integrity of the political process: a DoD directive for active-duty service members and the Hatch Act for federal civilians. These rules keep the military out of partisan politics and ensure that the workplace remains politically neutral, he said.

That's not to imply that military members and civilian employees can't participate in politics. Epstein said DoD encourages both groups to register to vote and vote as they

choose, and to urge others to vote.

Both groups can sign nominating petitions for candidates and express their personal opinions about candidates and issues — but only if they don't do so as representatives of the armed forces. Also, all federal employees can make contributions to political organizations or candidates.

Beyond that, the list of dos and don'ts differs widely, depending on whether the employee is an active-duty service member, a rank-and-file Civil Service employee, a political appointee or member of the career Senior Executive Service, Epstein said.

Of all DoD employees, the men and women in uniform have the most restrictions regarding political activity, he explained. A 1993 revision to the Hatch Act freed most Civil Service employees to engage in political activities outside the workplace that were once forbidden, although many restrictions still apply.

For example, service members and government civilians can attend political meetings or rallies, but military members can attend only as

spectators and not in uniform. They're not permitted to make public political speeches, serve in any official capacity in partisan groups, or participate in partisan political campaigns or conventions.

On the other hand, civilian employees (governed by the Hatch Act) may be active in and speak before political gatherings or serve as officers of political parties or partisan groups. They are also permitted to manage campaigns, distribute literature, write political articles or serve as a spokesperson for a party or candidate.

Military members generally aren't permitted to campaign for a political office. Civilian employees are, as long as it's a nonpartisan election.

While the dos and don'ts concerning political activity may vary, Epstein said the basic rules hold true for all DoD workers. They can't use their position to influence or interfere with an election. And they can never engage in political activity on the job, in a government vehicle, or while wearing an official uniform.

More details about restrictions on DoD military and civilian employees' political activities are posted on the DoD Web site.

Construction zone



Pfc. Karrienne Mahafey, Military Police Company, Headquarters Battalion here, checks identification at the Mokapu (back) Gate. A temporary guardhouse has been erected and traffic is detoured around the construction site. Both gates to the base are currently undergoing improvements, which are expected to be completed in six months.

Cpl. Jessica M. Mills

Marine deployment medals explained

Sgt. Colin Wyers

I Marine Expeditionary Force

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq—Marines' medals say a lot about them — where they've been and what they've done.

So what medals can Marines earn while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom? And, what are the qualifications?

Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal

The Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal was established by President George W. Bush to recognize service members deployed in Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom. A Marine can only earn the award once, so no service stars are authorized; however, Marines

engaged in combat against the enemy can be eligible for a battle star.

To be eligible, Marines must have been deployed outside the United States in support of either operation for either 30 consecutive days or 60 nonconsecutive days, engage the enemy in combat while deployed in support of either operation or be medically evacuated while participating in the operation.

Being a member of an aircrew flying sorties into the area of eligibility counts toward the requirement.

Iraqi and Afghanistan Campaigns

President Bush signed into a law a bill passed by Congress authorizing separate campaign medals for service in the Iraqi and Afghan theaters. The Department of Defense has not yet issued guidance on these awards.

Combat Action Ribbon

The Combat Action Ribbon is awarded to Marines and Sailors who engage in a firefight or other combat action and whose performance is satisfactory. The service member does not necessarily need to return fire. For example, if a convoy is attacked and a humvee driver maneuvers his vehicle out of the kill zone, he could be eligible.

For those taking indirect fire, such as rockets and mortars, only those who actively participate in retaliatory or offensive operations are eligible.

Purple Heart

To be eligible for the Purple Heart, a service member must have sustained wounds requiring medical

See MEDALS, A-6



FEBUARY

Headquarters and Service Battalion, MarForPac changes command

Col. Mark A. Dungan assumes command of Headquarters & Service Battalion, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific, from Col. William S. Febuary at a change of command ceremony aboard Camp H. M. Smith, today. Febuary will assume duties as assistant chief of staff for G-6, MarForPac. Dungan previously attended the Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pa.



DUNGAN

Ship life

Marines learn Navy lingo aboard USS Tarawa

Lance Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson
Combat Correspondent

ABOARD THE USS TARAWA — When hundreds of Marines departed Pearl Harbor Naval Base for the Rim of the Pacific training exercise, July 5, most had not experienced life on a ship before. Some had said their only familiarization with naval life had been learned from watching movies like "Titanic" or "The Hunt for Red October."

Presently, RIMPAC is shedding some light on what shipboard life is really like for so many who experience it every day.

"If you can get used to the constant rocking, you'll do okay," said Lance Cpl. Vance Grieger, a diesel mechanic with Combat Service Support Group 3, and part of the combat cargo crew here aboard ship. "Quite a few people had to get some medicine for that, but everyone has gotten pretty used to it now."

The Fort Worth, Texas, native was part of the initial party that flew to San Diego, then sailed back on the USS Tarawa to Pearl Harbor, before RIMPAC began.

"I've been on the ship for a few weeks now, and I really don't think I'd have a problem being on one for a long period of time," said Grieger. "Just being able to look at the ocean whenever you want makes it all worth it."

Those who stay aboard the USS Tarawa sleep in quarters called "berthing" areas, common knowledge for Sailors, but part of the learning curve for some Marines. The racks, or beds, are stacked one above

the other, three high, and many service members can fit comfortably in each room.

"There are 53 Marines in the area I'm in right now," said Grieger. "Everyone gets along pretty well, though, and the air conditioning works, so I'm happy!"

A gym allows Marines and Sailors to get in their daily physical training, and a "galley," or chow hall, provides four meals a day for all.

"The worst part for me is that there is never one quiet moment aboard the ship, no matter what time of the day or night it may be," said Sgt. Ida Gilbert, a combat cameraman here, assigned to the Combat Visual Information Center, Headquarters Battalion, back at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. "A person can never get a moment alone. Everyone seems to be adjusting pretty well over all, though."

Fellow service members provide entertainment, as there are not always exciting events taking place aboard ship. For example, Saturday was "Karaoke Night" when anyone could sign up and sing to win during the contest.

"It was a fun time," said Gilbert. "It was nice to just relax for a while and enjoy where you are."

During the RIMPAC exercises, Marines are taking part in everything from raids to a noncombatant evacuation operation, or NEO, along with the Royal Australian Army.

RIMPAC will wrap up for Marines on or about July 22.



Petty Officer 3rd Class Alex C. Witte

Above — Airman Brian Patterson, an aviation ordnance man, works in the cramped quarters of the scullery onboard the USS Kitty Hawk CV 63.

Right — Normal activities such as haircuts proceed in compact quarters aboard the USS John S. McCainis.



Petty Officer 2nd Class Andrew Meyers

Amphibious Assault Ships Tarawa Class, General Characteristics

Builders: Ingalls Shipbuilding, Pascagoula, Miss.

Power Plant: Two boilers, two geared steam turbines, two shafts, 70,000 total shaft horsepower

Length: 820 feet

Beam: 106 feet

Displacement: 39,400 tons, full load

Speed: 24 knots (27.6 miles per hour)

Aircraft (depending on mission): 12 CH-46 Sea Knight helicopters; four CH-53E Sea Stallion helicopters; six AV-8B Harrier attack aircraft; three UH-1N Huey helicopters; four AH-1W Super Cobra helicopters

Crew: A Ships Company of 82 officers, 882 enlisted; a Marine Detachment of 1,900-plus

Armament: Two RAM launchers; two Phalanx 20 mm CIWS mounts; three .50 cal. machineguns; four 25 mm Mk 38 machineguns

Date Deployed: May 29, 1976 (USS Tarawa)

Marines and Sailors aboard USS Tarawa get lift

Captain returning from Iraq voices purpose of his training missions

Lance Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson
Combat Correspondent

ABOARD THE USS TARAWA — "There was never enough time in a day for anything out there," said Capt. Andrew J. Kressin, staff officer for 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment. "In Iraq, you were either patrolling your area, or doing what you could to help the people over there who needed it."

The Beloit, Wis., native just returned from a six-month deployment to Iraq where he held the billet of advisor to the Iraqi Army. He spoke with Marines and Sailors who are taking part in the Rim of the Pacific training exercise aboard the USS Tarawa, Saturday.

"I couldn't wait to get out there when

I found out I was going," said Kressin. "And since returning, I know that the experience was everything I wanted it to be."

During the deployment, Kressin's main objective was to build up the Iraqi army, and train it to be more equipped to fight, he said. The soldiers tackled a four-week boot camp run by civilians, then undertook the small infantry training package that lasted approximately four weeks, which Kressin and other Marines taught.

"One of the rough spots we hit during the training was the language barrier," said Kressin. "Our interpreters knew only basic English conversation, so we learned as much Arabic as we could to make things easier. We worked through it."

The soldiers learned everything from

patrolling to firing a variety of weapons, along with military inspections and drill techniques.

"They really gave it their all the whole time," said Kressin. "They want to do the right thing, and we knew they

"It really matters what we do between battles."

— Capt. Andrew J. Kressin,
Staff Officer, 1/3



always had our back out in the fire-fights," he added, stating that dealing with the lack of corruption was a big adjustment for the Iraqi soldier.

"There was a lot of unit cohesion out there," said Kressin. "Strong bonds were built so quickly with the Iraqi people,

and good friendships."

When not putting Iraqi soldiers through training, Marines carried out various presence patrols through cities, and medical and dental civic action programs, or MEDCAPs, that allowed for community relations bonding with local children, as well as snatch-and-grab operations — where they hit a house and captured wanted individuals.

"They loved getting their picture taken," said Kressin of the community relations opportunities. "I remember [the local children] were always fascinated when they could see themselves on the digital screen."

Kressin departed for his new duty station of Parris Island, S.C., Monday. Although chances of him returning to Iraq are slim, he said he would go back in a heartbeat.

"You woke up there, everyday, knowing you were making a difference," he explained. "It really matters what we do between battles. Marines are professionals, and it really shows over there."

Word on the Street

What trend did you adopt in your past that you are most embarrassed about?



"I had a big ol' afro, lambchops [mutton-chops], gold teeth and baggy pants. I looked very funny."

Lance Cpl. Arron Edmonds
Disbursing clerk
Headquarters Bn.



"I had the big bangs with the Aqua Net hair-spray. Why would I do that?"

Nicole Thompson
Family member



"I wore cowboy boots for a long time when I was young. I was a dork!"

Lance Cpl. Matthew Pagliughi
Rifleman
Golf Co., 2/3



"I think it was my trend Punk — when I had a Mohawk."

Petty Officer 2nd Class Philbert Piccone
Cook, Mobile
Maintenance Facility
Charlie
Jacksonville, Fla.



"Definitely my hair. I shaved it during the 60's and it was not the cool thing to do."

Gary Phanning
Visiting civil servant
Point McGoo, Calif.

Warrior entered boot camp at 15

Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle
Combat Correspondent

Everyday, the number of Marines who survived the atrocities of World War II grows smaller and smaller. As they perish, each one takes memories to the grave that only a brave and courageous warrior can tell.

Donn Lewin, 78, and a World War II veteran who now resides in Hawaii Kai on the island of Oahu, was only 15 years old when he decided to drop his civilian life and pick up a rifle to go fight for his country.

"I remember when I decided to join, the recruiter told me I had to be 17, and that was back in 1941," recalled Lewin. "I told my dad I wanted to go, and I asked him if I could find a way to get in, would he sign the papers to let me go."

With this in mind, the young Lewin devised a plan to get some form of identification stating he was older than he really was. When he looked at his birth certificate, he realized his date of birth was centered directly on a crease on the paper. After folding the crease several times, the last number in his date of birth was no longer legible. He then went to the county courthouse in his hometown in Buffalo, N.Y., and attempted to get a new birth certificate with a date of birth making him older than he really was.

"When I got to the courthouse, I saw a pretty lady working as a clerk, and I went up to her and told her I needed a new birth certificate in order to join the military," said Lewin. "Back then, they could type up new ones right there in the office. Since she could not read the year I was born, she asked me what it was, and I told her I was two years older.

"That same day, I was at the recruiter with my dad and he signed the paper-

work for me to join the Corps. He was surprised that I was able to think of something like that, but it worked like a charm."

Dec. 12, 1941, was a bitterly cold day at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C., when Lewin arrived to begin recruit training.

"We were still living in tents when I went through boot camp," he said. "It was no 'walk in the park' either. I had this one drill instructor [who] knew I was not 17 years old, and he even asked me how old I was. I told him I was 17, but he knew better. He gave me hell all through boot camp, but I made it through, regardless."

After moving around from various locations, a young, but brave, Lewin eventually found himself in the heat of battle, putting to use the warrior ethos he learned in recruit training.

"I was wounded, altogether, three times," he said solemnly. "The first time was in a firefight at Bougainville. The next two times I was wounded were on Iwo Jima.

"When I landed on Iwo Jima, there were two airfields we had to cross in order to engage the enemy. After we got past the second one, I was ordered to take up a position in a shell hole. We were under fire when I ran across the field and jumped into the shell hole with another Marine," recalled Lewin. "After we settled into that shell hole, I remember the tip of my rifle

was sticking right above the top of the hole. This one joker must have had a damn good scope on his rifle because he managed to shoot the tip of my rifle, and when it exploded, I got a load of shrapnel in my knee."

Lewin was moved to a hospital ship located right off the coast of Iwo Jima for treatment for his second battle wound. Afterward, a hospital corpsman told him medics were going to take him out of the combat zone and away from action.

This news did not sit well with Lewin. "When that corpsman told me he was taking me away from my company, I pulled out a .45mm pistol, and I told him that I was going back out there to fight. And, there was no way he was going to stop me. They let me go back out there, but I was only on the battlefield for an hour before I got hit again with a hand grenade. That was my third Purple Heart.

"At age 18, I guess I thought there was no bullet out there with my name on it."

Altogether, Lewin served four years in the Marine Corps. He remembers seeing many of his close friends die in the heat of combat.

Although many of his memories are bloody, Lewin said he is proud to have served in the Marines and fought alongside some of the bravest men to wear the coveted Eagle, Globe and Anchor.

"I was one of the best," emphasized Lewin. "The only thing that comes close to the Marines in the other branches of the service is [the other branches'] Special Forces, and they just copy us.

"The only regret I have is that I did not stay in, but I can at least say that I am one of 'the few, the proud' — one of the Marines."

The Heroes Trolley

Former Marine Donn Lewin was one of 42 veterans who rode in the "Heroes Trolley," sponsored by the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, during the 58th Annual Fourth of July Parade in Kailua, July 3.

The parade theme, "Kailua Honors American Heroes," as well as the trolley, honored veterans of World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam, other conflicts, and veterans groups like the Military Order of Purple Heart.

A recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor, Hawaii's U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye, led the parade.

Among the veterans being honored were retired Marine Sgt. Maj. Allan Kellogg Jr., another recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor; Combat Service Support Group 3's Master Sgt. Greg A. Carroll; 3rd Radio Battalion's Gunnery Sgt. Preston E. Scholz, Sgt. Justin C. Cedroni, Cpl. Norman J. Guillory, and Lance Cpl. Daniel W. Powell (a recent Purple Heart awardee for actions performed in the Middle East).



Staff Sgt. Ronna M. Weyland

Veterans from various wars rode on the "Heroes Trolley," sponsored by the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, down the Kailua Parade route, July 3.

2/3, From A-1

According to Kalson, SOCEX was a weeklong series of missions developed by the Special Operations Training Group to evaluate the unit's special operations capabilities.

"We never know what the mission is going to be," said Kalson. "It's a continuous evolution where the Marines being evaluated get very little sleep and are engaged in a series of surprise missions."

Marines from 2/3 performed airfield seizures, noncombatant evacuations, and tactical recoveries of aircraft and person-

nel in the Republic of South Korea, and mechanized vehicle and boat raids in Okinawa, while continuing to play a part in larger exercises like Foal Eagle, taking place in the same region.

"We were SOC-qualified faster than any unit has ever been qualified before," said Kalson. "We completed a six-month training regimen in approximately six weeks."

After successfully accomplishing its SOCEX, 2/3 continued on to Thailand for exercise Cobra Gold, then stopped by Singapore for some

liberty before returning to Okinawa, and eventually arriving back home to Hawaii.

During the past eight months, 2/3 has developed expeditionary skills it rarely has the opportunity to attain. The battalion may develop future training on Oahu to adhere more closely to the structured specialties found in the MEU, according to Kalson.

"I think it [the MEU] was very exciting for the Marines. It gave the Marines from Hawaii the chance to do something they haven't or may not ever have had the

chance to do," Kalson continued, "and that is being assigned on ship, able and ready to respond to any contingency at hand."

"The MEU splits the three rifle platoons into three specialties: helicopters, boats, and mechanized vehicles," Kalson explained. "We will probably start to implement that more here, to be more prepared for attachment to a MEU.

He emphasized, "The MEU is the tip of the spear, and that is where all Marines want to be."

TRICARE, From A-1

or visit the local TRICARE Service Center here at Tripler Army Medical Center.

What's all this going to mean for TRICARE Prime patients? Beneficiaries may have already noticed changes in telephone numbers, doctors who they can access, prescription procedures and available clinics.

Recent Changes

•TRICARE has new phone numbers for the following services:

- Information, (888) 874-9378;
- Retail Pharmacy, (866) DOD-TRRX (363-8779); and
- Mail Order Pharmacy, (866) DOD-TMOP (363-8667).

•Not all of the doctors from the HealthNet Federal Services Network have signed up with the new TriWest Network. Currently, this fact may affect close to 200 people who are now being seen by a civilian primary care manager (PCM).

These beneficiaries will be individually contacted, through the mail, to look at their options. If you are in this number, you can call (888) 874-9378 for more information.

•Expect changes in how you get your prescriptions filled, in where, and in

what kind of brand name drugs are used under the new network. The backs of new TRICARE cards will contain important numbers for everyone (which are listed above).

•Changes affect who can be enrolled in some clinics. Beneficiaries who need more information should call TriWest or the Beneficiary Counseling and

Assistance Coordinator (BCAC) about any questions they have regarding the following clinics:

- Tripler Army Medical Center at 433-3422;
 - Schofield Barracks Health Clinic at 433-8485;
 - The Navy's Makalapa Medical Annex at 473-2444, ext. 509 (for Navy personnel and Marines stationed at Marine Corps Base Hawaii);
 - Hickam Air Force Base at 448-6124;
 - Coast Guard at 541-2409 or 433-3422.
- For program issues, call the Multi-Service Market Management Office at 433-6846.

•Changes affect the way military families access health care when they are out of state, for example, away from Hawaii on vacation:

- In an emergency, you dial 911 or go to the nearest medical facility.
- To obtain a provider when out of area care is needed, contact TriWest at (888) 874-9378 for an initial authorization for

nonemergency care.

-For authorization for follow-up non-emergency care when out of the area, you call the Hawaii Referral Management Center at (800) 322-8262, which is open weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Hawaii Standard Time (HST). Leave a message if no one is available to take your call, and someone will get back in touch with you.

Feedback Wanted

All of the above changes are just the beginning.

Change can be good or bad, but what definitely happens with change is that it usually involves some bumps in the road as we get used to those changes and doing business in a different way. That's where TriWest and Tripler need your help.

Tripler asks that all beneficiaries and patients work with TriWest to make this transition as painless as possible.

You are asked to call when you experience bumps, problems or concerns, so TriWest can fix what is not working and educate everyone about how to deal with changes. Call (888) TriWest or stop by the TRICARE TriWest Service Center on Tripler's first floor (Oceanside) to let us know what's working and what's not.

The Tripler Managed Care TRICARE Operations phone is 433-3422, where staff are available weekdays from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. At the other clinics (previously listed above), contact your

BCAC.

Finally, when you call the new TRICARE TriWest toll-free number, chances are you won't be speaking to someone in Hawaii. The customer service representative may be physically located in Arizona, so he or she might not have specific answers to Hawaii-unique questions.

Let TriWest know about these issues too that may be causing problems for you and your family in getting the information you need to make informed decisions about your health care.

You're encouraged as well to respond to our Interactive Customer Evaluation online at <http://ice.disa.mil>. Or, obtain more information about TRICARE and TriWest at any of the following Web sites: www.tricare.osd.mil, www.triwest.com or www.tricareonline.com.

TRICARE Phone Reference Guide

- Information: (888) 874-9378
- Retail Pharmacy: (866) DOC-TRRX (363-8779)
- Mail Order Pharmacy: (866) DOD-TMOP (363-8667)
- Benefits: (888) TRIWEST (874-9378)



Photo Courtesy of the National Security Agency

Air Force Lt. Gen. Michael V. Hayden (left), NSA director, stands with 3rd Radio commander Lt. Col. Mark T. Aycock and MarForPac commander Lt. Gen. Wallace C. Gregson.

NSA, From A-1

Instruction at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz. The battalion sent a detachment to support III MEF and U.S. Marine Corps Forces Korea during exercise Ulchi Focus

Lens in Korea.

"I am honored the national intelligence community recognizes the impact of our support for the Marines and Sailors who are in harm's way each and every day," said Aycock.

MEDALS, From A-2

treatment as a result of enemy action, including small arms fire, indirect fire, enemy mines and vehicle accidents caused by enemy fire.

Sea Service Deployment Ribbon

The Sea Service Deployment Ribbon is for Marines and Sailors serving in the Fleet Marine Force who have spent 90 consecutive days deployed.

For those Marines supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom, the requirement that a Marine spend a year with the unit deployed is waived. The award can only be received once per deployment.

Marines and Sailors who are deployed and are not part of a Fleet Marine Force unit are eligible for the Overseas Service Award.

SAFETY, From A-1

This extra attention, Base Safety hopes, will enable parents to properly install any other car seats they may acquire in the future, without the help of a technician.

"If parents don't take the importance of child safety seats seriously, the ultimate end result could be injury or death," said Kemp.

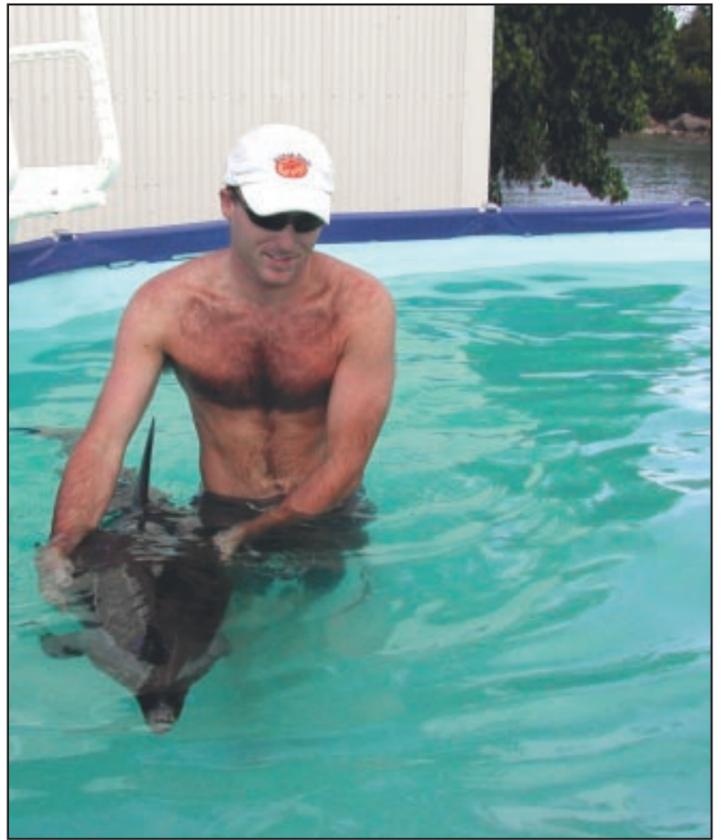
If families are unable to attend they can call Base Safety at 257-1830 to schedule a free appointment.



Photo Courtesy of Base Safety Office

Mario Diprete, a safety specialist for Base Safety, checks the belt placement of a child safety seat

Dolphin spotted



Sgt. Jereme Edwards

Aran Mooney, a student at University of Hawaii, assists a Hawaiian Spotted Dolphin in a 20-foot diameter hospital pool at Kaneohe Bay. The 3- to 4-year-old female was found off Kahala Beach at around 10:30 a.m., Monday, and transported to base Waterfront Operations for assessment and treatment. Volunteers provided care for the dolphin by means of food, fluids and antibiotics. Preliminary tests showed severe liver damage; she had to be euthanized Thursday.