

# Hawaii MARINE

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## 1/3 tours with the 31<sup>st</sup> MEU

### Unit prepares for combat readiness

**Lance Cpl. Joel Abshier**  
MCB Camp Butler

**CAMP HANSEN, OKINAWA, Japan** — More than 1,000 Marines and Sailors with 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, from Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, arrived here mid-July for a six-month deployment with the Unit Deployment Program as the battalion landing team for the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit.

The infantrymen will be joined by artillerymen, amphibious assault, and light armored vehicles to serve as the ground combat element for the 31st MEU.

"The Marines and Sailors are expected not only to train hard, but also to be ready to form a combat-ready cohesive warfighting team as a part of the 31st MEU," said Lt. Col. Michael R. Ramos, commanding officer.

The Marines and Sailors of BLT 1/3 first came here from April to November 2003, as part of a previous UDP tour. During that time, they participated in exercises throughout Asia. From training at the Jungle Warfare Training Center on Camp Gonsalves to training in the blistering terrain at Mount Fuji, they prepared themselves for combat, Ramos explained.

"Our great nation is at war and has been since Sept. 11, 2001," Ramos said. "This war has placed great demand on Marines and Sailors, and this battalion landing team is well prepared to fulfill any duty given to us."

The unit has not taken a break from training since its arrival. Going through the gas chamber and achieving their battle sight zeros on Camp Schwab's rifle range, the service members are aggressively training, said Maj. Adin M. Pfeuffer, operations officer.

"If BLT 1/3 goes to a combat zone, I will feel comfortable because of the

See 1/3, A-5

## Beating the blaze

### MAG-24 supports fire fighting operations

**Pfc. Rich Mattingly**  
Combat Correspondent

**KUNIA, Hawaii** — CH-53D Sea Stallion helicopters from Marine Aircraft Group 24 burned up the sky July 14, 15 and 16, dropping thousands of gallons of water on a raging conflagration in the hills of Kunia.

Aircrew teams from Marine Helicopter Training Squadron 301, the Windwalkers, mobilized after they were contacted by the Honolulu Fire Department to assist in controlling the blaze that threatened several Dole pineapple fields and nearby residences.

"The Honolulu Fire Department felt they did not have the resources to put the fire out, without it becoming a larger threat, so they called the Joint Forces Homeland Defense Office and requested fire bucket support," said Jacqueline Freeland, base emergency and future plans officer.

When fires break out on Oahu, the Joint Forces Homeland Defense Office knows it can always count on Marines to come to the island's aid.

"If the state or local first-responders become overwhelmed in responding to an incident, there is a memorandum of understanding between all the services and state and local officials that the military will come in to support," explained Freeland.

The Windwalkers flew back and forth from the Dole reservoir, dumping water during the course of the three days, until the fire was under control.

"Our bucket holds 660 gallons of water, and on Friday alone we made 50 drops," said 1st Lt. Michael Svatek, CH-53D pilot with HMT-301.

"I think we made a big impact, being able to drop that much water on the fire. Without us, the fire might have gone on for another week, at least," added Svatek.

According to Capt. Clint Collins, frag officer with MAG-24, who coordinates flight requests for the group, flying support missions for the fire department has a two-fold impact.

"It comes back to being a good neighbor. We defend the country all over the world, but it's also good to be able to defend people's homes and property here as well."



A CH-53D Sea Stallion with Marine Helicopter Training Squadron 301, equipped with a water-carrying bucket, flies toward the forest fire that threatened Dole pineapple fields just south of Wheeler Air Force Base last week. Marine Aircraft Group 24 regularly supports fire-fighting operations around Oahu by providing Marines and airframes.

## Library remains open

**Sgt. Joseph A. Lee**  
Combat Correspondent

The base library is currently undergoing an asbestos abatement project that will replace all of the ceiling tiles in the library, after they were damaged during a wind storm in January. The project, scheduled to be completed Aug. 31, will close down the majority of the library and limit the selection of books available to library patrons.

"We are still operating as normal," said Murray Visser, supervisory librarian at the base library. "We're still buying and receiving new books, and most of our resources are still available."

All online resources, databases, newspapers, magazines and a small selection of best sellers and softcover books are still available for use at the library throughout the construction process, according to Visser, but the larger selection of reference material will not be available until the construction is completed.

The Summer Reading Program, currently in session, will continue to run until Aug. 7, as previously scheduled, without any interference from the construction.

"It is a bit frustrating for us and our patrons, when we know we have a book, but we have to send them out in town to check it out," said Visser. "Though it is a frustrating time, we would like to thank the military community for allowing

See LIBRARY, A-4

## Aircraft, Rescue and Firefighting completes two-year facelift

### Marines worked hard to make their dream a reality

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

After two years of planning and hard labor, the Aircraft, Rescue and Firefighting facility has received a complete renovation on both its upper and lower decks, which were officially dedicated here, July 16.

Marine Corps Air Facility's commanding officer, Lt. Col. Marc Sehart, presided over the ribbon cutting ceremony and decided it was important to share the event with family and friends of ARFF during a MCAF Family Day. As he cut the ribbon to open the decks, Sehart requested the ARFF Marines to join him as he dedicated the facilities to them.

"These renovations came out better than I had hoped. If you compare the facilities they have now to those prior, you'll see the improvements are unbelievable," he explained. "These Marines

work, train and practically live here in this complex. They are a very tight-knit group of individuals, [and] it is more than a job; it's a way of life. They are a model for the rest of the Corps, and they deserve this new facility."

According to Sgt. Sabine Rademacher, the materials noncommissioned officer for ARFF, his section had advised the upper command, two years ago, that the previous facilities were not beneficial to the mission and morale of ARFF Marines. The command, therefore, proposed to erect individual rooms with more privacy, due to the hours that Marines regularly spend on-site.

When Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, commanding general of MCB Hawaii, assumed command of the base in 2002, he took a tour of ARFF and also was not happy with what he saw. Chief Warrant Officer 3 Kevin Jones, officer in charge at ARFF, informed the general the Marines were preparing to begin a self-help project to renovate their shop. The general, however, turned to his aide-de-camp and ordered facilities to assist with renovations.

From there, the transformation took flight, and dreams became reality.

"Thanks to the general, this facelift has improved the overall quality of life for the Marines here. It is more than just a work station; it is their second home," said Gunnery Sgt. David Montgomery, the truck master for ARFF. "Some people are not aware that these Marines are here 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. We want them to be comfortable here, and we wanted the families to know that we are doing everything we can to improve our work space.

"The individual rooms give the



Cpl. Jessica M. Mills

Lt. Col. Marc Sehart (left), commanding officer of MCAF, congratulates Sgt. Scott Momper, senior rescue man for ARFF, and the rest of the ARFF Marines on a renovation, well done.

Marines a little bit more privacy, overall. It is hard to live in an open squadbay, so the Marines are much happier while on [duty] here," Montgomery added.

The new ARFF facilities include four

See ARFF, A-4

## MCBH NEWS BRIEFS

### 1/12 to Host Family Day

Marines, Sailors and family members of 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, are invited to the Family Day celebration for 1/12, Friday, July 30, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The unit will share and enjoy the food, activities, and camaraderie that make 1/12 the greatest unit aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, said point of contact, 1st Lt. Anthony R. Smith, the battalion adjutant.

For more information, call Smith at 257-3207.

### 1st Force Recon Seeks Members

1st Force Reconnaissance Company, based out of Camp Pendleton, Calif., will screen Marine corporals and above, and Navy corpsmen, who are interested in serving with the company. Attend the informational presentation this Monday at the Boondocker aboard Kaneohe Bay.

The screening will go Wednesday at 5:30 a.m., at K-Bay's base pool, and it will last most of the day.

For more information about the screening, gear listing or requirements, contact Sgt. Shattuck at DSN 365-2126/9712/9713.

### School Physical-A-Thon Goes Tomorrow

Naval Medical Clinic Pearl Harbor will once again offer school sports physicals for TRICARE Prime beneficiaries enrolled at Kaneohe Bay and Makalapa Branch Medical Clinics from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 24, at BMC Makalapa. The "School Physical-A-Thon" event will also give children ages 4 to 18 the opportunity to attend a fun, yet informative, Keiki Health Fair.

Physicals will be by appointment only at 473-0247 for the Physical-A-Thon. In order to be seen, parents must bring their child's school sports physical forms, medical record, eyeglasses (if required) and Immunization Record, if not maintained at BMC Makalapa.

PPDs (the TB skin test) will be available, if needed (with follow-up readings on Monday, July 26, at BMC Makalapa, at the old TRICARE Office, and at BMC K-Bay).

Children should be dressed in gym attire.

## Hawaii MARINE

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E-MAIL: EDITOR@HAWAIIIMARINE.COM  
FAX: 257-1289, PHONE: 257-8836

## IN THE CG'S MAILBOX



BRIG. GEN.  
MCABEE

Comment submitted by Andrea Trelles:

*"... something needs to be done so North Beach can continue to safely be accessed."*

Aloha. I am writing out of concern because the Pond Road access to North Beach is totally overgrown. It is difficult to walk safely down the path to the beach because the weeds have grown over 7 feet tall. Spiders are blocking the path, and it has become a great place to see centipedes.

I am not sure who is responsible for maintaining the path to the beach, but something needs to be done so North Beach can continue to safely be accessed.

Very Respectfully,  
Andrea Trelles

(Editor's Note: Letters of any length may be edited prior to publication.)

The commanding general invites input from the base community via C.G. Mail on the fol-

lowing 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?

access and other beach accesses are routinely inspected and trimmed as necessary.

In the future, if you encounter any areas of concern, please do not hesitate to report the condition to the Facilities Department Help Desk at 257-2380.

We appreciate your thoughtful comments and concerns. Thank you again for taking the time to participate in the "CG Mail" program.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Kent Murata  
Assistant Chief of Staff,  
Installation and Logistics (G-4)

C.G. Mail letters should include a recommendation that will help solve the problem and must include the writer's name and return address.

# Demands not hurting Army, Marine recruiting, retention

**Kathleen T. Rhem**

*American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON — The increased demands of the war on terrorism aren't hurting recruiting and retention for America's combat forces, Army

and Marine leaders said here last week.

The Marines expect to meet 100 percent of their re-enlistment goals by the end of this fiscal year, Lt. Gen. Jan C. Huly, that service's deputy commandant for plans policies and operations, said during a separate interview.

Likewise, in the active Army, retention rates are still at or near 100 percent of the service's goals, Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Richard A. Cody said in an interview with American Forces Press Service and the Pentagon Channel.

The Army also has increased its accessions goal by 30,000 soldiers over the next three years, Cody said, adding

that the service is on track to meet recruiting goals for this year.

Cody acknowledged the war on terrorism has stretched the Army's capabilities, and he said service officials are keeping a close eye on both recruiting and retention issues.

"We're going to keep watching it," he said. "We'll provide more benefits [and] bonuses as we can. But quite frankly, it's been the selfless service and the patriotism of great young men and women ... who have raised their right hands and said, 'Send me!'" that has kept the Army strong.

Both leaders attributed the services' success in recruiting and retention to the high quality of volunteer forces.

"I think that we're ... reaping the benefits of the all-volunteer force: the quality young women and men that we recruit, the training that they receive ... and just what great young Americans they are," Huly said of Marine recruits.

Cody said the soldier's "warrior

See *RECRUITING*, A-5



Lance Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson

Master Sgt. Patrick Buckley, the non-commissioned officer in charge at the base Career Planning Office, stresses re-enlistment as a good career option.

## 3rd Radio Bn. changes command



AYCOCK

Lt. Col. Robert W. Coate assumes command of 3rd Radio Battalion from Lt. Col. Mark T. Aycock at a change of command ceremony aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, today. Aycock will assume duties as G-2 assistant deputy chief of staff at Marine Forces Pacific. Coate was previously assigned to the U.S. Central Command Joint Intelligence Center.



COATE

### Getting it Straight

On page A-1 of the July 16 issue of the *Hawaii Marine* it was incorrectly stated that Base Safety's child safety seat inspection was July 16. The inspection takes place tomorrow, July 24, at the Marine Corps Exchange from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m.



### SALUTES

Anyone wanting to salute a Marine or Sailor should submit information by sending an e-mail to editor@hawaiiimarine.com or by calling 257-8833. Salutes can include promotions, medals, completions of formal military or professional development schools, or community service honors.

# Riot in the streets

Marines take part in heated NEO exercise with Royal Australian Army

**Lance Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson**  
*Combat Correspondent*

**BARKING SANDS, Kauai** — Marines from different units came together at the Pacific Missile Range Facility here, July 12 – 14 for a Noncombatant Evacuation Operation.

The NEO scenario staged hostilities in "Orange" and "Green" countries, which required evacuating civilians from the "Green" country to a fictitious embassy and an evacuation control center. Marines were forced to deal with riot control, processing of civilians to safety, mass casualties, terrorist attacks and lack of sleep during the NEO.

Riots began to break out in the heat

of the day, a by-product of a missile raid in the Green country the day before. Acting as U.S. forces, Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment, tried to destroy a missile that the "Orange" hostile country possessed.

"Everything went pretty well for us, besides a bit of communication trouble," said Lance Cpl. Alan G. Dodds, Charlie Co., 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment. "We had a good command out there, and a great assault group that really helped things out for the support."

During the battle, a farmer was caught up in some crossfire, causing riots at the Green country's embassy. Marines who had provided the oppo-

sition for the missile raid were the very same Marines who returned to play the angry locals during the riot.

"There aren't very many of us, but everyone's doing an exceptional job," said Cpl. Benjamin Reed, Supply Company, Combat Service Support Group 3. "We actually ended up coming out successful during the missile raid, although extremely undermanned."

Riot control was equipped with batons and shields, ready to react to anything that should come its way.

"We put up a good fight," said Lance Cpl. Millie Valentin, Supply Company, CSSG-3. "We got a couple

See *RIOTS*, A-5



Private Mathew Jarvis, Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, gets searched during the NEO exercise while playing the role of a civilian evacuee.



Photos by Lance Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson

With shields and batons in hand, Marines prepare for the riot to break out during the NEO exercise on the island of Kauai.

## 1/12 shakes Kauai

**Lance Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson**  
*Combat Correspondent*

**BARKING SANDS, Kauai** — Marines from Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, practiced live-fire here, July 13, as part of their training during the Rim of the Pacific exercise. The scenario required Bravo Battery to support the infantrymen who were just ahead of them in battle.

"We're here to send rounds downrange to get them to their objective," said Sgt. Alan D. Rice, section chief for Gun 2, Bravo Battery, 1/12. "We get complete what has to get done to result in a successful mission."

Marines fired the M107, which holds a highly explosive round with a 7 red bag charge.

"When the weapon is fired, it ends up shaking your whole body," said Rice. "It's a great

experience for all these Marines to get out here and do it."

Prior to the shoot, 1/12 Marines traveled from the USS Rushmore onto Kauai by landing craft, air cushion (LCAC), a high-speed, over-the-beach fully amphibious vehicle. The Pacific Missile Range Facility shoot would be the last field operation for most of the Marines at RIMPAC, and a good learning experience, said Rice.

"There were really no problems that occurred during the exercise," said Rice. "The Marines did outstanding, and this is one of the best crews I have ever had the opportunity to work with."

When RIMPAC ends, 1/12 Marines will continue to train and prepare themselves for the upcoming Hawaii Combined Arms Exercise, coming up in September.

Marines from Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, fire the M107 during Rim of the Pacific training on Kauai.

Lance Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson



## Word on the Street

What is the most exciting event that you have experienced?



"It would probably be when I went to the Cleveland Browns' game and kicked for a car during halftime. I missed."

**Cpl. Scott Gibson**  
Statistician NCO  
G-1, MarForPac



"It would have to be the explosion of a tar machine outside my dance class during high school."

**Lance Cpl. Richard Winters**  
TAD clerk  
Comptroller, MarForPac



"The Elvis Presley concert in benefit of the Arizona Memorial in 1961."

**Barbara Gomes**  
Retired military family member



"When I was younger I went to Kings Island; the rides were amazing and exciting."

**Pfc. Joshua Young**  
Crew chief student  
HMT-301



"My 2001 deployment with Fixed Wing 24 was a great time. We went to Greece ... it was a big culture shock."

**Petty Officer 2nd Class Darren Marsicola**  
Airframer  
MALS-24

## EVERY CLIME & PLACE

# Marines are in demand

**Cpl. T. D. Smith**  
MCAS Miramar

**MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR, Calif.** — Being a Marine is an exciting experience all its own, but it is a privilege that comes with benefits. Often, when military personnel transition out of enlisted and officer service, they are in high demand by other agencies.

The reputation that accompanies the title "Marine" is complemented by education, training and discipline. These assets are making Marines attractive to police departments.

What makes Marines a desirable commodity to a police force is "leadership and communication skills, understanding of the chain of command and a command presence," said Gil Florez, a recruiting officer for the San Diego Police Department.

Other desirable aspects of military personnel are "their ability to multi-task and their superior communication skills. These are things we can

teach other new officers, but it is something you already find in Marines and other former military personnel," added Florez.

While recruiters are geared to scout out military talent, they are not there to coddle Marines or Sailors through the process. The police departments are equal opportunity employers ... and all screening and testing is implemented in the same manner for everyone, Florez explained.

San Diego's police department is part of the transition assistance program at Camp Pendleton and Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego.

"The police department is quasi-military, and the transition from the military on to the force is compatible," said Gavin Stieglitz, Los Angeles Police Department police officer.

For a better idea of other benefits offered to military members upon transitioning out of service, inquire at your local Transition Assistance Office (257-7790).

### LIBRARY, From A-1

the construction process to be completed, so that we can continue to service the community."

While the library's resources may be limited, Visser recommends the use of an online resource for research, called ProQuest. ProQuest can be found at [www.umi.com](http://www.umi.com), by selecting ProQuest and inputting the username and password (Q7KKN-PWWBM and WELCOME). Visser said, ProQuest offers full-text magazine, journal and newspaper articles that can greatly help with research projects.

The base library's current business hours are Monday – Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sunday, noon to 8 p.m. The library is closed Fridays and federal holidays.



Sgt. Joseph A. Lee

**Merrie H. Han, an aide at the base library, welcomes patrons to use available library resources while construction continues.**

### ARFF, From A-1

male bunk rooms, one female bunk room, a separate NCO bunk room, an NCO office and a staff NCO office. The dispatch area received a complete overhaul, as well, including repainting and new carpeting. Many other improvements have been made, both inside and out, since 2002, but the majority of the renovations took place during the last six months.

The ARFF crash crew rolled up their sleeves to help speed up the renovation. They installed the new carpeting throughout the facility and repainted all of the walls on the upper and lower decks. Although

MCAF paid for a good portion of the renovation materials, Marines also pitched in about \$700 out-of-pocket, to buy supplies such as paint, brushes and drop cloths.

The cost of the renovations totaled \$90,000, with \$38,000 going into labor, \$52,000 for materials.

"This new facility will be efficient enough to support this command for many years with all of the situations we handle each day," said Sgt. Scott Momper, the senior rescue man for ARFF. "The work may have been hard, but the reward has been immense. It will keep the morale and welfare of our troops up, and that is vital to our mission."

## A warm welcome



Lance Cpl. Bernadette L. Ainsworth

**CAMP H. M. SMITH, Hawaii** — Col. Mark A. Dungan took command of Headquarters and Service Battalion from Col. William S. Febuary in a change of command ceremony here July 16.

Febuary had been the commanding officer since June 2002. He deployed to Bahrain and personally took over the mission of ensuring the very best for his Marines, according to Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, commanding general, Marine Corps Base Hawaii and deputy commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific.

Febuary will assume duties as the assistant chief of staff, G-6.

McAbee welcomed the new battalion commander and said, "I had the privilege to watch [Dungan] for two years as the executive officer of MAG-24. Day in and day out, in a very difficult assignment, you impressed all of us on the staff with your leadership, integrity and ... vision."

**RECRUITING, From A-2**

ethos" also helps keep the Army's ranks full.

"I think it goes back to the leadership investment we've made with our noncommissioned officers," he said. "But it also goes back to an all-volunteer force of young soldiers who joined the Army — many right after 9/11, who fully understand that this country was attacked, fully understand the dangers of this war and the dangers of this world, and have had the courage and the patriotism to step forward and say, 'We'll fight for America, and we'll fight for our freedom.'"

Both leaders also noted the support of ordinary Americans is important for troops to feel like their work has meaning.

"They all need to know that Americans across this great nation absolutely are proud of what they've done," Cody said. "The fact that *Time* magazine took the American soldier and made it the 'Person of the Year' should tell anyone in uniform how America feels about them."

Huly said Americans' support "makes an awful lot of difference" to troops who are deployed. He said whenever he and other Marine leaders visit troops, the one question they get asked the most is, "Does everybody know what we're doing, and are they still supportive of our efforts?"

Huly explained, "And the answer is always a favorable and resounding, 'Yes!' And it makes you feel good ... to know that the American people are behind you."



Lance Cpl. Joel Abshier

**Lance Cpl. Scott M. Gajeski stands with his weapon aboard Camp Schwab, Okinawa, Japan, July 13. His battalion, 1/3, based out of K-Bay, is on a six-month deployment with the 31st MEU.**

**1/3, From A-1**

training and the Marines in my unit," said Lance Cpl. Kentrell J. Allen, bulk fuel specialist. "I trust the men next to me."

Ramos said his Marines and Sailors want to do their part for their country.

"They have been preparing themselves for a long time to reach this moment in achieving combat readiness," Ramos said. "BLT 1/3 did not come here to go to the post exchange, the base theater, to enter ourselves into a softball tournament, or to eat yakisoba. We came here because Okinawa is on the way to Iraq."

**RIOTS, From A-3**

of shields, but they held us off really well; they did a good job."

RIMPAC participants searched and processed hundreds of evacuees throughout the day, and most complied, but some held weapons and were apprehended.

Members of the Royal Australian Regiment also played the part of civilians who were trying to get out of the country.

"We were told before going into the line to be very inquisitive," said Dodds. "We were playing the role of people being forced to leave their homes, so we asked every question we

could."

Some role players tested Marines' knowledge and reaction times by trying to sneak weapons throughout the checkpoints. They were also apprehended.

"All of these experiences have shown to be such good training for all of us," said Dodds. "We don't get this opportunity in Australia; it's something different and pretty exciting for us all."

The following morning, helicopters took the civilian role players back to the USS Tarawa and Marines closed up the NEO.

Marines and Australian soldiers wrapped their RIMPAC exercises Tuesday.

**DUIs are career killers**

*(Editor's Note: Per the commanding general of MCB Hawaii, those arrested for driving under the influence [DUI], driving while intoxicated or drug-related offenses shall be publicized in the Hawaii Marine newspaper.)*

The Military Police Department added the following names to the DUI roster, suspended the license of the driver, and removed his or her vehicle and its DoD decal from the installation.

- July 15, Lance Cpl. Keith E. Eckert II of Military Police Company, for driving under the influence with a blood alcohol content of .16 percent.
- July 15, Lance Cpl. Keith E. Remo of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362, for DUI with a BAC of .15 percent.
- July 16, a Waipahu civilian, for DUI, pending BAC test results.
- July 16, Sgt. Nicholas R.