Hawaii
MARINE

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America marks 50th anniversary of Korean Armistice

Department of Veterans Affairs
Press Release

WASHINGTON — Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi encourages Americans to honor the 3.7 million living veterans of the Korean War era on Sunday, as the 50th anniversary of the armistice that ended the conflict, and to remember the sacrifices of all who served in the military during the Korean War.

"These veterans are not forgotten warriors. They will be remembered as long as people value courage, self-sacrifice and a commitment to democracy," said Principi. "Today, 50 years after the fighting ended, we remain indebted to them for their service to our nation."

The 50-year commemoration of the Korean War began June 25, 2000, the anniversary of the North Korean invasion of South Korea, and officially ends next Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

Commemorative events in Washington include an evening concert today by the Air Force band at the Sylvan Theater and a celebration Saturday at the MCI Center hosted by Ed McMahon and Randy Travis.

Over five million Americans served on active duty during the three-year war. Thirty-four thousand lost their lives, 103,000 were wounded, and 8,000 are still listed as missing in action.

Information on the 50th anniversary of the Korean War is available at the Web site http://korea50army.mil/armistice.shtml.

Individuals wishing to receive e-mail from the VA with the latest news releases and updated fact sheets can subscribe at the following Web site www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/opalist_listserv.cfm.

Bankruptcy affects store

Sgt. Joseph A. Lee
Combat Correspondent

Commissary shoppers island-wide may notice a shortage of their favorite brand name grocery items in the upcoming weeks, due to a major distributor recently filing for bankruptcy.

Fleming Companies, Inc., filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in May, forcing some of the commissary's major brokers, manufacturers and suppliers to find new distributors.

Fleming's bankruptcy problem was exacerbated to some degree by the dock strike, the opening of the new Navy commissary at Pearl Harbor, and a few other new stores in the Pacific Region, according to a letter to MCB Hawaii's G-4, or Supply and Logistics.

"The Defense Commissary Agency is working very hard to improve the situation," said Jeffrey A. Dusich, store director for Kaneohe Bay Commissary. "These new local distributors are doing a better job filling our orders and keeping products on our shelves."

Hawaii commissaries have also initiated ordering of products directly from the continental U.S., mostly from California, to fill in the gaps.

"We're bringing products in by air and freight shipments regularly," said Dusich, "and we'll keep them coming until our distribution channels get back on track."

According to Dusich, these steps are leading to overall fill-rate improvements island-wide, with most commissaries reporting an increased stocking rate to approximately 90 percent.

Further, Dusich said, the distribution of items such as milk, eggs, meat products, fresh fruits, vegetables and bread will not be affected by the distribution situation.

"We may not have your favorite brand of spaghetti sauce, and we are working to get you your brand, but we will have spaghetti sauce when you come to the commissary," he said, explaining other brands are available.

A "stick" of Marines from Golf Co., 2nd Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment, board a CH-53D Sea Stallion helicopter. The Marines will be coming down by way of a fast rope.

Island Warriors learn ropes

Golf Co. Marines come down the "elevator," one right after the next. They were guided out to the way on-ground by an HRST master.

Story and Photos by Sgt. Joseph A. Lee
Combat Correspondent

Golf Company, 2nd Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment, qualified a group of new Marines for insertion operations as it practiced "elevator ops," fast roping several times from a CH-53D Sea Stallion helicopter July 17 at LZ Boondocker.

According to 1st Lt. John Poore, executive officer of Golf, 2/3, the new Marines recently came to the unit directly from the School of Infantry.

"These Marines have never jumped from a helo before," said Poore. "It is a lot different than fast roping from a tower because the wash comes down on top of you as you slide down the rope; it pushes on you and you end up going faster than you expect."

The new Marines of Golf Co. spent the afternoon making three helicopter ropes to gain their initial, 30-day qualification after spending the previous day practicing on the tower, which, according to Poore, is required before Marines are introduced to the helicopters.

"This is intense!" said Pfc. Andrew Cavanaugh of Bozeman, Mont., a rifleman with Golf Co. "There's no time to think like on the tower; you just go!"

The training was fast and loud, with the two Sea Stallions side by side conducting the repetitive elevator drills.

Helicopter rope suspension training masters littered the field and led the Marines in, out and around the helicopters while training was being conducted. They, along with medical personnel, were on hand to treat any sort of injury.

"The other HRST masters

See 2/3, A-5

VP-47 hosts JMSDF

Cpl. Jessica M. Mills
Editor

The Navy routinely sends air squadrons on deployment to Japan, so when Patrol Squadron Detachment 38, Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force, deployed to MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Patrol Squadron 47 jumped at the chance to host its brothers in air for May 24 - July 16.

The Japanese squadron, based out of Hachinohe, Japan, deployed 105 people and five P-3Cs for joint exercise, ally training with the Golden Swordsmen of VP-47 during the monthlong deployment. The squadron was here last year during the Rim of the Pacific exercises, but it normally only deploys to MCB Hawaii once every three years.

"All five P-3s flew in together, at the same time that morning," said Lt. j.g. Timothy Helsey, command-managed equal opportunity officer, VP-47, "which is actually quite unusual to see. We usually only send out one or two planes a day for a deployment."

While in Hawaii, VP Detachment 38 flew several training exercises, including pilot training missions flying U.S. airways, several torpedo exercises and three tracking exercises off the coast of Hawaii.

The detachment also trained at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Wash., without VP-47, June 16 for

See VP-47, A-4

CCE to take another major leap forward

Retired Col. Bill Peoples
Regional Coordinator, CCE

The College of Continuing Education, founded on May 1, 1998, is an integral component of the Marine Corps Training and Education Command at Quantico, Va.

Among other things, the CCE develops and delivers the Amphibious Warfare School and Command and Staff College distance education programs to officers throughout the Marine Corps via a system of satellite campuses, including the one here at MCB Hawaii. Having just completed its fifth year of service, the CCE's distance education seminar program is universally acknowledged throughout the Corps as an unmitigated success.

Thousands of Marine Corps and other service officers who have benefited professionally from these programs have lavishly praised the programs and consider them as an indispensable element of their personal professional development program.

Now, thanks to a substantial corroborative effort between the CCE, under the leadership of Col. Terrence Kerrigan — a former 1st Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment, commander and the Resident EWS — under the leadership of Col. John Keenan, formerly a commanding officer of 3rd Marine Regiment, the distance education program is about to take another major leap forward in its quest to help advance the professional education of Marine Corps officers, and MCB Hawaii officers will be the direct beneficiaries of these great new programs.

This coming academic year, which begins on Oct. 1, the CCE will begin teaching the new Expeditionary Warfare School Distance Education Program (EWSDEP) at the satellite campus here at MCB Hawaii and other bases around the Corps.

The EWSDEP curriculum will now more closely mirror the resident EWS curriculum, which means that students of the EWSDEP will focus essentially on the

See CCE, A-5

MCBH News Briefs

Honolulu to Host Events Commemorating Korean War

Three events will be held in Honolulu this weekend to honor the 50th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice.

•Saturday, Korean War veterans — along with military bands, marching units, rolling stock and vehicles — will participate in a parade beginning at 9 a.m. from Fort DeRussy, running along Kalakaua Blvd. and ending at Kapiolani Park at approximately 11:30 a.m.

•Sunday, veterans and guests are invited to a memorial ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) at 10 a.m.

•Also Sunday, the public is invited to a free concert at the Waikiki Shell featuring the Hawaii and South Carolina Army National Guard military bands. Gates will open at 5:30 p.m.; the musical and visual salute to veterans will begin at 6 p.m.

Special Needs Meets Wednesday

The MCB Hawaii Military Committee for Persons with Disabilities will hold its next quarterly meeting Wednesday at 6 p.m. in the Religious Education Facility of the Kaneohe Bay base chapel, Bldg. 1090.

The meeting is open to all active duty, retirees and DoD employees who have family members with learning, physical or medical disabilities. Its purpose is to hear and address concerns and issues of special needs families.

Motorcycle Training Set

Headquarters Bn., MCB Hawaii will hold its next quarterly training for all motorcycle, moped and scooter owners, Aug. 8 at 10 a.m. in the battalion classroom, Bldg. 4009. Contact Gunnery Sgt. Peercy at 257-1252 for more details.

Haiku Stairs Remain Closed to Public

The City and County of Honolulu has closed the gate to the Haiku Stairs while it posts liability and warning signs.

The Honolulu Police Department will greet would-be trespassers who attempt to access the stairs despite the closure.

Hawaii Marine

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Beloved patriot is laid to rest

Cpl. Jason E. Miller

On July 18, the Marine Corps said goodbye to Lt. Gen. Alpha L. Bowser Jr., an Iwo Jima and Chosin veteran and a beloved member of the Kailua community. Above, retired Lt. Gen. Bowser unveils a banner opening the new temporary lodging facility named in his honor in 2002, as Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, commanding general of MCB Hawaii looks on.

Official U.S.M.C. Photo

In January 1951, for his brilliant staff work as a division G-3, Col. Alpha L. Bowser would later receive a Legion of Merit from Maj. Gen. Smith, standing to Bowser's right is Col. Bankson T. Holcomb Jr., the division G-2, who received a similar decoration. The awards were made in January 1951.

21 Marines deploy to Liberia

Kathleen T. Rhem
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — A team of 21 U.S. Marines arrived in Monrovia Monday to add a level of security to the U.S. Embassy in Liberia's capital, Defense officials in the Pentagon said.

Civil war in the West African nation has increased security concerns. The newly arrived Marines, deployed from Rota, Spain, are part of a Fleet Antiterrorism Security Team (FAST). They join a 35-member Humanitarian Assistance Support Team that U.S. European Command deployed July 7.

Another 20 Marines are staged in neighboring Sierra Leone awaiting further orders.

Defense officials said Secretary Donald Rumsfeld approved the deployment Sunday after the U.S. ambassador to Liberia requested assistance.

The FAST members arrived in Monrovia via helicopter and were greeted by mortar fire in the vicinity of the U.S. embassy.

Navy Lt. Dan Hetlage, a DoD spokesman, said officials aren't sure if the mortars were aimed at the embassy or if the Marines were caught in the crossfire of local warring factions. He also noted U.S. embassy personnel had received no mandatory evacuation order.

First reports from the ground indicate two local contract security guards and an American reporter have been hurt, Hetlage said. Defense officials routinely caution that first reports are often wrong.

President Bush spoke briefly on the situation during a joint press conference with the prime minister of Italy from his ranch in Crawford, Texas.

"We're concerned about our people in Liberia," Bush said, in response to a reporter's question. "We're continuing to monitor the situation very closely."

The president said July 14 that any American military involvement would be in the form of assistance to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). He reiterated today that he is waiting for ECOWAS to put together a peacekeeping force "that I have said we'd be willing to help move into Liberia."

Just fewer than 200 U.S. service members are currently serving in western Africa. Three HH-60 Pavehawk helicopters from Naval Air Station Keflavik, Iceland, and the personnel needed to support them were sent to Sierra Leone July 13. An MC-130P Combat Shadow aircraft was sent to Senegal from its Air Force base in Mildenhall, England. Hetlage explained these aircraft are standing by should an emergency evacuation of U.S. military personnel be called for.

On a related note, Rumsfeld signed an order Saturday to move the USS Iwo Jima Amphibious Ready Group and its embarked 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) from the Red Sea near Djibouti, where it has been supporting Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa, into the Mediterranean Sea.

The group should reach the Med in "a few days," Hetlage said, and once there will be able to reach the coast of Liberia in seven to 10 days if called upon.

The lieutenant described moving the ships as "a prudent deployment" for use "in case they're needed."

CEO of American Petroleum praises MCB Hawaii for efforts

(Editor's Note: Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, commanding general of MCB Hawaii, has authorized the Hawaii Marine to share the following letter with readers.)

"Dear General McAbee,

I would like to congratulate the Marine Corps Base Hawaii on their recent selection as the Best Non-Tactical Fuel Activity in the United States Marine Corps and winner of the Year 2003 American Petroleum Institute Award.

The API Award was established to promote excellence in fuel management and to recognize those personnel and activities that made the most significant contributions to the Navy and Marine Corps fuel operations and the Fleet fuel support mission during the past year. Your record of accomplishments that merited this award is most impressive and certainly worthy of recognition.

Marine Corps Base Hawaii distinguished itself by safely, efficiently and accurately conducting over 35,000 aircraft, ship and vehicle/equipment fueling operations without delay or incident. During RIMPAC [Rim of the Pacific], the largest exercise of the year, you issued and transactions within three weeks. This exercise was accomplished with no delays, missed fuel request, spills or accidents. Considerable planning ensured that all customers were supported with the highest quality of service while maintaining a high degree of combat readiness. The magnitude of these tasks was matched by the outstanding service provided by your staff.

These accomplishments are a direct reflection of the dedicated efforts and commendable work ethic of Marine Corps Base Hawaii. You and your team can take immeasurable pride in this success for it reflects great credit upon Marine Corps Base Hawaii, the United States Marine Corps and the Department of Defense.

Sincerely,

Red Cavaney
President and CEO
American Petroleum Institute"

MALS-24 changes leadership

SAMPSEL

Lieutenant Col. Jersey Sampsel assumed command of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24 at MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, July 18. Sampsel replaced Lt. Col. John C. Wright as the commander of MALS-24; she previously served at the National Defense University Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Fort McNair, Va. Lieutenant Col. Wright will move on to be the operations officer at MCB Camp Butler, Okinawa, Japan.

WRIGHT

The back wall of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal's Training Aids Library is completely covered with projectiles dating as far back as 30 years ago.

EOD stacks ordnance to the roof

Story and Photos by
Cpl. Jessica M. Mills
Editor

Above — Retired Marine Gunnery Sgt. Don Girouard, a former explosive ordnance technician, visited the EOD library with his family to reminisce over his past. Right — The Training Aids Library collects ordnance from other countries, including the Soviet PTRS antitank rifle, the Chinese 7.62mm Type 53 Light Machinegun and the 60mm Type 63-1 mortar.

The Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, is assigned many different responsibilities that may change from week to week, but what has stayed constant is its Training Aids Library that has been continuously stocked with ordnance for the last 40 years.

"We stock everything, from small arms and up; the sky is the limit," said David Karr, an Explosive Ordnance Disposal technician. "And almost everything in the library was live ordnance that was made inert."

The library has more than 600 pieces of ordnance, ranging from conventional, chemical, biological, improvised (homemade) and nuclear ordnance. It also specializes in foreign arms and ordnance, such as China, Russia and North Korea.

"The library is mainly used for training," said Karr. "We have to gain proficiency in our own MOS [military occupational specialty] and other units can use it to fulfill their training requirements."

Many units request EOD to hold periods of instruction and safety briefs using the ordnance on hand to prepare them for deployment. For instance, EOD can teach engineer units how to get land mines and deactivate them using inert ordnance.

"It keeps us fresh on our knowledge and skills," said Karr. "Everyone makes mistakes or forgets about certain ordnance. The library gives us a chance to go and look at the actual piece and work with it."

The EOD unit also constructs and exhibits homemade bombs out of everyday household items like suitcases and ice coolers. The bombs are only lights and whistles, but the procedures are the same; they can practice disarming them.

"Any unit can call us and request the library for training," said Karr. "We practice ordnance identification, safety precautions and disassembling inert ordnance and finding fuse functions."

Much of the ordnance is brought to EOD's attention by the local law enforcement. There is a memorandum of understanding between all the services on Oahu, but MCB Hawaii's EOD usually takes the ordnance found on the Windward side and disposes of it. Otherwise, EOD uses the ordnance for training or inerting operations.

"When a more rare piece of ordnance comes in, we would rather gather intelligence on it than dispose of it," said Karr. "We have any kind of ordnance that was projected, fired, thrown, dropped, or placed, in our library. It might not be the exact thing you're looking for, but we have something pretty close. I can guarantee that!"

The EOD Training Aids Library is technically a restricted area, but if Marines, reitrees and family members are interested in viewing the collection, they just need an EOD technician to escort them.

Word on the Street

What is your favorite movie thus far this summer?

"I liked *The Hulk* because it had some awesome special effects."

Sgt. Nicholas Hasenfratz
Training NCO
Headquarters Bn.,
MCB Hawaii

"*The Italian Job* had a great plot and a lot of action."

Airman Ricky Carillo
Aviation electrician
VP-47

"I liked *Bad Boys 2* because it had good action and a lot of comedy."

Cpl. Ronald James
Disbursing clerk
Headquarters Bn.,
MCB Hawaii

"*The Matrix* had a lot of action and plenty of guns."

Sgt. Michael Olivio
Fire direction controlman
Headquarters Battery,
1/12

"I liked *Bruce Almighty* because it had several funny parts."

Joseph Germany
Mechanic
Marine Corps
Community Services

SALUTES

GUNG-HO

1st Radio Bn.

Meritorious Mast
Lance Cpl. Kyle F. Stidham

Certificates of Commendation
Lance Cpl. Jennifer M. Howard
Lance Cpl. Dustin D. Myers
Lance Cpl. Joel E. Paula

Outstanding contributions

Lt. j.g. Robert Arreola

Commander Rod Urbano (far left), Patrol Squadron 9's executive officer, and Ensign Derrick Mitchell (middle), VP-9's ordnance officer, receive the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society's 2003 fund drive Outstanding Aviation Contributions Most Improved and Highest Per Capita awards from Navy Capt. Stephen Olson, the Pearl Harbor Fleet Industrial Supply Center's commanding officer.

'Skinny Dragons' return from CARAT in Asia's Royal Brunei

Lt. j.g. Andrew Neboshinski
Patrol Squadron Four

Patrol Squadron Four's Combat Aircrew Two and a maintenance support team recently returned from a detachment to the Southeast Asian country of Brunei in support of the next phase of Exercise Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) 2003.

Continuing where VP-4 Combat Aircrew Six had left off in the country of Thailand, the crew began with an air symposium during which the Royal Brunei Air Force and U.S. Navy discussed their platforms' capabilities and operating procedures.

Every air asset present for the exercise, including the CN-235, SH-60B and P-3C, presented a brief to the symposium and each aircrew answered questions. The forum provided an excellent opportunity for the aviators of VP-4 to learn about the operations and capabilities of other U.S. Navy airborne platforms, and also those of the host country.

The professional exchange continued throughout the week. Several CAC-4 pilots flew with Royal Brunei Air Force Capt. Mohammad Sharif in the CN-235. Sharif introduced them to its flight characteristics and landing capabilities. Each pilot was then allowed to "bounce" the aircraft in pattern at Rimba Airbase under Sharif's watchful eye.

The Royal Brunei Air Force and U. S. Navy worked together to successfully complete several missions during the detachment such as a successfully coordinated search and rescue operation.

The Royal Brunei CN-235 initially located a simulated distressed vessel and relayed the position to the P-3C, which was acting as the communication relay while transiting to the area.

Lt. j.g. Andrew Neboshinski

Lieutenant Cmdr. Vanfleet (right) receives an introductory flight with Capt. Mohammad Sharif of the Royal Brunei Air Force in a CN-235.

When the P-3C arrived on station, Royal Brunei Navy patrol craft coordinated the rescue operation involving surface vessels. Both aircraft successfully operated in close proximity to each other.

After the rescue was initiated, the CN-235 remained on station to guide the surface vessels to the contact, while the P-3C was tasked to perform range clearing for a gunnery exercise being conducted by USS Vincennes (CG-49).

After both aircraft had landed, crews discussed lessons learned and exchanged congratulations for a mission well done.

The following day provided the VP-4 flight crew with an opportunity to perform a surface search for USS Harpers Ferry (LSD-49), which was assuming the role of a foreign drug-smuggling vessel. The target was quickly located and identified and a boarding team embarked aboard a Royal Brunei Navy patrol boat dispatched to the target.

The P-3C maintained station to monitor the boarding evolution and, later in the day, again worked with USS Vincennes as a simulated antiship missile to provide proficiency training for the ship's combat direction center during a simulated attack.

By the end of the exercise, both the Royal Brunei Air Force and U.S. Navy aircrews had learned much from each other about tactics and international cooperation.

Both military forces left with a greater appreciation for the capabilities of their counterparts and renewed trust in the tactics and procedures used by each country.

The Skinny Dragons of Patrol Squadron 4 look forward to the next opportunity to work together with the Royal Brunei Navy and Air Force.

VP-47, From A-1

two weeks.

During their initial pilot training flights, pilots from VP-47 rode aboard VP Detachment 38's aircraft to assist in communication with air traffic controllers and become familiar with U.S. airways.

"We do deployments to Japan and fly with them also, so their deployment here make the operations even more efficient in a joint environment," said Lt. j.g. Drew Peters, the assistant public affairs officer for VP-47. "It gives us a chance to learn how they operate and vice versa, so that we all operate proficiently."

During training, VP Detachment 38 also toured the Fleet Command Center Joint Intelligence Center and the Naval Undersea Warfare Center aboard Pearl Harbor. The detachment also flew to other islands, including Maui, Kauai and the Big Island.

Once training was complete and VP Detachment 38 was prepared to depart, the unit hosted a farewell party for VP-47 at the Officers' Club July 14. The commanding officer of VP Detachment 38, Capt. Ito Kenichi, thanked the wing and squadron for hosting and flying with them.

After remarks, Kenichi and Cmdr. Jay Lisenby, commanding officer of VP-47, kicked off their joint celebrations with a saki ceremony. They broke into two saki kettles with ceremonial mallets.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Dan Meuntto

Visiting Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force sailors held a Kagami Biraki, which is a friendship ceremony, for their U.S. hosts, VP-47, July 14.

"The party was relaxed, everyone had a chance to mingle and talk, and enjoy the mix of cuisines," said Lt. Christopher E. Smith, assistant command services officer. "I think the squadron enjoyed themselves a lot. The deployment was opportunity for us to host them and return the favor to Japan."

After celebrating, VP Detachment 38 packed up its belongings and prepared to take flight July 16.

"They started their engines at exactly the same time and flew off the flightline in a line," said Helsey. "It was similar to the Blue Angels [the U.S. Army's premier aerial demonstration team], only slower."

Marine Corps Base Hawaii will not see the Japanese squadron's unique skills again until RIMPAC 2004.

CCE, From A-1

same core competencies and learning objectives as those at the resident school, and all officers, thus, will function in the fleet with the same educational baseline.

Several significant changes have been made to Phases I and II of the AWSDEP curricula in transitioning to the EWSDEP.

Phase I retains the three-course AWSDEP structure with Warfighting Principles and Concept; Command and Control and Information Management; and Marine Corps Planning Process, but it has been increased in duration from 22 weeks to 29 weeks.

The focus of the Phase I EWSDEP has been shifted to Marine Corps Doctrinal Pubs (MCDP) and Marine Corps Warfighting Pubs (MCWP), with augmentation from selected Joint Pubs, FMFMs, and MSTP Pamphlets and lectures.

Additionally, Phase I now incorporates six self-paced texts: Organization of the Operating Force; Graphics Control Measures and Air Space Control Measures; Information Management; Intelligence Preparation of the Battle Space; Operations Plans and Order; and Task Organization.

Finally, at the urging of former AWSDEP adjunct faculty and graduates, the Phase I curriculum now incorporates several practical exercises that will be conducted in seminar and provide the student the opportunity to work through various operational scenarios under the tutelage of their adjunct faculty, and actually build some of the operational tools they will use in the fleet such as the Commander's Estimate Process using METT-TSL, Battle Space Information Management in reference to CCIRs, and many of the input and output tools used in the Marine Corps Planning Process such as Mission Analyses, Threat Integration, Warning Orders and Frag Order, Course of Action Development and Comparison, the IPB decision Support Template, and others.

Phase II of EWSDEP has been reduced from 36 weeks to 31 weeks, and the four AWSDEP courses (the MAGTF Offense Course, the MAGTF Defense Course, Expeditionary Operations, and Military Operations Other than War) have been combined into two courses: MAGTF Operations Ashore and Expeditionary Operations.

The new EWSDEP Phase II builds upon the doctrinal base established in Phase I while increasing the focus on Joint Pubs, Marine Corps Warfighting Pubs and Marine Corps Research Pubs.

Like the Phase I EWSDEP, Phase II also incorporates a lot of hands-on, in-seminar practical exercises that enable the officer to actually "do" things rather than just read about them such as applying key tenets of the Force Deployment Planning and Execution, and the Operational Amphibious Planning processes.

Captains and chief warrant officer 4s are required to complete EWSDEP Phases I and II, while chief warrant officer 3s are required to complete EWSDEP Phase I. First lieutenants are encouraged to participate and second lieutenants are invited. For all, Phase I must be completed before enrolling into Phase II.

The EWSDEP Phase I seminars will start on Oct. 20; Phase II seminars start on Oct. 1 The number of seminars available and the evenings on which they will be offered depends on the number of students who participate.

All seminars meet once per week for about two hours, and all bases follow the same schedule to accommodate mid-year permanent change of station moves or temporary additional duty at another base.

The EWSDEP is not available to non-seminar students. Officers who do not want to participate in the seminar program will continue to complete the AWSDEP for at least two more academic years.

The EWSDEP is expected to be available for Corps-wide use during the summer of 2005.

Officers who are interested in participating in the EWSDEP seminar program this year must act quickly, and are encouraged to contact retired Col. Bill Peoples, CCE's MCB Hawaii regional coordinator, at 257-1956 as soon as possible.

Two things are required of the prospective EWSDEP student: you must enroll in the AWSDEP Phase I program (8510) or the AWSDEP Phase II program (8600) with MCI, and you must register for seminars with Col. Peoples at the MCB Hawaii CCE office.

For additional details about the program, including the specific course descriptions and schedules, visit the MCB Hawaii CCE Web site at www.mcbh.usmc.mil/cce/homepage.htm.

Any qualified officers interested in teaching the new EWSDEP should contact Peoples at the MCB Hawaii Satellite Campus at 257-1956.

The "wash" from the CH-53D Sea Stallion pushes the rope sideways as an HRST master stands close by the rope's end with safety and emergency vehicles within supporting distance.

2/3, From A-1

and I give these guys hours of training before they come out here, and we have our eyes on everyone at all times," said Cpl. Brian Moyster, a Golf Co. HRST master. "Safety always comes first; we don't want to see any Marines get injured."

"Each Marine will probably go up about nine times," said Poore. "Once the Marines get broken in, we like to get them out at least once per month for refresher training."

"In about a week and a half, we'll be doing this same thing on a live-fire range, so we'll be working with the skills these Marines are learning today."

Private First Class Mitchell Drew, a rifleman with Golf Co., from Rice Lake, Wis., said of the training, "I loved getting up there in the helo, but the balance is pretty tricky."

Mitchell's comments echoed Poore's, "It's a lot different than fast roping from a tower!"