

# Hawaii MARINE

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## 'Death Jesters' stop over at K-Bay



Sgt. Richard W. Holtgraver Jr.

A crew member stands on the wing of his EA6-B Prowler from Marine Attack Squadron-Q2, Marine Air Group 14, 2nd Marine Air Wing, on June 27 at MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, after his five hour flight from Wake Island. The plane was one of five Prowlers from the "Death Jesters" that spent a few days in Hawaii to rest and refuel before heading back to Cherry Point, N.C.

**Sgt. Richard W. Holtgraver Jr.**  
Combat Correspondent

A squadron of EA6-B Prowlers spent a few days at MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, last week on their way back to Cherry Point, N.C., from Iwakuni, Japan, via Wake Island.

The group of five four-seat planes from Marine Attack Squadron-Q2, Marine Aircraft Group 14, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, arrived in two separate groups: one group of three on June 27 and a second group of two the following day.

Their visit was not to train here, but to take some time off and relax for a few days before heading back to Cherry Point early Saturday morning.

"We just finished our three-month Unit Deployment Program at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan," said

Capt. Daryl M. Fuller, electronic countermeasures officer for VMA-Q2.

While training out of Iwakuni for three months, one of the squadron's training missions was to support the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit Special Operations Capable during Exercise "Boomerang" during the last week of May.

The exercise was long. It took them from Okinawa to Australia, according to Fuller.

"It was the first time fixed wing strike and attack aircraft were in direct support of a floating MEU," informed Fuller.

After three months of training in the Far East, and a five-hour flight from Wake Island, the 20 members of the "Death Jesters" were looking forward to some rest and relaxation in the confines of Oahu before heading home.

## CSSD-79 returns from Thailand's Cobra Gold

**Sgt. Richard W. Holtgraver Jr.**  
Combat Correspondent

After more than two months in Thailand participating in Exercise "Cobra Gold", the final group of Marines and sailors from Combat Service Support Detachment 79 returned to MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, on June 17.

The mission of CSSD-79 was to support all Marine forces from 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, which was the command element of the exercise, according to Maj. Michael D. Stover, commanding officer of CSSD-79.

"We also were in charge

of camp life support at Royal Thai Marine Camp Sameasan, for all the Marine Force Headquarters," said Stover. "One of the things we did was augment all the buildings with electricity so we could run all the computers and the air conditioners. Thailand runs their electricity on a different amperage than the American standard."

"CSSD-79 was able to provide water, shower and laundry support at the base camp, as well as run the chow hall," added Stover.

For the Marines and Sailors of CSSD-79, the tempo of the exercise and

daily commitments kept many busy throughout the deployment.

More than 300 Marines and Sailors arrived here in three separate groups with the final the group arriving on June 17.

"The deployment went better than we actually thought it would," said Lance Cpl. Matthew J. Hamilton, a supply administrative clerk for Supply Company, Combat Service Support Group. "The weather and the heat made doing our job a little more difficult than under normal circumstances, but we were

See CSSD-79, A-6

## FY 2002 budget request focuses on military pay, addresses underfunding

**Jim Garamone**  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON - The fiscal 2002 DoD budget request concentrates on servicemembers, who would receive at least a 5 percent pay raise, further reductions in out-of-pocket housing expenses, and better housing and facilities.

Defense officials said the request totals \$329.9 billion, a \$38.2 billion increase from fiscal 2001 and \$18.4 billion more than the "blueprint" submitted by the Bush administration in February.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said the budget marks the

largest increase since the Reagan-era budget of 1985. The goals of the amended budget, he said, are to restore military morale, bolster readiness, begin the military transformation process, streamline and upgrade DoD's infrastructure, and reform DoD's organization, facilities and processes.

But, Rumsfeld continued, it does not fix problems caused by consistent recent underfunding. He said that when the Cold War ended and the drawdown began, the United States received a peace dividend. The United States went from spending 5 or 6 per-

See FY 2002, A-12

## K-Bay Commissary holds retiree focus group to gauge tempo

**Aiko Brum**  
Editor

For active duty servicemembers and retirees alike, the cost of living in paradise can be troublesome. Not only can higher rents impact their household budgets, but also steep grocery bills can vex their disposable incomes.

That's why benefits such as medical care and commissary privileges are paramount, according to Jeffery Dusich, store director of the Kaneohe Bay Commissary, Western/Pacific Region, Defense Commissary Agency aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

Since February 2001, K-Bay's commissary managers have initiated focus groups to determine if its store is meeting consumers' needs. A focus group is a marketing technique to evaluate or un-

derstand consumer reaction on various issues. The method will be used quarterly to touch base with patrons.

"I thought the idea of even offering us the opportunity to voice our concerns was wonderful," said Wil Juare, a retired Marine Corps master sergeant, "especially in such a congenial setting that was conducive to open dialog."

At its initial focus group, almost a half dozen Marines and Sailors mostly discussed product offerings. Thursday, local retirees representing several branches of the armed forces gathered to provide their perspective.

"In comparison to other commissaries I've been to, this commissary is one of the best," said Gar Yip, a retired Air Force colonel and nurse. "It's manageable

See COMMISSARY, A-6



Sgt. David Salazar

A commissary patron browses the aisles at the Kaneohe Bay Commissary.

## MCBH NEWS BRIEFS

### TRANSPORTATION VOUCHERS

All military, appropriated and nonappropriated fund civilian personnel, and members of the reserve serving on active duty are now eligible to receive reimbursements for commuting costs spent on mass transportation.

These eligible commuters on The Bus or VanPool may receive a reimbursement of up to \$65 or vouchers for their expenses; however, they must complete an application form for reimbursement no later than Monday (July 9) and provide copies of their used or unused bus passes.

Applications may be obtained online at [lifelines2000.org/transit/](http://lifelines2000.org/transit/).

Contact Roger Badua in G-1 at 257-8807 for more details or to submit completed applications

### MARINE CORPS AUDITORS WANTED

The Marine Corps Nonappropriated Fund Audit Service is looking for qualified Marines to lateral move into Military Occupational Specialty 3441.

MCNAFAS is responsible for providing independent reviews and audits of nonappropriated fund activities within the Marine Corps. The MOS provides qualified Marines with opportunities to obtain educational studies and to achieve civilian certifications.

Interested Marines should contact Master Sgt. Saltz at 257-8875.

### EOD MARINES SOUGHT

The Explosive Ordnance Disposal field is looking for motivated Marines to lateral move into Military Occupational Specialty 2336 and join their ranks.

Volunteers must be a corporal or sergeant, a U.S. citizen, have a GT of 110 or higher, and be able to hold a secret security clearance.

Motivated Marines meeting these basic requirements should contact their career planner or call 257-7112 for more details.

### BASE CHAPEL NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

The MCB Hawaii Base Chapel is seeking volunteers and participants to support several ongoing and upcoming programs.

Protestant worshippers who would like to serve as Sunday School teachers or who would like to assist with Vacation Bible School, which will run Aug. 6-10, may contact Paul Fields at 262-4256 to volunteer.

## Hawaii MARINE

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## CMC's Independence Day Message

Independence Day is one of our nation's most cherished celebrations. For all Americans, it reminds us that our freedom was borne out of courage, sacrifice, and an iron-clad vision of faith in the fundamental goodness of our nature by the founding fathers.

As we celebrate Independence Day, let us do so with great pride in the contribution Marines and their families have made to our liberty and to the shining example our nation represents to the world in the early days of the new century.

Our Corps is proof that America's best days are yet to come. We are proud to be the guardians of our

cherished freedoms and of our role as inspiring examples of the spirit embodied in the concept of the citizen - Marine.

As we travel to celebrate the blessing of Independence Day, I ask that each of us to do so safely and responsibly, so that when we report back to our units and return to our homes, the words "All Present" will contain a special truth.

Semper Fidelis,

J. L. Jones,  
General, U.S. Marine Corps,  
Commandant of the Marine  
Corps



Gen. Jones

## SERGEANT MAJOR'S CORNER

### Military coins hold deep importance

Sgt. Maj. Stephen H. Mellinger

MarForPac Sergeant Major

There are few things that give me greater pleasure than to present one of my personal MarForPac sergeant major coins to someone who motivates me with their professionalism.

I hope that recipients of my coins appreciate them, not because they are coming from me, but because of what they represent.

Most of us, I suspect, know very little about the origin of military coins. They are relatively new to the Marine Corps.

I personally recall first seeing Marine coins in the late 1980s or early 1990s. A while back I did a little research on the subject, but didn't find much.

I found that there's a great disparity as to exactly when in time and for what reason military coins came to be. Also, it seems to be anyone's guess as to which military it was that first used them.

One theory is that the Roman Empire first presented military coins as a reward for achievement. The U.S. Army might have a valid claim to being the originator of the modern era military coins.

One "sea story" has it that during World War I, American volunteers, nationwide, formed our country's first flying squadrons. In one squadron, a wealthy lieutenant ordered bronze

medallions, struck with his squadron's emblem, for all squadron personnel. He carried his medallion in a small leather pouch around his neck.

Shortly after acquiring the medallions, this pilot's aircraft was forced down behind enemy lines. He was taken prisoner and all of his personal belongings confiscated, except for the pouch containing the medallion.

A few days later, the pilot escaped and eventually ended up at a French outpost. Unfortunately for him, the French mistook him for a saboteur and decided to execute him. In a last ditch effort to identify himself as an American, he showed the Frenchmen his squadron medallion.

As the story goes, the French recognized the American squadron's insignia on the medallion and delayed execution long enough to confirm his identity. From that point on, it became a tradition for all members of that squadron to carry with them their coin at all times.

The tradition within the Marine Corps tends to use coins in various ways.

We have the generic coins representing one's command, sub-command or even a work section within a command. We have personalized coins that identify the presenter by billet and or name. We also use coins simply to make a statement or as a memento or commemora-

tion. I have not presented personalized coins until taking over my current billet.

I put a lot of thought into the design of my coins. I wanted them to be special to those Marines and individuals I present them to. They are about twice the size of most military coins and are shaped like a sergeant major chevron.

One side of them has the sergeant major chevron in scarlet and gold. On the other side it has a colored MarForPac emblem. Beneath the emblem it reads, "Presented by S. H. Mellinger, Sgt. Maj., USMC, MarForPac."

Throughout my travels, people are constantly coming up and asking me for my coins. I tell them no because I only present them based on people's merit, achievements and etc. I tell everyone that the surest way "not" to get one of my coins is to ask me for one.

As I said before, I feel that military coins really are something special.

For me to just pass them out to everyone like candy, would only diminish their meaning and personal value.

Personalized coins are not baseball cards to be traded and collected by everyone. I believe that everyone who has personalized military coins to present to others should be very selective of who gets them.

So for those looking to collect these special coins, I would remind you that "actions" speak louder than "words."

Semper Fi.

*"Personal coins are not baseball cards to be traded and collected by everyone."*

Sgt. Maj. Stephen H. Mellinger,  
MarForPac Sergeant Major



Mellinger

## Cmdr. Bluestein takes helm of Patrol Squadron 47



Cmdr. Bluestein

Patrol Squadron 47 welcomed a new commander during a change of command ceremony held June 21 in the hangar area aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

Commander Keith A. Bluestein received command from outgoing VP-47 commanding officer Cmdr. Gregory J. Wittman. Commander Bluestein was the former VP-47 executive officer. Commander Wittman is scheduled to report to the Pentagon for duty.



Cmdr. Wittman



Looking down on Fort Hase is Ulupau Crater. The crater, once a volcano, now dormant, is home to the base's Rifle Training Facility.

## Marine beach first tred upon by U.S. Army boots in 1918

Story and photos by  
**Cpl. Roman Yurek**  
Combat Correspondent

Over the horizon, on the east side of MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, the sun begins to rise over the ocean.

As it makes its way to the sky, Marines in formation shield their eyes as they continue to run a long Middaugh Road on their way to Ulupau Crater.

On the way back, they stop to swim in the ocean. But what they may not realize is the beach they are on — Fort Hase Beach — has its roots in the Army.

Fort Hase is one of several beaches found around the base that call all ages of people into its waters.

This is not just another beautiful Hawaiian beach. This beach has been rooted in military history since the early 20th century.

In 1918, the United States Army commissioned the shoreline as Kuwaahoe Military Reservation. By 1939, the Navy began to build Naval Air Station Kaneohe, and two years later the Army began moving artillery assets to the location.

April 21, 1942, the 41st Field Artillery unit was moved to Kuwaahoe. Shortly after, the reservation was renamed Fort Hase.

The 77th Ground Forces Band followed them.

Now, all that remains of its military commission is a stone wall stretching from the beach into the backyards of K-Bay's military family housing. The Army left the fort when the Department of Defense decided that the Mokapu Peninsula would make a better Marine/Navy team.

Still, people frequent the beach. Swimming is not the most popular activity up and down the Fort Hase coast, due to a reef that stretches across the shoreline. However, the coral has created an enclosed area with a sandy bottom in one location.

This area is where the swimmers go when they do swim at Fort Hase. The beach also remains a good site for those who want to darken their complexion with help from the sun.

Close to the old wall, many fishermen can be found attempting to catch their trophy fish.

Although the beach may be strewn with occasional beachgoers, one other military purpose lingers.

Near the wall, another small area provides room that is wide enough for



**Top**—Fort Hase Beach is one of five beaches on the base, but the only one that was used as a military base. This beach overlooks the entire eastern side of MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. **Above Left**—From Fort Hase Beach, closer to Ulupau Crater, one can see to the mountains that divide the island. Also, one can see the bases neighboring community of Kailua. **Above Right**—Fort Hase is not all sandy beaches, much of this shoreline is coral. People can be found walking along, looking into the tide pools created in the coral for any type of marine life swimming there until the tide comes back for wading in its cool waters..

the amphibious assault vehicles from 3rd Marine Regiment to train.

Usually the AAVs take off from this point and travel to Marine Training Area Bellows and back.

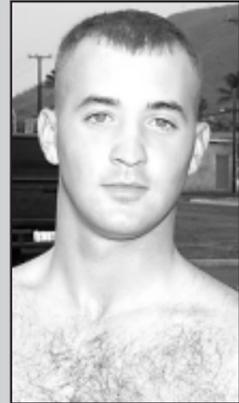
When their training is complete and their weekend liberty call has been sounded, Fort Hase Beach once again beckons swimmers and fishermen to make use of its waters.



Near the popular fishing spot at Fort Hase, a stone wall stretches for close to 50 yards. The wall stops just before the backyard of the housing area.

## WORD ON THE STREET

### What's your favorite beach?

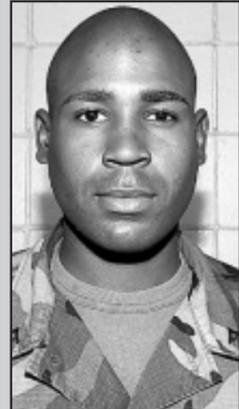


"My favorite beach is Kailua Beach. It's has the best scenery on the island."

**Lance Cpl. Philip Doskocil**  
Forward Observer  
Kilo Co. 3/3

"Lanakai is the best beach on the island. Good things always happen to me out there."

**Lance Cpl. Karl Amelang**  
Crew Chief  
HMT-301



"I like going to any of the beaches at the North Shore. The waves are usually big enough to surf and it is a great place to grill."

**Lance Cpl. Orlando J. Baez**  
Embarkation specialist  
H&S Co., 1/3

"The best beach has got to be Sandy Beach because of the rough water and the sights. It is perfect for boogie boarding."

**Lance Cpl. Jonathan Rose**  
SAW Gunner  
Charlie Co.  
1/3

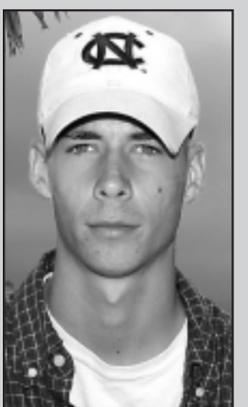


"I like going to Waimea Bay. The water is clear and it is a great place to relax for a day."

**Sgt. Craig A. Brinkman**  
Maintenance chief  
Alpha Battery,  
1/12

"I don't know the name of the beach, but every time I go scuba diving there I see Dolphins. I also like to boogie board at Sandy Beach."

**Pfc. Matthew Smith**  
Rifleman  
Charlie Co.  
1/3





MCNews photo

A drill instructor stands before recruits at MCRD San Diego and provides instruction regarding the plan of the day.

## 'B' billets support, train, guard Corps' assets

**Cpl. Roman Yurek**  
Combat Correspondent

The Marine Corps offers jobs ranging from aviation and infantry to supply and broadcasting.

Through the hundreds of different Military Occupational Specialties, one category of jobs require the knowledge gained from spending time training and guiding Marines to be the future leaders of the Corps.

Category "B" MOSs allow Marines the



MCNews Photo

**The first introduction to the Marine Corps, a recruiter poses for a prospective recruit.**



MCNews Photo

**One of the Corps' most recognizable 'B' billets, a drill instructor trains Marines at MCRD San Diego.**

chance to explore other aspects of the Marine Corps.

"B-Billets show that you can go out to a new job, complete the mission and then

go back to your primary job and still complete mission there as well," said Sgt. John Flores, Combat Service Support Group 3 career planner.

A few of these billets are well-known to Marines.

The three most popular are: recruiters, drill instructors and Marine security guards.

Some billets are not as popular, but they are still well-known to Marines, like the career planner who helps Marines in planning their careers.

Other billets are less known. For example, since the Marine Corps is an amphibious entity, Marines need to know how to swim. Therefore, a billet exists for Marine water safety/water survival instructors to teach Marines how to sur-

vive in the water.

B-billets entail more than training and supporting Marines.

One B-billet might station a Marine in one of close to 40 different stations around the globe.

The job of the Marine Security Guard Bn. affords Marines a chance to not only live anywhere around the world but also increase their chances of promotion.

Still other B-billet opportunities exist, which are best explained by those Marines doing the job and those who have done the job.

Visit your career planner to find out more information about these billets and expand your options.

*(Editors note: See next week's Hawaii Marine for more information on B-billets.)*

# College often cheaper for military

**Cpl. Roman Yurek**  
*Combat Correspondent*

Many Marines who enlist are between the ages of 17-20, which may mean that they went to boot camp right after high school or after taking just a few college classes.

Once they join the Marine Corps, they learn a great deal of information about the history of the Corps and later more specifics on their Military Occupational Specialty.

Still more knowledge can be gained if Marines take advantage of off-duty education.

Most bases have an educational center that can help Marines find the path to higher education that fits them.

The Joint Education Center, MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, uses servicemembers on the fleet assistance program to help their counterparts apply for tuition assistance and guide them regarding classes.

"There are so many

tasks here that it's impossible for one person to stay on top of them," said Gunnery Sgt. David Poole, staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the JEC.

Marines and Sailors from 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, Aviation Support Element Kaneohe, and 1st Radio Battalion are currently assigned to the JEC via the FAP.

The main mission of the JEC is to process tuition assistance requests for Marines and Sailors looking to continue their education.

To begin their college education on base, Marines and Sailors must attend a briefing held every Wednesday at 11:45 p.m. in the classrooms by the K-Bay theater.

During the class, JEC representatives talk to them about tuition assistance, the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Educational Support, the College Level Examination Programs and about different col-

lege classes offered on base.

One program that many Marines may not know about is the apprenticeship program, said Sgt. Pete Asplund, a clerk at the JEC.

"For example Marines in motor transportation can get into this program," he explained. If they want to pursue a job in the civilian sector as an auto mechanic, they don't have to start all over when they enroll in the program.

Apprenticeship programs have three levels. The apprentice level is the lowest and serves as a trainee position. Next is the journeyman who starts off at a higher pay level, since a journeymen has already received the training he or she needs. Finally, there is the master level with the highest pay and benefits.

Asplund said that many jobs in the Marine Corps fall into the apprenticeship program. All a Marine or Sailor has to do

is visit the JEC and sign up.

Other services provided by the JEC include test proctoring.

The JEC is authorized by DANTES to administer tests to Marines and Sailors.

Many of those tests are CLEPs, which can help a Marine or Sailor earn their associate's degree without going to college classes.

"I went to three classes at Hawaii Pacific University and took CLEP tests for the rest of my associate's degree," said Asplund.

Also, the JEC can request an official transcript for Marines and Sailors based on credits they earned during their MOS schools. Marines and Sailors can receive an unofficial transcript at the website address <http://smart.cnet.navy.mil>.

To set up an appointment with the JEC call 257-2158/1232.

Walk-ins are also accepted.

## *Bolstered budget addresses quality of life, readiness, years of shortages*

**Jim Garamone**  
*American Forces Press Service*

**WASHINGTON** - Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said a \$38.2 billion increase in the DoD budget request is necessary because the military is suffering from years of underfunding.

The total budget request is \$328.9 billion.

Rumsfeld told American Forces Information Service that the budget concentrates on people programs. "The first priority had to be the people," he said. "[They are receiving a] substantial increase in pay, significant improvement in housing allowances, and fixing housing up because so much of it is substandard."

He also said DoD and Congress "are going to have to have a base-closing understanding" in order to help the department manage facilities more efficiently and to free up money for more pressing needs.

He did not pick out one aspect of the budget that would be most important to servicemembers. "Certainly pay is important and housing is important, but they also care about the number of flying hours and steaming days and to see there is the right number of tank miles in the Army," he said. "[They also care about being]

*See BUDGET, A-6*

**BUDGET, From A-5**

able to exercise, train and feel they're ready to do their enormously important jobs."

Military personnel issues account for \$82.3 billion of the budget, and operations and maintenance — which focus on readiness — account for \$125.7 billion of the DoD request.

Rumsfeld said readiness accounts had to be beefed up because the force is being overused.

Over the last decade the force has been reduced 30 percent, but is being used up to 165 percent more than previously, he said.

"If your procurement levels are not what they ought to be, then obviously the equipment not only gets used more, but it ages. There's a lot of down time, much more cost for spares," Rumsfeld said.

He said the budget should improve readiness rates over the year.

Modernization and maintaining what some people are calling the "legacy force" are also part of the budget. "You have to live in the present," Rumsfeld said. "There are dangers and risks, and you cannot behave in a way that weakens the deterrent. Weakness is provocative, and you have to have the legacy capabilities."

He said problems with the legacy force are due to a "procurement holiday" in the 1990s. "They started drawing down after the Cold War, and instead of stopping, they overshot the mark and went way too far," he said. "So we haven't been buying new equipment, and the older equipment is wearing out."

But, he said, DoD must balance this against the need to transform the military. He said DoD may transform without spending a dime. New ways of operating or combining equipment may give the department what it needs.

But sometimes, he said, new

equipment is needed. "That takes investment, and that takes research and development, and it adds nothing to the legacy capability, it adds nothing to the immediate deterrent, nor does it add anything to your future capability unless it works," he said. "What you know is if you don't make those investments you won't have the capability."

DoD is also going to need the ability to manage its resources better.

"When I was here 25 years ago, the defense authorization act was 50 or 60 pages long," Rumsfeld said. "Today it's over 900 pages. It's filled with all kinds of restrictions and prohibitions and requirements. We have to file 905 reports to the Congress every year."

He said DoD will work with Congress to review the authorization bill to see if there are ways to eliminate some of the requirements and restrictions.

DoD is also going to have to work with Congress to come up with a process to close unneeded bases and infrastructure.

He said the DoD acquisition system is so burdened with reports and restrictions that it takes 15 to 20 years to produce a weapon system.

"With the pace of technology today, they end up deploying systems that are brand-spanking new that have technologies one or two or three generations old," he said. "We're not swift; we're not agile as an organization."

A base commander, he said, is in charge of a city. "What incentive does he have to save a nickel? ... The answer is none," Rumsfeld said. "If he saves a nickel then the next year he doesn't get the nickel."

DoD must change this culture. Rumsfeld will ask Congress for approval to allow the services to keep any funds saved and place them in different accounts.

**CSSD-79, From A-1**

still able to accomplish the mission."

In all, CSSD-79 was tasked with seven different daily duties and commitments ranging from standing guard duty to refueling duty, according to Sgt. Douglas R. Quinn, an assistant platoon sergeant for Motor Transport Co., CSSG-3.

When elements of the 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division went to conduct small arms training outside a small town called Ban Chan Khrem near the Cambodian border, Marines and Sailors from CSSD-79 were tasked to provide support while the training was being conducted.

"Those Marines who went to the forward were pretty well tasked out at Ban Chan Khrem," said Quinn.

Although there was much work to be done, there was still time for CSSD-79 members to take in the Thai culture.

"I think many of the Marines gained positive experiences there, and they certainly enjoyed the opportunity to interact with a foreign culture," said Stover.

Marine Corps Community Services also did its part in Thailand by helping CSSD-79 arrange tours to Bangkok, the River Kwai, and the Floating Market.

One of the reasons the men and women of the Marine Corps and Navy join the military to serve their country is to travel to distant, foreign lands and do their jobs, remarked Stover, praising each servicemember.

**COMMISSARY, From A-1**

with wide aisles and friendly people."

The 10 focus group participants regularly shop at the K-Bay Commissary two to three times a month. Their primary concerns addressed K-Bay's guest policy, product offerings, ease of check-out, bagger tipping etiquette and aisle layout.

"The guest policy was mandated by the under secretary of defense," explained Dusich. "Hawaii-based stores have

some discretion setting policy, and Kaneohe's is the toughest.

"As well, we must use products approved for sale in the DECA system. However, we supplement our DECA product offerings with locally contracted vendor agreements," he continued.

Juare suggested placing lane or row markings in the commissary parking lot, to help shoppers remember where they've parked. Other participants recommended specific meats, vegetables and cold products.

"I made the recommendation that they look into the guest policy," said Yip, explaining

that some sponsors may be abusing the privilege.

According to the latest market-basket survey conducted by the K-Bay Commissary, area patrons realize a 49.1 percent savings on groceries purchased at their store in comparison to off-base grocery stores. The commissary stocks approximately 17,000 items and an additional 500-plus items during holidays. Regularly, its market prices are reviewed and negotiated for the best deals. Three commissary departments — the Seafood, Deli and Flowers — are run and stocked by private contractors; all other departments by DECA.

Baggers are also self-employed, independent contractors who work six hour shifts, receive customer service training from the head bagger and guidance from DECA management. The Base Inspector monitors policy regarding baggers. Each must have a valid military identification card to apply for positions.

Recently approved, DECA first recommended opening the bagger positions to high school students to cover weekends and late afternoons, as well as to support student hires.

Consumers provide gratuities as they deem appropriate for services rendered, according to Dusich. However, a couple long-time focus group patrons recommended providing 25 cents per plastic or paper bag as gratuity for bagging services.

Commissary managers keep a watchful eye on the check-out lanes to ensure they don't get too congested. Oftentimes, the managers grab a cash drawer and open a new lane, to help shorten lines.

"We realize that shoppers are creatures of habit," said Celine Ruiz, store administrator, "which is why we try to keep specific products on specific aisles. However, we update categories every six weeks."

Retirees are a big part of the commissary's shopping base, according to Dusich. Combined with suggestions from active duty servicemembers, they have been responsible for changes such as the automatic teller machine, the new, multi-product offering of "grab-n-go" sandwiches and the 30-minute shop early program for 15 items or less.

DECA plans more improvements per the focus groups. Considering the substantial savings already available together with quarterly case lot sales, vendor specials and manufacturer coupons, patrons should continue to realize lower grocery bills.

## EVERY CLIME AND PLACE

# Florida residents support 26th MEU during exercise

### Training in urban locales lends variety, realism

**Cpl. Thomas Michael Corcoran**  
26th MEU Public Affairs

#### JACKSONVILLE, Fla.

— Since the early 1980s Marines have been training to overcome obstacles that the urbanized world presents them as populations, and their battles, move into world cities.

The Marine Corps is compensating for this by conducting regular training in urban and simulated environments.

Although many military compounds have simulated towns to train in, to include Camp Lejeune's Military Operations on Urban Terrain facility, there seems to be a lot to say for the real thing.

"These guys get played out using that [the MOUT facility]. That's why we come here. It gives them something new," said Cpl. Mark K. Ulsh, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-365 (Rein) crew chief.

Sergeant David L. McMichael, HMM-365

(Rein) crew chief, explained Marines could train in Jacksonville, N.C., until they had everything down perfect, but they would only have covered training in that specific environment.

He said they may have trouble adapting to the terrain and climate elsewhere. "Plus we don't have a downtown [in Jacksonville, N.C.]. This place has all the skyscrapers and big buildings."

Ulsh agreed, "Yeah that's a big MOUT facility, a really cool one!"

The military must rely on the support of communities and citizens throughout the country because during this training they are literally using their streets and backyards.

During a recent exercise, Marines from the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit relied on the patience of Jacksonville, Fla., residents to perform a night mission on a motel complex.

Mike N. Doshi, property owner of the motel complex Marines used for training said that he became involved when some federal agents approached him and asked permission.

Doshi recently bought

the property out of bankruptcy and had yet to start refurbishing it.

He allowed the Marine Corps to use it because "basically the Marines do so much for this country."

"I don't know too much about the Marines. I was talking to the Marines and FBI who said that these kinds of exercises help them in real-life situations," said Doshi. "So I was kind of pickled to know that I could be of some use."

Everything seemed quiet when Marines rushed out of the bushes.

A second later, teams were on the catwalk blowing motel rooms inside out. Marines were moving simulated casualties out of the area and gathering evidence from the scene.

"It gave me a chance to work with medical personnel," said Cpl. Rene Acapulco, 26th MEU unit diary chief, and litter bearer for the exercise. "I had the opportunity to do what might very well end up being one of my collateral duties in combat before we deploy."

Doshi said that you may see stuff like this on documentary-type channels but nothing compares to seeing it in real life.

"Marines came in and took care of the bad guys

... there were explosions and gun fire. My heart beat rose," said Doshi. "But everything seemed

to be precision and systematic."

"I'm impressed. The Marines can come back

anytime," said Doshi.

"If I was 19 again, I'd join the Marine Corps, too," he added.



Cpl. Thomas Michael Corcoran

**Pfc. Alex G. Jacobson, Maritime Special Purpose Force rifleman, covers his ground in a parking lot during the first situational training exercise. Marines took part in the Training in an Urban Environment Exercise in Jacksonville, Fla., June 7-21.**

# HMM-266 soars through Sigonella, Sicily skies



Sgt. Kevin Dolloson

A CH-46E helicopter from HMM 266 (Rein) flies above one of the southern cities in Sicily June 25 during a navigation flight, as part of a weeklong training evolution based out of Naval Air Station Sigonella.

**Sgt. Kevin Dolloson**  
*24th MEU Public Affairs*

NAVAL AIR STATION SIGONELLA, Sicily — Just below the clouds of smoke that steadily puffed from the mouth of the active volcano Mount Etna, a small detachment of Marines and Sailors of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable)'s Squadron – Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 266 (Rein), set up shop for a week of flying.

According to Lt. Col. Edward Walsh, HMM 266 commanding officer, this is a necessary and important part of their training.

“We face several challenges trying to get our flight hours in on ship,” said Lt. Col. Walsh. “Here, we

*See HMM-266, A-10*



Sgt. Kevin Dolloson

**Navy SEALs with MEU 24 jump out of a CH-46E helicopter from HMM 266 (Rein) as it flies above one of the southern cities in Sicily June 25 during a navigation flight.**

#### *HMM-266, From A-9*

don't have those challenges, like wind and high seas."

More than 130 MEU personnel from HMM 266, MEU Service Support Group 24 and the

Command Element, flew off the USS Kearsarge in 13 helicopters shortly after sunrise June 24 and touched down at NAS - Sigonella, approximately 45 minutes later. The aircraft includes six CH-46 "Phrog" helicopters, three

CH-53 "Sea Stallion" helicopters and four AH-1W "Super Cobra" helicopters.

Additionally, they brought all the office and maintenance equipment necessary to support the week's workload.

After office spaces and billeting arrangements were settled, the pilots and crew immediately turned their focus to the mission at hand: flying.

A ready-room brief every day prior to the scheduled flight prepared pilots for their individual mission, whether it was a parachute/navigation operation, helicopter aircraft commander review flight, instrument check flight, functional check flight or helicopter support team training- HST.

During the pilot brief, helicopter crewmen prepared the planes for pre-flight inspection by the pilots. The pilots inspected everything on the helicopter from top to bottom, including the correct fitting of rotor blades.

Over the course of the next few days, the deafening roar of rotor blades from helicopters was all that could be heard in the vicinity of Hangar 407 — HMM 266's area of operation during their stay in Sigonella.

Several of the HMM 266 (Rein) Marines appreciated the unique opportunity to capitalize on required flight hours and maintenance time on the helicopters.

"In general, we're accomplishing a lot more than we can accomplish on ship," said Capt. Dave Williams, CH-53E Helicopter Pilot from New Haven, Conn. "Some of the flight operations we're afforded here are [helicopter aircraft commander]

checks, Functional Check Pilot write offs, parachute operations and external operations."

"I think the troops and pilots both benefit from coming here," said SgtMaj. Pedro Malu, HMM 266 (Rein) sergeant major from San Pedro de Macoris, Dominican Republic, by way of Brooklyn, N.Y. "Because of certain limitations that come with being on ship, we can't put these kind of hours into flying and maintaining our helicopters, or training our Marines while embarked aboard the USS Kearsarge."

"This has helped the squadron enormously," said Maj. Bill Dunn, HMM 266 (Rein) Operations Officer from Dumfries, Va. "Since the USS Kearsarge pulled into port for liberty and to host an event for foreign dignitaries, we used this opportunity to continue flying and continue training."

In addition, Marines from MSSG 24 assisted the pilots in their HST and in turn, were afforded the opportunity to enhance the skills they sharpened during predeployment workups.

"It's good for these guys as a team," said Warren, Ohio native, Staff Sgt. Antony Burns, MSSG 24 staff noncommissioned officer in charge of the landing support specialist detachment here. "The more they get to work together, the more they begin to predict each others moves, and it prepares them for exercises that we have scheduled later in the deployment."

According to Cpl. Matthew McCoy, MSSG 24 Landing Support

Specialist, from Knox, Pa., members of the MEU's Aviation Combat Element aren't alone in their training limitations aboard Navy vessels.

"We're already limited to how we can train aboard ship," said McCoy.

"Additionally, we need this type of training with [HMM 266], so it's hard with us being on the Carter Hall and them being on the Kearsarge."

"Here it makes training a lot easier because the helicopters and pilots are more accessible," he added.

Several Marines of the detachment were afforded the opportunity to fly in helicopters that they'd never flown in before.

"I've really enjoyed being here," said Cpl. Regimar Bobis, AH-1W "Super Cobra" plane captain from Hamden, Conn. "It was a great opportunity to get off the boat and to fly in some of the other helicopters, as well as the Cobra."

Lt. Col. Walsh added that this training opportunity is beneficial to both HMM 266 and the crew of the USS Kearsarge.

"The flight and the maintenance crews of the squadron have enjoyed taking advantage of this unique training experience," said the Arlington, Mass. native.

"Additionally, it allows the ship to do maintenance for their flight deck and the ship itself."

"We would love to come back here some time," added Walsh. "The air station staff and flight line crew were extremely cordial and we appreciate their hospitality."

For more details, go to [www.usmc.mil/24meu](http://www.usmc.mil/24meu).

## MCCS excellence



Cpl. Roman Yurek

Managers and employees from three Marine Corps Community Service facilities gathered at the Commanding General's conference room for the Food and Hospitality Award for 2000. K-Bay Lanes Bowling Alley, Temporary Lodging Facility and the Enlisted Club all received the award for their excellent service to the base. The award was presented to the facilities representatives by Brig. Gen. R.E. Parker Jr., commanding general, MCB Hawaii. Back Row: Gary Reavis, Lt. Col. Michael Williams, Brig. Gen. R. E. Parker, John Nashida, and Col. John LeMoine. Front Row: Bambie Brock, May Castaneda, Flo Hewlitt, Deborah Bruns, Mia Ng, Emie Griffin, Kim Conner, Julie Dean and Lisa Thomas.



# MILITARY POLICE BLOTTER

## Traffic Court

There were 112 traffic citations issued for the week of June 22-28.

## The Blotter

-A Marine was arrested by the Honolulu Police Department for driving under the influence of alcohol.

The Marine had a blood alcohol content of .130%. Bail was set at \$250.00.

-A Sailor reported that person(s) unknown charged \$411.97 to his credit card.

-A Sailor reported that person(s) unknown broke the window to a government building.

-A Sailor failed to maintain proper distance from another vehicle causing mi-

nor damage to both vehicles.

-A Marine was apprehended after he was involved in an argument with his wife, which turned physical.

-A Sailor reported that person(s) unknown cracked a toilet in the female head of their hangar.

-A Sailor reported that person(s) unknown scratched his vehicle and put a dent in it.

-A civilian employee reported that person(s) unknown cracked the windshield of his vehicle.

-A civilian employee reported that person(s) unknown broke four windows to three school buses.

-A Marine was backing her vehicle and collided with another vehicle causing minor damage.

-A Marine reported that person(s) unknown stole his blue bicycle which was left unsecured and unattended on his porch.

-A Marine's wife was detained after she was involved in an argument with her husband, which turned physical when she slapped him.

-A Sailor's wife was apprehended after she was stopped for speeding and did not have a valid driver's license.

-A Marine reported that person(s) unknown ran into his vehicle causing minor damage.

-A Soldier reported that person(s) unknown cracked the mirror on her vehicle.

-A Marine was arrested by HPD for driving under the influence of alcohol.

His BAC was .153%. Bail was set at \$250.00.

## Lost and Found

To contact Lost and Found, please call Cpl. Fernandez at 257-2103, ext. 325.

## Neighborhood Watch

We are looking for neighborhood representatives to take charge of local neighborhood watch programs in their residential areas.

## Crime Prevention

Call Crime Prevention for any assistance dealing with Crime Prevention issues or police issues.

Contact Sgt. Kendra Gasper at 257-2103, ext. 314.

## FY 2002, From A-1

cent of gross national product on national defense to around 3 percent.

"The coasting went on too long," Rumsfeld told

reporters during a briefing June 27.

"Underfunding in significant accounts has created a series of shortfalls with respect to very important key categories."

Rumsfeld said that the increase in budget will not fix these problems. He said there are examples in the budget — such as shipbuilding — where the trend line was very nega-

tive, and it is still negative.

"You'll find instances where the trend line was negative and it is now less negative," he said. "We'll find instances where things have leveled off

and in some instances where they're improving, but still below the target needed.

"The point is that you can simply not do everything in a single year," he

said. "There is no way that it can be done. It took years to get into this circumstance, and it's going to take some years to get out of it," he said, then noted still other examples.