

Hawaii MARINE

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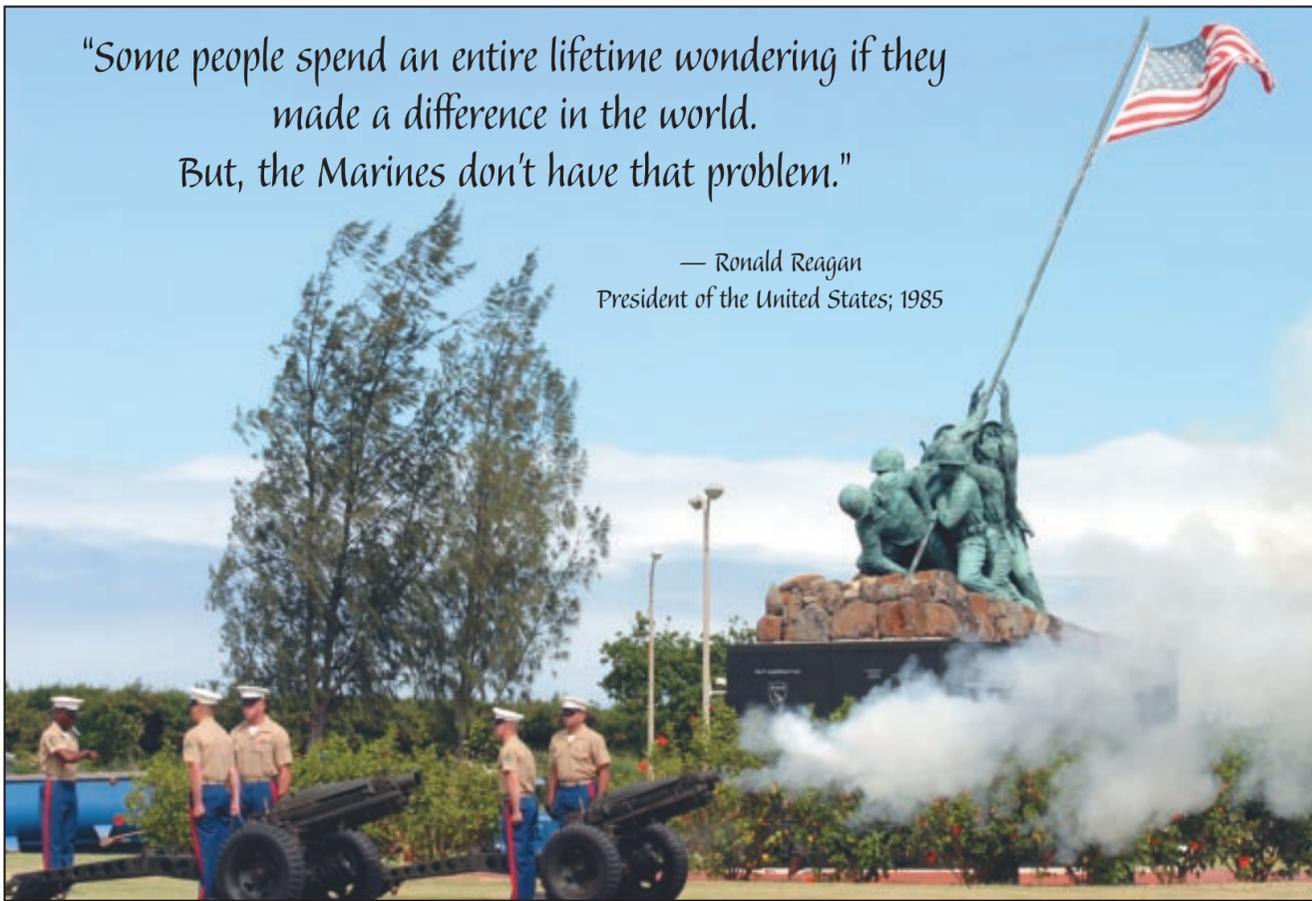
www.mcbh.usmc.mil

June 11, 2004

America mourns Reagan

"Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference in the world. But, the Marines don't have that problem."

— Ronald Reagan
President of the United States; 1985



Lance Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

Marines here honored the memory of former president Ronald Reagan by firing cannons near the front gate every half hour, Monday. A 21-gun, 21-minute cannon salute will be fired today, beginning at noon.

American Forces Press Service Press Releases

WASHINGTON — President Bush issued an executive order closing federal offices today in observance of former President Ronald Wilson Reagan's passing. (That June 6 order does not apply to organizations that need to stay open because of national security, defense or essential public business.) The president proclaimed today as a national day of mourning to honor the memory of the former president.

Reagan possessed "an unshakable faith in the values of our country and the character of our people" and "renewed America's confidence and restored our nation," the President proclaimed on Sunday. Reagan's "optimism, strength and humility," Bush pointed out, "epitomized the American spirit."

His "courage and determination," the

President Reagan Memorial Service

When: Today, at 11:30 a.m., followed by a 21-gun salute at noon

Where: Pacific War Memorial

See REAGAN, A-7

Corps' Sgt. Maj. visits

Public Affairs Office
Hawaii Marine Staff

"I am proud because you are doing what most Americans are not doing. You are serving in the United States Marine Corps voluntarily, knowing full well that you may be put in harm's way. That is motivating! That is why we exist!" said Sgt. Maj. John L. Estrada, sergeant major of the Marine Corps, before a group of non-commissioned officers gathered at Kahuna's Sports Bar & Grill here, Tuesday night.

The function was just one of several

events during the sergeant major's two-day stopover in Hawaii, after he visited other Marine Corps installations in Japan and Korea. While at K-Bay, he spoke with Marines and Sailors of 3rd Marine Regiment and Marine Corps Air Facility, and met socially with staff NCOs, before departing Wednesday evening for Headquarters Marine Corps.

"It is the leadership of our corporals and sergeants that makes our service so successful," said Estrada when addressing Marines at NCO Call. "You are contributing to the success of the Marine Corps all over the world."



ESTRADA

VP-47 returns from mid-east

Cpl. Jessica M. Mills
Sports Editor

Returning home after a six-month deployment in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, more than 335 Sailors from Patrol Squadron 47 landed at the flight line here, Saturday.

Open arms of grateful family members, friends and fellow service members greeted the Sailors during the welcome home ceremony organized by key volunteers and a handful of VP-47 service members who returned two days earlier.

The Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center donated welcome home packets for the military and family members, and the squadron purchased hundreds of lei for the returning Sailors. Further, a women's organization at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Kaneohe donated trays upon trays of baked

See VP-47, A-6

CCE opens doors for military officers

Cpl. Jessica M. Mills
Sports Editor

After two years of late night cram sessions and rigorous time management, 73 officers stationed on Oahu successfully completed their professional military education (PME) and graduated from the MCB Hawaii Satellite Campus of the Marine Corps University College of Continuing Education, Monday at the base theatre here.

Lt. Gen. Wallace C. Gregson, commander of Marine Forces Pacific, was the guest of honor at the ceremony. He said he regarded it an honor to award diplomas to the graduates.

During the ceremony, he emphasized the importance of a strong military education in an officer's career and personal life.

"The best advice I can give all of you is to

continue to learn and succeed through formal and informal processes. Continue to attend classes and seminars at your leisure," said Gregson. "This should not be an end to your education, but only a beginning. This training gives you the intellectual ability to command your units successfully and advance in your career choices."

Gregson made it very clear that this graduation was not only the graduates' achievement, but the family members' and units' as well.

"It was the family members and units who had to deal with the late-night studying sessions and all-day seminars," he added. "Without their support, these graduates would not be here today."

Thirty officers, including one Army and one Navy officer, completed the Command and Staff College Distance Education Program, a nine-course, two-year program. The other 43 officers were the first to complete the new Expeditionary Warfare School Distance Education Program, which replaces the career-level course Amphibious Warfare School.



Cpl. Jessica M. Mills

Col. Richard C. Roten, deputy commander of MCB Hawaii, and Sgt. Maj. Anthony E. Franks, sergeant major here, congratulate CCE graduates after the ceremony.

See CCE, A-6



Cpl. Jessica M. Mills

Master Chief Jeff Van Dyke, maintenance master chief for VP-47, takes a good look at his son after being on deployment for six months.

MCBH NEWS BRIEFS

Facilities are Closed Today

The base post office will be closed today in honor of the national day of mourning. Also, the Semper Fit Gym will be open from 5 to 9 a.m. The Commissary and the Marine Corps Exchange will be open normal business hours.

Hawaii Marine Seeks Reader Input

Do you, your unit or organization have a story idea? Do you have photographs (action shots), information or announcements about an upcoming event or activity? Would you like the *Hawaii Marine* to focus on a specific topic? Write to us at editor@hawaiimarine.com and let us know how we can best serve you.

Also, watch out for the *Hawaii Marine* newspaper survey this summer. Call staff at 257-8836 or 257-8837 for more details.

Military Urged to Register to Vote

It's easy to forget the importance of voting and undervalue the importance of a single vote, but the Secretary of the Navy and the Commandant of the Marine Corps are encouraging Marines, Sailors, family members and DoD employees to zealously guard and participate in the voting process that elects their local, county, state and federal representatives, to include the President of the United States.

Election laws vary from state to state, but DoD personnel should mail their Federal Post Card Application forms prior to Aug. 15 to obtain an Absentee Ballot that allows participation in this year's presidential election on Nov. 2.

The state of Alabama extended the absentee voting deadline for voters registered in the primary election of Tuscaloosa County. County officials must receive absentee ballots for the primary election no later than June 21.

PWMA Accepts Brick Orders

Due to continued interest in the "Walkway of Honor" bricks located at the Pacific War Memorial adjacent the entrance to MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, the Pacific War Memorial Association is accepting orders online at www.PacificWarMemorial.org, or call 533-3759.

Hawaii MARINE

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IN THE CG'S MAILBOX



BRIG. GEN.
MCABEE

Dear General,
I am addressing this e-mail to you in response to your interest in comments about "what are we doing that we should be doing better," and I use that particular phrase to address my comments on 1) security, 2) water safety, and 3) motor vehicle and traffic safety — rather than "what are we not doing" or "what shouldn't we be doing" — because the base is now "doing" all three of these. But, there is room for improvement, and my comments are directed toward that end.

1) Security: Let me preface this comment by saying, the base feels like a secure environment for work and play. The gate is diligent, courteous and enforces access rules, as they exist.

We live here in Capehart housing, and it is paradise. But there is trouble in paradise, and in the 10 months of on-base housing, we have had money stolen from the counter in our house, and a visiting friend's rental car parked in front of our house, broken into.

Whether teen resident dependents, off-base professionals, or casual visitors to our post, this is unacceptable. And as we have come to discuss this with neighbors, friends, schoolmates, workmates and day care providers, who all live here as well, we find this problem a prevalent one, with incidents far too common.

We have submitted the requisite reports to PMO [the Provost Marshals Office], and they are a matter of record. We've encour-

aged those who have experienced similar incidents to do the same, and they have in many cases. But there are a silent group that haven't simply because it "happened months ago," or they "weren't sure they were actually missing money." Informal discussions with investigating officers find this a common theme here on base. We must find the perpetrators and deal with them as any court of law would. How?

Well, most of these incidents are occurring at night, but some starting points for improvement might include the following for security:

- Publicize the problem in public forums to foster an awareness among residents. We need to police ourselves to some degree, watching for the stranger, uninvited guest, and wandering individuals, at all times.

- "Neighborhood Watch" signs, or something of the sort to announce our intentions.

- Increased patrol by PMO through housing at night. I was on my way to go fishing at 4:30 a.m., the other morning, and witnessed a juvenile with skateboard under arm, running between houses for no apparent reason.

Enforce the curfew rules (there are such things, aren't there?).

- Publish results of such perpetrators as may be prosecuted in public forum, within legal confines.

2) Water Safety: Our family is ecstatic at living here in Hawaii, with beaches abounding, a fine pool for swimming, and weather to be able to enjoy both year-round.

Unfortunately, the hours that these amenities are available to us count as a fraction of what could be available.

The pool is often closed due to scheduled and unscheduled maintenance, or unavailability of lifeguards. The hours are restricted to only the afternoon, precluding swimming as a morning workout, unless it's an ocean swim, and the lifeguards have deemed the ocean "safe" for use, which is rare.

The beach is "off-limits" due to "red flag" conditions, deemed unsafe for even wading, for extended periods. The reasons for these "red flag" conditions range, in the words of the lifeguards themselves, from "we are down on lifeguards because so-and-so called in sick" or "the size of the waves are too big" (wave faces above 6 feet) or "the size of the waves exceed limits" (wave faces 3 to 4 feet) or "the current is too strong," "the wind blowing too hard," or "they've closed the other beach so this one must be closed" (without regard for existing conditions).

Enforcement of the standards for what does or doesn't constitute a "red flag" condition seems capricious at best. The signs posted at the beach call for re-evaluation of conditions at 8 a.m., but seldom are the flags changed to reflect anyone's current judgment about conditions, rendering the water off-limits to swimmers, surfers, sail boarders, scuba, snorkeling, waders (fishing or otherwise), and kayakers and canoeists.

See CG MAIL, A-8

(Editor's Note: Letters of any length may be trimmed and edited in the interest of good taste and brevity.)

The commanding general invites input from

the base community via C.G. Mail on the following topics: What are we doing that we shouldn't be doing? What are we not doing that we should be doing? What are we doing that we

should be doing better?

Responses should include a recommendation that will help solve the problem and must include your name and return address.

For bravery under fire



Lance Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

Lance Cpl. Daniel Powell, electronic warfare operator for 3rd Radio Battalion, was decorated with a Purple Heart medal Monday, for injuries he received from a mortar while on active duty deployment in Iraq. Powell was presented the award in front of a formation by his commanding officer, Lt. Col. Mark Aycock, at a ceremony that took place at the Pacific War Memorial here.



O'HALLORAN

MCAF changes command

Lt. Col. Marc A. Sehrt assumed command of Marine Corps Air Facility from Lt. Col. Michael A. O'Halloran at a change of command ceremony on June 4. Sehrt came here from Marine Air Control Group 28, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif. O'Halloran moved on to the Army War College, Carlisle, Pa.; he had served as MCAF commandant since July 2001.



SEHRT

From point A to point B



Sgt. Clinton Schwartz, NBC noncommissioned officer for Headquarters Bn., MCB Hawaii, shows sea cadets the proper way to complete an obstacle, Saturday.

Marines and Sailors instruct youngsters in the classroom and out in the field

Story and Photos by
Lance Cpl.
Michelle M. Dickson
Combat Correspondent

The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps trained at a leadership reaction course here, Saturday morning at Landing Zone Boondocker.

"The cadet corps gives children the opportunity to experience military operations at the closest range," said Sgt. Clinton Schwarz, the nuclear, biological, chemical noncommissioned officer for Headquarters Battalion. "I've been volunteering with the sea cadets for two years here, so far, and they've had the opportunity to see and experience both academic and hands-on projects."

Schwarz, a Nodine, Minn., native, said the reason he chooses to volunteer with the cadets is because he was a member when he was younger.

"The [cadet] corps helped me get an idea on what military life was like, and gave me a better handle on everyday life," Schwarz explained, adding that the hardest part of training for

him was stepping into leadership positions and giving orders to peers when needed.

"It's difficult because they don't want to be made a fool of in front of their friends. They need to learn that they sometimes must go out on a limb to get a task accomplished."

The cadets did just that as they tackled more than five of the obstacles with a very high success rate. The main challenge of every obstacle was getting equipment and people from point A to point B, with the least amount of casualties possible.

"Getting through things together, successfully, is the best part for me," said Isaac Marquez, a 14-year-old sea cadet. "The courses are difficult, but if you take the time to think about what you're doing, it turns out okay."

Lance Cpl. Edwin Alonzo, a nuclear, biological, chemical specialist with Engineer Co., Combat Service Support Group 3, also volunteered.

"I've always enjoyed working with kids," said the Los Angeles native. "I know when I was in these kinds of groups growing up, it kept me out of trouble. I want to do the same for these kids."

The sea cadets meet twice a month, on the first and third Sunday of every month. At the end of June, cadets will take part in a two-week boot camp that will test their minds and bodies, as well as prepare them further for what their future plans may be.

"I'm going to keep volunteering with these children as long as I can," said Alonzo. "I like to help them out and teach them what I know."

For more information on joining the sea cadets, contact Sgt. Schwarz at 257-9963.

Left — Isaac Marquez, a 14-year-old cadet, ties a rope to help his fellow cadets across an obstacle course.



Above — David J. Rowell, 14, jumps a pit during the sea cadet course at Landing Zone Boondocker.

Below — Angela Hurd, 14, explains an idea during the course. The South Carolina native hopes to become a Marine Corps drill instructor.



Word on the Street

"What do you personally get from volunteering?"



"Honor. Just the fact that you're helping someone out — those not as fortunate as you."

Lance Cpl. Jacob A. Reese
Machinegunner
Lima Co., 3/3



"I worked with the Special Olympics on Okinawa. It makes me feel good, like I'm helping people who need it."

Lance Cpl. Rogerio Castillo
Machinegunner
Lima Co., 3/3



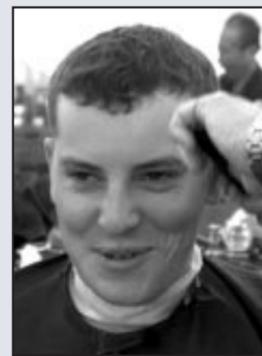
"It's rewarding. You help yourself as you help others."

Melanie Peters
Vacationing from
Arizona



"It's very gratifying"

Madison Conway
Embroiderer



"I think Aristotle said it best: 'In the arena of human life, the honors and rewards fall to those who show their good qualities in action.'"

Lance Cpl. Chris Carpentier
Headquarters Bn.

Diving chief keeps Corps' values close to heart



ARBUCKLE

Cpl. Jessica M. Mills
Sports Editor

If you ask a group of Marines where they keep their Honor, Courage and Commitment Card, what do you think they would say?

Would it be in their wallet? Their pocket? Would they even know?

Gunnery Sgt. Donald L. Arbuckle, former diving amphibious chief at 4th Force Reconnaissance Company here, always has an answer: he keeps his card close to his heart, both literally and figuratively,

as he bears it proudly pinned on the inside of his utility blouse.

"I'm a Marine, I've always wanted to be and I will be [a Marine] until the day I die," he said. "The first thing that guides me in my life is the Corps' values of honor, courage and commitment."

Arbuckle was the diving amphibious chief for more than two and a half years, and was responsible for procuring, issuing and managing all diving equipment, and the training and managing of all diving personnel in 4th Force Recon.

"We ensure that all the equipment is safe for the Marines and Sailors to use," said Arbuckle. "We do all the maintenance on the equipment and stand quarterly, semiannual, and annual inspections."

tions."

Arbuckle knows the ins and outs of all open-circuit and closed-circuit scuba equipment, as well as every pump system held in the scuba locker. He trained personnel in dive techniques and physics, and dive medicine and search techniques. His unit is responsible for many pier and hull searches as well as recoveries of human remains in nearby areas.

"This may not be a glorious job, but it is the hardest job I've ever had in the Marine Corps," said Arbuckle. "I have two commands to answer to — the Navy branch, which has very strict guidelines, and the Marine Corps Maintenance Program, which is a completely different

animal. When you add all the different facets and responsibilities under my belt, it adds up to an extremely busy schedule. But I enjoy it," he emphasized. "This is a big part of who I am."

Arbuckle was designated as the platoon sergeant of 2nd Platoon when 4th Force Recon was activated for Operation Iraqi Freedom. He took charge of training reconnaissance Marine candidates for any situations they might encounter.

"That is what is really fun, the field, when you are out there with Marines," he said. "I had the honor of training these young Marines and molding them to better support their mission with 4th

See ARBUCKLE, A-8

Chief cook, skydiver combines re-enlistment with jump



FLINTON

Lance Cpl. Megan L. Stiner
Combat Correspondent

Before the Marine Corps, before legally becoming an adult, and before high school graduation, a young man from Saratoga Springs, N.Y., fell in love with skydiving.

When Staff Sgt. Daniel P. Flinton, chief cook at the Anderson Hall dining facility, was 17 years old, his father took him out on a little skydiving adventure in

New York. The emotion he felt during that first small, static line jump would blossom into a passion that led to the fulfillment of his out-of-the-ordinary re-enlistment 12 years later.

The Corps allows Marines to choose how they want to re-enlist and who they want as their re-enlistment officer. If the idea is approved, preparations begin. For Flinton, his re-enlistment officer (Col. James E. Harbison, commanding officer of Combat Service Support Group 3) and a few friends, the idea involved an airplane, some parachutes and a bit of courage for all participants.

At that point in his life, said Flinton,

he was concentrating on two things: his job in the Marine Corps and skydiving. The 29-year-old veteran of more than 300 civilian and military jumps said he decided to unite the two for a memorable experience on June 2 that would launch the next phase of his military career.

The re-up ceremony took place thousands of feet in the air. After Flinton received a discharge from the Marine Corps, all participants jumped out of the plane. Once they had safely reached the earth below, they witnessed the re-enlistment ceremony: Flinton raised his right hand and reaffirmed the oath to re-enter

the Corps.

"It was great. I had all my friends and co-workers up there with me," said Flinton. "It was definitely a memorable event. I don't think anyone will ever forget it."

Friends and acquaintances said the airborne ceremony was not a huge surprise to them. All were aware of Flinton's love for skydiving and his zest for life.

"Dan [Flinton] is definitely a hard core Marine," said Randy Burke, a friend and former Marine. "He is the type of person

See FLINTON, A-6

Marine general leads fleet into history

Lance Cpl. Jared Plotts

U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific

CAMP H. M. SMITH, Hawaii — Brig. Gen. Joseph V. Medina, commander of the Belleau Wood Expeditionary Strike Group, led 4,000 Marines and Sailors into Pearl Harbor, June 3, for five days of training before heading directly to the Western Pacific in support of the war on terrorism.

Medina, the first Marine general ever assigned as the commander of naval ships — along with his seven-ship fleet — left San Diego May 27 to deploy for an undetermined amount of time in direct response to the U.S. Central Command's request for forces to conduct future operations. The BWESG will play a critical role in the military's new Fleet Response Plan.

"This is a great tool. This strike group gives us the opportunity to go places we couldn't go before," Medina explained. "We deploy for more specific missions now, rather than going out to sea and

training continuously.

"Our schedule originally had us deploying in late June, but the Fleet Response Plan has us out on shorter notice, with more uncertain deployment time. [But,] a great advantage of the FRP is that we'll deploy less," he added.

The FRP was developed to meet today's immediate response requirements and provide combat power. Under the FRP, units carry out humanitarian assistance and noncombatant evacuation operations as well as combat operations in support of joint force commanders throughout the Central Command's area of responsibility.

"We have experts at every spectrum of the field. I think all the knowledge our staff has, collectively, will only help us become more proficient in our mission," he explained regarding the combining of Marine Corps and Navy staffs together for the ESG.

"I think we're lucky to have him [Medina]," said Navy Capt. Earl L. Gay, commanding officer of the USS Belleau

Wood. "I also think our Sailors find it [the command structure] interesting."

According to Medina, the Belleau Wood's stop in Hawaii allows Marines to conduct urban training, patrols and various other exercises at Marine Corps Base Hawaii and Schofield Barracks. Sailors will also work on getting the ship ready for the long road ahead. As well, the pause here gives his Marines and Sailors a breather before their journey to the Middle East.

The 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) includes the USS Denver, USS Comstock and USS Belleau Wood (which all left San Diego, May 27). The other elements of the strike group — the USS Mobile Bay and USS Preble from San Diego and the Pearl Harbor-based USS Hopper and USS Charlotte — will depart later this month.

Medina previously served as commander for several major Pacific exercises before relinquishing command of the 3rd Marine Regiment to command Expeditionary Strike Group Three.



Lance Cpl. Jared Plotts

Brig. Gen. Joseph V. Medina, commander of the Belleau Wood Expeditionary Strike Group, talks to local media aboard the USS Belleau Wood. The ship was recently docked at Pearl Harbor.

CCE, From A-1

According to retired Col. Bill Peoples, the CCE regional coordinator, the school underwent a major transformation of curriculum two years ago, in an effort to keep the distance education program in step with the changing needs of the Marine Corps. The name was changed, this year, to better describe the focus of the course.

"The Amphibious Warfare School left a very narrow door for training," said Peoples, "but the Expeditionary Warfare School is much more encompassing and covers a larger scope."

Although every name was announced at the ceremony, several of the graduates were unable to attend because they were deployed for operations in support of our nation, or already transferred to another duty station.

"This is the most impressive class I've seen in light of the incredible operations tempo confronting our officers these past two years. The professional commitment required of these graduates to complete the CSC and EWS programs, while simultaneously satisfying the unrelenting demands of family, deployments, training and temporary duties, was nothing short of phenomenal," said Peoples.

Officers who have not yet completed their PME obligations are urged to visit the regional coordinator's office in Bldg. 224, located above the Staff NCO Academy, or call 257-0459 or 2571956.

General information about the program is available online at www.mcbh.usmc.mil/cce/homepage.htm.

FLINTON, From A-4

that strives to be the best at everything he does.

Flinton also attributes his love for skydiving to three years he served as a soldier in an airborne infantry unit.

"I began my military career in the Army," said Flinton. "But I knew the Marine Corps had more to offer me, and I intend to remain in [the Corps] for 20 to 30 years."

When his career in the Corps ends, Flinton said he would like to pursue another hobby of his: cooking. He plans to open his own bakery/coffee shop.

VP-47, From A-1

goods for the squadron.

"It feels amazing to return home from a six-month deployment and receive such a warm welcome," said Senior Chief Eric Delacruz, leading chief petty officer at VP-47's Command Services Department. "It really makes you feel appreciated again."

Family members like Shannon Hanson, whose husband had been deployed with the squadron for the last six months, said

she had been anxiously awaiting these moments since the very day the unit left.

"I am so excited. This deployment has felt like it lasted forever," said Hanson. "The first [thing] I'm going to do when I see [him] is cry and thank God he is okay."

As soon as the Sailors approached within greeting distance of the arrival hangar, the calm, but eager assembly of families and friends transformed into a tumbling sea of hugs, kisses and tears.

"It feels so good to be home, it was a

very long deployment," said Navy Lt. Andre Moser, a maintenance material control officer with the squadron. "All I've wanted, the entire deployment, is to see my family. I am happy now," he said, as he embraced his wife and children.

According to Delacruz, the unit is not scheduled to depart any time soon. However, Patrol Squadron 47 is scheduled for the inter-deployment training cycle, which means when it is called again it must be ready for action.

CHRRS Web site offers free, self-service home finding for military

Karen S. Spangler
Hawaii Navy News

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii — The newest tool to assist military families who are seeking off-base rental homes and apartments is now up and running. Community Homefinding Relocation and Referral Services (CHRRS), a service provided by the Army, recently launched its Web-based housing referral system.

The new Web site is free and totally self-service, both for those listing and searching for properties. Property managers, owners, real estate agents and people who want to share their homes can list their upcoming vacancies.

"The new Web site will be able to connect service members with available housing data to make their next PCS [permanent change of station] experience to Hawaii a smooth and efficient one," said Karen Goodrich, manager of Army Housing Services and Referral Housing Services at Fort Shafter.

"It will no longer be necessary for service members to scan through hundreds of listings in the paper, many of which may be outdated, and they won't have to wait until the housing office opens to get help," said Laurie Sweeting, referral assistant for the Army's program.

The CHRRS Web site includes features that enable clients to more expediently and more efficiently search for rental properties. An added bonus, all can be done anywhere military and families can access a computer — without the need to travel to the CHRRS office.

Anyone seeking rental properties can view photos, maps and detailed descriptions of property listings. The Web site shows available amenities, dates, prices and mileage from military installations. Then, once a property is found, the client can use e-mail to quickly make contact.

Service members who are staying in a hotel and don't have access to a computer can also request a CHRRS receptionist access the data and print them out a listing. Also, for Marines and Sailors E-5 and below, computer access is easily available at the Recreation Center.

Everyone can access computers at the base library, the Message Center and kiosks around the base.

CHRRS services are provided for all military branches here. To access the new Web site, go to hawaii.dodreferal.com. Call the CHRRS office at 438-6197, or e-mail hirotap@shafter.army.mil.



The new Community Homefinding Relocation and Referral Services Web site will aid both home seekers and those who want to rent their home.

REAGAN: 21-gun salute will sound today

From A-1

president said, "enhanced America's security and advanced the spread of peace, liberty and democracy to millions of people who had lived in darkness and oppression."

Bush asked the American people "to pay homage to the memory of President Reagan" today, adding that he invites "the people of the world who share our grief to join us in this solemn observance."

Reagan's leadership as chief executive "has left us stronger and better," Bush declared, noting the former president "has left us for a better place, the shining city that awaits him."

The death of the former president set into motion a plan involving countless military members from all the armed forces. As a past commander in chief, Reagan is afforded many military honors, according to officials from the U.S. Army's Military District of Washington, responsible for coordinating arrangements for the many events leading up to the official state funeral in Washington today.

At every point in the journey from the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, in Simi Valley, Calif., to the U.S. Capitol, a joint-service, military guard of honor is performing an arrival or departure cere-



REAGAN

mony to honor the fallen president.

At least part of the way to the Capitol, a military caisson — a converted transport wagon for a 75 mm cannon drawn by six horses of the same color (from the 3rd U.S. Infantry, the Army's ceremonial "Old Guard" headquartered at Fort Myer, Va.) — carried the remains Wednesday.

A riderless horse will follow behind.

"A pair of boots are reversed in the stirrups of the empty saddle to symbolize that the warrior will never ride again," according to information on the MDW Web site.

A military band played at each phase of the official funeral events, Wednesday, and a military honor guard will fire a traditional 21-gun salute at noon local time on all U.S. military bases, today, the day of interment.

Also as part of honors owed to a previous president upon his death, all U.S. flags flown on government installations will fly at half-staff for 30 days from the date of death.

The former president died of pneumonia Saturday in California. He was 93 and had Alzheimer's disease.

(Editor's Note: Compiled from AFPS releases by Gerry J. Gilmore, Kathleen T. Rhem and Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample.)

CG MAIL, From A-2

Six hours of beach use a day (11 a.m. to red-flag posted at 5 p.m.), Monday through Friday, effectively renders the beach unusable to working folks. It's red-flagged when you leave for work, red-flagged when you get home. Only on the weekends may one be able to use the water, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (though if the conditions are "red flag," it normally is posted by 5:15 p.m.)

Serious triathletes cannot train for ocean swimming under those conditions. [Yet,] I can run with reflective gear on the street/sidewalk any time I choose, but to swim in the ocean, I'm generally restricted to a scant six hours in the middle of the day with the current prohibitions.

Suggestions for improvement with water safety:

- Hire more ocean lifeguards.
- Standardize the conditions under which the beach is "off-limits" and make them common knowledge, posted, or available as printed matter, so there are no false expectations among residents about beach use, when we can and cannot expect to be able to go in the water.
- Allow for more time that the beach is open under "white flag" conditions. If the lifeguards are not going to be there early or late, there are still times when the water should be open for use. Warning signs are posted; most know of the dangers that the ocean poses.

3) Motor vehicle safety: People treat the base streets like they do the public roadways, and I don't have to tell you there are people out there dying on the highway. Driving fast, not stopping at stop signs, and running red lights are just some of the common infractions.

Suggestions for improvement with motor vehicle safety:

- Enforcement, in a word. I know PMO is stretched thin as it is, but patrols just have to be more strict, more comprehensive, in motor vehicle law enforcement.
- Workplace and public announcements that the law will be enforced — no slack for speeders.
- Make the ticket mean something. Suggest the UCMJ [the Uniform Code of Military Justice] for repeat offenders as vehicle for COs [commanding officers] to crack down.
- Ban the dependent/contractor/DoD offender from on-base driving.
- Signs.

Hope these comments are taken onboard in the spirit they were submitted, with improvement and aloha in mind.

Very Respectfully,
David Miavez



Dear Mr. Miavez,

The commanding general asked me to respond to your April 30 e-mail because your concern falls within my staff responsibilities. He appreciates that you took the time to participate in the CG Mail program.

Security of the installation is one of our top priorities, and Marine Corps Base Hawaii is a very safe place to live and work. Unfortunately, thefts and vandalism have occurred within base housing. The Military Police Department (MPD) has had success through investigations and aggressive work in identifying the individuals perpetrating these crimes. Let me assure you that MPD will continue to be engaged in order to help mitigate future incidents.

MPD also continues to actively enforce curfew violations, when observed. As a result, we

have caught dependent children violating curfew, although not all of the perpetrators of the offenses you mentioned were subject to curfew. These crimes are a community issue that cannot be solved by military police alone. To get better, we need active housing resident involvement, especially since some of our children are perpetrating the crimes.

This means that, in addition to reporting crimes, curfew violations, and suspicious activities, individuals must be personally involved. This includes stopping and addressing persons engaged in unauthorized activity, and if possible, establishing neighborhood watches.

MPD stands ready to support any neighborhood desiring to establish such a program. We will continue to publish articles in the *Hawaii Marine* concerning crime prevention, security tips, and actions taken on offenders, and will begin to display information on Channel 2 in an effort to provide information on MPD initiatives.

Water safety is another top priority. The rules for beach use aboard the base were developed because of the inherent dangers and risks associated with the ocean. Therefore, beach and/or water access is denied when dangerous conditions exist.

The aquatics coordinator or his assistant coordinator is responsible for making decisions on water conditions, daily, which are based on factors that include wave height, surf condition, undercurrents, rip currents, storm conditions, wind speed, etc. The process in use for overnight water access is consistent with approved policy.

Since Jan. 1, North Beach has been closed 10 times due to high surf, three for storms, and once due to staff shortage

(ocean use will not be closed due to staff shortages in the future). Except for the storm closures, Pyramid Rock Beach has been closed only once for high surf, once for endangered wildlife, and twice for shark sightings. Hale Koa Beach has not closed except for the storms.

Even though lifeguards are not posted, the ocean conditions are evaluated daily by 8 a.m., and flags are changed as appropriate. Lifeguards are posted during peak usage hours: 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Mondays through Fridays, and 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. during weekends and holidays.

The pool is closed during the morning for military training. It has not been closed due to staffing, although it has been closed three times for maintenance issues this year.

MPD continues to ensure vehicle safety through enforcement of traffic regulations. Since Jan. 1, more than 1,000 traffic citations were issued for various offenses.

While speeding aboard the base is not as problematic as it is off base, there is still much room for improvement. Base community involvement can also be improved; individuals are encouraged to tell others to slow down when they are observed to be speeding, and if possible, traffic offenses through third party citations should be reported to the MPD desk sergeant or traffic court bailiff in Bldg. 1096.

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

Sincerely,
Lt. Col. Chris Martin
Provost Marshal
Marine Corps Base Hawaii

ARBUCKLE, From A-4

Force Recon."

Arbuckle also ran a two-week basic diving course that prepared Marines before they went to the Marine Combat Dive Course.

With 17 years in the Marine Corps, Arbuckle has enjoyed diverse responsibilities since getting married and starting a family before joining the Corps at 21.

"I became wrapped in family life after high school, but after four years of making ends meet, I decided I wanted to be part of an elite team, and be one of 'The Few. The Proud.'

"There have only been a couple of things handed to me — everything else I have had to fight and struggle to get," he explained. "I wanted to be part of a tighter band of brothers and do exciting things, and I found that in reconnaissance.

"I've worked with the Singapore Seals, the Thai Recon Marines, the Green Berets and even the Navy Seals. It made it interesting," he explained.

Arbuckle leaves for his next assignment as an instructor at the School of Infantry West aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., soon. He's said he's excited about the opportunity to mold Marines.

"I get to teach and influence young Marines just like I originally wanted to," he said. "I can teach these warriors and prepare them for the conflicts they will face in the future."