

Hawaii MARINE

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June 25, 2004

Civil Service sees changes

**Sgt. 1st Class
Doug Sample**

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The Department of Defense has launched a new Web site to educate its 700,000 civilian employees about the new National Security Personnel System that will introduce

sweeping changes in the way the department hires, pays, promotes, disciplines and fires civilian employees.

Brad Bunn, acting deputy program executive officer, NSPS Program Executive Office, explained the site is meant to help DoD employees understand the new personnel system.

"Change is difficult, and lack of infor-

mation about coming changes often leads to stress and anxiety and, unfortunately, misperceptions about what those changes really mean," he said. "We recognize that, and are committed to communicating to our employees about what NSPS will mean to them.

"The Web site is one communications tool in our toolbox to do that," he said.

"We will be open, honest and clear about NSPS, and our Web site is designed to encourage employee involvement and interest, and minimize misconceptions."

Bunn also emphasized the site will help those affected by the changes to understand the "rationale and benefits"

See *CIVILIANS*, A-7



Photo Courtesy of the Royal Thai Army

Lance Cpl. David Howell, a gunner for Weapons Co., 3/3, passes some tasty beetles to Sgt. Jario Fredonis, Weapons Co. squad leader, during Cobra Gold's Jungle Environment Survival Training with the Royal Thai Army.

Lima Co, 3/3, survives Cobra Gold

Lance Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson
Combat Correspondent

Marines from Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, returned recently from a three-week training deployment to Thailand for exercise Cobra Gold 2004.

The company of 108 Marines had departed for Korat, Thailand, May 8 and trained with the Royal Thai Army.

"The training was broken down into three phases with the Thai Army," said 1st Lt. Patrick McKinley, company commander for Lima Co., 3/3. "Each phase focused on different training and lasted for three days."

The first phase involved Military Operations in Urban Terrain training and squad level tactics.

"This was the first time the Army had practiced MOUT training," said

McKinley. "They did excellent throughout it and were quick to learn."

Due to a language barrier, communication was accomplished through signals.

"That was the most difficult part for the Marines," said McKinley. "The language barrier made things tough at times, but the Army learned quickly

See *COBRA GOLD*, A-7

RIMPAC begins Tuesday

U.S. Navy Third Fleet

Press Release

Seven nations will participate in the region's largest international maritime exercise, scheduled Tuesday through July 27 in the waters around the Hawaiian Islands — Rim of the Pacific 2004.

Vice Adm. Michael McCabe, commander, U.S. Third Fleet, is responsible for overall exercise coordination. He will speak at a press conference Tuesday, joined by international leadership from other participating nations, as well as U.S. flag officers charged with the tactical execution of exercise events. The press conference will be hosted by U.S. Pacific Fleet, and transmitted via video teleconference to media in San Diego and Washington, D.C.

This year's exercise is the nineteenth in a series of RIMPAC exercises conducted periodically since 1971, and it includes a wide variety of surface combatant ships, submarines, tactical aircraft and amphibious forces participating in operations this summer. As well, U.S. Navy warships, minesweepers, submarines, Marines and aircraft squadrons from San Diego and Pearl Harbor will participate in the exercise.

Forces will receive training in tactical proficiency, noncombatant evacuation operations, amphibious assault, antisubmarine warfare and humanitarian assistance. Individual units will remain under operational control of their respective national commanders throughout the exercise.

Key training objectives for RIMPAC 2004 also include enhancing command and control structure among the exercise participants; maintaining a common operational picture; coordinating surface, subsurface and air assets in a multi-submarine and multi-threat environment; and air defense.

USS John C. Stennis' participation in RIMPAC 2004 will be part of an overall demonstration of the U.S. Navy's ability to simultaneously deploy seven Carrier Strike Groups as part of exercise Summer Pulse 2004. Further, as part of the Chief of Naval Operations' Fleet Response Plan, the U.S. Navy will demonstrate its capability to surge Naval forces to respond to crises around the world.

RIMPAC 2004 will bring together maritime forces from six Pacific Rim nations — Australia, Canada,

See *RIMPAC*, A-4

Red Cross program jump starts dental careers

Applications for fall/winter program are due July 9

Cpl. Jessica M. Mills
Sports Editor

When the subject of the Red Cross is mentioned, some people have visions of needles and collection bags dancing through their heads. Others may think of its many humanitarian efforts, including blood drives, disaster relief and emergency response teams. Some may not think of the professional training programs that are offered free by local Red Cross chapters, such as the Dental Assistant Program.

The Dental Assistance Program is a bi-annual training program that provides volunteers with comprehensive training and knowledge needed to assist competently in various fields of dentistry, and successfully compete for employment in

the dental field.

"Our program is very successful; more than 50 percent of our graduates have stabilized employment. The rest have either chosen to hold off or continue on in their education as a dental hygienist," said Christine E. Maly, the chairman of volunteers for the American Red Cross, Hawaii State Chapter, Kaneohe Service Center. "This class is a good basis for them to test the waters of the dental field. It lets them decide whether they want to do this for a living, without incurring the costs."

The students must complete 44 academic/classroom hours and 500 clinical hours, conducted by dentists and dental technicians from the 21st Dental Company, within the six-month program session. Training hours are at the discretion of the command, but will likely be between the operating hours of 6:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Students will work side by side with 21st

Dental Company in the clinic and receive hands-on training assisting personnel in functioning prosthetics, endodontics, oral surgery, central sterilization room procedures, periodontics and exams.

At the end of six months, students will receive a certificate stating they have fulfilled all of the program requirements, and signed by the commanding officer of 21st Dental Company.

"The certificates are considered just as valuable as a degree and most employers will accept the training," said Maly. "We even get calls from local dentists who are inquiring about present students for employment and 21st Dental Company often references the volunteers."

Each volunteer must complete a number of steps to apply for the program. All applicants must possess a valid military identification card, be at least 18 years old and have at least eight months

See *DENTAL*, A-2

MCBH NEWS BRIEFS

Fireworks Prohibited Aboard Base

Per MCB Hawaii regulations (Base Order 11320.6, para. 9001), pyrotechnics, fireworks and explosives are prohibited on the installation. Fireworks include toy cannons, firecrackers, torpedoes, skyrockets, roman candles, sparklers, or similar items capable of producing a visual or audible effect by combustion or detonation. (The fireworks presentation at BayFest 2004 has received a full waiver from the commanding general.)

Lane Closures Impact Windward Commuters

The Kailua bound lanes of Kalanianaʻaʻole Highway will be contraflowed from Castle Junction to Kapaa Quarry Road, Sunday and Monday from 10:30 p.m. to 4 a.m. State Department of Transportation crews will be paving potholes on both nights.

State Alert to Sound Thursday

The State Civil Defense monthly test of sirens and the Emergency Alert System will be held Thursday at 11:45 a.m. The siren test is a steady 45-second tone, used to alert the public of emergencies that pose or may pose a threat to life and property.

Kaneohe DMV Closes Until Fall

The Kaneohe Police Station and the Kaneohe Substation Driver License Branch will be closed for repairs, beginning Monday until September.

During the closure, Kaneohe Police will relocate to the Kailua Police Station.

Road test appointments may be made at the City Square, Pearl City, Kapolei, Wahiawa or Waiānae DMV locations.

License renewals may be coordinated at the Satellite City Hall facilities in Kaneohe (at Windward Mall) or in Kailua (at 1090 Keolu Dr.). Additional information is available at www.co.honolulu.hi.us/csd/vehicle/dllocations.htm.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

On-Base Emergencies	257-9111
Military Police	257-7114
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Business Management Hotline	257-3188
Pothole Hotline	257-2380

Hawaii MARINE

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IN THE CG'S MAILBOX



BRIG. GEN.
MCABEE

Comment submitted by Chief Petty Officer Brian C. Chase

"Has there been any thought put into where the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts will be moved?"

Sir,

I am Chief Chase from Patrol Squadron 4. My son is an active member in the scout troop on base, and I am active in the troop committee.

It is my understanding that once the new 7-Day Store is complete, the existing building will be destroyed. Has there been any thought put into where the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts will be moved? I feel it is important to have a permanent place for these two organizations to occupy.

Over the years of existence of a troop, there is a lot of history displayed inside the hut. It would be heartbreaking to have to store all our history in a bunker.

Would the troop be notified if there were meetings scheduled on this issue?

Sir, I thank you for your time and

continued support.

Sincerely,
Chief Petty Officer Brian C. Chase

▲ ▲ ▲

Dear Mr. Chase,

The commanding general asked me to respond to your June 10 e-mail because your concern falls within my staff responsibilities. He appreciates that you took time to participate in the CG Mail program.

There are several other programs and activities currently using the facilities adjacent to the 7-Day Store. These programs will also require new or temporary facilities during the demolition and construction phases of the new Youth Center facility, scheduled to begin in the fall of 2005.

In September 2004, we will begin to identify the space requirements for all programs that will move into

the Youth Center. Therefore, you can expect to be contacted by our Marine Corps Community Services logistics manager requesting, your requirements at that time.

We are committed to finding adequate facilities for all programs that contribute to our family readiness and retention. We expect to have identified adequate facilities for Boy Scout troops and Cub Scout packs early next year, and certainly before we begin demolition of the existing building that houses these programs today.

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

Sincerely,
William B. Lindsey
Assistant Chief of Staff
MCCS

(Editor's Note: Last week, a resident addressed issues regarding parking concerns at MCB Hawaii's North Beach. The following information further clarifies who is authorized to use the designated parking areas at North Beach.)

North Beach Lower Access Point (on Bancroft Drive)

The seven parking spaces at this location are clearly marked with two big, green signs on either limit of the parking area, with arrows pointing in the direction of parking. The signs state, "Parking for MCBH active duty only red/blue decals — All other subject to towing at owner expense."

This parking area is for valid, permanent Marine Corps Base Hawaii decals, or temporary passes awaiting permanent decals only. They are not for the temporary, (one-day) paper passes.

North Beach Upper Access Point (on Pond Road)

A total of fifteen parking spaces exist at this location. The first five are reserved for non-MCB Hawaii military; each space is marked with its own sign, reading: "Non-MCBH Military with Permit Only."

If you are military from another base on the island, you may park in these spots with a North Beach parking pass from the Pass House at the H-3 Gate. Pass House personnel will issue five passes in the morning and



Cpl. Jessica M. Mills

Parking for base residents and visitors using MCB Hawaii's North Beach is available at several locations.

five in the afternoon for these spaces on a first-come, first-served basis. Once full, personnel must go to another beach, such as Pyramid Rock.

The next five parking spaces, adjacent to the non-MCB Hawaii military parking spaces identified above, are clearly marked, "MCBH Red/Blue Decals Only" and are intended for use by active duty personnel with permanent MCB Hawaii decals.

The last five parking spaces, which lie along the fence line immediately prior to entry into the Pond Road housing area, are also marked by signage. They may be used only by those with (red/blue) permanent MCB Hawaii decals.

Other Questions

You might ask, "Where do I park if

I do not have a permanent MCBH sticker?" The answer is at Pyramid Rock Beach or Fort Hase Beach.

You might also ask, "Where do I park if all the North Beach parking spots are full?" The answer is at Pyramid Rock Beach, Fort Hase Beach, or along the road going to the MCCS Youth Services Center (from which you will have to walk to North Beach).

Lastly, a word of warning: PMO is aggressively citing, booting or towing vehicles that are illegally parked at North Beach. Please help prevent a problem by complying with base regulations.

Sincerely,
Lt. Col. Loren D. Barney
Base Inspector
Marine Corps Base Hawaii

(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.

DENTAL, From A-1

left on the island of Oahu.

Along with the application, volunteers must submit two references and be interviewed by the Red Cross chairman of volunteers, the former class chair and representatives from 21st Dental Co.

If applicants are chosen, they must attend the American Red Cross Orientation and CPR course, at no cost. Only six candidates will be chosen for the program, so competition is tight.

The application deadline for the upcoming fall/winter program is July 9. Application forms can be picked up at the Red Cross Office located in Bldg. 216, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.



Cpl. Jessica M. Mills

Lt. Cmdr. Orville Stein (left), a dentist with 21st Dental Co., receives assistance from Mila Walker, a student in the Red Cross Dental Assistant Program, as they work on Sgt. Justin Park from Combat Assault Co., 3rd Marine Regiment.

The winds of change

The summer season has brought with it much command movement

Sgt. Joseph A. Lee
Combat Correspondent

The change of command ceremony is a time-honored tradition, which formally symbolizes the continuity of authority as the command is passed from one commanding officer to another.

According to Sgt. Maj. Arthur Taylor, the Marine Corps Air Facility sergeant major, it is a formal ceremony that is conducted before the assembled company of the command. The change of command, as traditionally practiced within the Marine Corps, is unique in the world today; it is a transfer of total responsibility, authority and accountability from one commander to another.

Certain portions of the ceremony may appear confusing to the unfamiliar eye. One is the transfer of the unit's colors, which is the Marine Corps flag, on which streamers are attached to signify the unit's achievements.

"The transfer of colors during the ceremony signifies the relinquishment of command by the outgoing

commander," said Taylor. "The acceptance of the colors by the incoming commander confirms his total commitment to the men and women he or she now serves."

Another is the formation and movement of troops and unit commanders around the parade field. According to Marine Corps lore, the formation of troops on the long line of battle at close interval, made possible the massing of firepower from the muzzle-loaded muskets of yesteryear. In those early days, the line of battle was just that, a line of two or three ranks, that looked much like the parade formations of today's change of command ceremonies.

Marine commanders of yesteryear called together their officers before battle to issue final instructions and words of encouragement to their subordinate commanders. This tradition is kept alive in the ceremonies held today. Each commander is accompanied by a service member carrying the unit guidon, which, back in the day, enabled the commander to quickly distinguish his units and ensure all were present before issuing final instructions and committing his warriors to battle.

The commander of troops may also give a series of commands to demonstrate the unit's ability to conduct simple rifle movements together. This symbolizes the fluidity and cohesiveness of the entire command.

The ceremonies are concluded by a "pass and review," during which unit commanders march their formation of troops in front of the outgoing and incoming officers as the troops exit the parade deck.

Changes of command ceremonies in the Marine Corps retain many traditions from times long past and provide a formal transition to honor incoming and outgoing commanders. Marines of today stand in formation to welcome their new commander, while saying good-bye to the commander moving on.



Lance Cpl. Gavin W. Powers

During 3/3's change of command ceremony June 18, the unit's organizational colors are passed in true Marine Corps tradition.



REUSS

Col. Michael E. Love will assume command of Marine Aircraft Group 24 from Col. Gregory C. Reuss at a change of command ceremony today. Love came here from U.S. Central Command, J5 Plans and Policy Directorate. Reuss will move on to the Marine Corps Combat Development Command, Quantico, Va.



LOVE



BOWE

Lt. Col. James S. Connelly assumed command of Headquarters Bn. from Lt. Col. Joseph G. Bowe at a change of command ceremony yesterday. Connelly came here from Training and Education Command, Quantico, Va., where he served as the C4ISR officer. Bowe has moved on to the College of Naval Warfare, Newport, R.I.



CONNELLY



REDMON

Lt. Col. Rudolph M. Janiczek assumed command of 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, from Lt. Col. Patrick L. Redmon at a change of command ceremony Wednesday. Janiczek formerly served as future operations officer for U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific. Redmon moves on for duty as the joint doctrine officer, Doctrine Division, Marine Corps Combat Development Command, Quantico, Va.



JANICZEK



CLARK

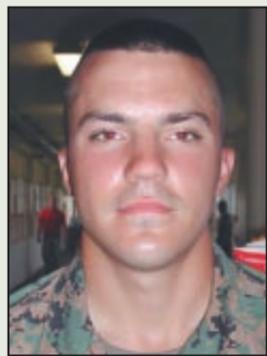
Lt. Col. Norman L. Cooling assumed command of 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, from Lt. Col. Robert D. Clark at a change of command ceremony June 18. Cooling came here from 5th Marine Regiment, Camp Pendleton, Calif., where he served as the executive officer. Clark has moved on to the College of Naval Warfare, Newport, R.I.



COOLING

Word on the Street

What do you not eat enough of?



"More fruits and vegetables because the chow we've eaten lately is fatty and pretty bad for you."

Pfc. Malcolm Gray
 Rifleman
 India Co., 3/3



"Steak and lobster. It'd be a good change."

Private Jason Fields
 Assaultman
 India Co., 3/3



"Fruits and vegetables because they keep ya' going. The other stuff just slows you down."

Pfc. Michael Burton
 Rifleman
 India Co., 3/3



"More fresh fruits and vegetables because it's healthier."

Private Tim Haddock
 Machinegunner, 3/3



"Seafood. It has a lot of iron in it."

Pfc. Michael Guynes
 Rifleman, 3/3

MCAF CO spreads his wings

Lt. Col. O'Halloran bids farewell as he returns to school

Cpl. Jessica M. Mills
Combat Correspondent

In 1980, a young accounting major said he stumbled through the hallways of the Pennsylvania State University Union Building when his eyes fell upon



a videotape of Marine Corps F-4 Phantoms performing tactical training. Though he didn't know it yet, the promising sophomore was looking at his future.

"I had always wanted to fly, but it was hard to become a pilot in other services," said Lt. Col. Michael A. O'Halloran, the former commanding officer of Marine Corps Air Facility here. "The Marine Corps was different. One of the greatest things about the Corps is that they accept people from all backgrounds, giving it greater strength and diversity."

O'Halloran met his match in the Marine Corps. In the summer of 1981,

he joined the Platoon Leaders Course and began working toward his commission. The Marine Corps Platoon Leaders Course is an alternative to the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps or Officer Candidate School for college students who wish to become commissioned officers in the Corps. Those who enroll as freshmen or sophomores are required to attend two summer training programs, over the span of two years at the Marine Corps Officer Candidate School, located at Quantico, Va.

O'Halloran completed both PLC programs and received his commission in May of '83.

"I believe the entire accounting faculty at Penn State was more excited about me joining the Corps than I was," said the Philadelphia suburbs native. "I guess it was meant to be."

Once O'Halloran finished his required flight training in '85, he was designated a naval flight aviator and reported to Marine Aircraft Group 39 at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

"My immediate goal as a young officer was to get my wings; it was, in my mind, the ultimate accomplishment," he explained. "But once I joined the fleet, I realized that getting your wings is not an accomplishment — it's just a beginning. You realize you have to continuously work on, reflect and, occasionally, fall short on your tactics to be a great leader and be successful."

"Ultimately, you find some measure of success when you have officially commanded a unit successfully. There is no better feeling than that."

While with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 367, a squadron with MAG-39, O'Halloran flew AH-1J, AH-1W, and UH-1N helicopters from '86 until '93. During this time period, he also completed overseas deployments, including service in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

"My most enjoyable time in the Marine Corps as a young officer was the time I spent in operations and deployments, being in a squadron and working with Marines," he said. "I have many fond memories from Camp Pendleton, Western Pacific floats and Okinawa Unit Deployment Programs."

For the next five years, O'Halloran served away from the pits and dipped his hand in education and leadership.

He continued on in '94 to graduate from the Amphibious Warfare School, and then served as an instructor at Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One in Yuma, Ariz. Three years later, he transferred to Maxwell Air Force Base to attend the Air Command Staff College and remained there for an additional year at the School of Advanced Airpower Studies.

After finishing his studies and completing his Master's Degree, he became an instructor at the Marine Aircraft

Group Training Facility Staff Training Program aboard MCB Quantico.

Arriving in Hawaii in the summer of '01, O'Halloran was first assigned as the deputy commander for MCB Hawaii before accepting the position as the commanding officer of Marine Corps Air Facility in '02.

"The deployments and training were great in my younger years, but my years as the commanding officer of MCAF have been the highlight of my career so far," O'Halloran said, reminiscing. "All of the exercises and operations were just background noise to prepare me for the responsibility of commanding, and gave the experience I needed to be the best CO I could be."

On June 4, O'Halloran passed the torch on and said farewell to MCAF service members. After 21 years in the service and 13 ribbons, he said that he has no regrets; everything he has seen and done has meant something to him.

"I am continuously amazed how dedicated young Marines and Sailors are," said O'Halloran. "These people come from every conceivable background, experience level and even countries, but they all transition once they join. They are all dedicated, smart and professional. It is humbling to be around them."

O'Halloran will return to the life of a student at the U.S. Army War College at Carlisle Barracks in Carlisle, Pa., to prepare himself for what is yet to come.

A fond farewell



Lance Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, commanding general, MCB Hawaii, congratulates Chaplain (Capt.) Joseph Estabrook (center) on 27 years of faithful service in the U.S. Navy during his retirement ceremony here at Dewey Square Thursday. Estabrook was recently appointed as bishop and is headed for the Archdiocese for the Military Services, U.S.A., in Washington, D.C.

RIMPAC, From A-1

Chile, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the United States — along with the United Kingdom. Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force units will participate in bilateral training with U.S. units.

A RIMPAC Web site containing details regarding exercise activities and imagery from exercise operations will be active during the exercise at www.cpf.navy.mil/rimpac2004/.



Cpl. Jason E. Miller

Japanese, Canadian, Australian and U.S. P-3 Orion aircraft lined the Marine Corps Air Facility aboard Kaneohe Bay during 2002 RIMPAC exercises.

VP-4 tunes up for RIMPAC with 'Silent Fury'

Lt. j.g. Shawn Spooner
Patrol Squadron 4

The "Skinny Dragons" of Patrol Squadron 4 took advantage of the unique opportunity to participate in a

multinational training exercise with a Royal Australian Navy diesel submarine. Recently, the vessel made a long transit from Australia to Hawaii during exercise "Silent Fury."

The training consisted of ships, air-

craft and submarines from the U.S. and Australian navies that all worked with the HMAS Rankin, a RAN diesel. The Rankin, the centerpiece of the exercise, is a Collins class diesel submarine known for exceptionally silent underwater operations.

Commander Task Force 12 coordinated a combined anti-submarine warfare (ASW) effort using sea and air assets. Participating units included five combat aircrews from VP-4; one from the "Fighting Marlins" of VP-40, based out of Whidbey Island in Washington; the "Easy Riders" of Helicopter Submarine Light 37, based at Kaneohe Bay; the USS O'Kane, Paul Hamilton, Reuben James and Key West (SSN); and Destroyer Squadron 31 and HMAS Farncomb.

P-3C Orion aircraft from VP-4 and VP-40 kicked off the exercise by conducting Extended Echo Ranging as the Rankin approached the Hawaiian Islands' chain.

The Rankin proceeded into a littoral ASW free-play exercise, assuming the

role of a hostile diesel submarine. The Skinny Dragons complemented this scenario as the first operational flight to use a "beyond line of sight communications system." This system allows P-3 crews to increase communications connectivity through computerized chat with ships and shore commands.

The Skinny Dragons and Fighting Marlin teams linked a string of successful missions during the five-day event, not missing a minute of tasked, on-station time. Months of dedicated aircraft grooming paid off, as all planes were mission capable on station.

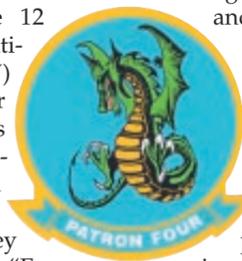
"Silent Fury was an excellent opportunity for us to challenge our aircrews in our primary mission area of undersea warfare," said Cmdr. David Smith, commanding officer of VP-4. "The Rankin was a formidable opponent and provided unique training opportunities for the entire task force and us."

Smith said Silent Fury was "an outstanding precursor" for RIMPAC exercises next month.



Lt. j.g. Shawn Spooner

The Skinny Dragons partook in "Silent Fury" exercises using their own P-3 Orion aircraft as well as Royal Australian Navy diesel submarine, the HMAS Rankin.



Corps Chaplain reflects on his own past spiritual experiences

Cpl. Danielle M. Bacon
U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific

CAMP H. M. SMITH, Hawaii — Words of praise, hope and inspiration filled the air in Hawaii when the fifteenth Chaplain of the Marine Corps made his rounds here and at Kaneohe Bay, June 17.

During one of many stops on his two-day visit, Rear Adm. Robert F. Burt met with Marine Forces Pacific enlisted Marines and Sailors from every rank to discuss the special relationship between the Marine Corps and the Navy.

"Chaplains want to see Marines be the best Marine they

can be," said Burt. "Sometimes, chaplains are not used as often as they could be."

"I have seen three kinds of chaplains," said Master Sgt. Steven Wadleigh of MarForPac's G-4, who first recalled a boot camp experience and how a chaplain motivated him to go to church.

Wadleigh's second experience with a chaplain conflicted with his initial impressions.

"The chaplain's door was always closed. That gave me a bad attitude towards all chaplains," Wadleigh said, adding that he believed the chaplain was never there.

"There was this chaplain who

would drive a mile from his office to visit the Marines everyday," Wadleigh remembered of his third experience. "He didn't have to [drive that distance], but he would, at least to say 'hi' or talk to Marines about anything."

Wadleigh's attitude about any Marine going to the chaplain changed after his third impression.

"I had no fear that one of my Marines was talking to him," Wadleigh said.

"Serving Marines is like working at the finest restaurant, where everything is nice,



Cpl. Danielle M. Bacon

The fifteenth Chaplain of the Marine Corps, Rear Adm. Robert F. Burt, met with Marine Forces Pacific enlisted service members from every rank to discuss the special relationship between the Corps and the Navy, June 17.

upbeat and everything goes smoothly," said Burt. "In fact, when I worked as a monitor, I would have chaplains call me up and say, 'I don't want to

leave the Marines."

Burt said his fellow chaplains frequently asked to serve

See *CHAPLAIN*, A-7

GI Bill turns 60; funds go unused

Pete DeLauzon

Military.com Press Release

For 60 years, the GI Bill has been available for American service members to help ease the transition from military service to civilian life. Despite the fact that educational benefits are the most frequently cited reason for joining the military, nearly half of those eligible never use them.

Lack of use is surprising, considering the fact that using the GI bill has never been easier. That is particularly true with the increasing array of adult, nontraditional learning opportunities such as online, correspondence and other distance learning programs.

Historically, America has compensated veterans for their services. Varying levels of benefits have been provided to veterans from colonial times through every major conflict.

Education benefits for veterans began with the Rehabilitation Act of 1919. This law gave disabled World War I veterans a monthly education allowance. Then on June 22, 1944, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed into law the "Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944," commonly known as the "GI Bill."

This month marks the 60th anniversary of the GI Bill. Although initially controversial, the bill has since been recognized as one of the most important acts of Congress. During the past six decades, the law has provided billions of dollars in education and training for millions of veterans.

Post-Vietnam Era Veterans' Educational Assistance Program (VEAP)

In 1976, the Post-Vietnam Era Veterans' Educational Assistance Program, or VEAP, was established. This was the first veterans' education program requiring a contribution by the service member. It was available to people who entered active duty between Dec. 31, 1976, and July 1, 1985.

The Montgomery G. I. Bill (MGIB)

The "Active Duty Educational

Assistance Program," or the Montgomery G. I. Bill, is the current one available for individuals initially entering active duty after June 30, 1985.

The MGIB is a contributory program. Basic pay is automatically reduced by \$100 per month for 12 months, unless the service member declines to participate at the time of enlistment.

Eligibility Requirements

To meet the basic eligibility requirements, active duty service members must complete a minimum of two years of continuous active duty, and have a high school diploma or equivalent. Veterans must be honorably discharged. Discharges "under honorable conditions" and "general" discharges don't qualify for the MGIB or VEAP.

Members must also have completed high school, or have an equivalency certificate, before they apply for benefits. In addition, veterans must have served at least two years on active duty.

MGIB Benefits

Under the Montgomery GI Bill, full-time students, enrolled in a regionally or nationally accredited college or university, can get up to \$985 (nontaxable) a

month to cover education costs. That can add up to a total benefit of more than \$35,000, and the benefits are increasing every year. This figure is based on the maximum benefit during a period of 36 months.

Many veterans don't realize that the GI Bill can be used for more than just getting a college degree. The GI Bill also covers such things as vocation and technical training, licensing and certification, on-the-job training, apprenticeships and more.

In fact, in recent years, the MGIB has improved by adding such programs as "Active Duty Top-Up," accelerated payments for high-tech courses, and the opportunity for active duty service members to put in an additional contribution of up to \$600 to receive an additional \$150 a month in benefits.

Also, each year, the VA increases the basic "payment rate" that a full-time student is entitled to receive.

MGIB Guard and Reserve Benefits

The Montgomery GI Bill also has a "Selected Reserve Educational Assistance Program" (MGIB-SR), which was designed to provide educational assistance to members of the Selected Reserve and National Guard. Like the MGIB, the MGIB-SR provides up to 36 months of education benefits for college, technical training and apprenticeship programs. Eligible members, in most cases, have 14 years to use their benefits.

For Additional Information

Whether you are active duty, veteran, Guard, or Reserve, not taking advantage of the GI Bill in a timely manner can be costly. The benefits are typically good for 10 years after the service members' last discharge.

Since 1944, more than 20 million beneficiaries have participated in GI Bill education and training programs. The list includes an assortment of very well-known individuals including singer Tony Bennett; actors James Whitmore, Bill Cosby, R. Lee Ermey, Clint Eastwood and Charles Bronson; comedian Paul Rodriguez; and actor and former Minnesota Governor Jesse Ventura.

Military.com provides extensive information on the GI Bill and tuition assistance, as well as a searchable database of hundreds of military-related scholarships and a comprehensive school finder, which includes information about degree programs, credit for military service, ACE, CLEP and DANTEs.

Membership is nearly 4 million strong and free of charge, and the service connects active duty members, veterans and their families to benefits information, discounts, scholarships, career services and friends from the service.

Military.com also offers tips on getting a college degree and financial aid. Visit www.Military.com/Education for details. Additional MGIB information is also available through VA Regional Offices or toll-free at (888)-GIBILL-1 (442-4551).



Cpl. Jessica M. Mills

Staff Sgt. Vincent Harris, the frequency manager for the G-6 Operations Office at Kaneohe Bay, signs up for the summer semester at Hawaii Pacific University with the help of Michelle Koenig, an education assistant for HPU.

TRICARE teams up with TriWest Healthcare

New partnership begins July 1

Col. Stephanie A. Marshall
Commander, TRICARE Regional
Office West

HONOLULU, Hawaii — TriWest Healthcare Alliance Corporation has joined the Tripler ohana, as its new TRICARE partner. TriWest officially assumes responsibility as the TRICARE contractor July 1, but the TriWest staff have been busy transitioning with their Healthnet counterparts for several weeks.

TriWest brings eight years of military health system experience to Hawaii. Its leaders are committed to providing customer-focused service as they

do "whatever it takes" to deliver access to world-class health care to our nation's finest.

Their goal is to continue to deliver outstanding, uninterrupted care to our patients during the ongoing transition from Healthnet to TriWest. The majority of changes is "behind the scenes" and designed to make the TRICARE program even better.

For more information, visit the TRICARE Center, located on the first floor oceanside, "C" Wing. TriWest provides additional information on its Web site at www.triwest.com, or call (888)-TRIWEST.

TRICARE changes number

**Tripler Army
Medical Center**
Press Release

HONOLULU, Hawaii — Tripler Army Medical Center's new health services contractor, TriWest Healthcare Alliance, has a new phone number for TRICARE information.

The TriWest TRICARE Service Center and TAMC's Managed Care TRICARE Operations Office are now also colocated on Tripler's first floor, near the "oceanside" entrance at the intersection of Oceanside Mall (where the

Community Health Nursing Section used to be).

The one-stop location makes it easier for beneficiaries who need to in-process, enroll, receive assistance with claims, or transfer TRICARE benefits, said Terri L. Cloud, Tripler's health benefit's adviser.

The Managed Care TRICARE Operations phone remains the same: 433-3422. Staffs for both the service center and the operations office are available weekdays from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Visit the TRICARE Web site at www.tricare.osd.mil/faqs/ for answers to frequently asked questions.

Beneficiaries can triage their healthcare

Tripler Army Medical Center
Managed Care Division

HONOLULU, Hawaii — Military beneficiaries on Oahu should notice very few changes July 1 when a new TRICARE contractor, TriWest Healthcare Alliance, takes over. The new TRICARE contract will leave the basic benefit structure and enrollment unchanged. However, the national Health Care Information Line (HCIL) will not be available.

Instead of the HCIL, TRICARE offers many options for you to better manage your health care and to take responsibility for your own health.

In every case, if you believe it is an emergency, call 911 first. If it is not an emergency, you have a number of options available.

When you are looking for general information and want to educate yourself or learn more about a health care issue that affects your family, TRICARE has these general information options available 24 hours a day, every day of the week:

- TRICARE Online at www.tricareonline.com/. Go to "General Health Information" on the second page.

- WebMD through the TriWest Web site at www.triwest.com/.

- Call TriWest at (888)-TRIWEST (874-9378) to access the audio library. When you need more in-depth information or assistance in finding information, visit the Health Information Resource Center located on the first floor, "oceanside" entrance of Tripler Army Medical Center.

TRICARE Prime enrollees that need to speak to their primary care manager (PCM) during the day (or the on-call provider after duty hours) for specific advice on symptoms they are experiencing at that point can contact their PCM in the following manner:

- If enrolled at TAMC or Schofield Barracks: Call 433-2778 or your assigned clinic to schedule a same-day appointment or leave a message for your PCM or on-call provider. For Family Practice, call 433-3300; Adult Medicine, 433-6641; Pediatrics, 433-6697; Schofield Barracks Family Practice, 433-2778; or Schofield Barracks Tropic

Lighting Clinic, 433-8225.

- If enrolled at Hickam Air Force Base, 15th Medical Group: Call 448-6000 to schedule a same-day appointment, request a call back from your primary care team nurse, or contact the on-call provider after duty hours.

- If enrolled at Makalapa Branch Medical Clinic: Call 473-1880 and select option #1 to contact your PCM during normal working hours or option #4 after duty hours.

- If enrolled at the Kaneohe Bay BMC: Call 257-3365 during working hours, or call 473-1880 after duty hours and select option #4.

- If enrolled at Wahiawa Medical Annex: Call 653-5340 to contact your PCM during normal working hours, or call 473-1880 after duty hours and select option #4.

- If enrolled at Camp H. M. Smith Medical Annex, call 477-3773 to contact your PCM during normal working hours, or call 473-1880 or 473-1510 after duty hours and select option #4.

- If enrolled at a civilian network PCM: Contact your PCM as directed by the PCM.

- If enrolled at any other military medical clinic: Contact your PCM or clinic appointment line as directed by your PCM.

Beneficiaries not enrolled in TRICARE Prime should contact their civilian provider. For assistance in finding a PCM or learning about your TRICARE benefits, call TriWest at (888)-TRIWEST.



Beneficiaries can contact TriWest with enrollment, primary care management and address changes; program benefit, claims status and fee payments questions; and locate network providers in the area by walking into the TRICARE Service Centers at Makalapa Medical Clinic, Pearl Harbor (open weekdays, 7:30-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-4:30 p.m.) and at Kaneohe Bay Branch Medical Clinic (open weekdays, 7-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-4 p.m.)

For TRICARE information, call
(888)-TriWest (874-9378).



CIVILIANS, From A-1

of NSPS and that it will be "extremely useful" in keeping employees informed and updated as the system evolves.

Congress authorized the new personnel system as part of the fiscal 2004 National Defense Authorization Act, allowing the Defense Department new authority to develop new civilian human resources, labor-management relations and employee appeals systems.

The new Web site offers an overview of what DoD employees can expect from the new personnel system, as well as information regarding issues of labor, management and employee unions, and links to NSPS-related documents.

One of the more powerful features of the NSPS Web site is a mechanism for visitors to submit comments and ideas about NSPS directly to the NSPS Program Executive Office, Bunn said.

"We continuously monitor the input from visitors, and the ideas and comments we receive through the Web site will help us gauge what employees and

CHAPLAIN, From A-5

aboard ships with Marines.

"It is really good to see chaplains who get involved with the Marines. I think it is good to know where they stand on different issues," said Cpl. Ruddy Daza of MarForPac's S-4, "[because] knowing that makes you feel more comfortable when you really need to talk to them about important issues."

Burt made it a point to emphasize chaplains are available to assist Marines and Sailors with personal growth and well-being issues.

The Marine Corps chaplain wrapped up his visit by dining with Navy chaplains and religious program specialists stationed on Oahu.

other stakeholders are really concerned about," he said.

Bunn said the site will be a primary NSPS communications vehicle, and it will be used throughout all phases of the NSPS design and implementation process.

"It certainly won't be our only means of communications, but it's a central source of information on NSPS," he explained. "We want to ensure DoD employees have a reliable, continuing source of information as the system develops."

What: Information Brief (NSPS, etc.)

When: Wednesday, June 30 at 2 p.m.

Where: Base Theater

Who: All civilians

COBRA GOLD, From A-1

and we got through."

The MOUT training also gave the Army a chance to put their newly honed skills up against the Marines on the final days of the phase, said McKinley.

With the situation in the world today, urbanized warfare is much more abundant, he added. The Thai Army was mostly focused on rural training in the past, and they realize they need to be able to adapt to any environment.

When not training in the MOUT facilities, the Thai Army taught Marines Muay Thai boxing, their form of military martial arts.

"The Marines really liked trying something new," said

McKinley. "They got to spar with their fighters, then teach the Army the Marine Corps martial arts training."

Phase two focused mainly on marksmanship and live-fire drills. The platoons maneuvered through a squad assault course in the jungle, and performed live-fire exercises the following day.

"The integration of the platoons was a really good experience for everyone involved,"



said McKinley. "To see how their training tactics differed from ours was a real eye-opener for everybody."

Marines learned how we are capable to integrate and train with other nations, even if there may be language barriers, added McKinley.

"Everyone had to do the same things and work together to get the missions accomplished successfully," he added.

Lima Co. returned May 30 and is scheduled to participate in exercise Rim of the Pacific training, July 5 - 22.

DUIs are career killers

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

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

•June 1, Staff Sgt. Carl A. Ledgister of Marine Helicopter Training Squadron 301, for DUI with a blood alcohol content of .170 percent.

•June 5, Staff Sgt. Casey J. Carter of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363, for DUI pending test results.

•June 5, Cpl. Christopher D. Castro of Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, for DUI and reckless driving with a BAC of .078 percent.

•June 6, Staff Sgt. Kevin A. Odle of 1/12, for DUI with a BAC of .146 percent.

•June 8, Sgt. Brian A. Hendricks of Combat Assault Co., for DUI with a BAC of .150 percent.

•June 8, Seaman Recruit Nicholas N. Florentino of Patrol Squadron 4, for underage consumption with a BAC of .140 percent.

•June 8, a Kaneohe civilian, for underage consumption and reckless driving with a BAC of .170 percent.

•June 11, Cpl. Jonathan P. Grandstaff of Weapons Co., 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, for DUI with a BAC of .130 percent.

•June 12, Sgt. Kevin L. Behrisch of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362, for DUI with a BAC of .140 percent.

•June 13, Cpl. Brian C. Neisig of Combat Service Support Group 3, for DUI with a BAC of .130 percent.

•June 17, Cpl. Michael A. Johnson Jr. of Headquarters and Service Bn., Marine Forces Pacific, for DUI and driving while on state suspension with a BAC of .150 percent.

•June 18, Cpl. Ronald E. Jones of Headquarters and Service Co., 1/3, for DUI with a BAC of .120 percent.

SALUTES**Sergeants Course 4-04****Honor Graduate**

Sgt. T. L. Morgan

Second Place

Sgt. W. P. Stevenson III

Third Place

Sgt. K. T. Coquillard

Gung Ho Award

Sgt. K. D. James

Certificates of Superior Physical Performance

Sgt. I. S. Arasato, 291

Sgt. K. T. Coquillard, 286

Sgt. P. Dinkins, 296

Sgt. K. D. James, 285

Sgt. R. Ortega, 293

Sgt. A. J. Rutherford, 300

Sgt. W. P. Stevenson III, 297

Sgt. R. S. Wells, 289

Sergeant Major of the Corps Writing Award**1st Place**

Sgt. A. D. Whicker

Runner-Up

Sgt. K. D. James

Honorable Mention

Sgt. W. P. Stevenson III

Corporals Course 7-04**Honor Graduate**

Cpl. N. J. Deweerd

Second Place

Cpl. L. P. Magana

Third Place

Cpl. L. C. White

Gung Ho Award

Cpl. E. B. Roeder

Certificate of Superior Physical Performance

Cpl. N.A. Ragsdale, 285

(Units wanting to submit information for "Salutes" should send an e-mail to editor@hawaiimarine.com or call 257-8836.)