

# Hawaii MARINE

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## Combat support reaches new heights



A team of snipers find their targets from atop the rim of the Ulupau Crater overlooking the Range Training Facility.

Story and Photos by  
**Sgt. Robert Carlson**  
Press Chief

The snipers and reconnaissance Marines from the visiting 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) took training aboard MCB Hawaii to new heights Saturday when they scaled the rim of the Ulupau Crater for some high-angle sniper training.

The training marked the first time in years that Marines trained on Range 10, atop the 633-foot-high crater surrounding the Range Training Facility.

"Our work-ups were really fast-paced, and we were focused on getting all of the qualifications we needed before deployment," said Capt. Soutsana Ounkham, commanding officer of Headquarters Co., Battalion Landing Team 3/1. "This training has

given us a great chance to catch up on some last-minute adjustments on our weapons and gear."

Ounkham, who also serves as commanding officer for the MEU's Maritime Special Purpose Force (MSPF), said most of the other MEU Marines could do their training and zeroing on the ship. The snipers, though, can't really reach out and touch a target while underway.

Most of the Marines were trained on the M-40A1 sniper rifle in school, and the MEU finally received the new M-40A3 halfway through the workups, explained Ounkham.

The stopover in Hawaii was an opportunity to get some range time with the new weapons.

High-angle shooting requires different elevation settings, and the crater rim provided an excellent

See MEU, A-6

## MALS-24 remains model for integrated units

The Kaneohe Bay Navy and Marine Corps unit is the only one of its kind in the two services

Cpl. Jason E. Miller  
Combat Correspondent

While talk of integrating Navy and Marine Corps air assets has been up in the air for some time, Marines and Sailors at MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, are already making it happen.

Since the addition of several naval squadrons from Naval Air Station, Barbers Point, a single unit made up of both Marines and Sailors has the job of supporting the 11 squadrons that call MCB Hawaii Home — Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24 (MALS-24).

Unlike all other aviation support commands in the Navy and Marine Corps, MALS-24 has fully integrated the Navy-Marine team, a standard that may serve as a model for the way Naval and Marine

aviation units around the world could combine manpower to obtain better quality and efficiency in the way they support their squadrons.

The mission of MALS-24 is to provide intermediate level maintenance and supply support to the 11 operational and training squadrons assigned to Marine Corps Air Facility, and to provide a pool of qualified Marines and Sailors to augment other Marine aviation logistics squadrons and aviation intermediate maintenance departments during deployments and under wartime scenarios.

With more than 700 Marines and Sailors under its command, MALS-24 accomplishes the task of supporting both Marine and Navy squadrons here at K-



Cpl. Jason E. Miller

Private First Class James Harrison and Seaman Apprentice Daryl Blanchard, both aircrew survival equipment men from MALS-24, perform a scheduled inspection on flight safety gear.

Bay and on deployments around the globe.

The unit is so integrated, in fact, that the commanding officer is a Marine, the executive officer is a Sailor, and a MALS-24 sergeant major and a command master chief work side by side.

"We have learned to work together as a Naval team," said Lt. Cmdr. Kenneth Dianovitch, MALS-24 executive officer. "We have taken the cultures of both sides and made them even stronger."

"There has been talk of doing this in other locations. We were the test bed, and now that we have proven that it can work, I am sure we will see it at other locations," he added.

"The advantage of being in such a cohesive unit does more than build camaraderie between the Navy personnel and Marines," said Chief Petty Officer Tom Willa, MALS-24 training officer.

"Being in a unit like this allows the Marines and Sailors to share technical expertise that they would normally not get working alone. Also, having one large entity that works together is going to always be more powerful than several small ones working on their own.

"I think that's the whole idea behind this thing," Willa added. "It seems to really work well for everyone."

See MALS-24, A-7

## K-Bay residents speak their mind at MCCS town hall assembly

Story and Photos by  
**Lance Cpl. Jessica M. Mills**  
Sports Editor

To give residents and employees a chance to express their opinions regarding the performance of Marine Corps Community Services and its programs, MCCS hosted a town hall meeting June 18 at the MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, base theater.

Lieutenant Col. Michael Williams, deputy assistant chief of staff of MCCS, explained to the audience that complaints, suggestions and praise would be taken to Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, commanding general of MCB Hawaii. In turn, he said, the general would take



(Left to right) Gunnery Sgt. George Gagne, an ISMO maintenance chief; Mari Rollins, a spouse and Key Volunteer coordinator; and spouse Eileen McDougall all spoke up and gave their opinions about different programs they feel are needed to improve MCB Hawaii and the Marine Corps during the MCCS Town Hall meeting June 18.

those reports to the MCCS board of directors.

The assembly provided its opinions on four questions:

- What programs are we running well?
- What are we doing that we

should not be doing?

- What are we not doing that we should be doing?
- What are we doing that could be done better?

See TOWN HALL, A-7

## Three fatalities forecast July 4 weekend

Sgt. Robert Carlson  
Press Chief

The Statistics Division of the Naval Safety Center is forecasting that the Navy and Marine Corps will lose three service members to off-duty mishaps during the upcoming Independence Day weekend.

The forecast is based on analysis of data from recent years, and past forecasts have proved accurate.

The Center forecasts mishaps related to off-duty recreation and motor vehicle accidents only, and it does not take into account suicides or duty-related deaths.

For the Memorial Day weekend, the Center predicted four fatalities, and four occurred. Two of the fatalities were Marines, and two were Sailors. All four were motor vehicle mishaps.

For the July 4 weekend last year, the forecast was two fatalities, and there were four.

The MCB Hawaii Base Safety Center urges all Marines and Sailors to remember their risk management training when celebrating Independence Day, and to always have a transportation plan when the celebration involves alcohol.

## MCBH NEWS BRIEFS

### ALERT TEST SCHEDULED

The State Civil Defense monthly test of sirens and the Emergency Alert System will be held on Monday at 11:45 a.m.

### NEW IMMUNIZATION POLICIES GOVERN ALL 7TH GRADERS

Hawaii has new school immunization requirements for all 7th graders who attend school here.

The new law requires that all students entering the 7th grade must have completed the following vaccinations by the first day of school:

- 3 Hepatitis B,
- 2 MMR, and
- 1 or 2 Chickenpox (Varicella, or a physician-documented history of chickenpox disease).

A 7th grader may only attend school on the first day if their school has received one of the following:

- A yellow 7th grade Student Immunization Record card, signed by the student's doctor, indicating that he or she has completed all required vaccinations (or the documented history exception),

- A signed note from the doctor, indicating that the student has started but not yet completed the vaccination series, or

- A physician note indicating that the doctor does not currently have a supply of required vaccine and the student will be recalled when the shortage has improved.

Students who have not complied with the new school immunization requirements will not be allowed to attend school.

"It is important that parents do this now and not wait until doctors' offices get busy during the summer," said Dr. Paul Effler, Communicable Disease Division, Hawaii Department of Health (DOH).

There are also new immunization requirements for children entering preschool and kindergarten, and children who are entering school for the first time ever in Hawaii.

Visit the DOH Web site at [www.VaxToSchool.com](http://www.VaxToSchool.com) or call 586-8323 for details.

### POST OFFICE POSTS TIMES

The Kaneohe Bay U.S. Post Office has changed its hours to better serve customers. New hours of operation are as follows:

Monday thru Friday: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Saturdays, Sundays & Holidays: closed.  
Unit Mail Call: 9 - 11 a.m.  
Official Mail Service: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Parcel Pick-up: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## Hawaii MARINE

Commanding General  
Public Affairs Director  
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Press Chief  
Managing Editor  
Sports Editor

Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee  
Maj. Chris Hughes  
Gunnery Sgt. Rhys Evans  
Sgt. Robert Carlson  
Aiko Brum  
Lance Cpl. Jessica Mills

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To contact the MCB Hawaii Public Affairs Office use the following addresses:

HAWAII MARINE, BUILDING 216, MCB HAWAII  
KANEHOE BAY, HI, 96863  
E-MAIL: [HAWAIIIMARINE@MCBH.USMC.MIL](mailto:HAWAIIIMARINE@MCBH.USMC.MIL)  
FAX: 257-2511, PHONE: 257-8840

# Japan, U.S. close seminars

Marine Forces  
Pacific  
Press Release

**HONOLULU** — Senior leaders from U.S. Marine Forces Pacific, the Japanese Ground Self Defense Forces (JGSDF) staff office and U.S. Army Pacific concluded three days of talks here June 13.

The series of Senior Level Seminars began in 2001. The seminars are designed to promote mutual understanding between the three counterpart services of both nations, and to improve the overall effectiveness of the U.S.-Japan security alliance.

The alliance is considered America's most important bilateral relationship,



Cpl. Liz Herrera

Senior leaders from MarForPac, the Japanese Ground Self Defense Forces staff office and U.S. Army Pacific concluded three days of talks here June 13.

and it is critical to U.S. security strategy throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

The seminars allow military counterparts to meet regularly, exchange views and build personal relationships with their counterparts.

The just-concluded seminar includ-

ed discussions of potential areas of cooperation on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations, non-combatant evacuation and peacekeeping operations between the U.S. Marine Corps, Army, and Japanese Ground Self Defense Force.

Lieutenant Gen. Earl B. Hailston, commander, U.S. Marine Forces Pacific, hosted the seminar.

Attendees included Maj. Gen. Fumio Eto, director of Plans and Operations, JGSDF; Maj. Gen. Makoto Hirose, director of Education and Training, JGSDF; Maj. Gen. Taiji Anezaki, deputy chief of staff, Northern Army Headquarters, JGSDF; Maj. Gen. (Promotable) James L. Campbell, special assistant to the commanding general, U.S. Army Pacific; and Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, deputy commanding general, III Marine Expeditionary Forces Hawaii.

## DoD opens 'Medsearch' online site

Austin Camacho  
Special to American Forces Press Service

**WASHINGTON** — Veterans and service members can now find Gulf War research-related medical information at one central Web site, <http://www.gulf-link.osd.mil/medsearch/>.

The site is the collaborate effort of the Defense Department's Deployment Health Support Directorate, the Department of Veterans Affairs and the federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention in Atlanta.

The idea for the online medical library, dubbed Medsearch, came as a recommendation from a 1999 CDC conference, according to Drue H. Barrett of the CDC's National Center for Environmental Health.

"We brought together a variety of different scientists, researchers, veterans and patients' advocates," she said. "In several different work groups, at this conference, there was raised this issue that sometimes the research was difficult to search through — because it was on several different sites."

Medsearch strives to fill the needs of both veterans and researchers, Barrett explained. Veterans wanted one place to go where all the information and research was available in a way they could understand.

Researchers wanted an easier way to keep track of all the research being

*"Sometimes the research was difficult to search through."*

Drue H. Barrett  
National Center for  
Environmental Health

done by the federal government in various places.

The site's creators believed it would be nearly impossible to capture all the research done related to Gulf War veterans' health, but government-funded research would at least represent the majority.

Some of the material on Medsearch consists of plain-language documents, like the case narratives written in the last few years by the Office of the Special Assistant for Gulf War Illnesses, known today as the Deployment Health Support Directorate.

Many articles, however, were published in scientific journals and filled with technical jargon. Directorate officials have said they can't rewrite these documents, but they are committed to making the information in

them accessible to all readers. They've done this by adding introductions that give people a quick summary or synopsis of what they'll find in each document.

For those who understand the scientific language, the original documents are posted, in their entirety, with source details.

The site's topics are listed in simple language so visitors can readily identify what they're looking for. For example, data on neurological disorders are listed under "Brain and nervous system."

There are also topics listed that you might not see in other medical sources. For instance, "pesticides" and "depleted uranium" are environmental and occupational hazards that civilian health care providers may not have much information on, but that are of key interest to Gulf War veterans.

Those who visit the site should know they are viewing just the first stage of an ongoing project. The site will be updated continually as more research is done.

Barrett said she hopes Medsearch will become increasingly valuable to veterans as time passes.

(Editor's Note: Austin Camacho is the senior public affairs specialist at the DoD Deployment Health Support Directorate, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, in the Pentagon.)

## Bestowing CG commendations

Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, commanding general, MCB Hawaii, congratulates Lt. Col. Albert S. Lardizabal, assistant chief of staff, G-2, after pinning on the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal during the flagpole ceremony June 21. Lardizabal is surrounded by civilian Marines who were also recognized during the ceremony. Iwalani Keawe (second from right), a legal assistant with Legal Assistance, was honored for 38 years of service with the Marine Corps in Hawaii. Also honored were Stephanie Jones-Ortega (right), a Key Volunteer with Combat Service Support Group 3; Clyde Tamashiro, Michael Silva (second from left), Gaylaann Talaesea, and Doris Chu. The Fuels Division and Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting received unit Certificates of Commendation during the ceremony.



Lance Cpl. Jessica M. Mills



CARPENTER

## VP-9 leadership changes hands



Commander Bradley A. Carpenter took the helm of Patrol Squadron 9 during a change of command ceremony on the flightline June 21. Carpenter, who previously served as the squadron's executive officer, replaced Cmdr. Robert A. Lally. Lally will report for duty with Patrol Wing 1 in Japan.



LALLY

# New 7-Ton goes mobile in Hawaii

The tactical vehicle increases combat support for Oahu's Marines

Story and Photos by  
**Sgt. Robert Carlson**  
Press Chief

Marine units aboard MCB Hawaii will soon be able to go more places, do more training, and do it all safer with the implementation of the Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement (MTVR).

The trucks are arriving in a steady stream, and the Marines of Combat Service Support Group 3's motor pool are configuring the new vehicles for distribution to the motor pools aboard the base.

The MTVR, also known as the 7-ton truck, brings superior lift capabilities, an improved power plant, and a smoother ride to motor transport sections in Hawaii.

While the MTVR carries the same number of personnel as the 5-ton truck in a nearly identical bed space, the turbocharged Caterpillar C-12 engine can handle the big jobs like towing artillery pieces uphill.

"It's going to increase the combat capabilities a great deal because of the increased power and better off-road performance," said Gunnery Sgt. Doug Peercy, platoon commander, Operations Plt., Motor Transport Co., CSSG-3. "The artillery units will be able to do their mission better and faster, and everyone will be safer."

The new truck has independent suspension, push button transmission, air ride seats, and is fully designed for off road, Peercy explained. The tires can even take a .50 caliber round and stay inflated long enough for the vehicle to get to a safe zone.

Although the truck was built to manage rough terrain with ease, the cab-controlled tire inflation system



Above — The CSSG-3 motor pool is the holding area for vehicles. Left — Gunnery Sgt. Doug Peercy, a platoon commander in Motor Transport Co., shows how tall in scale the new MTVR stands compared to a man. Below — Peercy connects the onboard Message Information Center.



adds comfort and security when the truck rolls onto the pavement for a road trip.

Maintenance Marines will appreciate the two-year warranty on the trucks, and the support provided by the manufacturer.

"Representatives from Osh Kosh are providing on-site support for the first three years, and our Marines are learning how to diagnose problems and maintain the vehicles, said Peercy.

Benefits of the MTVR in-

clude a fiberglass cab and aluminum body which will eliminate rust problems that plague the 5-ton, and a fording-ready configuration with intake, exhaust, and breathers already routed to 'above water.'

The truck is taller than the 5-ton, and to get under the 98-inch-high embark limit, operators must remove the top of the cab and lower the exhaust and intake.

"It takes about an hour to get the truck ready to load onto a C-5 galaxy, where the

5-ton truck took only a few minutes," said Peercy.

As with any new piece of gear, Marines will need to adjust to the differences in the Corps' newest workhorse. The bed is nearly two feet higher than in the old trucks, and jumping out of the back means a drop of that much more to the ground. A ladder on the tailgate alleviates the problem in most circumstances but in an ambush, the ladder will most likely be

See 7-TON, A-6

# Discipline is required in formation

Sgt. Robert Carlson  
Press Chief

One of the easiest ways to embarrass nearly every Marine and Sailor in your unit is to fall out of formation during a ceremony or parade.

Every Marine learns how to stand in formation at the position of attention, but during nearly every ceremony aboard MCB Hawaii, at least one departs the formation and staggers off to visit the corpsman.

Everyone has seen it happen — an entire battalion is on the parade deck,

perfectly covered and aligned, and looking sharp in Dress Blue Deltas. Family members and guests from the community fill the bleachers, watching the ceremony, impressed by the Marines' discipline.

All of a sudden, something near the rear of one of the formations catches everyone's eyes. Someone decided to leave the ranks and head off the field.

That type of incident usually doesn't slow the ceremony down at all, and some guests may not give it a second thought, but it shows a lack of preparation and a lack of discipline — the last characteristics a Marine unit wants associated with it.

Staff Sgt. Jesse McGuire, a platoon advisor at the Staff Noncommissioned Officers Academy aboard MCB Hawaii, said one way to avoid losing Marines during ceremonies is to schedule them in the cooler parts of the day rather than when the sun is beating down.

When the ceremony can't be scheduled around the hottest part of the day, though, the Marines need to mentally and physically prepare to stand in formation.

The instructors at the academy have combined drill field experience totaling dozens of years, and they say the best way to stay in formation is to remember the position of attention, and focus on staying in it.

The most common reason some Marines fall out, according to McGuire, is that they don't drink enough water the day before the formation, and they lock their knees while at the position of attention. With the climate as hot as it is in

Hawaii, McGuire said hydration and focus are crucial.

The position of attention was developed to be the position from which most drill movements begin, and it's the best way to stand in the same place, motionless, for an extended period of time.

To get into a comfortable position of attention, bring your heels together, and turn your feet out equally to form a 45-degree angle. Your legs should be straight, and not stiff (knees should not be locked).

Hips should be level and drawn back slightly, body held erect and resting equally on the hips, head and shoulders square, and arms hanging straight down naturally.

Thumbs should be along trouser seams or side of skirt, palms facing inboard, and fingers held in their natural curl.

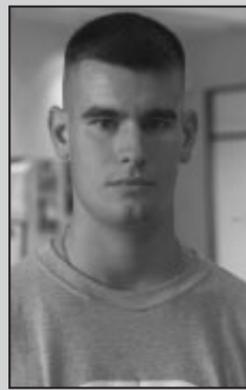
Marines have dozens of ways to stay awake during a formation — like wiggling their toes a little or flexing different muscles — but the most important thing to do is focus on the sequence of events for the ceremony to avoid missing the cue to begin rifle manual or drill movements.

Practicing the position of attention, and drinking plenty of water, are two simple steps that will help more Marines stay in formation.

Americans know that Marines are the most disciplined group of warriors in the world, and if each Marine concentrates on showing this discipline to stay in formation during ceremonies and parades, there will be no reason for the public to change its collective mind.

## WORD ON THE STREET

*"How do you keep from falling out of formations?"*



"I use the motivation of others to keep myself up and going. Plus, I always keep my knees bent."

**Pfc. Jamie Taylor**  
Household goods clerk, TMO, Headquarters Bn., MCB Hawaii



"I keep up on my PT and drink plenty of water, not to mention keeping my knees bent."

**Lance Cpl. Jose Diaz**  
Parachute rigger, 5th Platoon, 1st Force Recon. Co.



"I drink a lot of water ahead of time, and I don't lock my knees."

**Pfc. Charles Eckfeldt**  
Freight clerk, MCAF



"I always keep my knees bent, and the night before, I drink some extra water and get a good night's rest."

**Lance Cpl. Stacey Smith**  
Rifleman Alpha Co., 1/3



"I hydrate and eat extra salt the night before; also physical training helps."

**Cpl. Apollo Fisk**  
Military policeman PMO, Headquarters Bn., MCB Hawaii



Sgt. Robert Carlson

**Lance Cpl. Jason Long**, a rifleman with 1st Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment, demonstrates the position of attention.

# HMH-463 helps renovate St. Anthony's

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

Thirteen Marines from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463 volunteered through Hawaii's Adopt-A-School program and participated in the renovation of St. Anthony's Elementary School, Saturday, in Kailua.

"St. Anthony's has been a part of HMH-463's Adopt-A-School program for many years. We come annually to help with any renovation work the school may need," said Sgt. Maj. Stefone Compton, squadron sergeant major. "Pegasus has been involved with the program for years and we want to continue with that tradition."

According to Compton, the new commanding officer, Lt. Col. Scott Kerchner, intends to expand the Adopt-A-School program by mentoring and sharing with other school programs, rather than just providing physical labor.

Being Marines means not only are we defenders of the country but also keepers of the community. It's our duty to put more of our time and energy into helping the community, explained Compton.

The Marine's primary job was to strip off all the old paint and debris from the school's wooden louvers, to prepare them for repainting later on in the week.

"I thought it was a great idea. I used to go to a school like this, low-income, and they don't have the money for renovations, so they need people to come and volunteer their time to help," said Pfc. David Shellhart, airframe mechanic with HMH-463. "This school definitely needed our help. It was long overdue."

After the Marines finished with their work, the school provided a homemade lunch buffet to say "thank you."

"It's so nice that they do all this for our school. They come every year and are always



Lance Cpl. Jessica M. Mills

**Lance Cpl. David Faed, an embarked with HMH-463, joined a dozen other HMH-463 Marines to help renovate at the unit's adopted school.**

willing to help us," said the school secretary Andrea Vangison, also known as Mrs. V. "We are very grateful to them."

This was HMH-463's last weekend before the squadron deployed to the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) for 30 days.

"It took selfless devotion for these Marines to come out here today and volunteer their time," said Staff Sgt. Darrell Fair, S-3 operations chief. "It was a good day, not only did junior Marines volunteer, but all levels of enlisted leadership — the Sergeant Major on down."



Lance Cpl. Jessica M. Mills

**Private First Class Jeanne Gross (forefront), an ordnanceman with HMH-463, Embarker Lance Cpl. David Faed (far left) and Crew Chief Lance Cpl. Jody Fleming use sandpaper to remove old paint and debris from St. Anthony's louvers.**

# EVERY CLIME AND PLACE

## LF CARAT brings healing touch to Indonesia

**Capt. Christopher M. Perrine**  
*MCB Camp Butler*

**SURABAYA NAVAL BASE, Indonesia** — There are new smiles here today, and people have regained eyesight or have been healed from other aches and ailments, thanks to a visit by Marines and Sailors of Landing Force Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (LF CARAT), III Marine Expeditionary Force.

A team of 27 Marines and Sailors, including ophthalmology, dentistry and general medicine practitioners, set up a medical and dental clinic May 28 to provide care to the residents of Surabaya.

"Our primary goal is to help the people in the local area with their medical problems," said Navy Lt. John A. Harrison, senior medical officer, LF CARAT, an organization that recently deployed to Southeast Asia from Okinawa, Japan.

"Secondly, we're trying to teach each others, both local military and local physicians, as well as learn different medical techniques," he explained.

According to Harrison, five U.S. Navy doctors, two dentists and seven corpsmen from LF CARAT are working alongside a team of Indonesian Navy or "TNI-AL" doctors. Together, the general practitioners and dentists treated nearly 100 patients on day one of the program. The ophthalmologists treated another 100 the same day.

Transportation, administrative and logistical support came from the Marines involved in the program.

Harrison says he saw basic aches, pains, bruises, respiratory infections and skin diseases. The two dentists pulled approximately 40 teeth and treated infections, while the ophthalmology team conducted almost 30 cataract surgeries. An optician made 100 pairs of prescription glasses.

During CARAT, eight Indonesian doctors are working with the U.S. team, according to TNI-AL Lt. Imam Hidayat, general practitioner and head doctor of the Eastern Indonesia Navy Hospital.

Many of the patients speak little or no English, but steps have been taken to avoid any problems caused by communication barriers.

"Fortunately we had some of the Indonesian military who provided translation for us, which was excellent and made for an enjoyable day," said Harrison.

While the TNI-AL is working alongside the Americans on most procedures, they are conducting others with supplies provided by the United States. The TNI-AL doctors are also undertaking circumcision operations. Although LF CARAT doctors are not involved in those procedures, the U.S. doctors are providing medicine and equipment to support those operations, while learning host-nation procedures and techniques.

The presence of the U.S. doctors is a big help to the citizens of Surabaya, according to Hidayat. There is no medical insurance for civilians who visit a doctor for serious illnesses

or injuries and they pay high prices out of their pockets.

"It is important to bring medicine," Hidayat said. "It would cost much to get this medication, so it is very helpful for them."

The U.S. doctors are more than happy to provide the assistance. According to Harrison, the experience has been both personally and professionally rewarding.

"This is every doctor's dream, to go and do some type of humanitarian mission and see things that they don't otherwise get to see," said Harrison. "In



Lance Cpl. Antonio J. Vega

**Petty Officer 3rd Class Brenda Roman, an optician, inspects a patient's eyes while temporarily assigned to LF CARAT. Roman is stationed at Pearl Harbor.**

Southeast Asia, we get to see things we wouldn't normally see in the United States."

The Surabaya citizens seem to approve

of the presence of LF CARAT as well.

"It is nice to have you here," said Tina Outari, a local television reporter. "They look happy. They are very happy to have free medicine."

The Sailors and Marines of LF CARAT are participating in the 8th Annual Landing Force Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training exercise, a series of bilateral exercises that take place in Brunei, Darus-salam; Indonesia; Singapore; Thai-land; Malaysia and the Republic of the Philippines.

The deployment is currently in its second phase, having already completed the Brunei phase. In Indonesia, the task group includes 1,400 Marines, Sailors and Coast Guardsmen.

Two doctors and an optician have temporarily joined the unit from Tripler Army Medical Center, Hawaii, and Portsmouth Naval Hospital, Va., though most of the LF CARAT medical staff deployed from Okinawa.

# 7-TON: MTVRs feature several improvements

From A-3

worthless.

Drivers are arriving from motor transport school with certification to drive the trucks, and CSSG-3 has three instructors, including Percy, who can license drivers on the new vehicle. Until procedures are in place for parts acquisition and maintenance, the trucks won't leave the motor pool very often.

Once the fleet hits the road, units aboard MCB Hawaii will have a better combat support tool which will take Marines and their gear to more places quicker, and allow them to do their job without worrying about transportation limitations.



The MTVR, right, is taller than its predecessor and has several improved safety features.



The new MTVR has push button controls for the Allison 7-speed automatic transmission.



Snipers and Recon Marines from the 11th MEU(SOC)'s BLT 3/1 make their way up the narrow ridge of the Ulupau Crater June 22 to move into position on Range 10. The high-angle training gave the Marines a chance to confirm the zero settings on their weapons.



Sergeant Brian Dow (above), a senior team leader, makes his way to the top of the crater, with his weapon, for the high-angle sniper training, while Cpl. Luke Pitzrick (right), a sniper in Team 1, sights in on a target with a Special Application Scoped Rifle.



## MEU: BLT 3/1 zeroes on crater

From A-1

firing line from which to practice.

"The range managers here really went out of their way to help us complete this training," said 1st Lt. J.W. Milbrandt, the S-2 officer for Headquarters Co., BLT 3/1. "They were here to support whatever we needed to do, and they made sure we had the assets available to complete our training."

Making sure assets are available is just one part of MCB Hawaii's commitment to support combat

training for tenant and visiting units.

"We're here to provide support, and to offer the best combat training we can give them," said Gunnery Sgt. Peter Johnson, staff noncommissioned officer in charge at Range Control.

"Safety is the first thing we consider, and as long as everything is properly coordinated and within regulations, we're open to trying new things."

The coordination with the MEU started well before the Marines arrived, and Johnson said the great

communication and effective coordination made it easy to set up the training atop the crater.

The crater rim is dangerous, and climbing it with weapons and ammunition can take nearly 45 minutes.

Johnson said prior approval through the base G-3 is required before units train there.

With the support MCB Hawaii offered, the Marines were able to reconfirm the zeros on their weapons, and leave for their next destination better prepared for whatever missions lie ahead.

# TOWN HALL: MCCS seeks answers

From A-1

Marine Corps Community Services handed each attendee a worksheet that listed every MCCS program and office, then requested a rating for each of the listings.

During the meeting, many valid points and complaints were brought up for discussion, although there was also plenty of praise for the work MCCS has accomplished.

"We want to get ideas from our customers about how our organized services are today and what we can do to improve them for the future," said Jim Bocci, MCCS marketing director. "So far, I've received reports saying that MCCS special events has been doing well, along with the Youth Sports program."

The assembly expressed that MCCS needed improvement in many areas such as consideration for families separated by deployment. It suggested that MCCS try to lower prices on programs, to offset the loss of funds that occurs when a spouse deploys.

The guests discussed the Child Development Center (CDC), and unanimously agreed that its capacity needs to be expanded. Participants complained that the CDC is only serving a small population of the base, and that its hourly child care needs to be increased for spouses who only work part-time or not at all.

All agreed with the idea to review prices at the Marine Corps Exchange.

"I've found that it is cheaper to go off base to places like Ross and Target for a majority of my shopping needs," said Mari Rollins, a key volunteers coordinator and spouse. "It would be more lucrative for the base if residents could put more money into the base."

Marines at the assembly requested more support from MCCS during unit deployments such as enhanced participation at deployment briefings and a standard deployment entertainment package, to include games and sporting equipment provided prior to shipping out.

Brigadier Gen. McAbee will receive many other ideas and suggestions brought up for discussion during the assembly.

"We are trying our very best to reach out to families and see what we can do to support them," said Williams. "There were a number of base issues that will be considered by the general as well as many Corps-wide issues and policies that can be brought up to the board of directors — and made to help improve the entire Corps."

## SALUTES



### Marine Corps Air Facility

#### Promotions

Sgt. John L. Thomas  
Cpl. Jamie A. Belle  
Lance Cpl. Vincent L. Blakey

#### Good Conduct Medal

Sgt. Gerry M. Schiller  
Sgt. Ricky J. Lehr

#### Certificate of Commendation

Lance Cpl. Thomas O. Hereim

#### Meritorious Mast

Cpl. Randal D. Lundquist  
Lance Cpl. Justin R. Howerton

#### Letter of Commendation

Petty Officer 1st Class Timothy C. Atkins  
Petty Officer 1st Class Matthew W. Dinic  
Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael G. Downes  
Petty Officer 2nd Class Sean D. Mulvaney  
Petty Officer 2nd Class Eugene G. Torneros

## MALS-24: Sailors, Marines model cohesion

From A-1

Any time that two different services are working together, competition between the two seems almost inevitable. But the consensus between the Marines and Sailors at MALS-24 is that

the competition is all healthy. The best of their competing qualities seem to rub off on one another.

"It's just like working with Marines in a way," said Lance Cpl. Eric Friedrichsen, an administrative clerk at MALS-24. "Of

course there are differences in the kind of training and the schedules we keep sometimes, but for the most part, it's just a really professional environment and we all work together as a team."

Lance Cpl. Joseph Brown, a computer tech new to the unit

agreed.

"I like the way we work with the Navy here. It's not like Marines versus Navy, the whole goal is mission accomplishment.

"We all work for the same boss anyway. That's how it should be," he explained.

THE KEY TO ADVANCEMENT: EDUCATION