

# MARINE HAWAII

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## 2/3 show Australians the ropes

Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle  
Combat Correspondent

"Who here is afraid of heights," asked Staff Sgt. Fredrick White, platoon sergeant with Fox Co., 2nd Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment, to soldiers from Bravo Co., 1st Royal Australian Regiment.

Some of the Australian soldiers were so nervous looking at the 40-foot high repelling tower, they actually raised their hands. The look on the others faces blatantly admitted their fears; they did not have to raise their hands.

The Australian soldiers arrived at MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, May 25 to get a chance to train with the Marines from Fox Co., 2/3. It was on May 28 when the soldiers and Marines went to the Air Assault Course aboard Schofield Army Barracks to conduct fast-roping exercises.

The joint-exercise is in preparation for the deployment to Pohakuloa Training Area during the month of June. During the exercise, the soldiers and Marines climbed aboard a 40-foot high tower and were properly shown how to safely and effectively descend down a rope into a simulated combat environment.

All throughout the exercise, safety is stressed along with the importance of communication.

"Safety is paramount here," said White. "This is the first time a lot of the Australian soldiers have been able to do this. The proper procedure must always be followed. Even the ones that have done something like this before, they do



Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle

Sergeant James Wildman, police sergeant for Fox Co., 2nd Bn., 3rd Marines, demonstrates to soldiers in the Australian Royal Army the proper way to descend down a rope.

not do it the way we are training them to do it. They learned different methods and we all have to be on the same sheet of music while we conduct these exercises. One mess up can be disastrous and then we will be mission ineffective."

Fast roping exercises are usually used as a last resort to insert troops into a combat zone. Even though it is a last resort, it is still considered a highly-effective insertion technique. It is usually used when the troops cannot be inserted by

means of vehicular transportation, or by landing a helicopter in the danger zone due to heavy enemy resistance.

"It was a great learning opportunity to

See FAST ROPE, A-5

## AWWA releases water saving tips to live by

American Water Works Association  
Press Release

The American Water Works Association recommends the following steps to help conserve water:

Don't over water your lawn. Only water every three to five days in the summer and 10 to 14 days in the winter.

To prevent water loss from evaporation, don't water your lawn during the hottest part of the day or when it is windy.

Only run the dishwasher and clothes washer when they are fully loaded.

Defrost frozen food in the refrigerator or in the

microwave instead of running water over it.

When washing dishes by hand, use two basins - one for washing and one for rinsing rather than let the water run.

Use a broom, rather than a hose, to clean sidewalks and driveways.

If you have a swimming pool, get a cover. You'll cut the loss of water by evaporation by 90 percent.

Repair dripping faucets and leaky toilets. Dripping faucets can waste about 2,000 gallons of water each year. Leaky toilets can waste as much as 200 gallons each day.

Log onto www.h2ous.org to get more tips how to conserve water.

## New training area proves valuable to Marines operating heavy machinery

Cpl. Jason E. Miller  
Press Chief

At Marine Corps Training Area, Bellows, on Windward Oahu, a new exercise area will soon be opened to Marines and Sailors who operate heavy machinery such as bulldozers and other earth movers to practice their skill.

However, with the historical value of MCTAB, a team of researchers and archaeologists were contracted by MCB Hawaii, to make sure that digging in the specified area would not destroy historical remnants of Hawaiian culture that could still exist in the area.



Cpl. Jason E. Miller

Maj. John Claucherty, deputy assistant chief of staff for operations, MCB Hawaii, looks over the new training grounds at Marine Corps Training Area, Bellows, with June Cleghorn, cultural resource manager for MCB Hawaii.

The International Archaeological Research Institute was hired and brought on sight by MCB Hawaii, to conduct exca-

vations, and search for archaeological artifacts, in an effort to preserve Hawaiian history.

Coral Magnuson, di-

rector of the MCTAB excavation program said, "Initially we expected to find a lot out here, but so far we haven't run across anything. We know that Hawaiians lived on this part of the island, so we're trying to make sure we can account for everything before the Marines start training here."

Excavations will continue at MCTAB throughout the coming weeks, until it is known for sure that training in the area will have little or no negative effect on the area's historical timeline.

"We hope to get the area open for training before July," said Maj. John

See TRAINING, A-5

## Demilitarized Zone soldiers, Marines 'On the Front Lines of Freedom'

By Gerry J. Gilmore  
American Forces Press Service

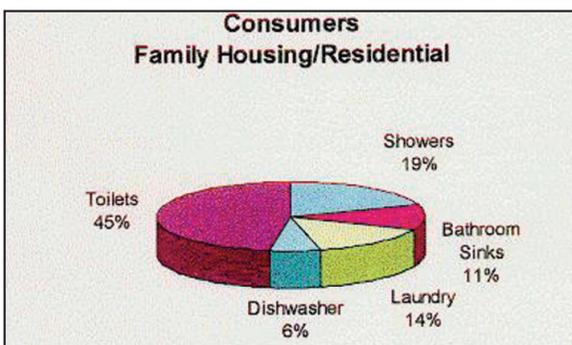
SEOUL, South Korea - U.S. soldiers and Marines deployed along the demilitarized zone separating North and South Korea "are on the front lines of freedom," U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary Paul D. Wolfowitz said June 1 during a visit to Camp Greaves - located a mile

from the DMZ.

"The country is grateful for your service," Wolfowitz told the 500 Army soldiers and Marines gathered inside the camp's gymnasium. He noted that both President Bush and Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld "have asked me to send a message to you: that we appreciate what you're doing - it is fantastic."

Wolfowitz and his traveling party flew about 35 miles north of Seoul on Army Black Hawk helicopters to visit with Camp Greaves' service members. After meeting with 2nd Infantry Division commander Army Maj. Gen. John Wood, who has jurisdiction over the camp, Wolfowitz got together

See DMZ, A-5



American Water Works Association

This pie chart gives a rough representation of the actual break down of water usage in the typical household.

# MCBH NEWS BRIEFS

## NEW LEGISLATION PASSED TO HELP SERVICE MEMBERS MOVE

Recently, a bill was passed by Hawaii's 22nd Legislature and approved by Hawaii Governor Linda Lingle that ensures service members have the right to remove from the island, after their tour of duty, a vehicle or vehicles purchased here under a contract without the consent of the seller unless other arrangements by the involved parties have agreed to other terms separate from the contract, stating that the vehicle may not be removed.

## CREDO RETREATS AVAILABLE FOR MILITARY, DOD

The Chaplain's Religious Enrichment Development Operations, or CREDO, is offering both marriage enrichment retreats and personal growth retreats to service members aboard MCB Hawaii who may be returning from deployments such as Operation Iraqi Freedom and service members who are desiring to improve their relationships with others, feel good about themselves, grow personally and spiritually, and live a more harmonious life.

The next CREDO marriage enrichment retreat is slated for July 11 - 13; the next personal growth retreat is July 24 - 27.

For more details, call 257-0662.

## COMMISSARY CLOSED FOR UPGRADES

The MCB Hawaii commissary will be closed Monday, June 9, for computer and technology upgrades. The commissary will reopen on Tuesday, June 10.

For more information, or to have any questions answered call the commissary at 257-1452.

## COCONUT ISLAND BEACH CLEAN-UP

Volunteers are needed for the Coconut Island Beach Clean-up on Saturday, June 14., from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.. Showtime is 8:15 a.m. at the base marina. Boat transportation, lunches and drinks are provided free for volunteers. The day will not be all work, and volunteers will have time to relax and enjoy the beauty of Coconut Island.

For more information, contact Jim Lakey at 782-6150, or e-mail: lakey@hawaii.edu.

## Hawaii MARINE

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# IN THE CG'S MAIL BOX



BRIG. GEN.  
MCABEE

Dear Brig. Gen. McAbee,

First of all, I would like to say thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion to you directly.

I have a concern about the current flag system being used at both North Beach and Pyramid Rock. While I can understand your concern for those of us in the water, in my opinion, the flag system is a mistake.

As the only flagged beaches in the state of Hawaii, I believe that the system invites more liability than if the water was "use at your own risk." If someone is injured while this system is in use, there could be a number of questions raised as to why the flag status wasn't at a more restrictive state. The system is likely to be second guessed if there is an incident.

Also, the current hours of the lifeguards is simply unsatisfactory due to the flag system. To have the beaches open from 11:30 a.m. to 5:50 p.m. is simply not long enough. With the sun rising before 6 a.m., and setting after 7 p.m., many of us from the Windward side are not afforded the opportunity to enjoy what makes Hawaii a wonderful place to live — the ocean. If the flag system were either re-

Question Submitted by Capt. Joseph Tuttle

*"The current hours of the lifeguards is simply unsatisfactory due to the flag system."*

moved or modified, many of us would be able to get in a "dawn patrol" surf or an after-work swim, depending on the conditions.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Joseph Tuttle  
Capt., USAF Reserve

Dear Captain Tuttle,

I have been asked by the commanding general to research and respond to your recent e-mail May 21, 2003, since your recommendation and concerns fall within my staff responsibilities.

You have expressed concerns about the use of flags on our base beaches and when lifeguards are on duty. The base staff recently conducted an extensive review of our policies and our lifeguard resources. The rules in place today were implemented as a result of this review and have made our beaches much safer for the majority of our community.

The flag system is used to communicate current ocean conditions and beach rules currently in effect. The flags are flown as a customer courtesy to enable the beach user to

see what the conditions are from afar. Beach and ocean access rules are also posted on signs at the access points to each beach.

The Marine Corps Community Services staff determines beach conditions at the beginning and end of each day to determine if beach access and/or ocean conditions are safe for use during unguarded periods. The appropriate notices are then posted following this assessment. This assessment occurs at 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. each day, and also during periods that lifeguards are on duty.

After determining beach conditions, the MCCS staff informs the Provost Marshall Office and the command duty officer about the beach safety conditions. PMO will then posts the appropriate notification on the signs at each base entrance point to inform beach users of the current beach conditions. This precludes the need for one to journey to the beach only to find the ocean closed for use.

Realizing the importance of beach access and the proven effectiveness of lifeguards, the commanding general also recently extended lifeguard coverage on weekends, holidays, and liberty periods to 8 a.m.-6 p.m. This

affords more hours for ocean use during risk periods and also focuses the availability of the beach on the leisure hours of most Marines, Sailors, and families. During the week, we found that the most used period on our beaches occurs between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. daily. Therefore, that is when lifeguards are posted. Use outside of these hours is determined by current ocean conditions.

Our beach policies and procedures are designed to be user friendly and to ensure we at MCBH have done all that we can to prevent a tragic drowning incident. These policies and procedures also enhance safety for all beach users, from novice to the experienced. Our rules not only make our beaches safer, but also they educate beach users on the extreme hazards that do exist at our base beaches.

We appreciate your thoughtful comments. If I can be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact at 254-7500, and the commanding general appreciates that you've taken the time to participate in the "CG Mail" program.

Very respectfully,  
Mr. William B. Lindsey  
Assistant Chief of Staff  
MCCS

*(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 so that staff may respond.

For more information about how to send C.G. Mail, see the MCB Hawaii C.G. Mail page at [www.mcbh.usmc.mil/command/cgmail.htm](http://www.mcbh.usmc.mil/command/cgmail.htm).

# Seabees bridging the way in Iraq

Staff Sgt.  
David Bennett  
I MEF

**SARABADI, Iraq** — Suspended sixty feet above the Tigris River, crews of Navy Seabees worked through the heat repairing what has been a gaping hole in this city's roadway system.

Steel workers with large wrenches guided heavy metal framing into place as they prepared to close a 120-foot gap in the single lane bridge that is the main transportation link in Sarabadi.

Two Naval mobile construction battalions have converged on the 500-foot long bridge in Southern Iraq, which was damaged in the war.

"The bridge was blown up by coalition forces to impede the progress of the Iraqi Army," said Navy Lt. Marc L. Rouleau, an officer with Naval Mobile



Staff Sgt. David Bennett

**Seaman Michael W. Wahrenberger, a construction worker with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 4, tightens framing of a Mabey-Johnson bridge, which will be used to repair a span in Sarabadi, Iraq.**

Construction Battalion 4 in charge of the bridge project.

However, with the end of the war came the need to rebuild the bridge, he said.

"The bridge is a main thoroughfare and important to the city's com-

merce," Rouleau said. "The next closest bridge is 3 1/2 hours away."

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133, from Gulfport, Miss., is the other group working on the bridge.

Backed by a Marine security detail, more than 40 naval construction specialists hovered over defects in the bridge. Negotiating automobile traffic that is be-

See SEABEES, A-4

# Aussies test rifle skills with 2/3 Marines

**Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle**  
*Combat Correspondent*

*"A Marine highly skilled in the art of field craft and marksmanship who delivers precision, long range fire from concealed positions and support of combat operations."*

This is the definition of a scout sniper in the United States Marine Corps.

The Scout Sniper School aboard Puuloa Range is known as one of the finest sniper schools in the military. They have been known to produce "the best of the best" snipers.

The Scout Sniper School course beginning May 23 was different from the many courses in the past. During this course, the instructors taught soldiers from the Australian Army the art of fine marksmanship skills.

"This is the most difficult assignment I have had yet," said Pvt. Daniel Hambolin, a rifleman for Bravo Co., 1st Royal Australian Regiment. "At any moment in this course, you can fail. It is like this until the last day. It is even harder when you cannot understand their terminology. The Marines taking the course with us are very dedicated to make sure we graduate with them. They are really good at looking out for one another."

The Australians were initially invited to train with the Marines when Sgt. Shaun Harder, chief instructor for the Puuloa range Scout Sniper School, asked

for two soldiers who were motivated to learn to be snipers.

"The Australian soldiers were picked from their unit as being the most outstanding soldiers in the company," said Harder. "I know it is even more difficult for them than it is for the Marines because they usually have no idea what we are talking about when we use our jargon. You can see the confusion in their faces, but they still pick up the same 90-pound pack and train just as hard as the Marines. They put out 110 percent at all times."

During the five-week course, the Marines and soldiers are trained in marksmanship, academics, physical fitness, calling for artillery fire, field survival skills, patrolling combat zones and tracking techniques.

Many of the Marines in the course agreed that it was an awesome opportunity to be able to work with the Australians. They were able to learn how the two militaries operate and make new friends.

"It is good for the Marines to be able to see some fresh faces," said Harder. "They worked well together and treated the Australians like they were their own. They showed some outstanding motivation and excellent teamwork. This is why we turn out some of the best snipers - they are dedicated to helping one another succeed."



Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle

**Sergeant Shuan Harder, chief instructor for the Scout Sniper School at Puuloa Range, is shown the fine points on the SR 98 sniper rifle used by the Australian Army by Cpl. Alan Davis, platoon sergeant, Bravo Co., 1st Royal Australian Regiment.**

The Marines and soldiers are scheduled to graduate Aug. 1 from the Scout Sniper School. Afterward, the Australian soldiers will return to their country with their superior, new rifle and marksmanship skills.

"Any soldier will tell you that marksmanship skills are the hallmark of a good soldier," said Hambolin. "The knowl-

edge we learned here can take us a long way in our careers and we have the Marines that took the course with us to thank."

"They (the Marines) are the ones that helped us along and explained all their terminology," added Hambolin. "It was a learning experience we will never forget."

# VP-9 Golden Eagles return to Kaneohe Bay

**Lt j.g. Felix L. Hopkins,**  
*VP-9 Assistant Public Affairs Officer*

The "Golden Eagles" of Patrol Squadron NINE are nearing the end of a highly successful deployment.

After departing MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, the day after Thanksgiving, the squadron headed west to Japan, "the land of the rising sun."

Based at Misawa Air Base in Northern Japan and Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, VP-9 has flown more than 5800 hours and 850 missions. Now, six months later, the "Golden Eagles" are preparing for their return to Kaneohe Bay and a much-anticipated reunion with family and friends.

While deployed, the "Golden Eagles" were under the operational control of Commander, Task Force Seven-Two whose Area of Responsibility encompasses more than 56 million square miles and extends from the Northern Pacific Ocean, bordering Russia, to the South China Sea and westward into the entire Indian Ocean.

Throughout the deployment, VP-9 employed their P-3C Orion aircraft in virtually every type of mission for which the aircraft was designed. These included long-range anti-submarine warfare, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, maritime interdiction operations, carrier/expeditionary strike group support, and search and rescue.

Over the past six months, the "Golden Eagles" played an integral role in the world-wide effort to combat terrorism. The squadron flew more than 600 hours in support of Operation Enduring Freedom - Philippines.

Additionally, "Golden Eagle" aircrews provided "eyes in the sky" for U.S. and allied naval ships transiting Southeast Asian waterways on their way to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

While deployed to Japan, the "Golden Eagles" had the opportunity to operate with their military allies from a number of



Courtesy of VP-9

**A P-3C Orion flies majestically past Mount Fuji on one of its many missions during the squadrons six-month deployment.**

other countries. In January, the "Blackies" of Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force P-3 Squadron VP-4, hosted the "Golden Eagles" for refreshments and a tour of their squadron spaces. Based in Hachinohe (near Misawa in Northern Japan), VP-4 became their "sister squadron" over the six-month deployment.

In late March, the "Golden Eagles" expressed their appreciation by hosting the "Blackies" to a barbecue picnic and Sports Day at Misawa Air Base. Through participation in various exercises during deploy-

ment, the "Golden Eagles" were also able to build friendships and strengthen bonds with their military counterparts from South Korea, India, Singapore, Australia, and Thailand.

In April, VP-9 participated in Exercise Tandem Thrust, held in Guam. This exercise provided an outstanding opportunity to conduct operations in a joint environment with Air Force and Marine Corps forces.

One of the most rewarding missions performed by the "Golden Eagles" on their deployment were Search and Rescue operations.

In a joint search with a U.S. Coast Guard C-130 operating out of Guam in March 2003, VP-9 Combat Aircrew TEN helped locate three people adrift on a 19-foot open skiff. Located over 200 miles from Guam, the skiff had been missing for nearly a week. After locating the small boat visually, surface units were

directed to its location and its three wet but grateful occupants were returned safely to shore.

Reflecting on the squadron's performance over the past six months, VP-9's commanding officer, Cmdr. Dan Rieck, could not be more pleased. Having recently assumed command of the "Golden Eagles" following a year as the squadron's executive officer, Rieck said, "I am truly inspired by the dedication and professionalism of each and every "Golden Eagle." Every member of the squadron -

maintainer, aircrew, and administrator - has done an absolutely outstanding job."

With their return to MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, now only days away, Rieck had a few words for "Golden Eagle" families and friends back in Kaneohe Bay.

"Your love and support have been absolutely vital to our success over the past six months," said Rieck. "You have every reason to be proud of your 'Golden Eagles' - they truly represent the very best of America and the principles on which it was founded."

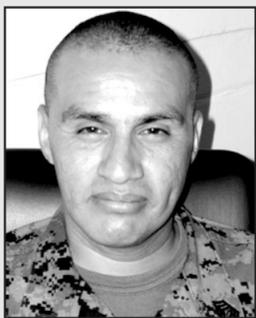
## Word on the Street

*Who is the most memorable war hero and why?*



"Lou Diamond. He was a mortar man who destroyed a naval vessel during WWII."

**Gunnery Sgt. Richard Suniga**  
 Asst. Operations Chief  
 Headquarters Bn.,  
 MCB Hawaii



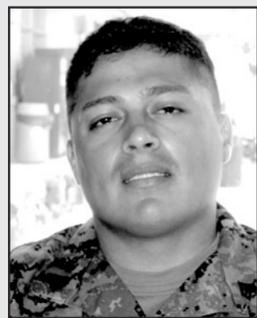
"Chesty Puller was the most decorated Marine and fought in many long-term battles."

**Master Sgt. Jaun Rivera**  
 Operations Planning  
 Team Chief  
 MCB Hawaii



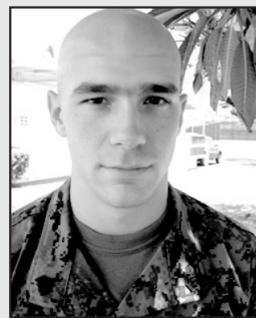
"There was a bloke known as Simpson in Australian history. He saved many lives in a reign of sniper fire during WWII."

**Pvt. Jamie Williams**  
 Bravo Co. 1st Royal  
 Australian Regiment



"Smedley Butler, because he was awarded two medals of honor."

**Sgt. Jaime Cortez**  
 Maintenance  
 Administrative Clerk  
 MALS-24



"Smedley Butler, because he was an independent-minded Marine."

**Sgt. Lucas Lavadour**  
 Corporals' Course  
 Instructor  
 Headquarters Bn.

# Marines assist local school

Lance Cpl.  
**Monroe F. Seigle**  
*Combat Correspondent*

Not only have Marines from various companies aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, set a positive example for students at Puohala Elementary School, they have also dedicated many hours of manual labor to make the learning environment for the students more comfortable.

Several of the classrooms in the school did not have ceiling fans. It was hot in the classrooms and the children were uncomfortable, so the Parent-Teacher Association for the Puohala Elementary Schools donated the fans with funds raised by the organization; but they simply did not have the manpower available to assemble and install the fans in each of the classrooms in the school.

Marines from Headquarters Bn., MCB Hawaii, volunteered to donate their time May 28 to assemble fans in each of the classrooms. When the Marines arrived, the students were nothing but smiles to see the familiar faces of those who have been to their school several times to tutor them in class and complete laborious projects in and around the school campus.

"I would love to have 10 Marines in my classroom at all times," said a



Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle

**1st Sgt. John Weis, Headquarters Co., Headquarters Bn., first sergeant, and Lance Cpl. Heather Medlock, aviation ordnance training NCO for Headquarters Bn., assemble fans for a classroom at Puohala Elementary School.**

sixth-grade teacher at Puohala Elementary School. "They have helped us in so many ways. Whether it was work projects or tutoring my children, they are always eager to assist the kids, and they are very positive influence on the children."

Many of the children said they knew very little about the Marine Corps prior to the Marines coming to their school to volunteer for projects associated with the Adopt-A-School program. Now many of the Marines are involved in the student's education and will be present for the sixth-grade student's graduation in June.

"We are trying to promote positive community relations throughout the community with the military," said Master Sgt. Juan Rivera, operations chief, MCB Hawaii. "We want to give these kids a positive role model to look up to."

"It is so beneficial for the Marines to come to our school and donate their time," said Christine Urban, acting principal for Pouhala Elementary School. "I am especially grateful for the contributions the Marines from Kaneohe Bay give to our school. They are a strong and positive influence for many of these children."

*SEABEES, From A-2*

ing rerouted onto a pedestrian walkway, Seaman Andrew Buchholz, a steelworker with NMCB 4 of Port Hueneme, Calif., is repairing a side railing.

"This is my first bridge job," said the Cincinnati, Ohio, native. "I'm getting a lot of (welding) time."

It is good experience also for the Gulfport based Naval Mobile Construction Bn. 133, the other group helping with the bridge rehabilitation, said Navy Chief Keith T. Mazotas, the project supervisor. The crews are putting together a separate 120-foot metal frame bridge, which is known as a Mabry-Johnson Bridge, that will fill a huge gap left by a coalition bomb.

Fortunately, little demolition work was required because the section of bridge destroyed was blown away relatively cleanly, according to Mazotas.

He said the hollow columns that support the bridge were damaged in the bombings and are being reinforced

with metal rods to make them more solid. Once done, NMCB 133 will tackle another bridge by itself in the coming days.

The span is the fourth bridge the NMCB 4 has rehabilitated. Some were harder because they required more work. Some were harder because repairs took place during the war when work conditions were far from ideal.

Seaman Michael W. Wahrenberger, a construction manager with NMCB 4, recounted repairs of a bridge in Southern Baghdad when ordnance came raining down nearby.

"Artillery was falling about 100 meters from the bridge," said the Houston native. "People were scattering, getting under equipment trying to use the gear for protection from the artillery."

Rouleau said this project isn't as hazardous but like all the bridgework, it is paramount that the job get done.

"This bridge is very important to the people here," he said.

## DMZ: North Korea remains defiant

with the troops.

The deputy defense secretary said he was in South Korea "to update my own knowledge about the situation in this country and particularly about the defense issues we have with (South) Korea."

When U.S. and coalition troops were defeating Saddam Hussein's forces in Iraq, Wolfowitz noted, other American troops stationed along the DMZ "were preventing a war here in Korea."

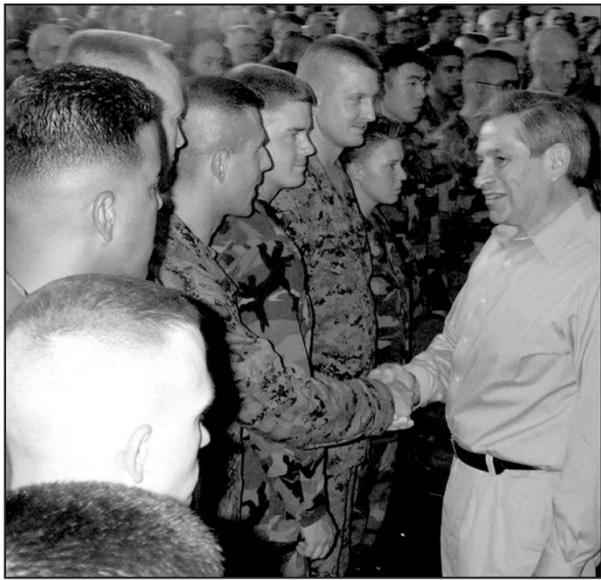
It requires skill, dedication and professionalism to serve along the DMZ, he asserted.

Army 2nd Lt. Mike Murphy, 22, a fire support officer, declared that duty along the DMZ has a special meaning.

"That's the reason most of us joined the military ... to help protect the freedoms that we have," Murphy, a Springfield, Mo., native, observed, "and to keep on with the tradition of helping South Koreans stay free."

Duty along the DMZ is a joint endeavor, with U.S. Marines serving alongside U.S. soldiers. And Marine Corps Cpl. Lucious Robinson, 22, said he and his 3rd Battalion, 8th Marines, 4th Marine Regiment, buddies are training with Republic of Korea marines.

Wolfowitz acknowledged that performing



Gerry J. Gilmore

**U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary Paul D. Wolfowitz shakes soldiers' and Marines' hands during a June 1 visit to Camp Greaves, South Korea. The camp is located about a mile from the demilitarized zone separating North and South Korea.**

such duty "means long, long months away from your families ... and that is a huge sacrifice."

Yet, U.S. and South Korean troops serving on the DMZ, Wolfowitz asserted, have made "a huge difference."

"With the protection that you and your comrades have provided over the years (and) with the dedication and commitment of your South Korean colleagues, we've enabled our allies to build one of the strongest democracies in the world," the deputy defense secretary said.

However, North Korea's behavior over the

past year, in both its public declarations and actions on its illicit nuclear weapons programs, "threatens regional and global stability," Wolfowitz said May 31 at a Singapore defense conference.

Wolfowitz pointed out to Singapore conference attendees that in October 2002 North Korea had declared it had violated and would continue to violate its promise not to press on with its uranium-enrichment programs.

And earlier this year, he continued, the North Koreans announced that they were reactivating their plutonium produc-

tion program.

Also, just two weeks ago, the North Koreans characterized the 1992 North-South Korean denuclearization agreement they had signed as "a worthless piece of white paper," the deputy defense secretary noted.

It's evident that North Korea is "a state that has little regard for the commitments it undertakes," Wolfowitz said, "or for the delicate nature of the Northeast Asia security environment."

North Korea's nuclear program "affects the whole region," the deputy defense secretary observed at the conference, noting the issue therefore "requires a multilateral approach."

North Korea is "heading down a blind alley" in its pursuit of nuclear weapons, Wolfowitz asserted at Camp Greaves, a point he had made also in Singapore. The United States, Japan, South Korea, China and Russia, he has often reminded audiences, all aforementioned strongly oppose nuclear weapons on the Korean Peninsula.

### TRAINING, From A-1

Claucherty, "MCB Hawaii deputy assistant chief of staff for operations. "What we're doing here now though, is a good example of how the base is working to make sure we're not disturbing any of the native artifacts that could be in the area.

"Of course, it's good for us if they don't find any, because then we can move on with training. But it's also good for the local community to see that we're really working to try and preserve some of the native culture."

When the excavation at

the new MCTAB training area is finished, it will become the one place on the island where Marines can freely practice with their heavy machinery, without worry of disturbing the environment or native artifacts. The area will also be well equipped to handle the training and entrenching needs of a rifle company of Marines or an artillery battery wishing to conduct non-live fire training evolutions close to home.

"This is just like a big sandbox for Marines to play in," said Claucherty. "There's no where else like it on the island."



Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle

**Staff Sgt. Fredrick White, platoon sergeant, Fox Co., 2/3, explains safety procedures to the soldiers in the Australian exercise before descending down the rope.**

### FAST ROPE, From A-1

see how the Marines operate," said Staff Sgt. Craig Lees, quarter master in Bravo Co., 1st RAR.

"We enjoyed meeting the Marines and they showed us a good time and were very friendly to us. This is going to be a memorable experience for all of us."