

Hawaii MARINE

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Makahiki season closes at K-Bay

Sgt. Joseph A. Lee
Combat Correspondent

Saturday, several local families gathered at Hale Koa Beach here to witness two outrigger canoes travel from Kualoa Beach Park to Mokapu Peninsula (home of Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay). All had gathered to celebrate Lono Akua, symbol of Makahiki, being returned to Mokapu by canoe for the first time in more than 100 years.

The celebration marked the closing of the Makahiki huakaa (walk) by Kaponu Aluli Souza. He has traveled approximately 140 miles around Oahu, since the opening of Makahiki in October, to celebrate and participate in ceremonies on various *ahupuaa* (ancient Hawaiian land division).

"This was a great opportunity for us to practice our traditions right where they used to take place," said Donna Ann Kamehaiku Camvel, coordinator of the

Makahiki events at Mokapu.

Camvel is the grand niece of Kahuna Pari Tu, Samuel Hoopii Lono. Kahuna Lono was instrumental in reopening the area for the first cultural practice and gathering at Kuau. Anita Kahanu Paoa Gouveia carried on the spiritual practice until her death in 1998, and now her daughter, Camvel, carries on the tradition.

As Souza arrived in the double-hulled canoe carrying the Lono Akua, he and his fellow paddlers were greeted with a ceremony in which fifth and sixth graders from Mokapu Elementary School proudly joined.

"Last year the Lono was walked around the Big Island, and in future years we hope to see the Lono visit all of the Hawaiian Islands," said Souza.

According to Attwood Makanani, a "kokua" or supporter of the event, the Lono was carried to the islands of

See *LONO*, A-6



Sgt. Joseph A. Lee

Event coordinator Donna Ann Kamehaiku Camvel claps and sings with her fellow wahine during Makahiki's closing ceremony Sunday morning.

BPAC near perfect at inspection

Lance Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson
Combat Correspondent

To label an office as "mission capable," it must score at least a 90 percent on its Marine Corps Administration Analysis Team or MCAAT inspection. However, the Base Personnel Administration Center aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, easily surpassed minimum expectations during February's MCAAT.

The BPAC scored 95.75 percent, proving that its Marines are more than mission capable. They are very knowledgeable at their tasks.

There were two phases to the MCAAT inspection; the first was the Entitlement Phase, worth 50 percent of the grade. A MCAAT team, comprised of Camp Pendleton, Calif., Marines came in and randomly chose 75 records in the office for full inspection, then identified any errors that the office needed to correct.

Phase Two is called the Internal Control Phase and is worth the remaining 50 percent. During this phase, BPAC Marines are evaluated personally on their flow and process effectiveness.

The MCAAT asks each Marine questions about promotions, travel control procedures and whatever else his or her job may entail, along with the proper procedures to get these

tasks completed successfully.

"It's the first time any [Marine] has stood this sort of inspection in this office," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Pete Swainson, personnel officer for BPAC. "They learned a lot from this, and now will only be more prepared for the next one. Everyone did remarkable."

Swainson said that he feels the real success of the inspection can be attributed to his Marines' extreme attention to detail. To prepare for the inspection, they assembled in the

afternoons to review every part of their job, sharing knowledge with one another along the way.

"You can never over-train when it comes to getting better at your job," said Swainson. "If you do your job right to begin with, there is nothing to worry about when it comes to inspections like these."

Lance Cpl. Armah Jones, separations clerk at BPAC, has worked in the office for one year.

See *BPAC*, A-6



Sgt. Alex Mulero

Sergeant Salvador Cruz, a unit diary clerk with BPAC, is one of the energetic NCOs that contributed to the office's MCAAT success. Their score of 95.75 percent is a direct reflection of the quality of work that BPAC strives to produce.

New fire station to shorten response time

Lance Cpl. Jared Plotts
U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific

CAMP H. M. SMITH — The average response time before the new Fire Station 16 opened here the morning of March 5 was 14 minutes. Now local residents can expect fire trucks on the scene much sooner, which could mean the difference between life and death, said Capt. Ronald R. Cox, chief of staff, Navy Region Hawaii.

Marine Corps and Navy officials attended the opening of the new fire station, which will service Camp Smith and assist the local fire department in the surrounding community. The station provides fire, medical, rescue, salvage, overhaul and hazardous materials services.

A crew of 11 firefighters, four of which will be on duty at all times, makes up the station, and two fire trucks will respond to every call.

"We can send our HazMat

[Hazardous Material] truck, our special operations vehicle, an ambulance or another truck," said Victor M. Flint, fire protection inspector. "The important thing is we have two vehicles out there."

Fire Station 16 is located behind the Sunset Lanai in the same building as the old Hobby Shop. Perched high atop Halawa Heights, the firefighters from Fire Station 16 have a view from Waikiki to Diamond Head, and a job that's even more amazing.

Pace defends Marine actions on Haitian soil

Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — U.S. Marines in Haiti who shot and killed an armed Haitian and wounded another in Port-au-Prince on Monday operated "well within the rules of engagement," the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff told Pentagon reporters Tuesday.

Marine Corps Gen. Peter Pace said he received reports that a vehicle was traveling at a high rate of speed toward the Marines near the presidential palace when they took aim.

Pace said the Marines responded appropriately in retaliating with deadly force, based on the established rules of engagement.

"Every service member — in this case, a Marine — has an absolute right to defend himself and those around him," Pace said. "And when someone threatens force as was done last night, they get dealt with as they were dealt with last night."

Pace said 1,600 U.S. service members are deployed to Haiti. About 1,500 of those are U.S. Marines, but Army, Navy and Air Force members also are involved.

The U.S. Coast Guard also has boosted its fleet of vessels patrolling the waters off Haiti.

"The Coast Guard is doing great work," Pace said.

Pace said France, Chile and Canada are contributing 700 troops to the coalition — a number he said could increase, particularly as other countries express interest in participating.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said this force appears to be the right size for the job right now, and that he expects the commander on the ground to let him know if additional troops are needed.

Rumsfeld also said the threat of mass migration appears to be diminishing, adding that "The Coast Guard has done a very fine job of returning those who have come out, and at the present time, there is no out-migration at all."

Rumsfeld said he also sees little indication of an impending humanitarian disaster.

"There is ample food in the country, from everything we have been told," he said. "Maybe there are some distribution problems, but neither of those are currently an issue."

MCBH NEWS BRIEFS

AUG. 15 IS DEADLINE FOR ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Because election laws vary from state to state, service members and their families should consult the recently distributed 2004/2005 Voting Assistance Guide for procedures to register or request an absentee ballot in local, state or federal elections. The Guide is available online at www.fvap.gov, and absentee voting materials may also be obtained through unit voting assistance officers.

Nevertheless, Federal Post Card Application forms should be mailed to obtain an Absentee Ballot prior to Aug. 15, to participate in this year's presidential elections on Nov. 2.

PARENTS, EDUCATORS URGED TO ATTEND WORKSHOP

The Military Child Education Coalition is hosting a free Parent Workshop, Thursday from 9 to 11 a.m. in the Lanai Ballroom of the Officers' Club at MCB Hawaii. Parents of military-connected (to include special needs) students are encouraged to attend.

The workshop is one part of MCEC's "Transition Study and Program for Military Youth in Hawaii," and will provide resources for parents, students and educators. Designed as an information-exchange activity, the Parent Workshop will enable parents to be effective advocates for their children in the transition process, both from school to school and from grade to grade.

To RSVP, call Ms. Sarah Fry, deputy public affairs officer, at 257-8832, or e-mail fryse@mcbh.usmc.mil.

DEFY NEEDS MENTORS

Drug Education for Youth is a unique, comprehensive, one-year program for youth 9 to 12 years old, to help reduce risk factors linked to adolescent alcohol and drug abuse, school failure, delinquency and violence. The program delivers leadership and life skills training.

DEFY is looking for nine adults to sign up as mentors by May 14. Call Daryl Picadura, program coordinator, at 257-8559, or Sgt. Steven Schram at 257-1230, ext. 242, if interested.

Hawaii MARINE

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DoD medal announced

Sgt. Joseph A. Lee
Combat Correspondent

News of the new Korean Defense Service Medal has spread quickly through Marine Corps Base Hawaii, as three tenant units are deployed to the Republic of Korea. Many Marines and Sailors wonder if they will rate to wear the new ribbon upon their return.

The Department of Defense announced the creation of the Korean Defense Service Medal, Feb. 9. The service medal will give special recognition for the sacrifices and contributions made by members of the U.S. armed forces who have served or are serving in the Republic of Korea, according to the DoD press release. Public Law 107-314 legislated the creation of the new medal.

The news release states that members of the armed forces who are authorized to wear the medal must have served in support of the defense of the Republic of Korea. The area of eligibility encompasses all land area in the country, the contiguous water out to 12 nautical miles, and all air spaces above the land and water areas.

The period of eligibility is July 28, 1954, to a future date, to be determined by the secretary of defense.

Service members must have been

assigned, attached or mobilized to units operating in the area of eligibility, and have been physically deployed in the area of eligibility for 30 consecutive or 60 nonconsecutive days, or they must meet one of the following criteria:

- Be engaged in actual combat during an armed engagement, regardless of the time in the area of eligibility;

- Wounded or injured in the line of duty and require medical evacuation from the area of eligibility;

- Participating as a regularly assigned aircrew member flying sorties into, out of, within, or over the area of eligibility in support of military operations (each day that one or more sorties are flown in accordance with these criteria shall count as one day toward the 30- or 60-day requirement); and

- Personnel who serve in operations and exercises conducted in the area of eligibility who meet the basic time criteria of eligibility. However, due to the extensive time period for eligibility to wear the medal, the non-consecutive service period for eligibility remains cumulative throughout the entire period.

So what does this mean for the three units preparing to depart for Korea?

"As of right now, there hasn't been an ALMAR released allowing us to

run the medal in anyone's diary," said Lance Cpl. Paul Zamudio, unit diary clerk at the Base Personnel Administration Center, "but we are expecting that message soon. So, when the Marines come back from deployment, provided they meet the criteria and we have received the message, the medal will be run in their diary, and they will be authorized to wear it."

The Korean Defense Service Medal may be awarded posthumously, and only one award is authorized for any individual. Each military branch will prescribe appropriate regulations for administrative processing, awarding and wearing of the medal and ribbon for its service members, to include application procedures for veterans, retirees and next of kin.

More than 40,000 members of the U.S. armed forces have served in the Republic of Korea, or the waters adjacent thereto, each year since the signing of the cease-fire agreement in July 1953, which established the Demilitarized Zone.

For more than 50 years, the U.S. armed forces' efforts to deter and defend the Korean Peninsula have helped maintain democracy and preserve the indomitable spirit of freedom.

(Information from DoD News Release No. 088-04 was used in this article.)

Korean Defense Service Medal



Ribbon

Dark green represents the land of Korea; blue indicates overseas service and commitment to achieving peace. Gold denotes excellence; white symbolizes idealism and integrity.

Obverse

Description: A bronze-color disc bearing a Korean "circle dragon" within an encircling scroll inscribed "Korea Defense Service Medal." With two sprigs in base, laurel to dexter side, bamboo to sinister.

Symbolism: The four-clawed dragon is a traditional symbol of Korea and represents intelligence and strength of purpose. The sprig of laurel denotes honorable endeavor and victory; the bamboo refers to the land of Korea.



Reverse

Description: A representation of the land mass of Korea surmounted by two swords, points up, saltirewise within a cirlet garnished of five points.

Symbolism: The swords placed saltirewise over a map of Korea signify defense of freedom in that

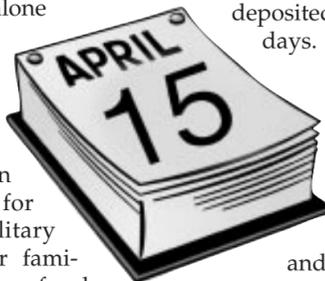
country and the readiness to engage in combat to that end. The cirlet enclosing the device recalls the forms of five-petal symbols common in Korean armory.

Tax center refunds to top \$4.2 million

**1st Lt. Christopher
Winchill**
Legal Assistance

Since opening Jan. 26, the Tax Center at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, has filed more than 3,200 federal and 2,260 state tax returns on behalf of service and family members, and retirees, from its offices located in Bldg. 455, next to the 7-Day Store. Federal

returns alone have resulted in more than \$4.2 million in refunds for area military and their families, and refunds from state returns have been substantial, as well.



The Tax Center has also saved military more than \$474,000 in fees, which would have been charged by professional tax preparers offering similar services.

Of the returns completed by the Tax Center, 98% were electronically filed, with refunds direct deposited within 7 - 14 days.

The Tax Center will remain open through April 30, on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Appointments are encouraged, but walk-ins

are welcome.

Tax Center personnel can prepare state tax returns and resolve questions about state military tax issues. For example, some states exclude military pay from taxation; others exclude only a portion, while still others fully tax all military pay. Whichever the case in your home state, neglecting state or federal tax obligations could have negative repercussions; so, authorized patrons are encouraged to seek out the Tax Center for clarification.

The K-Bay Tax Center remains open during lunch hours, and during later hours on Wednesday evenings. For more information or to make appointments call 257-1534.

Patriot Express cuts back on MACs

Compiled by
Lance Cpl. Megan L. Stiner
Combat Correspondent

Since the 1960s, Patriot Express, the military's chartered air service, had served as the military's primary source of transportation for service members and their families on permanent change of duty station orders, to and from overseas locations.

Patriot Express locations had annually carried more than 340,000 passengers on regularly chartered commercial flights to more than 25 locations in the European, Central,

Southern and Pacific Commands — as well as accommodated service members, their families and retirees desiring to "hop" a MAC or military aircraft chartered flight.

Beginning in fiscal year 2005, those Patriot Express numbers will be significantly reduced.

The Patriot Express now covers four contracted, U.S. gateway international airports, which are Atlanta-Hartsfield, Baltimore-Washington, Los Angeles and Seattle-Tacoma, plus four reservation centers located in Germany, Japan, Hawaii and the continental United States. Out of those eight airports, the only one that will

remain open after the reduction will be Baltimore Washington International airport.

Service members that depend on the reservation center at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, and the gateway at Los Angeles International Airport, will also be affected in fiscal year 2006, when the Patriot Express service at those locations closes too.

Commercial airline seats, however, will be available to compensate for all reductions.

Not enough service members were taking advantage of the flights, and too much was being put into the program by the DoD.

Triple X

HMH-463 gives 'thumbs up' to new NBC doctrine



Photos by Lance Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

Above — Sgt. Randall S. Bartlett uses a chemical agent monitor on a contaminated or "dirty" aircraft.

Center cutout — Bartlett performs personnel monitoring of Cpl. Marcus S. McCollum as he disembarks a CH-53D after a simulated chemical casualty evacuation mission.

Gunnery Sgt. Ray Roberts Jr.
Marine Aircraft Group 24

Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463 took the lead in assisting the Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Warfare Defense section of Marine Aircraft Group 24 by validating some procedures that could become doctrine for CH-53 helicopter squadrons in the future.

"Today's main objective is the validation of several procedures required by aircrew assigned to transport chemical casualties, from an attacked area to a predetermined chemical casualty collection point," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Albert Andriotti, the MAG-24 NBC officer.

The procedures, known as the Counter-Chemical Warfare Concept of Operations, are passive, defensive postures within a larger integrated U.S. Marine Corps/Air Force strategy for countering enemy weapons of mass destruction attacks. The concepts provide commanders and senior leaders with procedures and risk-based decision aids. The procedures and aids are designed to improve leadership's ability to maintain maximum operational tempo under NBC threat conditions.

With a properly trained force, knowledge of the procedures allows appropriate actions before and after NBC attacks. As well, the procedures will increase operational capability and decrease the logistical burdens associated with traditional decontamination operations.

What drives the ultimate effectiveness of the new concept? A unit's ability to execute and manage a

decentralized, mixed or split Mission-Oriented Protective Posture — or MOPP — environment, to make available and employ chemical contamination avoidance mechanisms, and to tailor unit-specific procedures that balance force survivability and mission production effectiveness.

To avoid contamination — in order to minimize casualties and the impact of decontamination on personnel and assets — is the most important aspect of the concept.

And the simplest way to prevent contamination of high value assets, such as aircraft, is to provide protective cover. Also, prepositioning chemical detection devices; applying M8 paper and M9 tape, used to detect nerve and blister agents to aircraft, vehicles, and ground support equipment; and vigilant monitoring by unit personnel allows commanders to determine the presence and extent of chemical contamination.

Any equipment that becomes contaminated is segregated and marked so that personnel know that a contact hazard exists.

Prior to validating the concept, HMH-463 participated in a training evolution. The simulated setting comprised operations in various stages of NBC environmental levels beginning in NBC threat condition "green." The squadron then moved into NBC threat condition "yellow"

when it received notification of a possible NBC attack.

Although the simulated attack occurred away from the squadron's area of operation, the forthcoming casualty evacuation mission was staged within a contaminated area. That required the responding crews to don all of their chemical, biological and radiological protective equipment once they had prepared their aircraft and received the mission briefing. Both the aircrew and aircraft were upgraded to NBC threat condition "red."

The deck of a configured CH-53D Sea Stallion was covered with a protective layer of paper in order to prevent the spread of possible contamination and to reduce the extent of decontamination operations. Further, a clear, plastic bag was attached to the bulkhead, between the cockpit and main cabin area. The litters were wrapped with plastic bags, and M8 paper and M9 tape were applied on areas most likely to come into contact with a chemical agent.

Both of the aircraft's external auxiliary tanks were marked with three Xs. The Xs identified that the aircraft had

See HMH-463, A-5



A simulated "dirty" aircraft undergoes spraydown while processing through an operational decontamination site established by Marine Corps Air Facility's Crash, Fire and Rescue.

NBC Threat Conditions

Threat Condition 0
Color Code White, No Threat

Indicators: Opposing forces have no NBC equipment, are not trained in NBCD or employment, and do not possess the capability to employ chemical agents.

Response: MOPP Level-Ready. First-issue equipment available in two hours. Second-issue is available in six hours.

Threat Condition 1
Color Code Yellow, Low Threat

Indicators: Opposing forces have chemical or biological capabilities, have trained in NBCD and employment, and have stated intention to use. Chemical or biological weapons may be deployed.

Alarm: Voice over Bn Tac-I.

Response: MOPP Level-0 or I. All personnel carry protective equipment. NBC antidotes and medications issued. All vaccinations for biological agents are complete. Battalion prepares to establish decon sites, evacuate NBC casualties, and executes NBCD measures.

Threat Condition 2
Color Code Red, Medium Threat

Indicators: Opposing forces chemical or biological munitions deployed to delivery units. Enemy troops wearing NBC protective equipment. Enemy NBC recon elements observed.

Alarm: Voice over Bn Tac-I.

Response: MOPP Level-II. Friendly NBC decon elements moved forward. Crew-served weapons, vehicles and buildings are covered at all times. All M-11 Decon apparatus are mounted on assigned vehicles or areas with designated personnel assigned responsibility.

Threat Condition 3
Color Code Black, High Threat

Indicators: NBC attack in progress. NBC warnings to enemy troops. NBC munitions delivered to firing units. Preparation or launch of surface-to-surface missiles.

Alarm: Steady siren blast, percussion devices, or voice warning over Bn Tac-I.

Response: MOPP Level-IV. Alert all personnel. Require masking. Ensure Marines reach a covered position.

Individuals remain protected until situation is clarified. Minimize movement. Marines assigned to NBCD teams assume NBC duties as primary assignment.



Word on the Street

What is your lucky charm, and why is it lucky?



"My cross that my grandfather gave me. He lived to be 101 years old."

Pvt. Jason Ludvigsen
Line mechanic
HMH-463



"My lucky green underwear. They are just lucky!"

Shauna Smith
Waitress
Kahuna's Sports Bar & Grill, MCCC



"My dog tags because I got them blessed."

Lance Cpl. David Battle Jr.
Machinegunner
Charlie Co., 1/3



"My black belt, because when I wear it I never get in a fight"

Lance Cpl. Daniel Rheume
Rifleman
3rd Marines



"My lucky cover and rock. I have had them both for a long time."

Lance Cpl. Jacob Hurst
Machinegunner
Alpha Co., 1/3

EVERY CLIME & PLACE

Special unit provides comm capabilities in South Korea

Capt. Chris Perrine
MCB Camp Butler

PYONGTAEK NAVAL BASE, Republic of Korea — Marines pride themselves on being first to the fight, the first to deploy in a crisis.

Most images of these first-response warriors are of ground combat units with machineguns or tanks. However, the true "tip of the spear" is a little known and unrecognized special communications unit.

The Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Enabler platoon is an on-call communications element that is literally the first unit to arrive at a location in crisis. This is also true when III Marine Expeditionary Force conducts realistic training in countries such as South Korea.

"We were the first plane into Osan [Korea]," said 1st Lt. David Arjona, officer in charge of MAGTF-E, Company A, 7th Communication Battalion, III MEF, whose 21 Marines are currently in South Korea to support four major annual exercises including Freedom Banner 04.

The platoon maintains a high level of readiness and can deploy within 48 hours. Its mission is to provide initial deployment communications between the U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific commander and higher headquarters, while supporting regional conflicts and contingency operations.

The platoon can deploy all of its



Capt. Chris Perrine

Lance Cpl. Todd B. Weaver (left) and Lance Cpl. Chartin discuss business next to a satellite uplink outside of their communication facility. The Marines are deployed to South Korea with MAGTF-E.

Marines, six humvees, trailers, generators, tents and communications equipment in one large airplane or in several smaller aircraft. Upon arrival, the MAGTF-E can set up shop in six hours, access satellites within 30 minutes and provide a full complement of secure and nonsecure communications within 18 hours. The unit is also completely self-sufficient for three days.

Arjona's Marines can provide access to the Department of Defense's Secure IP Network, non-classified IP network, telephone services, and VHF and UHF radio and video teleconferencing. They can also provide access to a special computer network that host nation

and U.S. forces share.

"We get a lot of time in the field, miss a lot of weekends and holidays," explained Lance Cpl. Todd B. Weaver, a MAGTF-E switch operator, of the unit's busy schedule. "I'd say we're in the field two to three weeks of every month."

Weaver's biggest challenge during the deployment so far is the weather. He uses one word, "cold," to describe the sub-freezing temperatures and snow he has been working in. However, the Cedar Rapids, Iowa, native has a warmer response when asked about the South Koreans.

"Communication is a little difficult, but ... I really enjoy working with them."



Lance Cpl. Adaeus Brooks

Lance Cpl. Roberto Castro, cannoneer, Battery B, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, from Hawaii, loads a round into an M198 Howitzer Cannon with a fellow Marine at the Hijudai Maneuvering Area, Japan.

Teamwork aids K-Bay Marines

Cpl. Benjamin M. George
MCB Camp Butler

HIJUDAI MANEUVER AREA, Japan — Vince Lombardi knew it took individuals, giving their best efforts, in order for the greater good of the team to reach its goals. Similarly, when faced with unfamiliar surroundings, Marines from Battery B, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, found the same to be true. It took the best from every individual in the unit to achieve success during a recent artillery relocation

See *TEAMWORK*, A-5

SWAMI searches Ft. Hase

Cpl. Jason E. Miller
Media Chief

Researchers from Science and Technology International (STI) dug in deep at Ft. Hase Beach aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, last week for the advanced testing of a new mine-finding apparatus, which allows for airborne reconnaissance and recognition of mine fields and other hidden dangers that could await American troops in times of conflict.

The SWAMI (scalable wind arc multi-spectral imager) is an optical device that, when mounted to the bottom of an aircraft such as a helicopter, is designed to identify both colors, patterns and irregular shapes that

could mean danger to U.S. forces — without troops getting close enough to be put in danger.

"We're in a stage of prototype development," said Ronald Ho, test director for STI on the SWAMI project. "We have a contract through the Office of Naval Research to work forward with this project, in hopes of completing it for use in the U.S. military forces."

To test the SWAMI at Ft. Hase, STI's team first set out numerous patterns of dummy mines around the beach, and then hundreds of yards into the crashing surf, to test the device's true capabilities, even in adverse conditions.

"We've done tests in other

areas where the water is much calmer and everything's a little more subdued," said Ho, "and in those areas, the SWAMI has had a really good success rate."

"We came out to Ft. Hase because we know that it's probably pretty close to what the military would be looking for in terms of an amphibious landing. The water is rough, and the beach has lots of different kinds of growth and rock formations. It should be a good test to see what the SWAMI can do."

The fake mines, in some cases, were nothing more than spray-painted stepping stones, half-buried in sand, placed at strategic points along the beach to test the

capabilities of the SWAMI device.

With the SWAMI mounted to the bottom, a small civilian helicopter buzzed the beach numerous times during three days, searching for the slight variances of color that would identify where the mines lay on, or near, the beach.

Researchers from STI will analyze all the hard-earned data from Ft. Hase before moving on to the next phase of testing.

"Generally, it takes our guys about 24 hours to turn around the data into something usable. Our hope is to have the SWAMI working in real time, so that it provides a valuable asset to the military when it comes to landing troops in a hostile area."



Cpl. Jason E. Miller

Ronald Ho, test director for STI on the SWAMI project, checks on one of the many dummy mines used in the SWAMI test project at Ft. Hase Beach aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, last week.

Chaplain brings comfort to field

Cpl. Benjamin M. George
MCB Camp Butler

HIJUDAI MANEUVER AREA, Japan — When Marines and Sailors from 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, left Okinawa, they left the comforts of base behind them to conduct live-fire artillery training in the harsh field environment here. However, as they began their training, they saw Chaplain (Lt.) Thomas A. Ianucci and Petty Officer 3rd Class John Paul Boulden were working just as hard to bring the comforts of home to the field with them.

Ianucci, battalion chaplain, and Boulden, reli-

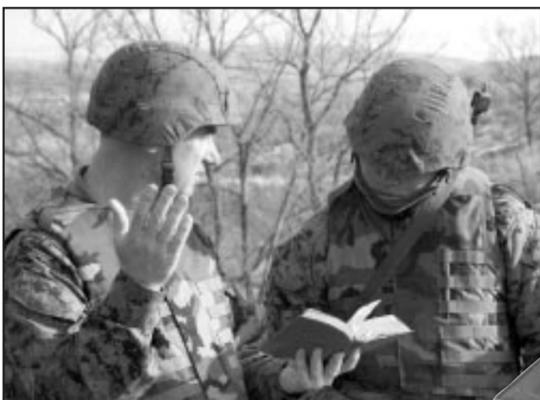
gious programs (RP) specialist, make up the religious ministry team for 3/12. Although being assigned to a Marine unit offers challenges different from serving with a Navy unit, both agree it has also brought a certain level of achievement and satisfaction.

"Coming out to the field with the Marines makes communication so much easier," said Ianucci, a Virginia Beach, Va., native. "When they see that I am right out here with them, it makes it easier for them to talk to me, because they know I can see what they are going through out here."

Although services in the field are a big part of religious duties, it is not the only way to have a positive effect on deployed Marines. Whether it's distributing movies, books and games to Marines and Sailors for recreation, or helping coordinate home visits to local families, the two do what they can to boost troop morale.

"They are always around doing their part," said Staff Sgt. Ronald L. Jones, liaison chief, Battery B, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, currently attached to 3/12 as part of the Unit Deployment Program. "They really go out of their way to ensure there is some sense of normalcy during a tough situation."

"We sincerely care about the personal welfare of every Marine and Sailor out here," said Boulden, a Gonzales, La., native. "Our main focus is personal relationships. Morale is boosted when they [Marines and Sailors] realize they are genuinely cared about."



Lance Cpl. Adaeus Brooks

Chaplain (Lt.) Thomas A. Ianucci (left) explains a passage to a Marine following a religious service in the field at the Hijudai Maneuver Area in Japan.

HMH-463, From A-3

operated in a "dirty" area, when it returned to its alternate landing zone.

The Medivac helicopter deployed to LZ Boondocker to extract its one casualty. Upon landing, the corpsman and two litter bearers (all of whom were in MOPP Level 4) exited the aircraft and quickly stabilized the "casualty," who was suffering from two broken legs and chemical agent exposure.

After placing the "casualty" on the plastic-covered stretcher, the litter bearers placed him on the aircraft for return to LZ Westfield, the alternate landing zone, where

he was triaged and evacuated to the designated medical facility.

Once in NBC threat condition "black," the aircraft proceeded through an operational decontamination site where it was sprayed down. The squadron's monitor, survey and decontamination personnel checked for any contamination. The installed protective materials were removed and discarded.

Because there was contamination detected inside of the aircraft, a strip of tape was placed underneath the three Xs, on both sides of the aircraft, to alert anyone coming near it that a possible internal contact hazard existed.

In a combat situation, casualty

evacuation is one of the primary missions of a helicopter squadron. If NBC threats are introduced, additional planning is required to evacuate contaminated casualties and/or evacuate a casualty from a possible contaminated landing zone.

"We know that our enemies, both present and future, may use chemical agents against us and we will have chemical agent casualties," said Staff Sgt. Brian R. Barksdale, MAG-24's NBC training chief regarding the importance of the training evolution. "With these new procedures in place, the squadron can sustain their operational tempo and save lives at the same time."



Lance Cpl. Adaeus Brooks

Sergeant Alan Rice (left) and Cpl. Cary Cole, gunners with Battery B, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, stationed in Hawaii, brace themselves for the roar of an M198 Howitzer during live-fire training in Japan.

TEAMWORK, From A-4

exercise here.

Battery B, stationed in Hawaii, and currently attached to Okinawa's 3/12 as part of the Unit Deployment Program, traveled here to test its artillery skills and proficiency under relatively harsh conditions.

"The weather and terrain in this region has definitely created a shared hardship amongst all the Marines," said Capt. David Everly, commanding officer, Battery B, and Inglewood, Calif., native. "We are learning new things about our capabilities [under harsh conditions] every day."

Most operations within the Corps rely on teamwork to be successful, and artillery is no exception. From the forward observers, who determine the target locations, to the cannoners on the gun line, communication is crucial to timely and proficient execution.

"This is the biggest team I have ever seen," said Lance

Cpl. Arin S. Preston, fire direction controlman, Battery B, and Northport, Wash., native. "It's not just the artillery Marines though. It's everyone out here doing their job, right down to the motor transport and 'comm' [communication] Marines."

At the outset of the live-fire training, the unit was evaluated with an operational readiness exercise. Every aspect of the unit received a positive evaluation, with several sections, including the motor transport and ammunition sections, standing out as being exceptional, according to Everly.

Despite harsh temperatures, rough terrain and, at times, driving snow, Hawaii Marines triumphed using teamwork.

"It was extremely challenging to come out here the first couple of days," said Lance Cpl. Benjamin H. Forsyth, gunner, Battery B, and Hedgesville, W.V., native. "It was a shock at first, but after a short adjustment period, we were able to get on track."

LONO, From A-1

Hawaii during the time of the monarchy, to signify the official time of Makahiki, as declared by the king.

"Carrying on the message of Makahiki is more than just signifying the start or end of a new season," said Makaanani. "The Lono symbolizes a time of rest for the people of Hawaii, a time to put aside differences ... to travel by canoe to visit your ohana."

After the welcoming of the Lono Akua to Mokapu, celebrations began with Makahiki games, hula performances and storytelling. Then just before dawn, the cele-

brants moved by procession to Pyramid Rock to finally unveil the Lono Akua and pray to the god Lono at sunrise.

As the men and women sang on the beach as separate entities, whales began to dance on the water and a vivid rainbow crested over Pyramid Rock.

"We are truly blessed this day," said Souza as the rainbow became luminescent in the sky.

With Makahiki at a close, the season of the god "Ku" begins, bringing forth a time when festivities and games will take a pause for planting, building and engaging business and life for the people of Hawaii and Mokapu's ohana.



Sgt. Joseph A. Lee

Fifth and sixth graders from Mokapu Elementary School helped welcome paddlers arriving at Hale Koa Beach, Saturday, during a traditional Makahiki ceremony.

Makahiki reveals Hawaii's history

Sgt. Joseph A. Lee
Combat Correspondent

Makahiki — Explained by some to mean "the year," or more specifically "the season"; can be broken down to define a certain season, the season of new beginnings.

The word *maka*, or "eye," refers to the constellation of the Pleiades, and *hiki* is a sign of movement. Liberally translated, the word refers to the rising of the Pleiades in the heavens, corresponding with the time

of the sun's turn northward, bringing warmth again to the Earth, the growth of plants and the spawning of fish — springtime.

Thousands of years ago, a festival was celebrated every year at this time in honor of the fertility god "Lono," god of cultivated food plants, not only in Hawaii but also throughout marginal Polynesian islands.

Hawaiians prayed to the god Lono to send rain and sunshine upon the growing crops, spawn to fill the fishing stations and

offspring to mankind.

During the ancient Makahiki period, wars were suspended to celebrate athletic sports. According to "The Kumulipo, A Hawaiian Creation Chant," the god Lono himself inaugurated the sporting events.

"Father Lono," symbolized by a long pole with a strip of tapa and other embellishments attached, was carried about from district to district to collect taxes (*auhau*) in return for the use of land distributed by each overlord among his family group.

BPAC, From A-1

"I wasn't that nervous for the inspection; I was really prepared for it, so I felt pretty confident going into it," said Jones. "I know my job and I know how to do it."

Jones said that the inspection was originally scheduled for an earlier time, but it did not occur until February. That delay allowed the office more time for training and preparation.

As an additional bonus during the weeklong MCAAT, inspectors didn't just look for flaws, they worked to correct them. If they found problem areas, the inspectors acted as instructors, helping the Marines to find easier ways to implement job procedures.

Swainson said that BPAC Marines are already capitalizing on the inspectors' extra support. Marines are busy perfecting their trade.

Although the current BPAC crew is new to the MCAAT inspection, it is already striving to trump the score of 99 percent, set by a seasoned office in 1999. Perfection is the goal next time around.