

Hawaii MARINE

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The ROK slide for life



Cpl. Jessica M. Mills

Republic of Korea Marine Corps Rangers (in the background) keep a watchful eye on Pfc. Raymond Wong, a supply warehouseman with Combat Service Support Detachment 36, as he pulls himself across a rope during the beginners' course at the ROK Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center in Gimpo, Republic of Korea. See page A-3 for the full story.

MCBH garners two top Navy awards

MCB Hawaii
Press Release

Secretary of the Navy Gordon R. England has announced that Marine Corps Base Hawaii is the recipient of two distinguished environmental awards. Base officials will travel to the nation's capitol in May to receive top honors for best natural resources conservation and best environmental quality.

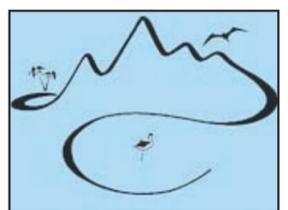
Secretary England said the level of competition was high in the 2003 Environmental Awards Competition, which is a direct reflection of the efforts that Navy and Marine Corps teams devote to the environment, every day.

Next, qualified military installation winners will compete in the Department of Defense Fiscal Year 2003 Environmental Awards Program.

Colonel Richard C. Roten, deputy commander of Marine Corps Base Hawaii, extended personal congratulations to the Environmental Compliance and Protection Department and its director, Maj. Robert L. Rouse. The department has received 20 awards in the past 27 years from the Department of the Navy and DoD.

The mission of the Environmental Compliance and Protection Department is to carry out the functions of compliance; pollution prevention; conservation; installation restoration; and training, education and outreach such that the department contributes to combat readiness and protects human health and the environment.

As well, the department strives to increase the awareness of personnel here about environmental matters, to improve hazardous waste management and to design systems to minimize negative impacts, restoring areas under the cognizance of the installation to their natural state, whenever feasible.



Nightmare opens in ROK

Sgt. Joseph A. Lee
Combat Correspondent

SEUNG JIN (NIGHTMARE) RANGE, Republic of Korea — A Republic of Korea Marine commander joined with a U.S. Marine Corps commander Sunday to ceremoniously mark the beginning of operations for the Korean Integrated Training Program and live-fire exercises, which will continue throughout this month.

Lieutenant Col. Suk Hwan Choi, commanding officer of the 2nd Battalion, 7th ROK Marine Regiment, spoke to the staff and officers of 3rd Marine Regiment and a team from Combat Assault Battalion, about the legacy of the U.S. Marines.

Choi expressed hopes of strengthening their working relationship with U.S. Marines throughout the upcoming operations.

"Once a Marine, always a Marine," said Choi. "We may have different flags, but we are all Marines."

Colonel J. J. Patterson, commanding officer of 3rd Marines, spoke to the South Korean Marines about the strength of the U.S. and ROK alliance, as being the strongest and longest lasting in the Pacific.

"Your barbed wire and defensive positions serve as a sharp reminder that freedom is not free," said Patterson. "It takes the efforts of brave men and women to preserve it."

"[Republic of Korea] Marines are known throughout the world for their bravery, courage and fierce fighting spirit. We are proud to serve by your side.

"We are here to sharpen our skills so that our enemy to the North will some day realize he has no chance of winning on the battlefield," Patterson said.

The combined arms operation will consist of standard weapons static live-fire, and fire support team, live-fire maneuver and helicopter training, including classes on helicopter-borne operations, according to U.S. Marine Chief Warrant Officer 4 Daniel Geltmacher, 3rd Marines weapons officer.

See NIGHTMARE, A-6

Group bids 'aloha' to Sandoval and Strowmatt

Story and Photos by
Pfc. Rich Mattingly
Sports Editor

The sergeant major looked out across the parade deck on Dewey Square at MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, surveying his mustered troops for one last time with the clear, commanding gaze so many Marines have come to know as a source of fire and compassion, intensity and conviction.

The eyes belonged to Sgt. Maj. Juan F. Sandoval, the former senior enlisted leader of Combat Service Support Group 3. He surveyed his troops for a final time before passing on his post to Sgt. Maj. David Strowmatt, former 9th Marine Corps District sergeant major. Those eyes have seen deployments to more than seven countries in support of countless operations, overseeing the lives of hundreds of Marines and Sailors here at Kaneohe Bay.

Sandoval departed to his next assignment as base sergeant major of Camp Pendleton, Calif., which will be his last tour as a

leader of Marines.

From Texas, Sandoval was born with a twin sister into a family of six children, where he was raised with emphasis placed on the importance of education.

"My dad really pushed education on me, so I went to college to get an Associate's Degree in Education," said Sandoval, who would like to go into teaching or social work after he retires from the Marine Corps.

Sandoval, the only member of his immediate family to join the military, said that after he graduated, he decided that he wanted to join the Marine Corps mostly for the challenge.

"I thought it would be tough, and that was appealing to me."

Sandoval reported for recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, Calif., in April of 1976. After graduating, he attended maintenance administration school at Naval Air Station Meridian, Miss., and was stationed at Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, Calif., with the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing.



Colonel James Harbison passes CSSG-3's ceremonial NCO sword, to Sgt. Maj. David Strowmatt, while Sgt. Maj. Juan F. Sandoval stands at attention during the post and relief ceremony.

"My first four years were great, and they just flew by," said Sandoval of his decision to reenlist for the first time.

Sandoval said that he was having so much fun with his job and enjoyed being a Marine so much, that he never really thought about getting out.

"Before I knew it, I was a career Marine," he laughed then continued, "It's the people in the

Corps that kept me in. Being a Marine isn't like a job at all, and the Marines working with me made it clear that I never wanted to get out."

From a tour on the drill field of MCRD San Diego, where he held every billet up to series chief drill instructor, to his first tour on Kaneohe Bay as first ser-

See SANDOVAL, A-2

MCBH NEWS BRIEFS

STOMP WORKSHOP OFFERED

Military families are invited to the free Specialized Training of Military Parents Workshop, or STOMP, April 1 – 2 at the Enlisted Club aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

Designed to empower families with special needs children, the agenda will include discussion of the Individuals with Disabilities and Education Act (IDEA), Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Individualized Education Program (IEP), networking skills and TRICARE.

For more details and to reserve a seat, call 257-7787.

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.

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.

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 you're interested.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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

Hawaii MARINE

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SANDOVAL: 'Stick with it,' he says

From A-1



Sandoval and his wife Franchie greet well-wishers following the post and relief ceremony.

geant of Marine Attack Squadron 211, the "Avengers," Sandoval has had a storied career full of the kind of experiences that build a resourceful Marine Corps leader.

"You've got to stick with it and trust the Marines around you if you're going to be successful," said Sandoval when asked how young Marines could emulate his success.

Sandoval has served as sergeant major of both Headquarters Battalion, MCB Hawaii, and CSSG-3 here at Kaneohe Bay; however, as the base sergeant major for Camp Pendleton, Sandoval sees his responsibilities changing from his last three posts.

"I think it will be different in that I will get to work more with the civilian community of the base and also the outside community," he explained. "I'm just really looking forward to the opportunity to keep on working with Marines."



The commander of troops, Sgt. David S. Taylor, fiscal clerk with Supply Co., CSSG-3, bellows commands to the staff and formation of Group Marines during the post and relief ceremony March 19 at Dewey Square.

Global War Medal approved

Lance Cpl. Megan L. Stiner
Combat Correspondent

On March 12, 2003, the Commander and Chief of the United States of America, President George W. Bush, signed Executive Order 13298, which established the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal. The new medal is to be awarded to U.S. military forces involved in operations pertaining directly to the war on terrorism.

The medal is authorized for individuals who are physically involved in operations to combat terrorism while deployed in countries such as Iraq and Afghanistan between the date of Sept. 11, 2001, and a terminal date to be determined by the Secretary of Defense.

To be awarded the medal, an indi-

vidual must be assigned, attached or mobilized with a unit serving in support of designated operations for 30 consecutive or 60 nonconsecutive days. Other criteria that could entitle an individual to the medal are having been engaged in actual combat, or killed, wounded, or injured while participating in an operation that required medical evacuation.

No individual will be awarded more than one medal; therefore, no service stars will be prescribed to military members.

Battle stars may be applicable for personnel who were engaged in actual physical combat against the enemy, under circum-

stances that involved grave danger of death or serious bodily injury from enemy action. Yet, only a combatant commander can submit a request for a battle star.

Initial operations approved for designation of the medal include Airport Security Operations between Sept. 27, 2001 and May 31, 2002, and Operations Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle and Iraqi Freedom.

The specifics of the medal will be announced at a later date in a Marine Administrative Message section of the www.usmc.mil Web site.

(Editor's Note: Information compiled from *MarAdmin* 129/04).



Message from the frontlines

To all those that we left behind, I wanted to take some time to send a few words regarding your Marine or Sailor deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. First, let me say that, at this moment, every single one of them is safe and doing well. We have established our headquarters and operational sites throughout western Iraq in support of I Marine Expeditionary Force.

There is still much to do before we are fully operational, but we are well on our way to becoming a key element of the Marine Forces here in Iraq. In fact, we have already made a difference in the short time we have been here.

I wish I could give you details, but as many of you know, we are silent warriors, going about our business of making a difference without seeking praise.

You can be proud of your Marine or Sailor. They have done a fantastic job of moving tons of equipment and supplies thousands of miles in one of this battalion's largest and most complicated deployments. In fact, this is the first major deployment for the newly formed 3rd Radio Battalion, and each one of you has a right to say you were a part of Marine Corps and 3rd Radio Battalion history.

Not only did we move 164 Marines and Sailors and their equipment, halfway around the world, we moved them in multiple serials to many disparate points in western Iraq — without the loss of one individual or piece of equipment. This was no small feat.

We were able to do this because of the professional-

ism and dedication of each and every Marine and Sailor assigned to 3rd Radio Battalion, not just those deployed to Iraq.

While the 164 personnel here executed the deployment, we could not have gotten here without the support of the Marines and Sailors still in Hawaii. I salute each and every one of you.

The Marines and Sailors here in Iraq have not been without their challenges. Each has endured long, uncomfortable flights marred by lengthy delays, long lines for chow, bumpy bus rides, and a very long convoy in even more uncomfortable humvees and trucks. No matter the challenge or the hardship, your Marines and Sailors have maintained their professionalism and dedication to accomplishing this mission.

These Marines and Sailors impress me daily with their ingenuity and resourcefulness in overcoming the challenges of running a battalion such as ours in a field environment. They have teamed up to get the job done, whether it is filling sandbags, laying communications wire or putting up tents.

I consider it a privilege and honor to serve with these Marines and Sailors and will not soon forget what they have done for our battalion and the Marine Forces they are tasked with supporting. They are truly exceptional people that you should be proud of.

They are great Americans that deserve the very best that we have to offer.

Lt. Col. Mark T. Aycock
Commanding Officer
3rd Radio Battalion

Side by side

Republic of Korea Rangers lead U.S. Marines and Sailors in Mountain Warfare Training

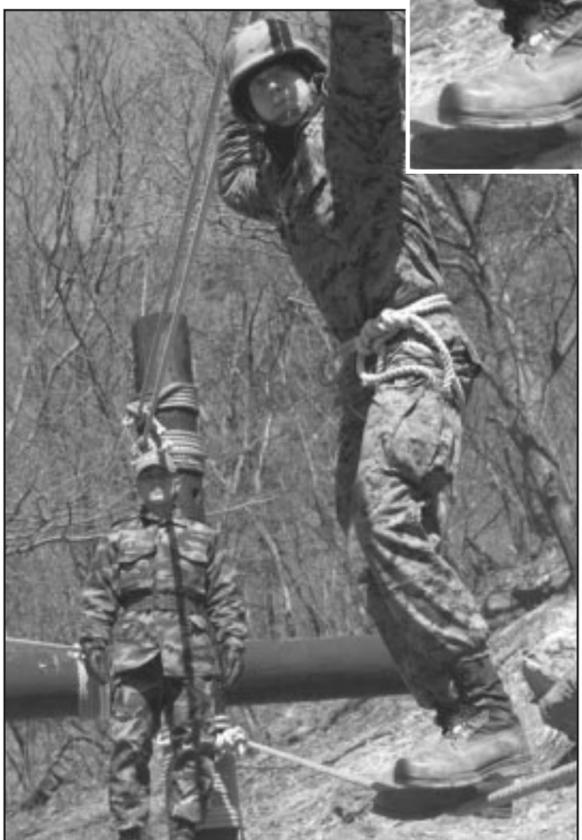
Story and Photos by
Cpl. Jessica M. Mills
Combat Correspondent

GIMPO, Republic of Korea — A group of 25 Marines and Sailors from Combat Service Support Detachment 77, CSSD-33 and CSSD-36, who are from Marine Corps bases in Hawaii, Okinawa and Iwakuni, faced the challenges of Mountain Warfare Training by submitting to the demanding training routine of the Republic of Korea Marine Corps Rangers here, March 18 - 19.

The first day began in the early morning hours as the sun slowly began to stretch its fingers across the Korean mountains surrounding the center. The ROK training instructors, referred to as Rangers, led the Marines and Sailors in a grueling 30-minute calisthenics formation, which many of the Marines referred to as the "daily 80."

The formation then stepped off on a three-mile "boots and utilities run," led by the Rangers, on the rolling roads and rocky trails of the mountains.

According to the Rangers, a Special Forces unit in the ROK Marine Corps, the strenuous exercise program is required for mountain warfare training to keep service members in the best shape possible. Many of the obstacles, therefore, test upper and lower body strength.



Corporal John Vroom, a disburser with CSSD-33, from Okinawa, Japan, maneuvers a rope bridge during Mountain Warfare Training as a Republic of Korea Marine Corps Ranger keeps a watchful eye.

The ROK Marines perform and complete the same physical training regimen every day so that they can fulfill their training requirements.

Twenty-five Marines and Sailors began the run, and all 25 finished strong, proving that the extreme conditions were still no match for them.

Once their morning PT (physical training) was completed, the Marines and Sailors began the first phase of Mountain Warfare Training. The Rangers instructed them about how to tie various types of rope knots used for rappelling, static line jumps, and other forms of rope maneuvers.

Once the Rangers were satisfied that their students understood, they led them to the Beginners Ropes Training Course, which — although not far from the ground — gave the Marines and Sailors a chance to practice walking across rope bridges and rope crawling.

The Rangers were unrelenting as they followed behind the Marines and Sailors screaming, "Faster! Faster!" repeatedly pushing them forward in an effort to get them moving.

After Marines and Sailors finished the beginner's course, they prepared to tackle the rappelling and static line jump tower, reminiscent of the towers at Marine Corps boot camp. Before they took their turn leaping off the tower, the Rangers demonstrated a number of different techniques they could use to tackle the tower, including a backwards and forward rappel.

"This is exactly why I volunteered to come here," said Pfc. Nelson Urena, a supply warehouseman with CSSD-36 from MCAS Iwakuni, Japan. "You don't get to rappel and jump from platforms very often in the Marine Corps, unless it's your MOS [military occupational specialty], not to mention I get to train with the ROK Marines ... an opportunity I could not pass up."

The final obstacle for the Marines and Sailors was pulling themselves across a 60-meter rope while they were 30 meters off the ground. Although they were tired and their muscles were on fire, they successfully completed the first day of training with time to spare.

To have some fun after a hard day, the Rangers challenged them to a friendly game of soccer using seven-man teams. Although the Marines and Sailors gathered up their last bits of energy and gave the game their all, the Rangers proved their speed and skill was fine-tuned. They defeat-



Staff Sgt. Mike Hicks, a maintenance chief with Maintenance Co., Combat Service Support Group 3, forward rappels down part of Moonsoo Mountain during advanced Mountain Warfare Training with ROK Marine Rangers.

ed the Marines and Sailors, 11-4.

Trying to redeem themselves, the Marines and Sailors then challenged the Rangers to a game of basketball. This time, they showed the Rangers who was boss and defeated them twice, all in fun and good spirits.

See RANGERS, A-6



United States Marines guard their net as ROK Rangers get dangerously close to scoring another goal during a game of soccer after day one of Mountain Warfare Training.

Word on the Street

Where do you go to "get away from it all?"



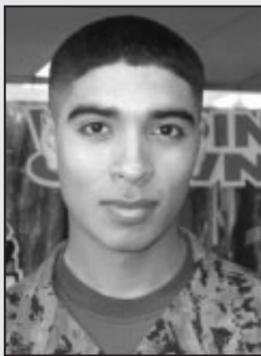
"I like the beach because it's so beautiful."

Aylisha Tom
Marketing assistant
MCCS



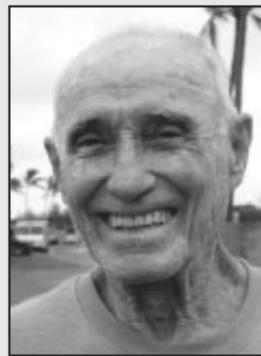
"I go to the pool because it's so much fun there."

Adam Taraschki
10-year-old
Family member



"I go driving. It relaxes me, just listening to the music and driving around the island."

Sgt. Daniel Munoz
Fiscal NCOIC
Supply Company
CSSG-3



"I take my wife to Las Vegas and go on tours."

John Joyce
Veteran
World War II and
Korean War



"I like to surf at North Beach."

1st Lt. Greg Myers
Assistant aviation
supply officer
MAL5-24

CSSD-77 trains for worst scenario

Cpl. Jessica M. Mills
Combat Correspondent

CAMP WARRIOR, WESTERN CORRIDOR, Republic of Korea — Prior to its deployment to the Republic of Korea, Combat Service Support Detachment 77 formed the Provisional Security Platoon to provide security and a quick reaction force team in support of Freedom Banner/Foal Eagle '04 underway here from Feb. 27 until April 19.

In conjunction with its own Marines, CSSD-77 recruited Marines from other training units such as Combat Assault Battalion and CSSD-33 from Okinawa, Japan, to establish the PSP.

"We have military policeman in the platoon to help train, but we have many other MOSs [military occupational specialty] as well, such as ammo technicians and motor transport operators," said Gunnery Sgt. Rodney Pratt, force protection chief and antiterrorism officer. "We

are basically made up of service Marines, but this is definitely not a fire-watch. When these Marines come off their post, they begin training for any situation that may occur while here. This is a full-time job."

The PSP trains in various security techniques such as special reaction team training, demonstration and riot control, handcuffing and pressure point control tactics, a nonlethal weapons course, bomb search and evacuation procedures, response to invaders, fire evacuation and VIP escorts.

The training for PSP is tailored based on the threat assessment determined by surrounding security associations such as the Naval Criminal Intelligence Service, the Army's Military Intelligence Battalion and the Air Force's Office of Special Investigation.

"We may have a higher chance of fire evacuation scenes here, obviously because of our heaters, but there have also been numerous cases of intruders on U.S. bases within the last two years, based on the unclassified threat assessments for this area," said Pratt. "For instance, many student organizations have attempted to climb the fences of various bases and burn the American flag. Because of these high-risks, we make sure that PSP is ready for any type of situation."

When PSP Marines are not training, they stand eight to 12 hour shifts at numerous guard posts at both Camp Warrior and Camp Nightmare in the Western Corridor. There is also a small

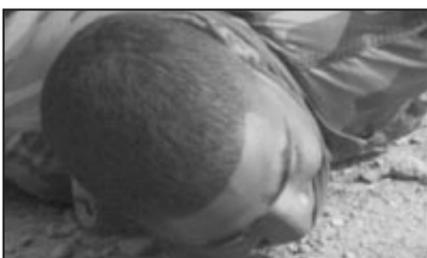
detachment of PSP Marines at 2nd Fleet ROK Naval Base in Pyeongtaek.

"Our sentries are armed and ready to deal with any threat that approaches," said Sgt. Albert Lopez, the sergeant of the guard for PSP and a criminal investigator with the Criminal Investigation Division aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. "They are equipped with a small armory of weapons including the M16A2 service rifle, an M-9 9mm pistol, a M1014 12-gage shotgun, expandable batons and flexcuffs."

Although these Marines are originally

from other military specialty occupations, they take their training seriously. The PSP is the only unit that they work for while they are here.

"The PSP is our primary mission right now, and most of us want it no other way," said Cpl. Torry Smith, the training noncommissioned officer for PSP and a military police officer with Headquarters Bn., MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. "This is an opportunity for these Marines to practice and learn techniques to use in missions other than war, such as the operations in Iraq."



Cpl. Jessica M. Mills

Private First Class Alando Caldwell, a supply clerk with CSSG-3 from MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, gets down and dirty during training in the Republic of Korea.



Cpl. Jessica M. Mills

Corporal Troy Gardner, a diesel mechanic for CSSG-3, throws Lance Cpl. Landrito Villena, with 3rd Marine Division, against the wall during pressure point control tactics training at Camp Warrior, Western Corridor in the Republic of Korea.



Sgt. Joseph A. Lee

Lance Cpl. Michael Sheen, SMART-T operator for Headquarters Co., 3rd Marines, tests voice communication shortly after arrival to Nightmare Range, Republic of Korea.

SMART-T is 'worth its weight'

Sgt. Joseph A. Lee
Combat Correspondent

SEUNG JIN (NIGHTMARE) RANGE, Republic of Korea — The 3rd Marine Regiment recently acquired a piece of gear that has proved invaluable in the field environment, allowing Marines full data, voice and video communication worldwide in a matter of minutes. Best of all, it's all conveniently mounted on a High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle for easy maneuverability.

The AN/TSC-154 Satellite Communication Terminal, better known as the Secure Mobile Antijam Reliable Tactical Terminal, or SMART-T, is a satellite-compatible ground communications terminal that provides worldwide, secure, transportable, antijam, reliable, Low Probability of Intercept data and voice communications from a stationary mission site.

Relatively new to the Marine Corps, the SMART-T was introduced to 3rd Marine Regiment approximately six

months ago, and has already proven itself more than just a useful addition to the field communications setup.

According to Maj. Chuck Stevens, communications officer for Headquarters Company, 3rd Marine Regiment, the SMART-T is a piece of gear the [3rd Marine] Division and the Regiment acquired during operations in Australia in the summer of 2003.

"We are incredibly enthusiastic to have this piece of gear available to us," said Stevens. "This is the first time we have used it operationally overseas, and so far it has been performing very well for us."

One advantage of the SMART-T over its predecessors is its mobility. The terminal is palletized for integration on the HMMWV with a mounted profile that facilitates transportability. Transport on or off the HMMWV may be accomplished via helicopter, fixed wing aircraft, marine shipping, rail transport and transport vehicles.

The Humvee itself is capable of transporting terminal equipment on

secondary roads or unimproved terrain.

"Before the SMART-T, we were fairly tied down with our communications equipment, as it was extremely bulky and not readily mobile," said Lance Cpl. Michael Sheen, SMART-T operator for Headquarters Co., 3rd Marines. "The SMART-T allows us to pick up and go in much less time."

Along with increased mobility and reduced time, the SMART-T also boasts a fairly significant resistance to enemy anti-communication tactics.

"SMART-T has been designed to survive, but not operate through, electromagnetic pulses," said Lance Cpl. Johnathon Anderson, another SMART-T operator with 3rd Marines.

According to Anderson, the SMART-T and its equipment are protected from high-altitude EMP and nearby lightning strikes, and can also withstand biological and chemical attacks, as well as radio frequency jamming.

See *SMART-T*, A-6



Lance Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson

Captain William S. Moran (left), commodore of all Patrol Squadrons and commandant of the Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 2, ceremoniously opens the Career Development Resource Center.

VP-4's Resource Center opens to jump-start careers of Sailors

Lance Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson
Combat Correspondent

As Sailors aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, come and go, many stress out about heading into the workforce and what may or may not be available to them. The official opening of the Career Development Resource Center, which took place at Hangar 104 on March 10, can provide both career Sailors or those departing the Navy with various resources.

The CDRC is located in a small room inside the hangar, along with four computers. At first look, the center and equipment may not seem like much, but the CDRC offers Sailors the opportunity to get ahead, and stay ahead, within their careers.

The resources are as close as the Sailor's fingertips.

"All of your resources are right here," said Petty Officer 1st Class Michelle Breedlove, the navy career counselor at Patrol Squadron 4. "You can find new [permanent change of duty station] orders or a new [civilian] job with our Job Advertising Selection System. It's really a one-stop shop for all the Sailors' educational

needs."

The Career Development Resource Center originated on the east coast, in Florida, but the one here at K-Bay is the first to be available in the Pacific. Sailors can get information by both listening to someone and seeing the information for themselves, explained Breedlove, which allows them to remember a good deal of the information they acquire.

The center should help out Sailors who really want to succeed, she added.

"Honestly, the Navy wants to keep Sailors who strive to better themselves," said Breedlove, "and we will

help them out for success in any way that we can."

For example, Sailors can search and apply to numerous colleges, and for multiple scholarships, many of which they may not think to apply for, said Breedlove.

Further, staff at the center hope to keep the program going, even with squadron deployment cycles. Sailors should be able to continue their education with CDRC-provided laptops.

In addition to providing assistance to Navy units at MCB Hawaii, the Career Development Resource Center eventually hopes to stretch to every other command in the Navy.

DUIs are career killers



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

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

- March 16, Lance Cpl. Robert Minnish of 3rd Marine Regiment, for DUI with a blood alcohol content of .100 percent.
- March 17, Cpl. Christina M. Porter of Marine Aircraft Logistics Squadron 24, for DUI after refusing a BAC test.
- March 21, Petty Officer 2nd Class Mark W. Passer of Patrol Squadron Special Unit 2, for DUI with a BAC of .120 percent.



Lance Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson

Petty Officer 1st Class Michelle Breedlove, navy career counselor with VP-4, shows off features of the Career Development Resource Center.



Sgt. Joseph A. Lee

Republic of Korea Marines line up to shake hands with U.S. Marines immediately following the speeches of the two commanders. This ceremony marks the beginning of joint operations held at Nightmare Range.

NIGHTMARE, From A-1

This operation is the first time U.S. and Korean Marines will conduct operations as a combined force so close to the DMZ, accord-

ing to Patterson.

"It is important that we train hard and be safe, so if we have to fight together again, as we have in the past, we will be victorious," Patterson explained.

SMART-T, From A-4

"It makes me feel better operating equipment that will sustain an attack and allow us to move if necessary," said Anderson. "As Marines, it's no secret that communications posts are a key battlefield target."

Communications is a dangerous job, and rarely problem-free in a field environment, but the SMART-T has been sustaining its connections and has been performing to its expectations so far.

According to 3rd Marines, the SMART-T is a piece of gear that may turn the tides of field communications in the future.

RANGERS: U.S. zips through ROK training

From A-3

The very next morning, the entire camp was awoken by a loud and motivating cadence. Marines and Sailors were completing another exhausting, three-mile "boots and utes" run over the mountainous terrain.

Afterward, they climbed up Moonsoo Mountain — the second highest mountain in the Republic of Korea — to complete the advanced course of the Mountain Warfare Training.

"The advanced course was very similar to the beginner's course; the only big difference was that the elevation was much higher and the situations were more lifelike," said Petty Officer 3rd Class George Hidalgo, a corpsman with

CSSD-77.

Although many of the obstacles required use of the training from the day before, Marines and Sailors also had a chance to climb rope ladders, and complete an assisted form of rock climbing.

Further, they pulled themselves across a 120-meter zip line between two cliffs on the mountain edges. Although the feat did not take much exertion, because it was downhill, the view of the jagged rocks and treetops below was enough to raise their heart rate.

The final and most exciting obstacle the Marines and Sailors had to overcome was walking across a rope bridge — over 60 meters in the air — to a platform in the center, where they performed a static line jump to

a sandpit on the ground. They performed both a backward and forward jump from the platform, and many enjoyed it so much that they climbed up again for seconds.

Once they had successfully completed the final obstacle, Marines and Sailors were greeted at the bottom with congratulations from the Rangers for completing Mountain Warfare Training.

That evening, all spent a comfortable evening in the barracks, talking and trading with ROK Rangers.

When it was finally time to leave the Mountain Warfare Training Center behind, a bond had been made between many of the U.S. and Republic of Korea service members — a bond that would bridge the gap between the two countries.

Did You Know?



A horse has 18 more bones than a human.