

Hawaii MARINE

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Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero

Gunnery Sgt. Peter Johnson, staff noncommissioned officer in charge of the KD Range at MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, instructs Bruce Willis with the use of the M16 A2 service rifle during his tour of the Range Training Facility.

Marine fans "Die Hard"

Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero
Combat Correspondent

Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, was the backdrop for some "Die Hard" training, when actor Bruce Willis and the cast of his upcoming movie visited the Marines and Sailors of K-Bay March 21.

Willis' visit included a warm welcome by recently retired former MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Deputy Commander Col. John A. LeMoine, and a tour of various training facilities such as the 3rd Marine Regiment's Indoor Simulator Marksmanship Trainer facility and the Range Training

Facility at the Ulupa'u Crater.

Besides being bombarded by hundreds of photo and signature-seeking servicemembers, Willis and his crew took advantage of the opportunity to receive weapons handling instruction from real professionals.

Learning how to utilize various weapons was a must for the actors who are playing Marines and Sailors in the star's upcoming movie with the tentative title of "Hostile Rescue."

"It's great for the Marines to talk to them (the actors), and it lets the Marines know they are appreciated,"

See WILLIS, A-5

Deputy retires

Colonel LeMoine served nearly three decades

Lance Cpl. Jason E. Miller
Combat Correspondent

The silver eagle, tacked to the lapel of his khaki shirt, shimmered in the afternoon light. He looked out over the base that had been his home for the last four years. This was one of the final days he would spend here before retiring from the Marine Corps.

Colonel John A. LeMoine, deputy commander of MCB Hawaii, has led a career spanning almost three decades, as an officer, instructor and commander of troops.

His retirement ceremony commenced March 22, at Dewey Square, where Marines and Sailors gathered to witness the exit of a Marine they have come to know as a leader.

The overcast sky added to the gloominess of the already heavy-hearted face of LeMoine.

"I would really just like to thank everyone for coming out, especially my family, who has stuck with me all the way."

He addressed the crowd of friends and family members in attendance with a short speech, in



LEMOINE

which he thanked many of the spectators and Marines who had made a difference in his career.

LeMoine is a graduate of the NROTC program at Villanova University in Pennsylvania. The Freehold, N.J., native was commissioned in the Marine Corps as a second lieutenant in 1973.

His first jobs in service included work as an officer in aviation mechanics and safety.

He recalls several major changes that the Marine Corps has seen during his time. The most significant of those changes, he says, was the Corps' switch from amphibious to expeditionary.

"The Marine Corps is so much more versatile now than it used to be," he

said. "It's no longer just about storming beaches; we're a lot more capable than we were due to our deployment capabilities and readiness."

The former deputy commander has held numerous billets as a commander of Marines.

He has also spent more than his fair share of time aboard ship, during deployments with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit and other commands.

"I think it's important that we publicly recognize his 29 years of achievements for the Marine Corps," said Capt. Patrick Allen, base adjutant. "Most importantly, he needed to be thanked for all of the sacrifices he and his family have made."

"Secondly, it is important for young Marines to see the light at the end of the tunnel. They need to have a goal and see someone like Col. LeMoine as someone they would like to emulate."

LeMoine was credited, by Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, the MCB Hawaii commanding general, for

See LEMOINE, A-5

Remains of three recovered from Vietnam, Laos

Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero
Combat Correspondent

HICKAM AFB — In the crowd of more than 200 people, not a word was spoken, but a sense of closure and pride was evident for all who attended a repatriation ceremony March 15 at Hickam Air Force Base.

The ceremony was for the return of remains of what are believed to be three servicemen who died during the Vietnam War.

The remains were recovered by teams of servicemembers deployed to Vietnam and Laos on missions to recover unaccounted servicemen from previous wars.

The teams consisted of nearly 95 personnel, mainly from the

U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii (CILHI), and Joint Task Force-Full Accounting (JTF-FA).

The 68th Joint Field Activity Group recovered one of the sets of remains in Vietnam from the crash site of an F-4B Phantom aircraft, which is believed to have gone down in 1967 in the Nam Dinh Province.

Furthermore, remains believed to represent another American servicemember were unilaterally turned over by the Socialist Republic of



Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero

A joint service honor guard carried the remains of three servicemembers recovered from Vietnam and Laos during a repatriation ceremony March 15.

Vietnam.

The third set is believed to be that of an American servicemember who was recovered by

Wars and Legion Corps — most clenching onto prisoner of war flags during the ceremony.

"I try to attend all these cere-

monies," said World War II veteran Eleanor M. Warner, a native of Providence, R.I., now living in Hawaii. "I come to honor our military and our military departed."

"They are the ones who are always on the alert and keep the world safe," she added. At the end of the ceremony, all three flag-draped caskets were transported to CILHI, where forensic anthropologists and odontologists will analyze the remains for potential identification.

Since 1973, the CILHI has identified and returned to families, more than 1,030 Americans formerly listed unaccounted for. Approximately 720 sets of remains came from the Vietnam War.

SM&SP ventures to breathtaking, lush Garden Isle

Sgt. Roman Yurek
Sports Editor

Single Marines and Sailors looking for some new terrain to explore can now take advantage of the outer island trips offered by the Single Marine and Sailor Program.

From May 25 through 27, SM&SP is offering a Maui Memorial Day Weekend Adventure for all active duty servicemembers for \$250 per person.

The cost covers airfare, shared accommodations and shared car rental.

Many of the Marines and Sailors who went on the SM&SP trip to Kauai, Feb. 16 through 18, said that the trip was a success.

"Throughout the trip, it was easy to see that each Marine felt as if he or she had truly gotten away from the normal weekend routine," said Staff Sgt. Matthew Ihnen, facilities inspector, Headquarters and Service Bn., Marine Forces Pacific. "After the trip several Marines approached me commenting that since they have been in Hawaii, this was the best weekend they have had."

By 9 a.m. the group landed in

Kauai and began the tour of the island.

The group then traveled to Ke'e Beach and hiked the Kolalau trail. While hiking, the group was able to catch glimpses of humpback whales.

The next day, it was off to the Wailua Falls, and a tour of the island via the rental vans.

On the final day of the trip, members of the group toured the island from the air on a helicopter tour.

"I had a great time in Kauai and even though I didn't get to do everything I wanted to do, I saw

See SM&SP, A-4



Courtesy of SM&SP

Single Marines and Sailors have the chance to see some different scenery during SM&SP's other island trips.

MCBH NEWS BRIEFS

DEFY NEEDS MENTORS

What is DEFY? DEFY is a unique, comprehensive, one-year program for youth 9 to 12 years old. The program helps reduce risk factors that scientific research has directly linked to adolescent alcohol and drug abuse, school failure, delinquency and violence.

The program delivers leadership and life skills training for youth, by teaching team building, conflict resolution, age-appropriate goal setting and self-confidence skills.

The office is looking for men and women, whether military or civilian, to serve as mentors. Besides assisting with positive role modeling and leadership, mentors enjoy many activities with youth such as luaus, whale watching, water sports and more. All that's required is your time and dedication.

A minimum of 15 mentors are needed by May 31.

If you're interested in getting involved in the lives of youth, call Daryl Picadura, program coordinator at the Provost Marshals Office, at 257-2103, ext. 313.

BELLOWS EASTER

Bellows Air Force Station will host a family Easter Celebration, March 31 at 6:15 a.m., at Pavilion 5A.

Chaplain Andrew Johnson will lead guests in a praise and worship Sunrise Service.

Directly after worship, American Eatery will offer a special breakfast.

At 8:30 a.m., an Easter Egg Hunt and activities for children 14 and under will be held, including photos with the Easter Bunny and a bouncy castle.

Children's activities are free, and the mini golf course will offer a family discount.

For more details, call 259-4112.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Saturday: Roman Catholic Mass at 5 p.m.

Sunday (Palm Sunday): Roman Catholic Mass at 9:30 a.m.; Protestant Services at 8 and 11 a.m.

Tuesday: Catholic Penance at 7 p.m.

Thursday (Holy Thursday): Roman Catholic Mass at 5 p.m.; Protestant Service at 6:30 p.m.

March 29 (Good Friday): Roman Catholic "Stations of the Cross" at 12 p.m.; Solemn Good Friday Service at 5 p.m.; Protestant Good Friday Service at 2 p.m.

March 30 (Holy Saturday): Roman Catholic Vigil Mass at 5 p.m.

March 31 (Easter Sunday): Easter Sunrise Service at 6 a.m. at the Rifle Range; Roman Catholic Mass at 9:30 a.m.; Protestant Services at 8 and 11 a.m.

The Base Chapel is in Bldg. 1090.

Hawaii MARINE

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C.G.'S MAIL BOX

'...Wondering if we will be starting up a recycling program again.'

- Submitted by Robin Teves, family member



BRIG. GEN.
MCABEE



Sgt. Richard W. Holtgraver Jr.

The MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Recycling Center collects tons of recycleables from base residents and units at the central collection center. The center will soon test satellite collection sites in housing and industrial areas.

"Hello, General.

I am responding to the article in the weekly base newspaper asking for input from those of us who live here on the base.

My concern is about recycling.

I know a couple of months have gone by since we were asked to stop using the yellow plastic trash containers for recycleables. Wondering if we will be starting up a recycling program again soon.

I've tried to do recycling on my own by taking things down to the recycling center on base. However, it has started to get in the way in our garage, and I'm having to go ahead and toss recycleables into the regular garbage container.

We transferred from California where they had a very easy program for recycling. Regular garbage pick-up was once a week in a green container. Working on opposite weeks, we would put out with the regular garbage a blue container for recycleables. The next week we would put out with the regular garbage a tan container for cut grass or yard waste.

Hope this helps.

Thanks for your time."

Sincerely, Robin Teves

Ms. Teves,

The Commanding General has asked me to research and to respond to your email of Jan. 29. He appreciates you taking your time to participate in our "CG Mail" Program.

You have asked if the base is considering reinstating the curbside pick-up of recyclables. Though that program is not economically feasi-

ble, it doesn't mean that the base isn't committed to recycling for future generations.

Because you and so many others have voiced a sincere desire to expand our current recycling program, the commanding general has directed my department to review our recycling strategy with the goal to facilitate maximum participation from our residents.

Within the next few months, you will see "pilot recycling sites" established around the base.

These test sites will be used to promote and to measure our residents' involvement.

Hopefully, conscientious family members will energize our program, and we will be able to expand the number of sites throughout the base.

I ask for all our residents to be committed to ensuring the success of this necessary and worthwhile program.

These sites are in addition to Marine Corps Base Hawaii's active recycling program in the industrial, barracks, and administrative areas of the base. Housing residents may presently recycle by bringing materials to the recycling center, and I encourage you to do so.

You can drive into the recycling center during the hours of 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mondays, Tuesday, Thursdays and Fridays, and from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesdays.

You may also place materials in the blue drop-off bins outside the gate on evenings and weekends. Families with children in the car may find it more convenient to use the drop-off bins.

In addition to newspapers, card-



Sgt. Richard W. Holtgraver Jr.

The Recycling Center accepts wood, appliances, cardboard, cans, glass, brass, and other recycleables.

board, cans, bottles and plastic formerly collected in housing, you can also bring in scrap metal, books and white paper.

There is a wood re-use area at the recycling center, and you can pick up lumber and plywood for home projects, free of charge.

I guarantee you will be seeing and reading more about our expanding recycling program in upcoming issues of the base's newspaper, *Hawaii Marine*.

I want to thank you again for your participation in this important program.

Sincerely,

Mr. Kent Murata

Assistant Chief of Staff G-4



Sgt. Richard W. Holtgraver Jr.

Collection containers are currently available outside of the Recycle Center's gates when the center is closed.

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/mand/cgmail.htm.



Sgt. Richard W. Holtgraver Jr.

Laying in wait during combat convoy exercises, Staff Sgt. Robert E. Brumley, training chief for Headquarters Co., CSSG-3, keeps his eyes, ears and M-240 Golf machinegun focused on a road during ambush training for Exercise Similar Focus.

CSSG-3 takes companies to Bellows, tests resolve

Exercise Similar Focus recreated an expeditionary environment, says Adams

Sgt. Richard W. Holtgraver Jr.
Combat Correspondent

MARINE CORPS TRAINING AREA BELLOWS (MCTAB) — If someone were to have walked through every company work section within Combat Service Support Group 3 from March 12 to March 21, they would have found empty offices, empty motor pools and empty supply warehouses.

Each company within CSSG-3 took almost every Marine it had to Marine Corps Training Area Bellows for Exercise Similar Focus.

Each took all the supplies and equipment it would need to support the company in the field, while continuing to support units aboard MCB Hawaii.

"This exercise is a follow on from our first exercise back in August 2001," said Col. Paul D. Adams, commanding officer CSSG-3. "That exercise focused on combat skills, infantry tactics, rear area security, patrolling and the ability to defend ourselves. This exercise was a step up and one

step over.

"We actually took combat service support to the field and recreated CSSG-3 from a fixed base into an expeditionary environment."

Exercise Similar Focus in some ways was a demonstration of how well CSSG-3 could conduct its mission as a support element, if it were depended upon to deploy as a group.

"We were here to assure that we live up to our unit motto, which is 'victory through our support'," said Adams. "The only way we could do that was to leave our fixed base and go to the field and do our job, and that has been the focus of this exercise.

"This has been the type of training that will allow these Marines to put those tools to work, whether in garrison or deployed."

For example, CSSG-3 Maintenance Co. took a \$6 million calibration laboratory that had never been in the field. The unit used the sensitive, precision equipment to fulfill calibration repair orders in the field.

"We actually validated whether or not CSSG-3 could pick up — on our

own — organic transportation, move to the field, set up and continue the mission," said Adams.

While CSSG-3 operated out of MCTAB, it took the opportunity to incorporate a couple of tactical scenarios into the exercise.

A conditioning hike, NBC training and long haul convoys were just some of the training exercises CSSG-3 undertook while at MCTAB.

"I think this has been an outstanding way to prepare Marines to learn how to adapt, since we don't have all of our tools," said Sgt. Jeremy S. Oakden, a diesel mechanic for Maintenance Co., CSSG-3. "We don't have our normal resources,"

Exercise Similar Focus tested the problem solving skills and resolve of the Marines to complete their missions under difficult circumstances.

"This was the type of exercise that gets us out of our comfort zone," said Adams. "It keeps us expeditionary, so whether it's an exercise in Hawaii, or in a contingency theater, we will be able to ensure victory through our support."

WORD ON THE STREET

"What is the worst April Fool's Day prank anyone's ever played on you?"

"When I was in the Air Force, three other airmen and myself got told that our promotion number was coming up after the weekend. We decided to celebrate early. Come Monday, there was no promotion, just a big bill from the celebration."



Jim Gardner
Manager,
Transition
Assistance
MCCS

"I had an acquaintance who told her friend that his house was on fire and didn't tell him she was lying till after he told his family about it."



Mary Ann Kaleleiki
Accounting
technician
Comptrollers
Office, MCB
Hawaii

30-year civilian Marine gets honors

Lance Cpl. Jason E. Miller
Combat Correspondent

Standing at just over 5 feet, with sparkling brown eyes, she may not seem like the type who would work in a military environment as she looks out over her paper-cluttered desk.

"We're all required to do our jobs here, whether we're dressed in camouflage utilities or civilian clothes," she said. "We're working to support the base and the country."

On March 8, at 8 a.m., a ceremony was held at the flagpole in front of Building 216 at MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

The gathering was held to present awards to several Marines and civilians for their service to the Corps and the base.

Among the Marines and civilians marching in the ceremony was Priscilla Oku, financial manager for MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

She was being presented a certificate from Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee for her longstanding service as a government employee with the base and the Corps.



OKU

The certificate was awarded to Oku after her 30 years of diligent service in helping to better the base's community and facilities by way of managing finances for new programs and construction projects that have taken place on the base.

"I came here right after high school," said the Hawaii-born and raised base worker. "The government had a summer hire program. After that, I took an examination and got hired as a full time employee."

Oku started out here by taking messages and doing other administrative type

"It was very meaningful to me to get to march with the Marines."

Priscilla Oku
Financial Manager,
MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay

duties for Marine Corps Air Facilities in the early part of the seventies.

At only 47 years old, more than half of her life has been spent serving the base and adhering to its financial needs. Looking at her, however, one would probably never guess that she was a day over 35.

"This base has really built up a lot since it was named a base, and not an air station, a few years ago," she said. "I see a lot more tenants actually living on the installation than there used to be."

She recalls several instances of change that have happened aboard the installation since she arrived, back before most of the Marines stationed here were even born.

"I remember when the

brigade left here and there were a lot less Marines than usual. Another thing that sticks out in my memory was that during the Gulf War, when all of the Marines left, Kailua turned into a virtual ghost town."

Even though she has spent the past 30 years working for the base, Priscilla is not looking to retire for at least another seven years.

"It was very meaningful to me to get to march with the Marines in the ceremony when I got my 30-year certificate.

"It was a surprise, because in all the years that I've worked here, I've never really had the privilege of being in a ceremony like that. "I really felt like I was part of the Marine Corps," Oku said with pride.

"My master told me he was going to take me to the beach, but next thing I know, I'm at the vet and the first word I hear is 'fix'."

Rocky
Man's best
friend
MCB Hawaii
housing area



"My wife told me during lunch that her water broke and she needed to get to the hospital. When I ran into the kitchen, she was laughing hysterically."



Sgt. Thomas R. Johnson
Passenger &
travel specialist
TMO,
Headquarters
Bn., MCB
Hawaii

CSSG-3 families deploy to MCTAB

Story and Photos by
Sgt. Richard W. Holtgraver Jr.
Combat Correspondent

MARINE CORPS TRAINING AREA BELLOWS
More than 200 family members of Marines from Combat Service Support Group 3 spent the day here on March 17, getting a feel of what it is like for their Marine spouses to live and work in the field.

The family day took place during CSSG-3's Exercise Similar Focus where the group moved its operations to the field to conduct training, while still supporting its mission aboard MCB Hawaii.

"We had the companies set up their equipment so (the families) can see how they perform their daily functions in a field environment," said Capt. Deborah Bornhorst, Headquarters Co. commander.

Family members walked around the camp CSSG-3 had set up at the old airfield, looked at how the Marines lived and surveyed the work stations they had to use to complete their missions.

"It was better than camping," said Lynneil DeCastro, a spouse. "They get port-a-potties, running showers and cots to sleep in."

Since the group was completely displaced from the base for almost two weeks, many Marines took advantage of the time just to enjoy being with their family for a few hours.

A few families played board games, while others took tours of the camp and saw first-hand what a field camp would look like if their Marine spouses were deployed.

Marines who did not have families to visit spent the day relaxing from the grueling schedule of the exercise.

Some Marines tossed footballs and softballs around while others enjoyed some home-cooked food families had prepared for the displaced leathernecks.

While the day was meant to educate family members about what Marines experience away from home, many took that time to enjoy the brief company of their loved ones.

Children smiled, since they had the chance to play with their mothers and fathers, and spouses talked face-to-face rather than over a phone.



Gunnery Sgt. Joe A. Benzie, the staff noncommissioned officer in charge of the Unit Equipment Readiness Center for Supply Co., CSSG-3, plays Yahtzee with his wife Evelyn and his two sons, Ryan, 10, and Matthew, 6, during Family Day at MCTAB.

Just the chance to eat a meal together meant a lot to the Marines and their families, after being separated for more than 10 days.

Meals Ready to Eat were provided to many family members, and surprisingly, some of the spouses actually enjoyed the compacted food kits.

"One of the highlights for me was eating an MRE," said Decastro. "Actually, it was pretty good."

As the afternoon wore on at MCTAB, the families bid



Above — Staff Sgt. Kevin Alicie, a maintenance management specialist for CSSG-3, keeps an eye on the little troops who came to see him during CSSG-3's Family Day. Marcus, 4, and his 15-month old sister Anna follow their father closely, as they take in the sites of Marine Corps Training Area Bellows.

Left — Marines escorted their family members, giving them tours of the CSSG-3 camp area while at MCTAB.

farewell to their loved ones before leaving the Marines. The group continued its mission until March 20, when the group was scheduled to wrap up Exercise Similar Focus.

SM&SP, From A-1

what I wanted to do the next time I visit," said Sgt. Jessica Wall, a budgeting and accounting technician for MCB Hawaii comptroller.

From testimonies of the Marines on the trip, the price was well worth the experience.

"The trips that the SM&SP put together are well worth the cost, but are not taken advantage of like they should," Wall added. "I would like to encourage all single Marines and Sailors living in the barracks to see the other islands."

May 25 through 27, the Single Marine & Sailor Program is offering a trip to Maui.

To find out more about on this and other SM&SP events, call 254-7593.



Courtesy of SM&SP

Eight of the 13 SM&SP members who took advantage of the trip pose for a quick picture in front of a cave on Kauai.



Courtesy of SM&SP

While on a helicopter tour of the island, single Marines and Sailors saw rolling green hills of the Garden Isle.

MILITARY BLOTTER

Traffic Court

There were a total of 51 traffic citations issued.

The Blotter

-A Marine reported damage to government property, after persons unknown shattered the windowpane of his quarters.

-A civilian employee reported larceny of government property, after person(s) unknown had stolen a louver from the Child Development Center.

-A civilian employee reported damage to private property, after person(s) unknown scratched the hood of his vehicle.

-A civilian employee reported damage to government property, after person(s) unknown had damaged the green overcoating and cut the net from the basketball rim.

-A Sailor was apprehended for driving on State suspension.

-A Marine reported a hit and run traffic accident, after person(s) unknown driving an unknown vehicle struck his vehicle.

-A Marine was involved in a traffic accident, while traveling and failing to stop, and struck the rear bumper of a Sailor's vehicle.

-A Marine was apprehended for dri-

ving under the influence, provoking speech and gestures.

-A Marine reported a house breaking after person(s) unknown stole various items from his beach cottage.

D.E.F.Y.

The Drug Education for Youth program is currently looking for volunteers from the military (Marine or Navy) community to be mentors for youth. Volunteers will not only be a positive role model for youth, but also enjoy many exciting activities such as luau trips to the water park, University of Hawaii sporting events and much more, at no cost to

them, except for their time and dedication.

If you're interested or have questions, contact Mr. Daryl Picadura at 257-2103 ext. 313.

Lost and Found

If you're missing valuables or other items, contact Lost and Found to see if anyone has turned in the item(s) at the Military Police Desk.

Lost items on hand include I.D. cards, bicycles, wallets, keys, cell phones and miscellaneous jewelry.

Call Cpl. Gordon Scott at 257-2103, ext. 315, for prompt assistance.

LEMOINE, From A-1

his work at continuing to replace and build new housing and barracks aboard the base during his tenure as deputy commander.

The colonel talked about how MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, where he served for nearly a third of his career, was his favorite place to be stationed while in the Marines.

"There's nowhere else that I have been where the camaraderie, facilities, friends and just quality of life are as good as they are here. There's nowhere else where all the aspects of the Marine Corps come together like they do here: the ground side, the air side and the support."

Brigadier Gen. McAbee, during the ceremony, spoke highly of the colonel's performance as the base's deputy commander during the ceremony. He talked about a time during the civil war when a general's deputy

commander had lost his left arm in battle.

"E v e n though you lost your left arm, I feel like I've lost my right," M c A b e e quoted the general as saying.

The base commander felt the same way — of losing one of his most valuable Marines.

LeMoine may be retiring from the Corps, but he already has another job lined up in Honolulu and plans to stay here on the island.



LeMoine as a 2nd Lt. in 1973

WILLIS, From A-1

explained retired Gunnery Sgt. Robert Biddle, personal assistant to Bruce Willis. "Besides, Marines got to talk to them about their craft, and that lets them know that the actors care about how they represent Marines in the movie."

In addition to the visit being helpful to the crew, it was also exciting for the Marines who met them.

"Having this group here is a nice change from what we have been doing all day," added Pfc. Gabriel Rudner, anti-tank assaultman, Golf Co., 2nd Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment. "It's just plain awesome."

Willis might visit the base again in mid-April to perform a concert with his



Willis visited the ISMT and had the opportunity to use the 50-cal machinegun.

blues band. Planning for this event is ongoing.

"Coming to base was a great experience, said Willis. "We received outstanding instruction from every Marine we met today."

EVERY CLIME AND PLACE

'Bad guys beware,' SRT's just around the corner



Cpl. Zachary A. Crawford

The SRT Marines pause briefly before moving close to the simulated suspect house during a recent exercise here.

Cpl. Zachary A. Crawford
Public Affairs Office

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. — On Aug. 1, 1966, around 11:30 a.m., Charles J. Whitman entered the University of Texas Tower. Once in the elevator, he asked for help from an attendant, who informed him how to turn it on.

Once on the 28th floor, he killed a receptionist by hitting her in the back of the head with his rifle. A couple coming down from the observation deck was mysteriously allowed to pass by Whitman unharmed, while two other couples were shot at point blank range with a sawed-off shotgun as they climbed up the stairwell.

Whitman then went out onto the observation deck at 11:48 and began firing into the crowd of people below.

Law enforcement officials responding to the shooting calls had to stop at firearm stores along the way to retrieve weaponry such as long rifles to take Whitman out. They had only 38 caliber revolvers and shotguns — not enough weapons or training to handle such situations.

Whitman's assault lasted for 96 minutes. He killed 16 people,



Cpl. Zachary A. Crawford

The team leader for the SRT here uses a mirror to look around a corner to see what was there during a recent exercise here.

wounded 30.

After the incident in Texas, law enforcement response was looked at in a different light. Law enforcement had never before been equipped, or trained to handle such a hostile situation. This event changed their look and structure forever.

Marines here at the Provost Marshal's Office who are trained to handle these exact types of hostile situations. These are the Marines of the Camp Lejeune Provost Marshal's Office's Special Reaction Team.

"These are experienced Marines with advanced tactical training in such things as hostage rescue, han-

dling barricaded suspects, counter-sniper operations, executive protection operations, and drug related searches and raids," said Master Sgt. Bruce Dixon, special operations chief, PMO.

SRT has equipment and training, according to Dixon, that is some of the best there is.

"The equipment we use is very state-of-the-art and is envied by other civilian agencies," said Dixon. "We have advanced personal protection gear, enhanced remote surveillance and observation equipment, we practice using advanced tactics, and use efficient and accurate weaponry to complete our various missions."

Dixon also says that the SRT Marines do one important thing that most civilian teams do not.

"About 60 percent of civilian tactical teams are pretty much part time team members," says Dixon. "The SRT here at Camp Lejeune however, is not.

"We are a 24-hour a day on-call asset. The team does at least 20 hours a week doing their tactical training and 20 hours providing anti-terrorism and force protection operations. They do all of this while still on call whenever called up to do a mission."