

Hawaii MARINE

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May 17, 2001

Sending smoke signals



Cpl. Roman Yurek

Sergeant Jeremy Riglesberger, the Nuclear, Biological and Chemical noncommissioned officer for HQ Bn., waves the gas towards the Marines as they break the seal of their mask. This training is required for all Marines and helps them stay proficient in the use of their protective equipment.

Island veteran honored

Cpl. Roman Yurek
Combat Correspondent

Nearly 34 years after his courageous acts in Vietnam, Joseph "Pineapple" Kamaka received his Bronze Star, May 11, at a ceremony at MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

"On the night of 6 September 1967, Corporal Kamaka, a member of the Second Platoon point element, was ordered to lead his company forward to break through an encircling enemy and effect the relief of a Marine rifle company that was heavily engaged with a numerically superior force," reads the Bronze Star citation.

Kamaka began his tour of duty in the Marine Corps in 1966 at the age of 18. The memory of Sept. 6, 1967, is one that Kamaka said he will never forget.

"In the morning, the North Vietnamese Army ambushed India Co., 1st Bn., 5th Marine Regiment, my sister battalion," said



Cpl. Roman Yurek

Joseph Kamaka speaks to Marines during his award ceremony Friday.

the 54-year-old Maui resident. "The company was in really bad shape when we got there. They had 132 Marines, and of those, 29 were killed in action and another 55 were wounded."

At 8:30 a.m., Kamaka's unit, Company Point, Kilo Co., 3rd Bn., 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, was called in to assist India Co. Kamaka

See BRONZE, A-10

Spill management drill a success for MCB Hawaii

Sgt. Richard W. Holtgraver Jr.
Combat Correspondent

More than 30 department heads and key personnel from various sections of MCB Hawaii successfully completed the Spill Management Team Training Table Top Exercise on May 2.

The annual exercise tested the ability to respond to a large spill from within the base with minimal, if any, effect on the environment or local community.

There were three exercise objectives for the SMTT. The team wanted to create an awareness of potential hazards and problems associated with an oil spill, and the required response actions.

They also wanted to exercise and evaluate established plans and procedures for responding to, containing, cleaning up and reporting oil spills.

The third objective was to review limitations, shortfalls, and concerns, and identify unresolved issues.

According to federal regulations, MCB Hawaii, like other entities which store and use bulk fuel, is considered a "potential spiller" of oil and oil by-products.

All such entities are required to prepare for and respond to any oil spills.

"This installation is not a high-risk facility, but there is a chance of a spill, and we are prepared for that," said Rocky Owens, emergency planning and spill response manager for MCB Hawaii. "We are the only spill response team on the

Windward side of the island."

This year's seven-and-a-half-hour exercise pulled together thirty-eight "players" from MCB Hawaii including the Environmental Compliance and Protection Department, specialists in wildlife, cultural and natural resources preservation.

Other K-Bay sections represented in the exercise included waterfront operations, air operations, facilities, waste management, legal, communications, medical, comptroller, and Public Affairs.

"The exercise draws together representatives from all the agencies that would be involved if a real oil spill occurred on Oahu," explained Maj. Rob Rouse, director of MCB Hawaii EC and PD.

In order to gauge the installation's spill response procedures and its ability to handle a serious incident, a worst case scenario was given to the participants.

A large spill has a quick and immediate impact on the local envi-

See SMTT, A-10

Base Comm Center named best in Corps

Pvt. Iain A. Schnaible
Combat Correspondent

The G-6 communications center aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, was named "Local Control Center of the Year" recently by the Marine Corps Defense Message System Program Office.

The award is presented for outstanding achievement by an LCC in providing messaging services to the commands that fall under their responsibility.

In a letter to the LCC staff, Lt. Gen. Frank Libutti, commander, Marine Forces Pacific, commended their inclusive working environment that used the talents of every Marine to meet and exceed the standard.

"The credit has to go to everybody; it was a team effort," said Gunnery Sgt. Harold Holden, Comm Center staff non-commissioned-officer-in-charge. "Every Marine had a mission to complete so that we could accomplish our overall mission."

The Comm Center provides its customers with a reliable means to transmit and receive organizational messages.

The efforts of the Comm Center Marines to meet and exceed the requirements of the Marine Corps Defense Message System Program Office have not gone unnoticed and have earned them acclaim as the best in the Marine Corps.

"Your accomplishments are well deserved and are a direct reflection of your leadership, commitment and dedication to Marine Corps Base Hawaii, our Corps and country," said Lt. Gen. Libutti. "Thank you for a job well done."

Marine Raider headed for home

Cpl. Jacques-René Hébert
MarForPac Public Affairs Office

HONOLULU – Norman "Mort" Mortensen of Camp Douglas, Wisconsin, should be 86 years old, sitting on his front porch, bouncing his grandchild on his knee and looking back on a life that was both long and fulfilling. But he's not.

Instead, Pfc. Norman W. Mortensen valiantly gave his life to the cause of freedom more than 7,000 miles from home, on an island many Americans know nothing of.

On May 10, Mortensen received an emotional hero's eulogy and farewell at Borthwick Mortuary, as his remains departed for home after an absence of nearly 60 years.

Mortensen was a member of the Marine Corps Raiders, a special operations group formed by then Lt. Col. Evans F. Carlson. The Raider battalions were precursors to today's Marine Force Reconnaissance or the Navy's SEAL program, and were known for their unorthodox training tactics and philosophies.

At the advent of World War II, a force of approximately 200 Raider Marines set out for Butaritari Island in the Makin Atoll, for an attack on a small, Japanese base for seaplanes. On Aug. 17, 1942, though outnumbered by the enemy and challenged by a vicious sea, the Raiders succeeded in flushing out the opposition and taking the base – not, however, without casualties. Dangerous surf condi-



Cpl. Jacques-René Hébert

The remains of Pfc. Norman Mortensen, along with a set of dress blues and appropriate decoration, lie in wait during a ceremony at Borthwick Mortuary.

tions and strafing enemy aircraft forced the remaining Raiders to leave their brethren on the small atoll, reportedly paying a local islander to bury them. Retrieving their fellow Marines, however, proved much more difficult than originally imagined. Nineteen of the Raiders never made it home, and remained in an unmarked, mass grave, until many years later.

In 1948, a Graves Registration Team carried out a search for the lost Marines, but to no avail – the Marines were nowhere to be found. Subsequent searches came up with the same results. In November 1999, when the Army's Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii, centered at Hickam Air Force Base, sent a search and recovery team

See RAIDER, A-10

Hawaii Military Appreciation Week Begins see page A-2

MCBH NEWS BRIEFS

ATTENTION, MILITARY SPOUSES

Several seats remain for the Military Spouse Reception at I'olani Palace on Monday, between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

This event, one of several sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii during Hawaii Military Appreciation Week, will include docent tours and lunch.

Attire is Aloha semi-formal (avoid wearing heels, as walking is required.) Call the Public Affairs Office (257-8840, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., today through Friday) to reserve your seat.

This treat is just for YOU! Call now, and plan to enjoy a visit to this historic Hawaiian show-place!

ALL-HANDS A-76 BRIEF

An All-Hands A-76 Study brief for all civilian MCB Hawaii employees is scheduled June 21 beginning at 7:30 a.m. at the Base Theater.

For more information, call the Business Management Hotline at 257-3188, or logon to the MCB Hawaii homepage at www-mcbh.usmc.mil.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS SUMMER GAMES

Special Olympics athletes and coaches from all over Hawaii will compete in the 33rd Annual Special Olympics Summer Games Memorial Day Weekend at Rainbow Stadium at the University of Hawaii.

Opening ceremonies featuring a parade of athletes carrying the "Flame of Hope" will begin May 25 at 6 p.m. For more information, call Noreen Conlin at 528-0881.

The Special Olympics Summer Games organization is also actively seeking one senior enlisted Marine, Sailor, Soldier or Airman to help coordinate volunteers. He or she must be able to take charge and handle and coordinate multiple tasks, and must be available the entire weekend of May 25 - 28. If interested, contact Dan Epstein at 780-1415.

WINDWARD HALF-MARATHON

The Windward Marathon Association presents the Windward Half-Marathon May 20.

This event is comprised of four races: a 13.1-mile half-marathon, which begins at 6 a.m., a 5K, which begins at 6:30 a.m., 400-yard race for 6-8-year-olds, which begins at 8 a.m. and a 100-yard race for 3-5-year-olds, which begins at 8:15 a.m.

Entry fee for entering the 400 and 100 yard races is \$10 each; \$13 for 5K entrants, and \$20 for the half-marathon. Entries must be post-marked by May 13 — a \$5 late fee will be added thereafter.

For more information, contact 1st Sgt. Patrick Dougherty at 257-5900.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Base Emergency	257-9111
MPD	257-7114
Crisis Hotline	521-4555
Child Protective Services	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Business Management Hotline	257-3188

HAWAII MARINE

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

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Fax: 257-2511, Phone: 257-8840

President's Armed Forces Appreciation Week message

I am proud to offer my sincere thanks during Armed Forces Week to the brave men and women who protect our Nation.

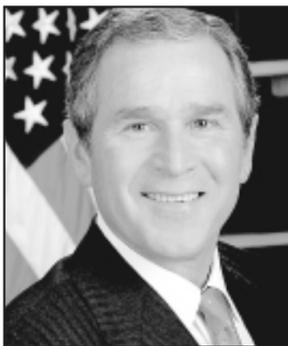
During the past several months, I have been privileged to witness personally the depth of your dedication and the strength of your character. The professional manner in which you conduct your duties, your can-do spirit, and your sense of patriotism all reflect the fact that our Armed Forces are second to none in the world.

In a world of both existing and emerging threats, you provide a strong and steady defense. Because of you, America is a secure nation where our citizens can hope, dream, and live their lives in freedom.

My office holds no greater honor than to serve as your Commander in Chief. On behalf of all Americans this Armed Forces Week, I salute you for the tremendous contributions you make to our Nation's defense. You are guardians of peace and liberty and have the thanks of a grateful Nation.

May God bless you all.

George W. Bush



President Bush

Civilian Employee Appreciation Meal scheduled for Wednesday

On Wednesday, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Anderson Hall Dining Facility will open its doors to all civilian workers aboard MCB Hawaii. Show your civilian counterpart just how much you appreciate their efforts by taking them out for lunch. Fees are as follows: \$3.20 (standard) or \$2.65 (family members of E-4/below.) Contact Gunnery Sgt. Sekeres at 257-1621 or Gunnery Sgt. Hoffert at 257-9590.

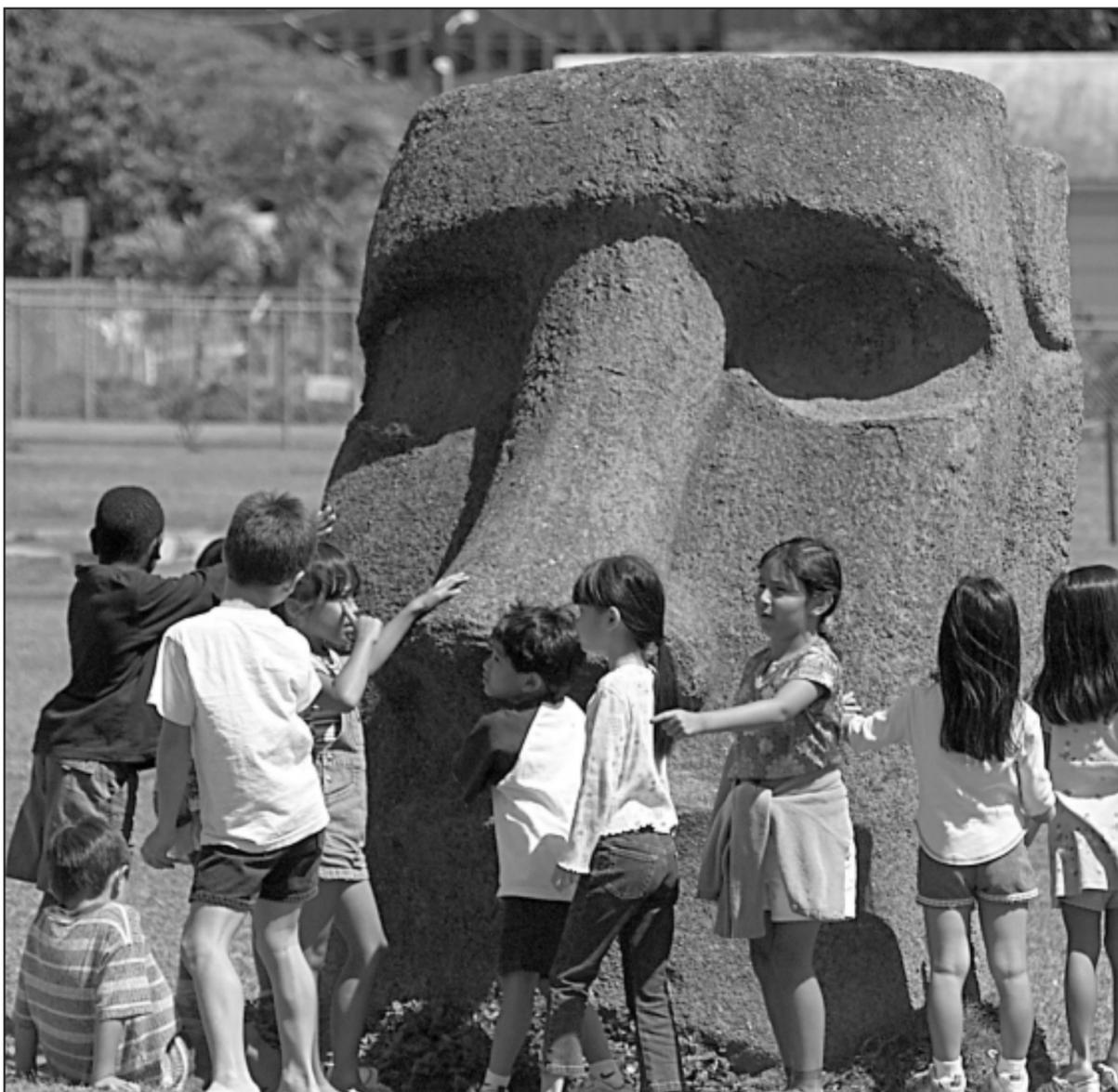
Menu Items

Steamship Round/Au'jus Gravy
Mashed Potatoes
Chicken Noodle Soup
New England Clam Chowder
Shrimp Scampi
Seafood Newburg
Baked Fish Fillets
Fried Chicken
Shrimp Fried Rice
Baked Macaroni and Cheese
French Style Green Beans
Broccoli Combo
Macaroni Salad
Potato Salad
Fruit Salad

Dinner Rolls
Assorted Pies
Chocolate Chip Cookies
Strawberry Shortcake



Ring around the monolith



Cpl. Jacques-Rene Hebert

Children visiting the Bishop Museum in Honolulu encircle a statue during a school trip to the facility last month. The museum, which was founded in 1889, will hold its "Family Sunday, Island-Style" Military Day this Sunday. The museum will grant free admission to military members with special coupons available at MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, and Camp Smith ITT offices. The museum will also be the site of the Armed Forces Karaoke Contest finals, beginning at noon. For more information, logon to www.pacom.mil/staff/maw/index.html.

MILITARY APPRECIATION WEEK EVENTS

Month of May

Military Month (discounted tickets for military at Atlantis Submarines, Sea Life Park, Waimea Falls Park and USS Missouri)

Thursday, 6 p.m.

Opening Ceremony at USS Missouri Battleship Memorial, Ford Island

Saturday, 7:30 a.m.

5th Annual 1stMAW/ASE Triathlon/Duathlon at MCB Hawaii K-Bay (see page B-2 for details.)

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

"A Capital Day Down Capitol Way" (free tours of historic buildings; downtown Honolulu)

10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

"Living History Day" at Hawaii Army Museum, Ft. DeRussy (near Hale Koa Hotel, Honolulu)

7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Combined Military Band Concert at Hawaii Theatre (1130 Bethel St., Honolulu)
MarForPac Band to host.

Seating: first-come, first-seated (doors open at 6 p.m.; seats held only until 6:45)

Free tickets available (see PACOM website for ticket info)
See note below for MCB Hawaii Public Affairs phone number to call for more info)

5 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Military Night at the Polynesian Cultural Center

Sunday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Family Sunday Island Style-Military Day at Bishop Museum
Free admission w/special coupons*; reduced cost tickets also available (see PACOM website for ticket information)
Karaoke Finals Competition (noon - 2 p.m.)

Monday, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Military Spouses reception at Iolani Palace (see MCBH Briefs for details.)
5:30 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Military Night at Hale Koa Luau Dinner Show

Wednesday, noon - 1:15 p.m.

Annual Recognition Luncheon, Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel

May 26

Military Day (at Border's Books & Music, Ward Center & Waikale)

* Coupons for Bishop Museum event are available at K-Bay and Camp Smith ITT offices.

Additional info on HMAW is available on the Web at www.pacom.mil/staff/maw/index.html, or by calling MCB Hawaii PAO Community Relations, at 257-8840.

President Bush's Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month Proclamation

As we move into the 21st century, the United States continues to greatly benefit from the contributions of its diverse citizenry. Among those who have influenced our country, Asian/Pacific Americans merit special recognition. Their achievements have greatly enriched our quality of life and have helped to determine the course of our Nation's future.

Many immigrants of Asian heritage came to the United States in the nineteenth century to work in the agricultural and transportation industries.

Laboring under very difficult conditions, they helped construct the western half of the first transcontinental railroad. Their hard work was invaluable in linking together the East and West coasts, thus vastly expanding economic growth and development across the country. Over time, other immigrants journeyed to America from East Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Asian Subcontinent.

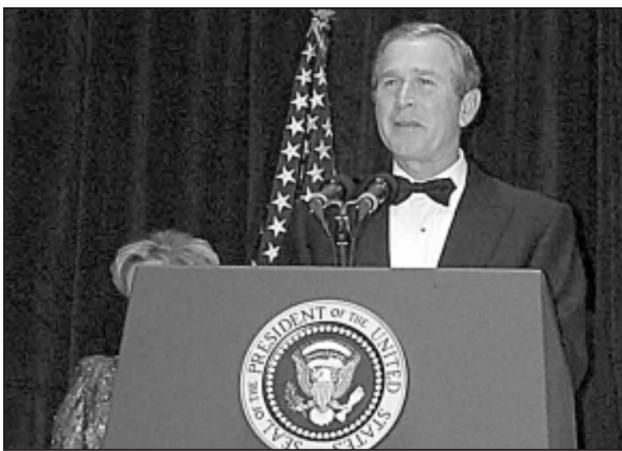
Today, Asian/Pacific Americans are one of the fastest growing segments of our population, having increased in number from fewer than 1.5 million

in 1970 to approximately 10.5 million in 2000.

Asian/Pacific Americans bring to our society a rich cultural heritage representing many languages, ethnicities, and religious traditions. Whether in government, business, science, technology, or the arts, Asian/Pacific Americans have added immeasurably to the prosperity and vitality of our society. As family members, citizens, and involved members of the community, they reinforce the values and ideals that are essential to the continued well-being of our Nation.

Diversity represents one of our greatest strengths, and we must strive to ensure that all Americans have the opportunity to reach their full potential. By recognizing the accomplishments and contributions of Asian/Pacific Americans, our Nation celebrates the importance of inclusion in building a brighter future for all our citizens.

To honor the achievements of Asian/Pacific Americans, the Congress, by Public Law 102-450, has designated the month of May each year as



Defenselink photo

President George W. Bush speaks to servicemembers during the White House's luncheon honoring servicemembers of the past and present in March.

"Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 2001, as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month. I call upon the people of the United States to learn more about the contributions

and history of Asian/Pacific Americans and to celebrate the role they have played in our national story.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

Marine's cultural background proves helpful to Corps' missions

Sgt. Richard W. Holtgraver Jr.
Combat Correspondent

Behind his prescription glasses are dark eyes that hide his true emotions, and a constant look of focused attentiveness.

His five-foot-six-inch frame rests comfortably in the chair as he leans back with his hands folded across his stomach.

When he speaks, his words are clear and unbroken. There is almost no way to know that he was from anywhere else in the world other than Dallas, Texas.

Sergeant Soullaphonh Thammavongsa, facilities non-commissioned officer for Headquarters and Service Co., 1st Bn. 3rd Marine Regiment, is able to speak Thai and Laotian, and has found his ability to translate those languages useful to the Marine Corps.

In August 2000, Thammavongsa provided his skills as an interpreter in Laos for the Joint Task Force Full Accounting while looking for the remains of American soldiers missing in action during the Vietnam War.

Born in Veitain, Laos, in December 1971, Thammavongsa's family went through many hardships before coming to America in 1978.

Thammavongsa said his parents brought him up with a strong sense of family responsibility.

His father, Bounthiem, was a soldier for the Loyalist Army in Laos during the first half of the 1970's.

"In 1975 communist forces took over Laos by defeating the Loyalists Army," said the 29-year-old. "The loyalist military followers, and their families, were hunted down and killed."

"My family spent two years on the run from the communists before we reached a refugee camp in Thailand," he recalled.

After spending a year in the camp, the Thammavongsa family received permission to come to the United States.

"Basically, America was not my father's first choice, it was France, but France was all booked up," revealed Thammavongsa. "He could speak French, but he didn't understand a word of English."

Once his family arrived in America, they quickly put roots down in Dallas, Texas, and opened up a grocery store; a business they were familiar with from Laos.

Living in a small, tight knit community on the eastside of Dallas, one of the hardest things for Thammavongsa to overcome growing up was the stereotypes attached to him by the other students in his school.

"People always thought I had a lot of money, and that I couldn't speak English, because I was Asian," said Thammavongsa.

"I used to surprise people when I started talking, because I spoke almost perfect English," he added.

While in junior high school, Thammavongsa became frustrated with school, because even though he could speak and write English exceptionally, the school still forced him to take English as Second Language classes.

"Even though there were some Asians who could speak, and write better English than most people, we were still categorized and forced to take the classes," said



Sgt. Richard W. Holtgraver Jr.

Sergeant Soullaphonh Thammavongsa, facilities non-commissioned officer for Headquarters and Service Co. 1st Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment, has faced many obstacles during his lifetime, but his dedication to his family and the Corps has helped lead him in the right direction.

Thammavongsa. "It was very frustrating."

Thammavongsa graduated from Skyline High School in 1989, and immediately started to look into joining one of the military services.

"I always knew I was going to join the military, just like my father did," said Thammavongsa. "I joined the Marines because they were the first ones to come and ask me."

I also liked the way the recruiter's uniform looked, he said.

Shortly after becoming a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1990, he joined the Marine Corps and went to boot camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego.

The Corps was an eye-opening experience for Thammavongsa because for the first time in his life he was forced to spend all of his time with people from different ethnic backgrounds.

While he was in high school he hung out with other Asians.

When he came into the Corps, it was the first time he was around people from a variety of other races.

"I think it made me a better person because it forced me to deal with people other than Asians," reflected Thammavongsa. "It opened up my horizons because I was able to realize there were more than just Asians in the world."

When Thammavongsa enlisted in the Marines Corps, he maintained his devotion to his family by sending much of his paycheck back home to his parents.

One of the greatest goals that Thammavongsa was able to accomplish during his Marine Corps career, amazingly, had very little to do with the Corps.

"I was able to buy my parents a house and a car they wanted," said Thammavongsa. "Nothing I've ever done has been for me, it's been for my family."

In May 1998, Thammavongsa suffered a great loss when his father died of a heart attack. One year later his mother, Mongkhonh, was diagnosed with cancer and passed as well.

With his parents gone Thammavongsa became the family figure head, a transition that was simple because of the lessons he learned from his parents: family always comes first.

The responsibility of taking care of his family is still there, because he sends money to his brothers and sisters in Fresno, Calif.

While he still has some financial responsibilities with his family, Thammavongsa is coming to a crossroads in his life.

He has a 25-year-old fiancée, Vein, living in his hometown of Vientaine, Laos, and he is unsure of subjecting her to the rigors of being a Marine Corps wife.

"She doesn't speak English, so it would be unfair for her to come into this environment," said Thammavongsa.

Despite his future being uncertain, Thammavongsa has no ill feelings about the situation he is in. He said he realizes that the Marine Corps has given him experiences he will never forget.

"I love being a leader of Marines," he said.

He has also learned to plan for the future in the Marine Corps, so he has a goal he is working towards.

"Right now I'm trying to save up as much money as I can," said Thammavongsa. "I hope to open a grocery store in Laos, if I get out."

Some of his best childhood memories were of him going to his aunt's grocery store in Dallas after school. Thammavongsa would stock the shelves, work the cash register and often run errands for his aunt.

"It was a good feeling to be able to provide people with the things they needed," he reflected.

No matter what happens in the future, Thammavongsa has goals and loved ones waiting and relying on him.

With many of the experiences he has endured during his lifetime, he should be able to take on any obstacle in front of him in order to achieve what his heart desires.

WORD ON THE STREET

What Asian/Pacific American has influenced you the most?



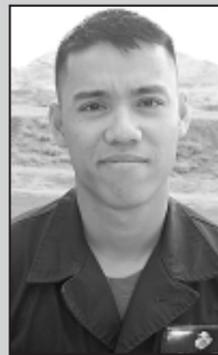
"Senator Daniel K. Inouye, he gave a heroic effort to save his buddies in World War II and lost his arm in the process. That is what defending your country is all about."

Sgt. Soojin O
Motor Vehicle Operator
MCAF

"Lucy Lui, because she is a strong, independent woman."



Sgt. Maly Soukaseum
Motor Vehicle Operator
MCAF



"Filipino singer Gary Valencio, he spends his time helping people in need and even though he is ill, he still hasn't given up on life."

Lance Cpl. Emerald M. Trias
Supply Clerk
HQ Bn., MCB Hawaii

"The Asian Servicemembers whose families were interned during World War II, but who still went out and fought and returned home to experience more racial adversity."



Gunnery Sgt. Kenneth S. Park
Company Gunnery Sergeant
H&S Co., 1st Radio Bn.



"My family has influenced me the most. Who I am today is because of the way I was brought up in the traditions of the island."

Nadine Ann Aquino
Payroll Accounting Technician
Base Comptroller

"My dad because he has guided me to further my life as far as education and achieving as much as I can."



Petty Officer 2nd Class Eugene G. Torneros
Air Traffic Controller
MCAF

WWII Raider to speak at Pearl Harbor church service

Michael Redocto
Navy Region Hawaii

Doolittle Raider and former Japanese Prisoner Of War Jacob DeShazer is the featured speaker in a special service Friday in the Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel. The military community and their guests are invited to the 7 p.m. service, which coincides with festivities connected with the May 21 world movie premier of, "Pearl Harbor."

DeShazer, who was an Army Air Force bombardier in one of the planes that flew the historic mission over Tokyo in 1942, bailed-out of his B-25 when it ran out of fuel. Following the raid, he was a POW for 40 months — 34 of which were spent in solitary confinement. During his detainment he made a vow if he survived.

Following his liberation on Aug. 20, 1945, DeShazer returned to the United States to fulfill this vow by preparing for the Christian ministry — caveat was to return to the land of his captors as a missionary.

After being married for just two years, the Rev. DeShazer and his wife Florence arrived in Yokohama, Japan, in December 1948. Amazingly, a tract he had written titled, "I was a prisoner of Japan," had been distributed widely in that country prior to his arrival.

Even more surprisingly was that it was DeShazer's tract that was instrumental in changing the life of one particular individual — the pilot who led the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 — Mitsuo Fuchida. In 1950, Fuchida became a Christian.

DeShazer's vow has been the foundation for a ministry that had lasted 30 years. The pamphlet "From Pearl Harbor to Calvary" contains the testimonies of both Fuchida and DeShazer.

However, recently the Bible Literature International publisher modified the cover design and changed the title to "Finding



Photo Courtesy of Navy Region Hawaii

In this 1950 photo, Mitsuo Fuchida, commander of the Japanese squadron that bombed Pearl Harbor, talks with Jacob DeShazer. DeShazer is scheduled to speak at a May 18 service in the Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel at 7 p.m.

Forgiveness at Pearl Harbor" to leverage interest in the movie.

Copies of this pamphlet are available from the Aliamanu Military Reservation Chapel and will also be distributed at the May 18 service.

"Of all of the stories within stories, this is one of the greatest," said Navy chaplain Luther Alexander of Navy Region Hawaii. "Only a select group of military personnel will be invited to attend the world premier of the movie "Pearl Harbor," but everyone is invited to attend this event — and we hope they will." Alexander said he had the opportunity to meet Rev. DeShazer and his wife a couple of months ago during a visit to California. The DeShazers, who reside in Oregon, were in San Diego at a speaking engagement.

"From that meeting, I had hopes of the DeShazers being able to personally be in Hawaii to tell their story to the men and women who [now] serve in and around Pearl Harbor," he said.

For more information on this event, call Chaplain Ken Pfeiffer at the AMR Chapel (836-4599) or Chaplain Alexander at Navy Region Hawaii (473-3971).

Diving Society cleans Pyramid Rock Beach

Sgt. Robert Carlson
Press Chief

When the Hawaii Diving Society decides to beautify a beach, its members pool their talents and skills to make a noticeable difference.

Pyramid Rock Beach on MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, was the focus of the Society's most recent effort May 5, and more than 50 divers signed up to help.

"We do a different beach on the island each quarter," said Julie Snider, director of training and marketing for Ocean Concepts, the sponsor of the Hawaiian Diving Society. "Last time we cleaned this beach, we collected nearly a ton of debris."

The beach remained fairly clean since their last visit, Snider said, but it still needed a little work.

"A lot of debris gets washed to this beach in the spring because of the currents," said lifeguard William Vienez. "The divers help clean the debris out of the water, annually,

and it really makes a difference."

Vienez said fishing line, netting, and plastic debris get lodged in underwater holes, and the divers have the gear and the training to go out and get them.

The volunteers also cleared trash and debris from the shoreline. Several divers brought friends and family, and before they got into the water, they scoured the sands for foreign objects. Lieutenant Cmdr. Deb Wade, a senior strike planner at U.S. Pacific Command, brought along a metal detector to locate debris hidden beneath the sands.

The volunteers all agreed that cleaning up beaches where they dive not only helps the environment, it also makes the areas more beautiful for other divers.

"It was really clear underwater out past where the waves were breaking," said Petty Officer 1st Class Lee Laggie, an aviation machinist mate at Marine Aviation Logistics Support Element

Kaneohe. "The current was moving pretty fast, but we were able to get out past the waves and get the area cleaned up."

Laggie said he collected fishing line, cassette tapes, a sock, and a lot of other debris. He said he also collected several golf balls, which had moved with the sand from the beach adjacent to the golf course.

"I got a late start, so I only found a few balls," he said. "There was one diver though who brought out a few hundred of them."

Once the beach was sparkling clean again, both on the sand and under the surf, the divers enjoyed a barbecue lunch and raffled-off diving equipment provided by Ocean Concepts. Everyone who helped also received a voucher for a free tank fill.

The Hawaiian Diving Society will work its magic at another popular dive spot next quarter, and Snider said anyone interested in helping can call her at 677-7975.



Sgt. Robert Carlson

A group of divers from the Hawaii Diving Society prepares to enter the surf during the cleanup.



Photo Courtesy of MCAF

Wicker, left, and Maestas, right, look across the flightline they manned Feb. 8.

MCAF air traffic controllers keep cool in face of adversity

Chief Petty Officer Kenneth M. Lane
Marine Corps Air Facility

Recently, in support of exercise Hawaii Combined Arms Operations 2001, Marine Corps Air Facility was faced with its toughest task.

On Feb. 8, during an extensive recovery of 22 F-18 Strike Fighter aircraft, the weather deteriorated to a point that the airfield was overcome by a driving rain that reduced visibility to one-eighth of a mile, making it unsafe to land on.

The situation continued to decline when an aircraft checked in fuel critical, the airfield's radar systems were out of service, and the runway was closed due to an F-18 engaging the arresting gear.

The MCAF Air Traffic Control team immediately took control of the situation. Approach Controller, Petty Officer 1st Class Harvey Wicker sequenced the aircraft for surveillance approaches while Petty Officer 2nd Class Lawrence Maestas, the Control Tower Supervisor, coordinated with MCAF Recovery on the expeditious removal of the F-18 from the arresting gear.

Additionally, Air Traffic Control coordinated with Honolulu Approach Control for the emergency divert of 2 F-18's to Hickam AFB due to minimum fuel.

The Sailors' quick and decisive actions displayed during this challenging evolution were significant in the safe and successful recovery of all aircraft. Wicker and Maestas were awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal by Marine Corps Air Facility's Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. Aaron E. Aldridge on April 2.

Spouse Appreciation



Pvt. Iain A. Schnaible

Nico Duncan, Headquarters Bn., MCB Hawaii Key Volunteers team leader, gives a rose to Barbara Hamm at the Marine Corps Exchange Complex Friday. The Key Volunteers teamed up with Lifestyles, Insights, Networking, Knowledge, and Skills to celebrate Military Spouse Appreciation Day by presenting 400 roses to military spouses aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

EVERY CLIME AND PLACE

Martial Arts addition alters Boot Camp schedule

Maj. Kimberley J. Miller
MCRD San Diego Public
Affairs Officer

Marine Corps recruit training took another step forward in the evolutionary process of "Making Marines" when Fox Co. recruits became the first San Diego recruits to receive their tan belts May 3 in ceremonies that also signified the completion of their 54-hour Crucible.

Earlier that morning, at the same location atop a mountain known as the Grim Reaper — the summit of the final 30 degree climb that highlights the end of Crucible — recruits from Charlie Co. closed a chapter in Marine Corps history when they became the last San Diego recruits to receive the Marine Corps Eagle, Globe and Anchor at the culmination of the Crucible.

The opening and closing chapters are a result of recent modifications to Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego's recruit training sequence. The changes are taking place in an effort to improve upon the Marine Corps recruit training process.

A planning team assembled last August to find a way to sequence training so that final testing would occur later in training and to find a way to implement the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program into the recruit training schedule.

"We are looking at the overall training schedule," said Maj. Gen. Jan C. Huly, commanding general, MCRD San Diego/Western Recruiting Region. "We are re-sequencing twelve weeks of training and a week of processing. As a result of that re-sequencing we have had to alter the timing of the Crucible. But that is only two and a half days out of 12 weeks of training. By so altering the timing we have created some efficiencies later on in training where we are going to have a couple of weeks at the end of training conducted here at the Depot rather than just a week of admin processing.

"There is nothing broken with recruit training. It is better now than it has ever been. We are just trying to improve upon it a bit more. And if we are not improving upon it we will be the first to admit it," added Maj. Gen. Huly.

According to Maj. Gen. Huly, all changes are under review and will be modified as necessary. An assessment team comprised of members from various commands including Training and Education Command, Quantico, Va., MCRDs Parris Island, S.C., and San Diego, and Schools of Infantry at Camp Pendleton, Calif., and Camp Lejeune, N.C., will evaluate the new training schedule. The assessment team will determine whether or not MCRD will continue with the new schedule, modify it, or go back to the old schedule.

Under the new schedule the first 23 training days remain largely unchanged with the exception of adding portions of the martial arts training requirements. Swim qualifications have moved from week six to week five to allow for swim qualification remediation during Team Week, the week recruits conduct mess and maintenance duties. The new Marine Corps Martial Arts Program has been integrated into all phases of training to include the Crucible.

Because the Crucible was moved up one week in the new schedule and recruits will not have completed all training requirements at the completion of the Crucible the recruits will no longer be awarded the Eagle, Globe and Anchor and will not be called Marines.

"The Crucible itself," said Maj. Gen. Huly, "the thing that is being altered with it is the timing. The substance of the Crucible, the parts that make it up, the events we are going to do are going to remain largely unchanged."

During the final two weeks of training, recruits will undergo their final uniform fittings, a final physical fitness test, take their final practical application test and conduct their final drill evaluation and

undergo their battalion commander's inspection.

The Emblem ceremony will take place Thursday, one day prior to graduation, following a four-mile motivation run. The ceremony will be similar to the ceremony on the Grim Reaper, except it will be held on the Parade Deck at the Depot. Family and friends will be able to attend. Following the ceremony, the new Marines will have the opportunity for five hours of on-base liberty.

Fox Company, the first company to train under the new schedule, will graduate Friday. They are also the first to undergo the full 27 1/2 hours of the Martial Arts Program. Their successful completion of the program resulted in being awarded the tan belt. The Marine Corps Martial Arts Program, MCMAP, was implemented into recruit training in November 2000 and is designed to build upon the success of the transformation process and the Crucible at recruit training.

Following Charlie Co.'s graduation May 11, all companies will be conducting the new training schedule.

"The advantage that we think we are going to find," said Col. Craig S. Huddleston, commanding officer, Recruit Training Regiment, "is first and foremost we are going to cause not only the recruits but the drill instructors to be focused on the entire objective the entire twelve weeks."

Under the old training itinerary, Huddleston said, much of the final testing occurred during the middle of the training process. Under the new system, final graded events will occur in the last weeks of training.

"You don't take finals until the end of the semester," said Huddleston. "And we are going to do it that way with the new schedule."

The Marine Corps Recruit Depot's size of 388 acres creates some training limitations. Recruits must travel to Weapons Field



Cpl. Justin R. Carter

Changes to Marine Corps Basic Training include the awarding of the tan belt at the end of the Crucible, in lieu of the Eagle, Globe and Anchor.

Training Battalion for field skills training, rifle marksmanship and the Crucible.

Because all training takes place aboard MCRD Parris Island they have been able to conduct all final events the week before the Crucible.

"The Road that gets Marines there (graduation) is already slightly different - the sequencing is already different," said Maj. Gen. Huly, addressing concerns that the two recruit training Depots will not have mirror training schedules. "If you go look at the sequence of events as they happen at Parris Island you will see that they are already different."

"We hope that some time this summer we will be able to figure out where we are with this," said Maj. Gen. Huly. "To see what is working and what is not working. Let's evaluate, 'How do we know it is working? How do we know it is not working?' We are going to take a good hard look at everything."

Of the changes, Maj. Gen. Huly, who was a series and company commander during a previous tour aboard the Depot in the early 70's, said, "We wouldn't be the Marines if we weren't trying to improve upon something."

"I think our forefathers would not only expect this of us but demand it of us," he concluded.

MCCS opens 'The Puka' for Kaneohe Klipper golfers

Debbie Aisoff
MCCS Public Relations

Rose Petty, Marine Corps Community Services Food and Hospitality employee of 25 years never thought she would see this day.

Joyous tears streamed down her face as Navy Chaplain Eastabrook performed a blessing for the MCB Hawaii Klipper Golf Course's newest addition, "The Puka," May 10.

An intimate blessing, the event was attended by MCB Hawaii's commanding general, Brig. Gen. R.E. Parker, Jr., Deputy Commander, Col. John A. LeMoine, Base sergeant major, Sgt. Maj. Filipino Ilaoa, Assistant Chief of Staff of Installations and Logistics, Kent Murata, Golf Course Manager, Todd Murata, Logistics Director, George Kelsey and Food Service Workers, Rose Petty and Rose Hutchins.

The newly renovated site, The Puka, Bldg. 1298, is hardly new. According to Kelsey, the structure is over 30 years old. The MCCS Facilities Department capitalized on the building's 150 square feet to construct a viable one-stop-snack-shop from the inside out.

"Our team revamped The Puka in two

months. We wanted to take our time as so not to disrupt the Klipper too much," said Kelsey.

Strategically located between the Klipper's first and last nine holes, The Puka is a golfers' hole-in-one for refreshments. Patrons will enjoy fresh sandwiches, hotdogs, fruit salads, chips, candy and an array of beverages. Future plans for The Puka include adding a phone line off of the ninth tee so patrons may phone in their order and pick it up before taking on the back nine holes.

Running The Puka are the "Roses," both no strangers to the food business. Rose Hutchins just received her MCCS Ten Year Pin, and Petty, affectionately known as "Auntie Rosie," has served base patrons for more than two decades.

"I'm just plain happy," said Petty. "The Puka will be a success because it's a convenient stop for golfers and both Rose and I enjoy the people, they're like family."

The Puka officially opened for business May 3. Operating hours are 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. seven days a week.

Whether you intend to chip the Klipper or snack on a few at The Puka, the Klipper Golf Course is always willing to follow through to better serve MCB Hawaii's patrons.



Debbie Aisoff

Rose Petty, an MCCS food service worker, shows Brig. Gen. R.E. Parker Jr., MCB Hawaii commanding general, the variety of refreshments at "The Puka."

BRONZE, From A-1

was asked to go along because of his jungle experience and ability to speak Vietnamese.

When Kamaka and his unit arrived, they found their fellow Marines in the middle of a blood bath.

"I knew I had to stop the attack," explained Kamaka. "I asked for two volunteers to provide cover fire for me. I could see the machine gun nest that was wiping people out."

Kamaka said that he "had no choice but to volunteer." In his unit, six Marines had

been shot, including his platoon commander. As the three-man team moved into a position, they were blocked by rice paddies. Kamaka knew he couldn't take out the machine gun nest from there.

Disregarding all he had learned about cover and concealment, Kamaka went to the one spot he knew he could fire from and hit the nest. That spot was in an open area with no protection or concealment.

With the first shot from his M-79 grenade launcher, Kamaka destroyed the nest — but as a result, became the main target of NVA troops. The distraction that Kamaka had

caused allowed Kilo Co. to encircle India Co. and fight off the NVA.

"All I wanted to do was save my comrades," said Kamaka, who also was awarded a Purple Heart with one gold star during the ceremony for the injuries he sustained.

Later that night, Kamaka was hit with shrapnel from an 82mm mortar round that blew him 10 feet into the air and killed both Marines with him at the time. His hip wound was one of two that Kamaka sustained during his three-year duty in the Marine Corps.

Though his goal was to retire after serving twenty years, he was separated from the Corps as a sergeant due to his injuries.

Going from military life to civilian life was not Kamaka's plan, but nonetheless, he found love and support before going back to Maui. While on Oahu, shortly before getting out of the Marine Corps, Kamaka and a few friends went to a local drive-in where he met his future wife, Ana. She was working part-time, but the two were soon married and eventually moved to Maui. There they had two sons, Joseph Jr. and Travis.

Like many combat veterans, Kamaka said he had a hard time adjusting to life outside of the military. He said he was thankful for places like Leathernecks, a local bar in Maui where former Marines gathered, and for a great family, as both helped him make the transition to civilian life.

"The backbone of everything in my life is my family," said Kamaka during the ceremony. He told guests to take care of their



Official USMC photo

Kamaka as a sergeant shortly before discharge.

families, especially their wives. "They will always be at your side."

Kamaka's son Joseph followed in the Marine Corps footsteps of his family and served in Operation "Just Cause" where he, too, was wounded.

"Once a Marine, always a Marine," Kamaka told present-day Marines during the ceremony. "The Corps has been and will always be in my heart."



Cpl. Roman Yurek

Brigadier Gen. R.E. Parker Jr., commanding general, MCB Hawaii, pins Kamaka's awards upon his chest during the morning colors ceremony Friday.

RAIDER, From A-1

out to the South Pacific island to retrieve the fallen heroes.

The remains were recovered and returned to Pearl Harbor, where they were repatriated during a ceremony in December 1999.

Among the Marines was Sgt. Clyde Thomason, who holds the distinction of being World War II's first enlisted Marine to receive the Medal of Honor.

Families of each respective Marine were notified of their missing loved ones' return and given the choice of home bur-

ial, or group interment at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia. Mortensen's family, along with five



Mortensen

others, chose to bring their Marines home. For Mortensen, home was Camp Douglas, Wis., where family members still live. Arlene Myers of Wauwatosa, Wis., Mortensen's sister, was chosen as the family representative to bring the fallen hero back home. Upon hearing the news of the recovery, Myers was relieved.

"I felt a mix of emotions," Myers reflected. "We were so glad he was found, but the family considered him gone when all the other boys from World War II came home and he didn't."

Following the ceremony, after the red-rimmed eyes were dried and the collective lump in the observers' throats had finally dissipated, emotions were written across the faces of the onlookers. According to Myers, the Marines' recovery spoke volumes about the military, and especially, the Marine Corps.

"It's obvious the Corps takes care of its own," Myers stated. "I've always thought the Marines were number one."

SMTT, From A-1

ronment so the exercise was conducted at "short fuse" speed.

Very little time was allotted for making decisions and executing the spill response plan as the scenario unfolded throughout the day.

The SMTT used a 150,000-gallon aviation fuel spill scenario to test the notification procedures, spill response control, containment strategies, formation of the Incident Command System, logistical and financial procedures, and legal issues.

People called "controllers" put together a scenario that changed as the day wore on.

To change the situation the controllers called the ICS to interject a new twist to the exercise and evaluate how the SMTT would respond.

"The base is faced with a number of special circum-

stances it needs to contend with during a spill situation," said Kim Beasley, general manager of the Clean Islands Council. "The weather and the tides are huge factors needing to be considered in the event of a large spill, because the local community is so close to the base."

The Clean Islands Council oversees all of the major companies in Hawaii when they conduct their own personal SMTTs, according to Beasley.

Actually deploying the spill response unit from Waterfront Operations with a 1,200-foot containment boom was important in creating a realistic understanding of how quickly the base will be able to respond to a large spill, and the effect it will have in and around the base.

In the unlikely event of a large spill from the base into Kaneohe Bay, the responsibility of deploying the equipment

will fall on Waterfront Operations.

The base must also work to prevent any impact to the research facility on Coconut Island in the center of the bay during a large oil spill.

"The base conducted a pretty ambitious exercise using their pre-developed plan and deploying that plan in the field," said Beasley. "Normally, the drill is conducted inside kind of a command central type of room."

After the completion of the SMTT, the participants reviewed things that went well and the lessons they

learned to better respond to an incident from the exercise.

"The overall response was that the exercise was a success, not only from the controllers who were monitoring, but also the federal on-scene coordinator who praised the results as well," said Owens.

Although the written results of the SMTT are still being evaluated, those involved in the exercise know that if the time comes, MCB Hawaii will be able to effectively respond to a spill of any size and keep the impact on the environment to a minimum.