

# Hawaii MARINE

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## Cobra Gold strikes in Thailand

**Cpl. Jason E. Miller**  
*Combat Correspondent*

**U'TAPAO NATIONAL AIRFIELD, Thailand** — A military parade comprised of platoons representing the armed services from Thailand, Singapore and the United States formed together here, May 14, to kick off Exercise Cobra Gold 2002.

This year marks the third time that Singapore was welcomed on as a full contingent in the two-week exercise, designed to promote peace in Southeast Asia, while allowing U.S. and allied forces a chance to train together in this type of environment.

In addition to the three full participants, 18 other countries will also be acting as observer nations during this training evolution.

The opening ceremony began on the tarmac of U'tapao National Airfield, with the marching on of several formations, which included U.S. and Thai Marines, as well as Singapore and U.S. Army troops among others.

Aircraft from the participating countries conduct-



Cpl. Jason E. Miller

**Lance Cpl. Patrick Morehart, a team leader from 1st Stinger Battery fires an inert stinger round. See page A-3 for more on Cobra Gold 2002.**

ed a fly-by during the ceremony, while Thai forces parachuted from a CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter, provided by the U.S. Marine Corps.

Dignitaries from each of the represented countries addressed the troops and

audience to formally begin the exercise.

Army Maj. Gen. Roger L. Brautigan, U.S. Cobra Gold 2002 director, was among those who welcomed the participating nations.

"Each year, Cobra Gold

provides a tremendous opportunity for the Royal Thai, Singapore and U.S. armed forces to come together annually as a demonstration of unity and cooperation.

"In keeping with this theme, the goals of this

year's Cobra Gold are two-fold.

"First, we will strengthen an already close relationship between the Kingdom of Thailand, Singapore and the United States.

"Second, we will fur-

ther demonstrate our combined commitment to ensuring regional security."

During this 21st annual Cobra Gold exercise, nearly 21,000 troops will participate. Over 13,000 U.S., more than 7,000 Thai and 70 Singapore service members will take part in the largest training exercise held in Southeast Asia.

This year's exercise will focus on peace enforcement, non-combatant evacuations and amphibious operations. The countries will also conduct antiterrorism training as well as numerous live-fire exercises.

Forces will also conduct several medical and civic assistance projects in the communities surrounding the exercise.

"Our combined staffs have worked hard to pull this challenging exercise together," said Maj. Gen. Brautigan.

"It is with great anticipation that we have waited for this day to arrive. This will be a very exciting two weeks, and I am confident that this will be the best Cobra Gold exercise ever."

## Hawaii salutes military

**Cpl. Jacques-Rene Hebert**  
*Marine Forces Pacific Public Affairs Office*

**FORD ISLAND** — With a background of the USS Arizona Memorial as a reminder of the trials the U.S. military endured, an opening ceremony began Hawaii's annual Military Appreciation Month at the USS Missouri May 17.

The event, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, commenced with a joint-forces color guard marching to the music of the Marine Forces Pacific Band.

Ken Sandefur, chair of the military affairs council of the Chamber of Commerce, gave the opening remarks, honoring the past, present and future of the U.S. military.

"Welcome to the 18th annual commencement of Military Appreciation



Cpl. Jacques-Rene Hebert

**Jim Nabors was one of several members of the community who addressed guests at the ceremony.**

Week," Sandefur began. "In years past, we have given a week to honor the military in Hawaii. However, in light of the terrorist attacks of September 11 and the battles our military is fighting in Afghanistan, the whole month of May has been set aside to honor our brave service men and women."

Next, an official proclamation by Hawaii Governor Ben Cayetano, declaring the month of May as Military Appreciation Week for 2002, was read to the audience.

Air Force Lt. Gen. Thomas R. Case, deputy commander in chief and chief of staff for the U.S. Pacific Command, accepted the proclamation.

"Men, women and veterans of the armed forces," Lt. Gen. Case began, "I can't tell you how proud I am to represent Adm. [Thomas] Fargo [USCINCPAC] and you in accepting this dedication. The feeling of aloha and

See SALUTE, A-4

## 'Remember patriots,' says chairman, JCS

**Air Force Gen. Richard B. Meyers**  
*Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff*

"Across our great land, thousands of American flags, proudly waving, mark the final resting place of soldiers, Sailors, airmen, Marines, Coast Guardsmen and merchant mariners who had their lives cut short so that we may live freely and enjoy the blessings of liberty.

Memorial Day is the one day of the year that we set aside to remember and honor our country's patriots; yet, we owe them a debt of gratitude, every day of every year.

This Memorial Day finds our nation at war — a war we did not seek, but one we will decisively win. However, our victory will not come without its costs.



MYERS

Once again, we are witnesses to America's sons and daughters being brought home, solemnly and respectfully, in flag-draped coffins. They join those who lost their lives in the attacks of September 11, 2001. We are deeply saddened by their deaths, but eternally grateful for their sacrifice.

It remains our challenge to do our very best to remain true to the principles and beliefs in which they so fervently believed and which they so valiantly fought to preserve.

Their loved ones who carry on remain in our thoughts and prayers.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff and I join every American this Memorial Day, to pause and reflect upon the sacrifices made by so many of our fellow citizens in times of war and conflict throughout our Nation's history.

We also salute the dedicated men and women of today's Armed Forces, whether defending our homeland or serving around the world.

They are preserving and adding to this noble legacy.

## Web site offers online shopping for Marine uniforms



Courtesy of Marine Corps Systems Command

**The new combat utility uniform is scheduled to be available from the Uniform Support Center Web site beginning in October 2002.**

**Colie Young**  
*Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany, Ga.*

**MARINE CORPS LOGISTICS BASE ALBANY, Ga.** — The Marine Corps Logistics Bases' partnership with the Navy Exchange Service Command, Uniform Support Center in Virginia Beach, Va., recently brought a new capability to the Corps' enlisted Marines that has them smiling

from ear-to-ear.

Since April 16, with the click of a computer mouse at <http://muniforms.nexnet.navy.mil>, enlisted Marines have the capability of ordering their military uniforms, accessories, footwear, covers and headgear, physical training gear, ribbons, medals, insignia and more online.

The venture, which began Nov. 1, 2001, provides the Marine Corps with a product

that satisfies the customer and expands the kind of service MarCorLogBases provides, according to Brig. Gen. Richard S. Kramlich, MarCorLogBases' commander.

Although the Marine Corps Online Uniform Store is primarily for enlisted Marines, the Corps' officers can also find many of their items on the site.

"Now even that hard-to-

sell customer, the Marine Corps officer, can get quality products right online in a timely fashion," Brig. Gen. Kramlich said.

Uniforms can be ordered from the site using the Military Star Card (retail), MasterCard, VISA, Discover and American Express. Secure encryption technology safeguards Marines' credit cards

See UNIFORMS, A-7

## MCBH NEWS BRIEFS

### SCHOOL SURVEY'S ONLINE

The Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Command directed the initiation of a customer satisfaction survey to measure perceptions regarding military dependent children's education in Hawaii.

All military parents of school-aged children (public, private and homeschool), as well as military dependent students in grades 5 - 12 (public and private schools), are encouraged to participate in the survey at <http://www.hawaii-survey.com>.

The full study is projected for completion by the end of November 2002, and feedback will be provided to all military communities by December 2002.

### CHAPELS HOST WORSHIP

Many opportunities are available to worship at Kaneohe Bay or Camp H. M. Smith. At K-Bay, Catholic and Protestant services are held at the Base Chapel, Bldg. 1090, behind Dunkin' Donuts. At Camp Smith, devotions are held in the Chapel Conference Room, Bldg. 15B. Religious education programs are also available at K-Bay, in its new Religious Education Facility (formerly the Wiki Wiki), in Bldg. 1090.

### Bible Studies at Military Units:

-1/3 6 p.m., Tuesdays,  
in Lounge of Bldg. 7002  
-CSSG-3 11:30 a.m., Tuesdays, Bldg. 1086  
-MAG-24 11:30 a.m., Wednesdays  
in Bldg. 301

### K-Bay's Catholic Worship Services:

-Sunday Mass 9:30 a.m.  
-Holy Days of  
Obligation 11:45 a.m. & 6 p.m.  
-Daily Mass 11:45 a.m. (Tue. & Fri.)  
Adult Education 7 p.m., Tuesdays  
-Saturday Mass 5 p.m.

### K-Bay's Protestant Worship Services:

-Liturgical Worship 8 a.m., Sundays  
-Children's  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
-Adult  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
-Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sundays  
-Contemporary  
Worship 11 a.m., Sundays  
-Adult (Ecumenical)  
Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m., Tuesdays  
Gospel Bible Study 7 p.m., Tuesdays

### Camp Smith's Spiritual Opportunities:

-Prayer & Devotions 7 a.m., Mon. thru Fri.  
-Women's Bible Study 11:30 a.m., Tuesdays  
Call 257-3552 or 477-8532 for more.

## Hawaii MARINE

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## C.G.'S MAIL BOX

*'There is no facility for even the simplest hygiene.'*



BRIG. GEN.  
MCABEE

- Submitted by Alison Castillo, family member

"My name is Alison Castillo, and I am a military spouse living aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii. I am also a member of an informal play group that meets every Thursday morning at the Super Playground

I wanted to make you aware of an issue that is constantly brought to my attention as I speak with and socialize with other military spouses of all ranks and services.

There seems to be an inherent need for a water fountain and proper bathroom facility at the playground located near the commissary and McDonalds restaurant. There is no direct water source there, and this could even be construed as a safety hazard — bearing in mind the intense heat that we experience during the summer months.

In several instances at the park, children have hurt themselves, and there is no facility for the even the simplest hygiene.

I recently visited Hickam Air Force Base and took my children to a similar playground at that facility. This seemed to be an ideal set up for children and their parents.

There was ample drinking water and a small bathroom, which provided appropriate-sized fixtures for kids and adults. The building was nothing fancy, purely a functional unit, clean and taken care of.

I understand that this is no small undertaking, but I assure you that it is a subject we talk of on a weekly basis. This ongoing conversation has grown to include other families who utilize the park, and the same concern seems to be expressed by all those who visit.

I would appreciate any input regarding this matter and would be happy to supply you with a list of names and contacts of like-minded parents aboard the base.

Best wishes,  
Alison Castillo

Mrs. Castillo,

I have been asked by the commanding general to research and to



Sgt. Robert Carlson

Starr Brown, 5, and her brother Ian, 3, enjoy the MCB Hawaii Super Playground May 17 during the Armed Services YMCA Play Morning. The ASYMCA is one of several groups which use the playground on a regular basis.

respond to your email of April 20, since your recommendation falls within my staff's responsibilities. He appreciates you taking your time to participate in the "CG Mail" program.

Your recommendation on how to improve the Super Playground could not have come at a better time. In case you haven't heard, I'd like to take this opportunity to tell you about some changes to the base that you will be seeing very soon.

Construction of our new base post office is scheduled to begin in December 2002. We're going to be placing it where the Super Playground is now.

Don't worry. We're not getting rid of the playground. We're just moving it to another, more appropriate location on base.

The location is still being decided, but we are considering relocating it with existing outdoor facilities. This could co-locate our outdoor events

like softball, volleyball, skateboarding and the playground.

Another advantage to locating the playground with other facilities would be that we could offer better amenities, as you have recommended, like proper restrooms and water fountains.

Previous CG Mail recommendations, from other base residents, have asked for a consolidated "family sports complex" incorporating children's play equipment near our football and softball fields.

You can be sure to read much more about these projects in upcoming additions of the base's newspaper, *Hawaii Marine*.

Thank you for your great recommendation and pointing out such a necessary improvement. My design engineers will be sure to take your ideas into consideration.

Mr. Kent Murata  
Assistant Chief of Staff G-4

(Editor's Note: Letters of any length may be trimmed and edited in the interest of good taste and brevity.)

The commanding general invites input from the base community via C.G. Mail on the following topics: What are we doing that we shouldn't be doing? What are we not doing that we should be doing? What are we doing that we should be doing better?

Responses should include a recommendation that will help solve the problem and must include your name and return address so that staff may respond.

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

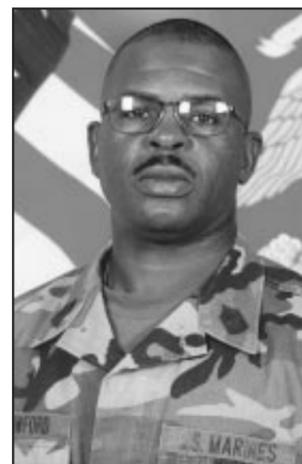


TIMMERMAN

## Lava Dogs receive new sergeant major



Sergeant Maj. Michael S. Timmerman relieved Sgt. Maj. Robert L. Crawford during a post and relief ceremony at Dewey Square Wednesday. Timmerman previously served as director, MCB Hawaii Staff Noncommissioned Officers Academy. Crawford will report to Okinawa, Japan, where he will serve with the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.



CRAWFORD



Sergeants and below who dare to become Combat Correspondents and would pride themselves on telling the Marine Corps story can seize the opportunity with a lateral move into the 4341 occupational field.

Contact Gunnery Sgt. Rhys Evans, base public affairs chief, at 257-8832 or 257-8840, for more information.



Above and Below Left — Morehart shows a junior Marine how to operate the Stinger simulator.

## Battery fires Stingers in Thailand

Story and Photos by  
**Cpl. Jason E. Miller**  
Combat Correspondent

**U'TAPAO NATIONAL AIRFIELD, Thailand** — Part of any real training exercise involves providing security for troops and their equipment. For the Aviation Combat Element of the Marine Air Ground Task Force, this means putting in place air defense systems for the aircraft that are essential to mission completion.

As more and more aircraft begin to arrive in Thailand for Exercise Cobra Gold 2002, several measures will be put in place to help simulate a more realistic scenario.

Marines from 1st Stinger Battery, Marine Air Control Group 18, Okinawa, Japan, deployed to Thailand with the intent of training personnel to better employ their weapons systems.

The battery makes use of two different missile defense systems, both capable of impacting low-level fly-



Cobra Gold '02

ing aircraft within a range of six kilometers. The Avenger Missile System, which was mounted atop a HUMVEE, and its shoulder-fired version were both brought in for training purposes.

"Stingers provide air defense for the entire MAGTF," said 2nd Lt. Tom Chhabra, 1st platoon commander, 1st Stinger Battery. "They protect airfields from any airborne threats that could come in a combat situation."

"We're out here just to get a better feel for how our missile and radar systems operate," he explained.

On May 8, the stinger battery Marines got some hands-on training with the Stinger Trainer Launch Simulator, a shoulder-fired simulator that rockets inert stinger missiles, which do not reach full range or explode on impact.

The system is designed to give the Marines a feel for the real shoulder-fired system by allowing them to feel the kickback and weight change that is associated with a real launch.

For most of the 15 Marines, this was the first time they had fired from the simulator. The training included a pit NCO walking



The Stinger Trainer Launch Simulator.

each Marine through the firing process before launching any rounds downrange.

The inert stingers left the tube of the launcher with a loud report and a thunderous back blast each time they were fired. The rounds traveled more than a hundred yards before crashing into the sand.

"Training like this really helps increase our readiness," said Lance Cpl. Patrick Morehart, team leader, 1st Stinger Battery. "It helps increase our knowledge of the systems we use."

"In the end, it could really just help us to accomplish any mission that could come our way."

## U.S. Marine returns to homeland

### Marines, Sailors of MWSS-171 assist at Thai orphanage

Cpl. Jason E. Miller  
Combat Correspondent

**U'TAPAO NATIONAL AIRFIELD, Thailand** — United States Marines are arguably the world's finest fighting force. However, sometimes the elite warriors are called upon for their strength in character rather than combat operations.

Nearly 40 Marines and Sailors from Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, out of Iwakuni, Japan, recently made one of several scheduled trips to Pattaya Orphanage in the Pattaya, Thailand vicinity.

Led by Chaplain (Lt.) Robert Jones of MWSS-171, the Marines arrived early on the morning of May 13, to deliver food supplies and money to the shelter, which houses hundreds of abandoned children.

The Marines and Sailors transported numerous boxes of supplies, as well as a check for \$1,500. A donation box also contained monetary contributions for the orphanage from service members training here.

The hosts graciously accepted all of the donations, as the orphanage is primarily funded by private supporters.

Among the Marines attending was Cpl. Matthew Scott, a Thailand native, from MWSS-171, who was adopted from the Pattaya Orphanage some 20 years ago.

The unit's trip to Thailand was the first time he had seen his place of birth



Cpl. Jason E. Miller

Marines participated in several activities with the children at the orphanage, including reading stories and playing sports.

since being adopted by an Army soldier when he was four years old.

The Marine seemed eager to share his story and experience with those around him. He talked about how he had graduated from high school and joined the Marine Corps, in hopes he would visit Thailand someday.

"It makes me feel pretty good to finally come back here and find out where exactly I came from. It's really a lot different than America. Everyone here just seems to be about having a good time. I really like it."

Scott, along with the chaplain, went to the orphanage earlier and had met with the institution's founder, a priest from Chicago.

"He remembered who I was," said Scott. "It was really surprising to me, but he said that he remembers every child that comes through there."

During their visit, the Marines al-



Cpl. Jason E. Miller

Cpl. Scott holds up records showing that he lived in the orphanage the Marines visited during exercise Cobra Gold.

so took time to play with the youngest of the children at the orphanage — babies, a few of whom were only months old. They seemed delighted by the outpouring of affection from the visitors.

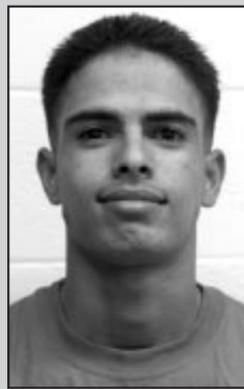
Smiling faces greeted the Marines almost everywhere they went, from volunteers and children alike.

After Marines ate lunch in the cafeteria with several of the children living there, the day ended. It would not be a day the Pattaya Orphanage or the Marines who attended would soon forget.

## WORD ON THE STREET

(AT HEADQUARTERS BN.,  
MCB HAWAII)

*"How do you plan on spending your liberty this summer?"*



"I want to go down to Waikiki and go club-hopping and meet some new people ... and definitely spend some quality time at the beach."

**Pfc. Wil Santiago**  
Combat videographer  
Combat Visual Information Center

"I plan on going to the beach to swim and snorkel, and maybe I will ride my motorcycle around Oahu. I really want to try going skydiving and hang gliding."

**Sgt. Nick Hasenfratz**  
Marine combat instructor  
Water Survival Program



"I want to spend some time in Puerto Rico and try hang gliding at the beach."

**Lance Cpl. David Camacho**  
Magazine crewman,  
Ammunition Supply Point

"I want to go down to Waikiki and walk up and down the strip. There's plenty to do there."

**Lance Cpl. Heather Medlock**  
Non-NCO Training,  
Ammunition Supply Point



"I am going to surf the Hawaiian shores and enjoy the fact that I live here — by living the island lifestyle."

**Cpl. Isaac Lynn**  
G-1 Administration NCO,  
Personal Support Center

# MarCent deploys the 'tool man' in Bahrain

**Staff Sgt. Shay Richardson**  
Marine Forces Central Command

**BAHRAIN** — Sparks from power saws and woodchips were floating through the air, seeming to drop simultaneously in slow motion to the beat of Ronnie Milsap's "Stranger in my House." As the Middle Eastern sun beat down on him — with a pencil behind his ear — Sgt. Jacob Luquin, a combat engineer with the Combat Service Support Element here, flipped up his eye protection and tossed his measuring tape to the end of a piece of lumber.

Luquin took his pencil and marked the lumber in two places. Flipping his eye-shield down, he grabbed his saw and raced the blade between the marks he'd made.

Sergeant Luquin has put his wood-working talents to work furnishing the compound that Marine Forces Central Command now calls home. At Naval Support Activity, Bahrain each workplace or living area has a touch of Luquin in it. From bookcases and computer desks, to wardrobes and nightstands, he has put his all into making the Marines as comfortable as possible here, under the circumstances.

"When I initially found out that I would be deploying with MarCent, I had no idea what I'd be doing," says Luquin, "I've always worked with a division or group, building bridges and clearing minefields. After I got here [Bahrain] and settled in a little, it wasn't hard to figure out what my role would be."

Luquin is attached to Marine Forces Pacific at Camp H. M. Smith, (now MarCent) which deployed from Hawaii in January to support "Operation Enduring Freedom." He was told of his Jan. 2 deployment on Dec. 21 during a holiday celebration.

"I was at a Christmas party enjoying the holiday and the start of my four-day weekend," he explained. "When I got the news, it was a bittersweet moment. I was happy to finally get the chance to take part in a real-world operation, but it robbed me and my girl of any opportunity to have a happy Christmas and New Year."

So, Sgt. Luquin began packing for the Middle East. He didn't have the opportunity to embark any of his tools or equipment, so when he landed in country, he had to start from scratch.

"It was aggravating at first," he recalled. "I'd get tools from the Air Force



Staff Sgt. Shay Richardson

**Sgt. Luquin uses his level to mark dimensions on a piece of plywood prior to starting a new project.**

or whomever had some available for me to use. The only thing I had of my own was a hammer and a hand saw."

When the command got its feet firmly

on the ground, a tool here and there wasn't good enough for what this engineer would be required to produce. When members of the command realized there was an engineer on board with the capability and skill that Luquin possessed, it bought the necessary tools for the handyman to do his job.

Requests for his support poured in.

"I never anticipated he would be so busy," says Staff Sgt. Lance Burkey, staff noncommissioned officer in charge, MarCent Combat Service Support Element. "I've asked myself on several occasions, 'What would I have done without him here?'"

Before sunrise and until many hours after the sun had set, sounds of power saws and drills ripping through plywood and nails that were being pounded in place, could be heard throughout the camp. Sergeant Luquin oftentimes works 20-hour days without question.

"It's what I love to do. This is my contribution to all that's going on, so I want to put my all into it," he said. "When I return home to my 'Peach,' I'll know that I've served my country and done my part in this operation by making life away from home a little more comfortable for my fellow Marines."

## SALUTE, From A-1

ohana Hawaii has given us means so much to us in the armed forces.

"Though the events of September 11 were tragic, it brought out the best in America and its service members," he continued. "This tribute makes all the difference in the world to us."

A brief word was then given by each of the major sponsors of the event, who included Michael

O'Neill, chairman and chief executive officer of the Bank of Hawaii; Michael Fisch, president and publisher of the Honolulu Advertiser; and James Tollefson, chairman, chief executive officer, and president of the Bank of Hawaii.

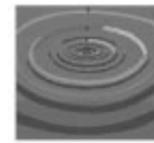
An emotional rendition of "America the Beautiful" sung by Jim Nabors and Master of Ceremonies Danny Kaleikini set a stirring mood, emphasizing the

haunting twilight and evoking memories of a burning harbor 60 years before.

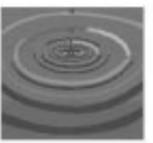
Finally, the colors marched off with a backdrop of the setting sun that set the harbor ablaze, making the Missouri stand out even more proudly.

After a dinner featuring gourmet fare, the evening gave way to an uplifting set by the MarForPac Band.

## Water Conservation.



It's everyone's responsibility.



# EVERY CLIME AND PLACE

## 31st MEU, Thai Marines fight room-to-room



Gunnery Sgt. Marlon J. Martin

Staff Sgt. Roderick L. Davis (foreground, second from left), India Co., BLT 3/5, worked to overcome the language barrier between the U.S. and Thai armed forces during MOUT training.

Gunnery Sgt.  
**Marlon J. Martin**  
31st MEU Public Affairs

**HAT KHLOT, Thailand** — Marines of Battalion Landing Team, 3rd Bn., 5th Marine Regiment (BLT 3/5), introduced the Armed Forces of Thailand here to a different style of fighting.

As the ground combat element of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), BLT 3/5, worked hand-in-hand with the Thai armed forces during Exercise Cobra Gold 2002, underway May 14 - 28.

Cobra Gold is an annual, multilateral training exercise that involves the U.S., Thailand and Singapore armed forces. During the exercise, BLT 3/5 strived to enhance its company level skills in the areas of live fire and maneuver, patrolling and Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) operations ashore.

Throughout the first days of cross training with Thai forces,



Gunnery Sgt. Marlon J. Martin

Private First Class Henry C. Sloan (far right), rifleman, India Co., BLT 3/5, observes his Thai counterparts demonstrate basic Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) tactics, which they learned during Exercise Cobra Gold 2002.

Marines of India Co., BLT 3/5, were particularly impressed at how well their Thai counterparts responded to the MOUT training portion of the exercise.

"They've responded very well to the training," said Capt. Hank D. Weede, company commander,

India Co., BLT 3/5. "The Thais got at least a chance to see what it looks like when a Marine enters a building and how to engage a target up close and personal."

Cobra Gold is designed to en-

See 31ST MEU, A-6

## A MARINE'S MARINE

## Korean War veteran, author, patriot leaves rich legacy

**Steven Kalnasy***Varsity Sports Coordinator, Marine Corps  
Community Services*

The Corps lost another of its faithful brethren when my father Kenneth "Kal" Kalnasy passed away on May 9th. He was a great American and Marine through and through.

In March of 1950, as a young man in Detroit, Mich., he graduated from high school and joined the Marine Corps with the dream of being a hero. A headstrong, proud, ideological sort who — like so many of his peers — remembered how just five years before, America welcomed home heroes after the victory of WWII.

He saw the parades all across the country, and he heard the stories of the battles in far away lands. He dreamed that one day those memories would be his.

After growing up in an orphanage during the depression, he was accustomed to the concept of teamwork and discipline. The nuns who raised him had prepared him well for the challenges that lay ahead. The Marine Corps seemed to be a perfect transition for him on his journey to becoming a man.

The training that he received at Parris Island was challenging and tough. He told me that he "loved the experience of becoming a Marine." The pride he felt when he graduated from boot camp would stay with him for the rest of his life. He was now a United States Marine.

"Once a Marine, always a Marine" would be his motto, and it would be the way people remembered him the day we laid him to rest.

When he joined the Corps, he hadn't expected to see any fighting. With the victories of World War II still vivid, another war was the furthest from anyone's thoughts then. However, while training at Parris Island, the conflict in Korea began to take shape.

"I thought I was prepared for anything," my dad told me earlier this year, when we spoke of his basic training and the trials he went through. "Being a Marine means you make the best of what comes your way," he said.

He returned home on leave and never took off his uniform. He was a Marine and he wanted everyone to know it.

His new identity would mold him for the rest of his life. He married his high school sweetheart and waited for his orders to his first assignment. He couldn't have anticipated what was ahead.

After a week on leave, a telegram arrived with orders to report immediately to Camp Pendleton. He would be assigned to the 1st Marine Division under



Courtesy of Kalnasy Family

**Kalnasy poses when a corporal, circa 1952.**

the command of Col. Louis B. Puller. They would be shipping out to Korea within two weeks.

He told me, "I was terrified when I heard who my CO was." He had heard all the stories. "Chesty" was a legend in the Corps. "They sent him to the toughest places and his units had the highest mortality rate of any commands in the Corps," he told me.

My Dad would later idolize "Chesty." He attended the funerals of "Chesty" and his son, and he would lament that he felt like he was part of Chesty's family.

On September 15, 1950, seated low in a landing craft headed toward Blue Beach in a place called Inchon, he was horrified at what awaited him.

"I knew I would die there," he said. Before the day was done he would receive the wound that earned him his

first Purple Heart. He was fortunate. Many of his fellow Marines were killed in that battle.

Although alive, his prediction would come true. The young man who enlisted some six months earlier was gone forever. His innocence had died that day.

Over the next seven months, he would fight in places like Seoul, Chosin, Koto Ri and Haga Ru. He would fight in battles with names like Operation Ripper, Operation Killer and the Frozen Chosin.

My dad participated in the evacuation of United Nations forces at Hung Nam, and he survived them all. In April of '51, he was released from what he considered hell on Earth. For his sacrifice, courage, and just plain luck, he would earn his third Purple Heart.

Among his Purple Hearts, he was to later receive a Bronze and Silver Star. But he told me "the medals didn't matter." He "...mourned for his fallen Marines."

When he returned home, he would face even worse battles than those that he knew in Korea. He would fight for his sanity. At just 18 years old, he had faced a generation of horrors and terror. His innocence was stolen and his mind was under siege.

His next two years were spent at the Veterans Hospital in Philadelphia. He learned to live with his demons, but he was never to be the same.

Over the next 49 years, he would struggle to have a normal life without the memories of his youth. To me, it's strange that Korea is called "The Forgotten War" because when my dad remembered it, it was like yesterday. Those images continued to quietly torment him.

Two years ago, at the brink of the Korean War's 50th anniversary, he phoned to tell me about a call he received from another former Marine named

Charlie Queen. He said they spoke about the war. My dad began to open up to me, to tell me it was time to share those memories.

I asked him to write them down so others could share their stories. It would be a great mechanism for healing those mental wounds from so long ago.

The result was the poem "From the Beach to the Reservoir," which told of his experience at the Inchon landing, and on to the Chosin Reservoir. This story was presented in a ceremony commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Korean War on June 15, 2000, at MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, and now hangs proudly in the Anderson Hall dining facility.

Another copy of the poem is enshrined at Puller's Post on Camp Horno aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Many Marine leaders including Lt. Gen. Gary L. Parks, deputy commandant for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, lament the poem's impact. He said, "...for any Marine who has been in combat, the words of this poem ring true to their experiences — they certainly do with me."

My dad's poem and book, "Korea: The Last of the Fun Wars," have been a living example of my father's healing process. I saw it become a catalyst for bringing so many veterans to share their experiences with their loved ones, and to let their ghosts go free. It certainly did for my dad, and it gave me an understanding and appreciation of him.

The Korean War was a tragic part of America's history. War is never a cherished moment for our country, but it has been a necessary tool to maintain freedom and democracy in the world.

We will lose many more of our honored heroes in the coming years. As they pass away, it is important that we enshrine their memory in our lives. We learn from the teachings of our predecessors and I have learned so much from my dad.

In the last year of his life, he was busy honoring those who served with him in Korea. He dedicated his life to teaching young Marines what they had gone through, so that they would learn from their experiences. He accepted requests to speak to troops whenever asked and made financial donations to the Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society from every book he sold.

He kept busy by writing his stories so that others would learn from one or another. The sequel to his book entitled "What Price Fun, What Price War" will be published soon, and his children's books were completed just last month.

We lost a great American and a great Marine last week.

He left behind a wife, seven children, 14 grandchildren and the Corps, which he loved.

With his own words, I wish to bestow honor upon him. "Stay warm, stay dry, Semper Fi."

## U.S. moment of silence



Courtesy of the The White House Commission on the National Moment of Remembrance

**Memorial Day is "not about war ... it's about people," says the White House Commission on the National Moment of Remembrance. In an act of national unity, the Commission wants you to remember those who gave their lives in service to America, Monday at 3 p.m. Simply stop what you are doing and think for one minute about those who died for your freedom. If you are driving, turn on your vehicle's headlights. The Commission reminds that, as you participate, you are helping reclaim Memorial Day for the noble purpose for which it was established.**

## 31st MEU: Cobra Gold Marines teach Thais MOUT tactics



Gunnery Sgt. Marlon J. Martin

**Staff Sgt. Roderick L. Davis of India Co., BLT 3/5, waits as two CH-46 Sea Knight helicopters land to extract his platoon.**

*From A-5*

sure regional peace and strengthen the ability of the Royal Thai Armed Forces to defend Thailand and respond to regional contingencies. Now, in its 21st year, it is one of the largest exercises involving U.S. forces within the Pacific Command.

Thai Marines have learned many tactics and techniques from U.S. forces that have participated in past Cobra Gold exercises, but this is their first time learning how to fight in an urban environment.

"The language barrier is only slowing us down a little bit," said certified MOUT training instructor Sgt. Todd B. Lindstrom, India Co., BLT 3/5. "The Thai Marines seem to be fairly eager and interested in learning our methods on how to go in and actually clear houses in a MOUT environment."

It takes at least a couple of weeks to grasp just the basic steps of MOUT training. Although the site was not set up for MOUT training, India Co. adjusted by simply making 'tape houses' out of engineer tape, which simulated breaks in a building such as hallways, rooms



Sgt. Stephen D'Alessio

**Marines of BLT 3/5, the ground combat element of the 31st MEU (SOC), conduct a live fire and maneuver exercise at Ban Chan Khrem, Thailand, with Thai Marines during Exercise Cobra Gold '02.**

and windows.

Emphasis was placed on teaching the Thais how to properly hold and carry their weapons when engaging targets, since Marines must never 'flag' or point their weapon at a fellow team member when clearing a building.

India Co. Marines focused on teaching the Thais how to safely enter a building and communicate with each other, what to do when they approach a door or window, and how to go around corners, engage targets and carry on with their mission.

# Environmental Honors



Photo Courtesy of Chief Crenshaw

WASHINGTON — The Honorable Mr. H.T. Johnson (left), Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Installations & Environment), presented the Natural Resources Conservation Award for Small Installations to Dr. Diane Drigot, senior natural resources management specialist at MCB Hawaii. Vice Adm. George P. Nanos (second from right), commander of the Naval Sea Systems Command, and Paul C. Hubbell, the Deputy Assistant Deputy Commandant for Installations and Logistics (Facilities) also congratulated Drigot at the Secretary of the Navy's Environmental, Natural and Cultural Resources award ceremony April 30.

## UNIFORMS, From A-1

and personal information.

What's more, the online service was accomplished under budget and ahead of schedule, and service is top-notch, said George Wodrazka, LogBases' project officer.

"Uniform orders are processed as soon as they are received," said Wodrazka. "Orders are delivered to Marines in about seven to 10 business days, and the store offers Federal Express shipping to most patrons and priority mail shipping to APOs and FPOs, and to post office box addresses."

Even with the new capability, Marines can still order uniforms over the telephone, fax or through the mail, if they so desire.

"Providing Marines with a user-

friendly online ordering system and quality uniform is LogBases' and NEXCOM's number one goal," added Marian Nelson, NEXCOM's uniform support center operations manager. "If for any reason customers are not completely satisfied with the quality of any uniform item, it can be exchanged or returned for a full refund by calling the Uniform Support Center at 1-800-368-4088. The center is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

To order any Marine Corps uniform item, customers must be registered through the Defense Eligibility and Enrollment Reporting System.

"Those DEERS members include active duty, reserve and retirees. The new Combat Utility Uniform is not available at the present time," Wodrazka concluded.

## Did You Know?

The computer language FORTRAN is an abbreviation of "FORmula TRANslation."



NAPS