

Hawaii MARINE

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May 2, 2003



Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle

Lieutenant j.g. John Kopplin receives a warm welcome from his wife Melissa Kopplin and his son Ryan, age 2, after returning from a nine-month-long deployment to the Middle East. He returned with 23 other Sailors from HSL-37.

HSL-37 comes home to Hawaii

**Lance Cpl.
Monroe F. Seigle**
Combat Correspondent

It was a day of joy for the families of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light 37, aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, when 24 Sailors returned, Sunday, from a nine-month long deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

During the deployment, the 24 Sailors came together as one to keep the waterways safe and support the troops on the land while patrolling the Iraqi waters.

The main focus of the Sailors from HSL-37 was to provide surface surveillance, protect the Abraham Lincoln Carrier Group, and provide situational awareness beyond the horizons, while

detecting other possible enemy ships with radar.

While being tasked to accomplish such a difficult mission, the Sailors also supported maritime interdictions being enforced under the United Nations resolutions.

The resolution detailed what the country of Iraq could import and export from its shores.

The mission requirements did not stop there.

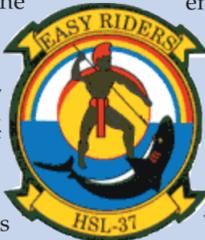
While enforcing the trade embargo, the brave Sailors also escorted high-value civilian merchant ships through the dangerous waters surrounding Iraq.

On a daily basis, the Sailors launched aircraft in support of the troops on the beach and flew more than 1,300 accumulative flight hours, which totaled

more than 400 hours for each pilot.

"We were a fine-tuned unit before we left for the deployment," said Lt. j.g.

See HSL-37, A-6



Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle

Family members anxiously await the return of Sailors from HSL-37 after their deployment to the Middle East.

PWM lecture series takes political turn

Congressman Abercrombie talks politics in the military

Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle
Combat Correspondent

U.S. Representative Neil Abercrombie, (D-1st District) came to MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, April 24, to share his thoughts in the Pacific War Memorial Lecture Series and talk to Marines stationed on the island of Oahu about the role of politicians and the military.

Before the lecture at the Base Theater, Rep. Abercrombie and other guests were entertained



ABERCROMBIE

with live music at the Officers' Club along with drinks and refreshments, which gave Marines and Sailors a chance to talk to the congressman in person and ask questions about future plans involving the military in Hawaii.

During his lecture, Rep. Abercrombie spoke largely on the relationship between politics and the military. He explained that 47 congressmen in the House of Representatives make the decisions involving the military.

"Every member of the [Armed Forces] committee understands their responsibility to the armed forces," said Rep. Abercrombie. "Their decisions involving our armed forces,

See LECTURE, A-6

Military Spouse Day



Friday, May 9th, has been designated Military Spouse Day. This year, it is particularly important that we take time to celebrate the vital contributions made by military spouses. Our spouses endure the hardships of frequent permanent change of stations moves, the pain of long separations, and the uncertainties of contingencies. Through it all, they endure with dignity, understanding, and a selfless support that allows our Marines and Sailors to accomplish their assigned missions.

I encourage each of our Marines and Sailors to thank their spouse for all they do for our families, our base, our community, our Corps and our Navy, and our nation. Margaret joins me in recognizing all our military spouses for being such very special people and wishing each of them a happy Military Spouse Day on May 9th.

J.C. McAbee

J.C. McAbee
Brigadier General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding General, MCB Hawaii

Windward schools to receive funding

MCB Hawaii
Public Affairs Office
Press Release

Twenty-three Oahu public schools, four Leeward and 19 Windward, are benefiting this spring from federal funding for on-campus, volunteer self-help projects.

A few of these schools — all of which are partnered with Marine Corps or Navy units located at MCB Hawaii (at Kaneohe Bay or Camp H. M. Smith) will soon also benefit from a generous corporate contribution from the Harold K. L. Castle Foundation.

The federal funding, part of \$5 million included for each of the last four years in the annual Defense Appropriations Act, is intended to help alleviate the repair and maintenance backlog in Hawaii public schools that had reached \$640 million statewide by 1999.

The Joint Venture Education Forum — a partnership organization comprised of representatives of each of the military services as well as the Coast Guard and the Hawaii National Guard, the Hawaii Department of Education, Hawaii's business community and the Hawaii Parent Teacher Student Association — makes the decision on how the annual \$5 million funding is expended.

The JVEF was founded in mid-1999, in response to the perception among active duty service members that military dependents were facing difficult issues in the Hawaii public schools.

The mission of the JVEF is to facilitate interaction between the military and Hawaii DOE. The JVEF is also charged with enhancing and maintaining open dialogue on education concerns, facilitating educational support for all children, and assisting the DOE in understanding and supporting the needs of military children and families (i.e., transition issues that arise from frequent moves from one duty station/school district to another).

The JVEF allocated \$500,000 of the \$5 million received for fiscal year 2003 to "community outreach"/volunteer self-help projects.

Of that allocation, MCB Hawaii received \$95,000 to purchase supplies and materials for projects at its 23 partnered schools, several of which have already begun their projects.

Marine and Sailor volunteers from units active in MCB Hawaii's Adopt-A-School program will join school and community volunteers to provide the manpower to complete the various projects.

During April, the Castle Foundation stepped forward to provide a corporate donation of \$95,000 — to match the federal funding already received.

According to Foundation President and CEO, H. Mitchell D'Olier, the Castle Foundation donation will be targeted to assist selected schools on Windward Oahu with projects that can be completed with the support of the Adopt-A-School Program and community involvement.

MCBH NEWS BRIEFS

CUB SCOUTS' 'TIGER NIGHT' TO BE HELD, MAY 15

The Cub Scout's Tiger Night will be held at the Mokapu Elementary School cafeteria at 6:30 p.m., May 15.

The event is targeted for kindergarten boys and their parents, but is open to all boys who are interested in scouting.

The information only meeting is intended to introduce boys to the Cub Scouting and Pack 225 aboard MCB Hawaii.

For more information, contact Cub Master Steve at 254-1574.

BASE CHAPEL POSTS SERVICES

In addition to its regularly scheduled services, the Base Chapel aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, will now be open Monday - Friday, with private prayer available Wednesdays and Thursdays until 8 p.m.

An all-faith service will be held every Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

LOST AND FOUND ITEMS AVAILABLE AT MPD

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

Lost items on hand include I.D. cards, bicycles, wallets, keys, cell phones and miscellaneous jewelry. An inquiry log is maintained for all item(s) that are retrieved.

Call Sgt. Gordon Scott at 257-2103, ext. 315, for prompt assistance with lost and found.

Also, the Crime Prevention section of the Military Police Department is looking for neighborhood watch representatives to get involved in their communities, by taking charge of local neighborhoods aboard MCB Hawaii.

If you're interested, contact the Crime Prevention Unit at 257-2103, ext. 314 or 315.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

On-Base Emergencies	257-9111
Military Police	257-7114
Crisis Hotline	521-4555
Child Protective Service	832-5300

Hawaii MARINE

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IN THE CG'S MAIL BOX



BRIG. GEN.
MCABEE

"I live on your wonderful base, and most of the time, I try to support on-base businesses.

I go into the Thrift shop a good bit. They are very friendly people and the prices are great, but it is so small and they have so much. Yet, our Navy and Marines donate a good bit.

As someone who has owned and operated a consignment store, I know they could do more business, and better business, for the customers, making it easier to find things if they had more space.

Well, that is my recommendation. Thank you for your time and consideration."

Mrs. L. Kelly

Dear Mrs. Kelly,

I have been asked by the commanding general to research and respond to your recent e-mail since your recommendation falls within my staff responsibilities. He appreciates that you have taken the time to participate in the CG Mail program.

Thank you for the great suggestion. We agree that the Thrift Shop provides a valuable service to our

Submitted by Mrs. L. Kelly, family member

"I know they could do more business, and better business, for the customers ... if they had more space."



Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle

The Thrift Shop will be expanded into another room of Pless Hall, alleviating some of its current space problems. It will be completed by the end of May.

military community — the more space the better.

In fact, the commanding general recently authorized the All Enlisted Spouses Club to expand its space into another room of Pless Hall. This will add an additional 2,400 square feet to the Thrift Shop and alleviate some of the space problems.

We expect this addition to be completed by the end of May 2003.

We also want to thank you and our other patrons for using this ac-

tivity.

The Thrift Shop provides scholarship money for enlisted family members aboard MCB Hawaii. It is a most worthy initiative and great service for our community.

Again, thank you for your recommendation and for participating in the CG Mail program.

Mr. William B. Lindsey
Assistant Chief of Staff,
MCCS

(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.

Hawaii school survey seeks 'truth'

U.S. Pacific Command Press Release

A customer satisfaction survey will be mailed to military families of approximately 15,000 children in Hawaii public schools, this month.

The results of this survey will be compared to the results of the survey initiated last year as a quality of life issue.

The International Center

for Leadership Development has again been contracted to conduct the survey in May and June.

The surveys will go to military parents who have children in Hawaii schools, as well as to students in grades 5 to 12.

All parents and students can access and fill in the survey on the Internet at www.hawaii-survey.com until June 13.

The main objective of the

survey is to get "ground truth" because the perception of Hawaii schools by military families has often been based on word-of-mouth and hearsay.

The information from the 2002 survey has been used to help the U.S. Pacific Command and the Hawaii Department of Education create and implement a strategic plan for the improvement of schools, especially those with high en-

rollments of military family members.

The mailed survey will be accompanied by a letter from Adm. Thomas Fargo, commander of USPACOM, urging everyone to complete the survey so that the most accurate data possible will be available.

For more information about the survey, contact Col. David Tom at 477-1376, or Dr. Allen Awaya at 477-2543.



VALENTE

'Windjammers' welcome new CO



Commander David N. Valente (left) replaced Cmdr. Douglas J. McIlraith as the commanding officer of Fleet Logistics Support Squadron 51, aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Saturday. Valente previously served as the executive officer for VR-51. McIlraith is scheduled to report to the Commander Task Force 12 aboard Pearl Harbor Naval Base.



MCILRAITH



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 Staff Sgt. Robert Carlson at the Public Affairs Office, 257-8840, for details.

Deployed Marine selected for top spot

Sgt. W.A. Napper Jr.
Headquarters Marine Corps



ESTRADA

KUWAIT — During an all-hands staff noncommissioned officer meeting here April 22, Maj. Gen. James F. Amos, the commanding general of 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, announced that the Commandant of the Marine Corps has selected Sgt. Maj. John L. Estrada, currently 3rd MAW's sergeant major, as the 15th sergeant major of the Marine Corps.

"I've never met anybody that's moved into that job," Maj. Gen. Amos said to the

crowd. "And to think, you're one of us. What we're going to get here is a Marines' Marine, a sergeant major that understands what being a sergeant major is all about."

To a standing ovation, Estrada took the microphone with a smile.

"I did not sleep at all last night," he said. "This is a very momentous event. There are many Marines and Sailors I have to thank. I know I wouldn't be in this position if it were not for them."

Back on Dec. 7, 2001, Estrada had told his staff NCOs when he made the permanent change of station move to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., that he intended to retire following his tour. However, less than two years later, he deployed here to serve in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Earlier this year, while serving in Operation Enduring Freedom, Estrada received a phone call from the 14th sergeant major of the Marine Corps, Sgt. Maj. Alford L. McMichael, informing him he was one of the final four candidates.

"I was in disbelief, and at the time, I thought maybe he called the wrong person," said Estrada. "I never thought of myself as ever having a chance of being one of them."

Every few years, a board looks at approximately 150 top sergeants major on the lineal list and selects candi-

"I expect all of our Marines to represent our Corps — in the eyes of the American people and the world — in a very professional way."

Sgt. Maj. John L. Estrada
Selected 15th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps

dates. The board presents its list to the Commandant of the Marine Corps for review. If he likes none of the candidates' qualifications, he goes back to the board and orders it to try again. Otherwise, the candidates are interviewed at different times.

Estrada said he prepared for his interview by coming up with a list of eight questions he thought Gen. Hagee would ask.

"When I went into the interview, I felt I had as good a chance as the other three," he said. "I went in and gave it my best shot. I finally decided to just go and be myself, be who I have always been."

Of the eight questions Estrada had prepared, the Commandant only asked one: "Why do you think you should be the next sergeant major of the Marine Corps?"

"What are three things you would change in the Marine Corps?" and "If I did not select you as the next sergeant major of the Marine Corps, whom would you recommend?" were other questions the Commandant asked.

Estrada received the confirmation phone call from Gen. Hagee, April 21; however, Staff Judge Advocate Marines with Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron initially received the call.

"There were people scrambling to get me because the Commandant of the Marine Corps was on the phone," said Estrada. "So, I made the walk over to the SJA — which is not that far away, but to me ... felt like I was walking on a plank...getting ready to go overboard."

"The Commandant came on the phone and said 'Sergeant Major Estrada, how are you doing today? I'm calling you to offer a position to be the next sergeant major of our Corps. Do you still want the job?'"

Though he'd had some time to brace himself for either decision, Estrada said he was taken aback by the question.

"I said, 'Sir, yes of course, I still want the job.' Then I told him I was honored that he had confidence in me and afforded me the opportunity to be the 15th sergeant major of our Corps."

Estrada has been known as a Marine's Marine, and is often found talking with junior enlisted and junior officers, to make sure everything is running smoothly for them. He said he believes one of his strong points is his ability to communicate up and down the chain of command.

"That has always been my style," said Estrada. "I feel very, very good knowing that I can go out and connect with the lowest-ranking Marines and talk to them. All my commanders have always allowed me the latitude to do just that."

"That's the only way that I can get the true pulse of what's going on in the unit. You can't do that from behind a desk."

Estrada said he knows he's the next chapter in the history of the Marine Corps, and he won't let his Marines down. However, he will require one thing from all Marines.

"I expect all of our Marines to represent our Corps — in the eyes of the American people and the world — in a very professional way. The American people think a lot and expect a lot from the Marine Corps, and I charge our

Marines to continue to give them just that."

Estrada enlisted in the Marine Corps Sept. 5, 1973, and attended recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C. He has served with numerous squadrons, as an airframes technician and as an F/A-18 hydraulic/structural mechanic. He also completed two tours on the drill field.

Estrada's personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal with two gold stars, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, and Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.



Staff Sgt. Jesus A. Lora

The color guard from Headquarters and Service Bn., MarForPac, aboard Camp H. M. Smith, stands at attention during the National Anthem at the ANZAC Day Commemoration.

Marines honor their brothers

Military services gather to honor ANZAC Day

Staff Sgt. Jesus A. Lora
Training/Operations Chief

HONOLULU — "Amazing Grace," played by the Marine Forces Pacific Band, echoed throughout the field of green and stone as military leaders from all over the Pacific region gathered at the National Cemetery of the Pacific April 25 to remember Australia and New Zealand Army Corps Day.

The special day marks the anniversary of the landing of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps on Turkish held Gallipoli Peninsula in Greece, in 1915, and is set aside in New Zealand and Australia to remember

those who sacrificed and fought for their nations' most precious gift: freedom.

After the last note of the National Anthem, the Consul-General of Australia rose to give a few opening remarks.

"As we gather to mourn our dead and recall their sacrifice, we also acknowledge that today, in many parts of the world, Australian and New Zealand men and women continue to serve in defense of the values their predecessors struggled to protect," said The Honorable Paul Robillard.

He recited a passage from the poem, "For the Fallen," by British poet Laurence Binyon (1869-1943), which illustrates heroism and courage.

"They shall grow not old,
As we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them,

Nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
And in the morning
We will remember them.
Lest we forget."

Once uttered, the last three words hovered over the silenced audience. The spell broke when the MarForPac Band played "Going Home Ballabair," to start the wreath-laying ceremony.

Delegates and representatives placed more than 30 wreaths on the dedicatory stone that represents the honor, sacrifices and achievements of American armed forces in the Pacific during World War II and the Korean War.

The ceremony continued with a lone Marine bugler from the MarForPac band playing the redemption of the

See ANZAC, A-6

Word on the Street

Are you enrolled in off-duty education?



"I have not done any off-duty education; but I have made plans to attend North Carolina's Chapel Hill."

Cpl. Chris Honeycutt
TMO passenger clerk,
Headquarters Bn.,
MCB Hawaii



"I am not because my inconsistent work schedule does not permit it."

Sgt. Nate Rymill
Trombonist,
MarForPac Band



"Yes. I know I need a better education to broaden my options when I get out."

Lance Cpl. Jason Gonzalez
Supply clerk,
Headquarters Co.,
3rd Marine Regiment



"I am not; I really enlisted for the PT and leadership skills."

Pvt. Anthony Manzie
Assistant gunner,
India Co., 3/3



"Yes I am. My goal is to have my Associate's by the time my contract is up."

Lance Cpl. Laura Roener
Purchasing clerk,
Headquarters Bn.,
MCB Hawaii

CG schools students on leadership traits

Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle
Combat Correspondent

HONOLULU — "If someone under your command fails, then you have failed too," said Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, commanding general of MCB Hawaii, as he spoke to an attentive group of high school students.

The student council at Henry Kaiser High School had gathered in a small classroom April 16, to engage the general in a discussion about the qualities of a good leader.

During the hour-long discussion, the students asked him about his personal experiences as a leader and his adventures in the Marine Corps.

"The most rewarding part about being a leader is watching the Marines under your command succeed and become something," said Brig. Gen. McAbee to the 11 student leaders. "I look at going to work everyday as another opportuni-

ty to serve my country and make the Marine Corps a better place."

The students asked questions about life in the Corps, and the tools needed to succeed and earn rank. Brigadier Gen. McAbee talked about some of his personal experiences in the Marine Corps and how he has learned to be a positive leader by learning from his mistakes and personally caring about those under his charge.

The general summed up discussions with emphasis on the 14 Marine Corps leadership traits such as integrity, enthusiasm, unselfishness and loyalty.

He also gave 11 principles of good leadership, which he said he has used as a guide throughout his career.

"I was very interested in what he had to say about his experiences as a leader," said Erin Ah Hee, 17, a senior and president of the Inner-Club council.

"I was able to learn a lot from what the general taught us about being a leader,"



Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle

Brigadier Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, commanding general, MCB Hawaii, talked to the student council of Henry Kaiser High School about the qualities of good leaders.

she said. "I am glad he took the time out of his schedule to come and talk to us, because I am considering enlisting in the Marine Corps when I graduate in a few

months.

"I have a step-up now that I know what skills are needed to be a leader," she added.

EVERY CLIME & PLACE

2/8 Marines keep the streets of Al Kut safe

Echo Co. warriors keep their presence known with numerous daily foot patrols

Cpl. Matthew Orr
1 Marine Expeditionary Force

AL KUT, Iraq — The day began for Echo Co., 2nd Bn., 8th Marine Regiment, as it has for the past few days here. The Marines walked foot patrols, keeping the streets of Al Kut safe.

The warriors go on numerous daily patrols to show a presence, which also gives them time to interact with local residents.

"Right now the Marines are doing presence patrols, which lets the leadership in the area know that we are here, and to also gain confidence with the locals," said Gunnery Sgt. Steve Cutrer, company gunnery sergeant.

The patrols serve another purpose.

"We are also here to get a general sentiment of the people, to see if they are still giving us the thumbs up or the thumbs down, so to speak," said Cpl. Patrick S. Davis, mortar section leader, Weapons Platoon.

Currently, two platoons are actively patrolling and one platoon is in reserve. The patrols average about two hours in duration and require the Marines to walk a

designated area of the city.

"Eight patrols are usually conducted in the daylight hours and two to four in the night," said Cutrer.

The patrol routes are based on intelligence gathered from civil affairs Marines and others in the community gathering information.

While on the patrols, Marines search buildings for possible weapons caches. They have located numerous caches since the fighting has decreased.

Recently, Marines found more than 100 computers that were supposed to have gone to classrooms. After talking to a teacher at the school, Marines learned the computers would have probably gone to the black market.

Weapons caches have been found in buildings all over the city.

"Almost every weapons cache we have found has either been in a hospital, a school or in another public gathering area," said Cutrer.

Another important benefit of the roving foot patrols is better interaction with residents.

"The more we go out on the patrols, the more trust we gain with the residents," said Davis. "The children have really taken to us."



Cpl. Matthew Orr

Marines from 8th Engineer Support Battalion help restore the Al Kut War Cemetery with help from local residents April 27.

On a recent patrol, Marines came across a man with severe burns to his left hand.

"We were walking through the streets, and we saw a guy who had really bad third-degree burns," said Davis. "We bandaged his hand up, and everybody around could see that we were here to help. We then came back that same night with an interpreter who told the man where he could go to get further help.

"Just the fact that we came back to help that same guy really impressed a lot of people, and gave the people the realization that we are here to help them," recalled

See AL KUT, A-5

Golden Swordsmen return from war in Iraq

Lt. j.g. Timm Heisey
Patrol Squadron 47

April 22, the first of Patrol Squadron 47's two airplanes, air crews and ground support personnel that had deployed to the Arabian Gulf for Operation Iraqi Freedom returned to Kaneohe.

The "Golden Swordsmen" greeted their returning warriors with great fanfare as the aircraft arrived at MCB Hawaii.

In January, two of VP-47's P-3 Orions were placed on alert in preparation for the possible war with Iraq. They were sent to the Arabian Gulf region in March, then were integrated into operations over Iraq and neighboring regions.

The squadron flew missions to augment the forward deployed forces. Its aircraft helped reinforce Operation Southern Watch and participated in Operation Iraqi Freedom by providing critical combat intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance coverage for U.S. ground forces.

Though originally designed for maritime patrol and submarine hunting, the Navy has transformed the P-3's combat capabilities in recent years, with the addition of new high tech electronic equipment and improved weapons capabilities.

In Iraq, planes were used to conduct reconnaissance for ground forces, survey battle damage for field commanders, and provide long-range surveillance for aircraft carriers deployed to the

region.

"Today was a great day in the history of the Golden Swordsmen," said Cmdr. Gerral David, commanding officer of VP-47. "Today, we had the great honor and privilege of welcoming home our squadron mates from war.

"Our crews and maintenance personnel have performed superbly — as we knew they would.

Their successes were a team effort, and could not have been accomplished without the support of everyone in this squadron. Every member of VP-47 shares their success."

The VP-47 hangar was

alive with families dressed to impress, spouses eager to kiss their mates, and children feverishly waving their flags.

The returning crew was greeted with applause and intense camaraderie from the squadron members, families and friends.

Even the well-traveled airplane was draped with a huge red, white and blue lei to celebrate the homecoming.

Fellow aviators, eager to hear "war stories" from the Gulf, competed with ecstatic spouses, happy to have their loved ones back safely.

The next VP-47 crew is scheduled to return from the Arabian Gulf on April 28.



Courtesy of Patrol Squadron 47

Lieutenant Cmdr. Stephen Tedford holds his wife Kathryn and daughter Katelyn tightly as they welcome him home.

AL KUT, From A-4

Davis.

With the fighting of the war over, the process of rebuilding the community has begun.

"Right now, from what we have seen, the community has really taken well to us," said Cutrer. "When the Marines see the children getting help and food, their morale pops right up, and they know their purpose here is incredibly necessary."



Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle

Brigadier Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, commanding general of MCB Hawaii, presents a K-Bar fighting knife to Congressman Neil Abercrombie, (D-1st District).

LECTURE, From A-1

made everyday, effect the safety of our country.

"Those who serve on the Armed Forces Committee take their job very serious-

ly."

The conversation soon shifted its focus to the war in Iraq. Representative Abercrombie discussed the great job our armed forces is doing in Operation Iraqi

Freedom.

However, he stated he did not believe that a sufficient amount of attention was being paid to the military leaders' thoughts on the logistics of the attacks being planned in Iraq. He thinks the attacks went too quickly, and not enough troops were sent to the Gulf to support the numerous missions being conducted.

"The Iraqi military did not stand a chance," said Rep. Abercrombie. "Although the American armed forces did an outstanding job in liberating Iraq, we also needed to fight to keep the peace. Politicians have failed in giving the military time to prepare for the peacekeeping roles, which are crucial in establishing and restoring order after the war."

After Rep. Abercrombie expressed his views, he answered questions from the

audience.

Many are concerned about what will develop with the allies to the United States who did not desire to support the American armed forces in the liberation of Iraq. Some retired Marines inquired about health benefits for veterans.

"The worst thing that could happen is for a politician to use the military for its own political gain," said Rep. Abercrombie. "When I see the Pacific War Memorial, I understand the fighting spirit of the American man and woman. You don't just walk in and become a Marine. You have to make it.

"I am proud to be able to support the men in women in uniform, and tonight I wanted to give them a chance to talk with someone who is involved in making the decisions that effect them on a daily basis."

HSL-37, From A-1

John Kopplin, administration officer for Detachment 4, HSL-37. "And, during this time, we learned a lot about each other and came back stronger."

Although the missions were long, and danger was frequently present, Sailors positively responded when it was their chance to reenlist — completely uncertain as to what was going to happen with the ongoing operation to liberate Iraq.

"We all wondered whether or not the enemy was going to put up more resistance," said Koppler. "We thought about our families back home, and we never forgot what we were fighting for. We are just glad to be home now."



ANZAC, From A-3

"Last Post." Immediately, service members snapped sharp crisp salutes and civilians rendered honor with their hands over their hearts.

Bravo Battery, 1st Bn., 12th Marine Regiment, from MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay provided a 21 gun salute that resounded throughout the crater.

Chaplain (Lt.) Cartus Thornton, of MCB Hawaii, gave final prayers and words of inspiration.

"ANZAC Day will continue to serve as a reminder to all of us of the selfless sacrifices of military forces around the world, whose abiding hope and prayer is that peace will rain — peace that embraces freedom and liberty for all, peace that unites and empowers, peace passing all understanding.

"May each of us give up ourselves to that end; this we commit to our loving God. Amen. Amen."

