

Hawaii MARINE

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May 30, 2003

Double trouble



Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero

Lance Cpl. Joshua I. Kahele, Marine Air-Ground Task Force planner, S-3, 4th Marine Regiment, and Petty Officer 3rd Class Pollop Sinttonghom, a rifleman with 1st Infantry Regiment, 7th Battalion, Royal Thai Marines, team up during an NBC scenario during a decontamination exercise at Royal Thai Marine Base, Camp Samaesan, May 18-19. For the full story, see page A-3.

BSSG-3 is working non-stop

U.S. Marines and Sailors prepare Camp Samaesan for III MEB

Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero
CSSG-3

ROYAL THAI MARINE BASE, CAMP SAMAESAN, Thailand — The Marines and Sailors of Brigade Service Support Group 3, III Marine Expeditionary Brigade, arrived in full force to Royal Thai Marine Base, Camp Samaesan, Kingdom of Thailand, April 27.

Troops have worked nonstop to have the camp and surrounding training areas mission capable in order to provide the more than 1,800 service members of III MEB with combat service support during Operation Cobra Gold 2003.

"These Marines and Sailors have worked very long hours in preparation for this exercise," said Sgt. Manuel Mendoza, movement control center chief, Tactical Logistics Operation Center, BSSG-3. "They have succeeded in performing their jobs to the best of their knowledge and are ready to support Operation Cobra Gold."

In addition to the long hours expected with an operation of this magnitude, the BSSG-3 warriors still plan on accomplishing their training goals. One of their goals is martial arts training for the entire group.

"Marines and Sailors must always find time to train and improve their combat conditioning," said Sgt. Rickey Bell, martial arts instructor, BSSG-3. "One

Sheraton Waikiki gives its thanks



Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle

Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle
Combat Correspondent

HONOLULU — The 18th Annual Military Recognition Luncheon was held at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel Ballroom in Honolulu May 21, to show appreciation to the thousands of service members on the Island of Oahu that represent all branches of the Armed Services and the Coast Guard.

The luncheon began at noon

with the parade of colors by the Joint Intelligence Center Pacific Color Guard followed by the National Anthem and the Hawaii Pono by the 25th Infantry Division Tropic Lighting Band.

After the service members enjoyed a delectable lunch of filet mignon, there was a recognition of Military Service Honorees to Allen Doane, president and CEO of Alexander and Baldwin Inc.,

See LUNCHEON, A-5

MCCS eases transitions

Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle
Combat Correspondent

The military life can be stressful on families. Often families find themselves waiting anxiously for the day the service member finally comes home after a long deployment.

What many fail to realize is the return home from a deployment can be just as stressful for the family as the separation during the deployment.

The Marine Corps Community Services provided a Return and Reunion Workshop for the families of

deployed service members aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, at the Bachelor Officer Quarters May 21, to prepare for the return of deployed loved ones.

"Although families wait anxiously for the family member to return, it can still be a traumatic experience once they finally arrive," said Navy Chaplain Lt. Cartus Thornton of the MCB Hawaii Base Chapel during the class. "We are here to assist them in making the transition."

See RETURNING, A-5

Hurricane awareness is now a must for Oahu residents

Cpl. Jason E. Miller
Press Chief

Although Hawaii is generally thought of as paradise, it, like anywhere else in the world has its own potential dangers.

One of these that is often overlooked is the potential for extreme weather conditions, and during the summer months, hurricanes in Hawaii are a very real possibility.

June 1 marks the beginning of Hurricane Awareness month, where service members and their families are encouraged to educate themselves on the dangers of hurricanes, to be better prepared in the odd event that one strikes the island of Oahu.

In an effort to make information available to base residents and employees, www.mcbh.usmc.mil now holds a

See HURRICANE, A-5



STATE OF HAWAII
Department of Education
WAIAHOLE ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL
48-215 Waiahole Valley Road
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

April 29, 2003

Dear Brig. General McAbee,

It is with extreme pleasure that I, on behalf of our students, staff, parents and community, acknowledge the tremendous support and assistance provided to our school these past weeks.

Approximately thirty (30) Marines from the Engineer Platoon, Combat Support Company, 3rd Marine Regiment, with 1st Lt. Nathan Packard, and Gunnery Sgt. Titus Stanley, as liaison, were at our school.

Initial discussions reviewed our plans, campus facilities and a scope-of-work was developed. Suffice to say, numerous projects were completed in an extremely professional and

short period of time.

The beautification and upgrading of our campus included a new deck on our outdoor stage (just in time for our May Day celebration), shelves for science equipment, four picnic tables and eight benches, replacement of non-skid on steps, four custom recycling bins and various exterior painting projects.

The Marines ate lunch in our cafeteria with our entire student body of 120. Our students appreciated their conversation and company.

The work project, the esprit-de-corps, their camaraderie and their can-do-attitude are truly to be commended and are in keeping with the highest standards of professionalism of the Department of the Navy and the United States Marine Corps.

To this we add, Mahalo Nui Loa for their companionship, completion of tasks and successful upgrade of our campus facilities.

Semper Fi!

Very Respectfully,

G.J. Smith
Principal
Waiahole Elementary School

MCBH NEWS BRIEFS

COCONUT ISLAND BEACH CLEAN-UP NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

There will be a beach clean-up effort on Coconut Island June 14, from 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. and is in need of volunteers.

The vessel Honu Kai will pick up volunteers at 8:30 a.m. at the base marina, transport them to Coconut Island, and then return the volunteers to the base marina at 3 p.m.

Free lunches and drinks will be provided for all volunteers.

Families, as well as Marines and Sailors, are welcome to participate. The day will not be all work, volunteers will have time to relax and enjoy Coconut Island as well.

Volunteers must R.S.V.P. by June 12. Contact Jim Lakey of the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology at 782-6150.

CREDO RETREATS AVAILABLE FOR MILITARY, DOD

The Chaplain's Religious Enrichment Development Operations, or CREDO, is offering both marriage enrichment retreats and personal growth retreats to service members aboard MCB Hawaii who may be returning from deployments such as Operation Iraqi Freedom and service members who are desiring to improve their relationships with others, feel good about themselves, grow personally and spiritually, and live a more harmonious life.

The next CREDO marriage enrichment retreat is slated for July 11 - 13; the next personal growth retreat is July 24 - 27.

Also, Marine Corps Community Services will be providing courses for returning, formerly deployed service members. Return and reunion briefs are scheduled for May 16 at 6 p.m., May 22 at 12:30 p.m., May 29 at 6 p.m., and June 5 at 12:30 p.m. All return and reunion briefs will be held at the Religious Education Center, Bldg. 1090. For more details, call 257-0662.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

On-Base Emergencies	257-9111
Military Police	257-7114
Crisis Hotline	521-4555
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Business Management Hotline	257-3188

Hawaii MARINE

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Staff Sgt. Robert Carlson

Amber Wright, a warehouse clerk at the MCB Hawaii Consolidated Issue Facility, fills PFC Brandon Dillard's cart with all of the combat gear he will need during his tour of duty with Headquarters Battery, 1st Bn., 12th Marine Regiment.

Consolidated combat gear center improves MCB Hawaii efficiency

New issue point set to open June 26

Staff Sgt.
Robert Carlson
Combat Correspondent

A private company that consolidated combat gear issue operations aboard MCB Hawaii is not scheduled to officially open for business until June 26, but has already saved units at MCB Hawaii tens of thousands of dollars through improvements in efficiency, and by handling repairs in house.

Already a proven success at Marine Corps bases on both coasts of the mainland, and in Okinawa, Japan, the Consolidated Issue Facility in Hawaii is the tenth of 15 planned centers that consolidate individual unit issue points to better manage the gear, and provide better equipment for the Marines and Sailors they service.

Lion-Vallen Industries, the firm behind the Consolidated Issue



Staff Sgt. Robert Carlson

The new Consolidated Issue Facility is the tenth of 15 planned centers on Marine Corps bases worldwide.

Facilities, has a 10-year contract to provide the service to the Marine Corps. The three Marine Expeditionary Forces provide funding, and they save a significant amount of money with the new system.

With eight full-time and three temporary employees, the Consolidated Issue Facility aboard MCB Hawaii replaces the gear issue operations at 3rd Marine Regiment, Marine Air Group 24, Combat Service and Support Group 3, Marine Forces Pacific, 1st Radio Bn. and MCB

Hawaii's Headquarters Bn.

In addition to the savings and efficiency gained through consolidation, the CIF also houses a laundry and repair facility that eliminates the need to send gear off base to a paid contractor for cleaning.

Repairing gear that would have previously been determined unserviceable and discarded, the CIF saves thousands of dollars a month, while providing a better product for those who use it. Missing snaps, unruly zippers, and leaky waterproof gear are

worries of the past now, as the CIF inspects every piece of gear upon return, and makes necessary repairs almost immediately.

"The bottom line is that we can do the job more efficiently," said Bill Pearson, CIF manager. "We're still in the growing stages, and it already runs smooth."

The CIF here collects combat gear from Marine battalions before they leave on Unit Deployment Program trips to Okinawa, and the CIF there issues them gear to use while deployed. Eliminating the transport weight, cargo space, and accountability of all the gear saves thousands of additional dollars and dozens of logistical headaches each time the battalions or squadrons rotate.

Worldwide, the program has been very well received, according to Pearson. Like other military logistical processes the public sector is now managing, the issue and servicing of 782 gear at MCB Hawaii has advanced to an efficiency level that would have been impossible under the previous system.

Legislature passes new vehicle laws

Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle
Combat Correspondent

Many service members come to Hawaii and purchase a new or used vehicle, only to realize that in the purchase agreement, they cannot leave the state with the vehicle when they still owe money on the loan or contract.

Linda Lingle, governor of Hawaii, recently approved a bill passed by Hawaii's 22nd Legislature that enables service members to remove their vehicles from the island after their tour of duty, providing they have legitimate government orders.

The only time this bill will not be in effect is if the buyer enters into a

specific agreement consenting to other terms separate from the contract, stating the vehicle may not be removed.

The bill also enables service members that have out-of-state liens on their automobiles to leave the State of Hawaii without clearing it with the Department of Motor Vehicle Transportation.

Survey seeks feedback on local schools

Press Release
Pacific Command

CAMP H.M. SMITH — U.S. Pacific Command has begun its second survey seeking military families' feedback on Hawaii public schools.

Customer satisfaction surveys have been mailed to parents of the approximately 15,000 military children enrolled in Hawaii public schools as well as to the students who are in grades 5 to 12.

Parents and students who receive

the poll are highly encouraged to complete and return the questionnaire. The survey is also available online until June 13 at the following Internet address: www.hawaii-survey.com.

The results of this poll will be compared to last year's to better understand the strengths and challenges of Hawaii public schools as perceived by military families here.

Pacific Command initiated the survey last year, because education for military dependent children in

Hawaii is one of the command's top quality of service issues.

The Joint Venture Education Forum, a cooperative program between the U.S. military and Hawaii Department of Education designed to enhance open dialog on education concerns, will use the results to help improve public educational opportunities for all children.

Colonel David Tom, USPACOM J11 at 477-1376, or Dr Allen Awaya at 477-2543 can be contacted for more information about the survey and JVEF.

'Island Warriors' get back in the habit

MCB Hawaii range welcomes home Golf Co., 2/3

Cpl. Jason E. Miller
Press Chief

Descending from the sky on great rotor winged stallions and into the crater of a million-year-old volcano, more than 50 Marines from Golf Co. 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment who were hungry for action and armed to the teeth, deboarded their chariots of fire and assaulted the targets that sat silently, waiting for their arrival on the treacherous terrain.

The targets, which were nothing more than scrap metal and ply-wood had seen much action over the last few months, but not from these Marines, as the live-fire raid May 21, marked Golf Co.'s first major training exercise since returning from a six-month deployment to Okinawa, Japan.

Heavy Marine Helicopter Squadron 362 provided air support for the infantry Marines who fast-roped in to meet their objectives head-on during the live-fire maneuver.

Snipers perched high atop the volcano's rim provided initial cover for the inbound Marines, until a squad firmly



implanted itself on a high vantage point to provide heavy suppressive fire with squad automatic weapons and M240G machine guns. Fifty caliber machine guns mounted atop humvees also chucked heavy lead downrange while Marines moved to plant a demolition charge near the end of Range 5.

"I think this exercise went very well," said Lt. Col. Robert Castellvi, command-



Cpl. Jason E. Miller

Above — Golf Co. Marines exit the rear hatch of a CH-53D Helicopter during the live-fire raid at the MCB Hawaii, Range Training Facilities here.

Left — A Marine fast-ropes in to meet his comrades on the ground after entering the range training area via helicopter.

ing officer of 2nd Bn., 3rd Marines. "What we saw here today was a good example of the combined arms access that these Marines are capable of. It was a good demonstration."

Once the Marines fired rockets from AT4s and set off the demolition charge, which destroyed its objective, they systematically bounded back to the ren-

dezvous point and awaited pickup by the CH-53D Sea Stallions that lowered them in.

"I think they did an outstanding job," said 1st Lt. Johnson, Golf Co.'s executive officer. "They did this entire exercise within six hours of notification, so it's great to see them demonstrate that capability."

U.S., Royal Thai Marines hone their decon skills

Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero
CSSG-3

ROYAL THAI MARINE BASE, CAMP SAMAE-SAN, Thailand — Nuclear, biological, chemical and radiological weapons have altered the way Marines prepare for combat. Not only must Marines be proficient in their occupational specialty, but they must also be able to perform their job in a mission orientated protective posture suit.

In addition to operating in their MOPP equipment, Marines must also be familiarized with the set-up and operation of a decontamination site for equipment, vehicles, and chemical casualties.

That is why more than 50 Marines of 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade and more than 80 Royal Thai Marines participated in a combined nuclear biological and chemical decontamination exercise at Royal Thai Marine Base, Camp Samaesan, Kingdom of Thailand, May 18-19.

"Considering chemical weapons are or prevalent in the world and such focus has been directed toward them, it's important for the U.S. and its allies to prepare for any type of contingency our enemies may throw at us," said Sgt. Clint Schwarz, NBC training noncommissioned officer.

The two-day event began with a full day of classroom time to familiarize all service members involved with how the following day's exercise would evolve. Some of the classes taught were individual protective measures during immediate, operational and thorough decontamination and the use of chemical detector kits.

During the second day, staff noncommissioned officers and officers from both nations watched the exer-



Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero

A Royal Thai Marine that specializes in nuclear, biological, chemical operations, decontaminates one of the vehicles that belonged to the Thai Marines during the exercise.

cise transpire before their eyes. Also, Thai and U.S. Marines continued sharing ideas on decontamination, set up a detail equipment and a troop site, rehearsed for that afternoon's event, and accomplished all tasks involved during every scenario given.

"NBC training is like having an insurance policy," said PFC Christian Marrero, NBC specialist, BSSG-3. "You don't want to pay the dividends up front, but when it's time to perform, you realize it's true value."

The exercise provided U.S. and Thai Marines with a better understanding of the operational procedure each nation takes during an NBC decontamination exercise and strengthened ties with Thai forces.

"In the battlefield, it's no longer Thai or U.S. Marines. It's allies fighting for a common cause," said Marrero. "By studying each other's tactics, the operations will move more smoothly and the mission can be accomplished more effectively."

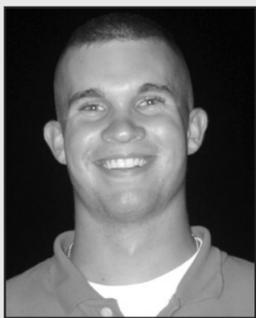
Word on the Street

How will the new traffic laws affect safety on MCB Hawaii?



"I think it will make people pay more attention when they drive and prevent more accidents."

Kelly Sessions
Dunkin Donuts employee
MCCS



"I think it will ensure family members on base will be safer when they drive."

Lance Cpl. Jon Davis
Mortarman
Weapons Co.,
3/3



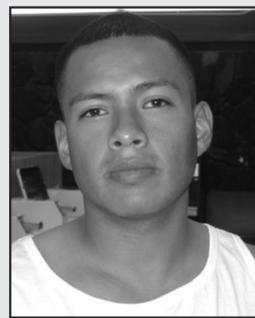
"The rule that prohibits driving while talking on a cell phone will make people pay more attention."

Lance Cpl. Marcus Burleson
Supply admin. clerk
3rd Marine Regiment



"We'll have fewer mishaps on base that are caused by people driving while talking on a cellphone"

Major Rob Rouse
Director of Environmental Compliance and Protection Dept.



"I think it will cause less traffic accidents because people can see better with their headlights"

Sgt. Patricio Gonzalez
Electrical equipment repair specialist
CSSG-3

HSL-37 works hand in hand with VP-47 during ASW

Lt. j.g. Timm S. Heisey
VP-47

On May 2, two of the Navy's best airborne anti-submarine assets became even better. Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light and Patrol Squadron 47 organized a briefing to educate the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Combat Aircrews about the strengths and limitations of the SH-60 Seahawk and how to effectively use it in conjunction with the P-3 Orion.

Lieutenant Cmdr. Mike Zanger, of the SH-60 Seahawk squadron HSL-37, began his lecture with a general description of the helicopter's capabilities.

The P-3C Orion's main mission is Anti-Submarine

Warfare. Since the Seahawk also conducts ASW, the two platforms have worked together many times in the past. When tracking a submarine, a P-3 usually coordinates the "big picture" while flying overhead. The SH-60 Seahawks works below, isolating and tracking the target. Since the platforms are dissimilar, each aircrew has a limited understanding of their counterpart.. Zanger was determined to break the barrier.

"First off, we do not like to be asked to conduct random searches for submarines. Wait until you get a sniff (indication that a submarine is nearby) and then launch us to localize," lectured Zanger. He said that in the past, ships and other Navy aircraft have asked the Seahawks

to do open ocean searches, a mission for which the Seahawk is not ideally suited.

The VP-47 Wardroom was updated on changes made to the helicopters and briefed about the capabilities of the new SH-60R. Many were surprised to learn the limited range and weapon load of the helicopters when compared to P-3Cs.

The brief enabled the VP-47 wardroom to get a better understanding of the Seahawk. In the future, P-3 pilots will incorporate the SH-60 in more effective ways against submarines, be more educated about their systems and limitations, and make the Navy an even more formidable fighting force.

RETURNING, From A-1

During the class, family members learned how deploying is a process and usually does not happen over night. There is preparation involved and just like the deployment, the reunion is a process as well. Many family members will experience a feeling of anticipation as the end of the deployment approaches. This anticipation may take the form of eagerness for a reunion and/or a dread of a return to a problem situation.

"Some dependents have never been alone or done anything on their own. They became the person running the house when the spouse was gone," said Kim Gates, information and referral specialist for MCB Hawaii. "This can cause a lot of friction when the service member returns. The family member has to readapt to having their loved one back and just like the preparation for the deployment, it is not an overnight process."

Gates explained to the attentive family members that the reunion with the service member might not be as expected. The anxieties that were present before the deployment can still be present. In many situations, families make plans for the return of the loved one and then the date of the return will change. She encouraged them to not make any plans such as vacations that could fall through and be a disappointment to children.

Gates also explained that the service member might not be the same person as he was when he left. She told them it was important for them to accept this change and give the service member the space he or she needs.

"A return from a deployment can be a shocking experience for the service member. He has become accustomed to the lifestyle of the deployment and have difficulty readjusting to the home life," said Gates. "When the return (of the service member) is not as expected, this can cause some discontent in the family. The best thing to do in this case is to be supportive of

them and not say anything you do not mean."

Gates also spoke to the families about the effect the return can have on children. She explained that it is especially frightening to the younger children and that it is important to spend time with kids and assure them they are still loved.

"My husband is on a deployment right now and our son was born while he was away," said Candice Mayberry, a family member aboard MCB Hawaii. "I knew things would be different when he came back, especially now that we have a child, but I never realized that there would be as many changes as they explained to us. I benefited from this class and learned a lot about deployments that I can use in the future."

LUNCHEON, From A-1

Donald Horner, vice chairman of the First Hawaiian Bank and Lily Yao, vice chairman of First Hawaiian Bank.

"We want to thank our Armed Services as they weave themselves into our community and call Hawaii their home away from home," said Horner. "Never in the 18 years we've had this ceremony have we needed our military as we do today."

Linda Lingle, governor of the state of Hawaii, was present to address key concerns regarding service members in the state of Hawaii.

"We need to give our military a reasonable amount of space to train," said Lingle during her speech to service members. "It is my goal to

provide this space and relieve the tension between the military and the civilians. If we expect our Armed Forces to continue to protect our country, they have to have sufficient space to train."

Lingle continued to thank service members for their contributions to the Island of Oahu during volunteer programs and for protecting the country from afar.

The event came to a close with the medley of service songs and the singing of "God Bless America" by the Tropic Lightning Band.

"We want every Sailor, Marine and airman out there to know they are appreciated for every sacrifice they make," said Lingle. "They are the ones protecting our freedom all over the world."

BSSG-3, From A-1

of the ways they can achieve this is through the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program which teaches a higher degree of mental and physical self-discipline expected of a combat warrior."

Operation Cobra Gold was in full force from May 14-28. The Marine and Sailors of BSSG-3 have been ready to support all elements involved in the operation.

HURRICANE, From A-1

complete checklist of everything needed to stay safe during a hurricane or extreme tropical storm. Information on shelter, safety, evacuation routes and storms themselves can all be analyzed on the site. Other links will also be available at www.mcbh.usmc.mil.