Hawaii
MARINE

INSIDE

CG Mail	A-2
Memorial Day Events	A-3
1/12 Flies Guns	A-4
Every Clime & Place	A-6
3/3 Dances in Okinawa	A-7
Island Motorcycle Ride	B-1
MCCS	B-2
SM&SP Activities	B-2
Crossword	B-4
Ads & Chow Menu	B-5
Youth Hockey	C-1
Cobra Gold Sports	C-7

Volume 31, Number 21 www.mcbh.usmc.mil May 31, 2002

2/3 takes Division Super Squad

Sgt. Robert Carlson
Press Chief

Fifteen Marines of 2nd Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment, recently returned from Okinawa, Japan, and brought home the 3rd Marine Division Super Squad title, distinguishing themselves as the best squad in the Pacific.

The Marines are scheduled to travel to Washington to receive their awards from the Commandant of the Marine Corps in August.

"Everything worked like clockwork," said squad leader Cpl. Charles R. Lee. "The team leaders knew what I was thinking, and I knew what they were thinking."

Working together as a highly efficient Marine squad requires a lot of practice and a lot of squad integrity, and the Super Squad from 2/3 had plenty of both.

Throughout the competition, the squad members were tested in everything from marksmanship and physical fitness to their knowledge of tactics.

"After every event, the evaluators told us how we did, and we used that feedback to push ourselves to be better," Lee said.

The squad from 2/3 used their knowledge and experience to get through three levels of Super Squad competition.

The first competition was within the battalion, and Lee's squad started preparing for that before the New Year holiday.

After grabbing the battalion win, the 15 Marines moved on to take the regimental championships and then the highest competition for a Marine rifle squad — the division championship.

"I think I speak for the entire battalion when I express the immense pride in having our Super Squad take the division title," said Lt. Col. Robert Castellvi, commanding officer, 2/3. "I think it's one of the many indicators of the spirit and warfighting ethos of the battalion."

Castellvi added that he was thrilled at how the battalion, regiment and base rallied around the squad as it departed for Okinawa.

Lee said he was thrilled at how well the squad performed in the division championship.

"Everyone gave their all, and we emerged victorious."

Lance Cpl. Christian A. Gonzalez

Lance Cpl. James L. Burns, an automatic rifleman with Golf Co., 2/3, fires at aggressors during an ambush on his patrol during the 3rd Marine Division Super Squad Competition.

'Island Warriors' wrap up 9th DTP at MCTA Bellows

Story and Photos by Sgt. Robert Carlson
Press Chief

An entire Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) unleashed its fury on Marine Corps Training Area Bellows (MCTAB) May 20 and 21, as the Marines and Sailors of 2nd Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment, wrapped up the battalion's 9th Dedicated Training Period (DTP).

The nearly simultaneous amphibious and air assaults at MCTAB and Pyramid Rock Beach on MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, were the climax of the battalion's 8-day field training exercise (FTX).

"Normally we bring the battalion together for the last 72 hours and conduct a battalion-level FTX," said battalion commander Lt. Col. Robert Castellvi. "This one was different in that the focus was the FTX, which served as part of our MCCRE [Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation]."

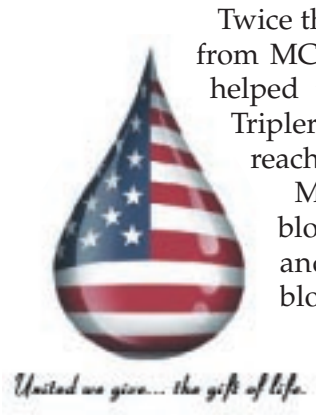
Prior to the final assaults, the DTP included training at the East Ranges of Schofield Barracks, the Kahuku Training Area, and the Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) Town at Schofield Barracks.

"We fight as combined arms MAGTFs, so we take advantage of every opportunity to incorporate the MAG [Marine Aircraft Group], the CSSG [Combat Service Support Group], and the combat support assets in the regiment into our battalion FTXs." Castellvi explained. "Too often in the past, the unit training focus was at the small unit

See 2/3, A-4

Tripler blood gets replenished

Sgt. Robert Carlson
Press Chief



Twice this month, Marines and Sailors from MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, have helped the blood donor program at Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC) reach acceptable levels.

More than 100 volunteers gave blood during two separate events, and generated enough reserve blood to help the patients awaiting surgery at Tripler.

"The Marines have been generous and quiet heroes," said Enrique L. Maldonado, blood donor recruiter at TAMC. "No dollar amount can be put on their generosity."

The first event of the month, on May 10, saw the MCB Hawaii Military Police-sponsored drive exceed its quota under the coordination of Donna Ikeda-Simmons, administrative assistant at the Military

See BLOOD, A-7

'Lest we forget'

Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero

Honolulu Mayor Jeremy Harris, coordinators, and special guests of the 2002 Friends of the Natatorium Memorial Day Observance ceremony at the Waikiki War Memorial Natatorium, released pigeons at the end of the event on May 26.

MCBH prepares for summer, fall hurricane season

Sgt. Robert Carlson
Press Chief

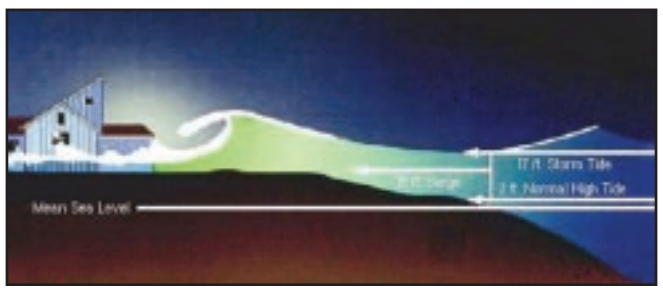
As hurricane season in the central pacific gets into full swing, residents of Hawaii are preparing their emergency contingency plans and getting hurricane supply kits together.

The National Weather Service is predicting nearly twice the usual number of tropical cyclones in the central pacific this year, and although no short term warnings are in order, Hawaii residents are encouraged to be prepared.

Hurricane season runs from June 1 through Nov. 30, and Weather Service officials remind residents that no matter how many storms are expected, preparation is key since it only takes one hurricane to cause major damage.

Hurricane Iniki swept across Kauai in September of 1992, and damaged nearly 80 percent of the houses on the island, causing an estimated $2.3 billion in damage. Ten years earlier, in 1982, Hurricane Iwa caused $234 million in damage on the same island.

As the 2002 season gets underway, MCB Hawaii is updating and testing emergency procedures to protect base residents and minimize damage in the event of a hurricane in the islands.



Graphic Courtesy of the National Weather Service

Storm Surge is the most dangerous part of hurricanes, according to the National Weather Service.

Base residents are encouraged to prepare an emergency kit with enough supplies to last for at least 24 hours, including fresh water, food, blankets, flashlights, medicines, and batteries.

The word "hurricane" comes from the West Indian word "Huracan," which means "big wind." In the western Pacific they are called "typhoons," from the Chinese word "Taifun," which means "great wind."

High winds are not the only dangers during a hurricane. The greatest potential for loss of life related to a hurricane is from the storm surge, according to Brian Jarvinen, of the National Hurricane Center. Storm surge causes high surf and flooding in areas below, at, or just slightly above sea level.

Marine Corps Base Hawaii recently installed a new early warning system to alert residents of approaching storms or unusually high surf.

Future *Hawaii Marine* articles will provide more information about measures in place, emergency survival kits, and emergency evacuation procedures during hurricane season.

Also visit the MCB Hawaii website at www.mcbh.usmc.mil for more information about hurricane season and preparedness.

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 strudy 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

Commanding General	Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee
Public Affairs Director	Maj. Chris Hughes
Public Affairs Chief	Gunnery Sgt. Rhys Evans
Press Chief	Sgt. Robert Carlson
Managing Editor	Aiko Brum
Sports Editor	Lance Cpl. Jessica Mills

The Hawaii Marine is an unofficial newspaper published every Thursday by RFD Publications, Inc., 45-525 Luluku Road, Kaneohe, HI 96744, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Marine Corps under exclusive contract to the U.S. Marine Corps. This civilian enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the military services.

Contents of the "Hawaii Marine" are not necessarily the official views of or endorsed by the United States Government, the Department of Defense or the U.S. Marine Corps. All advertising is provided by RFD Publications, Inc., 235-5881.

The appearance of advertising in the "Hawaii Marine," including inserts and supplements, does not constitute endorsement of the firms' products and services by the DoD, DoN or the U.S. Marine Corps of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in the Hawaii Marine shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

Editorial content or public service announcements (i.e. all content other than paid advertisements) is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii. Opinions expressed are not to be considered an official expression of the DoD or the U.S. Marine Corps.

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

HAWAII MARINE, BUILDING 216, MCB HAWAII
KANEOHE BAY, HI, 96863
E-MAIL: HAWAIIMARINE@MCBH.USMC.MIL
FAX: 257-2511, PHONE: 257-8840

C.G.'S MAIL BOX

'The commissary could look into ... a health food section.'

BRIG. GEN. MCABEE

- Submitted by Tracy Scholz, family member

"Every month I go shopping at the commissary like most other families here at MCB Hawaii do. But, I also have to make trips twice a month into town to get foods for my highly allergic son, at a very high cost.

I am impressed with the selection the commissary has. I spend $500 a month on the six of us, including the cost of diapers for two, and another $200 on just my son out in town. It gets to be quite expensive just to feed him, and he is only 4 years old.

I turned in a request at the commissary to get the foods to be carried there, but it has been six months since my request, and I still have not seen them. Some examples are rice noodles; corn noodles; wheat-, milk- and egg-free waffles; dairy-free puddings; and rice bread that is also wheat-, egg- and milk-free.

I know we aren't the only ones here who use these products, for the shop keepers in town say they get a lot of business from the base.

Maybe the commissary could look into having a health food section instead of just a few items here and there."

Sincerely,
Tracy Scholz

Mrs. Scholz,

I have been asked by the commanding general to research and to reply to your email of May 10, since your recommendation falls within my staff's responsibility. He appreciates you taking your time to participate in our "CG Mail" Program.

The commissary store manager, Mr. Jeff Dusich, has contacted you regarding your request to carry some specialty items that your family requires on a regular basis — specifically some dairy-, wheat- and egg-free products.

The detailed information of the products, such as labels and packaging that you are providing him with, will help a great deal to conduct market research to determine the possible demand of the product at the MCB Hawaii Commissary.

If it is determined that there is adequate demand to support stocking the products, the products may be carried on a permanent basis.

Items carried on the commissary shelves must meet demand criteria as set by the Defense Commisaary Agency. Although we try to meet the needs of all of our customers, it may not be possible to carry everything that is available on the local economy.

I commend you for "sounding off" and providing your input to enable us to better serve our service members and their families.

Thank you again for your input.

Mr. Kent Murata
Assistant Chief of Staff G-4

(Editor's Note: Letters of any length may be trimmed and editted 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.

Camp Smith Marine named DoD's New Journalist of the Year

Cpl. Jacqués-René Hebert
Marine Forces Pacific Public Affairs Office

AGOSTINI

CAMP H.M. SMITH — Corporal Luis R. Agostini, a Marine Forces Pacific combat correspondent, was recognized as the Department of Defense's top new journalist May 22, winning the coveted Thomas Jefferson Outstanding New Writer of the Year award.

Agostini, a Bronx, N.Y., native, was chosen among talented journalists from each of the other armed services at the Defense Information School, Ft. George Meade, Md.

The award is given annually to a military correspondent who has been working on a newspaper staff for less than one year and has excelled in his or her duties as a military journalist.

Each candidate submits five articles that cover three different categories such as news, sports, features and photojournalism.

The stories Agostini submitted included a historical feature on the Chosin Few Aloha Chapter; a sports personality feature on 1st Sgt. Shelly Sergeant of 1st Radio Bn.; a feature on the recovery efforts of Central Identification Lab, Hawaii; a Combat Service Support Group 3 basketball tournament that raised funds for the Marine Corps ball; and a news article about Marines from 3rd Bn., 3rd Marines attending Military Police Academy.

Headquarters Marine Corps' Division of Public Affairs selects the Outstanding New Writer of the Year to represent the Marines in the Thomas Jefferson Awards.

Originally stationed here, Agostini was temporarily assigned to MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay's Public Affairs Office as part of the Fleet Assistance Program. After two months, he returned to Camp Smith to work for MarForPac, while still contributing significantly to the newspaper.

After receiving the news of his award, Agostini was content but remained steadfast and devoted to continuing his reputation of excellence.

"My job presented me with a great opportunity to tell the story of the Marines, Sailors and their families on Marine Corps Base Hawaii," reflected Agostini. "What could be better than to be recognized as the Outstanding New Writer of the Year?"

CSSG-3 gets new senior enlisted

SANDOVAL

Sergeant Maj. Juan F. Sandoval relieved Sgt. Maj. Charles E. Funk during a post and relief ceremony at Dewey Square May 23. Sandoval previously served as sergeant major for Headquarters Bn., MCB Hawaii. Funk retired from active duty during the ceremony and plans to live in South Carolina.

FUNK

DEVIL DOGS

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.

Lance Cpl. Jessica Mills

Above — The joint service color guard posts the colors at the beginning of the Governor's Memorial Day ceremony at the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery. Right — Senior Airman Jorena Lehuanani Young, of the 199th Fighter Squadron, Hawaii Air National Guard, performs a hula dance for the crowd.

Lance Cpl. Jessica Mills

Sgt. Robert Carlson

Governor Benjamin Cayetano addressed the audience and told how the Korean War touched his life at the Armed Forces Eternal Flame.

Sgt. Robert Carlson

Ted Hamasu, a trustee of the VFW post, leads guests in singing "God Bless America" at the Armed Forces Eternal Flame.

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

Hawaii honors military

Sgt. Robert Carlson
Press Chief

It's been said that time heals all wounds. Some things are difficult to forget, though.

For the past 132 years, America has honored its military with Memorial Day to ensure that the sacrifices made for the protection of our country and our freedoms are never forgotten.

People around Hawaii showed their support and appreciation with numerous ceremonies and special events in nearly every corner of the islands.

The first Memorial Day since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, this holiday weekend was also the first in recent years where so many organizations and businesses participated in honoring veterans.

Marine Corps Base Hawaii participated in several events, including seven ceremonies honoring veterans at memorials on Oahu.

The Hawaii State Fair offered free admission for active duty military personnel, and dozens of other businesses offered similar discounts as a way to say "Thank you."

The 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the Korean War was the theme at most ceremonies, and Hawaii Governor Benjamin J. Cayetano remarked on the war during his address at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Sunset Memorial ceremony, Sunday evening at the Eternal Flame in Honolulu.

Sgt. Robert Carlson

Governor Benjamin Cayetano said his generation owes a great deal to the veterans of the Korean War.

Hawaii lost 456 of its sons during the Korean War, and although he was not of the Korean War generation, the governor said he remembers when the body of one of his neighbors was brought home.

"He was part of the 5th Regimental Combat Team Hawaii, and I remember in the darkest days of the conflict, he was called to go to Korea," the governor said. "Within days, he was killed, and I remember all of the grief that was shed when his body came back. The Korean War veterans are a very special group to me."

Cayetano said that the hundreds of thousands of names we have seen inscribed on our monuments and memorials are the reasons Americans across the country and around the world honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

The sacrifices were not made in vain, though, Cayetano continued, as the war in Korea, like most wars, liberated a people.

Lance Cpl. Jessica Mills

Wreath Bearer Staff Sgt. Valerie A. Van Vleet, Headquarters Bn., MCB Hawaii, and honorary wreath bearer Mr. Goiichi Tamaye, place the memorial wreath at the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery.

"The quality of life South Koreans enjoy today would not be possible if U.S. and its allies had not fought the North Koreans," he said. "I would like to give a special 'Mahalo' from my generation to the veterans who gave so much, and made it possible for this boy from Kalihi to be standing here today, as the governor of this state."

The ceremonies this year marked the last time Cayetano will address the veterans groups as governor, but he said he will continue to support our armed forces, and hopes our current fight against terrorism will come to a successful end soon.

"People talk about the 'Forgotten War,' when they talk about Korea," he said. "This governor did not forget, and I thank you again for all you've done."

Lance Cpl. Jessica Mills

Charlie Battery, 3rd Bn., 7th Field Artillery Reg., 25th Infantry Div., of Schofield Barracks, performs a cannon salute for the Governor's Memorial Day ceremony.

Sgt. Robert Carlson

The Armed Forces Eternal Flame was host to the Veterans of Foriegn Wars sunset ceremony.

Sgt. Robert Carlson

Paul Phillips, a Marine veteran representing the Aloha Chapter of the Chosin Few, lights one of eight memorial candles at the Armed Forces Eternal Flame.

Marines from Helicopter Support Team, Combat Service Support Group 3 helped Charlie Battery, 1st Bn., 12th Marine Regiment, by attaching the guns to the Army CH-47 Chinook Cargo Helicopters that lifted the more than 15,000 - pound howitzers toward their firing position.

Big guns fly through Schofield skies

Story and Photos by
Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero
Community Relations

Heavy metal was flying high above the Hawaiian skies, thanks to more than 100 Marines from Charlie Battery, 1st Bn., 12th Marine Regiment, and a Helicopter Support Team from Combat Service Support Group 3, which performed an artillery and helicopter raid at Schofield Barracks on May 21.

The raid consisted of a four-part evolution and was one of the preparatory exercises for the 1/12 leathernecks before they deploy to Okinawa in the fall.

"This training evolution will better prepare us for a battalion landing team exercise in Korea, while deployed to Okinawa with 2/3," said Capt. Keith Burkepile, commanding officer, Charlie Battery, 1/12.

The first phase consisted of a security element and advance party flying on an Army CH-47 Chinook Cargo Helicopter into enemy grounds. They checked for booby traps, possible mines and enemy troops. Once the area was secure, the first group radioed the command element and told them the area was clear for phase two to begin.

Lance Cpl. David Held, embarkation clerk, CSSG-3, communicates with the Army pilots to ensure safety remains paramount.

In phase two, the assault phase, the guncrew jumped on a returning Army CH-47, while Marines from the Helicopter Support Team, CSSG-3, hooked up the M198, 155-mm towed howitzer to the aircraft.

> *"Army CH-47 helicopters are the only aircraft on the island that can lift the M198 howitzer."*
>
> Capt. Keith Burkepile
> *Commanding Officer*
> *Charlie Battery, 1/12*

"The Army CH-47 helicopters are the only aircraft on the island that can lift the M198 howitzer," said Burkepile.

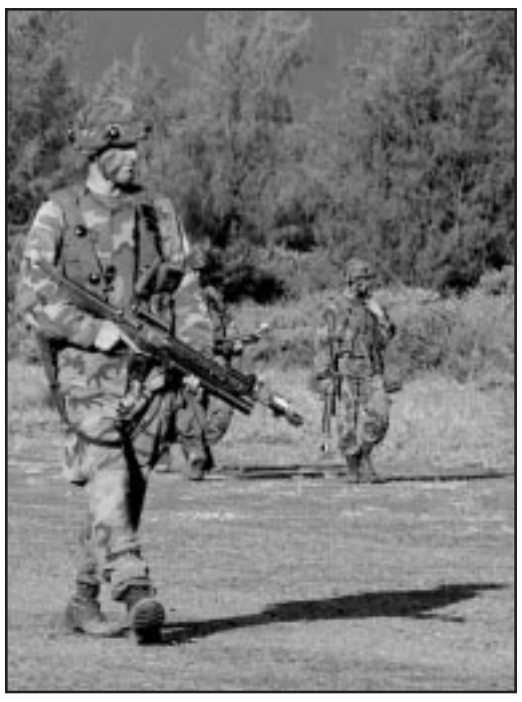
During the third phase, the firing phase, the guncrew fired at two preplanned targets. The fictional targets simulated a communication and ammunition storage site.

Lance Cpl. Jeremy T. Jackson, assistant gunner, Gun 3, Charlie Battery, 1/12 carries the toelink that hooks on to the Army CH-47.

After the Marines finished firing at the targets, the more than 15,000-pound. guns, the advance party and the security element all flew back to the pick-up zone where the exercise was evaluated.

"It has been a real good working experience with the Army, added Burkepile.

"They are real professionals."



Left — Marines from 2nd Plt., Echo Co., 2/3, exercised their small unit leadership while patrolling and setting up collection points during the NEO. Above — Private First Class Ryan Martin, a rifleman with 2nd Plt., Echo Co., defends the perimeter during the battalion's NEO. Right — Staff Sgt. Doni Miyasaki, assistant operations chief for Headquarters Battery, 1/12, communicates with forward observers while Cpl. Daniel Zoeller, also of Headquarters Battery, works part of the Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data Systems module.

2/3, From A-1

only, and you didn't get the appreciation for how all elements of the MAGTF integrate on the battlefield."

Combat Support Co., 3rd Marine Regiment, participated in the exercise providing movement to fire for the 2/3 Marines, and although the big guns were at Schofield doing other training, 1st Bn., 12th Marine Regiment, also participated in the exercise, testing systems to better integrate operations with their Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data Systems.

An important part of the FTX was a Noncombatant Evacuation Operation, and Marines and Sailors from CSSG-3 handled the Evacuation Control Center (ECC).

"The benefit for us is the real-world integration with the assault and security elements," said Col. Paul Adams, commanding officer, CSSG-3. "They moved in via amphibious landing and coordinated the evacuation of noncombatants to safety via helicopter."

"The junior NCOs were able to work with their fire teams, and prove what they've learned," said Staff Sgt. Don Oliveira, platoon commander for 2nd Plt., Echo Co., 2/3. "The biggest benefit for these Marines is the experience of small unit leadership. They've practiced everything from land navigation to a NEO."

Mess halls to privatize

Nearly one-third of Corps' food-service jobs will vanish

Sgt. Robert Piper
MCB Camp Pendleton Public Affairs Office

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — In a move to save upward of $20 million yearly and to move more people into operational units, Corps-wide, all mess halls — with a few exceptions — are scheduled for privatization as part of the Regional Garrison Food Service contract.

The move means nearly one-third of the Corps' food service workers will need to leave the Marine Corps or find new careers within the Corps — a process that will begin by the start of the new fiscal year.

Privatization also means eight of the base's 14 mess halls will be run completely by civilians in the near future.

Two major contracts, worth an estimated $90 million, are expected to be awarded early next month for dining facilities in the continental U.S. Once in place, the contracts will eliminate 31 percent of Marine positions in the food-service industry.

"This is just the Corps trying to adapt the best business practices possible," said Maj. Jack J. Schwarzel, the base's Food Services director. He foresees more efficient mess halls, ones that are easier to manage because the employees are civilians who don't have to complete annual Marine Corps training and other miscellaneous duties.

There are 23 West Coast mess halls, all of which will be contracted for at least partial services. Fourteen of those eateries, including the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, belong to Camp Pendleton.

In total, 594 worldwide base-assigned Marines working in these facilities will begin realignment to local Fleet Marine Force units no later than Oct. 1.

"Of the 14 Pendleton dining facilities, eight will be completely contracted out and five will retain military cooks so they can maintain their skills," Schwarzel said.

Those five retaining military cooks, however, will still be managed and receive maintenance from civilians. Also not included is the brig dining facility, which will have civilian managers and cooks, but be maintained by detainees, he added.

For the region, two facilities at Marine Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms and one at both Marine Corps Air Stations Miramar and Yuma, Ariz., will maintain some military cooks for training and operational purposes.

While these contracts will be paid with Headquarters Marine Corps funds, the West Coast region will be managed locally, with the primary overseer working here.

"It's now going to be my job to make sure any problems that arise get handled," said Debbie Smith, the base's food services deputy director.

An upcoming commander's guidance message from HQMC will bring another change, Smith said. Operational control for all mess halls will now fall under the base commanding general.

"Despite control transferring to the base general, we still want the input of area commanders. After all, ensuring Marines are fed is still their responsibility," Smith said.

"The purpose of dining facilities has not changed, only the personnel working behind the counter," Schwarzel said.

But the new plan brings uncertainty for Marines working in food service.

"By reducing the size of this field there's going to be fewer opportunities for promotion and places where senior enlisted can manage a dining facility," Schwarzel said.

Some Marines see privatization as their opportunity to be of even greater service to the Corps.

"Any job that can be done by a civilian should," said Master Sgt. Felix Gonzalez, 14 Area mess hall manager.

Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero

Sergeant Ruben Castillo (holding trophy) of 1/12 was awarded the chef of the quarter trophy by Col. Joseph Medina (second from left), commander officer of 3rd Marines.

1/12 chef named best

Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero
Community Relations

Six food service Marines from MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, showed off their cooking skills during the Chef of the Quarter competition at Anderson Hall Dining Facility on May 22.

The quarterly competition unites some of the most promising cooks in the Marine Corps for a tasteful but competitive event.

This quarter's taste testing was judged by Staff Sgt. Brian K. Church, a substance chief at Anderson Hall; Staff Sgt. Peter Cabrera, a training and property chief at Anderson Hall; Nestor Marquez of Food Solutions, Inc.; and Chefs D.K. Kodoma and Ivan Pak of Sansei Seafood Restaurant and Sushi Bar.

"The level of competition today was at a very high level," said Church.

Despite every Marines hard work, only one could be proclaimed as Chef of the Quarter for the base and that was Sgt. Ruben F. Castillo, a food service Marine from 1st Battalion 12th Marines.

Castillo, delighted the judges and more than 100 Marines attending the cook-out with Chicken Parmesan, Jasmine Rice, Broccoli Melange, and two types of cheesecake; N.Y. Style and Cookies & Cream.

"Castillo's food was outstanding and was a step ahead of his competition," said Church.

It took the award winning chef two exhausting days to prepare and cook the meal.

Additionally, Castillo's wife was very influential during the preparation of the meal because she was his toughest critic.

"I'd like to thank my wife Trina for the success I had today, added Castillo. She sat in the kitchen trying all my nasty runs until I finally made something worth eating."

EVERY CLIME AND PLACE

Marines visit Brunei during LF CARAT

Cpl. Glen R. Springstead
MCB Camp Butler Public Affairs Office

ABOARD THE USS ANCHORAGE, OKINAWA, Japan — "We did in Okinawa, in two days, what a Marine Expeditionary Unit usually does in two weeks or more. And those guys have more advance parties and liaisons."

Those were the words of Cmdr. Mark E. Cedrun, commanding officer of the USS Anchorage, referring to the Marines and Sailors who had lined up, single file, to board the large vessel with armfuls of the bags, gear and supplies needed for their three-month voyage.

As they worked their way up the gangplank, weighed down by the heavy loads, sweat ran down their brows. Other Marines tirelessly operated forklifts, while their Navy counterparts moved equipment from pier to ship with cranes.

All fatigue, however, seemed to leave their bodies as they paused for a moment, locked their tired bodies at the position of attention, and saluted the beloved colors they have sworn to protect, observing a long-established naval custom for boarding a ship.

More than 300 Marines and Sailors from III Marine Expeditionary Force departed Okinawa April 30 as Landing Force Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (LF CARAT) — a series of bilateral training exercises in six Southeast Asian countries, which involves 1,400 American service members from the Marine Corps, Navy, Coast Guard and Army.

Grueling planning sessions and tiresome hours of manual labor were spent on the embarkation of equipment and supplies onto the ship.

At first glance, the USS Anchorage appeared to be a monstrous vessel, but the oldest commissioned ship in the Dock Landing Ship class is still a tight fit for the many vehicles and supplies the Marines need to support their mission.

Lance Cpl. Antonio J. Vega

Above — Marines from Lima Co., 3/3, prepare to leave the USS Anchorage to participate in jungle training with the Brunei military. Below Left — Marines from Assault Amphibious Vehicle platoon, Alpha Co., Combat Assault Bn., 3rd Marine Division, swim for the USS Anchorage after conducting amphibious assault training. Below Right — Marines from CSSD-37, LF CARAT, III MEF, provided endless logistical support.

With limited storage space to work with, the embarkation was a true test for the Landing Force's Combat Service Support Detachment-37, which did not waste an inch.

"Considering the weeks of planning, and the training the Marines received, the Marines performed well above expectations," said Capt. Michael J. Gaines, CSSD-37 commander. "Two corporals did a job usually reserved for embarkation officers and limited duty officer captains," Gaines said.

With limited space, CSSD-37 managed to load numerous Humvees, 5-ton trucks, a wrecker, an ambulance, a forklift, a Tire Rubber Articulated Mover, six trailers and cargo containers.

Adding to the already-cramped cargo hold of the ship, Assault Amphibious Vehicle Platoon, Alpha Co., Combat Assault Bn., 3rd Marine Division, soon joined LF CARAT. The Camp Pendleton-based platoon swam from shore near Camp Schwab, Okinawa, with 10 Assault Amphibian Vehicles, conducting an amphibious assault before maneuvering into the ship's well deck with the other vehicles.

"This was one of the smoothest embarks we've done," said Cpl. Brian M. Macy, Assault Amphibious Vehicle crew chief, Alpha Co., Combat Assault Bn., 3rd Marine Division. "The ship's crew did a good job ground-guiding us in and putting us in place. I'm looking forward to working and training with them."

Regardless of the obstacles the Marine and USS Anchorage crews faced in the embarkation process, they adapted and successfully overcame, allowing the ship and its Marines and Sailors to set sail on schedule to their first operational phase in Darussalam, Brunei where they arrived the morning of May 5 after five days at sea.

United States and Brunei forces conducted extensive planning and scheduling for months prior to the departure.

"All of the training we will do was requested by, and closely coordinated with, the host nation," said Maj. Joseph M. Murray, operations officer, Landing Force CARAT.

The highlights of the Brunei phase will include small-unit training in the jungle with the host nation's military.

The training will also include community relations projects; and medical, combat service support, and Marine Corps Planning Process symposiums, said Murray.

New Japanese law may severely impact Marines' transportation

Cpl. Jeff M. Nagan
MCAS Beaufort Public Affairs Office

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION BEAUFORT, S.C. — A new law affecting service members and residents currently living in or transferring to Japan requires older model motorcycles and mopeds to meet expensive emission and brake standards before hitting the road.

"One of the biggest reasons this law was established was to help control and lower the amount of pollution throughout Japan," said Cpl. Jesus Contreras, traffic management office outbound counselor at MCAS Beaufort.

Owners of vehicles manufactured before April 2001, with engines exceeding 250 cubic centimeters, must take their moped or motorcycle to one of the few test facilities located in the Tokyo or Osaka areas.

According to business estimates, the emissions test will cost vehicle owners about $750.

If a motorcycle or moped fails to meet emission standards, fees to bring it into compliance can cost service members a substantial amount of money depending on the type and model.

"Service members buy mopeds and motorcycles to save money, but with this law, they are forced to pay nearly the same cost as a new car," Contreras said.

Under the law, vehicles older than July 1999 must also meet brake standards. Owners are required to have a manufacturer's certificate stating that the vehicle meets safety standards.

Without a manufacturer's statement, vehicle owners must receive a brake certificate issued from either an official brake test authority or foreign brake test organization.

"Costs to get a vehicle's brakes to meet standards can cost service members between $2,000 to $4,000," Contreras said. "Most Marines don't have that much money to spend."

Staff Sgt. Nikki Clingerman

Owners of older model mopeds or motorcycles may have to think twice before shipping their vehicle to Japan due to the new emissions law.

Residents of Okinawa are not exempt from this law. Since there are no places to test emissions or brakes on the island, owners are required to transport their vehicles to one of the facilities on mainland Japan.

In addition to paying for shipping and emissions and brake tests, vehicle owners cannot drive to a testing facility unless their moped or motorcycle is temporarily registered, which requires it to be insured.

"Marines heading overseas to Japan should start thinking about their best mode of transportation for their dollars," Contreras said. "Bicycling, walking and car pooling are all possible solutions Marines should keep in mind."

Anyone looking for more information can contact the local Traffic Management Office.

Service members' POVs eligible for long-term storage

Military Traffic Management Command
Press Release

Military service members ordered to overseas assignments, where they are prohibited from taking a personal vehicle, may now take advantage of a new Military Traffic Management-sponsored storage program.

Since May 1, MTMC offers long-term vehicular storage for eligible service members headed overseas. The new program will be administered by American Auto Logistics, Inc., the contractor that runs MTMC's Global Privately Owned Vehicle Contract, said Charlie Helfrich, chief, Privately Owned Vehicle Storage Branch. An average of 75,000 privately owned vehicles move via the contract annually.

"We expect the high-quality level of service, which we've been getting since 1998, to continue to be offered to military service members," said Helfrich.

Previously, there was no standard storage system for privately owned vehicles. Service members made use of a variety of storage programs and policies, which varied by military installation.

Under the new program, service members may leave a vehicle for storage at any of 39 vehicle processing centers worldwide. Other transfer points include Department of Defense and American embassy vehicle processing centers.

American Auto Logistics will store the vehicle until the service member returns from overseas duty. Owners may maintain complete visibility of their vehicles via the firm's Web site www.whereismypov.com, and can obtain information on the centers and other aspects of shipping a POV at www.mtmc.army.mil.

"Our contractor will maintain the operating condition of all stored vehicles, in accordance with recommendations of the vehicle manufacturer," said Helfrich.

Other contract provisions include:

- Single point of contact,
- Claims settlement within 45 days, and
- Streamlined settlement of small claims.

"We are delighted to offer this additional benefit to the nation's service members," said Bill Antonelli, vice-president. "This provides them with a uniform method for long-term storage of their personally owned vehicles."

(Editor's Note: For more, contact Kaneohe Bay's Traffic Management Office at 257-5868 (POV Information), or call American Auto Logistics at (845) 783-6279.)

Did You Know?

Written in 1814, "The Star Spangled Banner" did not become the national anthem of the United States of America until 1931.

NAPS

3/3 Marines serve community in Okinawa

Sgt. Scott Carlson

Marines like Lance Cpl. Derrik Willett (above), infantryman, 2nd Platoon, Kilo Co., 3/3, pulled weeds for nearly two hours in the lawn of the Shinaeno-Oka, an elderly community center on Okinawa. Willett and his fellow Marines (below) were later invited inside to interact and dance with the elderly who visit the center.

Sgt. Scott Carlson
MCB Camp Butler Public Affairs Office

ISHIKAWA CITY, OKINAWA, Japan — The young and the elderly came together recently as Marines from 3rd Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment, traded their rifles for yard tools.

The 2nd Platoon, Kilo Co., Marines traveled to Shinaeno-Oka, a community center for the elderly, and spent the morning pulling weeds and beautifying the lawns surrounding the building.

Despite falling rains and a little mud, it was approximately two hours worth of work for them.

After the outside area was complete, the Marines went inside to interact with the elderly folks who visited the center during the day. Inside, more than two dozen Okinawans greeted the Marines with beaming smiles, as they were ready to enjoy their time with the Marines, even though there was an average age difference of 60 years between the two groups.

Their time together began with introductions. One of the orderlies introduced the Marines to the retired people. Stretching followed introductions, which led to dancing.

"They're very active. That's what makes them good at the Okinawan dances."

Dr. Ryozen Fukoshi
Lead Doctor, Shinaeno-Oka

Sgt. Scott Carlson

Marines from 2nd Platoon, Kilo Co., 3/3, perform stretching exercises with elderly Okinawans before dancing.

Doctor Ryozen Fukoshi, lead doctor at the center, said he was very surprised the Marines could dance so well.

"They're very active," Fukoshi said. "That's what makes them good at the Okinawan dances."

The Marines continued to follow the lead from the shorter, older Okinawan ladies, as traditional Okinawan music blared from a stereo in the center's recreation room. Much of the morning's laughter came from those who could not get out of their chairs to dance.

"This is a chance for the Marines to meet the local people, look in their eyes, see their faces and participate in the things they do," said Chaplain (Lt.) Charles Blasdell, 3/3. "It's our way of participating in their lives, instead of being stuck on Hansen the whole time."

Blasdell said he really enjoys bringing Marines to the community.

"We all see pictures in magazines of places like this," he said. "My hope is that they take back a better reality. When they see a picture of Okinawa, I hope they'll remember the day they [came here]."

The Marines did not seem to mind having the day off to enjoy the Okinawans' company.

"I started really enjoying myself," said Lance Cpl. Stephen Phillips, infantryman, Kilo Co. "It was really fun."

According to 2nd Lt. Sean Pieja, platoon commander, 2nd Platoon, Kilo Co., interacting with the Okinawans benefits both groups. The interactions show the Okinawans how diverse and well rounded the Marine Corps can be.

BLOOD, From A-1

Police Department.

The most recent drive, on May 16, was sponsored by 1st Radio Bn. and coordinated by Chief Ronald Mills and Petty Officer 1st Class Frederick Schucht. More than 80 Marines and Sailors gave blood during that drive.

Several blood drives, sponsored by MAG-24, are scheduled later this year to collect O Positive and O Negative blood when the medical center's levels fall below optimal.

Doctors supply blood and blood components including platelets, frozen plasma, and whole blood, to patients at TAMC. Maldonado said most people don't think twice about where it comes from.

"Marines and Sailors from Kaneohe were called on short notice to supply blood for scheduled surgeries, and without any hesitation, they were there to answer the call."

Distinguished service

Lance Cpl. Jessica Mills

First Sgt. Alexander Howard (left), the company first sergeant at the Provost Marshal's Office, receives an award during his retirement ceremony May 22, from Kaneohe Bay Provost Marshal Maj. Marc Lambert (right) at the Pacific War Memorial. Howard is retiring after more than 24 years of service to the Corps — nine of those years stationed on Kaneohe Bay. Howard is planning on staying on Oahu and running his own business. "I'm going to miss the young Marines most," he said. Gunnery Sgt. Eric Scott, staff noncommissioned officer in charge of the Tax Center at MCB Hawaii, also retired after more than 20 years in the Corps. Scott was stationed at MCB Hawaii for eight years, serving at both Camp H.M. Smith and Kaneohe Bay. Scott also plans to stay on the island with his family.

Four-star visit

Cpl. Cobra M. Jones

After a short visit at the Cobra Gold 2002 Combined Task Force Headquarters, Admiral Thomas B. Fargo, commander in chief, U.S. Pacific Command, prepares to depart Sattahip Naval Base, Thailand, May 24. The Cobra Gold exercise is designed to ensure regional peace through the U.S. Pacific Command's strategy of cooperative engagement. It also strengthens the ability of the Royal Thai Armed Forces to defend Thailand. This year the Singapore Armed Forces are also participating.