

# Hawaii MARINE

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Volume 31, Number 17

www.mcbh.usmc.mil

May 3, 2002

## Military wants your opinion on Hawaii schools

### Press Release

U.S. Pacific Command  
Public Affairs Office

#### CAMP H.M. SMITH

— In recent years, senior military leaders and Congress have placed increased emphasis on the Quality of Life (QOL) of military families.

While the term QOL covers a broad spectrum of benefits and entitlements, education of elementary and secondary students has also become a significant part of the QOL equation.

Each year, Hawaii public schools enroll approximately 14,500 military dependent students. Additionally, a number of military parents elect to send their children to private schools or decide to home school their children.

While there have been varying views (both good and bad) on the quality of public and private education in Hawaii, no verifiable data measures the quality of education as a QOL issue in Hawaii.

To obtain "ground truth," the commander-in-chief of the U.S. Pacific Command (CINCPAC) directed the initiation of a customer satisfaction survey for military parents of public, private and home-schooled children in Hawaii, and military de-

pendent students in grades 5-12 in both public and private schools.

Pacific Command (PACOM) officials have discussed this survey with both the Hawaii State Board of Education and the Department of Education. Both are very much in favor of this study.

The command has contracted with the International Center for Leadership Development (ICLD) to conduct this customer satisfaction survey during the month of May.

Surveys will be mailed to all military parents of public school students. Parents with private school and home-schooled students will receive their surveys through the installation's points of contact. Additionally, parents and students can complete this survey on the Internet at <http://www.Hawaii-Survey.com> from May 6-31, 2002.

Everyone is highly encouraged to complete this survey, as the survey results will be used to help PACOM and the State Department of Education identify strengths and challenges, and focus on issues that most concern military parents and students.



Sgt. Robert Carlson

Students line up to board their bus after school in front of Mokapu Elementary School Wednesday. Each year, Hawaii public schools enroll approximately 14,500 military dependent students, and the U.S. Pacific Command is looking to conduct a survey to determine how military parents of school-aged children in Hawaii view the state's education system.

## Hawaii Marines help in Bahrain

### Staff Sgt.

Shay Richardson  
Marine Forces Pacific  
Public Affairs Office

BAHRAIN — About 30 service members from the Naval Support Activity in Jaffair, Bahrain, came together recently to contribute their time and efforts to the Bangladesh School in Kanoo Gardens, Bahrain.

The service members from Marine Forces Central (MarFoc) Command and Fifth Fleet, Naval Forces Central Command, spent Easter weekend volunteering their time to refurbish one of two flats that made up the kindergarten through ninth grade school of Muslim heritage.

"It doesn't matter that we are of different religions," said Navy Lt. Cartus Thornton, MarCent chaplain. "We simply want to help those who are less fortunate than ourselves."

The Bangladesh school is located in one of the less fortunate communities on the island. The staff opened its doors in 1996 with only grades K-4 available, but have since added a grade each year. It houses more than 150 students ranging from 5 to 14 years old.

The volunteer work began early Friday morning with the removal of old, badly stained carpet for which the school does not have vacuums to clean. Broken splintered bookshelves were removed, as they were a hazard to the students.

Walls that were once covered with layers of dirty, grimy marks from dingy finger tips, stray marks from pencils, and scratches from chairs that had rubbed through the plastered walls were given a fresh coat of paint to hopefully brighten the faces of the students when

See BAHRAIN, A-4

## 1/12 returns from desert fire exercise

Cpl. Jason E. Miller  
Combat Correspondent

Marines and Sailors from 1st Bn., 12th Marine Regiment, returned from their Desert Fire Exercise at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, 29 Palms, Calif., April 9.

On Feb. 25, the battalion, minus one firing battery, started the seven-day trip across the Pacific aboard the USS Fredrickson, unloaded at San Diego and conveyed to the training area several hours away.

Three hundred and 40 Marines were packed onto the Fredrickson for one of its final voyages before the ship decommissions later this year.

"We had to do an administrative, rather

than a tactical [combat-ready] load, because of the number of Marines and gear we had to bring with us," said Capt. Mark Eramo, 1/12 logistics officer.

"It was really a logistical feat for the battalion to get everyone and all of the gear out there.

"It's good training to get everyone moved and out to the field like that."

Once the battalion arrived, it was off into the blazing California desert for several major field exercises that would take the Marines through a month of training, co-opting and working together with different commands.

The first training evolution on deck for the Kaneohe Bay Marines came in the form of basic battery-level firing and maneuvers —

to get ready for the bigger operations later in the deployment.

While at 29 Palms, 1/12 trained in situations that resembled actual combat, more than the local training areas in Hawaii allow.

The Marines maneuvered through impact points and other areas that covered a much larger area than the battalion is used to working with.

While in the desert training environment, the 155mm Howitzer cannons fired more potent dual-purpose ammunition forms than are allowed at local firing ranges on Oahu.

After the initial rust-busting stage of the operation, warriors from the 11th Marines

See 1/12, A-4

## U.S. Marine aircraft first to arrive at coalition base

Air Force Master Sgt.  
Tim Helton  
376th Air Expeditionary Wing  
Public Affairs

GANCI, KYRGYZSTAN — Four months after constructing a coalition base in the middle of Kyrgyzstan, the first American fighter aircraft to be assigned here arrived April 15.

Six Marine FA-18D Hornet fighter attack aircraft, arrived to attack and destroy targets remaining in Afghanistan and support ground forces as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.



An FA-18D Hornet from MCAS Miramar, Calif., taxis into its parking spot after arriving at a deployed location in Kyrgyzstan, April 15.



Air Force Master Sgt. Jerry King

"This is a great day for the coalition forces," said Brig. Gen. Wayne Lloyd, 376th Air

Expeditionary Wing (AEW) commander. "The addition of the Hornets, together with our

other coalition aircraft, increases our capability of putting 'bombs on target' in

Afghanistan."

Getting six U.S. military aircraft and more than 160 Marines into a former Soviet Union country wasn't easy, but it was just another challenge for the 376th AEW and Marines to overcome.

The Marines are determined to use the Hornets as long as it takes to complete the mission.

"The Hornets have been tasked to support the war on

See FA-18, A-4

## MCBH NEWS BRIEFS

### BACK GATE HOURS EXTENDED

The MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, back gate, on Mokapu Road, is now open seven days a week, from 5:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The hours were extended to better support the base and its military community.

### "OFF LIMITS" AREAS POSTED

The following areas and establishments have been declared and placed "off limits" to all military personnel, until rescinded by the Armed Forces Disciplinary Control Board:

- Hawaii Natural High at 343 Saratoga Rd. in Honolulu.
- Nimitz Mart at 3131 N. Nimitz Hwy. in Honolulu.
- Pearl Kai Mini-Mart at 98-199 Kamehameha Hwy. in Aiea.
- The Dungeon/Temple/Atomics at 142 Mokauea St. in Honolulu.
- The Shelter/Club 1739 at 1739 Kalakaua Ave. in Honolulu.

### THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN OPENS, MAY 15

Young service members can especially benefit from and exploit the compound growth potential of the thrift savings plan — the federal government-sponsored savings and investment program with a portfolio of five plans.

This year's participants can save up to \$11,000. Contributions are made with pre-tax dollars, and earnings grow tax free until withdrawn. The earlier in life you enroll in the program, the greater your opportunity to accumulate wealth.

Whether young or old, be smart and participate. Enroll during "open season" May 15 to July 31. Log onto [www.DFAS.mil/emss](http://www.DFAS.mil/emss), or visit your personnel administration office for assistance. See ALMAR 021/02 for more details.

### CREDO SCHEDULES WORKSHOPS

Marines, Sailors, federal employees or their family members may participate in any upcoming CREDO Personal Growth or Marriage Enrichment Retreat. These programs support people who desire a more harmonious personal life, as well as growth in their personal and professional relationships. Meals, lodging and transportation are free.

Call 257-1941 or 257-0408 for more.

- Personal Growth — May 16 - 19.
- Marriage Enrichment — July 12 - 14.

### IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBER

On-Base Emergencies 257-9111

## Hawaii MARINE

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## C.G.'s MAIL BOX

*"It would bring me great joy to see this [dog] restriction removed..."*



BRIG. GEN.  
MCABEE

- Submitted by Gunnery Sgt. Apostal White, motor transport chief, 1/12

"Sir, my concern is the restriction of a certain breed of dog, which is not allowed aboard MCB Hawaii. I'm talking about the American Pitbull Terriers, in particular.

Sir, I am a breeder of these dogs through the UKC (that's the United Kennel Club), which registers and certifies the bloodlines of all my dogs.

Because of this longstanding policy aboard MCB Hawaii, I didn't bring my dogs from California to Hawaii with me. I've checked other bases (Pearl Harbor, Hickam, Ft. Shafter and Schofield), and I was told that MCB Hawaii is the only base that has a restriction on this particular breed of dog.

I've spoken with the veterinarian aboard MCB Hawaii and was told that this policy has been in place since 1991, due to the number of dog bites, the number of stray dogs on base, and irresponsible dog owners who wouldn't register the dogs or left them behind when they PCSed [made a permanent change of station move] from MCB Hawaii.

Sir, I was also told that only the commanding general can lift this restriction, since he was the one who implemented it.

Sir, my point and solution is this: Rottweillers, german shepards, sharpeis and chows are all considered aggressive dogs, and they are allowed aboard MCB Hawaii. Also, any dog will bite.

But some things have changed since 1991. Most importantly, the owner identification chip implanted under the animal's skin was not implemented in 1991 aboard MCB Hawaii to identify the petowner's name, address, phone number and unit — but now it is.

I believe this has made dog own-

ers aboard MCB Hawaii responsible for their pet's behavior, and this is the supporting fact for my solution and proposal.

Sir, I am a responsible dog owner, and I sincerely love the American pitbull breed. It would bring me great joy to see this restriction removed, since we already have a policy in place to hold petowners responsible for their pet's behavior.

Sir, your opinion and comments are more than welcomed, and thank you for taking the time to read this e-mail and consider the interests of the families who live and work aboard MCB Hawaii.

Thank you."

Apostal White  
Gunnery Sergeant, U.S.M.C.

Gunnery Sergeant White,

We have been asked by the commanding general to research and to respond to your email of March 20 since your recommendation falls within our staff's responsibilities. He appreciates you taking your time to participate in our CG Mail Program.

You bring up many valid points in your position to lift the ban of certain breeds of dogs aboard the base. Specifically, you have requested to allow American pitbull terriers to MCB Hawaii.

We have reviewed the base's policy banning pitbulls and the commanding general agrees that the policy shall remain in effect.

Base Order P5500.15 currently prohibits pitbulls, but they are not the only pets banned from the base. Other banned species are:

- Mammals. Staffordshire terri-

ers, pitbulls (or any breed thereof) gerbils, hamsters, mongooses, monkeys, rats (except as noted above), wild rabbits, pigs, horses and ponies, or other animals normally considered livestock.

- Birds. Game or hunting birds, pigeons, doves, poultry (chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys, etc.), Aztec dwarf parrots (pigmy, parrotlet and bee bee), monk parakeets and certain types of myna.

- Snakes. Snakes of all types.

- Bees. Beekeeping, commercial or amateur.

- Iguanas.

- Wildlife. It is unlawful for anyone who does not hold a permit issued by the State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources to attempt to catch, take, injure, kill, destroy, possess, transport, export, process, sell or offer for sale any indigenous, endangered or introduced wild bird, the young or the egg of such bird, or to willfully damage or destroy a nest of any such bird or any indigenous mammal.

The references are 16 USC 1538 and 16 USC 703, which require specific permits before touching protected species or attempting to control migratory species that present themselves as pests to daily operations (such as myna birds in hangar areas).

I commend your enthusiasm for breeding dogs and applaud you for your commitment to ensure everyone's safety.

Thank you again for participating in this important program.

Lt. Col. Laulie S. Powell  
Staff Judge Advocate  
and  
Maj. Mark Lambert  
Provost Marshal

### Participate in the C.G. Mail Program

*(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/mand/cgmail.htm](http://www.mcbh.usmc.mil/mand/cgmail.htm).



FEARN IV

## Lava Dogs get new commander



Lieutenant Col. William R. Fearn IV took over as the 1st Bn., 3rd Marines, commander, April 26 during a change of command ceremony at Dewey Square. Fearn replaced Lt. Col. Joseph L. Osterman, who will spend the next month filling Fearn's previous billet as the executive officer at 3rd Marine Regiment before travelling to Oberammergau, Germany, for duty as chief of staff at its NATO School.



OSTERMAN



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.

# U.S. Marines remember ANZAC

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

HONOLULU — Marines and other military leaders from all over the Pacific region gathered at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) April 25 for an emotional commemoration: Australia and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) Day.

The holiday is set aside in New Zealand and Australia to remember and honor those who have fought for freedom.

At the onset of World War I, Australia had been a federal commonwealth for little more than 13 years. Eager to make its mark among the nations of the world, Australian and New Zealand soldiers were sent to reinforce an allied expedition — their goal to open the way to the Black Sea at the Gallipoli Peninsula.

Landing there on April 25, 1915, the ANZACs met fierce resistance from the Turkish defenders. After an initial attack that had been deemed as a bold

move from the beginning, the siege quickly turned into a deadlock, with both sides suffering heavy casualties.

The fighting was fierce but considered by many to be a tactical failure. To the Australians, however, April 25 would forever be a day when Australia and New Zealand had entered the international forum through a trial-by-fire.

Although the term "ANZAC" officially referred to those who fought in World War I, it was later decided that the day should also officially remember those who served in World War II.

Currently, it includes the men and women who served in later wars such as Vietnam and Korea, those who served in actions such as Desert Storm, those in peacekeeping operations such as Bosnia and Bougainville, and those who now serve in the war on terrorism in Afghanistan.

The day is commemorated throughout Australia and New Zealand, from the biggest cities to the smallest hamlets, but the special bond shared by the U.S. with Australia and New Zealand enables the hallowed day to be remembered on U.S. soil as well.

The local ceremony began with an introduction by the Honorable Darryl Dunn, Consul-General of New Zealand. In his brief address, Dunn welcomed the guests of honor and remembered those who had fallen long ago and those who continue to fall in defense of freedom today.

The Honorable Paul Robilliard, Consul-General of Australia, gave the commemorative address to the solemn and reflective crowd.

"[ANZAC Day] is not a day just

about loss," the Consul-General said. "Gallipoli was, as the Australian author Les Carlyon has written, 'a tale of

all that is fine, and all that is foolish in the human condition."

Robilliard paused for a moment to seemingly reflect on the significance of the day and the past deeds of those honorable defenders of freedom.

"No one can express all that this day means to Australians and New Zealanders," Robilliard explained. "This is about something too deep for words. It is the sense of great sadness, of loss, of gratitude, of

honor, of national identity, of our past, of the very essence of our nations, and of the values which those first ANZAC — and those who came after them — embodied and which we must cherish and pass to the future."

After the solemn words for the fallen, military guests laid wreaths in remembrance of the important day they had come to commemorate.

As the morning sun beamed down, heating the white stones inscribed with the names of those American veterans who had died in Pacific battles, a 21-gun salute was rendered by Marines from Charlie Battery, 1st Bn., 12th Marine Regiment, ending the day's commemoration. The gun salute was a fitting tribute to the fallen Australian and New Zealand soldiers that fought bravely for the cause of freedom.

*"They shall grow not old,  
As we that are left grow old.  
Age shall not weary them,  
At the going down of the sun.  
And in the morning,  
We will remember them.  
We will remember them."*

— From the poem, "For the Fallen,"  
by Laurence Binyon



Cpl. Marcus D. Henry

**Brigadier Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, commanding general of MCB Hawaii lays a ceremonial wreath during ANZAC Day at Punchbowl, April 25.**

## A fallen comrade



Courtesy of 1st Radio Bn.

**Lance Cpl. Christopher Drinkwine, formerly an emergency maintenance technician with 1st Radio Bn., passed away in the early morning of April 21 in a fire in Keeseville, New York. Drinkwine was on leave prior to reporting for duty to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, San Diego, Calif. He is survived by his wife Rowena (Mata) and his son Blaine; his mother Holly Douglas of Keeseville, N.Y.; his brothers Jonathan and Robert Drinkwine of Keeseville; and his father Frank Drinkwine of Albuquerque, N.M.**

## WORD ON THE STREET

### "Who will win the NBA Championships this year?"



"I would like to see the San Antonio Spurs win it all."

**Cpl. Matthew Laas**

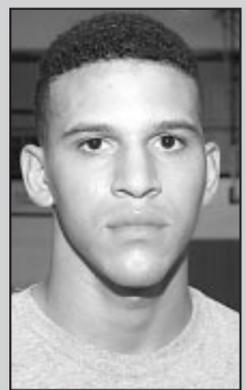
Investigator/  
administrative chief  
Base Inspectors Office,  
Headquarters Bn., MCB Hawaii



"I don't know; the same guys who won last time: the Phoenix Suns."

**Pfc. Mario Najarro**

Motor vehicle operator  
2/3



"...The New Jersey Nets all the way."

**Lance Cpl. Carlos Gandulla**  
S-1 clerk  
1/3



"The Lakers are gonna' win like last time."

**Seaman Cary O'Neal**

Aviation ordnanceman  
Patrol Squadron (VP) 9



"The Lakers are going to win, 'cause they've got Shaq, Kobe, and Phil Jackson as their coach."

**Lance Cpl. Charles Jackson**  
Fiscal clerk  
Headquarters Bn., MCB Hawaii



Courtesy of Marine Corps Combat Development Command

The Dragon Runner unmanned ground vehicle weighs about 16 pounds and fits inside a Marine's Modular Lightweight Load-carrying Equipment (MOLLE) patrol pack. It is designed to provide Marine small units an increased situational awareness and tactical force-protection capability within the urban environment. The Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory tested the Dragon Runner vehicle at Quantico, Va., April 11.

## Warfighting tests unmanned vehicle

**Phillip Thompson**  
Warfighting Lab  
MCCDC, Quantico, Va.

**MARINE CORPS COMBAT DEVELOPMENT COMMAND, Quantico, Va.** — The Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory's (MCWL) Reconnaissance Surveillance and Target Acquisition Technology section conducted a Limited Technical Assessment (LTA) of the first complete prototype "Dragon Runner" Mobile Ground Sensor system April 11.

Dragon Runner, with a system weight of 16 pounds and sized to fit inside a Marine's Modular Lightweight, Load-carrying Equipment (MOLLE) patrol pack, is designed for the Marine small unit and will provide an increased situational awareness and tactical force-protection capability within the urban environment.

Dragon Runner has real-time video for an "around-the-corner" perspective, and the Dragon Runner uses on-board motion sensors

during its "sentry mode."

The Dragon Runner proved to be extremely durable during the LTA, said Capt. David Moreau, Dragon Runner project officer at the Lab.

"The durability was really surprising," he said. "In less than nine months, we've developed a vehicle that can survive, even when we dropped it from 14 feet."

Marines also threw the vehicle up stairs more than 40 times, they threw it over walls, and they threw it into windows without de-

grading the vehicle's capability.

The delivery of the first MCWL prototype Dragon Runner system is scheduled for April 24.

The MCWL plans to assess the prototypes in-house and during the upcoming Millennium Dragon 02 experiment this summer in California.

A total of 12 Dragon Runner systems will be built for concept demonstration and experimentation for that upcoming exercise.

# MILITARY BLOTTER

There were a total of 110 traffic citations issued.

## The Blotter

-A military family member reported damage to private property after person(s) unknown shattered both the driver's and passenger's side windows of his vehicle.

-A Marine reported a larceny after person(s) unknown had stolen two temporary checks from his barrack's room.

-In two separate incidents, Marines were involved in a traffic accident while backing and failing to maintain sufficient distance from a second Marine's vehicle. In both incidents, both vehicles sustained minor damage.

-A Marine was arrested by the Honolulu Police Department for driving under the influence, after being observed

weaving lanes. The suspect was processed and held on \$100 bail.

-A Marine was involved in a traffic accident while backing and failing to maintain sufficient distance from a mailbox. The vehicle sustained minor damage.

-A Marine reported a hit-and-run traffic accident after his vehicle had been struck by an unknown vehicle, causing minor damage to the passenger's side door.

-A Marine was apprehended for a DUI after being stopped for speeding.

-A Marine reported a larceny of private property after person(s) unknown stole his wedding ring from a locker at the Semper Fit Center.

-Two Marines were apprehended for trespassing after they were observed driving their vehicles at Nu'upia Ponds.

-A military family member reported a larceny of private property after per-

son(s) unknown had stolen her one karat diamond engagement ring from her quarters.

-A Marine reported a house break-in after person(s) unknown entered his secure barrack's room and stole \$907 from his wall locker.

-A Sailor reported a larceny of private property after person(s) unknown stole miscellaneous items from his vehicle.

-A Marine was apprehended for drunk and disorderly conduct.

-A Marine was apprehended for a hit-and-run traffic accident after fleeing the scene without reporting the incident.

-A Marine reported a larceny of private property after person(s) unknown stole his bicycle from behind his quarters.

## Lost and Found

If you're missing valuables or other

items, contact Lost and Found to see if anyone has turned in the item(s) at the Military Police Desk.

Lost items on hand include I.D. cards, bicycles, wallets, keys, cell phones and miscellaneous jewelry.

Call Cpl. Gordon Scott at 257-2103, ext. 315, for prompt assistance.

## Crime Prevention

Do you have questions about how you can take a stance against crime in your neighborhood? If so, contact Cpl. Gordon Scott at 257-2103, ext. 315, for tips on how not to become a victim.

## Neighborhood Watch

Crime Prevention is looking for neighborhood watch representatives to get involved in their communities by taking charge of local neighborhoods. Call Crime Prevention at 257-2103, ext. 315.

## Wet paint

A CH-47D Chinook from Wheeler Army Airfield's Hawaii National Guard, 193rd Aviation Regiment, checked in to the MALS-24 maintenance hangar to be repainted using base facilities April 18.



Cpl. Jason E. Miller

## BAHRAIN, From A-1

they came through the doors April 6.

The service members painted the entire inside of the building and trimmed the windows on the outside. They pulled weeds from the yards that looked more like a dumping ground than a playground, and painted the mangled, white picket fence that surrounded the school.

In addition to the hard work and efforts already contributed, Marines from Military Police Co., Headquarters Bn., MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, jumped at the idea to build a one-room living space for the school's caretaker, who presently sleeps in the kitchen area of the school.

"When we [the Marines] heard where he [the caretaker] was sleeping, it was an automatic go, said Staff Sgt. Gary Robbins, staff noncommissioned officer in charge of the military police detachment.

"Although it seems like nothing to us as Americans, it's a big deal to him. He has nothing."

The MPs teamed up with Marine engineers, who donated some of their tools to the cause and helped with the dedicated wiring of the room.

School principal Bani Arora said that she was very happy the service members had come out to help and contribute their time.



Gunnery Sgt. Amanda Blake

**Navy Chaplain (Lt.) Cartus Thornton and Staff Sgt. Gary Robbins, an MP, begin ground work in Bangladesh March 30.**

"You all giving your time to help us is very nice, she said modestly. "We are so very happy and gracious that you are here. It really means so much."

The service members only saw it as just being American.

"Americans reaching out to others ... it's just the American way," said Thornton.

## FA-18, From A-1

terrorism by taking the fight to those enemy forces that remain in Afghanistan," said Capt. William Gray, All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA (AW-)) 121 spokesman and aviation logistics officer.

"We are prepared to support Operation Enduring Freedom and conduct operations from here as long as our capabilities are needed in this fight," he added with conviction.

## 1/12, From A-1

rendezvoused with 1/12 in the field and began combining forces for some multi-level artillery fire and maneuvering.

"The firing batteries did an excellent job," said 1st Lt. Jeff Clark, fire direction officer for 1/12. "They all worked with great responsiveness and proficiency. The fire direction officers were all cooperative from the beginning. I was really happy with the way they performed at 29 Palms."

Finally, all of the aspects of the training came together for a multi-day operation in which the firing batteries for 11th and 12th Marines worked hand in hand with infantry units from the 1st Marine Division.

The infantry command element made the overall decisions for artillery placement and fire missions during the exercise.

"Twentynine Palms is the best artillery training area that the Marine Corps owns," said Lt. Col. John Sullivan, commanding officer for 1/12. "We got a chance to work with other artillery and infantry units in the field. That's something that's limited to us on Oahu or at PTA [the Pohakuloa Training Area]."

The Desert Fire Exercise was an unsurpassed operation for battalion live-fire training in support of maneuver. It was a great chance for Marines and Sailors of all MOSs in the battalion to practice their skills in the best place available for artillery training," he added.

The battalion returned to Kaneohe Bay April 9 and picked up where they left off regular training at places such as Schofield (Army) Barracks.

The 1/12 Marines are scheduled to make one of their yearly deployments to the Pohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island later this year for more training.

# EVERY CLIME AND PLACE

## Corpsmen gain experience, in the knick of time

One day after enemy attack drills, corpsmen help save lives in the war on terrorism

**Sgt. Thomas M. Corcoran**  
26th MEU (SOC)  
Public Affairs Detachment

**ABOARD USS BATAAN** — In any conflict, one of the most pressing concerns for a commander is the handling of casualties. No one likes to think of it or discuss it openly, but it is very real for those who go into harm's way.

For the Marines and Sailors of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), having recently completed nearly three months of combat operations in Afghanistan, one of their most important assets were U.S. Navy hospital corpsmen.

As the 26th MEU(SOC) Marines and Sailors pushed deep into Afghanistan, their hospital corpsmen were an integral part of every engagement. For everything from tending to common colds, brought on by the dusty surroundings, to supporting combat operations with Marines and special operating forces, the corpsmen were there to ensure the health and welfare of the force.

The hospital corpsmen of the 26th MEU(SOC) were there to meet the challenge — whether deployed forward with front-line infantry Marines, hovering overhead as part of quick response med-evac teams, or embarked on ships in the North Arabian Sea.

Navy Hospital Corpsman Petty Officer 3rd Class Moses Gloria from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 365 (Reinforced) vividly recalled the first operation he was called upon to do.

"It was Dec. 5, 2001, and I remember being startled awake and told that an in-



Lance Cpl. Nathan E. Eason

**Petty Officer 3rd Class Alexander D. Salas, a hospital corpsman, participates in an enemy attack drill alongside other Battalion Landing Team 3/6 corpsmen, outside their medical tent at the Kandahar, Afghanistan, airport. Just a day later, the training proved valuable. Enemy forces fired at U.S. and coalition forces inside the compound who are in Afghanistan supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.**

cident had occurred," Gloria said. "After dressing and making my way toward the flightline, I learned that everyone involved in the first incident was O.K., but that there was a more serious and deadly situation.

"They didn't have much information, but there were maybe ten or more individuals who had been fired upon and were wounded."

Gloria boarded the second helicopter headed for the site and flew away. As a hospital corpsman, he explained that one always has to be ready, motivated and react quickly — lives depend on it.

Soon, he received a message that there were actually more than 40 U.S. and coalition casualties from a U.S. bomb in

a "friendly fire" incident.

When they arrived at the mass casualty site, about 30 miles from where the incident had occurred, Gloria went immediately to work stabilizing patients and helping load them into awaiting aircraft. A satellite communications operator who was also at the scene, Cpl. Joshua Deets, described what he saw as he responded to the same disaster.

"I never expected to see anything that bad," he said. "I could not believe that one bomb could do so much damage ... the corpsmen really did a great job that night."

In addition to providing radio contact with the Marines aboard ship, Deets worked side-by-side with Gloria, help-

ing him carry stretcher after stretcher to the aircraft and back to the USS Bataan.

As Gloria's CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter made the long trek from Camp Rhino (the expeditionary desert airstrip and closest field surgical facility in southern Afghanistan) to the USS Bataan in the North Arabian Sea, he kept five critically wounded Afghan soldiers alive and tended to several others.

As the only corpsman aboard the aircraft, he worked tirelessly to stabilize the patients during the transit, manually resuscitating one casualty throughout the entire flight.

On the other side of the helicopter lay the body of an older Afghan soldier killed in the bombing.

"I'll never be the same after that experience. It changed me forever," Gloria surmised. "The things that I am most proud of from that incident is that I was able to remember what I had been taught; I was able to apply them in a real situation. Those troops rapidly received the best medical care they could get."

"Motivation is one of the key characteristics of being a corpsmen in the field, as well as innovation, adaptability and a high degree of initiative," said Navy Lt. Joe Sliman, a flight surgeon with HMM-365 (Rein.), the aviation element of the 26th MEU (SOC).

Sliman said he was proud of how the hospital corpsmen performed in the field.

However the history books characterize this campaign, the Marines and Sailors of the 26th MEU(SOC) know full well who some of the heroes were — the corpsmen who tended to wounded Marines and Afghan soldiers, who responded to desperate situations across Afghanistan, and who dug in deeply around the airport at Kandahar Airfield, freezing at night alongside their Marines.