

Hawaii MARINE

INSIDE

Military Ethics	A-2
Deployment Benefits	A-3
Twilight Tattoo	A-4
DUIs	A-4
Ewa Railroad	B-1
MCCS & SM&SP	B-2
Recipe & Menu	B-4
Word to Pass	B-6
Ads	B-7
Baseball Championships	C-1
Sports Briefs	C-2
The Bottom Line	C-3

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Actions of few mislead

Service members disgusted at mistreatment of prisoners

Kathleen T. Rhem

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — American officials are “appalled” by photos of U.S. soldiers allegedly mistreating Iraqi prisoners, and are urging the Iraqi people to not let the images taint their view of coalition

forces.

At the White House, President Bush said he has a “deep disgust” for the way the prisoners apparently were treated. “Their treatment does not reflect the nature of the American people,” Bush said during a media availability with Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin.

U.S. news organizations released photos April 28 that apparently show U.S. soldiers mistreating and humiliating prisoners at Abu Ghuraib prison outside Baghdad. The soldiers in question all were assigned to guard the prisoners. They have been relieved of their duties, and officials are investigating.

“There is no excuse for what you see in those photos,” Army Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt, deputy operations director for Combined Joint Task Force 7 in Iraq, said April 30 in Baghdad, “and I’m not going to stand up here and try to apologize for what those soldiers did.”

Kimmitt noted that the fewer than 20 soldiers in question “wear the same uni-

See *SOLDIERS*, A-2



Lance Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

Marines from 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment acted as aggressors in a mock riot, April 29. The riot was the final field exercise for students involved in a two-week course that ended with them graduating as non-lethal weapons instructors.

Mock riot tests Marines in urban setting

Lance Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

Combat Correspondent

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — A two-week class prepared 37 service members for their final test, and their time to prove what they had learned was at hand. They received instruction in all areas of nonlethal weapons tactics, and they were confident that they knew what to expect and how to react to any situation. But no matter how prepared a person might be, sometimes things can still get out of control.

Service members from the Marine Corps, Navy and Coast Guard, as well as several civilian contractors, combined forces to act as a nonlethal weapons platoon that was trying to control a hungry town of people during a mock riot in the setting of a third world country. The operation acted as the final field exercise in their journey to become nonlethal weapons instructors.

Marines from the 3rd Marine Regiment and a group of Marine volunteers acted as the aggressors for the riot. The exercise was set up at the Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) training area here. The mission of the aggressors was simple. They acted as a hungry group of people awaiting a late shipment of food.

After a short safety brief and the assignment of role players (such as a child, an old man and a woman with a baby,) the aggressors — equipped with eggs, water jugs and foam objects for throwing — awaited the arrival of the platoon, and ultimately the food truck.

At the same time, the platoon — fully equipped with shields, training batons and other nonlethal equipment — rounded the corner of the MOUT facility. Although the platoon was equipped with all the necessary gear to control a rioting mob, its ultimate goal was to keep peace within the city, and control the group until the food arrived.

As they entered the buildings where the townspeople were located, the role players took their turns testing the platoon’s patience and peace-controlling methods.

Two children playing with a ball first tested the platoon. The kids proceeded to kick their ball into the formation of the platoon and asked the service members what they were doing. At times, the children reached for rifles or sat in the path of the moving platoon.

The obstacles became more dramatic as time went by. A mother set her

See *RIOT*, A-5

1/3 prepares for 31st MEU

Lance Cpl.

Michelle M. Dickson

Combat Correspondent

Since learning of their upcoming deployment to the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit in Okinawa, Japan, the Lava Dogs of 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, have tackled numerous training evolutions in their preparation for the Special Operations Capable (SOC) designation.

Prior to deployment, each MEU takes approximately six months to thoroughly train in 29 unique capabilities. A MEU must be tactically proficient and graded in these capabilities to be certified as SOC. These missions range from humanitarian assistance to traditional amphibious assaults and SOC missions.

In normal circumstances, Battalion Landing Teams receive time to fully integrate with the entire MEU, to include the aviation support and command elements, to refine the command and control of the expeditionary unit. The Lava Dogs, however, prepared in a third of the time normally provided.

“I think the ability of 1/3 to assess this mission on short notice is a good example of how flexible 3rd Marines can be,” said Col. Jeffrey J. Patterson, 3rd Marine Regiment’s commanding officer.

According to Lt. Col. Michael R. Ramos, commanding officer of 1/3, the short notice only motivated the Marines more. “The Holy Grail” for 1/3 Marines will be embark day with the special operations

capable certification in their hip pocket.

“This time around, we had to focus on our wartime mission essential tasks,” said Ramos. “All of the fluff and nonessential training had to be cut out, and thanks to the outstanding support of 3rd Marine Regiment’s commander Colonel Patterson, and other supporting commands and establishments on this base, 1/3 has accomplished all their objectives to date.”

“The Marines had to learn these new skills extremely fast in order to be well prepared for the MEU,” said Patterson.

The 1/3 Marines along with artillery, engineers, light armored reconnaissance, and reconnaissance Marines will

See *MEU*, A-5

Hurricane season hits Oahu

Part 1 of 2

Sgt. Jereme Edwards

Training / Ops Chief

Hawaii is one of the greatest places to vacation or live, according to many people living elsewhere in the world, and quite frankly, for many residents living here. However, the beautiful weather in Hawaii has its ups and downs from June through October, when hurricane season hits.

A hurricane doesn’t start off with the destructive force that we often see covered during national and local newscasts. It starts off as a *tropical disturbance*, a light storm with winds less than 38 mph, not expected to increase within 48 hours.

If winds maintain, a *tropical*

depression, a storm with sustained winds of 38 mph or less that are expected to increase within 48 hours, is forecast.

A *tropical storm* brings sustained winds of 39-73 mph, and last but far from least is the hurricane. A *hurricane* packs severe, tropical cyclones with sustained winds of 74 mph or greater. Hazards from this type of storm include high winds, heavy rainfall, flooding, storm surge and high surf.

A *hurricane watch* is issued when forecasters believe a storm will reach land within two days. You should check official bulletins on the radio, TV, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration weather radio, or the Internet;

See *HURRICANE*, A-5

MCBH NEWS BRIEFS

Highway Lanes to Close

The two left lanes of the H-1 Freeway east bound will be closed Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. from the Waiawa Road overpass to the Aloha Stadium.

The Honolulu-bound lanes of the H-2 freeway will be closed to vehicular traffic from Millilani Interchange to Waipio Interchange. The closings will occur from 10 p.m. Friday, May 14 to 6 a.m. Saturday, May 15 due to repairs to the Kipapa Bridge.

For more details, call Scott Naleimaile at the State Department of Transportation at 831-6712.

Iraq Units Seek Support

One of the surgical companies at Camp Fallujah, Iraq, that supports wounded Marines and Sailors is seeking donations of green PT (physical training) shorts in the sizes of medium through extra large; white, gray, green or black socks to be worn with boots (socks in size medium or large); and green T-shirts in sizes medium through extra large.

The company will replace the battered and torn clothing ripped from injured U.S. service members when they receive immediate care.

Send donations to the following address:

I MEF PAO
UIC 42540
FPO AP 96426-2540

Gas Pumps Closed

Several pumps at the K-Bay Gas Lanes will be closed due to a parts failure. Unusable lanes are blocked off with cones so patrons will have to use only the open lanes.

Important Numbers

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

Hawaii MARINE

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MP training stresses ethics, officials say

Geneva Conventions and rules of war bind all service members

Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — All American military police receive training in the ethical treatment of prisoners, detainees and refugees, officials here and at the Military Police School at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., said Tuesday.

While all service members receive training on the Geneva Conventions and the rules of war, these aspects are particularly stressed in training military police, officials said. MP officers are confounded that some MPs allegedly abused and degraded detainees at the Abu Ghraib prison outside Baghdad.

To a person, they express shock and revulsion at the acts. Six soldiers have been charged with the abuse, and a further six have received letters of reprimand. The Army has conducted five investigations into the

allegations, and some continue.

MP officials said that from the beginning, new soldiers — both enlisted and officer — receive a sound and strong ethical basis. Instructors at the school stress what the Army considers its core values: service, respect, loyalty, integrity, honor, duty and courage.

"Nowhere in there do you see anything that would allow MPs to abuse prisoners," said an MP officer.

Gen. George W. Casey, Army vice chief of staff, said the Army is a value-based organization, and photos of alleged prisoner abuse that have been broadcast and published recently do not reflect the service's values.

"What you see in those pictures is not indicative of our training or our values," he said following a meeting with the Senate Armed Services Committee. "It is a complete breakdown in discipline."

Casey said the Army will continue

investigations and will punish those found guilty under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Military police are responsible for the safety and security of detainees and those around them, officials said, and they're trained to follow specific protocols. MPs speed detainees to places of safety once captured, they ask questions to classify the detainees, and they then place them in the appropriate holding areas, officials said. They restrain detainees when appropriate and necessary, officials added, and they treat detainees according to the Geneva Conventions and in the rules of war.

Military police do not conduct interrogations, nor do they "soften up" detainees for military intelligence personnel, officials said.

In the Army, the basic combat support MP has a military occupational specialty designation of 95 Bravo. Corrections specialists have 95 Charlie and criminal investigation specialists are classified 95 Delta. All receive instruction in ethical handling of enemy prisoners of war, detainees and refugees, officials said.

SOLDIERS, From A-1

form as 150,000 other soldiers that are operating proudly and properly here in Iraq."

He said all the soldiers in the photos are facing criminal charges. "If, in fact, the pictures are what they appear to be, they will face a court of law, a criminal court of law, and they will have to face a judge and jury for their actions," Kimmitt said.

Military officials said six soldiers have been charged. Several others, including an Army brigadier general overseeing prison operations, have been suspended pending criminal and administrative investigations.

"There will be an investigation, and they will be taken care of," Bush said.

Kimmitt said officials also are looking into why leaders of the soldiers' unit didn't know what was going on or take action to correct the problems. They also said they've taken several steps to make sure such incidents aren't repeated.

Pentagon officials have brought Army Maj. Gen. Geoffrey Miller to Iraq from his previous post overseeing operations at the U.S. detention center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Kimmitt called Miller "probably the military expert in the world today on conducting appropriate detainee operations."

Units dealing with prisoners and detainees are receiving additional training on standards of the Geneva Conventions and on detention operations.

Kimmitt said other service members share his disgust and disappointment in the alleged actions of the soldiers at the prison.

"If you think those soldiers are walking up and down the street approve of what they saw, condone what they saw or excuse what they saw, I can tell you that I've got 150,000 other American soldiers who feel as appalled and disappointed as I do at the actions of those few," he said.

Bush's later comments echoed those of the general. "I also want to remind people that those few people who did that do not reflect the nature of the men and women we sent overseas," the president said. "It's not the character [of the service members] that are serving our nation in the cause of freedom."

Spouses in charge



Photo Courtesy of Master Sgt. Kelly D. Pratt

The All Enlisted Spouses' Club hosted an installation dinner to install its newly elected 2004-2005 Board of Officers, Saturday.

The new officers are (counter clockwise from left) Teddy Kelly, member-at-large; Courtney Browning, recording secretary; Lilia Roberts, vice president; Shay-Lynn Bixby, treasurer; Mary Pratt, president; and Walt Thurman, sergeant-at-arms. (Laurie Magos, not pictured, was elected as chaplain.)

The AESC recently celebrated its 50th anniversary aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. The club provides financial and moral support to authorized activities and individuals.

Officials seek help with West Nile Virus

Cpl. Danielle M. Bacon

U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific

CAMP H. M. SMITH — Department of Health officials here are seeking volunteers to respond to a new West Nile Virus hotline.

"We have the lab to test dead birds for the virus. We are setting up a number to call to report sightings. Now, all we need is an agency to help transport them," said Shokufeh Ramirez, the Department of Health West Nile Virus coordinator.

Although there have been no reports of human infection here, officials are setting up proactive measures to find the virus, which is carried by mosquitoes and often seen in birds. Once dead fowl has been sighted, residents will be able to either call the hotline and have a vol-

unteer organization pick it up or wrap the bird in plastic and bring it to Vector Control Branch laboratories in Halawa Valley themselves, Ramirez said.

"It is important that we get dead birds immediately," he added.

Collect birds only if they have been dead less than 48 hours and are intact. Do not collect them if the carcass has an odor, if it is soft and mushy, if it has skin discoloration, if its feathers or skin readily rubs off or if it has maggots, according to Web site at www.state.hi.us/doh/wnv.

Officials with the department say the areas around airports and harbors are of most concern because this is where the virus will most likely come to the island. Once here, the disease could become a year-round threat, due to the types of mosquitoes here.

Signs of infection range from fevers or light flu symptoms to meningitis or even death, Ramirez said. There have been no reports of human infection from picking up dead birds, despite the tens of thousands of birds that have been collected over the past few years, but the department suggests the following procedures:

- Use rubber gloves when picking up dead animals. If gloves are not available, insert your hand into a plastic bag.

- Place each bird in a bag, tie the bag shut, then place it inside a second bag and close it.

- Place the bird in a cooler containing ice.

To learn more, visit the department's Web site at www.state.hi.us/doh/wnv. To volunteer to transport birds, call 587-6575.

Always supporting our

Navy/Marine Corps families



Benefits ease stress of deployment on family members

Compiled by
Cpl. Jessica M. Mills
Combat Correspondent

As thousands of our Marines and Sailors rotate in and out of the Central Command's area of responsibility (AOR), family members are left behind to decipher the multitude of special deployment pays and benefits that could equal up to \$500 or more per month.

Although units try to keep their service members and families up-to-date with the most recent changes in pay, understanding military benefits can still be daunting.

"Because of the high-risk areas that these Marines are being sent to, they will receive most of these extra benefits the day after they step in-country," said Lynn Docktor, the information management officer for the Base Personnel Administration Center. "Some of these benefits will depend on the location and length of time spent there."

Here is a breakdown of the various allowances for service in the Central Command's AOR:

Basic Allowance for Subsistence

The basic allowance for subsistence is an untaxed food allowance paid to most personnel at monthly rates of \$254.46 for enlisted and \$175.23 for officers.

According to the MCB Hawaii

Disbursing Office, both married and single Marines and Sailors receive full BAS while deployed, but since they are receiving three meals a day from the government (albeit field rations while in combat) a total of \$7.10 per day is subtracted from their pay for field rations.

The basic allowance for subsistence is meant to sustain the service member, not the family; this is why the cost of living allowance (COLA) is allotted to each service member. But, after the discounted meal rate is subtracted from the BAS, Marines and Sailors still receive a small sum that is left over. For example, if deployed for the full 30 days, that leaves \$41.46 for enlisted service members and \$0 for officers.

Basic Allowance for Housing

The basic allowance for housing is an untaxed pay to cover most of the cost of renting a home in the United States. It varies by location, rank and family status.

When a service member is deployed, he or she continues to receive this benefit so that he or she can continue to maintain home and family.

Early Return of Dependents

If family members choose to leave their residence and live with family and/or friends while their service members are on extended deployments, they can still continue to collect the BAH. But, the service member has to submit an administrative action form, through the chain of command, requesting an early return of family members, which allows the command to relocate the family members and household goods to the



Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle

Lt. j.g. John Kopplin receives a warm welcome home from his wife Melissa and his son Ryan, age 2, after returning from a nine-month-long deployment to the Middle East April 27, 2003.

designated place in the U.S. in his or her absence. This is a one time move; any subsequent moves will be at the service member's expense. Family members must meet the eligibility requirements, as stated in MCO P1300.8R.

For more information contact your unit's administrative department.

Family Separation Allowance

A monthly family separation allowance of \$250 is paid to service members who are separated from their families for more than 30 days. The service member does not receive payment for the first month until he or she reach-

es the 31st day in country.

Once that day is reached, the service member receives back pay for the entire month. The allowance continues until the day the service member returns from deployment.

Hardship Duty Pay

Troops deployed for more than 30 days to locations where service is considered dangerous by the Secretary of Defense receive hardship duty pay of \$100 per month. The danger of each deployment is factored into hardship

See *PAY*, A-6

MCCS supports families during deployments

Hawaii Marine Staff

Press Release

The eyes of the country have settled upon operations by Marines and Sailors in Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan. But the military cannot forget family members in the background who are faithfully supporting the troops.

The Marine Corps, Navy and Marine Corps Community Services have created numerous programs to help support Marine and Navy family members. There is support and advice available on almost any subject from finances and parenting, to counseling and emergency communications. All you have to do is call and there will be a number of helping hands at your side.

MCCS One Source

The newest of the Marine Corps Community Services' programs is MCCS One Source, a one-stop resource to find

information, guidance and answers to almost any question. The program, available by phone or Internet, covers everything from relocation to education needs, family support to health and wellness, financial matters to everyday issues.

One Source support reaches to the military community in the form of an award-winning Web site with numerous and varied online references and assistance. Those who enjoy one-on-one personal assistance can do so with ease by calling MCCS One Source. Users can even access e-mail assistance with consultants if they choose.

By using credentialed consultants, patrons have confidential access to prepaid educational materials, and other reference resources, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Registration is easy for MCCS One Source. To create your own personal profile, log onto the mccsonesource.com Web site, and enter "Marines" as your user name. Then enter "Semper Fi" as your password.

If you want more interactive assistance, call a One Source consultant at 800-237-42374 (for an outside the continental United States universal free phone), or 484-530-5908 (OCONUS collect).

Marine and Family Services

The Marine and Family Services Center located in Bldg. 216 aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, is responsible for many of the programs that can support and educate family members.

The Center is actually a combination of programs created specifically to support Marines, Sailors and their families in a variety of different ways.

They work to improve the quality of life for our service members and families by encompassing programs that focus upon the needs of the individual concerning education, prevention and intervention/treatment programs.

See *SUPPORT*, A-6



Word on the Street

What is unclear to you about the deployment process?



"I worry about my family, and whether they can maintain their present quality of life."

Staff Sgt. Douglas Leass
Primary marksmanship instructor, Headquarters Bn., MCB Hawaii



"How do I get a hold of him if something happens? I worry about how to contact him in case of an emergency."

Victoria Stonesifer
Yoga instructor and massage therapist
Semper Fit Center



"Who's going to be there to help my family if I'm not there, to take care of the kids and bills?"

Gary McDowell
Carpenter,
former Marine and family member



"How will family services make sure my family is taken care of?"

Petty Officer 1st Class Harold Terry
Health Benefits advisor
Branch Medical Clinic,
Kaneohe Bay



"Will they come home safely? I wonder about the logistics of the operations; but I think safety is the biggest issue."

Kay Feegle
Family member and
Navy Relief volunteer

Fort DeRussy hosts 'Twilight Tattoo'

Lance Cpl. Megan L. Stiner
Combat Correspondent

WAIKIKI — Marines from the Marine Forces Pacific Band participated in the 8th Annual Twilight Tattoo band extravaganza presented by the commanding general of the 25th Infantry Division (Light) and U.S. Army, Hawaii. The



Lance Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

K-Bay Marines re-enacted the Iwo Jima flag raising during the playing of the "Marine Corps Hymn."

event took place at Fort DeRussy here, Saturday.

Dating back to Europe, the term "tattoo" was derived by the Dutch word "Tap-Toe" meaning "turn off the taps." History has it that a drum cadence was played in various drinking establishments in order to signal to drinking soldiers that it was time to return to their barracks.

Eventually, as the night progressed, it is said that a bagpiper replaced or joined forces with the drummer, and then the procession led the service members back to their prospective military establishments.

The Air Force Band of the Pacific kicked off Saturday's Twilight Tattoo — part of Hawaii Military Appreciation Month events — with pre-music. Before the bands entered the field, Col. Bernard S. Champoux, commander, U.S. Army, Hawaii, welcomed all bands and guests to the show. Then the Marine Forces Pacific Band strutted its stuff onto the lawn after the National Anthem.

Shortly after drum major Staff Sgt. Christopher Carpenter brought the band to a standstill, with commands ordered by the movements of his staff, in turn, a team of Kaneohe Bay Marines brought the crowds to their feet when they raced onto the lawn proudly re-enacting the flag raising on Mt. Suribachi at the Battle of Iwo Jima.

Silence fell upon the crowd, as the



Lance Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

Members of the Marine Forces Pacific Band march down the field at the 8th Annual Twilight Tattoo event at Fort DeRussy. Leading the Marines is Staff Sgt. Christopher Carpenter, band drum major.

MarForPac Band ended its performance with a somber rendition of the "Marine's Hymn."

"We had been practicing this performance for a while, and it came across [as we rehearsed] on Saturday" said Lance Cpl. Aaron M. Schroeder, trumpet player. "The crowd really reacted to our performance. That made all the time we put into [rehearsal] well worth the effort."

McKinley High School's Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, the Celtic Pipes and Drums of Hawaii, the Pacific Fleet Band, the Waianae High

School JROTC Drill Team and the 25th Infantry Division (Light) "Tropic Lightning" Band rounded out the Twilight Tattoo.

"Everyone sounded good this year," said Schroeder. "This event is something the band looks forward to each year."

All bands reassembled for the grand finale, which featured the sounds of "Hawaii Pono," "Black Horse Troop," "God Bless America" and "Highland Cathedral."

As tradition would have it, the event ended with the playing of "Tattoo."

Environmental protectors



Cpl. Brian K. Buckwalter

The Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Environment, the Honorable Mr. Hansford T. Johnson (far right), presents the MCB Hawaii commanding general, Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, and the base's senior natural resource management specialist, Dr. Diane C. Drigot, with the Department of the Navy Natural Resource Conservation Award for a small Marine Corps installation. Also pictured is the Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., commanding general, Maj. Gen. Robert M. Flanagan (far left).

DUIs are career killers



(Editor's Note: Per the commanding general of MCB Hawaii, those convicted of driving under the influence [DUI], driving while intoxicated or drug-related offenses shall be publicized in the Hawaii Marine newspaper.)

The Military Police Department added the following names to the DUI roster, suspended the license of the driver, and removed his or her vehicle and its DoD decal from the installation.

- April 23, Lance Cpl. John A. MacDonell of 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, for driving under the influence after refusing a blood alcohol content test.
- April 23, Lance Cpl. .110 percent.
- May 1, Airman First Class Jesse D. Loveday of Hickam Air Force Base, for DUI with a BAC of
- May 1, Lauren D. Collier of 2662-A Connor Loop, for underage consumption with a BAC of .210 percent.
- May 2, Sgt. Jason T. Lindauer of Marine Heavy Helicopter Training Squadron 301 for DUI with a BAC of .160 percent.

EVERY CLIME & PLACE

Public can help troops stay connected

Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department has granted approval for the Army and Air Force Exchange Service to sell prepaid phone cards to the general public for donation to Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom service members.

By law, only patrons with military exchange privileges can shop at AAFES retail stores, but officials announced this week that the exchange service would begin selling phone cards to normally ineligible people and organizations on its Web site, aafes.com.

"It is truly an effort by the Office of the Secretary of Defense to reach out and to make sure that we keep our troops connected to home," Army Maj. Gen. Kathryn Frost, AAFES commander,

explained. "Everybody wants to do something for the troops to let them know they care, and this is a way they can do it."

The general said hundreds of people and several civic organizations have called wanting to make a purchase since word got out about the program.

Those wishing to purchase the cards can log on to the site and click on the "Help Our Troops Call Home" icon. The cards can be designated for an individual service member, or sent to "any service member" and distributed by the American Red Cross.

Frost said phone cards also can be donated to the Air Force Aid Society and

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, as well as the Fisher House. All are non-profit, charitable organizations that support service members and their families in need.

The AAFES price is about 8 cents per minute cheaper than its closest competitor, according to Frost. And since May 1, she said, the price per minute when calling from Iraq and Afghanistan was reduced from 32 cents per minute to 25 cents per minute when using the 550-unit prepaid card.

AAFES also is allowing normally ineligible patrons and organizations to purchase gift certificates for deployed service members through its "Gifts from the Homefront" program, Frost said. The certificates are sold by a commercial

vendor through the AAFES Web site or by calling (877) 770-4438, toll-free. She said the certificates can be sent to service members overseas and used for purchases at AAFES facilities.

AAFES is a joint command of the Army and Air Force for authorized patrons — to include Marines and Sailors — to buy goods and services. The organization donates a percentage of its earnings to military morale, welfare and recreation programs.

According to its annual report, AAFES donated about \$229 million to MWR activities in 2003. Frost said a percentage of the proceeds from phone cards sales will go to MWR funds.

"So when Americans buy the cards, they are helping troops in two ways: They're connecting them to home, and they're contributing to morale, welfare and recreation programs."



RIOT, From A-1

child in the middle of the road, a couple fought and a bystander shot one of them directly in front of the formation. The more intensely the townspeople acted, the more stressed out the platoon became.

"We set them up for failure," said Sgt. James D. Johnson, chief martial arts/nonlethal weapons instructor at Regimental Schools. "We need to put them in that position to see how they would react as a group."

By the time the food truck finally arrived, the struggle between the rioters and nonlethal control platoon members had lasted for nearly two hours.

At the end of the exercise, the team was defeated in its mission to guard the food delivery building. During the two hours, the nonlethal weapons instructors carefully observed and critiqued their actions and provided constructive remarks.

One of the most difficult aspects

of the training, from the perspective of the platoon, seemed to be communication. Although the platoon had practiced and worked with each other relentlessly, during the after-action review, instructors also unanimously agreed that maintaining a successful line of communication was one of its greatest challenges.

Instructors made the team aware of flaws involving bad coordination, inaccurate preparation and lack of attention during the exercise — the main reason for the platoon's defeat.

"They [platoon members] gave a lot of positive feedback, and we expected a lot of the mistakes to take place," said Johnson. "There are some things that you just can't train for without actually performing."

"Knowing that the students understood what they had tripped up on confirmed that the group achieved the necessary knowledge from what they were taught, and are ready for graduation," Johnson added.

MEU, From A-1

make up the ground combat element of the MEU.

"This composite of Marines makes them [the 31st MEU] capable of performing conventional ground operations in a successful manner," said Ramos.

"A total of roughly 1,300 Marines are expected, and they will conduct a series of training evolutions that include amphibious shipping with our U.S. Navy counterparts."

The training prior to and during the MEU is very realistic, and focused on likely scenarios, said Ramos.

"They are very motivated about the training that is being conducted," said Patterson. "I think the war on terror helps bring out that motivation to succeed as well."

"After the MEU, we aren't sure where we are going [mission-wise]," said Ramos. "But we are expecting combat in the future."

HURRICANE, From A-1

review your family emergency evacuation kit for essentials; fuel your vehicles; stock up on canned provisions; check supplies of special medicines and drugs, and batteries for radios and flashlights; secure loose material outdoors; and tape or board windows to prevent shattering.

A hurricane warning is issued when winds in the storm reach 74 miles per hour and they are expected to reach land within 24 hours. Only stay in your home during a hurricane warning if you live in a sturdy structure, but still, board up your garage and porch doors; secure valuables; bring in pets; fill containers with drinking water for three days (3 gallons per person); and turn up your refrigerator to maximum cold, in case of power loss.

If you plan to leave your home for a shelter, leave early — in daylight, if possible; shut off water and electricity; leave food and water for your pets; lock up your home; and drive to the shelter using emergency evacuation routes.

(Editor's Note: In Part Two of this two-part series, next week, clip out your disaster preparedness checklist.)

PAY, From A-3

duty pay.

For example, a location like Kuwait, which qualifies for both hardship duty pay and imminent danger pay, is rated at \$100. This allows the service member to also collect the imminent danger pay for that area.

Hardship duty pay is taxable income unless the location is designated a combat zone or imminent-danger area.

Imminent Danger Pay

Service members deployed on land, aboard ship, or in aircraft within an officially declared "imminent danger area,"

receive \$225 in imminent danger pay. Amount of time spent in the location does not matter. As long as the service member spends one day of the month there, he or she qualifies for that entire month.

"For instance, if a Marine lands in Iraq on April 28, then on April 29 they will be on the books for imminent danger pay," said Docktor. "They will receive back pay for the entire month of April, and will receive that same pay for each continued month they are there."

As it stands now, DoD has named Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan as "imminent danger areas." Bahrain is currently not on that list.

Contingency/Deployed Per Diem Pay

In case of any incidental expenses due to travel or otherwise, service members are paid a sum of \$295.50 a month, or \$9.85 a day, as contingency per diem pay.

Combat Zone Tax Exclusion

Those service members deployed to designated areas such as Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan, qualify for the combat zone tax exclusion. This means that they are exempt from state and federal taxes for every month they spend time in that location, even if it is only a few hours or minutes.

Deductions for the Federal Insurance

Contributions Act (FICA) still continue, as well as Medicare and Social Security deductions.

For commissioned officers, the tax exclusion is limited to the highest rate of enlisted pay plus \$225 in monthly imminent danger pay. So, for 2004, officers must pay taxes on any income over \$5,279.70 per month.

There are also some interesting and very beneficial situations created by this combat zone tax-exemption rule. Military bonuses, which are normally taxable, are completely tax-free when paid in the combat zone.

For more information contact your unit's administration department.

SUPPORT, From A-3

Retired Activities; Transition Assistance; Lifelong Learning; Child, Youth and Teen; New Parent Support; and Exceptional Family Member programs; libraries; information referral and suicide awareness are provided by Marine and Family Services. (See page B-3 for more.)

Marine Corps Family Team Building

— As the director of MCFTB, Capt. Zachary Rogers said his goal is "to see that every single and married Marine, Sailor and family member knows about the outstanding programs we offer. We are here to ensure that everyone in the Marine Corps community has the opportunity to succeed in their lives."

MCFTB supports several complementary programs that focus on empowering families with the information and support they need to succeed as partners in the Marine Corps community. The programs enhance family readiness and provide much-needed internal support and resources such as the following:

Key Volunteer Network — Another support system that is available for family members in the rear is the Key Volunteer Network, a network of Marine spouses who serve as the primary communication link between the commanding officer and unit families.

Key Volunteers support the spouses of unit Marines by passing on information from the command, serving as a source for information and referral services, and assisting families with any problems or concerns they may have.

They also organize events such as videophone communications, picnics, potlucks and banner making so that family members can keep their morale up. They make sure to keep in contact with each of their assigned family members, just to make sure that everything is going well.

"Key Volunteers are truly the backbone of our Marine Corps families," said Barbara Lee, the supply chief for the Provost Marshal's Office and an active duty spouse.

For more information about the Key Volunteer Network, contact your unit



Cpl. Jessica M. Mills

Marine Corps Community Services periodically hosts seminars and discussion groups for service members and their family members in an effort to help them cope with the stresses of deployments, such as the "Homefront Heroes: Staying Connected" discussion group at a seminar for spouses of deployable Marines.

Key Volunteer coordinator, Family Readiness officer or go to the MCCS Web site at www.usmc-mccs.org and select the "Key Volunteer Network" link (under Family Team Building).

Lifestyles Insights, Networking, Knowledge and Skills — Balancing the demands of family and career can be especially challenging, and many young spouses may not have the skills to help them cope with the unique challenges of military life.

LINKS gives young spouses the tools to become more self-sufficient and more engaged with the community.

"The LINKS program strives to empower spouses by teaching them about the Marine Corps, military life, financial issues, benefits aboard MCB Hawaii, and the opportunity to network with other spouses like themselves," said Shawna Wentlandt, former LINKS team leader at MCB Hawaii.

This branch of the Marine Corps Family Team Building tree entails more than 10 hours of facilitated discussion led strictly by volunteers who focus on the military lifestyle.

Participants follow a curriculum developed by Headquarters Marine Corps as well as LINKS team input from

bases worldwide. The program welcomes "every spouse in the house," said Wentlandt, explaining that volunteers serve in various capacities such as food angels (people who donate homemade dishes), hostesses (administrative duties), child care workers, mentors and house cleaners — all in the aim to form a more self-sufficient family so active duty service members can concentrate on their military mission. (See page B-3 for information about the new LINKS team leader).

Spouses' Leadership Seminar — A community is only as strong as its members; therefore, the Spouses' Leadership Seminar gives spouses the opportunity to learn the roles and responsibilities of effective leadership.

This eight-hour course empowers participants with valuable information on effective communication, leadership, teamwork, conflict management and personal enhancement.

Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program — PREP is a marriage-counseling tool employed by

the U.S. military with an exceptional success rate in resolving marital conflicts. Based on the book "Fighting for Your Marriage" (by Howard Markman, Scott Stanley and Susan Lumberg), PREP



focuses on problem solving, and building fun and friendship into the relationship, handling issues in an effective way. Couples learn how to effectively communicate, work together to solve problems, manage conflict, and preserve and enhance commitment and friendship.

Couples who participate in the PREP program are 33 percent less likely to get divorced, according to counseling services. For more information, call Counseling Services at 257-7780.

Chaplain's Religious Enrichment Development Operation

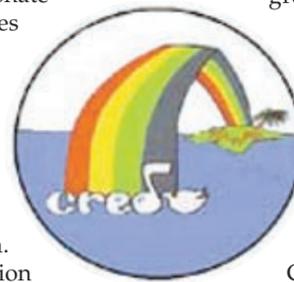
— The CREDO program offers a series of personal and spiritual retreats for Marines, Sailors and their families. CREDO provides programs for personal growth, character development, team building, ethical leadership, and workshops on marriage enrichment and spiritual growth.

These retreats are usually scheduled during a weekend, and take place at the CREDO Complex across the flight line near Hale Koa Beach. The location offers a peaceful, relaxing environment, far away from daily distractions.

For a schedule of upcoming CREDO retreats, contact religious program coordinator Petty Officer 3rd Class Lawrence at 257-1919.

The above are just a handful of the Marine Corps Community Services' programs that are offered to Marines, Sailors and families while on deployment or in the rear.

With all of these agencies available, you should not feel overwhelmed or hopeless because help will always be only an arm's reach away.



MCB Hawaii offers up its own list of support

MCB Hawaii
Press Release

Marine Corps Community Services provides several types of support to Marines, Sailors and their families during deployments. Other agencies aboard MCB Hawaii are also available to help out in time of need. The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society and the American Red Cross, among others, assist service members with legal matters, financial problems, family emergencies and the like. Here is just a sampling of the services offered to families aboard MCB Hawaii.

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society is a nonprofit, charitable organization that provides financial, educational and other assistance to members of the naval services and their family members. It offers assistance with counseling, loans and grants, as well as referrals to outside agencies.

The society can help with financial emergencies that warrant assistance, including interest-free loans and grants to deal with emergency situations; education loans and grants; as well as money-management classes, food lockers, donated layettes and nursing services.

In any case, the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society goes to every length to help its Marines, Sailors and family members, even if it has to look to outside agencies. Family members should never believe that they are on their own. Call 254-1327 for assistance.

American Red Cross

In case of family emergencies where families must contact their Marine or Sailor to request his or her return or inform them of important information, the American Red Cross is always standing by. The American Red Cross is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to assist with the needs of service members and

their families.

In the case that a family member does need their Marine or Sailor to return, the first step is to call the American Red Cross at (toll free) 877-272-7337 to speak with a caseworker.

Besides offering emergency communications, the Red Cross can assist with financial emergencies for situations like emergency leave and travel, temporary lodging, food, urgent medical needs, or other difficulties.

For more information, call the local American Red Cross chapter on base at 257-8848.

Chaplain Services

The Navy chaplains' primary responsibility is to provide and support Marines, Sailors and their families with religious ministries, provide counseling, and a host of other support. Most importantly, chaplains provide a safe harbor to talk about issues that are close to your heart because of their confidentiality policy — their conversations with you are private.

Chaplains can provide a safe place to talk about concerns and lend support when you or your spouse is deployed. A chaplain is available 24/7, call 257-7700, and he or she will be in touch with you ASAP.

Legal Services

The Legal Assistance Office exists to enhance the readiness of active duty and reserve Marines and Sailors by providing quality legal services regarding civil, criminal and installation law matters to them and their families.

Among services provided for single service members and families are preparation of powers of attorney and wills; attorney consultation regarding consumer and contract issues, small claims courts, adoptions, separations and divorces; a notary service; and tax-filing services during tax season.

For more information about hours for specific services, call 257-0074.



How to contact a deployed service member

Armed Forces Emergency Services of the American Red Cross can assist you, or an immediate family member, if you need to get in touch with your deployed loved ones, in case of an emergency.

Call 1-877-272-7337, which is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to access emergency communications and related case-work services, including financial services.



What is an emergency?

- Death, serious injury or illness of a family member
- Birth of a child

Who is an immediate family member?

- A mother, father, brother, sister or child
- A person who stands in the place of a parent for a number of years prior to joining the military and is responsible for the individual, which is documented in personnel records.

How do I expedite this process?

- Provide the service member's full name
- Rank/rate
- Social security number
- Branch of service
- Military address
- Work and home telephone number
- Name of person the emergency involves
- Location of the emergency
- Local point of contact in area of emergency
- If someone is deceased, the name and number of the funeral home
- If hospitalized, the name and number of the hospital, the room number and name of the physician

Mahalo nui loa for a job well done

Hawaii Marine bids farewell to Hughes



Public Affairs Office
MCB Hawaii

Major Chris Hughes, director of Public Affairs here, leaves us today

HUGHES

after six years at both Marine Forces Pacific and MCB Hawaii. He's been a driving force in establishing and maintaining positive relations within Windward Oahu, and in improvements to this newspaper.

A native of Richmond, Va., he was a standout linebacker in Hampton-Sydney College football before enlisting in the Corps as a combat engineer in '88. Commissioned in December '90, he graduated from field artillery then moved to public affairs in '97. With a Master's in public administration from the University of Oklahoma and currently wrapping up a Master's in Diplomacy and Military studies at Hawaii Pacific University, his constant pursuit of knowledge, battle-tested leadership, esprit de corps, and steadfast devotion to the Public Affairs Office and the Corps will be sorely missed as he returns home to train and mold officers in Quantico, before tackling the prestigious Command and Staff College in August.

Hughes is married to the former Sharon Baldwin, also of Richmond, and enjoys the company of two vibrant children, Abby and Clifton. Semper Fi, Warriors!