

MARINE

Hawaii

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Troop rotations to Iraq begin in 2004

Gunnery Sgt. Mark Oliva
MCB Camp Pendleton

MCB CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — Just weeks ago, Marines from I Marine Expeditionary Force were hailed as heroes in a parade. Now, they're packing up to return for duty in Iraq.

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld announced Nov. 6 plans to deploy 20,000 Marines for a division-sized Marine Air-Ground Task Force to Iraq as soon as March 2004. The Marines will replace the Army's 82nd Airborne Division. Most of these Marines will be drawn from I MEF.

Headquarters Marine Corps also issued warning orders to 61 reserve units to prepare for possible deployment.

The moves are part of a rotation plan to replace nearly 128,000 service members in Iraq.

Another battalion will be drawn from II MEF in Camp Lejeune, N.C., for deployment to Afghanistan, bringing the total number of Marines deployed there to approximately 1,000.

"The bulk of the U.S. troops that are currently in Iraq will be rotating out beginning next January, February, March, April, in that period," Rumsfeld said in a Pentagon briefing. "And they will, needless to

See DEPLOY, A-4



Cpl. Jason E. Miller

Marching through history

Marines from MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, portrayed Marines from different war eras during the annual Marine Corps Birthday Pageant before a crowd of more than a thousand spectators at Dewey Square. Marines throughout history have celebrated Nov. 10 as their birthday for 228 years. See B-1 for full coverage of the event.

Okinawa tour policies change

Sgt. Jason Anderson
Headquarters Marine Corps

ARLINGTON, Va. — Headquarters Marine Corps has decided to change the assignment policy, increasing the tour lengths for Marines going to III Marine Expeditionary Force or Marine Corps Bases Japan to 36-month tours with family members, or 24-month tours without families.

"This issue was carefully considered by the Corps' senior leadership," said Gen. Michael Hagee, Commandant of the Marine Corps. "The time has come to change the standard unaccompanied tour lengths on Okinawa to 24 months."

General Hagee said the decision was based on the need to reduce turnover rate within III MEF and MCB Japan and because the quality of life on Okinawa is now comparable to stateside assignments.

"The reduced turnover will enhance our operational readiness and III MEF's warfighting capability," said Gen. Hagee. "Also, the quality of life on Okinawa for Marines and their families has dramatically improved over the last 16 years."

The phase-in plan will occur over several years, with full implementation expected by 2008.

Details of how the policy change will be phased in are being finalized by Manpower Policy at Quantico. Officials expect some adjustments will need to be made during the process to ensure the transition is smooth and minimal.

See OKINAWA, A-5

Lava Dogs return, 2/3 departs

3rd Marine Regiment rotates deployed units

Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle
Combat Correspondent

Marines from the 3rd Marine Regiment aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, recently returned from a deployment from Okinawa, Japan, while other Marines within the same regiment took their place overseas.

Grunts from 1st Bn., 3rd Marines, returned to MCB Hawaii in the early morning of Tuesday and were greeted by their loved ones following a seven-month deployment to Okinawa.

The Lava Dogs had also deployed to several other countries in the Orient to strengthen their warfighting skills, while some companies within the battalion deployed to Bahrain in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Still others provided onboard security against terrorist attacks for cargo ships in the Arabian Sea.

Marines from 2/3 departed for Okinawa, taking 1/3's place in

the Unit Deployment Program. They are scheduled to spend the next seven months there and undergo a variety of training.

According to Maj. Andrew Kostic, executive officer with 1/3, their entire deployment was "fast paced" and extremely demanding, both mentally and physically, for the warriors of 1/3.

Ten days after the Marines in 1/3 arrived in Okinawa, Alpha Company deployed to the Philippines in support of OIF, while Bravo Co. found its way to Bahrain with the Combined Task Force 53, providing the physical security for the cargo ships with the Military Sealift Command. Both companies were detached for a total of 90 days in support of OIF.

The remainder of the battalion pushed its way into the muggy jungle canopy of Thailand where it participated in Exercise Cobra Gold.

Cobra Gold proved to indeed be a challenge for the Marines in 1/3 as they spent seven weeks in the grueling heat participating in the Thai Integrated Training Program with the Royal Thai Marines.

"We learned a lot about hand-

to-hand combat with the Thai Marines and we also got a chance to do some mechanized assaults and patrolling in the jungle," said Lance Cpl. Ranzi Hilal, a rifleman with Charlie Co., 1/3.

Immediately after their return to Okinawa from Thailand, the Marines from 1/3, with the exception of Alpha and Bravo Cos., faced another challenge — the Jungle Warfare Training Center in Okinawa. The Marines learned and put to use survival tactics in the jungle environment while small unit leaders deployed their units effectively.

Within 24 hours of completing the JWTC, 1/3 packed its gear and assumed the lead echelon of the alert contingency for the Marine Air Ground Task Force in Camp Fuji, Japan. The following five weeks were spent lighting up the Japanese sky with combined arms live-fire training.

The 1/3 Marines then went straight from Japan to the Republic of Korea and spent four weeks learning about the ROK Marines during the Korean Integrated Training Program. This course took place close to

See 1/3, A-6

Military police give ways to crack down on local area crime

Provost Marshals Office
MCB Hawaii

Burglary is a crime of opportunity, and no one ever has plans to be the victim of crime. We would all like to think that we are safe and secure and not susceptible to crime wherever we live.

Unfortunately, in today's world, that isn't the case.

Crime can and does happen in the best of neighborhoods — including Marine Corps family housing neighborhoods. However, property crimes in housing communities on MCB Hawaii continue to happen less frequently than elsewhere in Hawaii.

Still, one crime is one crime too many.

There are things that everyone can do to deter would-be burglars and criminals. An essential ingredient in reducing crime is teamwork between military police and housing residents. Also,

residents can be more proactive in their community.

"Eyes on" awareness is the key to maintaining our way of life. This community approach is crucial to fighting crime and terrorism. Everyone can help the Military Police Department foster a safe environment for our families.

Military police are asking you, the community, to assist in providing information concerning suspicious activity. This request is part of MCB Hawaii's "Let Freedom Ring" program. Timely reporting of suspicious or criminal activity will increase the installation's awareness as well as deter any future illegal activity.

You can contact military police, 24 hours a day, every day of the year, at 257-7114 or by e-mail at lfr@mcbh.usmc.mil.

Another key to deterring

See CRIME, A-7

MCBH NEWS BRIEFS

BIKERS TO MEET

WEDNESDAY AT 3 P.M.

A meeting of the MCB Hawaii Motorcycle Safety Association will be held Wednesday at 3 p.m. at the base theater aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

Motorcycle riders will discuss current issues facing the association and upcoming events such as the Toys for Tots Motorcycle Run to be held in December.

All service members with registered motorcycles on base are highly encouraged to attend the meeting. For more information, contact Gunnery Sgt. Peercy at 257-1252.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

Special Olympics Hawaii is seeking 500 volunteers for its annual Holiday Classic State Games.

The competition will be held aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, and Hickam Air Force Base, Dec. 5 - 7.

Volunteers will assist in various ways, from overseeing game operations to setting up for events.

Those interested in volunteering should contact Ms. Daina Hart at 943-8808, ext. 30, or e-mail volunteers@specialolympicshawaii.org.

JOB SHADOW DAY NEEDS VOLUNTEER MENTORS

Junior Achievement of Hawaii is looking for enthusiastic volunteer mentors who are willing to spend two to three hours (including lunch) with one or a group of tenth and eleventh grade students, as well as seventh and eighth grade students who want to learn about your business.

For more information on Groundhog Job Shadow Day, visit www.jobshadow.org, or contact Eva Laird Smith, president of Junior Achievement of Hawaii at 545-1777, ext. 15.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

On-Base Emergencies	911
Military Police	257-7114
Crisis Hotline	521-4555
Child Protective Service	832-5300

Hawaii MARINE

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Saving energy can help everyone

MCB Hawaii

Press Release

Once again Energy Awareness Week is here, and the Energy Office at Base Facilities, MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, will be promoting the efficient use of energy, and encouraging everyone to reduce the wasteful consumption of energy and water.

Your actions, today, will count for tomorrow, said the Energy Office. By turning off lights when you leave rooms, or by keeping lighting to a minimum, you will have done your part to reduce energy waste here.

If everyone here would use utilities prudently, as if they were paying the utilities bills themselves, we could be saving not just money, but the planet, according to the Energy Office.

Make energy efficiency a habit and help your organization save millions of dollars each year and reduce pollution to our planet, it added.

Energy-Saving Tips

Here are a few things you can do:

- At your workspace, turn off photocopiers, printers, computers, monitors and other office equipment that is not needed at night and on week-ends. This will save MCB Hawaii approximately \$20,000 a month in its monthly electric bills.

- The spotlight's on you, but that may be all the light you need. Use task lighting when you need lighting in one small area and then reduce background or ambient light levels.

- Irrigation is permitted only for plantings, not for pavements. Use care to minimize over-sprays. Limit opening of valve/faucet to only



Cpl. Jessica M. Mills

Base Facilities has opened an information booth at Kaneohe Bay's Mokapu Mall about energy awareness and what residents can do to help conserve energy. Facilities showcased the Marine Corps Air Facility's electric car that is raced against other military services throughout the year.

enough flow to soak into the ground.

- Irrigation of landscaping is limited to the minimum necessary to assure viability of the plantings. Personnel aboard MCB Hawaii are permitted to irrigate two days a week, from the hours of 6 - 8 a.m. or 6 - 8 p.m.

- Don't waste our precious potable water by trying to unnaturally make the grass green.

- Secure all valves when not in use. Hoses must have a nozzle with an automatic shut-off valve, or a sprinkler attached.

- Why set your thermostat at a colder setting than normal when you turn on your air conditioner? It will not cool faster. It will cool to a lower

temperature than you need and use more energy.

- Clear the air and save energy. To ensure efficient operation, clean or replace filters regularly on your air conditioners.

Remember that you're saving more than natural resources when you use energy wisely. Energy and water conservation deliver a wide range of additional benefits, including dollar savings, reduced pollutant emissions, and in many cases, increased productivity.

See the Energy Awareness Week information display at K-Bay's Mokapu Mall today 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information, contact the Energy Office at 257-2171, ext. 247.



Pfc. Michelle M. Dickson

A day of appreciation

Marines sit with staff members of Ohana Hotels and Resorts, Inc. during an appreciation luncheon held at the Outrigger Reef on the Beach, Nov. 4. This is the second year that Mildred Courtney, corporate director of government/military liaison, has coordinated this event in honor of the Marine Corps birthday and in appreciation for MCB Hawaii Marines and all they do for communities on the islands.

Illegal drugs will end military careers

MCB Hawaii

Press Release

Military service members represent some of the finest individuals our nation has to offer. They receive some of the most advanced and proficient training to help them complete their missions effectively, and to get them home safely — no matter if it's charging a hill in a forward-deployed combat situation or just taking care of regular, daily issues in garrison.

However, even in this world of discipline, high esteem and esprit de corps, some service members travel down the wrong road that often leads to very discouraging and disheartening events — the road of illegal drug use.

During the Vietnam era, it was known that many service members used illegal drugs, but, over the past several decades, the Navy and Marine Corps, along with the other branches of service, have taken a proactive stance to try to stop the use of



illicit drugs in the military.

"Prior to the military incorporating 'zero tolerance' and drug testing programs, as we now know them, they were studied at Johns Hopkins University," said Gunnery Sgt. Jonathan Barkley, a substance abuse counselor at Headquarters Bn., MCB Hawaii.

"Back in the early 80s, when the drug testing program was incorporated into the Marine Corps, there was an amnesty period that allowed Marines or Sailors to turn themselves in one time, and to admit that they had made an unwise decision to use or abuse illegal drugs or prescription medicine. Amnesty, however, lasted

for only a short period of time. That went away and we adopted the Zero Tolerance Policy we now adhere to.

"There was a transition period where Headquarters Marine Corps came out with a definitive date, and said by this day all members will be held accountable," Barkley added. "With that, zero tolerance grew into what we know today."

When a Marine or Sailor "pops positive" on a urinalysis, the results are scrutinized. The individual is interviewed and the battalion commander makes a determination whether it's a legal positive result.

See DRUGS, A-6

Veterans Day



Leathernecks from Marine Aircraft Group 24 aboard MCB Hawaii give a rifle salute during the 2003 Governor's Veterans Day Ceremony.

We gather to pay homage to the men and women who gallantly gave their lives for their country...

Story and Photos by
Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle
Combat Correspondent

In 1921, an unknown World War I American soldier was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. This site, on a hillside overlooking the Potomac River and the city of Washington, became the focal point of reverence for American's veterans.

Realizing the importance of the sacrifices veterans have made, Congress was requested to make a day to honor those who have served America in all wars. It was in 1954 when President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a bill proclaiming Nov. 11 as Veterans Day.

The 2003 Governor's Veterans Day Ceremony was held at the Hawaiian State Veterans Cemetery Tuesday and placed special emphasis on the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War and on Hawaii's Korean War veterans.

Hundreds of men, women and children — many of them veterans of the Korean War — gathered to pay homage to the men and women who gallantly gave their lives for this country. Along with them, more than 50 veterans organizations were present from every branch of the service.

The ceremony opened with the harmonious tunes of the "Star Spangled

Banner" followed by the Korean National Anthem in honor of Korean veterans who were present at the ceremony.

Representatives from all branches of the service, to include the Joint Services Color Guard and the Hawaii Royal Guard, looked sharp as they posted the colors and the audience rose to its feet.

"Today is the day we honor all those who served and gave their lives so we can be free," said Father Richard Rubie, a reverend with the St. Francis of Assisi Celtic Catholic Church, after the posting of the colors. "We can never compensate the men and women who served our country in combat and paid the ultimate sacrifice on the battlefield. We can only make sure they are never forgotten."

As many of the Korean War veterans dried tears from their eyes, Army Maj. Gen. Robert G. F. Lee, adjutant general for the state of Hawaii, gave the welcoming remarks.

"Fifty years ago a bloody war came to an end," said Maj. Gen. Lee, midway through the ceremony. "Freedom is not free. Our veterans paid the price for our freedom and today is the day we set aside to thank the veterans and their families."

The Honorable Linda Lingle, governor of the state of Hawaii, gave the Veterans Day address. Lingle expressed gratitude not only for the veterans of past wars, but also the service men and women who are currently deployed overseas in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"There is a great sense of sadness for the lives lost in combat," said Lingle. "Along with the sadness, there is also gratitude for the men and women who made sacrifices so we can remain free. The veterans in the Korean War fought to stop the expansion of communism into South Korea, and many paid the ultimate sacrifice.

"I offer my prayers to the veterans of wars in the past and to our service members who are risking their lives today."

After her speech, Lingle and Admiral



Above — The Joint Services Color Guard stood tall and proud during the ceremony at the Hawaiian State Veterans Cemetery in Kaneohe Bay, on windward Oahu, Tuesday. Left — Daniel Quinn, a piper for a veteran's organization aboard Oahu, played several harmonious tunes during the 2003 Governor's Veterans Day Ceremony as veterans listened and remembered their fallen comrades.



The Honorable Linda Lingle, governor of Hawaii, gave the Veterans Day address as hundreds of veterans listened in the audience.

Thomas B. Fargo, commander of the U.S. Pacific Command, along with representatives of the People to People International Korean Contingent, placed a wreath honoring veterans.

As many veterans sat in silence and remembered their fallen comrades, the silence was broken by a rifle salute performed by Marines from Marine Aircraft Group 24 aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

The 111th Army Band played "Taps" right before the distinct sounds of heli-

copters overhead in a flyover by pilots of the Hawaii Army National Guard.

The ceremony came to an end after the Joint Services Color Guard and the Hawaii Royal Guard retired the colors.

"The ranks of the Korean War veterans grow thinner and thinner every day," said Rubie after the ceremony. "The battles we fought together have left an indelible mark in our minds, and those who gave their lives fighting for freedom must never be forgotten," he said in retrospect.

Word on the Street

"What comes to mind when you think of Veterans Day?"



"...a day that we can honor those who have served or who are serving at this time."

Maj. Adolfo Garcia
Artillery officer
Alpha Battery,
1/12



"...to thank the soldiers for what they've done for us. I made them cupcakes."

Mana Hamilton, 6
Family member
St. Anthony's School



"It reminds me to thank our military and their families."

Sandi Hamilton
Civilian employee



"It makes me think of everything the veterans have done for our country."

Princess Santiago
Civilian



"It's a day to remember all the people who fought before us and everything they did."

Senior Chief Brad Baca
Flight engineer,
Executive Transport
Division

HSL-37 'Easyriders' come home

Navy Lt. Arwen Consaul

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

PEARL HARBOR NAVAL COMPLEX — The morning of Nov. 2, loved ones gathered on the flight line of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Light Squadron 37, as two SH-60B Seahawk helicopters carried the entire Easyriders air crew to MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

It had been 233 days since families had last seen each other, so, they rushed to their loved ones as the crew exited.

March 15 — the day the squadron had departed — became a distant memory for many who were there.

"There's pride in serving your country, and that's the only thing that makes the separation worthwhile," said Navy Lt. Douglas McIntosh, who was awaiting the arrival of his wife, Navy Lt. Suzanne Harker, a helicopter aircraft commander for HSL-37.

Commander David T. Fisher, HSL-37 commanding officer, said he was extremely proud to have worked with the officers and Sailors of the Easyriders crew of Detachment 6.

"Det. 6 performed an extraordinary and essential mission," Fisher said.

"Interdiction operations against our foes and the support on the war against terrorism — they did that well and to the T."

The squadron was deployed aboard USS Chosin (CG 65) as part of the USS Nimitz (CVN 68) Strike Group. The Easyriders deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Between the two helicopters, Det. 6's crew of six pilots and three aircrew flew more than 1,000 flight hours, with more than half of them at night operating with night vision goggles. The crew of HSL-37 flew 812 operational flight hours while deployed for more than seven months.

While aboard Chosin in the 5th Fleet area of operation for 184 days, the Easyriders flew 176 missions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

"We flew 12 hours a day maintaining a constant presence, letting everyone

know that we were there," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Stanley D. Cox, an aviation warfare systems operator.

The pilots weren't the only part of the detachment that kept busy. The 18 maintainers of the detachment kept busy repairing the aircraft and acquiring qualifications.

While underway, the maintainers of Det. 6 repaired a main gearbox, "a feat not done while underway, and the crew did it with precision," according to Fisher.

Also, 12 maintainers received their Air Warfare pins, and two Sailors received their Surface Warfare qualifications.

Finally, Petty Officer 2nd Class Jae Kim, an aviation structural mechanic, received the Junior Sailor of the Quarter for the third quarter from HSL-37, USS Chosin and Commander Helicopter Anti-Submarine Light Wing, U.S. Pacific.

"[He] packs a mighty punch for one man," according to Fisher.

While the families rejoiced at the

homecoming, the crew took time to thank their loved ones for the support they provided them while they were away.

Lieutenant Cmdr. Randall Biggs, the officer in charge of Det. 6, stated, "I appreciate everyone taking time out to welcome us home. Dets come back from sea all the time, but I appreciate you all coming out to welcome these guys back. These guys did an awesome job, and I can't say enough about them."

Though happiness was the focus that morning, the returning warriors didn't forget about the men and women still fighting overseas.

The Easyriders took the time to remind the audience that there are still service men and women protecting our country and doing their jobs.

"We only did seven extra weeks out there from a normal WestPac," said Biggs. "And you think about the other members who spend a year in country, doing the hard jobs, who don't get a homecoming. It really puts this in perspective."

"Please just remember all the guys that are still out there doing their jobs everyday, but it's great to be home."



DEPLOY, From A-1

say, be replaced. The combat units serving in Iraq, and most of the supporting units in the theater, will be replaced over the coming period of months."

Marines will deploy primarily in two seven-month-long rotations for Iraq, said Lt. Gen. Jan Huly, deputy commandant for Plans, Policy and Operations. The first rotation will begin sometime in March and run through September. The second will pick up in September and last through

March 2005.

Current plans call for about 1,500 Marine reservists to deploy in the first Iraq deployment, and as many as 4,500 in the second. Marines plan to deploy combat arms, rotary-wing and some fixed-wing assets, as well as a sizable combat service support element.

"Specific units are still being identified," said Maj. T.V. Johnson, public affairs officer for I MEF. "The planning is still underway. An aggressive training program will be implemented for units deploying to Iraq."

Plans call for Marines to deploy to western Iraq. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, Marines marched up through Baghdad, as far as Tikrit, before taking up security and stability operations in south-central Iraq.

"We will be in the zone where the 82nd Airborne is currently designated on that map, to conduct stability and security operations," Huly said. "What makes your Marine Corps unique from some of the Army units out there is our forcible-entry capability, which is primarily amphibious. But once we get on the ground, we can do

sustainment, security, and stability operations — just side by side with our brothers and sisters in the United States Army, Air Force and Navy."

Johnson said Marines are already gearing up for the possible orders. Training is being tailored to prepare Marines for the upcoming mission and the dangers soldiers already in the region are encountering.

"It's a tough job," Johnson added. "It's a dangerous job, but you've got to have people who are willing to shoulder that responsibility and go there — or this job's not going to get done."

Units within the MEF are yet to be designated for deployment, but some Marines who already deployed to Iraq will be tasked with returning. That number, though, will be minimized because of personnel changes and unit rotations.

"It will be a mix of people who have deployed to Iraq very recently," Johnson said, "and those who have never been to that region at all. But Marines are typically the ones who run to danger and not away from danger."

"That's what Marines do. That's our mindset."

Skinny Dragon spouses paint a safe Heeia

Heeia Elementary and PTA get support from Adopt-a-School Program, spouses

Lt. j.g. Justin Hane
Patrol Squadron 4

Since June of 2003, the men and women of Patrol Squadron 4 have been deployed to Japan and unable to provide their usual support to their adopted school, Heeia Elementary School, located on the windward side of Oahu. To help bridge the time until the VP-4

Sailors return in December, the Skinny Dragons' Officer Spouses Club decided to step in and offer their assistance to Hei'ea.

On Oct. 11, the spouses dedicated an entire morning to Heeia Elementary and the Parent Teacher Association — continuing the Skinny Dragon support the teachers and students have enjoyed during the past year. When asked why the spouses decided to assist Heeia, Angela Racoosin, wife of VP-4 Commanding Officer Cmdr. Rocky Racoosin, replied, "To carry on what the squadron does when they are there. The school loves the support VP-4 gives.

"The wives decided to see what they

could do while they were away and to carry on the goodwill and adoption of the school," Racoosin explained.

While the spouses dodged morning rain showers, they successfully completed both indoor and outdoor tasks. Using seven gallons of paint, they painted three-inch wide lines on the walkways that aid in student traffic when the students move between classes. Additionally, the spouses used yellow paint and painted the curbs marked by a safety railing to help increase the safety of the students and increase safety awareness of vehicular



traffic.

"Working at the school — on behalf of the squadron with the PTA — was both rewarding and fun. It was great knowing that we were able to make the school more enjoyable for the students and teachers," said Andrea Trelles, the spouse of

Lt. j.g. Eugene Trelles.

The spouses said they had a great time giving back to the community. They are excited, as are Heeia Elementary teachers and students, about the squadron's return in December, and look forward to another year of working, learning and playing together in Hawaii.

OKINAWA, From A-1

ly disruptive to service members and the support infrastructure on Okinawa. Although the policy change will not increase the number of Marines assigned to III MEF or MCB Japan, it will likely increase the number of family members aboard the bases.

"We are committed to developing a common sense phase-in plan that will be sensitive to the welfare of Marines and their families. We will ensure that the supporting infrastructure such as schools and housing can accommodate an incremental family member increase," Gen. Hagee said.

This policy change does not affect assignments to Okinawa under the Unit Deployment Program, which make up

approximately 30 percent of Marines serving within III MEF.

Marines currently assigned to Okinawa will not be affected. The criteria for who will receive orders to Okinawa or Iwakuni under this new policy is still being finalized.

"As this policy change is being phased in, Marines with dependent family members will be given the option of accepting 36-month tours to III MEF or MCB Japan accompanied by their family members," said Maj. Larry Bauer, military assignment policy analyst. "Only those who elect unaccompanied orders will be assigned for a 24-month tour."

Currently, Marines assigned to Okinawa without family members receive 12-month orders, unlike the 24-month orders the other services give.

Unaccompanied Marines have been serving 12-month tours on Okinawa since 1987 when the Marine Corps was granted an exception to the Department of Defense policy for overseas assignments.

Since that time the Marine Corps' assignment policy to Okinawa and Iwakuni, Japan, has stood apart from the other military services.

At the time the waiver of the DoD policy was enacted, personnel on Okinawa faced isolation and hardships due to a limited support infrastructure.

However, numerous quality-of-life initiatives and better living conditions have occurred over the last 16 years. These include improved housing, and a full range of professional, social, travel, educational and recreational opportuni-

ties.

As a result, life for Marines and their families on Okinawa has improved dramatically.

In addition, the increased cost-of-living allowance provided to members serving tours with family members has significantly mitigated the financial burdens incurred by living overseas.

The policy will also apply to Navy personnel assigned to Okinawa under a Marine Corps command.

However, this policy will not apply to civilian Marines or Marines assigned to Camp Fuji, Japan, since it is more isolated and does not enjoy the same support infrastructure as Okinawa.

A Marine administrative message will soon be released to explain the details of the phase-in plan.

DRUGS, From A-2

“He will do this by determining if the service member could have been on a current medication provided by a health care professional,” said Barkley. “Here in Hawaii, one of the more prevalent types of drugs found is crystal methamphetamine. Hawaii leads the nation in methamphetamine use.”

Crystal meth is a powerfully addictive stimulant that affects the central nervous system. Meth can be made easily in makeshift laboratories with relatively inexpensive over-the-counter ingredients.

Crystal meth is a white, odorless, bitter-tasting crystalline powder that easily dissolves in water or alcohol. It can be

snorted, smoked, injected or swallowed, putting the user in a heightened state of alertness, where physical activity increases and appetite decreases.

Methamphetamine is commonly known as “speed,” “meth” and “chalk.” The smoked form is the most available type locally, and it is often referred to as “ice,” “crystal,” “crank,” “glass,” or by its Hawaiian name “Batu.”

Quentin Redmon, the drug demand reduction coordinator for the Substance Abuse Counseling Center believes one reason Marines and Sailors are lured into using crystal meth is because the drug stays in the body for only a short amount of time.

“People are using this drug because they know how long the drug stays in

their system, and how easy it is to flush out,” said Redmon.

The effects of this powerful drug include increased energy and confidence levels, decreased appetite, physical exhilaration and a reduced need for sleep.

Unlike many other illegal drugs, the main danger crystal meth poses is that the body becomes tolerant much quicker than it does with other drugs.

This effect creates a need in the mind of the user to want more of the drug for longer periods of time.

“A person can stay up for days without the need of sleep; that’s why I think some Marines are using [ice],” said Redmon. “[However] no matter what the reason an individual may have for

using crystal meth, the Marine Corps policy on illegal drug usage is zero tolerance.

“There is absolutely no reason or excuse a service member can give for the use of an illegal drug.

“Some say, ‘Well I was having financial or family problems,’” said Barkley. “If that is the case, the Family Advocacy Office, the Substance Abuse Counseling Center and even chaplains are here to help members work through problems in a healthy and non-career threatening manner.”

In the end, those who are found in violation of the articles that govern illegal drug use within the Uniform Code of Military Justice can, and will, be held responsible for their actions.

(Editor’s Note: Per the commanding general of MCB Hawaii, those convicted of DUIs or drug-related offenses shall be publicized in the Hawaii Marine newspaper.)

•Sara Polk, a Marine Corps family member, was arrested for driving under the influence aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Monday with a blood alco-

hol content level of .210 percent.

Her decal was removed and her vehicle was taken off base the same day.

DUIs are career killers



The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reminds that impaired driving is not merely a traffic offense. Don’t be fooled. Impaired driving is no accident nor is it a victimless crime.

Too many people still don’t understand that alcohol, drugs and driving don’t mix. If you also find this too hard to figure out when you’ve had too many drinks to drive, don’t risk it. If you’re feeling “buzzed,” you are most likely impaired. And, if you drive impaired, law enforcement will arrest you.

You drink & drive. YOU LOSE

TO DO LIST

Before any activity that involves alcohol:

- Plan ahead.

- Choose a sober designated driver.
- Take mass transit or a taxicab, or ask a friend to drive you home if you didn’t plan in advance.

- Spend the night where the activity is being held.
- Celebrate responsibly.
- Report impaired drivers to law enforcement.

1/3, From A-1

the demilitarized zone between the ROK and the People’s Republic of North Korea in an area called the Warrior Base.

After a day touring the “Bridge of No Return” on the DMZ, 1/3 advanced into the rugged Korean mountains where it conducted Mountain Warfare Training.

“The ROK Marines taught us some awesome fighting techniques that tied in with MCMAAP [Marine Corps Martial Arts Program] techniques,” said Lance Cpl. Jonah Harper, a mortarman with Charlie Co., 1/3. “We got a good look at their weapons and learned a lot about history when we toured the DMZ.”

As the deployment came to an end, the battalion returned to Okinawa, Oct. 19, and participated in a commanding general’s readiness inspection.

“The Marines did exceptionally well in the readiness inspection,” said Kostic. “They passed all areas and received several noteworthy comments in several areas, especially in our administration section. The entire deployment was nonstop, and in my 20 years in the Marine Corps, this was my most challenging deployment to Okinawa.”

CRIME, From A-1

crime is to get involved in the neighborhood crime watch program. Residents who do not have a program in place in their community can call 257-8556 for more information on how to get one started.

Statistics prove that crime in communities with an active neighborhood crime watch program is substantially lower than in neighborhoods that do not have crime watch programs.

The neighborhood crime watch program uses total citizen participants and involvement to combat crime in residential areas. Military police stress the importance of housing residents being aware of what is happening in their neighborhoods.

Housing residents can help to protect themselves by knowing their neighborhood. Residents should know who belongs and who does not, what cars are parked where and at what time of day, and if there is a suspicious person or vehicle driving down the street.

Suspicious people or vehicles could turn out to be a visitor or lost motorist. Or perhaps, they could be potential burglars or car thieves looking for an oppor-

tunity to commit a crime.

The crime watch program can only be as good as the support it receives from neighborhood residents. If a family needs assistance, it would want its neighbor to call for help. Therefore, do respond to your neighbor's needs, as you would want them to respond to yours. In this instance, it's O.K. to be the "nosy neighbor."



**TAKE A BITE OUT OF
CRIME**

Neighborhood Crime Watch Goals

The program is based on the following goals:

(1) To increase public education concerning local problems and effective preventative measures that lead to improved residential security.

(2) To implement community-based programs that are designed to increase the level of community awareness.

(3) To identify and develop effective programs that increase the crime prevention posture of the community.

(4) To enhance relations between the military police and the community.

The crime prevention section at the Military Police Department can train residents to recognize and report suspicious activities in their neighborhood.

This section also has residential security checklists available for your use. The checklist is designed to help you conduct a security survey of your home, whether or not you choose to participate in a neighborhood crime watch program.

Crime Prevention Tips

The following common sense tips are provided to help residents avoid becoming victims of crime:

- Roll your car windows up and lock the doors.
- Don't leave valuables in your car.
- Don't leave expensive toys, bicycles, tools, etc., unsecured in an opened garage or carport.
- Use proper exterior lighting.
- Clear away or trim overgrown bushes and shrubs that could be used as hiding places.
- Leave a light on when leaving for a substantial period of time.
- Lock all exterior residence doors when asleep or leaving your home.

• Consider using a timer to control interior lighting.

• Close all windows when you leave your home.

• Don't leave valuables in plain view when you leave your home.

• Participate in Operation Identification, which is a program that allows you to mark your high valuable items with an engraver to deter a thief from stealing them or to identify your valuables if they are recovered by military police.

• Don't leave a spare key concealed outside your home.

• Don't label your car or residential keys with your home address.

• If you going to leave your residence, have a friend or neighbor pick up your mail, put your trash cans out on scheduled days, collect your newspapers and perhaps cut your grass.

• Arrange to have security checks conducted of your residence by military police by contacting the MCB Hawaii Base Housing Office.

Neighborhood crime watch programs do work, so be a concerned citizen.

For emergencies dial 911. For non-emergencies, call Crime Stoppers at 257-7114.

