

Hawaii MARINE

INSIDE	
CG Mail	A-2
Lava Dogs at Schofield	A-3
MP's Patrol on Bikes	A-4
Every Clime & Place	A-6
MCAF Halloween Haunts	B-1
MCCS & SM&SP	B-2
MarForPac Band	B-3
Menu & Ads	B-4
Word to Pass	B-5
Tackle Football	C-1
Sports Briefs	C-2
Health & Fitness	C-6

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Bush signs Defense bill of \$355 billion

Kathleen T. Rhem

American Force Press Service

WASHINGTON — President Bush signed the Fiscal 2003 Defense Appropriations and Military Construction Appropriations acts into law Oct. 23 in a White House ceremony.

The president noted the security of the American people is the first commitment of the American government.

"Our nation faces grave new dangers, and our nation must

fully support the men and women of our military who confront these dangers on our behalf," Bush said in remarks before signing the two bills.

Vice President Dick Cheney, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, the military service chiefs and their senior enlisted advisers, several congressmen and other politicians and leaders were on hand to witness the president's signature.

The Fiscal 2003 defense appropriation of \$355 billion re-



BUSH

the safety of many depends on the courage and skill of a few.

"We've asked our military to bring justice to agents of terror.

flects a \$37 billion increase over fiscal 2002 spending.

"Since September the 11th, Americans have been reminded that

"We've asked our military to

We've asked our military to liberate a captive people on the other side of the earth," Bush said, in explaining the increase.

"We've asked our military to prepare for conflict in Iraq, if it proves necessary. We're asking young Americans to serve in many places far from home, and at great risk.

"We owe them every resource, every weapon and every tool they need to fulfill their missions," he said.

"The best military in the

world must have every advantage required to defend the peace of the world."

Bush said the legislation matches "increased funding with clear priorities."

It provides for a 4.1 percent pay raise for service members, increases in full-time support positions for the reserve components, and continues to reduce out-of-pocket housing expenses for service members not living

See DEFENSE, A-5

UH coach Jones speaks at first PWM lecture

Sgt. Robert Carlson

Press Chief

The Pacific War Memorial Lecture Series is set to kick off Tuesday, and June Jones, the head coach of University of Hawaii's football team is slated to be the inaugural guest speaker.

The lecture series, which will bring one or two lectures to the base each year, will feature speakers who may not hold the same views as people in the military community, but who offer an "outsider's" perspective.

Hawaii Business Magazine named Jones one of Hawaii's 10 most powerful people in Hawaii, and focus on teamwork, selflessness and goal-setting has proven successful during his tenure as Warriors head coach.

In 1998, before Jones arrived as head coach, the UH team was finishing up its 6th straight losing season with a record of 0-12. By the end of his first year as coach, the team was the WAC conference champion with a 9-4 record. He didn't purge the bench with fresh players, (nearly 90 percent of the team was the same) but stressed the importance of teamwork and goals to turn the team around. That season was the single biggest turnaround in college football history, and CNN/SI and Sporting News named

Jones Coach of the Year.

The Warriors, who got their new name and new uniform design since Jones took the helm, finished the 2001 season 9-3 and are poised to do just as well this season.

The lecture series is scheduled for 6 p.m. at the base theater, and since there are less than 900 seats, units aboard MCB Hawaii will be allotted seats based on unit strength.

The lecture will include a question and answer period, and the goal is to provide a first class Professional Military Education event that will intellectually challenge members of the MCB Hawaii community.

For more regarding seat availability, contact unit personnel support sections through the appropriate chain of command.

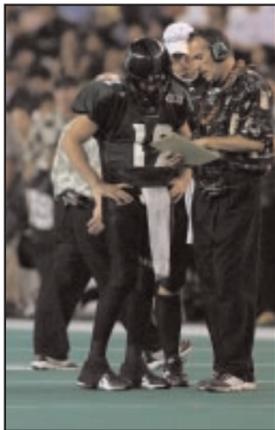


Photo courtesy of University of Hawaii

Hawaii Business Magazine voted University of Hawaii head coach June Jones one of Hawaii's 10 most powerful people in 2002.

MOPPING up with the U.S. Army



Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero

Lance Cpl. Patrick Long, a team leader for Alpha Co., 1/3, guards the perimeter during a nuclear, biological and chemical training exercise with the Army. See page A-3 for full story.

3/3 cleans Waimanalo beaches

Pfc. Monroe F. Seigle

Combat Correspondent

Marines from 3rd Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment, eagerly participated in the "Reach for the Beach" cleanup Oct. 25 to assist the local Waimanalo community in keeping the beaches their clean.

From 6 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., they covered more than a quarter mile of beachfront, removing trash and driftwood along the shore. They filled several trash bags with debris, as they cleaned from the roadway to the water.

The cleanup was organized by Maimiti Ho, a 10th grade student at Kamehameha High School, the leadership behind "Reach for the Beach."

"I wanted to make a difference in

our communi-

ty," said Ho.

"We are lucky to have such pretty beaches, and it was a shame that so much trash was accumulating along the shore.

"The Marines did a great job in helping us get all the trash off the beach."

"They did a great job," said Rosina Ho, Maimiti's mother, and a resident of Waimanalo, who also lives along the section of the beach the Marines cleaned. "Not only do these young men serve their country, they are serving their commu-



Pfc. Monroe F. Seigle

Marines from 3/3 clean up debris along the Waimanalo Beach.

nity and I am glad to be able to call them my neighbors."

After the cleanup, members of the community brought refreshments and snacks as thanks to the

See 3/3, A-5

Base residents empowered to help enforce regulations

Sgt. Robert Carlson

Press Chief

Good order and discipline aboard MCB Hawaii is everyone's responsibility, but when it comes to traffic regulations, many expect the Military Police Department to handle enforcement.

One of the tools base residents have to ensure everyone's safety is built into the base orders and involves nothing more than reporting an incident to MPD.

"We can't be everywhere at the same time, so we rely on the people who see something wrong to let us know," said Master Sgt. Gregory G. Mitchell, operations chief at the MPD. "The community is a vital part of the enforcement process."

While MPD and the Honolulu Police Department are the only ones authorized to issue traffic citations for moving violations aboard the base, anyone who observes an offense can contact the military

police who will, in turn, issue a "third party ticket." By simply providing the time, date and location of the violation, along with the license number, make, model and color of the vehicle, the military police can issue a citation to the offender.

A sworn statement is required of anyone reporting a violation, and the reporting person may need to appear in traffic court if the ticket is contested, but the benefits far outweigh the inconve-

nience when considering the effect even one "third party ticket" has on the overall enforcement situation on base.

"Unfortunately, there are some people who are more likely to commit a violation when there are no military police in the area," Mitchell explained. "When we get help from the community, it does a lot to cut down on crime."

Once a report is made, military police

See TICKETS, A-5

MCBH NEWS BRIEFS

MOTORCYCLE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY

The first meeting of the MCB Hawaii Motorcycle Club is scheduled for Thursday at 1:30 p.m. in the base theater. Topics for the first meeting include membership enrollment, nomination and voting of club officers, discussion of proposed events, and a question and answer period.

The club was established to promote motorcyclist safety, awareness and camaraderie amongst MCB Hawaii's motorcycle rider community.

Call Dan Martynuik or Master Sgt. David Welker at 257-1830 for more details.

USMC BIRTHDAY PAGEANT SCHEDULED NOV. 8

Marine Corps Base Hawaii will celebrate the Marine Corps' 227th Birthday with a ceremony and pageant on Nov. 8 at Dewey Square. The ceremony will begin at 10:30 a.m. and will include the traditional reading of the commandant's birthday message and a cake-cutting ceremony. The pageant will feature Marine Corps uniforms from throughout the Corps' history. Anderson Hall will feature a Marine Corps birthday meal beginning at 11:30 a.m.

COMMISSARY OFFERS NEW HOURS STARTING NOV. 18

The Commissary is changing hours to better serve the community. Starting Nov. 18, it will be open Saturday, through Monday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

"CINC" GOES TO CMDR.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld put out a memo Oct. 24 to DoD leaders saying there is only one commander in chief in America — the president. His memo also forbids use of the acronym "CINC" (pronounced "sink") as a title for military officers. The new term is simply "commander," as in "Commander, U.S. Northern Command," and "Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command."

The title of commander in chief is enshrined in the U.S. Constitution, Article II, Section 2, which states, "The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the Militia of the several States, when called into the actual service of the United States."

Hawaii MARINE

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CG'S MAIL BOX

"I hope that the health and well being of MCCS employees ... is a concern of this base."



BRIG. GEN. MCABEE

Submitted by Maura A. Sanders, family member

"I am a current MCCS [Marine Corps Community Services] employee, as well as an active duty family member. I have been working at the Klipper Golf Course for one year now. Since day one, last October, I have had respiratory problems.

I suggested to the course manager that we have an air quality test. We submitted a trouble call to Logistics in July 2002. This was ignored.

We then submitted a work request to clean the air conditioning system and ducts in late July. This initial work request was 'lost.'

Upon returning from two weeks of leave, and feeling much better, I returned to work. I inquired about the work request and A/C system, only to find out that nothing had been done.

We submitted another work request in mid-August. A few people from Logistics came to inspect the building. They concluded that it was poor housekeeping on our part, and that the dust in the air was the problem.

This was not good enough for us, so we hired an outside environmental specialist to come in and take mold samples.

Base Logistics informed us that they did not have the money and did not know where to get the money to do these expensive tests.

We received a phone call on Sept. 16 with the results. We then received the typed report, later in the week.

It has been close to three weeks since receiving the very disturbing results, and I am still sitting at my desk typing this letter. I hope that the health and well being of MCCS employees that work at the Klipper, along with all of the patrons that play the Klipper on a regular basis, is a concern of this base. I do not understand why action has not been taken yet.

Thank you for your time."

Sincerely,
Maura A. Sanders

Dear Ms. Sanders,

I have been asked by the commanding general to respond to your email of Oct. 2 since the issue you raise falls within my staff responsibilities. He appreciates you taking the time to participate in the "CG Mail" program.

Your concern with the air quality at the Klipper Golf Course Clubhouse is important, and I wanted to let you know the actions taken on this issue.

During September 2002, Pearl Harbor Naval Medical Clinic (Industrial Hygiene) and White Environmental Consultants con-

ducted surveys. Both reports indicate that while mold growth exists within the facility, it does not pose an immediate health hazard and conditions do not warrant closure of the clubhouse.

I want to assure you that the commanding general was personally interested in these results and was fully prepared to close the facility had the results warranted this action. However, in response to these reports and your concerns, actions were already underway to correct problems that may contribute to mold growth.

Recently, we replaced the air conditioning system insulation in the Clubhouse in an effort to reduce condensation and moisture problems.

Additionally, we are replacing the air handler units, exterior grills for the A/C supply system, and any water damaged ceiling tiles.

We will also be cleaning the A/C ducts.

We will keep MCCS informed of planned work and efforts so that it will be able to keep all concerned up-to-date.

Again, I appreciate your participation in the "CG Mail" program.

Sincerely,

Mr. Kent Murata
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-4

Motorcycle riders unite at K-Bay

The newly formed MCB Hawaii Motorcycle Club has its first meeting Nov. 7 at 1:30 p.m. at the MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Base Theater. The new club will focus on enforcing safety and building camaraderie among base motorcyclists. The agenda at the first meeting will involve defining the club's future events, handling membership enrollment, and the formation of a club newsletter. Club officers will be nominated, and an open forum for questions will immediately follow the meeting. Contact the Base Safety Center at 257-1830 for more details.



Sgt. Robert Carlson

Civilians get taste of Corps' capabilities

Sgt. Robert Carlson
Press Chief

More than 110 prominent business and community leaders watched Hawaii Marines execute an attack at MCB Hawaii's Range Training Facility Oct. 24.

The special guests were part of the Defense Orientation Conference Association, and were in town to see what the Corps' capabilities are, and to watch Marines in action.

While the group is completely independent of the Department of Defense, DOCA's purpose is provide a means for the country's opinion leaders to learn about DoD in a non-partisan, non-political and non-profit environment, and to share their experiences with others.

Formerly part of the Joint Civilian Orientation Conference, where they had high-level briefings explaining the important aspects of DoD, most of the DOCA members have a solid understanding of the nation's defense infrastructure.

The guests requested a briefing

about Marine Forces Pacific and MCB Hawaii, and they were treated to that, and more.

Marines from Kilo Co., 1st Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment, along with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363 and Combat Service Support Group 3, demonstrated the capabilities of a properly supported Marine rifle company while at the Range Training Facility.

Once the guests saw first-hand what the Marines can do, they received a command brief and enjoyed refreshments with Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, commanding general of MCB Hawaii, and other officers, at the newly-renovated Officers Club.

Founded in 1952, DOCA has no direct or indirect affiliation with business, political or religious organizations, and members are invited to



Lance Cpl. Glenna Dixon

After a demonstration of combat capabilities, Marines from Kilo Co., 1st Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment, and CSSG-3, spoke with the DOCA visitors and answered questions about the Marine Corps.

participate in the association either after participating in JCOC, or after a nomination by a current DOCA member.

While in Hawaii, DOCA members visited the Pacific Command, all of the component commands, and the Coast Guard.

Members also visited historical military attractions including the USS Arizona Memorial.



Pfc. Monroe F. Seigle

Marines from Alpha Co., 1/3, check the seal of their gas masks before entering the NBC zone.

1/3 cross trains with soldiers

Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero
Combat Correspondent

The Lava Dogs of 1st Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment, conducted a 26-mile movement from Kawaihoa to the Kahukus in an attempt to clear enemy areas of activity and to re-open an imaginary supply route between nongovernment organizations and the local populous.

As the more than 300 Marines from 1/3 pushed the simulated enemy from their positions, the enemy surprised with a chemical attack.

This was just one in a myriad of rehearsed scenarios in which the Marines from 1/3 and soldiers from the Army's 71st Chemical Co., conducted integrated nuclear, biological and chemical training at the Kahukus Oct. 23.

"All the situations going on in the world now call for NBC training," said 1st Lt. Anthony Zinni, commanding officer, Alpha Co., 1/3. "This training will help them get ready for what can happen in a wartime situation.

"Also, they learned what it's like to wear the equipment during intense heat."

The Schofield soldiers facilitated the training by setting off simulated NBC attacks and decontaminating the vehicles used during the training.

"Both Marines and soldiers gave great performances," said Zinni. "The soldiers helped us out a lot in this joint training effort."

"This was a great opportunity to see how the Marines train and operate," said Army Sgt. Takisha Dilts, chemical operations noncommissioned officer for 71st Chemical Co.

This training was essential for the warriors from 1/3 who are performing their work-ups for deployment to Okinawa in March 2003.

"This is the first time for many of the new Marines to use their NBC



Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero

Lance Cpl. Justin Beales, an anti-tank assaultman for Alpha Co., 1/3, guards the perimeter during an NBC cross training exercise with the Army.



Pfc. Monroe F. Seigle

1st Lt. Mark Jamouneau (left), executive officer for Weapons Co. 1/3., and 1st Lt. John Sarto, training officer for Alpha Co., 1/3, look over grid coordinates on the map.

gear in an actual scenario," said Lance Cpl. Joshua Kane, NBC specialist, Headquarters and Service Co., 3rd Marine Regiment.

"In a real-life situation this gear, though hot and uncomfortable, will save their life."



Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero

Private First Class Chris Battaglia, a rifleman with Alpha Co., 1/3, waits in line to decontaminate his gear during the integrated NBC training.

Golden Eagles mentor Navy recruits

Lt. j.g. Robert A. Arreola
Patrol Squadron 9

The Golden Eagles from Patrol Squadron 9 (VP-9) rounded out their summer by returning to basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Mich., to mentor a division of recruits.

The contingency of personnel from the Hawaii-based maritime patrol squadron, led by Cmdr. Brad Carpenter, commanding officer, commissioned Recruit Division 283 as the Golden Eagle Division.

This event marked the first time the squadron has sponsored a recruit division.



Lt. j.g. Robert A. Arreola

Members of VP-9 addressed recruits in Great Lakes, Mich., informing them of opportunities in the Navy's flying community.

The idea came from Great Lakes as a Recruit Division commander. He felt it was important to show recruits "The light at

the end of the tunnel, because boot camp is not necessarily representative of life in the Fleet."

Commissioning Day

Recruit Division 283 was commissioned as the Golden Eagle Division in their second week of training, June 11. The commissioning included a pep talk by VP-9's Command Master Chief Deb Davidson, and a presentation on the aviation experience by aircraft commander Navy Lt. Kevin Anderson.

Every recruit was then presented with a Golden Eagle T-shirt, paid for by various fundraisers held

See VP-9, A-5

WORD ON THE STREET

"What was the significance of your Halloween costume?"



"My friend's opinion is that I'm a princess, so I decided to dress up as one."

Evren (Princess Amidala) Conner

Family member



"It was an easy way to scare trick-or-treaters."

Petty Officer 1st Class Miguel A. Peterson
(Scarecrow)

Ordnanceman VP-9



"Star Wars is one of my favorite movies. And, I wanted to use a light saber."

Geraldo (Yoda) Mercado

5-year-old family member



"I really liked the movie 'Lilo and Stitch,' so I wanted to dress up like Lilo."

Brooke (Lilo) Helgeson

5-year-old family member



"I was taking belly dancing classes, so I decided to use my typical dance outfit."

Nitzeida (Belly Dancer) Adams

Family member

Two-wheeled patrollers help keep base safe

Story and Photos by
Cpl. Jason E. Miller
Combat Correspondent

Traffic law violators aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, have a new, stealth, all-terrain foe that has issued tickets and made the streets safer for drivers and pedestrians alike.

Recently, the Provost Marshal's Office purchased eight Smith and Wesson Patrol Bicycles to assist military police on the base with traffic matters. These vehicles allow military police to easily travel around nearly all areas of the base, quietly and efficiently.

"The bikes work really well for radar traffic control," said Lance Cpl. James Evers, bike noncommissioned officer in charge at PMO. "We usually have about two bikes out every day doing radar stops and traffic control, as well as issuing citations to violators."

The bicycle MPs have thus far brought in a very high number of citations, according to Evers.

In addition to controlling traffic on the base, the bikes also come with the added benefit of allowing PMO Marines to get out and recognize familiar faces of people on the base, something not always possible in a squad car.

"It's a definite plus to have Marines out there who recognize the people in the community. It definitely makes our job a lot easier and it allows the base residents to know who we are," Evers added.



Above — Sergeant Todd Snyder (left) and Lance Cpl. Kris Day demonstrate skills on the Smith and Wesson patrol bikes. Above Right — Snyder gets moving on his patrol route. Right — The Military Police employ many bikes in their arsenal.



The Smith and Wesson Bicycles, which are now utilized by civilian police departments across the country, were purchased at a price of about \$500 per bike. They are equipped with aluminum frames, front suspension and many other all-terrain components.

The military police who are assigned

the bikes are responsible for their everyday maintenance.

"We had some Cannondale and Raleigh Bicycles before," said Evers. "But as they got older, we really needed some new ones."

"These bikes perform really well, and we're glad to have them."

MILITARY BLOTTER

Sgt. Gordon J. Scott
Military Police Department

There were a total of 261 traffic citations issued last week.

The Blotter

-In separate incidents, two Marines were involved in a minor traffic accident, while backing and failing to maintain sufficient distance from a second vehicle.

-A Marine was apprehended by the Military Police Department for reckless dri-

ving, after being stopped for speeding at 68 mph in a 30 mph zone.

-In separate incidents, two Marines were apprehended by MPD for driving under the influence, after MPs observed them lane weaving.

-A Marine was apprehended by MPD for DUI, after being stopped at the Main Gate during I.D. card checks.

-A Marine was apprehended by MPD for failure to pay a just debt, after he refused to pay his cab fare.

-A Marine reported an auto theft, after person(s) unknown stole his vehicle while it was parked secured and unattended in the parking lot of Barracks 227.

-A Marine was apprehended by MPD for a DUI and underage consumption, after being stopped at the Main Gate during I.D. card checks.

-A Marine was apprehended by MPD for simple assault, after a verbal altercation became physical.

-A Sailor was apprehended

by MPD for a DUI, after being stopped for breaking traction.

-A Sailor reported a larceny of private property, after person(s) unknown stole her Toshiba laptop hard drive from under her desk.

-A Marine was apprehended by MPD for drunk and disorderly conduct.

-A Marine was arrested by the Honolulu Police Department for a DUI, after being observed driving the wrong way on a one-way street. The subject was processed and held on \$500 bail.

-A Marine was apprehended by MPD for fraud, after MPs observed that he subject had altered the date on his DoD one-day vehicle pass and the date on his Hawaii temporary registration.

-A Sailor was apprehended by MPD for fraud, after MPs observed that the subject had altered the date on his DoD 30-day vehicle pass.

-A Marine was apprehended by MPD for reckless driving, after being stopped for speeding 47 mph in a 20 mph zone.

VP-9: Squadron sponsors new Sailors

From A-3

by VP-9 personnel.

During the weeks that followed, VP-9's First Class Petty Officers Association sent the recruits letters to mentor and encourage throughout their training.

Battle Stations

The recruits went through Battle Stations in their seventh week, Aug. 1. Battle Stations is the recruits' final phase of training and involves an all-night series of exercises, ranging from fire-fighting to emergency sorties.

Hoover represented VP-9 at the milestone and participated in all of the exercises, further motivating the division.

The recruits transitioned to Sailors after the end of the Battle Stations training in the Battle Stations Ceremony.

Afterwards, the Sailors intermingled with one other and their sponsors during brunch.

Graduation

On Aug. 7, the day prior to graduation, Cmdr. Dan Rieck, VP-9's executive officer, spoke with Division 283.

The XO presented each graduate with a certificate from VP-9, for their successful completion of boot camp.

"This is a great opportunity to let the recruits know that the Fleet needs them, and there is a big Navy waiting for them.

"This experience has also allowed our Sailors to focus on their beginnings and remember where they came from and where they are going. We hope to have the opportunity to sponsor another class soon," said Rieck.

The Golden Eagles of VP-9 have achieved more than just mentoring Division 283. They have set a first and lasting impression into the mindset of each recruit, as well as allowed its own Sailors to reminisce and reevaluate their own future and goals in the Navy.

DEFENSE, From A-1

on military bases.

It also increases operations and maintenance funds by more than \$5 billion and adds \$11 billion over last year's budget for weapons procurement, bringing that total to \$72 billion.

"Today's American forces are ready and able to deploy to any point in the globe to defeat any foe," Bush said. "We're going to keep it that way."

The act also includes \$58 billion for research and development of "the next generations of weaponry that will win battles in the future."

Defense officials said the separate \$10.5 billion Military Construction Appropriations Act includes \$4.21 billion for maintenance and improvements to existing family housing units and for building new ones; \$1.2 billion for barracks; \$18 million for child development centers; and \$151 million for hospitals and other medical facilities.

The act also marks \$799 million for anti-terrorism and force protection improvements to facilities.

"We want the people who wear the uniform to know America appreciates their service," the president said.

To much applause, Bush said the new acts should send "a clear signal to friend and foe alike that it doesn't matter how long it takes to defend our freedom, the United States of America will stay the course."

3/3, From A-1

Marines for their efforts.

"We enjoyed helping our community," said Cpl. Jerry Shepherd, a team leader for Lima Co., 3/3. "The beaches needed to be cleaned and we were glad to be able to assist the community."

In all, the Marines removed more than 50 large trash bags of debris from the beach.



Pfc. Monroe F. Seigle

Lance Cpls. Matthew Perez, a rifleman with Lima Co., 3/3, and Joseph Venegas, a rifleman with India Co., 3/3, combine their efforts during beach litter clean up along Waimanalo's shores.

TICKETS, From A-1

follow up by contacting the offender and notifying that person's command. Then the ticket becomes like any other, and can be contested in traffic court.

Mitchell said the MCB Hawaii Military Police Department is considering an online reporting format because there is much better response to the program where reports may be submitted

anonymously.

In addition to reporting speed limit violations and drivers who run red lights, the community can help enforce a variety of other base regulations.

"Loud music, loose animals, and abandoned vehicles are all issues where the community could help us enforce regulations," said Mitchell. "It's not that we can't drive around

and handle things like that, it's just a matter of handling them sooner with the help of the base residents."

No matter if violations of the base regulations are done inadvertently or on purpose, the "third party ticket" program is one way the citizens can help enforce the rules and make the base a safer place to serve.

EVERY CLIME AND PLACE

Shock Trauma Platoon drills for chaos

The medical unit is positioned at the forward edge of battle

Sgt. Jennifer M. Antoine
Marine Forces Reserve

YARVORIV TRAINING AREA, Ukraine — During battle, life-threatening injuries can happen at any time. If it weren't for the "Shock Trauma Platoon," a relatively new concept in military medicine, many lives would be lost.

A shock trauma platoon is a small field hospital, much smaller than a battalion aid station, designed to be highly mobile and kept close to the forward edge of the battlefield in order to provide rapid treatment of injured Marines.

Members of Shock Trauma Platoon, 4th Medical Bn., San Diego, Calif., packed their gear and traveled halfway across the world to participate in the well-planned and scripted chaos of a simulated mass casualty drill as

part of Exercise Cooperative Adventure Exchange '02 at the Yavoriv Training Area near L'viv, Ukraine, Oct. 2-17.

The exercise integrated various aviation, medical, field artillery, headquarters and infantry units from 19 different countries.

During the mass casualty drill, a nearby Italian field hospital provided ambulances to transport the victims from the simulated battlefield to the STP where the Marines would unload them, check for weapons and identification, and then send them to the doctors who performed a rapid assessment of injuries.

The doctors, nurses, and corpsmen were faced with simulated battlefield injuries such as collapsed lungs, missing limbs, gunshot wounds, and psychotic dementia, to name a few.

In addition to the hectic scene of trauma care, the STP members also had to contend with Ukrainian and American civilian reporters and dozens of onlookers from medical staffs participating in the exercise.

"The drill went exceptionally well," said Lt. Cmdr. John Western, assistant officer in charge, STP, 4th Med. Bn. "Even though the injuries were not real, it felt like a very real situation. The pressure was still there to keep the flow of life saving medicine going," he added.

For many of the Marines attached to the STP, this was the first time they got to see their unit in action.

"This was a good exercise for me because now I know my role as a Marine in wartime situations," said Lance Cpl. Angelina Arellano, a 20-year-old student from Corona, Calif.



Sgt. Jennifer M. Antoine

Members of the Shock Trauma Platoon, 4th Medical Bn., San Diego, Calif., treat a casualty with simulated battlefield injuries during a mass casualty drill that took place during Exercise Cooperative Adventure Exchange '02. The exercise, which took place at the Yavoriv Training Area near L'viv, Ukraine, integrated various aviation, medical, field artillery, headquarters and infantry units from 19 different countries.

Worth Repeating: All human beings, by nature, desire to know. — Aristotle

Ecstasy requires users to trade their brain cells for highs

Sgt. A. C. Strong
MCAS Miramar

MCAS MIRAMAR, Calif. — X, Ecstasy, XTC, the love drug — all names for the same drug, Methylenedioxy-methamphetamine or MDMA.

According to the Drug Enforcement Agency, it is the most commonly used

drug by America's youth — and lately, United States service members.

Ecstasy is a synthetic drug with stimulant and hallucinogenic properties, according to the DEA. It was originally introduced in the 1970s to assist in psychotherapeutic sessions.

The drug works by stimulating the gland that produces serotonin. The user receives a feeling of relax-

ation, similar to that during intercourse. However, over a period of time, the gland is destroyed.

The body can no longer produce serotonin on its own, causing depression, sleeplessness, anxiety and a myriad of other problems.

Another side effect is that, when "rolling" as the users sometimes call it, the internal body temperature of the user

skyrockets, causing the equivalent of an internal meltdown. Use of "X" is increasing at an alarming rate of 500 percent over a five-year period, according to the DEA.

Drug Abuse Warning Network estimates reveal that nationwide hospital emergency room admissions for MDMA rose dramatically from 70 in 1993 to 2,850 in 1999.