Hawaii MARINE

INSIDE

CG Mail	A-2
CSSG-3	A-3
VP-47	A-5
DUI Listing	A-8
Native Americans	B-1
MCCS & SM&SP	B-2
Menu	B-4
Word to Pass	B-6
Ads	B-8
Football	C-1
Sports Briefs	C-2
The Bottom Line	C-3
Health & Fitness	C-6

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Corps celebrates 228 years

Sgt. Lou Lowery

During one of the Corps' most famous battles, the battle for Iwo Jima, Sgt. Lou Lowery took the very first flag-raising picture atop Mt. Suribachi. Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal later took the photo that received all the glory and recognition for the flag raising remembered today.

A Message from the Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific

This year marks the 228th anniversary of the founding of our United States Marine Corps. As U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific Marines, families and friends gather at home and abroad to celebrate this auspicious occasion, we should each pause not only to reflect on our glorious past, but also to look forward to a long and equally historic future.

GREGSON

We are entering a new era in our world's history, and with it come new challenges.

Marines have long been known for their expertise in hotly contested conventional wars; names like Tripoli, Belleau Wood and Iwo Jima are engraved upon the hearts of everyone who wears the Eagle, Globe and Anchor. But we should not forget that we are also experts in meeting the unique challenges of situations that are neither war nor peace, but somewhere in between.

As the face of warfare changes, we continually adapt to make our Corps more valuable to our nation than it has been in its long history. The current global war on terrorism will bear out this fact.

Marines developed and refined the art of amphibious warfare, and have successfully translated those principles to our tactics and techniques ashore, as we aptly demonstrated in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Just as swiftly as our forces captured and liberated Baghdad, we shifted to humanitarian assistance operations, providing food, shelter, security and medical care to Iraqis who had only known poverty, oppression and illness. By doing so, we ably demonstrated to the world that we are not only very dangerous to our enemies, we are compassionate to our friends.

None of what we have achieved in any point in our history would have been possible without the dedication of the young men and women who wear the uniform of a United States Marine. As we face the challenges of the future, these volunteers who take up the challenge of becoming Marines and face down the enemies of peace and prosperity do our nation and their families proud.

Let us not forget the great sacrifices our families make on behalf of our nation. They endure long separations, weeks and months apart from their loved ones in uniform. They fear for our safety and security as we deploy around the world, and they do so for no compensation and with little thanks. We could not do our job without their sacrifices.

General John A. Lejeune, writing his memoirs in 1930, may have summed up our future best when he wrote these words: "My friends, the anchor is aweigh. The sails are set and the ship, carrying a cargo of hope, is sailing out of the harbor toward an unknown sea. I ask your good wishes for a favoring breeze, a smooth sea, and a safe and happy voyage."

Happy Birthday and Semper Fidelis,

Wallace C. Gregson
Lieutenant General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commander
U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific

'Click It or Ticket' to hit the streets

Seat belt crackdown to target at risk drivers — teens and young adults

Mario DiPrete
Base Safety Center, MCB Hawaii

As the national safety belt use rate jumped to 79 percent, it is clear that more and more Americans are aware of the dangers of driving without a safety belt. Unfortunately, teens and young adults are many of the 59 million Americans still tempting fate and driving unbuckled. So, how do we get teens to buckle up when they think tragedy won't happen to them?

It's simple, surround them with the strong message, "Click It or Ticket; if you won't buckle up to save your life, then buckle up to save yourself a ticket," and back it up with a strong enforcement push that includes seatbelt check points, saturation patrols and special enforcement activities.

That's exactly what's going to happen this Thanksgiving holiday as more than 13,000 law enforcement agencies in all 50 states launch the national Click It or Ticket mobilization, a nationwide law enforcement effort to protect young people and others from the leading risk they face — traffic

See DRIVERS, A-7

Tongan teeth treated during Tafakula-03

Pfc. Bernadette L. Ainsworth
Marine Forces Pacific

VAVU, VAVA'U, Kingdom of Tonga — Members of the 21st Dental Company, MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, returned Sept. 30 from Exercise Tafakula, held in the Kingdom of Tonga, where they performed a medical/dental civic action program.

A team of two dentists and two dental technicians, equipped with embarked instruments and consumable supplies, set up a small dental clinic in the Vava'u hospital.

"While in Tonga, I fabricated eight complete dentures and made repairs to one set," said Petty Officer 1st Class Edward Huffman, advanced lab technician.

Although treatment was limited to four days, with the help of a Tongan dentist and one assistant as interpreters, Navy Lt. Jon Havenstrite and another dentist extracted 154 teeth from 96 Tongan patients.

"The most difficult thing for me was deciding which teeth to extract for the patients. Many of the children and elderly Tongans needed most or all of their teeth extracted by our standard of care," said Havenstrite. "We had to limit our treatment to only the teeth they desired to have extracted due to pain — or those that were noticeably infected."

The team was prepared to work long hours, due to limited time, but each day all the patients waiting to be treated were seen by 5 p.m.

"The most rewarding part of the trip was the way the people there accepted us with open arms," said Huffman.

This is not the first time this company has gone to the Kingdom of Tonga for a civic action program.

"A dental team was sent from the 21st Dental Company two years ago. It was the very first med/den civic action program," said Havenstrite. "I think the most rewarding part of the exercise was having the locals thank us for coming and helping them. They were very generous and made us feel sorry we could not stay longer."

U.S., R.O.K. forces enhance Corps' readiness

Cpl. Danielle M. Bacon

The 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade (Forward), III Marine Expeditionary Force and 3rd Naval Beach Group, along with Republic of Korea Forces, are conducting an exercise between two maritime preposition ships.

Cpl. Danielle M. Bacon
Marine Forces Pacific

REPUBLIC OF KOREA NAVAL BASE, CHINHAE, Korea — More than 300 Okinawa Marines and 100 California Sailors offloaded 11,000 items from maritime preposition ships here, enhancing the Corps' ability to improve rapid emergency response.

The 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade (Forward), III Marine Expeditionary Force and 3rd Naval Beach Group, along with Republic of Korea Forces, are conducting an exercise involving equipment exchange between two maritime preposition ships — the MV Pvt. Franklin J. Phillips and the SS Sgt. Matej Kocak.

"This training is important. It proves that we can get another ship going on a moment's notice," said Cpl. Gregory Clark, a boat field noncommissioned officer with Combat Service Support Detachment-34.

See READINESS, A-8

Attend the USMC Birthday Pageant, today at 10 a.m., Dewey Square.

MCBH News Briefs

Flu Shots are Now Available at Clinic, MCX

To help you prepare for a healthier fall and winter, despite the flu season, the Naval Medical Clinic invites all TRICARE beneficiaries to stop by the Immunization Department for a current vaccine.

Flu vaccinations will be offered at Kaneohe Bay Mondays through Wednesdays and Fridays from 7:30 - 11:30 a.m. and from 1 - 3 p.m. Also, obtain vaccinations Thursdays at 7:30 - 11:30 a.m., or at the Marine Corps Exchange on Nov. 22 or 23 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

No appointment is needed, just a valid military or family ID card.

Local School Seeks Help For Fitness Contest, Nov. 19

Blanche Pope Elementary School needs approximately 20 - 25 volunteers to assist with a baseline physical fitness assessment, Nov. 19 from 9:30 - 11 a.m. Skills to be assessed include pull-ups, the bent arm hang, standing broad jump, shuttle run, sit ups and a 35 and 50-yard dash.

If you're interested and available, contact Vice Principal Ryan Amine at 259-0459.

KOSC Tour of Homes Begins Dec. 5

All hands are invited to get tickets for the Kaneohe Officers' Spouses Club "Tour of Homes" fundraiser, now through Dec. 5. Tickets cost $7 in advance, $10 at the door, and maps will be available at the O'Club at 6:30 p.m. the evening of the tours. No children under 10 will be allowed on the tours.

All proceeds from the Tour of Homes benefit club charities and scholarships. Call Jen Wilson at 253-0054 for more.

Important Numbers

On-Base Emergencies	911
Military Police	257-7114
Crisis Hotline	521-4555

Hawaii Marine

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Fax: 257-2511, Phone: 257-8840

In the CG's Mail Box

BRIG. GEN. MCABEE

Comment submitted by "A proud Marine Corps spouse"

"There has never been a time when a single Marine was allowed to live in base housing."

Dear General McAbee,

Until now, I have not had the need to write you, but I feel you should be aware of this.

As long as we've been in the military and living in base housing, there has never been a time when a single Marine was allowed to live in base housing. Apparently, Sailors think they are an exception to the rule.

A family living in base housing has had a single Sailor living with them for the past four months. Shouldn't he be in the barracks? Why is he allowed to collect BAH [basic allowance for housing] and have the privilege of living rent and utility free?

There are other families waiting for housing and willing to follow the rules. Is this family not bound by the rules because they are Navy and not Marines?

The military member is an E-7. Shouldn't he know better? It doesn't seem right.

I sent an e-mail to the housing office, but since no action was taken, I can only assume they have friends employed there, looking out for them. I've had friends and neighbors tell me to mind my own business, but I cannot stand by while this person steals from you, me and the rest of the military community.

I fear there is the possibility of retribution; therefore, I will not be giving my name. I have small children and need to think of their safety. If I am wrong about this and defrauding the military is now common practice, maybe a newsletter giving us this right would be in order so that I may move my children into one room and "lend" out the others.

I do not think what they are doing is right and would like to see the situation rectified.

Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule for my correspondence.

Yours truly,
A proud Marine Corps spouse

Ma'am,

I have been asked by the commanding general to respond to your e-mail of Oct. 16 as your concern falls under my staff's area of responsibility. The commanding general appreciates that you have taken the time to participate in the "CG Mail" program.

The health, safety and welfare of all our families living aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii are very important to us. When rules and regulations for government-owned housing are not followed, we are responsible to take corrective action.

Based on your letter, an unauthorized service member was residing in government quarters. Since the submission of your letter, our Family Housing Office has contacted the service member residing in government quarters and informed him of the housing policies on guests.

Additionally, the service member's command was informed of the situation and immediately assigned him a room in the barracks effective Oct. 20.

We appreciate your thoughtful comments and concerns. If I can be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact me at 257-8821 and again, thank you for taking the time to participate in the "CG Mail" program.

Sincerely,
Mr. Kent Murata
Assistant Chief of Staff
Installations & Logistics

(Editor's Note: Letters of any length may be trimmed and edited in the interest of good taste and brevity.
The commanding general invites input from the base community via C.G. Mail on the following topics: What are we doing that we shouldn't be doing? What are we not doing that we should be doing? What are we doing that we should be doing better?
Responses should include a recommendation that will help solve the problem and must include your name and return address. See the MCB Hawaii Web site at www.mcbh.usmc.mil/command/cgmail.htm for more information.

Kristin Herrick

Dental work

(From Left to Right) Colonel James E. Harbison, Combat Service Support Group 3 commander; Navy Capt. Lee E. Niemeyer, 21st Dental Co.; and Col. Richard C. Roten, deputy commander of MCB Hawaii, open a new addition to the 21st Dental Company building. The ribbon cutting ceremony took place Oct. 30 aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

Study aims to reduce deaths

In the global war on terrorism, the Marine Corps continues to answer the nation's calls.

HAGEE

Fiscal Year 2003 brought new challenges to the Corps, among them the Marine Corps' participation in Operation Iraqi Freedom, which brought about deployment in numbers unseen in over a decade.

Significantly, no Marines lost their lives during the buildup for OIF, allowing full-strength, combat-ready Marine units to engage and decisively defeat the enemy. Yet, our non-combat losses at home have continued unabated.

We have made some progress in safety during the past few years — that said, more challenges remain. It is of utmost importance we understand the nature and significance of these challenges. Our efforts will lead directly to success or failure.

While FY03 closed with fewer aviation and off-duty class "A" mishaps than the year prior, and alcohol-related fatalities decreased, nearly a company's worth of Marines died in on- and off-duty mishaps during the year.

These dead Marines were our brothers, sisters, sons and daughters. They were the future leaders of our Corps until their lives were tragically cut short in mishaps, that for the most part were avoidable.

A total of 124 Marines died in aviation, ground and off-duty mishaps, and of these Marines, more than half died off-duty.

Eighty percent of off-duty deaths involved either cars or motorcycles and 79 percent were E-4 and below.

During the fiscal year, speed-related fatalities increased significantly, as did motorcycle fatalities, which doubled. We must develop and implement better strategies to reduce the toll of mishaps on the health and readiness of our Corps.

In pursuit of this aim, the Marine Corps and the Center for Naval Analysis are completing a study of noncombat Marine Corps fatalities. The study will form the basis for new strategies, increasing the ability of those in direct leadership positions to proactively intervene and reduce fatalities among Marines most at risk.

The following are among the findings of this study:

•During the last half of a Marine's first year in the Marine Corps, he or she is at twice the risk of death as at other times.

•The risk of dying in a motor vehicle mishap is twice as high upon return from deployment.

Other insights are being refined, and they will be promulgated shortly.

In light of emerging, leading indicators in Marine Corps mishaps, the theme of the first quarter FY 2004 is "Accountability: If there is a rule or law, enforce it."

Accompanying this message, the principles of operational risk management must continue to become integral to the Marine Corps' ethos. Our culture is one of our greatest strengths, and it must enforce the safety and welfare of Marines.

When fully focused, nothing is beyond our grasp. We can, and must, do better in FY 2004.

Semper Fidelis,

M. W. Hagee
General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps

'Practice like you play'

CSSG-3 prepares for the future of combat

Story and Photos by
Pfc. Michelle M. Dickson
Combat Correspondent

KAHUKU — Marines from Transportation Support Co., Combat Service Support Group 3, MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, took part in a five-day training mission between the Kahuku's Training Area and Marine Corps Training Area Bellows, Oct. 27 through 31, the training was designed to further enable the unit to perform under high-pressure combat situations and mainly focused on convoy operations, tactics and procedures to take during an attack and general mission accomplishment.

Captain Isaac D. Nelson, Transportation Support Co. commander, CSSG-3, said the Marines needed to secure convoys to ensure a successful resupply mission to any units they are tasked for.

"I expected a lot from my Marines and that's what they gave me," said Nelson, "a lot of good, solid training."

Nelson also said that the execution of orders the Marines received was amazing, as their surroundings made it very difficult. Tough terrain along with an ambush tested the Marines' knowledge and skills on how to react and still complete the mission successfully.

"Everyday we're out here, we're growing. All training is good training and the Marines took to all of it very well."

The training promoted small-unit leadership as decisions had to be made on the spot. The ambush forced the Marines to decide what to do at a moment in time when every action taken could either be the downfall or completion of the task at hand. The exercise put the Marines in a mind-set of actual war instead of just thinking of it as training.

Sergeant Phillip E. Shaddem, the Helicopter Support Team commander for the company, took the Marines through a different scenario. The Marines learned how to move in, hook up and airlift a humvee with a CH-53D Sea Stallion helicopter, and move out in combat formations. Then they gained experience and more knowledge on how to perform the task under fire.

"The Marines now have a better understanding on how to conduct the procedure successfully," said Shaddem.

Shaddem also said that the timeliness of the exercise is what the Marines had the most trouble with. With the amount of practice, their skills have become much more refined.

"The Marines really enjoy doing this. It's not too often you get a chance to come out and do something like this," Shaddem added.

Normal helicopter support teams training operations are performed fairly often for the company, but combat HSTs, such as this one, only take place about three or four times a year.

"We are trying to get the combat training in more often and push for scenarios more real-world with artillery."

Shaddem also said that he has been doing training such as this for seven years.

The training schedule for these CSSG-3 Marines will be increased in the near future to prepare them for K-fires and combat training while supporting 1st Bn., 12th Marine Regiment, at Pohakuloa Training Area, which will take place between Nov. 24 and Dec. 20. Until then, they will continue to train and prepare for any mission that may come their way.

After being hooked to the CH-53D Sea Stallion, the humvee was airlifted before being set down again to repeat the process.

Marines from Combat Service Support Group 3 gathered for a keepsake photo before the helicopter support team training began Oct. 30. The humvee behind them was only minutes from being airlifted by a CH-53D Sea Stallion.

Fact File
HUMVEE

PRIMARY FUNCTION: The HMMWV provides a variety of wheeled vehicle platforms. These are cargo/troop carrier, armament carrier, TOW missile system carrier, shelter carrier and two ambulance variants (2- and 4-liter).

The HMMWV will also be the prime mover for the AN/TRC-170 Radio Digital Terminal and the Pedestal Mounted Stinger System.

Length: 15 feet
Width: 7.08 feet
Weight: 5,200 pounds
Height: 6.00 feet reducible to 4.5 feet

Engine: V8, 6.2 litre displacement, fuel injected diesel, liquid cooled, compression ignition
Horsepower: 150/3,600 RPM
Transmission: Three speed, automatic
Transfer case: Two speed, locking, chain driven
Electrical system: 24 volt, negative ground, 60 amps
Brakes: Hydraulic, four-wheeled disc

Fording depth:
Without preparation, 2.5 feet
With deep water fording kit, five feet

Fuel type: Diesel
Fuel capacity: 25 gallons
Range: 350 miles on highway

Unit Replacement Cost: $50,000

MISSION:
The M998 is the baseline vehicle for the M998 series of 1 1/4-ton trucks, known as the HMMWV.

All HMMWVs are designed for use over all types of roads, in all weather conditions, and are extremely effective in difficult terrain.

The HMMWV's high power-to-weight ratio, four-wheeled drive and high ground clearance combine to give it outstanding cross-country mobility.

Word on the Street

"What will you be doing during this Veterans Day weekend?"

"I'll be going to Okinawa on deployment."

Lance Cpl. Elliot Anderson
Machinegunner
Echo Co., 2/3

"I'm going to be working because of the Marine Corps ball."

Martha Mequet
Dry cleaning technician
Dryclean Express
MCCS

"I'm going to my Marine Corps ball this weekend and having a good time."

Pfc. Justin Baca
Small computer systems specialist
Headquarters Co., 3rd Marine Regiment

"I am hanging with my friends, having a barbecue and going to the beach."

Sgt. Warren Yeater
Supply administration specialist
Headquarters Battery, 1/12

"I will be here working for the Marines and Sailors, trying to furnish their homes."

Luci Andrade
Sales manager
Furniture Department, MCX Annex

Local devotes 59 years to MCB Hawaii

Pfc. Michelle M. Dickson
Combat Correspondent

As many Marines go about living paycheck to paycheck here aboard MCB Hawaii, very few take the time to realize who actually makes sure that they are taken care of. Carol Shimada, the civilian pay supervisor here, has been taking this responsibility for almost 60 years.

Shimada was born in Kaneohe and has lived in the area her entire life. She grew up alongside three brothers and a sister.

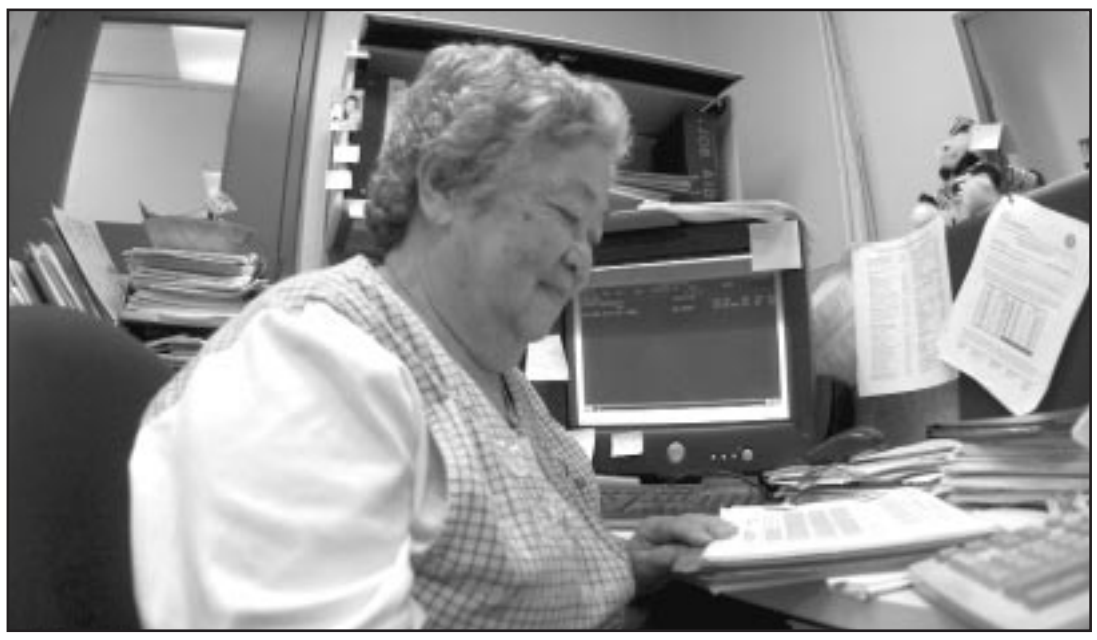
"I was more of a tomboy all throughout my childhood."

She attended the Sacred Hearts Academy through high school, until she was 16, when she began her civil service career during World War II. She was employed at the Federal Building in Honolulu as a receptionist for more than three years. During this time, she put herself through college, as she thought she would be a secretary.

After college, Shimada applied to work at Kaneohe Bay, which at that time was known as the Kaneohe Naval Air Station. When the base closed down in 1949, she became employed at Pearl Harbor as a payroll clerk.

"That began my career of accounting," said Shimada.

In 1952, Kaneohe Naval Air Station reopened and Shimada became the payroll clerk. She was promoted to civilian pay supervisor in 1960, after having switched and become an accounting technician for a couple of years. She has held the supervisor position ever since.



Pfc. Michelle M. Dickson

Carol Shimada, the civilian payroll supervisor aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, has been working with Marines and Sailors at K-Bay for almost 60 years.

"I was trying to broaden my knowledge in the accounting field," she recalled.

Shimada said the most difficult times she has had in her line of work are with changing technology.

"Everything had to be redone when different systems came about. You had to put in your own time after work and on weekends to get everything all done. That was a really big accomplishment."

Throughout her years, Shimada has received superior achievement awards and a quality step increase for her exemplary performance. Along with these, Shimada has a "50 years of service" pin that she actually received on her 59th year of service.

"I feel if you want to do something, you have to give yourself. You can't just expect to always receive," she explained about her beliefs. "Just go for it and climb as high as you possibly can."

Shimada enjoys the company she's worked with over the years as well.

"I've been really fortunate throughout my career. Everyone has been so nice."

Priscilla Oku, the deputy comptroller here, has worked with Shimada for more than 25 years and says that Shimada is a very thoughtful person.

"She really has a soft heart. She'll do anything she can to assist someone, even if she has to go really out of her way to do so."

Oku also said that Shimada is truly dedicated to her job as she has more than 5,600 hours of sick leave available to her.

"Whether she's sick or not, she's still coming in to work."

Oku also said that Shimada will proudly attend her very first Marine Corps ball this year.

Shimada, a widow, was married for 42 years and has one daughter who resides in Oregon and works for the federal government.

"My daughter thinks it's fine that I still come into work everyday, but I do it because I like to meet people and keep my mind sharp," Shimada explained.

Oku said she thinks that Shimada won't ever leave the job that she is currently at as the civilian pay supervisor.

"I think she'll continue on until the day she leaves this earth."

Until that day comes, Shimada will continue on her way, doing her job, as she knows best.

On her off time, she'll tend to her garden of ferns and orchids, and otherwise ensure that the employed members aboard this base are receiving the service they need.

8-year-old family member donates locks to less fortunate

Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle
Combat Correspondent

Most people would probably agree that it is an unfortunate sight to see a child suffering from an illness that prevents him or her from going to school, playing with friends or enjoying life to the fullest — as every child should be able to do.

A young girl aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, witnessed such suffering when she went to a children's hospital in Pensacola, Fla., in the summer of 2002. Alexis Stevens saw children bedridden with cancer and missing all of their hair during a field trip with Gulf Breeze Elementary School.

"I felt sad for those children because they could not go to school or go outside to play with their friends," said the kind-hearted Stevens, now age 8 and a second grader at Mokapu Elementary School here. "I wanted to help the boys and girls in that hospital, but I did not know what I could do for them."

Stevens came home that day and told her mother, Kristene Stevens, about her day's events and the unfortunate children in the hospital. She did not know what to say to her daughter at that moment, but she could see in her child's face that she was sad and knew that she was genuinely concerned about the children in the hospital.

Shortly after, Kristene Stevens kept an appointment with a local hairdresser, where the subject came up about the children in the hospital who were losing all their hair from the chemotherapy used to treat cancer patients.

As the hairdresser snipped away pieces of Kristene Stevens' hair, she told Kristene about an organization that collects and provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children under the age 18.

"Locks of Love" is a nonprofit organization that has helped numerous children across the country who are suffering from long-term medical hair loss. The organization produces

See HAIR, A-7

Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle

Eight-year-old Alexis Stevens donated 10 inches of her hair to "Locks of Love."

Golden Swordsmen prepare for action

Lt. j.g. Drew Peters
Patrol Squadron 47

The Golden Swordsmen of Patrol Squadron 47 recently completed a rigorous Inter-Deployment Readiness Cycle in preparation for their upcoming deployment to Diego Garcia and other locations throughout the 5th Fleet area of responsibility.

Since returning from Southeast Asia in December 2002, the Golden Swordsmen have flown missions for Operation Iraqi Freedom, traveled to Chile for the international exercise Teamwork South, supported the USS Peleliu Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) in its Joint Task Force Exercise, and conducted a historic dual Harpoon missile attack on the EX-USS Ingersoll (DD-990).

By completing these operations and exercises, the squadron has flown over 600 sorties, totaling over 2,600 hours, to maintain readiness and qualify combat aircrews for deployment.

In February, two combat aircrews volunteered for duty in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. These crews augmented Patrol Squadron 46 based in Whidbey Island, Wash. They flew overland missions in Iraq providing valuable intelligence to ground troops and maritime missions monitoring combatants and commercial shipping traffic in the Arabian Gulf.

During June, Combat Air Crew 6 participated in Teamwork South, flying missions with the Chilean, French and British navies out of Antofagasta, Chile. These missions involved prosecuting two of Chile's premier diesel submarines and conducting simulated torpedo and Harpoon attacks against the subs and surface ships assigned to the opposing forces. Combat Air Crew 6 performed superbly and was congratulated by the commander of the Chilean submarine for being a difficult and challenging adversary.

In July, three combat air crews and ground support personnel from VP-47 took part in a Joint Training Field Exercise in San Diego along side two air crews from VP-1 and one crew from the Royal Canadian Air Force.

P-3Cs flew around the clock during the two-week exercise conducting both overland and maritime missions in support of amphibious attacks on simulated terrorist targets by the ESG, the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, and other Special Forces units.

Courtesy of VP-47

The Golden Swordsmen of VP-47 have flown more than 600 sorties totaling over 2,600 hours in P-3C Orions such as the one pictured above.

All of these operations and exercises have left the Golden Swordsmen well prepared for their upcoming operations in support of the global war on terrorism, and any other operation that may arise. The men and women of VP-47 stand ready to tackle new challenges, maintain a strong forward presence, and proudly defend the Nation.

Family, friends mourn Marine's passing

Cpl. Luis R. Agostini
Marine Forces Pacific

Family, friends and fellow warriors gathered at the MCB Hawaii Chapel, Oct. 31, to celebrate the life of Master Gunnery Sgt. Howard D. Burleson, who passed away Oct. 23 at the age of 44.

Burleson served as the legal chief for the U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific Staff Judge Advocate, serving two tours with U.S. Marine Corps Forces Central Command during Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

Burleson's presence was felt throughout the chapel. A display at the chapel entrance took mourners on a photographic journey through the storied career and family life of the late "Master Guns." On display adjacent to his casket were photos of Burleson during his drill field years and Bahrain tours, a pair of combat boots, a Kevlar helmet and a folded American flag.

Burleson's sons, Larry and Ben, said prayers in honor and remembrance of their father, and his daughter, Angela McCray, played a videotape of a local school performance Oct. 30 in honor of service men and women who have defended the country. She planned on showing her father the video.

"He was a great dad, and that's all we knew him as," said McCray. "It was enough for us. It wasn't till now that we realize that he was so much more than that," said McCray.

Several of Burleson's coworkers at MarForPac shared candid remarks, lending insight on their relationships, professional and personal, with Burleson.

Chaplain (Lt. Cmdr.) Loften C. Thornton, Headquarters and Service Bn., MarForPac, with whom Burleson served with in Bahrain, preceded the meditation with descriptions of Burleson as "frank, no-nonsense, old-school and a man's man."

Colonel William S. Febuary, commanding officer of Headquarters and Service Battalion, MarForPac, spoke on behalf of Burleson's final command.

"This good shepherd [Burleson] increased the quality of all he touched by his example, guidance and mentorship," said Febuary. "He will never be forgotten."

One of Burleson's noncommissioned officers, Sgt. Donnie Plumley, legal services specialist, shared his admiration for his late mentor.

"I never quite met anyone like him. He had a profound impact on me as an enlisted Marine. He was patient, a lis-

See BURLESON, A-7

BURLESON, From A-6

tener and a friend," said Plumley. "I will always treasure his advice."

Burleson's officer-in-charge, Lt. Col. Robert Pinder, staff judge advocate, MarForPac, shared his thoughts on Burleson's reputation as a reliable coworker.

"He was a fixer. The toughest problems in the office, I would ask him to fix them and he would," said Pinder.

The services concluded outside the chapel, where family, friends and Marines gathered for the "Marine Prayer", "Taps" and a final farewell to Master Gunnery Sgt. Howard Burleson.

Cpl. Luis R. Agostini

Family and friends gathered at the chapel aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Oct. 31, to mourn the passing of Master Gunnery Sgt. Howard Burleson.

HAIR, From A-4

quality hair prosthetics and helps to restore the child's self-esteem, along with his or her self-confidence, so the child can face the world and their peers.

"When I heard about this organization, I knew my daughter would be interested," said Kristene Stevens. "The only set back was that the donor had to give at least 10 inches of natural hair, and my daughter barely had 10 inches of hair at the time."

It would take a year and a half for the young Alexis Stevens to grow enough hair to feel comfortable with donating 10 inches of her own to the organization.

When the time came on Oct. 27 for the scissors to cut through the locks of Alexis Stevens' hair, she was hesitant. She had become quite accustomed to having long hair, but realized that what she was doing was only a minor sacrifice for the children who had no hair due to medical illnesses.

After cutting her hair, Alexis bound her soft, brown locks with a rubber band and put them in a Ziploc bag. The time had come for her to mail her hair to "Locks of Love."

"Alexis has always wanted to please other people," said Kristine Stevens, as she watched her daughter put the large, brown envelope containing her hair into the mailbox. "She is a very sweet girl, and now that she has mailed the hair, I know she feels she has done the right thing and feels good about herself."

DRIVERS, From A-1

crashes. The two-week enforcement wave, which runs from Nov. 17 - 30, is based on a proven public health model to increase belt use called "high visibility enforcement."

All too often we are called upon to pull fatally injured young people from cars — and we'd rather write a thousand tickets than face one more of these tragedies.

Traffic crashes are the leading cause of death among young people. Half of those killed would be alive today if they had simply put on their seat belt.

The high visibility enforcement model of Click It or Ticket is based on years of research showing that for most people who don't wear seat belts — especially young people — the possibility of receiving a ticket is a more credible incentive than the threat of injury or death.

Safety messages don't work. Enforcement messages, backed up by strong enforcement activities do.

That is why the MCB Hawaii Provost Marshal's Office and the Honolulu Police Department are teaming up to do everything we can to get the word out to those who face the greatest risk — teens and young adults.

By buckling their seat belts, teens could save more than just money from hefty fines. They could save their lives.

READINESS, From A-1

The evolution started Oct. 26, and is scheduled to complete Monday. By the conclusion of the exercise, the service members will have transferred 680 combat vehicles, tanks, amphibious assault vehicles and 260 containers with ammunition, tools and spare parts between the ships.

The rapid-response Kocak is based with Maritime Preposition Squadron 1, located in the Mediterranean Sea, while the Phillips serves the MPS-2 at Naval Support Facility, Diego Garcia, prepared for deployment in the Indian Ocean. These squadrons are two of a three-squadron team. The third, MPS-3, patrols the Pacific.

As part of the Maritime Preposition Force, each squadron can deliver equipment and supplies for a Marine Expeditionary Brigade of more than 17,000 Marines and Sailors, and sustain them for 30 days.

"This is one of our missions, but we don't get a chance to do it very often — only once a year. It is good to come out and test all of our theories," said 2nd Lt. Camilo Saavedra, officer in charge of motor transportation for CSSD-34.

The Marine brigade can fly in from another location on short notice, offload the ships and be ready to conduct military operations in a matter of days.

"If you can [offload] quickly during training, then you can do it quickly when it counts," said Pfc. Brian Browning, a mechanic with CSSD-34.

Prepositioning is not a new concept to the Corps — it started in the early 1980s to improve the response time for needed equipment and supplies to theater operations around the world.

In 1979, then President Carter's Secretary of Defense approved the creation of a Maritime Prepositioning Ship Program supporting the Marine Corps in the Department of Defense Navy Program.

The first equipment-laden ships headed to Diego Garcia. A staff maintained the ships in a high state of readiness so that they could deploy within 24 hours to possible contingency locations, which include the Middle East, and unite with the awaiting forces.

There are currently 16 ships, but the Military Sealift Command plans on adding more ships to each squadron.

"The MPF concept was proven during Desert Storm and revalidated in Operation Iraqi Freedom," said Lt. Gen. Wallace C. Gregson, commander, Marine Forces Pacific. "The MPF demonstrates our commitment to the defense of the Republic of Korea and compliments the realignment of other U.S. forces on the [Korean] peninsula."

(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.)

•Sgt. John Shaner of 3rd Radio Bn. was arrested Oct. 28 for driving under the influence. His license was suspended, his decal was removed and his 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.