

# Hawaii MARINE

INSIDE	
MALS-24 Hump	A-3
Beirut Anniversary	A-3
Urgent Fury	A-4
DUI Listing	A-5
Tantalus Drive	B-1
MCCS & SM&SP	B-2
4th Force Recon	B-3
Menu	B-6
Commentary	B-7
Word To Pass + Ads	B-8
Tackle Football	C-1
Sports Briefs	C-2
The Bottom Line	C-3

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## A band of brothers



Photo illustration by Mike Leahy

The late Capt. Jeb Seagle drags Capt. Tim Howard (now a colonel) from their burning AH-1T Cobra after it was hit with enemy fire and had to make a forced landing Oct. 25, 1983. Howard was the pilot of the Cobra during the attack on St. Georges Island, Grenada. This painting is a historical portrait that hangs in the Pentagon to symbolize the heroic acts of Seagle before he was captured and killed. See the full story on Operation Urgent Fury on page A-4.

## Waterfront Ops. Sailor saves SEAL

Lance Cpl.  
**Monroe F. Seigle**  
Combat Correspondent

A medical emergency brought Waterfront operations to a halt Sept. 23, when Sailors from Waterfront Operations aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, rescued a former Navy SEAL and an Army photographer as they took pictures of underwater electrical equipment.



SCHJOLIN

Petty Officer 3rd Class David Schjolin, an engineman with Waterfront Ops., provided the soldier and retired SEAL nautical transportation as the divers descended almost 100 feet below the water's surface after moments earlier resurfacing and taking a break.

"The [retired Navy SEAL] appeared fine as he went under the water after he took a break," said Schjolin. "When he came back up to the boat after the third or fourth time, he was shaking all over and I could tell that he had resurfaced too fast and his body was not able to adjust to the pressure."

The SEAL appeared to be suffering from what Sailors and divers refer to as the "bends." This occurs when a diver goes below the water's surface where the climactic pressure changes rapidly, and resurfaces without giving the body the proper amount of time to readjust.

According to Schjolin, the atmosphere's pressure changes every 10-12 feet when descending below the water's surface. When resurfacing, the diver should do so slowly and give the body a few minutes to readjust to the pressure every 10-12 feet.

Schjolin continued to monitor the SEAL as he assisted the Army photographer aboard the boat, but he noticed that the man's pallid skin color and continuous shaking were showing signs that his condition was not improving.

"I was pretty sure [he] was suffering from the bends, but I also knew I was not qualified to determine exactly what was wrong," continued Schjolin. "I did not want to take the chance of him, or his condition, becoming any worse."

Schjolin immediately notified Waterfront Ops. of the man's condition as he brought him back to shore. From there, a hospital corpsman was present to check the retired SEAL's vital signs and monitor him until an ambulance arrived to take him to the Schofield Barracks hospital.

"It turned out I did the right thing for the man and I was not being over-cautious," said Schjolin. "When you are out in the ocean and away from shore, it is better to be safe than sorry."

The diver was placed in a decompression chamber, which assists the body in reacclimatizing itself to the atmospheric pressure (by simulating the same pressure underwater and then slowly releasing it until it is the same as that of the outside environment) at Schofield Barracks.

"I am just glad the gentleman is okay and that he was given the proper medical assistance," said Schjolin. "You never want anything like that to happen when you are away from shore, but you have to remain calm and assess the situation when something does arise."

Once he recovered, the SEAL was released from the hospital in stable condition.

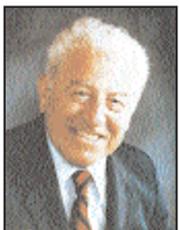
## Iwo Jima veteran passes

**Sarah Fry**  
Deputy Director,  
MCB Hawaii Public Affairs

Dr. George Gentile, founder and president of the National Iwo Jima Survivors' Association, passed away at his home in Newington, Conn., on Oct. 7. He is survived by his wife,

Winifred, and daughters Bethanne, Susan and Julia.

Born in New Britain, Conn., on May 29, 1921, Gentile enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1942, while in his second year of college, soon after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.



GENTILE

After a troop train movement to the west coast in late 1944, he shipped out with the 30th Replacement Bn. to train with the 4th Marine Division on Maui. At Iwo Jima, Gentile spent the first few days helping transport troops and fuel to the beach. The third day, he went ashore at Blue Beach as an infantry rifleman with Charlie Co., 1st Bn., 25th Marines.

Unwounded in the weeks of heavy fighting that followed, Gentile helped to clear surviving Japanese from caves and sniper positions. When he and his fellow Marines finally made it back to the beach to await transport back out to the ships, they found a stack of New York Daily News newspapers on the beach. On the front page, they saw AP photographer Joe Rosenthal's photo of the second flag raising atop Mount Suribachi, taken

See GENTILE, A-2

## EFMP sets comm links with Mokapu, DOE

**Sgt. Joseph A. Lee**  
Combat Correspondent

The Military Committee for Persons with Disabilities began meeting with Mokapu Elementary School staff and the Department of Education last month in an ongoing effort to increase communications between the school and military communities.

According to Ed Josiah, coordinator of the Exceptional Family Member Program here, the MCPD meetings will serve as a forum to discuss issues concerning the quality of services pro-

vided by the military community for special needs students and family members on base.

A sub-unit of the EFMP, the MCPD is comprised of representatives from all the base resources in order to provide input on special needs subjects from every angle.

"As a result of the meeting, the MCPD established an open line of communications with not only the elementary school, but the Department of Education district supervisor, to look

See EFMP, A-2

## Navy's CPRFP redesignates

**Navy Lt. Doug Houser**  
Commander Patrol and  
Reconnaissance Force Wing Two

Commander Patrol and Reconnaissance Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, was redesignated as Commander Patrol and Reconnaissance Force Wing Two during a ceremony attended by Rear Adm. Mike Holmes, commander of Maritime Surveillance and Reconnaissance Forces, US Sixth Fleet, on Oct. 8 at Hangar 105, on MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

This reestablishment of CPRW-2 is part of the realignment of Patrol and Reconnaissance Force Pacific, which involves the transfer of the Pacific Maritime Forces Flag Officer and Aide billets to Commander Patrol Reconnaissance Force Seventh Fleet in support of the Chief of Naval Operations' long-range alignment initiatives.

Commander Patrol Reconnaissance Force Wing Two will provide operational commanders with combat ready maritime patrol and reconnaissance forces to support fleet requirements while providing training, standardization, and administrative control over the three operational maritime squadrons, a special project unit and a Tactical Support Center based at MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.



Photo courtesy of CPRW-2

Rear Adm. Holmes and Commodore William Moran, commander of CPRW-2, discusses the redesignation of CPRFP to CPRW-2 with Sailors and guests gathered for the ceremony Oct. 8.

# MCBH NEWS BRIEFS

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR COCONUT ISLAND BEACH CLEAN-UP

Volunteers are needed for the Coconut Island Beach Clean-up on Saturday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Showtime is 7:45 a.m. at the base marina. Boat transportation, lunches and drinks will be provided free for volunteers.

The day will not be all work, as volunteers will have time to relax and enjoy the beauty of Coconut Island.

Families are welcome to attend.

For more information, contact Jim Lakey at 782-6150, or e-mail lakey@hawaii.edu or Lakeyv001@hawaii.rr.com.

## HELP IS SOUGHT TO 'MAKE A DIFFERENCE'

Youth, teens and adults are invited to "Make a Difference Day," Oct. 25 from 8 a.m. to noon to remove invasive alien plants and begin watershed restoration by planting native plant species.

Showtime is 7:30 a.m. at the Kahaluu Elementary School Cafeteria. Complimentary coffee and juice will be served in the morning, and free lunch and entertainment (live bands) will follow.

Transportation will be provided to and from Kahaluu Elementary.

RSVP by Oct. 24 to Key Project at 239-5777 or e-mail keycd@hawaii.rr.com.

For more information, log onto www.makeadifferenceday.com.

## PWMA IS NOW TAKING NEW BRICK ORDERS FOR WALKWAY OF HONOR

The Pacific War Memorial Association Web site, showcases photographs of the Pacific War Memorial, the "Walkway of Honor" and individual bricks at www.pacificwarmemorial.org.

In response to requests, those interested can purchase memorial bricks in the Walkway of Honor. For more information, visit the PWMA Web site or call Alice Clark, PWMA chairperson at 533-3759.

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# MCBH bikers keep safety first

**Cpl. Jason E. Miller**  
Press Chief

The Marine Corps Base Hawaii Motorcycle Safety Association held its first meeting of fiscal year 2004 on Oct. 6, at the base theater aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. During the meeting, the club elected new officers and planned safety events.

Riders aboard MCB Hawaii are expected to attend meetings of the association to keep abreast of changes to regulations

regarding motorcycle use aboard the installation. The primary reason for the club's establishment, however, is safety.

"We accomplished quite a bit at this first meeting," said Gunnery Sgt. Douglas Percy, vice president of the club. "Besides discussing all the things we're going to do for safety, we also looked at ways that we can give back to the base."

On Dec. 6, the motorcycle association is planning to conduct a group-ride throughout the neighbor-

hoods of Kaneohe Bay. During the group ride, motorcyclists will stop at the houses of service members who wish to donate toys to the Marine Corps' annual Toys for Tots charity campaign.

"We want to make our presence known aboard the base," said Percy. "We want people to just come to their doorstep and be able to donate, and at the same time let people know about who we are and what we're doing."

Though motorcycle rid-

ers make up only a small portion the traffic aboard the base, Percy still thinks it's important to get the word out about motorcycle safety and awareness. He also wishes to dispel myths about the attitudes and actions of motorcyclists in general.

"We want people to see that we're not just the loud muffler, wild men that you see or hear about on the television," Percy said. "Riding a motorcycle is just another way to get around."

## In remembrance



Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle

Marines, Sailors and civilians aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, gathered at the base theater Oct. 10 to mourn the loss of Petty Officer 2nd Class Brian Elliot Hallback, after he was involved in a motorcycle accident Oct. 4. He is survived by his wife and three children. Hallback was assigned to the Joint Education Center on base where he assisted service members in achieving their educational goals while on active duty.

## GENTILE, From A-1

on Feb. 23, 1945.

Gentile served after the war with 7th Military Police Bn. on Guam then was honorably discharged in April 1946 with the rank of corporal.

After completing his degree at Niagara University (1947) and another at Georgetown University (Doctor of Dental Surgery, 1950), he practiced dentistry in New Britain for 38 years, and was very active in his community and numerous organizations.

In 1987, Dr. Gentile formed the Iwo Jima Survivors' Association and served the rest of his life as the association's only president. On Feb. 23, 1995, the 50th anniversary of the two flag raisings on Iwo Jima, the Association unveiled and dedicated the National Iwo Jima Memorial Monument in Newington, Conn.

Dr. Gentile met Alice and Sefton ("Bee") Clark of Kamuela, Hawaii in 1996.

Gentile shared memories with the Clarks recalling the 4th Marine Division's training in Hawaii during World War II, at "Camp Maui" on the island of Maui. He asked them for their support of his group's desire to place an Iwo Jima memorial in Hawaii to be shared with the world. The Hawaii memorial would duplicate the one his national organization



Courtesy of the Pacific War Memorial Association

General James L. Jones (left), former commandant of the Marine Corps, discusses the new Pacific War Memorial and the importance of its dedication with Mrs. Alice Clark (center) and Dr. George Gentile (right) in 2002.

had put up in Connecticut. More importantly, it could be cast from the same molds.

The Clarks soon organized their second nonprofit, "The Pacific War Memorial Association," to raise funds for the replica monument and to find an appropriate location for it here on Oahu. (They also continued their work on the Big Island, to honor the Marines who had trained there, bringing the Camp Tarawa Monument into existence and seeing it dedicated in 1998.)

The end result of Gentile's dream and the Clarks' tireless efforts is the Pacific War Memorial that now stands aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. Dr. Gentile was present to witness the dedication of the memorial on March 16, 2002, along with others who helped in its creation.

The Pacific War Memorial is a tribute to all who have served and continue to serve in the United States military. It also honors residents who support the military in Hawaii and it honors Dr. George Gentile.

## EFMP, From A-1

at special issues such as physical and occupational therapists, improved individual education programs and a permanent monthly meeting with the school staff and parents to discuss issues or concerns the parents may have," said Josiah.

In addition to the monthly meetings, the MCPD has established semi-annual training programs for teachers with respect to the EFMP.

"The 'Handy-van,' which can get closer to the buildings to drop of special needs students, currently doesn't run to the Hourly Child Development Center," said Josiah. "This is one concern that has been brought up that is a concern for families."

With increased communications between the community and the committee, issues can now be brought out in the open and families can hear and understand both sides of any issue or argument of concern to them.

"The EFMP would like to remind families to enroll special needs family members in the program, so that the Marine Corps does not put a family in a location where they cannot be supported," said Josiah. "Identification of families helps save useless permanent change of station moves, and is in no way detrimental or harmful to a Marine's career. What is detrimental, on the other hand, would be getting stationed somewhere without resources available to help the needs of the child."

Another recent effort of the EFMP, according to Josiah, is the establishment of a special needs sticker that can be placed on the door or window of special needs homes to provide additional information for first responders or rescue workers in the event of an emergency.

"The sticker can be a help to first responders, because it will let them know that someone in the home may be blind, deaf or could have some kind of learning disorder that may change normal evacuation procedures," said Josiah.

For more information on the Military Committee for Persons with Disabilities, or the Exceptional Family Member Program, contact Ed Josiah at 257-7783.

## Stepping off and staying in line

# MALS-24 treks across MCB Hawaii

**Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle**  
*Combat Correspondent*

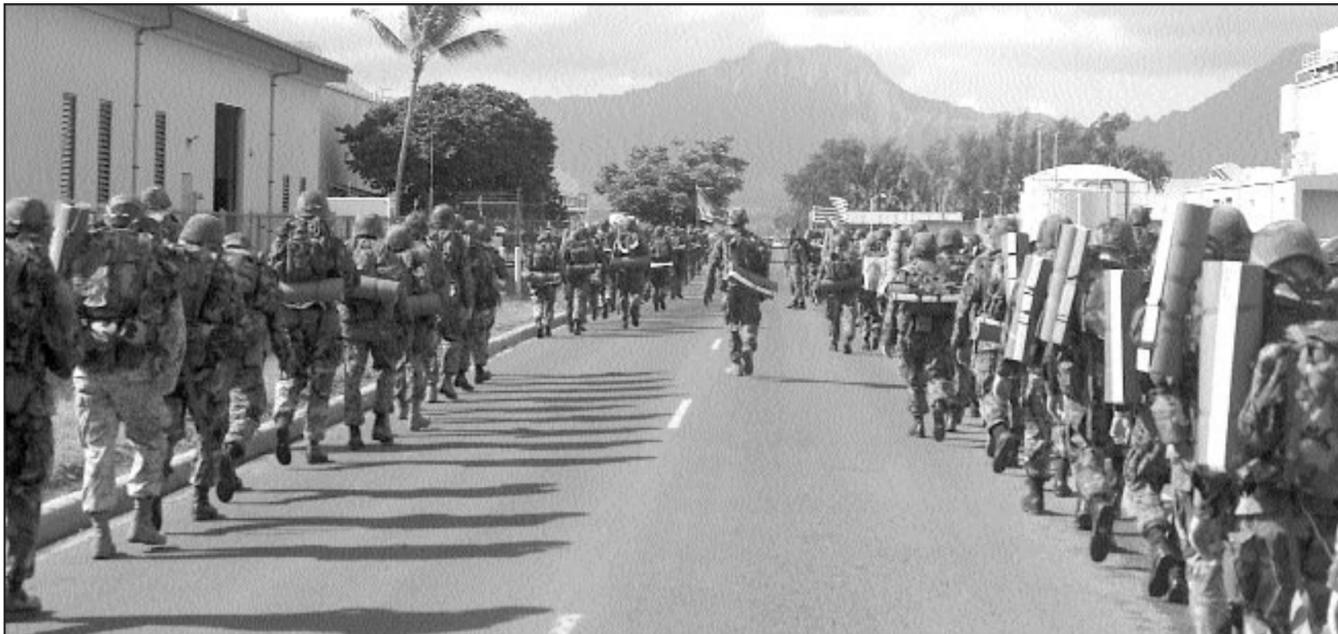
As the warm Hawaiian sun broke the horizon, more than 240 Marines from the Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24 aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, were standing in formation ready to begin a six-mile march across K-Bay, Oct. 10.

This was the first time in three years the squadron has been able to do a road march due to its busy training schedule.

The Marines stepped off from Hangar 103 on the flightline, went up to Mokapu Road, then took a break at the MCB Hawaii Boondocker Training Area in order to receive a block of instruction from the MALS-24 sergeant major, Sgt. Maj. William Stables.

Stables explained to the Marines that regardless of the fact that they are in the aviation field, they are still riflemen first. He taught them some important basics of field survival and the importance of responsibility. He explained that senior Marines must always have accountability for their Marines while in the combat zone.

"Allowing the Marines to do field training like this builds camaraderie in the unit and also gives them a break from their daily routine," said 2nd Lt. Ann Burke, operations and logistics officer for MALS-24. "All the junior enlisted were thrilled to participate in this event, and they showed a lot of motivation all



Photos by Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle

**Above — For the first time in three years, Marines from the MALS-24 participated in a six-mile road march that spanned across MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.**

**Below — Sergeant Maj. William Stables, sergeant major of MALS-24, gave a block of instruction on basic field survival skills and the importance of accountability in a combat zone at the three-mile mark at the Boondocker Training Area.**

throughout the hump."

After consuming meals ready to eat and falling back into formation, the Marines continued back down Mokapu Road until they reached the back gate and turned around.

Motivation was high as the senior Marines belted out traditional Marine Corps marching cadences.

The MALS-24 hump finally ended where they had started at Hangar 103, where they joined a formation

with their fellow shipmates and celebrated the Navy's 228th birthday during a cake-cutting ceremony.

"It was a good morning for the Marines in the squadron," said Capt. Kevin Graessle, avionics officer for MALS-24. "They had the opportunity to go out and do some training they do not normally get to do. They enjoyed doing it and we will be planning on doing more events such as this one in the future."



## Marines remember Beirut 20 years later

**Sgt. R. A. Barnett**  
*Marine Forces Pacific*

**CAMP H. M. SMITH** — As a Marine standing post, would you ever expect that in an instant, you would lose 241 of your comrades? When terrorists bombed the Marine Barracks in Lebanon on Oct. 23, 1983, this unthinkable tragedy befell the Corps.

One former Marine Forces Pacific sergeant major, retired Sgt. Maj. Steve Mellinger, still ponders these events on the eve of the 20th anniversary of the tragic bombing.

In the summer of 1982, at the request of the Lebanese government, the U.S. agreed to establish a military presence in Lebanon, to serve as a peacekeeping force in the conflict between warring Muslim and Christian factions. On March 24, 1983, the 24th Marine Amphibious Unit, stationed at Camp Lejeune, N.C., received orders to Beirut, Lebanon, in support of that commitment. Battalion Landing Team, 1st Bn., 8th Marines, was part of the 24th MAU.

In the early morning hours of Oct. 23,



Official USMC Photo

**An excited Lebanese child gets a return wave from a Marine of the 32nd MAU as a convoy passes the Muslim section of Beirut during the early days of a multi-national peace-keeping operation there.**

1983, the BLT headquarters building was destroyed by a non-Lebanese, terrorist-driven truck, laden with compressed, gas-enhanced explosives.

The explosion killed 241 Marines, Sailors and soldiers.

On this particular morning, then-Gunnery Sgt. Steve Mellinger was standing duty as the Charlie Co. watch officer,

armed only with his .45 caliber pistol, following normal protocol while inside the perimeter of the Marine headquarters. Mellinger stood a half mile away from the BLT and Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron headquarters, on the south end of the Beirut International Airport runway.

"The blast was loud enough that we thought we were taking incoming artillery, which, unfortunately, was not an uncommon thing at that time in Lebanon," said Mellinger.

Upon hearing the massive blast, Mellinger crashed through his executive officer's bunker window, landing on top of him.

"Artillery always came in threes, so when we didn't hear another blast, we [the XO and I] peered out of the window and saw a mushroom-shaped cloud," explained Mellinger.

Although they could not see the BLT headquarters due to the smoke, they were convinced that the catastrophe they were looking at must have been a car or

truck bomb that detonated in the parking lot of the nearby airport. They knew, at this time, that it was close to the BLT headquarters — it didn't begin to register that it was the BLT headquarters.

A few months earlier, the battalion commander had made the call that the BLT headquarters was the safest place to billet Marines who were not with the three rifle companies.

"The building [the Marine Barracks] was chosen as the safest place to be because of its sound infrastructure," said Mellinger. "In earlier fighting for Beirut, it endured furious Israeli artillery barrages without being destroyed, and also withstood an earth tremor in June that failed to cause any structural damage."

Within five minutes, Mellinger was using a forward observer's binoculars to get a better view of what had happened. The thought running through Mellinger's mind: This couldn't be possible?

Following his observation, Mellinger and some fellow Marines headed down

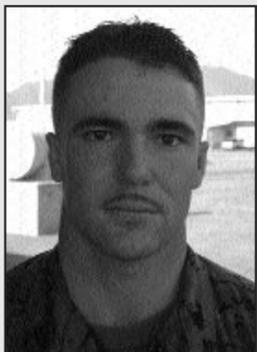
See *BEIRUT*, A-4

## Word on the Street

*If you were stranded on a deserted island, what would you bring with you?*



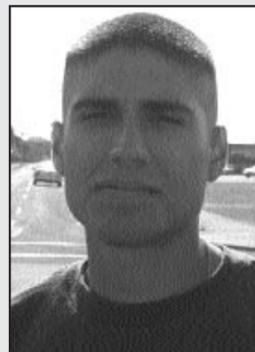
"I would bring pictures of my family, a lifetime supply of beer, and suntan lotion."  
**Cpl. Alfred Castro**  
 Field mess NCO  
 Headquarters Co.,  
 3rd Marine Regiment



"I would take my motorcycle, some dip, and a million PowerBars."  
**Cpl. Donny Hughes**  
 Cannoneer  
 Bravo Co., 1/12



"I would take two cows for food, a cell phone and some soap."  
**Amber Gleason**  
 Family member  
 MCB Hawaii,  
 Kaneohe Bay



"I would bring a water filter, fire starting equipment and my family."  
**Sgt. Jose Patino**  
 Chief dispatcher  
 Headquarters Bn.,  
 MCB Hawaii



"I would bring my doggie, all my clothes and some toys to play with."  
**Amy Kostic, 5**  
 Kindergartener  
 Kaneohe Elementary  
 School

# Urgent Fury veteran recounts Cobra crash

**Cpl. Luis R. Agostini**  
*Marine Forces Pacific*

**CAMP H. M. SMITH** — Twenty years ago, American forces evacuated U.S. citizens held hostage by Cuba's People's Revolutionary Army in St. George's, Grenada, in what was to be known as Operation Urgent Fury.

The multinational, multiservice coalition — consisting of the 22nd Marine Amphibious Unit, Air Force AC-130 gunships, seven Navy ships, Navy Seals, Army Rangers and paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne division, as well as Caribbean peacekeeping forces — swiftly defeated the People's Revolutionary Army and rescued the hostages. American forces suffered 18 casualties.

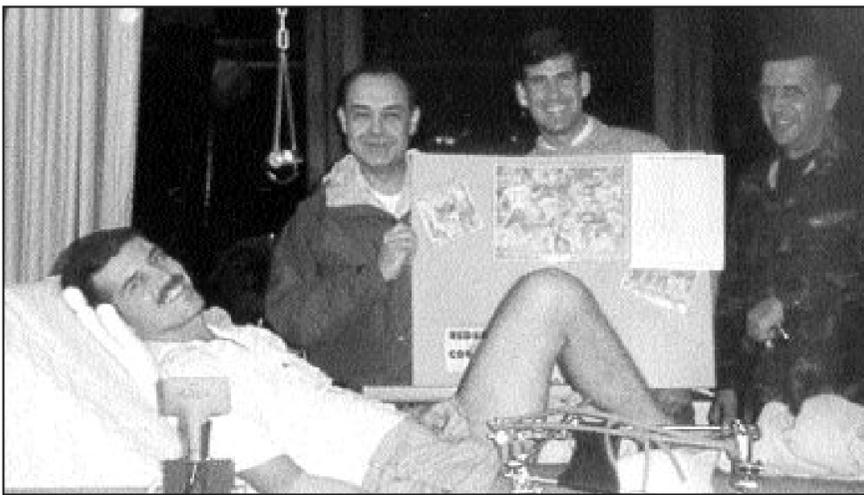
Three of those casualties were fellow Cobra pilots and friends of Col. Timothy Howard, the Marine Forces Pacific G-2 assistant chief of staff.

On Oct. 25, 1983, two AH-1T attack helicopters from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 261, 22nd MAU, were sent to Grenada to relieve pressure on a team of Navy Seals participating in Operation Urgent Fury.

The Seals were protecting the home of Sir Paul Scoone, who, in the eyes of the U.S. government, was vital to the restructuring of the Grenada government.

A young Capt. Howard, along with Capt. Jeb Seagle, piloted one Cobra. Major John "Pat" Guigerre and 1st Lt. Jeff Sharver piloted the other. Howard was on his second tour with what was then the 22nd MAU, which was ready to relieve the 24th MAU in Beirut, Lebanon. The 22nd MAU was diverted to Grenada on Oct. 22, 1983, one day before the Beirut bombing that took the lives of 241 U.S. service members.

"We got the call about the bombing after we had already turned for



Courtesy of Col. Timothy B. Howard

**Captain Timothy B. Howard, AH-1T Cobra attack helicopter pilot, poses with friends as he recovers in Bethesda Naval Hospital after he was shot down during Operation Urgent Fury in 1983. Howard lost part of his arm and his leg was seriously impaired in anti-aircraft fire prior to being shot down, but he managed to land the Cobra by lashing his good arm to the "stick."**

Grenada, and it was too late to turn around to help them," said Howard. "We still had to complete our mission."

That morning, Rangers were dropped over Point Salines to secure the area. Other Rangers received orders to secure True Blue campus; however, they were ambushed and requested assistance.

Along with these Rangers, another Ranger detachment was securing the area at Fort Frederick overlooking St. George's. These soldiers received heavy fire, and gunships were called in to assist them.

The Cobras reloaded before taking off to relieve the Seals. After two passes over triple-canopy jungles, open fields and mountainous terrain, Howard's bird was hit by anti-aircraft fire originating from a nearby mental hospital.

Howard's Cobra was hit several times, including three shots that injured him.

The first shot hit him in the right arm tearing it off from the just below the elbow and down.

The second shot hit him in the right leg, seriously wounding his knee. After the final shot hit the aircraft, a golf-ball sized piece of the aircraft became embedded in his neck.

During their forced landing, Howard called for his copilot to lower the bird, but realized Seagle had been knocked unconscious from rounds impacting the helicopter.

Despite his injuries, Howard managed to wrap his left arm around the "stick" and control the helicopter enough to land it. Seagle regained consciousness after landing and attempted to assist Howard.

Howard recalled that Seagle grabbed him by the back of his shirt and dragged him toward safety, then managed to

send a call for help before leaving on foot to find ground support. The other Cobra received the call and provided fire support while a CH-46 crew tried to rescue Howard.

During the rescue attempt, the Cobra received fire from anti-aircraft from somewhere on the island and was shot down.

Both Guigerre and Sharver were killed when their helicopter crashed into the ocean. Gunnery Sgt. Kelly Neideigh, a CH-46 door gunner, and Vietnam veteran, risked his life by running into live fire to drag Howard to the CH-46 to safety.

Unfortunately, Howard's copilot, Seagle, never made it to safety; he was found dead on the beach. He had been captured and murdered while trying to find help for Howard.

Howard spent many long months in the hospital, learning to deal with the loss of his arm, and the grim diagnosis made by his doctors that he would never walk again. Many service members would have been content with a medical discharge following the incapacitating wounds, but Howard wanted to "stay Marine."

That was 17 years ago. He recently scored a first class physical fitness test.

"It was five months before I could walk with special crutches," recalled Howard. "I walked with a cane until just about a year after being shot. I began walking fast/jogging at the two-year mark," he explained, giving praise and credit to his family.

Howard's copilots may have been lost, but they will never be forgotten. A hangar will be dedicated to the late Capt. Jeff Sharver by HMLA-775, coinciding with HMM-261's reunion celebrating the 20th anniversary of its participation in Operation Urgent Fury, Nov. 1, in Fredericksburg, Va.

## BEIRUT, From A-3

to the site of the explosion. It was very obvious that something horrible had taken place.

"Every tree was completely stripped of all foliage, if not blown out of the ground," recalled Mellinger. "Suddenly, the rules of engagement drastically changed."

The Charlie Co. commander assumed duties as acting battalion commander

following the blast, due to the uncertainty of the battalion commanding officer's whereabouts. Six days later, the rescue/recovery teams found the battalion commander. He had survived.

"He [the acting commanding officer] immediately pushed the security perimeter out, including the main access road to the Beirut International Airport," said Mellinger. "Then we divided the remains of the building into four sections, after which each company took

charge of one section to begin the rescue/recovery operation."

The primary goal was to get anybody who was still alive out of the rubble. The rescue/recovery teams spent the rest of the day recovering the remains of Marines, but there lie ahead a task no one had come across before: How were they going to identify the remains of personnel recovered from the rubble when all of the service record books, officer qualification records, and health and

dental records were maintained inside the headquarters building?

"Instead of identifying the killed or wounded in action, accountability of who was alive became imperative," said Mellinger. "The lesson learned here changed the way we, as Marines, take our records with us when we deploy."

The rescue/recovery operation continued for approximately seven days. In the end, approximately one-fourth of BLT 1/8 had lost their lives.

*(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.)*

• Lance Cpl. Gregory Patrick of Combat Service Support Group 3 was arrested for driving under the influence with a blood alcohol concentration of .140 percent on Oct.

10. His license was suspended the same day.

• Petty Officer 2nd Class Sean Dougherty of the USS Rueben James was arrested for driving under the influence with a blood alcohol concentration of .160 percent on Oct. 11. 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.

## Go Navy! Happy Birthday!



Petty Officer 1st Class Gary Hall, oxygen shop leading petty officer with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24, celebrates the Navy's 228th birthday while cutting a piece of cake with Lt. Col. Laura J. Sampsel, commanding officer, Marine Aircraft Group 24, at a cake cutting ceremony Oct. 10 at Hangar 103 aboard the MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay flightline. In keeping with Navy tradition, slices of cake were passed to the youngest and oldest Sailors in the unit per Navy tradition.

Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle