

# Hawaii MARINE

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## 'Happy 227th!' says SecNav

**Navy News Service**  
Press Release

WASHINGTON — The Honorable Gordon R. England, Secretary of the Navy, released the following message for the Navy's 227th birthday:

"As we honor the birth of the United States Navy, we are a nation at war.

Our Nation's strong and decisive response to the terrorist acts of September 11th has demonstrated America's patriotism and resolve to the entire world.

Nowhere has that duty to Country been more evident than in our Navy and Marine Corps.

This month, we also mark the anniversary of those first strikes for freedom in the War on Terror.

Last October 7th, brave men and women launched aircraft off the decks of our carriers, and fired cruise missiles from our ships and submarines, as our Navy and Marine Corps Team began to 'terrorize the terrorists.'

Today, although the War on Terror is far from over, you, your shipmates and our allies have defeated the Taliban, disrupted the terrorist networks and freed the people of Afghanistan.

President Bush, in his words to Sailors and Marines following those strikes declared, 'You were among the first to fight

in the first war of the 21st century.

'You were ready.

'You performed with skill and honor. And you have made your nation proud.'

President Bush had it exactly right, and on behalf of our commander in chief, I salute you.

It is an honor and privilege to serve with you.



ENGLAND

Around the world, Sailors are answering our nation's call through their service and sacrifice.

Your magnificent performance during Operation Enduring Freedom honors the legacy of naval heroes, who for 227 years have sacrificed so much to make America great and ensure the survival of liberty.

Happy Birthday Shipmates!  
God Bless each of you, your families and the United States of America."

*The Honorable Gordon R. England,  
Secretary of the Navy*

## 'Hold on tight!'



Pfc. Monroe F. Seigle

Third grade students at Mokapu Elementary School get hands-on experience with a real fire hose at the Federal Fire Department aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. As part of Fire Prevention Week, students were allowed to tour the fire station and see where the firefighters operate from.

## New FY marks significant day for retention

**Sgt. Chris Eriksen**  
Combat Correspondent

CAMP HANSEN, OKINAWA, Japan — Lieutenant Col Robert F. Castellvi, commanding officer, 2nd Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment, had the privilege of presenting 41 of his finest warriors to Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Weber, commanding general, 3rd Marine Division, for reenlistment in a mass reenlistment ceremony Oct. 1.

The battalion started this tradition following the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. According to Castellvi, Marines approved for reenlistment all wanted to reenlist immediately upon hearing of the tragic event.

"Last year, after the 9/11 attacks, we had 42 Marines approved for reenlistment who all wanted to reenlist on the first possible day, Oct. 1," Castellvi said. "So we came up with the idea of a mass reenlistment.

"We invited families and guests and did it in front of the battalion."

The Marines had many incentives to reenlist, which included bonuses, duty station preferences, lateral moves and some other battalion and division incentives, according to Staff Sgt. Derald J. Nash, career planner.

"All Marines reenlisting are receiving a 3rd Marine Division incentive of 14 days [permissive temporary additional duty] if reenlisted before 31 December," Nash said. "They are also receiving a local 2/3 incentive in that those 14 days PTAD may be used as off-island leave during Christmas.

"Normally, UDP [Unit Deployment Program] units are not allowed off-island leave while they are here."

Most of the Marines were motivated by more than just the material rewards offered by the Marine Corps, according to Lance Cpl. Marcus Cotton, warehouse clerk, Headquarters and Service Co.

**"We took what is normally an individual event ... and added a sense of unity and togetherness."**

Lt. Col. Robert F. Castellvi  
Commanding Officer, 2/3

"I reenlisted mostly because of the leadership," said Cotton. "You follow the good leadership and use it to help develop yourself, and later pass it on."

"It's more than just a lifestyle," said Cpl. Michael McClay, scout sniper, Weapons Co. "It's a way of life."

"I reenlisted to share my knowledge with other soon to be scout snipers," he added. "The waves in Hawaii aren't too bad either."

Other Marines reenlisted for the chance to help make a difference in the lives and training of new Marines, according to Nash..

"In June, I was in the Philippines training and observing," said Cpl. Andrew Jones, scout sniper, Weapons Co. "I felt I needed to go back to scout sniper school and teach young Marines what they needed to know in situations like that."

In addition to helping train and educate other Marines, the reenlistees seemed quite proud to be furthering their service to the Corps.

The motivation behind the ceremony was to show the dedication and devotion to Corps and country of the Marines of, 2nd Bn., 3rd Marines, said Castellvi.

"We took what is normally an individual event that demonstrates a Marine's commitment to additional years of service to Corps and country and added a sense of unity and togetherness," Castellvi explained.

## Vice admiral outlines Navy priorities during K-Bay visit

**Petty Officer 2nd Class**  
**Tim Walsh**  
Navy Region  
Hawaii Public Affairs

Vice Adm. Michael D. Malone, commander Naval Air Forces, and commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, visited with the Navy in Hawaii's air contingent at MCB Hawaii in Kaneohe Bay Oct. 4.

Vice Adm. Malone spent half the day talking with commanding officers and senior enlisted who fall under Commander Patrol and Reconnaissance Forces, Pacific.

After debriefs with Rear Adm. Anthony L. Winns, the ComPatReconForPac commander, and Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, commanding general MCB Hawaii and Deputy commanding general III Marine Expeditionary Force Hawaii, Vice Adm. Malone traveled to one of the patrol squadron hangars, to talk with commanding officers and the helicopter squadrons.

He addressed the latest Navy issues and highlighted the im-

portance of the Chief of Naval Operations' "Top Five Priorities," as well as budget issues, giving indication of what Sailors should expect in naval aviation.

During the 'C.O.'s Call,' various command master chiefs joined the session. When they were asked about the level of the quality of life for the average Sailor, numerous issues surfaced varying from manpower and work hours to safety issues and housing concerns.

Vice Adm. Malone also talked to a hangar full of Sailors and Marines at Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24. He advised them that after Sept. 11, 2001, the president ordered the joint chiefs of staff to be ready for what was to come. He then noted that, that call to arms has not lessened and readiness lives in the actions of Sailors and Marines everyday.

At the end of his tour, Vice Adm. Malone headed off to K-Bay's newly renovated Officers Club where he met with ombudsmen and spouses.

His wife Janet Malone asked

those present to list five things that needed improvement and to list another five that were already very good.

The ombudsmen voiced their concerns with housing and education. Command spouses voiced many of the same issues.



Petty Officer 2nd Class Tim Walsh

**Sgt Jeffery Ferschweiler, a Marine from Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24, talks with Vice Adm. Michael Malone, commander Naval Air Forces, and commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Oct. 4 at Marine Corps Base Hawaii in Kaneohe Bay.**

## MCBH NEWS BRIEFS

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 'MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY'

Saturday, Oct. 26, is national "Make A Difference Day." As part of that effort, Waimanalo's own Maimiti Ho has organized a clean up of Waimanalo Beach.

Maimiti, a 10th grade student at Kamehameha Schools, is looking for volunteers to help the clean up effort. Join her and make a difference by volunteering.

The clean up begins at 7 a.m. at Waimanalo Beach Park. For more information, call Maimiti at 259-7200.

### TACKLE FOOTBALL TO AIR ON TELEVISION

All MCB Hawaii intramural tackle football games will now be videotaped and broadcast at the Kahuna's Sports Bar and Grill, located adjacent the Enlisted Club aboard Kaneohe Bay. The videotape will be played the same evening as games and rebroadcast the next evening at Kahuna's at 8 p.m.

Additionally, fans can catch intramural tackle football action on Base Channel 2.

### POSTAL GIVES MAIL ALERT

The RETT Syndrome Association will be mailing first class envelopes throughout the U. S. in an effort to solicit funds for its organization. These 4.5 by 6 inch first class envelopes will weigh about 0.7 of an ounce and lay very flat. They will contain a packet of Equal artificial sweetener and a tea bag.

The return address section has the RETT Syndrome Association logo that shows two hands together on a dark background and the address 9121 Piscataway Road #2B, Clinton, Md. 20735.

This information is being forwarded in case any of the packages of Equal Sweetener or the tea bag accidentally breaks open and may be mistaken as biological contaminants. These envelopes are expected to enter the mail stream on or about Oct. 13.

Direct questions to the Base Post Office at 257-2881 or the Kailua Post Office at 266-3996.

### IMPORTANT NUMBER

On-Base Emergencies 257-9111

## Hawaii MARINE

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## CG'S MAIL BOX

*"Housing ... should begin to supply each and every house with air conditioners..."*



BRIG. GEN. MCABEE

Submitted by Mrs. McPherson, family member

"I would like to bring forth a concern that affects my family and many others who reside in base housing on board MCB Hawaii.

As a resident here for more than four and a half years, I have seen improvements being made in housing and at various areas on base. My main area of concern is for the residents who reside in some of the older houses.

I currently live in a home that is scheduled for demolition in the early part of 2003.

For more than four and a half years, I have lived in a house that did not come with central air or many of the amenities that the newer houses come with.

As I inquire about the housing that we will be possibly relocated to, I learned that some houses do not come with a dishwasher either.

I think that if these newer houses are furnished with these various appliances, then the older houses should be too. The same amount of money comes out of my husband's paycheck to live in our house as does someone who lives in a house equipped with the above mentioned items.

Each year a considerable amount of our personal money is spent on window air conditioners and service calls to repair these units that deteriorate quickly in this environment.

If I were in a house without a dishwasher then I would also have to budget to acquire one of these appliances on my own.

I feel that the Housing office should begin to supply each and every house with air conditioners and dishwashers.

If they are unable to do this, I suggest that the full amount of BAH [basic allowance for housing] should not be deducted from my husband's check each month.

Some type of system should be set up to accommodate or compensate the families who are living in houses without the various appli-

ances that are provided in the new living areas."

Mrs. McPherson

Mrs. McPherson,

I have been asked by the commanding general to respond to your letter of Sept. 8 since your recommendations and concerns fall within my staff responsibilities. He appreciates that you've taken the time to participate in the "CG Mail" program.

You accurately point out a disparity that exists between Marine Corps Base Hawaii's older housing and our newly constructed housing.

Federal law considers quarters without amenities such as those you mention as "adequate," considering that base residents are not billed for utilities.

The Marine Corps simply does not possess the resources to equitably upgrade all of our existing houses — especially those slated for replacement in the near term.

Your home, when comparing your husband's basic allowance for housing and the local rental market on Oahu, represents a fair and competitive option.

Further, Congress mandated that our new housing be specifically built for our E-1 through E-5 population.

As a result, staff noncommissioned officers and commissioned officers must await future housing replacement programs before all of our units are equitably outfitted.

In reference to your recommen-

dation for reimbursement, we must, by law, provide service members full BAH or adequate government quarters. We are not authorized to offset BAH.

Your suggestion to upgrade older homes with air conditioners and dishwashers holds merit; however, funding such upgrades may impact our family housing replacement program and delay our ability to correct the very inequities you keenly note.

Marine Corps Base Hawaii and our Marine Corps leadership are committed to replacing all of our older family housing by fiscal year 2008.

An additional 200 of our older homes will be replaced with new homes by next summer. We hope to replace another 1,500 homes over the next five years.

We are working diligently to replace our older housing as quickly as possible. By focusing on our most junior service members first, we hope to send the message that we are committed to improving our community's quality of service while providing as many equitable amenities as possible.

Thank you again for taking the time to express your concern via the "CG Mail Program."

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



Staff Sgt. Jesus A. Lora

The new housing aboard MCB Hawaii (left) is well furnished and has appliances. The old housing (right) is scheduled to be demolished in 2003.

*(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 so that staff may respond.

For more information about how to send C.G. Mail, see the MCB Hawaii C.G. Mail page at [www.mcbh.usmc.mil/command/cgmail.htm](http://www.mcbh.usmc.mil/command/cgmail.htm).



Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero

## Celebracion de el mes Hispano-Americano termina en K-Bay

Brigadier Gen. Jerry C. McAbee (right), commanding general of MCB Hawaii, caught up with Master Sgt. Juan D. Rivera (left), outgoing operations chief, G-3, and Pfc. Joseph A. Jewell, a personnel clerk with 3rd Marine Regiment, after the Hispanic Heritage Month Luncheon celebrated at Anderson Hall Dining Facility,

Oct. 11. Also a guest speaker at the luncheon, Jewell, who is of Puerto Rican descent, talked to participants about how the Corps has positively impacted his life. "The Marine Corps has had an awesome affect on me and my family's life." He explained that the Marine Corps has turned his life around for the better.



Sergeants and below who dare to become Combat Correspondents and would pride themselves on telling the Marine Corps story can seize the opportunity with a lateral move into the 4341 occupational field. Contact Gunnery Sgt. Rhys Evans, base public affairs chief, at 257-8832 or 257-8840, for more information.

Regina Reiche, a personal fitness trainer at the Semper Fit Center aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, practices cardio pulmonary resuscitation on a first-aid mannequin while training to utilize the automatic external defibrillator device.



Pfc. Monroe F. Seigle

## Defibrillator to aid emergencies

**Pfc. Monroe F. Seigle**  
Combat Correspondent

Facilities aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, recently received gear that drastically increases emergency life-saving capabilities and assists in keeping base residents safe.

The gym, base pool and Pyramid Rock and North beaches received the automatic external defibrillator, a device used to reestablish a regular heart rhythm through electrical currents.

"When someone has a heart problem and needs medical attention, valuable time passes before emergency medical personnel can arrive," said Wallace Mason, a captain at the Federal Fire Department aboard MCB Hawaii. "If the AED is present, a regular heartbeat can be restored in the patient before emergency personnel can arrive.

"Those few moments could save that person's life."

The AED is a small, compact piece of equipment, which can be utilized in car accidents, blunt traumas where a person suffers from a blow to the heart, and strokes.

Directions are on the equipment and are very simple for someone to operate.

"This device simplifies the [Cardiovascular Pulmonary Resuscitation] process and increases a person's chances of survival," said Charles Volhein, a firefighter at the FFD. "The more people we can train with this device, the better people with heart conditions can be treated in emergency situations."

"This life sustaining equipment is essential for the safety and well-being of the service members and their families aboard base, in case of any mishaps or incidents," said Danny Tolentino, acting safety director, Base Safety Center.

Shocks from the AED are delivered from adhesive pads. They are

connected to the AED by cables, which can transmit a shock that is powerful enough to correct a lethal heart rhythm.

The pads make the defibrillation process safer, since the individual applying the AED does not have to touch the patient during analysis or shocks.

The AED has three sets of electrical charges. The first one is the weakest one. After each shock, the AED performs a check for regular heartbeat. If the first current is not strong enough to produce a normal heartbeat, it will then automatically utilize a second or third current until the heart returns to a normal beat, or emergency personnel arrive.

"We're really excited about the new AED. Anything that improves the quality of health care for our Marines and Sailors is a welcomed addition," added Cmdr. Katherine Loveless, director, Kaneohe Bay Branch Medical Clinic.

## 3/3 Marines get medal for heroism

**Pfc. Monroe F. Seigle**  
Combat Correspondent

Two Marines aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, were awarded the Navy Marine Corps Medal in a ceremony Oct. 11.

Corporals Lauren Wayne, police sergeant, and Christopher Settle, administrative clerk, both of Headquarters and Service Co., 3rd Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment, were awarded the medal for their heroic actions on Sept. 7, 2001.

While on liberty in Kaneohe, Wayne and Settle noticed a bright, orange glow coming from 45-453 Makalani Street on their way to a friend's house nearby. This glow turned out to be a fire that

would later destroy the multi-level home.

The Marines quickly evacuated the house, but had to return to rescue one more.

"After we got everybody out, a lady told us that there was still a baby in there," said Wayne. "I went back in, and with the help of the father, I found her and got her out."

The Marines then got all the family together and made way for the fire engines to come through.



Pfc. Monroe F. Seigle

**Corporals Lauren Wayne and Chris Settle, both of 3/3, receive congratulations from Honolulu Fire Dept. officials after receiving their awards Oct. 11.**

Although Wayne and Settle displayed true valor and heroism that night, they believe they did only what would have been expected of them as Marines.

"People don't believe

that what we are taught in boot camp will one day come into play," said Wayne. "When something like this happens on the spot, you have to go back to what you learned and be able to react."

Afterward, family members expressed their gratitude toward the Marines.

"They did what I expected them to do as Marines," said Capt. Steven Wolf, commanding officer, Headquarters and Service Co., 3/3. "They took initiative as others just drove by."

The fire destroyed one home and caused damage to two others. Fortunately, no one was injured in the blaze due to the heroic efforts of the Marines.

## Hispanic recruiting numbers to increase

**Rudi Williams**

American Forces Press Service

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — Bernardo C. Negrete has a message for young Hispanic Americans: "The military is a perfect place to build your future!"

"I think I'm an example. I'm a Cuban refugee who came to this country when I was 10 years old and I flunked the sixth grade because I couldn't speak English," said Negrete, an Army brigadier general who speaks unaccented English. "So you can make a difference, and the system can make a difference for you. The key is, you've got to make a difference."

Negrete is the deputy commanding general of Army Recruiting Command West, which covers every area west of the Mississippi River

and South Korea.

His remarks came during an interview here at the Department of Defense's first observance of Hispanic American Heritage Month, outside the Pentagon.

Charles Abell, assistant secretary of defense for Force Management Policy, hosted the symposium and luncheon as part of DoD's ongoing initiatives to increase Hispanic representation and to improve access to information and opportunities.

The event was attended by Hispanic-serving institutions and their students; area high schools; DoD services and components from throughout the country; local and national Hispanic organizations; community organizations; and city, county and other government organizations.

Negrete thinks having the event

away from Washington gives it more impact. However, he added, "It's unfortunate that in this day and age we still have to convince people that everybody is equal."

"The military probably has the best melding of tolerance of anywhere in our society, and I'm proud of that," he continued.

"It's good for the military and society at large because so many of our kids get out and go back into society and tend to learn from their military service and carry that learning with them."

Emphasizing that the military doesn't reward anyone for where their parents came from, the one-star general said, "The military is going to reward you for what you do, who you are and how you do it. As long as you know those rules, you've got an equal chance."

## WORD ON THE STREET

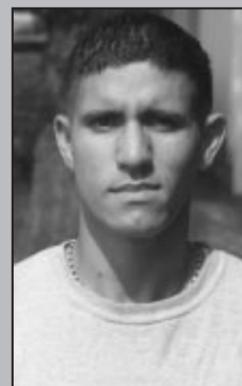
*"Who do you think will win the World Series?"*



"...The Angels because they have outstanding teamwork."

**Capt. Zachary Rogers**

Deputy comptroller  
Headquarters Bn.,  
MCB Hawaii



"...The Giants because they have played an awesome season."

**Lance Cpl. Israel Vega**

Field radio operator  
Headquarters &  
Service Co., 3/3



"...The Angels because they played an awesome season."

**Hank J. Wilson**

7th grader  
Sunlight Middle  
School



"...The Giants because they have a better record and a great pitching staff."

**Pfc. Mac C. McNichol**

Parachute rigger  
MALS-24



"...The Angels because they have made an awesome comeback."

**Staff Sgt. John P. Gallagher**

Personnel chief  
Headquarters Co.,  
3rd Marine  
Regiment

# Zero tolerance rules drug use

Whether speed, ice, grass or some other illegal drug, usage violates the UCMJ

**Sgt. Richard W. Holtgraver Jr.**  
*Combat Correspondent*

A powerful, illegal drug has found its way into the lives of many Marines and Sailors aboard MCB Hawaii, in the past year: crystal meth.

The trend in urinalysis for positive methamphetamine results aboard the base currently places this highly addictive drug second, just behind marijuana.

According to Quentin Redmon, the drug demand reduction coordinator for the Substance Abuse Counseling Center aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, the base had surpassed the number of positive urinalysis results from 2001, for methamphetamine, by June of 2002.

In only six months, the base had managed to equal its number of positive urinalysis results from the previous year.

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

Crystal meth is a white, odorless, bitter-tasting crystalline powder that easi-



ly dissolves in water or alcohol. It can be snorted, smoked, injected or swallowed, putting the user in an alert state where physical activity increases and appetite decreases.

Methamphetamine is commonly known as "speed," "meth" and "chalk."

The smoked form methamphetamine is crystal meth, and it is the most available type locally. It is often referred to as "ice," "crystal," "crank," "glass," or its Hawaiian name "Batu."

Redmon believes one reason Marines and Sailors are lured into using crystal meth is because the drug stays in the body for only a short amount of time.

"People are using this drug because they know how long the drug stays in their system, and how easy it is to flush out," said Redmon.

The effects of this powerful drug include increased energy and confidence levels, decreased appetite, physical ex-

hilaration and a reduced need of sleep.

The addictive danger of crystal meth isn't a physical dependency like many drugs have, but rather a psychological dependency that develops because the body rapidly becomes tolerant to the drug.

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

"A person can stay up for days without the need of sleep; that's why I think some Marines are using [ice]," said Redmon.

No matter what the reason an individual may have for using crystal meth, the Marine Corps policy on illegal drug usage is "zero tolerance."

Those who are found in violation of the articles that govern drug use in the Uniform Code of Military Justice can, and will, be held responsible for those violations.

## Learning the ropes at MCBH



Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero

**Petty Officer 1st Class Ken Patterson, the tower chief at Marine Corps Air Facility, MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, explains the use of tower controls and procedures to Fehren Jones and Grace Benitez, students from McKinley High School, who were aboard base recently during a military career skills tour.**

# Base, 1/12 ammo technicians detonate ordnance

Story and Photos by  
**Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero**  
*Combat Correspondent*

Ammunition storage areas provide an invaluable resource for forward deployed Marines in a combat area, but in the case of an enemy overrunning one, ammunition technicians need to know how to properly destroy the ammunition.

That's why more than 25 Marines from Headquarters Bn., MCB Hawaii, and Alpha Battery, 1st Bn., 12th Marine Regiment, carried out emergency destruction sustainment training at Range 8 aboard MCB Hawaii's Range Training Facility, Oct. 1 - 3.

"It's essential for Marines to maintain their familiarization with the demolition used to properly destroy an ammunition supply point," said Staff Sgt. Christopher Deering, ordnance chief, ASP.

After receiving classes, the ammo warriors went to work and put the skills they learned into practice.

To dispose of the ammunition, the Marines used composition 4 explosive, explosive sheets of ironed-out C4, non-electrical blasting caps, timed-fuse detonation cords and fuse igniters.

Throughout the three days, the Marines properly disposed of 600 pounds of unserviceable ammu-



**More than 600 pounds of unserviceable ordnance was destroyed during the emergency destruction sustainment training Oct. 1 - 3.**

munition that included 60mm high explosive rounds, 5.56 and 7.62 mm tracer rounds, 5.56mm blank rounds, illumination flares, and M67 fragmentation and smoke grenades.

In addition to the Marines receiving some much-needed training, the base accomplished one of its semiannual goals.

"This training served a dual purpose because the base has ammo damaged during live-fire exercises that needed proper disposal," said Deering.

As in all training dealing with disposal of explosives, base explosive ordnance disposal experts were on the scene.

"We provide an added element of expertise, experience and safety to training evolutions such as these here," said Sgt. David "Pete" Karr, an EOD technician with Headquarters Bn., MCB Hawaii.

All in all, the emergency destruction sustainment training was beneficial to the Marines, the base and the Marine Corps.

"This training is also economical for the Corps, which doesn't need to hire outside contractors to dispose of the ammunition," said Deering. "The ammo techs receive the training needed, plus the unserviceable ordnance was properly disposed of."



**Staff Sergeant David A. Alexander (above left), an EOD technician, with Headquarters Bn., MCB Hawaii, helps other technicians with proper placement of the detonation cord. Below, Sgt. Eric DeLeon, a team leader, pulls the fuse igniter that begins the 10-minute countdown towards a massive explosion.**



# EVERY CLIME AND PLACE

## 31st MEU trains for large-scale evacuations

**Sgt. S. K. D'Alessio**  
31st MEU Public Affairs

**CAMP KINSER, OKINAWA, Japan** — Marine Expeditionary Unit Service Support Group 31 and Golf Battery, Battalion Landing Team 2/4, participated in a noncombatant evacuation operation, Sept. 16, as part of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit's Amphibious Ready Group Exercise 02.

The exercise began as the MSSG-31 Evacuation Control Center team received the call to evacuate thousands of civilians from a country in crisis. The evacuation was prompted by a security threat in which all commercial means of transportation out of the country had been halted, and civilians had no other safe means of exiting the country.

The team set up a perimeter defense and moved into a building that simulated a U.S. consulate, where Americans and citizens of other allied nations took refuge.

The MEU's NEO team consisted of a processing, movement and security force, which guarded the consulate, protected and transported civilians for evacuation by helicopter, and staved off any protestors surrounding the consulate, according to Maj. Joseph J. Zarba, executive officer, MSSG-31.

Although the chief missions of the Battery and MSSG are to provide indirect fire support and combat service support to the MEU's ground combat element, the NEO is an integral part of their training and preparation for real-world contingencies as a Special Operations Capable MAGTF, according to Sgt. Jowa J. Wildes, ECC team leader and platoon sergeant with MSSG-31.



Lance Cpl. Jose Anthony Rubio

**Sergeant Michael P. Drake coaches Lance Corporals Ruben A. Ventocilla and Corry N. Bowers who are live-firing at targets during exercises off the port side of the USS ESSEX. The Marines are members of Echo Co., Battalion Landing Team 2/4.**

"The ECC is made up of Marines from all different occupational specialties, from military police to mechanics" said Wildes. "That diversity makes the team that much more of an asset, because we come together for a common purpose with a wide range of experience."

It's also experience in nonviolent tactics that makes the Marines who conducted the NEO a more proficient force in readiness for major evacuations of civilians. Although the battery's arsenal includes .50-caliber machineguns mounted on High Mobility Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicles, retractable batons and shotguns, the Marines' main intent was to protect the evacuees and safely move them out of the country.

Nonlethal measures of protection were preferable throughout the NEO, ac-

ording to Wildes. If necessary, the battery can fire beanbag projectiles from their shotguns, designed to disable with minimal harm. Uncertainty, however, is always present in a NEO situation, so Marines must be able to transition from operations in a permissive environment to a situation where open combat may only be a moment away.

The NEO force is task-organized to cover all contingencies and includes an Explosive Ordnance Disposal team. It carefully assesses and disposes of, if needed, any explosives or devices that may be planted by terrorists during an evacuation.

"In EOD, there is no training device. ...We treat it as a real situation," said Sgt. La-Mel Jones, explosive ordnance disposal technician. "We resort to our tech-



Lance Cpl. Jose Anthony Rubio

**Sergeant Romeo R. Santiago of Echo Co., BLT 2/4, sights his landing aboard the USS ESSEX, as he and other Marines with the 31st MEU fast rope from a stationary helicopter in preparation for future operations.**

nic knowledge and our instincts to deal with an unknown and potentially lethal situation."

Dealing with the unknown is part of what makes the NEO an important training exercise, and in the end, weakness can be overcome through strong team unity, said Wildes.

# MILITARY BLOTTER

**Sgt. Gordon J. Scott**  
*Military Police Department*

There were a total of 87 traffic citations issued last week.

## The Blotter

-A civilian employee reported damage to private property, after person(s) unknown scratched her vehicle while it was parked in Lot 12 at Camp Smith.

-A Sailor reported larceny of private property, after person(s) unknown stole his wallet containing various credit cards, and \$400, which was left unsecured and unattended in a desk drawer.

-A Marine reported larceny of private property, after person(s) unknown entered his unsecured and unattended vehicle and stole various stereo equipment, camouflage utilities, and MOLLE gear, while the vehicle was parked adjacent Barracks 5750.

-A military family member reported damage to private property, after a golf ball struck the hood of her vehicle while it was parked on Lawrence Rd. adjacent the Klipper Golf Course.

-A Marine reported larceny of private property, after person(s) unknown stole video equipment from his room at the temporary lodging facility.

-A Sailor reported damage to private property, after person(s) unknown broke the driver's side door mirror of her vehicle, while it was parked adjacent to her quarters.

-A Sailor was apprehended by the Military Police Department for misuse of a Department of Defense pass, after MPs observed that his pass had been altered. The subject was processed and released to his unit officer of the day.

-A Marine was apprehended by MPD for simple assault, after he became combative with another Marine and struck the other Marine in the face with an open hand. The subject was processed and released to his unit OOD.

-A Marine was involved in a traffic accident, while backing and failing to maintain sufficient distance from a second Marine's vehicle.

-A Marine was arrested by the Honolulu Police Department for driving under the influence, after being stopped for lane weaving. The subject was processed and released on \$500 bail.

## Lost and Found

If you're missing valuables or other items, contact Lost and Found to see if anyone has turned in the item(s) at the Military Police Desk.

Lost items on hand include I.D. cards, bicycles, wallets, keys, cell phones and miscellaneous jewelry.

Call Sgt. Gordon Scott at 257-2103, ext. 315, for

# SALUTES

## Marine Corps Air Facility

### Promotions:

Sergeant Jeffrey S. Hessler  
Corporal Scott J. Momper  
Lance Cpl. Oscar D. Cuellar  
Lance Cpl. Renae M. Diener  
Lance Cpl. Michael R. Hershfelt  
Lance Cpl. Wesley A. Pyke  
Lance Cpl. Jeffrey K. Sallette  
Lance Cpl. Franklin G. Wood

### Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal:

Petty Officer 2nd Class Aaron R. McKinney  
Petty Officer 3rd Class Morgan D. Helmstetler  
Petty Officer 1st Class Lawrence D. Maestas

### Good Conduct Medal:

Lance Cpl. Scott J. Momper  
Sergeant Jordan Martin  
Sergeant James W. Seeger

### Certificate of Commendation:

Lance Cpl. Jeremiah D. Crouch



### Meritorious Mast:

Corporal Erik J. Klueber

**Worth Repeating:** Do not put your spoon in a pot that does not boil for you. — **Roumanian proverb**