

# Hawaii MARINE

INSIDE	
CG Mail	A-2
Lava Dogs at Schofield	A-3
Ammo Supply Point	A-6
Every Clime & Place	A-8
Joint Women's Conference	B-1
MCCS & SM&SP	B-2
Halloween Hours	B-4
Domestic Violence	B-5
Menu & Ads	B-6
Commissary Stock	B-6
Word to Pass	B-7
Devil Dog Dash	C-1
Sports Briefs	C-2
Health & Fitness	C-8

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## Rumsfeld gives deploy guidelines

**Kathleen T. Rhem**

*American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld gave the world a peek at how he thinks Oct. 17. At a Pentagon press briefing, he described guidelines he wrote upon taking office to help him decide when to recommend President Bush commit American military forces.

*Is proposed action truly necessary?*

**Guideline:** "Certainly, if lives are going to be put at risk. Whether they're U.S. lives or the lives of other foreign nationals, there must be a darn good reason." Rumsfeld also suggested all elements of national power be employed before, during and after possible use of force.

*Is the proposed action achievable?*

**Guideline:** "It has to be something that the United States is truly capable of doing. We need to understand that we have limitations. There are some things that this country and other countries simply can't do."

Officials must decide at the outset what constitutes success, so they know when they have succeeded, he said.

*Is it worth it?*

**Guideline:** "If the engagement is worth doing, then we need to recognize that, ultimately, lives could be put at risk. Leaders need to be willing to invest the political capital necessary to marshal support necessary to sustain the effort for whatever period of time conceivably could be required."

If there is to be action, act early and don't restrict options, he explained.

"It's important to make a judgment as to when diplomacy has failed and act forcefully during the pre-crisis period to try to alter behavior and prevent a conflict."

Rumsfeld said it's vital to not "dumb down" an operation by promising at the outset not to do certain things. In previous conflicts, leaders have made such pledges as not to commit ground troops or not to bomb below 15,000 feet.

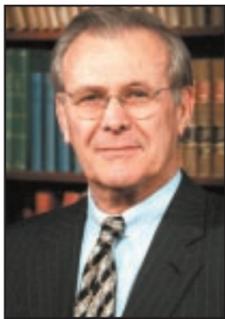
"Those promises, those declarations, it seems to me, have the net effect of simplifying the task for an enemy, and it makes the task for the coalition much more difficult," Rumsfeld said.

*Regarding honesty at all levels.*

**Guideline:** Rumsfeld said American leaders must be "brutally honest" with themselves and the American people, to avoid making a mission seem easier than it will be.

"Preserving U.S. credibility requires that we promise less or at least no more than we believe we can deliver. It's a great deal easier to get into something than it is to get out of it."

The secretary stressed these issues are guidelines he considers, not rules that could inhibit U.S. actions. He said, "There may be times when national security requires that the U.S. act without clear answers," noting that his guidelines are not "hard and fast" rules.



**RUMSFELD**

## 'Lava Dogs on the attack'



Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero

Lance Cpl. Eric Chapman, a squad leader with Alpha Co., 1/3, makes his way through obstacles on the way to assault his objective during training at Schofield Barracks, Oct. 18. See the full story on page A-3.

## World Vision fine-tunes security

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

**MARINE CORPS TRAINING AREA BELLOWS** — The convoy of sports utility vehicles makes its way slowly down an old, dirt road, no wider than the vehicles themselves.

Trees and bushes scrape the sides of vehicles, causing a screeching sound that unnerves both drivers and passengers, as the group of trucks push down the barely recognizable, overgrown, vehicle trail.

The trucks are laden with food and medical supplies paid for by World Vision International, which must get to a village of more than 500 people who have recently fallen victim to the ravages of a territorial dispute between two warring tribes from nearby provinces.

After many miles of twisting road and visibility of only few feet, the convoy emerges from the path onto an improved dirt road. But, just as the trucks start to increase speed, they are brought to a stop by a roadblock manned by a group of armed men.

At gunpoint, drivers and passengers are removed from their vehicles and forced to sit, huddled together in a group in front of the lead SUV.

"The road ahead has many land mines, and we should not let you by. But my men are tired, hungry and poor," says the leader of the armed



Sgt. Richard W. Holtgraver Jr.

**Role-players from Leeward Community College portrayed armed guerrillas in World Vision's convoy exercise at the Security Management Workshop held at Bellows.**

highwaymen. "A contribution of food and money to my men and our cause will ensure safe passage to the next village."

What options does the leader of the convoy have? Should they give the highwaymen any food and money at all? If so, how much should they give?

More than 30 people from WVI role-played this scenario, and several others like it, at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows the week of Oct. 11 as part of the Security Management Workshop.

Normally, WVI conducts two workshops a year here. But, due to current "real-world" events, the organization is planning a third for the upcoming year, including a workshop that will train its highest-ranking members worldwide.

The planned increase in training will be a direct reflection of the dangers WVI is facing in countries around the world.

Prior to Sept. 11, 2001, WVI security concerns focused primarily on African nations. Since that fateful day, the organization has had to deal with growing concerns in Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, India, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

There hasn't been much change in the workshop itself since 9/11, because the basic principles of good security management have remained the same. Currently, World Vision's biggest priority is to get more people to take the training.

It's World Vision's goal to have everyone in their organization complete the numerous security workshops.

World Vision International mem-

See **WORLD VISION**, A-7

Donald Jones, a Marine veteran and renowned mason, clears a spot for one of the bench bases at the Pacific War Memorial, Tuesday.



Sgt. Robert Carlson

## Benches add finishing touch to Memorial

**Sgt. Robert Carlson**  
*Press Chief*

The Pacific War Memorial aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, is complete after a local mason added four stone benches around the monument, Tuesday.

The benches, weighing nearly 1,000 pounds each, are the final adornments scheduled at the monument.

Donald Jones, a mason

and a veteran Marine, donated the materials and labor to add the benches to the monument. He has done work on some of Hawaii's finest structures, and according to Alice Clark, chair of the Pacific War Memorial Association, there is no finer craftsman who could have worked on the PWM project.

Jones, who also set the stones around the base of

the bronze statue part of the memorial, said he donated the time and materials because it seemed like the right thing to do.

"It just felt good," he said, as he lifted the slabs from his truck onto the bench bases. "I was a Marine, my step father was a Marine, and my brother was a Marine, and I thought that helping complete this project would be the right thing to do."

Sergeant Leron Patterson, supply noncommissioned officer in charge at the base facilities department, helped Jones work the raw stone slabs into benches, and Jones said he really appreciated the help.

Jones' work with the base and the Pacific War Memorial Association was the first time he had worked with Marines since he left the Vietnam Conflict in 1968.

## MCBH NEWS BRIEFS

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

Saturday 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.

### CHILD SEATS GET INSPECTED

Parents with children can have their child safety seats inspected at two different events in the community. The first is Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon at the Toys R Us in Pearlridge. The event is sponsored by Kapiolani Medical Center, and Lisa Lai at 983-6800 has more details.

The second event is Sunday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Francis Medical Center-West, in Ewa Beach. That event is being sponsored by St. Francis Medical Center and the Kieki Injury Prevention Coalition. For more information on the St. Francis event, call Seth Nesmith at 637-2664.

### PWM LECTURE SERIES COMING

University of Hawaii football coach June Jones will speak at the inaugural ceremony of the Pacific War Memorial lecture series, for all in the MCB Hawaii military community and tenant commands, Nov. 5 at 8 p.m. at the Base Theater.

See upcoming issues of the *Hawaii Marine* newspaper, for complete event details.

### 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.

## Hawaii MARINE

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## CG'S MAIL BOX

*"I think it is very unsanitary and scary to live with these creatures."*



BRIG. GEN. MCABEE

Submitted by Tina Zimmer, family member

"My name is Tina Zimmer and I live at 2680-F Daly Road.

I have had some problems with pests, for some time now, and I have restrained myself from writing you about them. However, it seems that my household is overrun by them.

Below will be a list of critters that I have encountered since June of 2002.

I have gone to Housing with this problem, and to me, I think they have done their best to rid me and my family of these problems. However, it has not seemed to work.

I know as humans we can only do our best, but when the problem is too big to fix. I can understand.

I am asking you to help me and my family be moved from this home into another one that is a little more cleared of these pesky problems.

You see, Sir, we live at the bottom of the rifle range, and we happen to be the very last home in this complex, so it seems that we get everything.

I know when we were moved into this home, we signed a waiver. But, I am asking you to help break that waiver for us.

Just last week, I was bitten by a scorpion, not to mention the centipedes I have been bitten by, and the mice and rats that live in our home. They are overriding us.

We have not caught many outside; however, we catch on the average two-to-six a night here.

I think it is very unsanitary and scary to live with these creatures.

When people have to turn on every light to go downstairs at night, just so they don't walk on centipedes or run into a mouse or two, that is just unnatural.

So, I am asking you for your help. I will, however, understand if you cannot help, and we have to live with these creatures. We will just have to make the best of it.

I am just asking for piece of mind.

I have gone to Housing for help, but it seems I get pawned off to someone else, and then to someone else, and when I told David Chun about the black mold, his response to me was, "All you do is wash it off because black mold is not dangerous here in Hawaii."

I really find that hard to swallow because I thought that black mold was dangerous everywhere.

[Here is the] list of creatures: Mice, centipedes, scorpions, rats, ants, cockroaches, toads, and black mold.

Please help.

Thank you, Sir, for taking the time to read my letter."

Tina Zimmer

Mrs. Zimmer:

I have been asked by the commanding general to research and respond to your email since your recommendation falls within my staff responsibilities. He appreciates that you've taken the time to participate in the "CG Mail" program.

The commanding general also asked the Base Inspector to look into the problem and ensure that all action that can be taken to fix the problem is being taken.

The Family Housing Department has been working very closely with pest control personnel from MCB Hawaii's Facilities Department to alleviate the infestation problem in your area.

To help control and reduce the mice population, pest control has set up mice traps along the perimeter fence line, behind and beside your building. They will monitor these mice traps daily.

Additionally, the Facilities Department and Labor Shop have cleared a twenty-foot clear zone in the field behind the perimeter fence line, located behind your building, to deter mice from coming into your

neighborhood.

This area is cut twice a year. The latest clearing was accomplished approximately one month ago.

In reference to the insects, the housing unit you mention is in an area closest to the Ulupau Crater, a wildlife habitat area. For this reason, the pest control shop is not authorized to randomly spray in the crater for insects.

They are currently exploring innovative and improved, long-term solutions to the insect situation you've mentioned, in an effort to control its population in your area.

When a satisfactory solution has been identified, appropriate actions will be taken to rectify the situation.

The Family Housing Department inspectors and maintenance crews recently performed a thorough inspection at your quarters, for possible entries for both mice and frogs.

Based on their findings, they began work to properly seal possible and potential entryways.

Once work to all the units has been completed, it is our intent that both you and the residents of the other units in the 2680 Daly building will see a marked decrease in pest activity.

The mold located in your outside storage area will be removed, and new drywall will be installed.

The removed mold will be tested in order to ascertain if it is black mold.

When that test is complete, you will be notified immediately.

If further actions to correct the situation are required, they will be explained to you at that time.

Thank you again for bringing your concerns to my attention. If these corrective actions do not quickly and efficiently solve the problems, please call Mr. Freeland at Family Housing 257-2676.

Sincerely,

Mr. Kent Murata

Assistant Chief of Staff, G-4

*(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/cgmailto.htm](http://www.mcbh.usmc.mil/command/cgmailto.htm).

## Best yards in Kaneohe Bay



Pfc. Monroe F. Seigle

Winners of the Yard of the Quarter competition were honored on Oct. 16 with a ceremony at the base theater. Brigadier Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, commanding general of MCB Hawaii, presented awards to the service members and their families for exceptional yard care.



Marines from Bravo Co., 1/3, storm into a room during a rehearsal for a live-fire grenade assault course.

## Lava Dogs invade Schofield

Story and Photos by  
**Pfc. Monroe F. Seigle**  
Combat Correspondent

Devil Dogs from Bravo Co., 1st Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment, made their way to the Schofield Barracks combat operations training area for a week of intense training during a field exercise that began Oct. 18.

The Bravo Co. Marines are preparing for an upcoming deployment.

"We are training for a full company attack," said Capt. John P. Bobo, commanding officer. "Our main goal is to get ready for the deployment that will take place in April."

During the training, the Marines participated in different exercises such as live-fire grenade training, where the Marines practiced room-to-room clearing in an urban combat setting; live-fire exercises with the M-16 A2 service rifle; the M 240 G; and "heavy guns" such as the MK 19.



Above — Marines from Bravo Co., 1/3, wait to attack a position in the dense grasses.

Left — Lance Cpl. Adam R. Chatfield, a mortarman from Bravo Co., 1/3, loads a high explosive round into a 60 mm mortar.

The Marines also received martial arts training and completed the bayonet assault course at Schofield.

"It's been some tough training, but we have learned a lot," said Lance Cpl. Brian Huddleston, a rifleman in Bravo Co., 1/3. "It's not everyday that we get to throw live grenades."

"It was pretty intense hearing a grenade explode in the room beside you,"

explained Pfc. Benjamin Spann, another rifleman with Bravo Co., 1/3. "It was even more of a rush to run in there right after it blew up."

After completing the various assault courses at Schofield, the Marines completed a four-day "movement to contact." The scenario describes a tactical situation where Marines know that an enemy is present, but not when the enemy will at-

tack. The leathernecks must be ready at all times for an ambush.

"This has been some valuable training," said Huddleston. "I think that we will be able to give an outstanding performance during our deployment to Okinawa."

Bravo Co., 1/3 is scheduled to deploy to Okinawa in April of 2003, to further enhance their combat and tactical skills in the Unit Deployment Program.



(Left to Right) Lance Cpl. Luis A. Palma, a rifleman with Alpha Co., 1/3, runs over log obstacles, jumps over a 5-foot ditch, then viciously assaults a 5-foot dummy during Bayonet Assault Course training at Schofield Barracks, Oct. 18.

## Bayonet assault hones basic skills

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

Every Marine is a rifleman first.

But, what happens when the Marines have fired all their ammunition and their only protection against the enemy is a 7-inch stainless steel blade at the end of their rifle?

More than 75 Marines from Alpha Co., 1st Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment, slashed and jabbed during the bayonet assault course at Schofield Army Barracks, Oct. 18.

The bayonet training began in the morning with a period of instruction, followed by a practical application test. It wrapped up after the company completed five to six repetitions.

"We do the training so the Marines know how to defend themselves," said Staff Sgt. Markeith Williams, a platoon sergeant with 1/3. "At some point during wartime, Marines will run out of ammunition and have to know hand-to-hand combat."

Several scenarios helped the War

Pigs of Alpha Co., 1/3, experience more realistic training.

"We try to make these different scenarios as real as possible, so that muscle memory will take action, no matter if an enemy is armed or unarmed," said Williams.

During the course, the War Pigs jumped over log obstacles, low crawled under constantine wire, and parried and thrust five-foot dummies.

"After completing a 10-mile movement from Kaena Point to Dillingham Airfield, yesterday, the Marines were exhausted, but still fully charged to manipulate the bayonet and the different obstacles," said Lance Cpl. Luis A. Palma, a rifleman with Alpha Co., 1/3, and a native of La Paz, Bolivia.

Although this is the battalion's first field exercise in preparation for deployment to Okinawa in April, 2003, it's a learning experience for

both the senior and junior Marines in the company.

"This is the first field exercise the company has done since receiving the new group of Marines," said Lance Cpl. Eric Champ, a squad leader with Alpha Co., 1/3, and a native of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. "As a brand new squad leader, I feel excited about instructing them with proper infantry field tactics."

The War Dog training is part of a field exercise that its battalion is performing across the island of Oahu, slated to end today.



Lance Cpl. Eric Chapman, a squad leader with Alpha Co., 1/3, negotiates log obstacles during the Bayonet Assault Course.

## WORD ON THE STREET

*"How would you respond to domestic violence?"*



"I would notify the PMO and try to get them the help they need."

**1st Lt. Chad Bignell**

Adjutant  
HMH-363

"Discuss the different options with the victim and refer them to counseling services."

**Erica Furlong**

Administrative assistant  
New Parent Support Program,  
MCCS



"I would be a good listener and find an abuse counseling number and refer them to it."

**Cpl. Nichole Hansen**

Oboe player  
MarForPac Band

"I would try to get them to go to counseling to resolve their problems."

**Pfc. Marvin L. Dennard**

Supply clerk  
CSSG-3



"I would counsel them and direct them to Family Advocacy."

**Sgt. Christopher Fry**

Platoon sergeant  
Alpha Co., 1/3

# ASP tunnels provide ammo security



Above — Tunnels dug during the World War II era could have provided a fallout shelter, if necessary.

Below Left — Gunnery Sgt. Eckerson makes his way through one of the nine tunnels.

Below Right — Barely visible when inside the tunnel, its 274-foot length provides a storage area for a large amount of ordnance.



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

The Ulupa'u Crater aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, is more than just another volcanic remnant on Oahu.

In the center of the crater lies a very important part of any Marine base: the Range Training Facility. But, what is equally important are the tunnels underneath the once-erupting geyser of liquid rock.

Marine Corps Base Hawaii's Ammunition Supply Point houses hundreds of pounds of ammunition and live ordnance in the tunnels burrowed deep into the crater walls.

Nine tunnels, whose doors are visible from nearly any point on base, circumvent the crater, and house the majority of all live ammunition on the installation.

The tunnels were originally dug in 1942, according to Gunnery Sgt. Eckerson, ASP staff non-commissioned officer in charge, as a response and safety measure to the attack that ravaged the base a year earlier.

"Our ASP has the only tunnel-dug magazines in the entire Marine Corps," said Eckerson. "Another thing that makes our supply point unique is the

blend of both aviation and ground ordnance housed here."

Personnel at the ASP include 16 Marines and two Sailors, with specialists trained in fields of both air and ground ordnance.

Ordnance at the ASP ranges in size from small rounds such as M-16 ammunition, to 500-pound bombs for aircraft.

The caverns in the crater stretch some 274 feet into the landform.

"Although we have a lot of space up here for storing ordnance, we are still limited as to what we can hold," Eckerson explained. "We're only allowed so much because of the supply point's distance relative to places like base housing areas."

The caverns are protected by more than just the earth and rock that surround them. The computerized locks on the doors, as well as the high fence that surrounds the area, were put in place to deter anyone trying to steal ammunition or gain access to the area.

"I'd say the items we store here are very well protected," said Eckerson. "The terrain alone, plus the locks and cooperation we have with PMO [the Provost Marshal's Office] keep everything we have here very secure."

## Drug-free troops key to success

**Gerry J. Gilmore**

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — It's paramount to mission success that service members remain drug-free — especially as America continues the war against global terrorism, the Department of Defense's senior anti-drug official said here.

André D. Hollis, deputy as-

sistant secretary of defense for Counternarcotics, said drug use continues to decline across the military, but that's not good enough.

"Any drug use is incompatible with military service," he emphasized, especially since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

"Each and every member of our community must do their

job in helping to prosecute the anti-terror war," Hollis noted. "When you use drugs, you put everyone else that you work with in danger. It's even more important, during this war, that everyone remain drug-free."

He said the U.S. military will not rest on its anti-drug laurels and referred to the Defense

See ANTI-DRUGS, A-7



**ANTI-DRUGS, From A-6**

Department's annual Red Ribbon Week activities (Oct. 21-23) at the Pentagon. The observance featured award ceremonies and celebrity appearances by Miss USA Shauntay Hinton, U.S. Navy-sponsored auto racer Jon Wood, the country group Ricochet, and others.

"Service members are role models for the nation's youth. Anti-drug venues like Red Ribbon Week make a difference for service members and American youth alike," he noted. "Each child who hears our message and sees our role models and decides, 'I'm not going to use drugs,' well, that's important. That's an American life that we potentially will save.

"That's something we all swore to uphold when we joined the service: to protect Americans from enemies, foreign and domestic," he added.

Drug use is not tolerated at anytime or anywhere within the



military, whether a service member flies a jet, drives a tank or wields "a rifle or a pen," Hollis emphasized.

He made special reference to the "club drug" ecstasy, noting it can injure and kill users. Anyone in uniform using ecstasy — or any other illegal drug — will be caught, he said.

"Using drugs is not worth the risk of a dishonorable discharge," he said.

Hollis said DoD, since 1988, has supported national anti-drug efforts by providing command, control, communications and intelligence support to U.S. law enforcement agencies.

Additionally, he said DoD is the lead government agency for the detection and monitoring of

drug flow into the United States.

For example, Hollis noted, many National Guard members play vital roles in community anti-drug education efforts, and also provide aerial and ground reconnaissance assets to law enforcement officials.

Hollis said he relishes sharing his anti-drug message with service members stationed worldwide.

It's important for service members to realize that buying and using drugs most likely may aid America's enemies, he said.

"There is a group of terrorists that generates revenue through drug trafficking," Hollis said. "We believe that group will increase its trafficking, especially as law enforcement officials identify and freeze its bank accounts and other assets."

Additionally, he noted, "there's lots of drug activity in the Middle East, in Central Asia and Southwest Asia that may support folks who have evil intentions toward the United States."

**WORLD VISION, From A-1**

bers received classes on field communications management, medical emergency management and emergency first aid over a four-day period.

A brief class on land mines offered WVI personnel the opportunity to visit MCB Hawaii's Explosive Ordnance Training Facility. Many of the 92 countries in which WVI currently holds operations are believed to contain land mines.

"I think the biggest thing that this training has made me aware of is the need to be focused on my own personal security," said Christine Hahn, the communications manager for WVI's West Africa Region. "I've learned not to be naive.

"The Marines have taught us a lot about discipline and teamwork," she added. "We appreciate the [treatment we've received] and the knowledge the Marines were able to give us."

As current events in the world today dictate that humanitarian relief organizations educate their employees on what to do to protect themselves from becoming victims of the situations they are trying to remedy, WVI is ensuring that all of its personnel are aware of what to do in certain crisis situations.

"We're trying to ... keep a lot of good people safe," said Charles Rogers, director of corporate security for WVI. "Many of these people could go back to work next week and have to deal with one or more of these incidents.

"What they learn here could be the difference between life and death for them and their coworkers."

# EVERY CLIME AND PLACE

## LAVs light up desert range during live-fire

**Sgt. Brian J. Griffin**  
11th MEU(SOC) Public Affairs

### CENTRAL COMMAND AREA OF OPERATION

Under the blistering heat of the unrelenting desert sun, Marines with Delta Co., Light Armored Reconnaissance, Battalion Landing Team 3/1, 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), focus downrange during recent live-fire training here.

Scanning the desert landscape, littered with sand dunes that appear to melt into the horizon, the Marines look for possible targets in the vast, open area surrounding them.

With the aide of their vehicle, the Light Armored Vehicle 25, the Marines can undertake a number of missions, to include facilitating reconnaissance, directing artillery, and "hit and run" missions.

With each LAV-25 equipped with a 25mm chain gun and two M-240E1 machineguns, the Marine gunners are able to accurately fire on targets while moving at speeds of only 10 mph due to the vehicle's stabilization system.

Live-fire exercises afford ve-

hicle crews a chance to fire their weapons at multiple targets while moving — training the Marines haven't had since leaving for their six-month deployment earlier this year, said 1st Lt. Christian Portiss, executive officer, Delta Co., LAR, BLT 3/1, 11th MEU (SOC).

"The better our guys are at hitting moving targets or targets that show themselves for a limited amount of time, the better they are overall," Portiss said. "That's where the training today came in."

"We were actually able to shoot multiple targets during simultaneous engagements ranging anywhere from 500 to 1,500 meters away and from both static and moving positions," said Staff Sgt. Stephen Bright, master gunner, Delta Co., LAR, BLT 3/1, 11th MEU (SOC). "It is good to reaffirm the crew's skills and reassure them that they [have the skills to] hit the targets."

Marines from Delta Co, LAR, spend most of the morning ensuring their weapon systems are ready for action, doing last minute safety checks and bore-sighting their 25mm chain gun to ensure the rounds hit where



Sgt. Brian J. Griffin

**Marines with BLT 3/1, 11th MEU (SOC), often move positions to practice setting up assembly areas, a protected gathering area for the vehicles and Marines.**

aimed.

These warriors at the "tip of the spear" are ready for whatever may be thrown at them.

Hidden in the sand slopes are pre-staged targets, mimicking enemy vehicles and personnel. These targets are designed to pop-up and remain visible for only a limited amount of time, Bright said.

After a few practice fires to make sure their 25 mm chain guns and M-240E1 machineguns are in top condition, the



Sgt. Brian J. Griffin

**A vehicle commander coordinates fire on targets.**

Marines begin to drive their vehicles onto the range.

Their moods change from the relaxed characters seen earlier in the morning — to those of determined warriors.

Methodically, the Marines scan and search through the heat wrinkles rising from the ground, looking for anything moving in the 1,500 meters in front of them.

Suddenly, a vehicle silhouette appears to their left, a few hundred meters away.

The gunner shouts that he has the target in his sights.

The vehicle commander responds with "FIRE!"

The vehicle shakes as three rounds, each accompanied by a "thump," are fired one after the other.

The target falls.

It's a direct hit.

Still facing the uncertainty of the training scenario, the driver of the LAV edges forward as the gunner and the vehicle commander (sitting to the right of the gunner) continues to scan the landscape, waiting for more targets to appear.

"This is good sustainment training for the crews," Bright said. "It dusted off the crew's memories of what they are supposed to be doing."

"If you don't keep training, you can get rusty after a while. It is nice to get out and start doing it again," said Lance Cpl. Alex Stratton, gunner, Delta Co., LAR, BLT 3/1, 11th MEU (SOC).

After knocking off the rust, and polishing the tip of the spear, the Marines complete their daylong training evolution.

As they prepare for a night's rest under the stars in the endless desert, Marines from Delta Co. eagerly await another day of live-fire training.