

Hawaii MARINE

INSIDE	
CG Mail	A-2
Land Navigation	A-3
BPAC	A-4
DUI Listing	A-7
Haunted House	B-1
MCCS & SM&SP	B-2
Menu	B-4
Word to Pass	B-6
Ads	B-8
Football	C-1
Sports Briefs	C-2
The Bottom Line	C-3
Health and Fitness	C-6

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October 31, 2003



Pfc. Michelle M. Dickson

Lieutenant Col. Loren D. Barney, the base inspector at MCB Hawaii, cuts down some of the many invasive plants during the cleaning of the watershed.

Marines, community 'make a difference'

Pfc. Michelle M. Dickson
Combat Correspondent

KAHALU'U — Community residents and Marines from MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, dedicated time and hard work Saturday for "Make a Difference Day," helping to clean up the Waihe'e Valley watershed.

The process of cleaning up the watershed was extremely important to the community as the watershed is its main supply of water.

A watershed is an area of land surrounded by mountain ridges that take in rainwater. From there, large canopy trees act as sponges retaining the water, allowing the community to benefit from the supply. The supplies come into danger when foreign plants and animals choke out the natural vegetation, which is why the clean-up event took place.

"It's difficult because a lot of these plants grow a lot faster than you can kill them," said Jon C. Yoshimura, coordinator

for the event.

From the beginning of the day, Yoshimura was very pleased with the outcome of the event.

"Everyone from young kids to elders came to help out," he said.

This was the first big event for the community, and Yoshimura hopes to continue the effort with projects year-round.

The day began at 7:30 a.m. at the Kahalu'u Elementary School cafeteria where everyone met for breakfast and was shuttled to areas of clean-up. From there, everything from cutting down invasive vines, to planting new trees and shrubs took place. There was opportunity for everyone to get involved while enjoying the captivating view of the mountains overhead.

"It's fun to do this kind of stuff. You get dirty and sweaty, but you feel good," said Cpl. Michael E. Slauson, assistant information assurance NCO with Headquar-

See DIFFERENCE, A-6

Makahiki season opens path to past

Sgt. Jereme Edwards
Sports Editor

During times of old, the Mokapu Peninsula — on which MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, now resides — was known to all native Hawaiians as sacred ground. Royalty ruled, warriors trained and ancestors were laid to rest here.

This past weekend, several Hawaiian families with ancestral ties to Mokapu came aboard the base and extended an invitation to service members and their families to learn about and to help them celebrate the beginning of the season. Their ancient festival is dedicated to Lono, the deified guardian of agriculture, rain, health and peace.

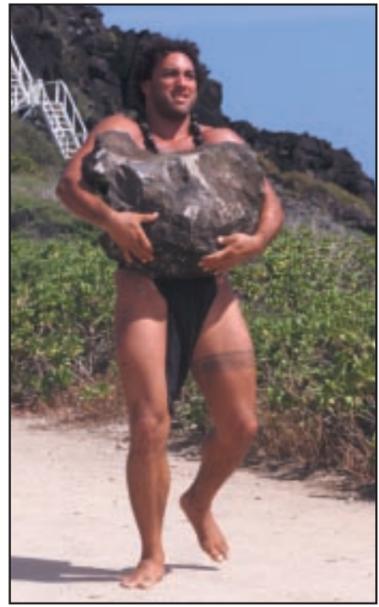
For more than 2,000 years, the attributes of Lono and his contributions to the beliefs and practices of the early Hawaiian people have influenced the celebratory events of the Makahiki season, which coincides with the Hawaiian New Year.

Just before sunset Saturday, out near Pyramid Rock Beach, the Mokapu Peninsula's Makahiki events began with the formal ceremony to recognize the season and the Hawaiian New Year. The cluster of stars in the Makahiki constellation is revered in the Hawaiian tradition as the place from which, according to legend, the first Hawaiian people came to earth.

Winter officially begins when the cluster begins to rise at sunset and set at dawn, and is visible most of the night. The ceremony began with the ritualistic sounding of the conch shell and an intriguing ancient Hawaiian chant.

According to the ancient star-based calendar of Hawaii, the beginning of the Hawaiian New Year is on the first night of the rise of the star constellation Na Huihui

See MAKAHIKI, A-5



Sgt. Jereme Edwards

Souza carries a large boulder as part of the beginning of the sporting events of the Makahiki games.

Russians meet, socialize with Oahu U.S. military

Pfc. Bernadette L. Ainsworth
Marine Forces Pacific

HONOLULU — The Russian naval ships Marshal Shaposhnikov and Pechenga executed a welcome invasion on the Leeward Oahu shores at Pearl Harbor Naval Station, Oct. 24. Hawaii residents and service members, islandwide, came out Saturday to meet and greet 45 of their Russian brothers-in-arms during the "Day of Hospitality" for the Russian Navy.

The event was sponsored by Honolulu's International Hospitality Center, a volunteer community organization, providing services for international exchange students, government and foundation grantees, and foreign military,

including the Mexican, French and Australian Navy, and exchange students from Chile, Tahiti and France.

Hosts met their guests at 9 a.m., Saturday, at the International Hospitality Center, and center staff suggested they include activities such as barbecues and sightseeing about Oahu.

"We took them to the aquarium, and they wanted to take pictures of Waikiki Beach. They also wanted to go shopping, so we took them to Ala Moana Shopping Center," said Lance Cpl. Lerrin Trufant, one of the volunteers for the day.

The Russians wore their uniforms in town and returned to their ships before their liberty secured at 2 p.m., capping a full day.

Waianae youth experience Marine Corps life at K-Bay

Sgt. Joe Lindsay
Community Relations Chief

Forty-two seventh graders from Waianae Intermediate School on Oahu's Leeward side got a chance to take a field trip Oct. 24, but this was not a "run of the mill day" off from school.

That's because the students travelled to MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, for an opportunity to witness Marine Corps life up close and personal, including a Martial Arts Instructor demonstration, tour of Explosive Ordnance Disposal, and a chance to fire on what some students called "the ultimate video game,"

— the Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer, or ISMT.

"This was a very important trip for these kids to make," said Lt. Col. William Akana, Marine Forces Pacific Air Officer for the G-3 operations department, and organizer of the visit. "Most of these kids are either part-Hawaiian or Samoan, and come from financially disadvantaged backgrounds.

"Percentage-wise, the majority of them will not graduate high school, and a good number of them won't even finish junior high. Those are just statistics though. We are not giving up on a single one of them."

The belief that each and every one of the students at

Waianae Intermediate can make it through the educational system, through high school graduation and beyond — and go on to lead a productive and happy lives — was the driving force behind Akana organizing the visit.

"By bringing the kids to the base, I wanted to show them that there is a life outside the streets of Waianae, outside of poverty, and outside the temptations of drugs and crime," said Akana. "These are good kids, and they need good role models."

Send in the Marines.

See WAIANAE, A-8

Attend the USMC Birthday Pageant, Nov. 7 at 10 a.m., Dewey Square

MCBH NEWS BRIEFS

STATE ALERT SOUNDS MONDAY

The State Civil Defense monthly test of sirens and the Emergency Alert System will be held Monday at 11:45 a.m.

The siren test is a steady 45-second tone used to alert the public of any emergency that poses or may pose a threat to life and property. The siren signal alerts the public to turn on any radio or television for emergency information and instructions broadcast by civil defense agencies.

Tests of the State Civil Defense are conducted simultaneously in cooperation with Hawaii's broadcast industry each month. Disaster preparedness information is located in the front section of the white pages of telephone directories in all counties.

ASSOCIATION IS NOW TAKING 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.

NMCRS NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society is in need of volunteers to work as receptionists and case workers. The society pay childcare and mileage expenses.

If you're interested in helping your fellow Sailors and Marines, learning new job skills, and meeting new friends, call NMCRS, Kaneohe Bay, at 257-1328.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

On-Base Emergencies	911
Military Police	257-7114
Crisis Hotline	521-4555
Child Protective Service	832-5300

Hawaii MARINE

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To contact the MCB Hawaii Public Affairs Office use the following addresses:

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FAX: 257-2511, PHONE: 257-8840

IN THE CG'S MAIL BOX



BRIG. GEN.
MCABEE

Comment submitted by Rene Guerrero, family member

"The gym the kids are in now is very old and doesn't have enough room to accomodate the amount of children and programs that are offered"

Sir,

Good afternoon. I am writing in regards to the MCCS [Marine Corps Community Services] facilities used for gymnastics and cheerleading, and other programs on MCB Hawaii.

The Family Gym has a regular program for everyday gymnastics, and it also has a team that competes for K-Bay. All of these programs are very important to the kids, and they keep them healthy, mentally and physically.

[However,] the equipment they use should be able to be set up and not moved everyday to accommodate another class. The area should be used for the programs that need the specific equipment and space such as gymnastics and cheerleading.

I, along with other parents I have spoken with, am requesting that the facilities be moved to a bigger place, and one with ceiling fans and a cleaner environment. The gym the kids are in now is very old and doesn't have enough room to accomodate the amount of children and programs that are offered.

Along with my husband, I know a lot of parents who would volunteer their time to assist in moving all of the equipment and setting up a new area. The gymnastics and cheerleading alone is a big program, and the kids just don't have enough room.

As of now, it is very cramped and very hot. The ceiling fans are needed to keep it cool; the industrial fans cannot be used because the kids can-

not hear the instructors, and that would pose a safety hazard.

I have to pay a \$25 fee each year, per child, to use the MCCS Youth programs, and I have to pay the monthly fees for my three children to attend the programs. With that being said, I know that MCCS gains income from this, and some of the money should be used to make some changes.

I feel that this is a quality of life issue and should be addressed for our children. It keeps them out of trouble and keeps them healthy. In my children, it has made a big difference in their confidence, and they love the program.

I know that this has been an issue for over a year that I have had my children enrolled.

Another issue is that the bathroom that they have there is horrible and dirty. I won't even use them when I am there.

The gym itself is not that clean either because of other programs being used. It is hard to keep it clean like a regular gym [such as Semper Fit] that has these types of equipment, i.e., floor mats and floor exercise mats.

So, any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your time and efforts in this matter.

Sincerely,
Rene Guerrero

Dear Mrs. Guerrero,

The commanding general asked me to respond to your letter of Oct. 8



Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle

The children's gymnastics program is held in the Family Gym aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, but because other programs share the facility, the equipment is frequently moved.

since your concerns fall within my staff's area of responsibility. He appreciates that you took the time to participate in the "CG Mail" program.

Dedicated parents like you help to make the Children Youth and Teen Programs successful aboard MCB Hawaii. The gymnastics and dance programs happen to be the very best programs aboard the base.

The contracted instructor for the program, Mrs. Rodin, is a graduate of Julliard as well as The Royal Academy of Dancing in London. She also holds a National Safety Certification from USA Gymnastics and is an expert in the area of safety for children who participate in these activities. In the six years that Mrs. Rodin has been involved in the program, enrollment has increased from less than 50 to more than 200 participants.

We realize that the program has outgrown its current location. This is the reason why we have decided to have it relocated to Bldg. 1583 during the second week in

December.

Selected for its size and conduciveness to gymnastics programs, Bldg. 1583 is being modified to accommodate the proper spacing of the equipment. Further, I am pleased to inform you that new gymnastic equipment, including a vault table, vault mats, vault board, uneven bars, rings and a balance beam were installed this past week.

Cleanliness of our facilities is a high priority within MCCS. Our Children Youth and Teen Program administrator has assured me that the Family Gym and Bldg. 1583 will be monitored frequently to ensure they meet MCCS cleanliness standards.

We appreciate your thoughtful comments and concerns. If I can be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact me at 257-7540, and again, thank you for taking the time to participate in the "CG Mail" program.

Sincerely,
Mr. William B. Lindsey
Assistant Chief of Staff
MCCS

(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.

In Remembrance



Master Gunnery Sgt. Howard Burleson, the Marine Forces Pacific Staff Judge Advocate legal chief, passed away Oct. 23 at the age of 44. Memorial services were held Wednesday at the chapel aboard Camp H.M. Smith. See next week's edition of the *Hawaii Marine* for coverage of the memorial service honoring this dedicated warrior who will be missed by his comrades-in-arms, as well as his family and friends.

Courtesy of Marine Forces Pacific

LAND NAVIGATION

at Bellows



CSSG-3 brushes up on its basic warrior skills

Story and Photos by
Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle
Combat Correspondent

MARINE CORPS TRAINING AREA, Bellows — Several Marines from Headquarters Co., Combat Service Support Group 3, aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, took a break from their regular duties Oct. 21 and headed out here to brush up on some basic warrior skills with a combination of land navigation, nuclear, biological and chemical exercises and call for fire training.

While at MCTAB, the Marines put all their skills to use in a 2,000 square meter training area with a variety of terrain.

The day began with Gunnery Sgt. Jerry Fowler, company gunnery sergeant for Headquarters Co., CSSG-3, explaining to the Marines that regardless of their military occupational specialty, they could find themselves in need of firepower from an artillery battery in the middle of a combat zone.

"There are certain procedures on how a Marine must call for fire, in order for the Marines responsible to



Above — Cpl. Jacob Fisher, data systems technician with CSSG -3, and Cpl. Brandon Musk, a field wireman with CSSG-3, shoot an azimuth while looking at a map of an area during a land navigation course at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows.

Below — Petty Officer Second Class Eugene Trinidad, religious programs specialist with CSSG-3, looks through a lensatic compass to get an accurate azimuth and locate grid coordinates at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows.

send the firepower downrange," said Fowler to the Marines. "If these procedures are not followed correctly, the forces posing a threat will more than likely not be destroyed."

Fowler was also able to tie in a class on land navigation. He explained to the Marines that a lot of the same skills are used that require them to plot points on a grid map and shoot an azimuth — the direction in which a Marine travels to a destination, in order to ensure firepower lands on its target.

After the class on land navigation, the Marines broke up into two-man groups before heading off into the surrounding woods to find points that were pre-selected on a map of the area. Once they returned, they were sent out again in the hours of darkness to find more points in the area. It was then that the Marines employed night vision goggles to assist them in their navigation through the woods. Afterwards, Fowler gave them a debriefing on their performance.

"Some of the teams had a harder time than the others, but they all realized the importance of depending on the



tools they are given, like compasses and night vision goggles," said Fowler. "What is important is the Marines were all able to get from point 'A' to point 'B' using the skills they were taught."

With the moon as the only thing providing light in the Hawaiian sky, CSSG-3 Marines once again pulled out their night vision goggles and learned the importance of light discipline in the dark.

Part of the training, all Marines, except one, put on and activated their night vision goggles. Then, one walked away from the area and lit a cigarette.

"The Marine smoking a cigarette gave us all a good idea of how any kind of light in the combat zone will be blatantly obvious to the enemy," said Cpl. Jacob Fisher, data systems technician with Headquarters Co., CSSG-3. "We were able to get a good review of a lot of the basic skills we must know as Marines."

AN/PVS-7B Night Vision Goggles



Primary function: Image intensifying, passive binoculars that allow the operator to perform tasks at night or under low-light level conditions.

Length: 5.9 inches

Width: 6.1 inches
Height: 3.9 inches
Weight: 24 ounces
Magnification: 1x

Starlight Range:
Man-sized target: 100 meters
Vehicle-sized target: 500 meters

Moonlight Range:
Man-sized target: 300 meters
Field of view: 40° (circular)

Power source: Mercury, nickel cadmium, or lithium battery (2.7V)
Operation time: 12 hours on one 2.7 volt battery

Unit Replacement Cost: \$6,000

Features: The AN/PVS-7B is a single-tube night vision goggle, Generation III, image intensifier that uses prisms and lenses to provide the user with simulated binocular vision.

The Marine Corps is acquiring the AN/PVS-7B, a model that incorporates a high-light-level protection circuit in a passive, self-contained image intensifier device that amplifies existing ambient light to provide the operator a means of conducting night operations.

A shipping case, soft carrying case, eyepiece and objective lens cap, and filter are ancillary items. A demist shield is also provided to prevent fogging of the eyepiece.

Background: The AN/PVS-7B represents the current state of the art in night vision goggles. Initially, it will augment the AN/PVS-5 NVG, and over time, it will replace the AN/PVS-5.

The Marine Corps is interested in procuring a clip-on Night Vision Magnification Device to satisfy the need to see targets at the maximum effective range of its weapons.



Fisher plots grid coordinates on a map of an area during a land navigation course at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows.

Word on the Street

"What is your best Halloween memory?"



"One year when I was really young, I filled my entire pillow case with candy."

Capt. Paul Corcoran
S-4 Officer
3rd Radio Bn.



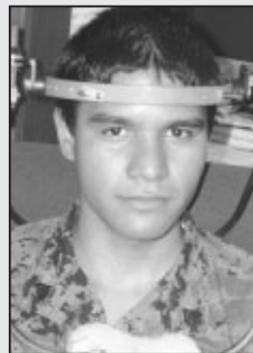
"I dressed up as Zorro and ate a huge bag of my favorite candy: red suckers."

John Gambrell, 5
Family member



"...the year my husband made costumes out of cardboard boxes that looked like cigarette boxes."

Jane Marcum
Retired family member



"I blew up a pumpkin when I was 13."

Cpl. Jason Kawaihalau
Training NCO
Headquarters Bn.,
MCB Hawaii



"I dressed up as a ninja and went out to trick-or-treat."

Alexander Bowen, 5
Kindergartner
Mokapu Elementary
School

Base Personnel Administration Center

BPAC's a 'one-stop' shop for Marines

Sgt. Joseph A. Lee
Combat Correspondent

When the Marines of Headquarters Bn. and Marine Corps Air Facility, MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, need administrative assistance, they are fortunate enough to have the motivated Marines of the Base Personnel Administration Center, or BPAC, working to solve their problems as quickly as possible — using time management and advancing technology as keys to their success.

Managed by approximately 20 Marines at any given time, BPAC is capable of handling the administrative needs of more than 1,200 leathernecks, including any Fleet Assistance Program or FAP Marines assigned to the base at various times.

But how can that many Marines have their needs fulfilled efficiently while still allowing time for the administration Marines to train, field day and get chow?

"Easy," said Sgt. Kevin Jamison, separations chief at BPAC. "The Marines have used their own ingenuity and initiative to come up with a database system that vastly improves this shop's efficiency."

"Paperwork packages that may have taken up to an hour to complete, can now be accomplished in under fifteen minutes."

Along with using existing technology to speed up the process of daily work, the goal of BPAC, according to Gunnery Sgt. John Hamilton, personnel chief, is to keep Marines from having to wait at the

counter, even if it means helping them from their workspace.

"Utilizing a scanner and the e-mail system, a lot of what Marines used to visit us for can now be e-mailed to them to save them the trip," said Jamison. "If we can solve the Marine's problem without [him or her] having to step foot inside our office, that just puts us one step ahead."

Of course, like any other Marine Corps section, there are times when Marines have to be out of the office, but not to worry. According to Hamilton, there will always be a Marine at BPAC from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and when possible, a representative from each of the personnel, information and orders management sections are available for assistance.

"Any time the Marines go through any sort of training evolution, it is done in groups, to leave as many people here as possible," said Staff Sgt. Brian Stallings, orders management chief at BPAC. "Even at chow time, we have a weekly duty who gets his or her chow early so that any Marines arriving during the lunch hour can be assisted."

The key to BPAC's weekly duty success lies in training its personnel to handle multiple areas of expertise by cross-training, according to Jamison.

"Cross-training is so extremely important in this section, because that is the best and only way to familiarize Marines with every possible scenario that they could be presented with," said Jamison.



Sgt. Joseph A. Lee

Private First Class Gregorio Comeo, unit diary clerk at the Base Personnel Administration Center, stands "counter duty" during lunchtime hours as other BPAC Marines hustle to help customers in the daily grind of the administration occupation.

"The last thing we want is to tell a Marine to come back the next day when there will be someone around who can help them. That should never be the case here."

"We stress training, and we make it our personal goal to take care of Marines first. The Marines here know that everything affects a Marine's pay and entitlements one way, or another," Jamison added.

"An awesome group of Marines with some leaders that care is what makes a

shop run smooth, and I'm proud to say that we have just that here at BPAC."

Whether to check in or out of your unit, change personal data, or just to check on your pay status or upcoming promotion, the BPAC continually makes life easier for Headquarters Bn. and MCAF Marines here.

The BPAC has also developed a Web site to answer many frequently asked administration questions. The Web site can be viewed at www.mcbh.usmc.mil/g1/bpac/bpac_home.htm.



Pfc. Michelle M. Dickson

Corporal Amadonna Garcia, honor graduate of the Corporal's Course, stands to receive her diploma. Garcia graduated with a 93.33 top overall average.

Female Marine takes top honors

Pfc. Michelle M. Dickson
Combat Correspondent

The graduation of the first Marine Corps University's Corporal's Course of the fiscal year took place Oct. 24 at the base theater aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. The graduation included something a little different this time — a female captured the prestigious position of "Honor Graduate."

In a class that began with 44 students, and finished with only 37, being the honor graduate did not come easily, or expected for Cpl. Amadonna Garcia, an air traffic controller with Marine Corps Air Facility. "I didn't come into this course expecting to make the high grade; I just came in to do the best I could."

Garcia welcomed the challenge of the course with open arms, but her first goal in the Marine Corps was to prove herself to her family, which

resides in Houston, Texas.

"The reason I even joined the Marines was to prove to everyone back home that I could do it."

The challenging two-and-a-half week course included everything from Marine Corps knowledge to tactical games and leadership skills, along with plenty of physical training.

The class enables Marines to make decisions and to take care of the Marines below them.

"The physical training was pretty demanding. The great part was that the whole atmosphere was so motivating. Everyone would push you to finish anything, even if at first you wanted to give up."

Garcia's squad leader and instructor, Sgt. Frederick Henry, said that the course teaches everything that leaders should know for their Marines.

It was a close race between Garcia and four others for the honor gradu-

ate position.

"All the Marines in this course are held to a higher standard. It's just a matter of how badly they want it," said Henry. "After the first test, she had the lead and she kept it."

Henry also said that the course is the first school in a long list of military education. It's a building block to allow a Marine to continue on and strive to become better over time with further courses.

Garcia said that she feels that she has bettered herself by going through this class and feels that anyone picking up corporal should take the course.

"People have a misconception about the course and think that it's just like recruit training; they're wrong. The class is offered to better you. It's rewarding and a great learning experience," she explained.

See HONOR GRAD, A-7

MAKAHIKI: Hawaiians remember ancestors during their New Year

From A-1

O Makali'i, known to the English-speaking world as the "Pleiades" or "Seven Sisters." The four months following the rise of Makali'i (from October to the end of January) were set aside as a time of peace, a time to give thanks to Lono for the gifts he provided from the land and sea, and to celebrate and practice athletic sports that prepared warriors for battle.

"Makahiki is the time that belongs to Lono; it is his season. Lono is an ancestor, some say a god, that deals with fertility, agriculture, sports and accuracy," said Manu Suganuma, a Makahiki participant.

During the ceremony, the visiting group educated its guests on the meaning of Makahiki and the rituals and customs they performed during the event.

"This weekend we got to connect with families of the people who descended from here — those people who have memories that go back in time when there were no houses in this area, and there was nothing but large areas of vegetation here," said Kapuai Hoolei Iai Kaponu Aluli Souza, a Makahiki participant.

Near the end of the opening event, the members of the Native Hawaiian Association stood and shared their great appreciation for all the service members and their families who attended the ceremony. The association also shared very vivid and touching stories of how their ancestors who have passed on to the other side have spoken to them through dreams and various other visions.

The storytelling and sharing continued well into the night as all participants partook of traditional Hawaiian entrees and learned a little more about one another.

Sports and athletic contests began Sunday. Hawaiians and guests competed in foot races, the shot-put, wrestling, spear throwing, stone disc rolling and in a strategy game that was almost like playing Chinese and regular checkers and chess, all

combined.

"During the Makahiki, native Hawaiian warriors played games to stay fit. The elders also used these games to determine who was the best of the best, and to help them seek out our people's future leaders," explained Souza.

The group again expressed its deep appreciation for all of the families who elected to attend their ceremony.

"We feel it is important because they [the guests] are representatives of the land. This also gives us a chance to educate them on the history of the land and people, and also to show how we celebrate the time of Makahiki with games," said Suganuma. "The idea is to give them [the guests] a sense of connection and ownership ... that guides and protects this land."

Makahiki will continue into 2004. Many Hawaiians will trek around the entire island of Oahu, celebrating the season and its games, before returning to Mokapu Peninsula to mark the end of Makahiki.



Sgt. Jereme Edwards

Souza (left) and Wali Kamvel, both Makahiki participants, test their strength and agility as they practice the ritual sport of Kakoko (a form of wrestling) Sunday during the Makahiki games.

Make a Difference Day

Community makes improvements at Mokapu

Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle
Combat Correspondent

When thousands of men and women of all age groups across the nation come together and take time out of their busy schedules to make a positive impact on the community, they are bound to make a difference.

It was Oct. 25 when residents of MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, and the local community, united at Mokapu Elementary School and put in several hours of hard work in order to make the school a better place to learn as part of "Make a Difference Day," which was celebrated all across the nation.

Residents from the local community began arriving at 8 a.m. in order to begin several projects that would make a positive difference in the school's environment. When the volunteers arrived, there was not a shortage of ideas on what could be done to assist the school.

A few local teens took time away from their weekend and spent their Saturday morning painting cabinets in the school's medical office, while some parents who had come with their children joined them and removed and replaced



Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle

Alexandria Vondras, 3, tries to dig a hole in front of Mokapu Elementary School so she can put a flower in the garden as part of the Make a Difference Day.

weeds with flowers in the flowerbeds in front of the school.

"I wanted to help the community and the school where my little brother is a

student," said Raina Kahanu, a ninth-grader at Kalaheo High School and a cadet in the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps. "My friends and I had

fun painting the cabinets, and we were able to give back to the community as well."

According to Jan Ryan, parent community network coordinator with Mokapu, teachers at the school made requests for projects they wanted to see completed.

"There were many projects that parents were eager to help out with such as the installation of ceiling fans and painting the walls with a fresh coat of paint in some of the classrooms," said Ryan. "We had parents showing up at 8 a.m. and staying the whole day because they wanted to improve the school their children go to."

Just as many projects needed to be completed outdoors as well as indoors. Several parents got their hands covered in Hawaiian soil as they dug over the frames for future gardens that will be managed by children in lower grades.

"We had a great turnout," said Ryan. "What was most impressive about this year's Make a Difference Day was that the parents all agreed that it would be a great idea to come back at least once a month to assist in projects that would benefit the school."

DIFFERENCE, From A-1

ters Co., 3rd Marine Regiment.

This is only one of many events Slauson volunteers for as he helps with the Special Olympics and other projects.

"It was enjoyable to go there, give back to the community and get outdoors," said Lt. Col. Loren D. Barney, base inspector at MCB Hawaii.

Barney also said it's good to let the local community know that others care

about these issues.

"Getting involved is the way I was brought up. It's an important part of life and it gives a lot of satisfaction," said Barney of his upbringing.

"They are not alone with love for their community. It brings everybody closer together and motivates people to give a little back," explained Yoshimura.

The clean-up is not just good for the water supply, added Yoshimura, but it educates the local community about the

situations around them.

During the project, a tree-planting ceremony symbolized what was taking place, said Donna Kiyosaki, deputy manager for Honolulu's Board of Water Supply.

"This is part of our vision and hopefully it will expand and everyone will participate," she added.

Kiyosaki also said that events like this really have begun to get underway within the last two years.

"The Marines have a tradition of helping out with these projects," said Yoshimura, who said he wants to have at least one huge event like this every year, along with a variety of smaller projects.

Yoshimura said cleaning the watershed is basically a multi-year project with all the plants that need removal. They use very limited herbicide but he is very confident with the help that he gets.

"If this continues on, there's no way we can't get to our goal."

HONOR GRAD, From A-4

As for other females striving to do well in an area that is predominantly male, Garcia said to just think of yourself as nothing more than a Marine.

"We're all Marines. You are a Marine first, and a woman second; gender should not have anything to do with it."

Henry said, in the end, it's not about being the honor graduate; it's about being able to apply everything that is learned. A Marine has to be dedicated to see things through and inform other Marines. The course only makes the Marine Corps stronger as better NCOs come out of it.

"This course is one of the best things I ever could have done. It has taught me so much," said Garcia.

Garcia has already put two years into the Marine Corps and earned herself many awards. She won both the Marine of the Quarter for her unit as



Pfc. Michelle M. Dickson

Instructors are introduced at the Corporal's Course graduation before students graduate.

well as the entire base. She then earned herself the rank of corporal meritoriously.

As she moves up in rank over time, Garcia hopes to come back and hopefully teach the Corporal's Course as a sergeant.

Garcia is earning her degree in Criminal Justice and hopes to become a military lawyer.

She now attends Chaminade University, and she plans on continuing to law school.

Do you recognize the signs of a healthy relationship?

**Marine Corps
Community Services**
Press Release

Many of us have an image in our heads of the "perfect relationship" or the "perfect family" that may have come from TV or other kinds of media or even what we dream of.

But perfect relationships don't happen overnight. All relationships need care and nurturing to keep them strong. They take time and effort by both partners.

What makes a relationship healthy? Healthy relationships tend to have the following traits:

- Mutual respect, which allows couples to share their love, be supportive and resolve conflicts peacefully.

- Honest communication, a two-way street of talking and listening. Each person feels free to express opinions, thoughts and feelings. Honest communication is not about blaming or withholding.

- Trust and support, as a healthy relationship is a safe place. Partners support each other in good times and when times are tough.

- Equality is another key characteristic of a healthy relationship. This means making decisions together on major issues such as money and raising children. It means

respecting each other's boundaries and each other's way of doing things. Healthy couples cooperate with each other as equal partners and help each other reach goals.

You can learn to avoid unhealthy relationships and build healthy ones by attending enrichment classes at Counseling Services. Contact staff at 257-7780 or 257-7781.

(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.)

- Private First Class Seung H. Park of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24 was arrested for driving under the influence Oct. 24. His license was suspended, his decal was removed and

his vehicle was taken off base Monday.

- Petty Officer 3rd Class Timothy Dawson of Patrol Squadron 2 was arrested for driving under the influence with a blood alcohol content level of .110 percent. His license was suspended, his decal was removed and his vehicle was taken off base Monday.

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.

WAIANAË, From A-1

“What better role models could there be than the Marines,” commented Akana. “I just wanted the kids to get a chance to see what life can be like if they make positive choices. I wanted the kids to observe life in the Marine Corps. More importantly, I wanted the kids to meet Marines.”

The students from Waianae Intermediate got a chance to do just that, with a surprising twist.

“I think the kids were a little shocked when they saw that the Marines who came in to talk with them were of Hawaiian and Samoan heritage,” said Akana. “But that was the plan, to show them that people who grew up just like them have made it in life.”

Fitting that bill were a group of

Marines of Hawaiian and Samoan ancestry, including Sgts. Keonekealoha Fatiaki and Arona Teo, Cpl. Telea Tuasivi and retired Gunnery Sgt. Kimo Troché.

According to Troché, a Desert Storm combat veteran and native of Kauai, the four met with the students during the visit “to let them know that regardless of what circumstances they come from, they can make it in life with drive, determination, and the right attitude.”

The message didn’t seem to be lost on the students of Waianae Intermediate.

“I’ve got a really good impression of Marines now that we visited the base,” said Maleezshs Auelus, 12. “I never really knew that Samoans and



Sgt. Joe Lindsay

Martial arts instructors aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, volunteered their time to teach Waianae visitors hand-to-hand combat skills.

Hawaiians were in the Marine Corps before. Every day we got people telling us what to do and what is in our best

interest and all that, but to hear it from people who came up just like us and made it in the world really means a lot. It gives us hope to do better.”

For another visitor, the trip to base seemed to be a life changing experience.

“I think I might want to join the Marines someday now,” said Zirtroro Ahaee, 12. “After talking to ‘da uncles (Fatiaki, Teo, Tuasivi and Troché), it made me realize there is no reason I can’t be a Marine, too, if I work hard in school and stay out of trouble. If they can do it, I can do it.”

And that, according to Fatiaki, makes meetings such as this so important.

“To see that these kids look up to us is a good feeling, but more than that it is a responsibility,” said Fatiaki, “a responsibility to show them the right path in life, a responsibility to make a difference.”