

Hawaii MARINE

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Volume 31, Number 39

www.mcbh.usmc.mil

October 4, 2002

'Ooorah!' The new BEQs are open

Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero
Combat Correspondent

The smell of freshly unpacked furniture and new paint perfumed the air as more than 200 guests witnessed the grand opening and Maile Lei Ceremony of MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay's, newest junior enlisted barracks facility, Sept. 25.

The quarters consist of three buildings with 150 two-man rooms, which will house 300 1st Radio Battalion and 3rd Marine Regiment service members.

Hawaiian Dredging Construction Company built the new barracks at a cost of \$18.3 million.

Prior to the ceremony, drum major Gunnery Sgt. Richard D. Bean and the Marine Forces Pacific Band sent patriotic vibrations through the crowd, which lead up to the invocation and opening remarks.

After the introduction by Raymond E. Rippel, director of the unaccompanied personnel housing division, MCB Hawaii Commanding General Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee welcomed the ceremony's special guests, Marines, Sailors, their families and friends.

"This is truly a great day for our enlisted men and women," said McAbee. "I'd like to thank



Marines from 1st Radio Bn. and 3rd Marine Regiment gaze upon the grand opening ceremony for the newest junior enlisted bachelor quarters at MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, on Sept. 25.

Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero

everyone who is attending the ceremony for the best bachelor quarters in the entire Department of Defense."

Once the general finished speaking to the audience, he introduced MCB Hawaii's senior

enlisted Marine, Sgt. Maj. Filipino Ilaoa, the base sergeant major, who spoke in detail about the features of the new barracks and how the quarters will improve the morale and quality of life for Marines and Sailors stationed at

Kaneohe Bay.

"Enjoy your new home away from home," emphasized Ilaoa. "Take care of it.

"Remember, these new quarters come along with added responsibilities."

After the base sergeant major spoke, one of the Marines who will be living in the new quarters took the microphone.

"It's not common to receive something new and unused in our Marine Corps," said Sgt. Michael R. Garreaud, an amphibious assault vehicle section leader with Combat Support Co., 3rd Marine Regiment. "To receive brand new barracks is something very special.

"On behalf of all the Marines and corpsmen from Combat Support Co., we immensely thank you for the effort and time you spent fighting to get this barracks to us," said Garreaud to the company's first sergeant and gunnery sergeant.

He then screamed, "Hey, CSC, let's give them one!" The Marines responded with an echoing, "Ooorah!"

Garreaud accepted the base sergeant major's challenge to take care of the building.

"We accept this barracks, along with the responsibility and dedication to maintain them, for the Marines and Sailors in the coming years."

Prior to the untying of the Maile Lei, the base's newest enlisted quarters were blessed.

Honored guests then untied the lei, making the multi-million dollar project open to its new inhabitants.

Mass re-ups are 'a beautiful sight,' says Reuss

MAG-24, 3rd Marines devil dogs reaffirm their enlistment oaths

Cpl. Jason E. Miller
Combat Correspondent

Thirty three Marines from Marine Aircraft Group 24 and 21 from the 3rd Marine Regiment raised their right hands and pledged another four years of service to Corps and country at the Pacific War Memorial aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Tuesday.

With the arrival of the new fiscal year, Marines around the base who had been awaiting approval of their re-enlistment packages were finally able to take the oath and begin their respective terms of service.

"This is a beautiful sight," said Col. Gregory

Reuss, commanding officer of MAG-24. "This is a very fitting place to have so many Marines re-enlisting — here in front of the memorial."

Including Marines currently on deployment to Okinawa, some 116 Hawaii Marines re-enlisted Tuesday.

"All the work that the unit career planners have been doing is finally paying off," said Master Sgt. Josefa Elisara, MCB Hawaii career planner.

"We have a good number of NCOs out here today," said Col. Joseph Medina, commanding officer of 3rd Marine Regiment. "After just returning from a deployment and having so many Marines re-enlist, it shows that morale is high and the units are doing well."



Cpl. Jason E. Miller

Leathernecks with 3rd Marine Regiment pose in front of the Pacific War Memorial after a 21-Marine re-enlistment ceremony.

Proclamation makes preventing domestic violence your business

"I declare October 2002 'Domestic Violence Prevention Month' for Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

Our theme this year is 'It's Your Business.'

Military families face many unique challenges.

Frequent deployments and temporary additional duty trips put tremendous stress and pressure on families at home and in the community.

Stopping the cycle of violence requires support and involvement from the entire community. Don't ignore the warning signs. Early intervention can prevent the violence from escalating.

Marine Corps Base Hawaii is committed to improving our coordinated community response to domestic abuse. We will ensure our families get the help they need.



Too often, families just don't know to ask for help before work and family pressures become overwhelming.

Domestic violence not only affects the lives of families and the community, but ultimately impacts military readiness.

'It is our business' to be educated about domestic abuse and the resources available to help."

J.C. McABEE
Brigadier General,
U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding General,
Marine Corps Base Hawaii

Experimental weapons test gives K-Bay peek at future

Sgt. Richard W. Holtgraver Jr.
Combat Correspondent

Marines from 1st Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment, as well as members from the Army, Navy and Coast Guard, received a unique opportunity Sept. 26, to participate in a demonstration of the remotely-controlled, EX-45 weapons system at the Range Training Facility aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

For many of the Marines of 1/3, the experimental weapons system appeared to be something out of a science fiction novel or movie.

The EX-45 weapons system is unique because it offers the ability to detect, identify, illuminate, deter and engage threats at great distances — through diverse weather conditions — as a stand alone system, or as part of a larger defense strategy.

The EX-45 allows an operator to watch a video screen while using a joystick to survey an area, then choose and

engage targets with a variety of weapons from a separate, secure location without exposure to enemy fire.

The remotely-operated weapons system was developed by the Naval Surface Warfare Center, a Naval laboratory in Louisville, Ky. It uses a regular color camera, equipped with a zoom lens and infrared capability, as well as a laser range finder to track targets through day or night, in good or bad weather.

The Navy has similar remote firing systems, but none as compact and versatile as the EX-45, according to Ashley Johnson, a Marine Forces Pacific science advisor.

In fact, one of the goals of the development team was to create the system to be as small as possible, said Johnson.

Even though the EX-45 is a one-of-a-kind prototype, Johnson believes the cost of producing the unit on a large

See EX-45, A-5

MCBH NEWS BRIEFS

O'CLUB PARKING RESERVED FOR PATRONS ONLY

The parking area for the Officers Club aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, is to be used only by patrons of the club while visiting the facility.

Residents of the Bachelor Officer Quarters must use the BOQ parking area, which is provided on the opposite side of the BOQ from the O'Club.

NOISE PROHIBITED ON MOKAPU STRETCH

In consideration for the neighbors of MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, formations running near the back gate or on the trail around the Nu'upia Ponds are prohibited from chanting or making excessive noise.

JWC HOSTS CONFERENCE AT K-BAY, OCT. 18 - 19

Choose from more than 50 dynamic workshops covering topics such as health and career enhancement, when you register to attend the 8th Annual Joint Women's Conference, Oct. 18 - 19 at the MCB Hawaii Officers Club. The event will feature innovative and powerful information for women associated with the military lifestyle.

Speakers include award-winning chef *Sam Choy*, who will demonstrate locally flavored gourmet cuisine at the Oct. 18 workshop, from 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Syndicated columnist *Heloise* of "Hints from Heloise" fame will speak about her life as a military child during the Oct. 19 workshop from 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

The cost is \$25 for both days or \$15 Friday only, or \$15 for Saturday only. The fee includes the workshops, two continental breakfasts, two lunches and conference tote bags.

Seating is limited to 500, so get your registrations in now. Forms can be picked up at military exchanges, commissaries, support centers, thrift shops and chapels.

Visit the conference Web site at www.jointwomensconference.com. Call Nico Duncan at 254-6198 for more details.

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Military Police 257-7114

Hawaii MARINE

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The *Hawaii Marine* is an unofficial newspaper published every Friday by RFD Publications, Inc., 45-525 Luluku Road, Kaneohe, HI 96744, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Marine Corps under exclusive contract to the U.S. Marine Corps. This civilian enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the military services.

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CG'S MAIL BOX

"...I would like to assist in putting together a rugby program..."



BRIG. GEN. MCABEE

Submitted by 1st Lt. Brenden Hobson, Headquarters Co., 3rd Marines

"I am writing to you in regards to the development of the sports program aboard MCB Hawaii. I am well aware of Marine Corps sports and the types of athletes who we have in the Corps that compete in these sports. I think Marine sports are a great thing and should be encouraged in all units.

I have been attending some of the football practices, to watch and take in the sights of organized practices and unit participation. I have been stationed with 3rd Marine Regiment for three years now, and during those three years my efforts to field a rugby team that were shaky at best.

We received no support from units for practices or MCCA [Marine Corps Community Services] for funding, due to the fact that we could not compete in an All-Military league.

Union rugby is a huge part of the Polynesian culture, and there are teams all over the island. There are teams throughout Hawaii on all of the islands, and many players throughout the Marine Corps.

With the recent push for athletics aboard base, I would like to assist in putting together a rugby program here on base. Any information you would like to know about the sport I can try to provide, as well as information about rugby in Hawaii.

Many times we were trying to have a night game on the football field on a Friday, to try to generate interest, but with the lack of support from units, we could never get Marines to practice long enough to put together a solid program for demonstration.

Captain Ormsby of Legal Services is also highly interested in helping out with the rugby program, and we both are selected to attend All Marine rugby team try-outs at the end of September.

Upon our return from that, we would be more than happy to get the ball rolling on this program and spread the knowledge of another great sport for physical agility and toughness that helps to promote teamwork and the 'warrior spirit'."

1st Lt. Brenden Hobson

1st Lt. Hobson:

I have been asked by the commanding general to respond your email of Aug. 23, since your recommendation falls within my staff responsibilities. He appreciates that you've taken the time to participate in the "CG Mail" program.

First, let me thank you for expressing interest in incorporating rugby into the MCB Hawaii sports programs. We are fully supportive of any sports program where suffi-



Lance Cpl. Nathaniel C. LeBlanc

Leon McFadden tries to keep control of the ball as a defenseman makes contact for the tackle during the All-Marine Rugby team trial camp in 2001.

cient interest exists.

We are currently contacting each of the unit sports representatives, from the tenant commands and organizations aboard MCB Hawaii, to determine interest in fielding rugby for an intramural rugby league. If sufficient interest for five intramural teams exists, we will implement a rugby program aboard MCB Hawaii during the upcoming intramural year.

Again, thank you for taking the time to express your interest in Marine Corps Community Services sports. Our intramural sports coordinator will contact you soon, in order to provide you the responses we receive regarding this league.

Mr. William B. Lindsey
Assistant Chief of Staff, MCCA

Presently, I can sponsor my guests to the base exchange and commissary, and even let them play a round of golf at the Klipper Golf Course.

Per Base Order P5500.15A (dated Nov. 19, 1999, at Figure 11-1, titled "Persons Authorized to Use Base Beaches"), retired members of the U. S. Armed Services can use Fort Hase Beach, Hale Koa Beach and Pyramid Rock Beach and sponsor their dependents who possess a valid Armed Forces Identification Card.

What do I need to do to change this regulation to let retired members sponsor guests at MCB Hawaii beaches?"

Rufino Bucaneg Jr.
(Retired Air Force Master Sergeant, E-7)

Mr. Bucaneg:

I have been asked by the commanding general to respond to your email of Aug. 31, as your recommendations and concerns fall within my staff responsibilities. He appreciates that you've taken the time to participate in the "CG Mail" program.

First, let me thank you for bringing this matter to my attention. Second, you are absolutely correct. Effective immediately, a pen change will be made to Base Order P5500.15A that effectually changes the current MCB Hawaii policy to allow the same fishing privileges to retirees as are afforded our active duty members.

Accordingly, all military police and game wardens will be briefed on the change to the policy.

Again, thank you for taking the time to express your concern via the CG Mail Program.

Lt. Col. Marc Lambert
Provost Marshal

"The interpretation of the base regulation for fishing has changed, depending on who is in charge of the game warden program.

After I retired from the Air Force in 1994, I started to fish on MCB Hawaii, which I did when I was a kid.

In November of 1996, while I was sponsoring one of my fishing buddies, I was told that I could not sponsor [the individual] by one of the game wardens.

Then, sometime in the summer of 1997, we had the same privileges that the active duty personnel had — which were [privileges] to sponsor two guests.

Then, this spring, we were informed that we have *no* privileges to sponsor any guest to fish.

What is the process of getting the base regulation changed so retired members of the U.S. Armed Services can sponsor guests like the active duty personnel?

(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.



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.

Hawaii Marine gets 'wake up' call

Cpl. Jacques-René Hébert
Marine Forces Pacific
Public Affairs Office

CAMP H.M. SMITH — A Hispanic youth walks aimlessly down La Villa St. in Pasadena, Calif. He saunters over the weed-encroached sidewalk, walking tenderly over broken glass and bullet shells.

A dog barks somewhere in the distance. He looks around, not out of fear, but out of ownership, as this is his neighborhood.

He walks onward, through a tangled web of drugs, gangs, and violence.

Such a life is often depicted in the cinema, with famous actors playing tough-nosed gang-bangers. Most of the time, this is as far as the common person gets to such a life. For Cpl. Gabriel Jaramillo, a clerk at the Traffic Management Office, Marine Forces Pacific, Camp H. M. Smith, this was his way of life — until joining the Marine Corps little more than three years ago.

When asked about his former lifestyle, Jaramillo shrugs it off.

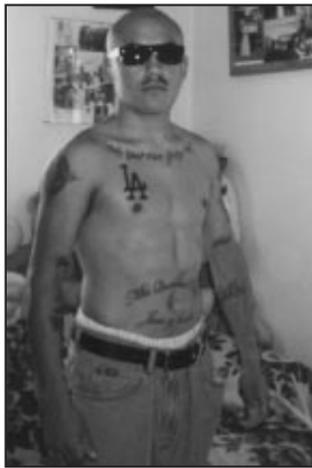
"I was different then," he said. "Now I consider the way I was as a fake personality."

The story is much more complex. Jaramillo has no problem telling his tale of going from gang member. But, at the beginning, he was wary.

"It's a long story ... where do I begin?" he asked.

Originally from East Los Angeles, Jaramillo spent much of his formative years in Mexico, in the small city of Empatme, Sonora. When he returned to the United States at age 11, he entered seventh grade and was immediately viewed as an outsider.

"My family didn't have the money to afford the luxuries that other kids enjoyed," he recollected. "All of my clothes were either hand-me-downs, or bought from second-hand stores. Name brand clothing was non-existent in my family."



Photos Courtesy of Cpl. Gabriel Jaramillo

Gabriel Jaramillo is a different man from when he joined the Marine Corps four years ago. He re-enlisted for another four years Tuesday, and is scheduled to transfer to the TMO office at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Childish insults started a fight between Jaramillo and another student at school, and concurrently, caused his entrance into the life of a street-gang member. Jaramillo was suspended from school for five days, and in that period of time, he realized that in order for him to acquire the luxuries others enjoyed, he would have to join a gang.

"Two of my brothers were already in the gang, so they were big influences for me to join," Jaramillo explained. "There were other temptations, too. Every man craves money, respect and girls. At the time, it wasn't a hard decision."

Jaramillo was "jumped-in," or initiated, into the La Villa Street gang by violence. Four older members simply beat him to submission for approximately 30 seconds. The next step was the tattoos.

"Initially, my mother didn't know about my joining the gang," Jaramillo said. "When she saw the bruises and the cuts, I told her that I had fallen off my bike. When the tattoos came, there was no question.



I wasn't the same anymore."

Money would be made usually by selling drugs or stealing car stereos, rims, or anything sellable. Fights were common, since it was a necessity to defend the gang's turf. Rarely fought one-on-one, the fights often erupted into enormous brawls, both gangs going all out, leaving blood on the asphalt and tears in their families' eyes.

In one such fight, Jaramillo was knifed in the arm. That wasn't even the worst part for the 13-year-old.

Another rival gang member was using an ice pick as a weapon and stabbed him in the ribs and finished him off by slamming the six-inch point — normally used to break up frozen pieces of ice — down on his skull.

Jaramillo was fortunate. Though he never sought treatment for the wound, it eventually healed leaving only a small hole on his scalp as a reminder.

One of the more bizarre twists to

See **JARAMILLO, A-4**



Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero

The Marine Forces Pacific Ceremonial Band marches through the rustic town of Kaunakakai while entertaining crowds of people with patriotic music during the Molokai Floral Parade on Saturday.

Band leads Molokai's Aloha Festival

Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero
Combat Correspondent

The Marine Forces Pacific Ceremonial Band headlined the colorful Molokai Floral Parade at Kaunakakai Town on the "Friendly Isle," Saturday.

One of Hawaii's premier military bands, the symphonic warriors marched their way through a one-mile stretch of cheerful locals while performing patriotic tunes. After the parade, they played a concert at the town's recreation center.

"It's a good opportunity for our friends in Molokai to see and hear our band," said Sgt. James M. Stanley, who plays the French horn with the band. "Many of the people here never travel to Oahu, so this parade extends good community relations between the Marine Corps and the other Hawaiian Islands."

The band kicked off the parade



Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero

The Marine Forces Pacific Show Band entertains with music from contemporary bands.

with the "Marines Hymn" and followed that with world-renowned composer John Phillip Souza's

"Semper Fidelis," as well as other favorite tunes.

After completing their march, MarForPac's Show Band rocked the house by playing a myriad of contemporary beats from bands such as the Mighty Mighty Bosstones and Blink 182.

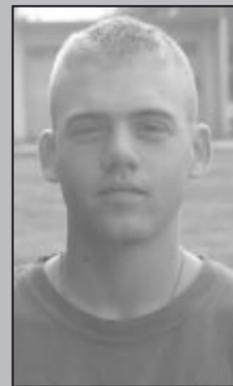
In addition to entertaining the crowd, the Marines had time to enjoy the local cuisine and interact with their admiring fans.

"When the group of children asked me for my autograph, it brought back that sense of pride I felt the first time I was called a Marine," said Lance Cpl. Renee M. McKeen, a flute and piccolo player.

"Without the Marine Corps' marching band, it's not a parade," said Tina Thompson, acting co-island manager of Molokai. "We appreciate the time taken out to visit us. We at the Molokai Aloha Festival thank each and every one of you."

WORD ON THE STREET

"How has the Marine Corps changed your life?"



"It has given me discipline to make wiser choices in life."

Pfc. Michael R. Cohen

Rifleman

Alpha Co., 1/3

"I've learned to deal with responsibilities that I feel most people my age would not be able to handle."

Cpl. Lauren M. Weeks

Special projects
NCO

Headquarters and
Service Co., 1st
Radio Bn.



"It has given me the opportunity to broaden my horizons and see the world."

Sgt. Ryan M. Hower

Trumpet player

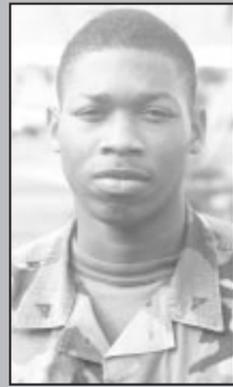
Marine Forces
Pacific Band

"It's given me the opportunity to get my priorities in life straight."

Lance Cpl. Jeffrey A. Douglas

Motor transport
operator

Alpha Battery, 1/12



"It has given me the direction in life to become something."

Lance Cpl. Matt J. Vonnahme

Air frames mechanic

HMH-363

JVEF announces school survey results

Sgt. Robert Carlson
Press Chief

A representative of U.S. Pacific Command visited MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Monday to discuss the results of the Parent and Student Hawaii School Educational Survey with members of the base community.

The survey, which was arranged by the Joint Venture Education Forum and administered in May and June, had an unprecedented response and gave officials at Pacific Command valuable insight into service members' perceptions of public, private and home schooling programs in Hawaii.

While there are different views about the quality of public education in Hawaii, there was no concrete data about how the quality of education affects quality of life for service members in Hawaii.

"We had more than 39 percent of the more than 9,680 military families respond to the survey," said Air Force Col. David Tom, chief, Programs Division, Manpower, Personnel and Administrative Directorate, PACOM. "Ten percent is considered excellent for a voluntary survey, so we are pleased with the results."

The survey also had a nearly 18 percent response from the 3,363 military family students in grades 5 - 8, and almost 14 percent of the 2,788 students in grades 9 - 12.

What the survey showed, according to Tom, is that students and parents feel like there is effective learning at

the schools. Students receive help in their studies, teachers are well-trained and care about students, and homework assignments are reasonable.

Challenges noted in the survey results include finding sufficient funding for textbooks, funding of maintenance on the system's aging facilities, and providing a safe school environment where there is a mutual respect among students.

Survey responders also noted a need for more technological access and a more challenging curriculum.

The survey results provide a baseline upon which JVEF can gauge customer satisfaction among military parents with children in the Hawaii public school system, according to Tom. It also shows strengths the system can build upon.

Tom said the JVEF expects to conduct the survey again next year, and may even expand it to include some of the suggestions received this year.

The JVEF continues to work toward improving the quality of service for all military families in the Pacific region. As well, funding provided by the Pacific Command helps fund initiatives and programs designed to improve the education experience for all families in Hawaii. For example, the Adopt-a-School program forges relationships between the military and the communities surrounding the base.

(Editor's Note: Look for a complete run-down of Marine Corps Base Hawaii's Adopt-a-School program in next week's Hawaii Marine.)



Sgt. Robert Carlson

Students line up to board their bus after school in front of Mokapu Elementary School. Each year, Hawaii public schools enroll approximately 14,500 military dependent children.

JARAMILLO, From A-3

Jaramillo's story involves his school life. By the beginning of his sophomore year of high school, he had only amassed 15 credits. Over the next two years, through diligence and hard work, he accumulated enough credits to graduate.

He also excelled in extra-curricular athletics. As a kicker for the football team, he averaged 55 yards a kick. For his mile time, he was consistently running around four-and-a-half minutes per mile.

Jaramillo's true passion and

labor of love, however, was soccer. For a year and a half, he even played semiprofessional ball for Club Tapatio, a Division II team out of Guadalajara, Mexico.

By the time he graduated high school, the University of California, Los Angeles; California State, Los Angeles; the University of Southern California; Oregon State; and others all but knocked on his door with scholarships. Despite the offers, the call of the streets was too strong.

A wake-up call was about to shake Jaramillo back to reality.

His best friend Yesenia became pregnant, and he needed to figure out how to take care of her and his soon-to-be daughter Faith.

It was at that point that he recalled a movie he had seen entitled "Blood In, Blood Out" that was about a gang member who joins the Marine Corps and changes completely. Jaramillo saw the path open up immediately.

"At that point, I had limited options," he recalled. "The day before I went in, I took a cigarette and burned away the small, gang-related tattoos on

my hands. Then I was off to boot camp."

Jaramillo graduated as company and battalion Honor Man at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, Calif.

Since his very first physical fitness test in the Corps, he has scored nothing lower than a perfect 300.

His career has been just as successful.

"The way I look at it, life is like a pull-up," Jaramillo said. "Once you grab on, you don't want to let go until you get 20. That's the way I look at my time in the Marine Corps. It's going

so well right now, there's no point in leaving."

Though the streets still beckon for him, Jaramillo is not listening. He is faithfully serving his country and can now afford to give his wife and daughter the quality of life they deserve.

No longer is he a hood from Pasadena. He is a U. S. Marine — a Marine the Corps can be proud of.

"They say 'the change is forever,'" Jaramillo explained.

"To a lot of people, that really doesn't mean a whole lot.

"To me, it means everything," he added.



Sgt. Richard W. Holtgraver Jr.

Ashley Johnson, the Marine Forces Pacific science adviser, speaks with reporters about the EX-45 weapons system Sept. 26.

EX-45, From A-1

scale will be economical because it combines existing technology and weaponry.

The weapons system was mounted on the bed of a 7-ton truck. Operators located, sighted in and fired at targets using an M2 .50 caliber machinegun and an MK19 40mm machinegun, from an adjacent humvee, which was sitting more than a dozen feet away.

Marines and members from the other branches of service took turns firing the EX-45 by watching the video screen and placing the set of cross hairs on the tar-

gets using their joystick.

Operators likened the experience to playing a lethal video game.

Johnson believes one of the best missions for the EX-45 may be to guard American embassies, since a unit could be strategically placed at corners of buildings and controlled safely from within the embassy complex.

In the future, the dangerous job of protecting American interests at home and abroad may still rely on the diligent Marine sentry walking his or her post, but the danger may be greatly reduced with equipment like the EX-45.



Sgt. Richard W. Holtgraver Jr.

The EX-45 .50 caliber machinegun made its MCB Hawaii debut Sept. 26.

Kauai's PMRF meets air-ground team

Red Lions roar during turf maneuvers, externals, weapons training

Pfc. Monroe F. Seigle
Combat Correspondent

KAUAI — Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363 stationed at MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, deployed to the Pacific Missile Range Facility here Sept. 13, to conduct a variety of weapons training and tactical aerial maneuvers.

Aircrew members and aerial observers trained with the .50-caliber, helicopter-

mounted machineguns during live-fire exercises and while firing at designated targets on the ground.

"This training is essential for crew chiefs and air crewmen," said Sgt. Bob C. Ranstadler, a maintenance controller with HMH-363. "We were able to do live fire exercises that we were not able to do in Oahu. Our unit really needed this training."

The squadron also performed turf ma-

neuvers with the CH-53D "Sea Stallion" helicopters.

Turf maneuvers are utilized in combat situations where the CH-53D flies between 50 and 200 feet above the ground. The maneuvers allow them to fly below possible detection of enemy radar equipment and insert troops or supplies into a combat zone.

Along with performing turf maneuvers, HMH-363 executed a variety of ex-

ternals. An external is when a cargo pendant, which is a hook used to secure equipment below the CH-53D during a flight, is utilized to move heavy equipment.

The cargo pendant has the ability to carry equipment such as crates of ammunition and mass quantities of supplies below the belly of the CH-53D Sea Stallion, and transport it to troops on the battlefield.



Above — Lance Cpl. Roberto A. Hernandez, an antitank assaultman in Bravo Co., 1/3, tries to get the distance to his target with a lensatic compass, before calling in artillery fire.
Left — Private First Class Brett T. Ferek, a rifleman with Bravo Co., 1/3, secures a landing zone with an M-249 Squad Automatic Weapon.



Marines from Bravo Co., 1/3, board a CH-53D "Sea Stallion" helicopter for extraction from the training area.

1/3 joins Lions for PMRF training

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

KAUAI — Marines from Bravo Co., 1st Bn., 3rd Marines, deployed to the Pacific Missile Range Facility Sept. 23, to conduct a variety of training missions including the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program.

While at PMRF, several warriors from 1/3 advanced to the gray belt level in the MCMAP after enduring several hours of vigorous training led by Sgt. Stan L. Hawkes, a platoon sergeant with 1/3's Bravo Co. and a black belt instructor in the MCMAP.

"This has been some excellent training for the Marines in Bravo Company," said 2nd Lt. Benjamin F. Lubin, an artillery officer in 1st Bn., 12th Marine's Alpha Battery, who joined Bravo Co. to assist in call-for-fire training.

"They have trained long hours in some very intense heat. They have all performed well."

After earning their belts, the Marines from 1/3 practiced the basic call-for-fire skills, where they learned to call in artillery rounds on targets using radiotelephones.

They also learned how to spot and correct rounds when a target is missed by

artillery fire in a combat situation.

"This training is important because Marines use combined arms to suppress and destroy enemies and their equipment on the battlefield," said Lubin. "To be able to successfully combine arms is paramount to the success on the battlefield."

On the last days of training, 1/3 practiced battlefield extraction techniques, where they tactically withdrew from a simulated combat zone and departed in a CH-53D "Sea Stallion" helicopter.

"We have been able to get in some really good training," said Pfc. Brett T. Ferek, a rifleman for 1/3. "I think we have all learned a lot. We're infantryman, and this is what we love to do — train for war."

Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363 from MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, also endured some vigorous training. Approximately 50 percent of the squadron became certified to the tan belt level.

"These Marines have endured some challenging training," said Sgt. Maj. Scott M. Chambers, squadron sergeant major.

"Not only did they earn the tan belts, they were also able to perform tactical maneuvers and weapons training in the same day."

COMMENTARY: 'Why do Marines fall from honor?'

Navy Captain Joseph W. Estabrook
Command Chaplain, MCB Hawaii

Three Marines from 1st Radio Bn. were convicted recently at general courts martial for violating various articles of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

The first was found guilty of indecent acts and indecent exposure, and another was found

guilty of sexual harassment, indecent acts and wrongfully communicating a threat. Both were awarded bad conduct discharges, confinement for three months, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, and reduction to pay grade E-1.

The third Marine — found guilty of sexual harassment, drunk and disorderly, and indecent exposure — was awarded 45 days confinement, forfeiture

of \$750 pay per month for six months, and reduction to pay grade E-1.

The behavior of these three men in relation to their federal courts martial convictions not only demonstrates a breakdown of military courtesy and tradition, but also was detrimental to the tenants of basic human dignity.

Why is it that some Marines who joined the Corps with the

highest aspirations fall from honor?

These convicted Marines had met the high standards set forth by the Marine Corps in past endeavors. All three displayed intelligence, military occupational specialty proficiency, and dedication to their duties. Each made individual choices, though, that compromised the highest values of the Corps and jeopardized the good reputation

of their fellow Marines.

Incidents like these will scar any organization, and those cuts often run deep. There are no shortcuts to repairing the damage caused by these incidents.

Last month, Lt. Col. Darrell Rector, commanding officer of 1st Radio Bn., launched an effort that combines two ongoing programs and one new opportuni-

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ty offered here at MCB Hawaii, in order to reinforce the Marines' understanding and commitment to the Marine Corps' core values and individual responsibilities.

Rector described the programs: The first is the ongoing Marine Corps Martial Arts Program, the second is the continuation of the time-tested Unit Leadership Program, and the third is the new program offered by MCB Hawaii chaplains entitled "DEFUSE."

All three programs include the essential ingredients of character formation and responsible decision-making.

"The entire battalion can work its way through the programs in order to stress the need for Marines to rely on each other and hold each other to the highest standards of conduct," said Rector.

The first leg of this tri-fold training, the Martial Arts Program, combines martial arts skills, close combat training techniques, and core values and leadership training.

"Simply put, it's everything about being a Marine," Rector said. "It is imperative that every Marine learns to sharpen these skills, so that they become second nature, instilling confidence, expertise, and instinct.

The second leg of the training is the battalion's ongoing Leadership Program, redesigned not in a reactive way, but to be proactive to emerging issues confronting Marines today.

The focus is on the leaders — from the noncom-

missioned officers to the officers in charge — getting out in front, leading by example and creating an environment in which their Marines can address issues, concerns and questions.

The third aspect of the training, DEFUSE, is a one-day experience that hones in on what it means to be a responsible team member of a Marine Corps unit. The chaplain-facilitator, Lt. Cmdr. Anthony Headrick, describes it as "taking the participants through a series of instruction, multimedia reflections and discussions, to help them uncover factors in one's background that can be obstacles to good decisions making.

"These unknowns can be a set-up for failure unless we get a handle on them," Headrick said.

Two groups of 30

“Regretfully, the actions of a few can have a severe negative impact on the many.”

Navy Captain Joseph W. Estabrook
Command Chaplain, MCB Hawaii

Marines have been through this training, and it has received rave reviews.

The fact that this training initiative is taking place should not be construed that the Marines of 1st Radio Bn. are not living up to the high standards of the Marine Corps. The program is one which all Marine units should consider. It is a program of education and awareness, one that reinforces the Marine Corps' values in the face of

skewed modern values, which can be detrimental to unit integrity and combat readiness.

The men and women of 1st Radio Bn. are among the finest Marines in our Corps. They are good, hard working Marines, often the first to deploy to emerging hot spots throughout areas of responsibility.

Regretfully, the actions of a few can have a severe negative impact on the many.

The recent courts mar-

tial show how unchecked behavior, poor choices and bad decisions can undermine unit integrity and unfairly damage the good reputations of hard working and committed Marines. It is unfair that the actions of a few can put solid, hardworking and upstanding Marines in a position of having to defend themselves.

Why do good Marines fall from honor? Sometimes it's leadership, and sometimes it is because we do not watch out for those around us.

Sometimes, too, the answer is simply that certain individuals choose self over the unit. They lose control, drink too much, go too far and make bad choices.

At a ceremony honoring prisoners of war and our missing in action this past Sept. 13, Navy Captain Joe Coffee, a fa-

mous and revered former POW, began his keynote speech with words that described his pride whenever he had the privilege of serving with Marines.

"I loved serving with Marines," Coffee said, "because they always lived out, consistently and flawlessly, the values of honor, courage, and commitment. They remember their history and those who went before them."

He reflected on how their lives of honor and commitment had made the word "Marine" among the most treasured and valued words in the American heart.

If nothing else, the three recent convictions are a wake up call to Marines everywhere: Respect is fragile and good reputations can die fast. We must keep our eyes on the high ideals and standards Coffee spoke of.