Hawai'i
MARINE

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Volume 30, Number 36 www.mcbh.usmc.mil September 13, 2001

Brig. Gen. McAbee takes helm

Sgt. Jesus A. Lora

Lance Cpl. Simon Martin

Left — During a sunset change of command ceremony, the incoming commanding general for MCB Hawaii, Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, spoke briefly to the Marines, Sailors and civilians who live and work aboard the base. Right — Five Marines carrying the Marine Corps colors march across the flightline between Hanger 101 and 102 during the ceremony Thursday. The festivities also served as a retirement ceremony for Brig. Gen. R.E. Parker Jr. See full story on Page A-3.

MCCS gives BayFest profits to units

Sgt. Robert Carlson
Press Chief

Marine Corps Community Services officials presented MCB Hawaii units with a check for $26,042 Thursday.

The funds were partly from BayFest presale ticket sales, and partly from profits raised during the festival.

Units which sold tickets prior to the event earned two dollars for each ticket, and the amount paid back to those units totaled $11,986.

Profits from BayFest were also given back to the MCB Hawaii units, and those funds will be distributed to the units' party funds based on their unit strength. Profits given back to the units totaled $14,056.

"This is really a win-win situation for everyone," said Jim Bocci, di-

See CHECK, A-11

Sgt. Robert Carlson

Assistant Chief of Staff Lt. Col. Michael Williams (left) and Deputy A/CS William Lindsey (right) presented Brig. Gen. R. E. Parker Jr., the outgoing commanding general of MCB Hawaii, and MCBH Sgt. Maj. Filipo Ilaoa with a check for $26,042 — part of the profits from BayFest 2001.

America attacked

Gerry J. Gilmore

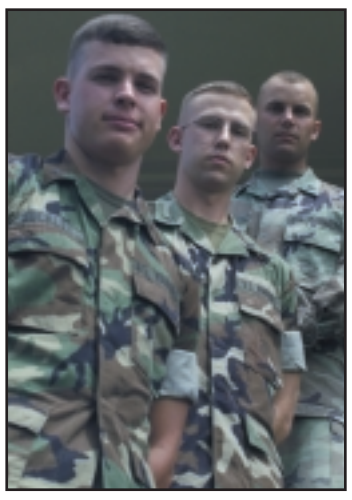
Smoke and flames rose over the Pentagon at about 10 a.m. Tuesday following a suspected terrorist crash of a commercial airliner into the side of the building. Part of the building hit collapsed; firefighters continued to battle the flames. The building was evacuated, as were other federal buildings in the Capitol, including the White House. The Pentagon's workday population is about 24,000; however, the number of casualties was unknown at press time. The Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York were hit and destroyed by commercial aircraft earlier, and another aircraft crashed in rural Pennsylvania.

3/3 Marines rescue local family from fire

Lance Cpl.
Luis R. Agostini
Combat Correspondent

What began as the beginning of another weekend out in town for three Marines ended in the heroic rescue of Kaneohe residents, Friday evening at 45-453 Makalani Street when the trio evacuated eight people from a burning house before the local fire department arrived to put out the blaze.

Disregarding their own personal safety, the three Marines — Lance Cpl. Lauren Wayne, police sergeant, Headquarters and Service Co., 3rd Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment; Lance Cpl. Christopher Buckley, dispatcher, Motor Transportation Co., 3/3; and Lance Cpl. Christopher Settle, administrative clerk, Headquarters and Service Co., 3/3 — were on their way to visit a friend when they spotted an orange glow.



Lance Cpl. Luis R. Agostini

(Left to right) Lance Cpls. Christopher Buckley, Christopher Settle and Lauren Wayne evacuated a family from their burning home in Kaneohe.

"I took a shortcut to go to my friend's house to pick up a grill. As we passed Castle High School, where a football game was going on, we saw an orange glow," said Buckley. "We thought it might've been a bonfire, but as we got closer and saw how close it was to the house, we knew it wasn't good."

Buckley parked his jeep in front of the house, and the Marines made their way to the door. The family of eight was unaware of the flames that were about to take over their home.

The Marines quickly evacuated the house, but had to go back in for one more.

"After we got everybody out, one of the ladies

See RESCUE, A-6

MCBH NEWS BRIEFS

MARFORPAC QUARTERLY GOLF OUTING

Marine Forces Pacific will host a premier golf outing Wednesday at the Kaneohe Klipper Golf Course aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. Check-in time will be at 11 a.m., the shotgun at 12 p.m.

Each team or individual paired to a team must have a player within the following handicaps: an "A" player, 0-10 handicap; "B" player, 11-18; "C" player, 19-25, and a "D" player, 26-open handicap.

Prizes will be awarded for teams, worst overall, longest men's and women's drive, and closest to the pin on two holes. Food and drinks will be provided at the 19th hole.

Prices are $26 for E1-E5; $32 for E6-E9; and others, $36. Payment must be made by close of business, tomorrow, Sept. 14.

Contact the following for more details: Master Sgt. Gambrell at Camp H. M. Smith, 477-8401; Gunnery Sgt. Evans at K-Bay, 257-8832; or Lt. Col. White, the coordinator, at 257-5735.

ACT DEADLINE, SEPT. 21

College-bound high school students who need to take an entrance exam have two chances to register for the ACT before the Oct. 27 testing date. Students can get information from school counselors or register online at www.act.org.

The postmark registration deadline is Sept. 21, and the late registration deadline, with an additional late fee, is Oct. 5.

ACT scores are required by most colleges in the country, and the academic achievement test assesses English, reading, math and science reasoning.

TOYS FOR TOTS VOLUNTEER BRIEFS

Toys for Tots will accept volunteers all the way up until Christmas, and this year's goal is to provide more than 55,000 toys for needy children. Certificates of appreciation are provided for support, and Marines may qualify for the Volunteer Service Medal.

Contact Staff Sgt. Villarreal at 257-1077, ext. 233, to volunteer and provide hope to a child in your area during the Christmas holidays.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Base Emergency	257-9111
MPD	257-7114
Crisis Hotline	521-4555

Hawaii MARINE

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Public Affairs Chief — Gunnery Sgt. Rhys Evans
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Military can track POVs to destinations via web

Lance Cpl. Jason E. Miller
Combat Correspondent

Getting a privately owned vehicle to Hawaii from the mainland may seem like a big task, but the Marines at the Traffic Management Office at MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, have broken it down so that any Marine or Sailor with a car can get out on the road as soon as possible.

To make it even better, the company that ships the cars for the military has a website enabling servicemembers to track the progress of their vehicle while it's on its way to the island.

"The first thing a person should do before they come down to TMO to ship a vehicle is get together all of the proper paperwork," said Sgt. Robert Pokorski, noncommissioned officer in charge of household goods at TMO.

Servicemembers will need seven copies of their orders and any amendments, photo identification, and proof of ownership or a letter of lease if the vehicle is leased.

The year, make model, vehicle identification number, color and mileage must also be presented, along with a copy of a power of attorney, if someone other than the owner is going to be shipping the car, truck or sport utility vehicle.

All paperwork must then be presented at the port where the vehicle will be shipped.

"There are several ports located throughout the mainland," said Pokorski. "Most people tend to choose the one that's closest to where they live, but any of them will do."

When the vehicle is brought to the port, it must be accompanied by all of the necessary paperwork. It must also not have more than a quarter tank of fuel. It needs be clean inside and out, in safe operating condition and with no major fluid leaks or cracks in the windshield. It must also have an empty glove compartment and a complete set of keys for the car.

Tools, jacks and tire irons may be left in the car along with a spare tire and snow chains; however, any electronics or accessories that are not permanently installed in the vehicle may not be left inside.

If the vehicle is being shipped from the West Coast, it usually takes about 21 days. It averages 31 days from the central part of the country and 34 from the East Coast, Pokorski said.

"That's a long time not to know where your car is," he added. "That's why the company that ships the vehicles for the military has a website that can locate your car for you. You just simply go to the site, enter your social security number, and it tells you where your car is."

The website is located at www.whereismypov.com.

When picking up the vehicle, photo identification must again be presented along with a copy of the inspection list from when the vehicle was put onboard and a power of attorney if the vehicle is going to be picked up by someone other than the owner.

"We want to make sure everyone gets his or her vehicle out here in a timely fashion," said Pokorski. "We do suggest everyone to come down to TMO just to make sure everything is done properly."

First Lady's interest spurs 'Troops to Teachers' program

President has asked Congress for a 10-fold funding increase

Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The Department of Defense Troops to Teachers program used to be low-key — until First Lady Laura Bush energized it this year by making it a personal cause.

Military people are "tremendous role models" whom American youth "would do well to emulate," she said earlier this year while visiting a DoD school at Fort Jackson, S.C. The former elementary school teacher challenged servicemembers nearing retirement: "Turn your attention to the home front, to Uncle Sam's classrooms, where we need your service as teachers."

At that time, she also noted that President Bush had asked Congress for a 10-fold funding increase for Troops to Teachers, from $3 million to $30 million.

"Mrs. Bush's interest in the program has really generated a tremendous amount of response in the military," said John R. Gantz, Troops to Teachers program manager. "We've seen a dramatic increase in the application rate and in the contacts that we've had.

"All our state offices have said she has generated tremendous interest among the retired military population looking at teaching as a second career," he added.

"If funding comes through, I think we'll be able to easily bring 2,000 to 3,000 really quality teachers to public education each year," he said.

Gantz said Troops to Teachers was created in 1994 to help departing servicemembers obtain second careers during the military downsizing of the 1990s. The Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support at Pensacola, Fla., oversees the program.

Key components of the program are the 25 state Troops to Teachers offices, generally housed in state Departments of Education, Gantz said. These offices, he said, help former military personnel make the transition to teaching by providing advice and assistance on certification and employment.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Scott Reed

First Lady Laura Bush speaks about the Troops to Teachers program in front of Pinckney Elementary School at Fort Jackson, S.C., May 8, 2001.

Early on, Troops to Teachers offered participants $5,000 for certification training and provided incentive grants to school districts to hire military veterans as teachers, Gantz said. Today's program largely consists of job referral and placement services and has placed more than 4,000 retirees in teaching positions nationwide since its inception.

Many retired officers and noncommissioned officers are ideal teachers, having served as instructors in a variety of fields during their careers, he noted. The former servicemembers also bring traits of teamwork and shared values into classrooms.

Gantz said Troops to Teachers alumni "are older and not jumping into" teaching as an experiment. Consequently, former military seem to remain in teaching longer than those who come into the profession from more traditional avenues.

"Seventy-five percent of our people are still teaching after six years," he said. The attrition rate was 50 percent among new teachers from other sources during that same time.

Eligible applicants must have served for at least six continuous years on active duty prior to release from service, have a service record that will lead to an honorable discharge, and apply no later than one year after release from active duty, Gantz said.

Most applicants must have a bachelor's degree in the subjects they want to teach, he said. Other applicants may possess technical training that translates into vocational- technical teaching opportunities.

Many Troops to Teachers applicants earned their degrees while in the military, Gantz said, adding that some started by taking College Level Examination Program tests, and evaluations of military training for college credit available through DANTES at unit education centers.

He said the program also helps applicants identify teacher certification programs and employment opportunities in the states where they want to teach.

The applicants bear the cost of certification training, most often by using their Montgomery G.I. Bill benefits or paying out of pocket.

"Oftentimes, states will require some student-teaching as well," he added.

Gantz said reserve component members may use the placement assistance services provided by Troops to Teachers. They should check with program officials on application criteria.

For more information about the Troops to Teachers program call the DANTES toll-free number at 1-800-452-6616; visit the program Website at http://voled.doded.mil/dantes/ttt/; or write to the Defense Activity of Non-traditional Education Support, 6490 Saufley Field Road, Pensacola, Fla. 32509-5243.

MCB Hawaii welcomes new commanding general

Gunnery Sgt. Rhys A. Evans

Cpl. Roman Yurek

Cpl. Roman Yurek

Cpl. Roman Yurek

Cpl. Roman Yurek

Lance Cpl. Tyler Hardin

Lance Cpl. Jason E. Miller
Combat Correspondent

Hundreds of Marines, Sailors and civilians convened under the cloudy skies of the air facility at MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Thursday, to witness Brig. Gen. R. E. Parker Jr., commanding general of MCB Hawaii, relinquish his command to Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee.

The ceremony served not only as a change of command but also as a retirement ceremony for Brig. Gen. Parker.

Assuming command of MCB Hawaii was Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, who previously served as the chief of staff at United States Southern Command in Miami, Fla. He has also served as commanding officer for 11th Marine Regiment and chief of staff for Marine Corps Combat Development Command at Quantico, Va.

"I am truly honored to assume command of Marine Corps Base Hawaii," said Brig. Gen. McAbee, the new commanding general. "I do so on behalf of the Marines, Sailors and civilian Marines who, day in and day out, do so much for our great nation and ask for so little in return."

"Marine Corps Base Hawaii will continue to grow and keep the best training areas available and open to the Marines who need to stay ready to deploy and fight at a moment's notice.

"I will do everything in my power to try and ensure the Marines will be ready to deploy anywhere, anytime, and fight anybody and win.

"I pledge to continue the course charted by Brig. Gen. Parker, to make Marine Corps Base Hawaii a great place to live, work, play and raise a family.

"I've never had a more challenging, yet fulfilling position in my life," said Brig. Gen. Parker of his tour as commanding general, MCB Hawaii. "All of this was only possible by working with some of the most competent people with whom I have ever served.

"To say that I am incredibly proud of the people on this base would be an understatement. They are simply the best. It's been a great ride."

Lieutenant General Earl B. Hailston, commander of Marine Forces Pacific also attended the ceremony. The general gave a final farewell to Brig. Gen. Parker and welcomed aboard Brig. Gen. McAbee.

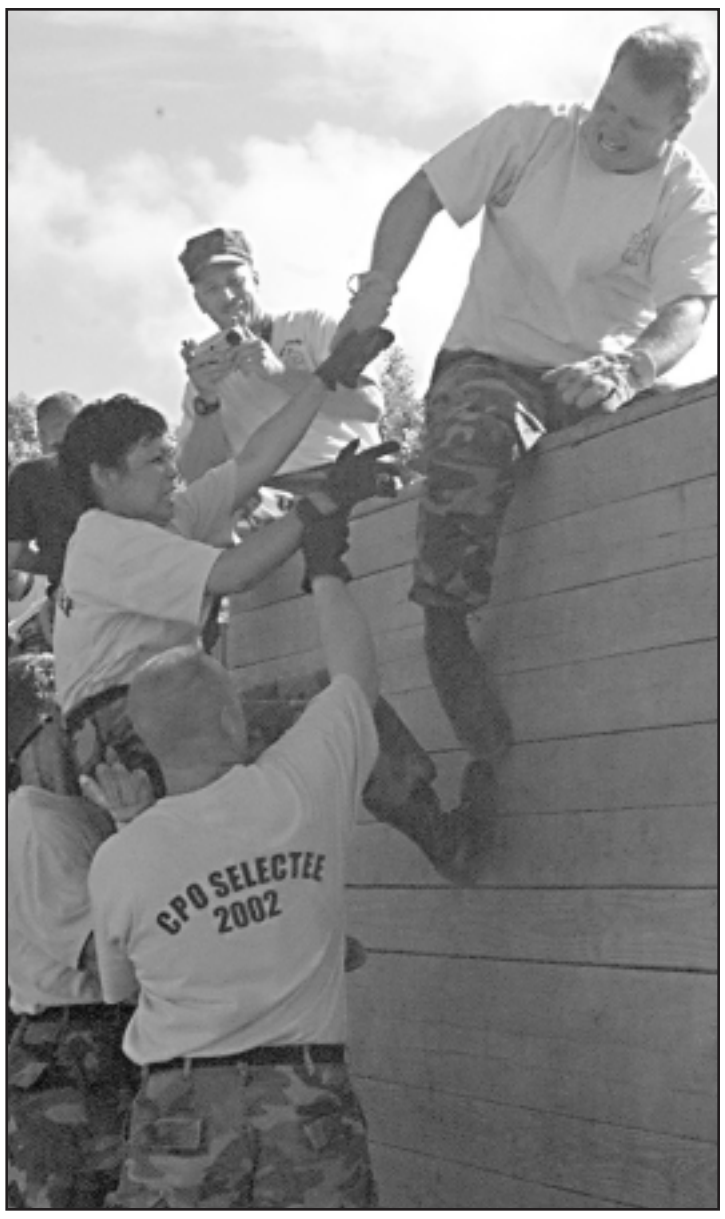
Cpl. Roman Yurek

Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee (left) accepts the duties of commanding general of MCB Hawaii from Brig. Gen. R.E. Parker Jr., during a sunset change of command ceremony on the Marine Corps Air Facility flightline.

Lance Cpl. Simon Martin

Marines from MCB Hawaii stand in formation before a CH-53D Sea Stallion at the change of command ceremony Friday.

Chief petty officer selectees had to put themselves through grueling tests of strength and endurance at the confidence course.



Teamwork was vital during the chief petty officer selectee training, especially on certain obstacles like the wall.

Chiefs bring on the pain in preparation for new rank

Story and Photos by
Lance Cpl. Luis R. Agostini
Combat Correspondent

Preparing to pin on the rank of chief petty officer in the U. S. Navy in September, petty officers from around the island put their bodies through pain as they made their way through the obstacle course, the confidence course and the leadership reaction course at the Boondocker, Sept. 5 as part of their chief petty officer indoctrination.

Combat Service Support Group 3 helped sponsor the training for the chiefs, with Marines from CSSG-3 motivating the future chiefs throughout the day.

The morning started off with all 96 chief selectees grouped together for a daily stretch and exercise, led by Staff Sgt. Adrian Gamboa, company gunnery sergeant, Supply Co., CSSG-3.

"I want to show them what being a hard-charger is all about," said Gamboa.

The petty officers were taken through the different obstacles and shown how to negotiate them correctly.

After being broken up into several groups, the fun began.

Petty officers leaped over bars, jumped walls, low-crawled their way under barbed wire, ascended ropes, and blasted each other with pugil sticks.

The indoctrination, which began in August, lasts approximately six weeks. Their training will end September, when they will be pinned with the chief petty officer insignia.

The physical nature of the obstacle course was new to some Sailors.

"Most of the people here have never really gotten a chance to be on this side of the Navy, where you get to work with Marines and get physical," said Senior Chief Petty Officer Daniel Dubois, Command Senior Chief, CSSG-3.

Left — Chief petty officer selectees try to maintain their balance on logs. Above — Selectees must demonstrate teamwork and leadership in order to pass the course.

Infantrymen enforce law at MCBH

Lance Cpl. Luis R. Agostini
Combat Correspondent

Several weeks ago, more than 35 Marines from "America's Battalion" were digging fighting holes, patrolling hillsides and taking part in other exercises to hone their basic warrior skills.

However, these Marines were given a different mission recently, of learning how to preserve order, enforce regulations and protect property.

Select Marines with 3/3 participated in the pre-service training conducted by Military Police Co. Aug. 20 - 30, as part of the Fleet Assistance Program, to learn law enforcement skills.

"The purpose of the pre-service training is to teach infantrymen basic law enforcement skills necessary to become a military policeman," said Staff Sgt. Jon Jerome, training chief, MP Co.

Lance Cpl. Luis R. Agostini

Lance Cpl. Nathan Massey, military policeman, Military Police Co., checks vehicles entering MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. Massey is a graduate of the FAP pre-service training for Marines from 3/3 to MP Co.

Skills taught and subjects covered during the two weeks of training included: gate procedures, traffic control and traffic stops, handcuffing techniques, radio procedures, field sobriety testing, base regulations, CPR, domestic violence, child abuse, conducting field interviews, advising suspects of their rights, evidence collection and tagging, searches, anti-terrorism, recording complaints, escorting money/personnel and community-oriented policing.

The mission of a military policeman is to serve the public and keep order and discipline on base, said Jerome.

Pre-service training for FAP Marines takes place twice a year. Reservists from Lexington, Ky., and Dayton, Ohio, also receive training here every July.

The graduation and awards ceremony was held the morning of Aug. 30 at the MP Co.

With a score of 293, Pfc. Miguel Pena received the High Physical Fitness Test Award.

Corporal John Lamore was given the High Shooter Award, with a pistol qualification score of 361 out of a possible 400, and the Gung Ho Award, given to the Marine who showed the most motivation and discipline.

Some of the graduates began working in their new appointed place of duty the same day, checking those who enter and leave the base for identification.

The new MPs are adjusting well to their new working environments, said Watch Commander Sgt. Melinda L. Wruble.

RESCUE, From A-1

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

The Marines proceeded to gather the family together and cleared the area to make way for the fire engines to come through.

The family expressed their gratitude toward the three Marines.

"At first they were shocked, but they later thanked us," said Wayne.

Although Buckley, Wayne and Settle displayed true valor and heroism Friday night, they believe they only did what was expected of them as Marines.

"People don't realize that everything we were taught in boot camp will eventually come into play," said Wayne. "When something like this happens on the spot, you have to go back to what you learned and be able to react."

Personnel throughout 3rd Marine Regiment have also expressed commendatory remarks for the actions of the trio.

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

The unfortunate incident caused damage to two other Kaneohe homes. However, though a shadow may have been cast over Kaneohe by the blaze, Marines seized the opportunity to show their care and concern for the local community in which they live.

"We as Marines try to be good neighbors all the time," said Buckley.

Commissaries deliberately driving down energy costs

Flo Dunn
Media Relations, Defense Commissary Agency

FORT LEE, Va. — Rolling blackouts plagued the West Coast this year as Californians struggled to deal with energy shortfalls and increasing costs. Commissaries in California didn't escape unscathed, but energy awareness and conservation is helping them keep their light bills in check.

The Defense Commissary Agency, which operates 284 stores worldwide, has adopted proven business methods to drive down costs and increase performance, and the "adoption" couldn't have had better timing.

"Changing our management approach from a budget culture to a cost culture has directly affected the way our store directors view all their store operating costs including their utility bills," said DeCA Director, Air Force Maj. Gen. Robert J. Courter Jr.

"Changing the budget culture means not just acquiring and then spending some budgeted amount of money in the year acquired. Instead we look at all outputs and the costs of those outputs.

"In the case of stores, we determine the operating costs per dollar of sales and try to reduce that ratio. Essentially, you must reduce your operating expenses and/or increase sales," Courter said.

The agency's active energy reduction efforts are in step with practices of successful, large corporations and include: commitment from top-level management, energy reduction goals clearly communicated throughout the organization, and responsibility and accountability at the proper levels.

The Defense Commissary Agency's Western-/Pacific Region reduced energy use by 3.4 percent from FY 1999 to FY 2000, but its utility bill still increased by 3 percent as rising costs outpaced the savings.

"Energy awareness, energy management training and installation of energy efficiency technology has had a positive impact on our unit cost," said E. Carroll Shepherd III, DeCA's energy manager. "If action hadn't been taken to train our personnel, or to use energy efficient design, construction and maintenance, the cost would have been much greater."

Recently, DeCA has been leveraging technology to reduce costs through

See COMMISSARY, A-11

'Fightin' Fox' rides

After being lifted 40 feet high in the air by two CH-53D Sea Stallions, Marines from Fox Co., 2nd Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment, participated in a fast-rope exercise to maintain their combat readiness and demonstrate quick troop movement, Sept. 5 at the Boondocker.

Lance Cpl. Luis R. Agostini

EVERY CLIME AND PLACE

Artillerymen rock Fuji with heavy metal

Gunnery Sgt. Matt Hevezi
III MEF Public Affairs

CAMP FUJI, Japan — The radio receiver crackles to life, interrupting the still of a hazy September afternoon.

"Fire mission," commands the voice on the black handset.

It's the two words the 12 Marines who crew Gun No. 3 have been waiting for.

Gunnery Sgt. Matt Hevezi

Lance Cpl. Steven M. Lawrenz, checks the firing data on his M198 Howitzer before the round is fired.

Springing to action, the men know exactly what to do. In seconds their huge howitzer is loaded and ready. Lance Cpl. Jon W. Nelson grabs the lanyard and gives it a firm yank.

"BOOM!"

The earth rocks under their boots. Gunsmoke pours from the cannon filling their nostrils.

Target destroyed, mission accomplished. Just another day at the office for the artillerymen of Alpha Battery, 1st Bn., 12th Marine Regiment.

"It's an awesome feeling," said Nelson, a 21-year-old cannoneer from North Kingstown, R. I., who's duty is loading charges and pulling the six-foot chord which blasts a 95-pound projectile from the howitzer's steel tube, sending it screaming through the sky up to 13 miles to its target.

"It will make your heart skip a beat," he said, describing the body shock felt standing next to the M198 Howitzer when a round goes off.

Nelson has experienced that shock more than 500 times since he completed artillery school in June 1999 at Ft. Sill, Okla., where both Army and Marine Corps artillerymen learn their cannoneering skills.

The crew on Gun 3 is training at Camp Fuji during September with another 385 Marines from 3rd Bn., 12th Marine Regiment. Nelson's team is considered his battery's best gun crew, according to Gunnery Sgt. Robert A. Ledferd, who serves as Alpha Battery, 1/12's gunnery sergeant, one of the unit's key senior enlisted leaders. He said a good gun crew is the result of strong leadership from the section chief, usually a staff sergeant, who develops teamwork and motivation within the team.

"The section chief is the one who sets up drills in garrison and in the field and continues cross training his Marines so they can learn the different jobs at the gun," Ledferd said. Some of those different duties include: section chief, gunner, assistant gunner, ammunition technician, and recorder.

"The section chief's main job is to develop good teamwork," he said.

Teamwork and motivation is obvious at Gun 3.

"In a gun section, everyone gets to know each other really well," Nelson said. "We work with each other every day. I came to the section when they were really short on people. It took about a month and a half to get used to the section. But once you get into the groove, things get a lot easier."

Nelson has deployed with the Gun 3 team for artillery shoots at Hijudai, Japan; Australia; and Pohakuloa Training Area on Hawaii.

According to Ledferd, motivation is what keeps Marines going while training in the field, especially for the artillerymen who must pack up the heavy gun and all their equipment

Gunnery Sgt. Matt Hevezi

Gun smoke billows from the nose of Gun No. 3 as another 155mm round is fired from the M198 Howitzer. Artillerymen who fire the massive weapon say the shock of the round being fired is enough to rattle your bones from the inside out.

See FUJI, A-11

Gunnery Sgt. Matt Hevezi

Above — Pfc. Joshua D. Short, a cannoneer assigned to K-Bay's Alpha Battery, 1/12, concentrates on transcribing aiming data for the M198 Howitzer during training at Camp Fuji, Japan. Right — The black and gold fuses attached to the 155mm rounds fired by the M198 Howitzer allow cannoneers to control how the round detonates upon impact.

FUJI, From A-10

several times each day to practice gun position movements. Such movements are often required at night.

"I've served in a lot of batteries and this is the first one I've been a full-time battery gunny in," Ledferd said. "These guys stay motivated no matter how tired they are or strenuous the mission."

Ledferd and the other Marines from Alpha Battery, 1/12, are based at MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. The unit is in Japan on a six-month temporary assignment with the Okinawa-based 3rd Bn., 12th Marine Regiment, as part of the Marine Corps' Unit Deployment Program.

Artillery batteries from 3/12 pack up and deploy from Okinawa to train at Camp Fuji's ranges several times each year. Lima Battery, 3/12, from Twentynine Palms, Calif., and HQ Btry., 3/12, from Okinawa are also participating in the live-fire drills at Camp Fuji.

Gunnery Sgt. Matt Hevezi

COMMISSARY, From A-7

lighting upgrades and installation of energy efficient equipment in most of its California commissaries, Shepherd said.

While rising energy prices have mainly been concentrated on the West Coast, DeCA's energy conservation and cost control efforts apply to commissaries worldwide.

"We're training employees to be vigilant in auditing and verifying utility bills, constructing energy-efficient commissaries and upgrading already existing commissaries with energy-efficient equipment," Shepherd said.

Shepherd said the commissary at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, is a good example of how energy conservation can also help host installations. Store Director Ray Gardea and his staff were recognized by the base utility manager recently for the measurable impact of their efforts to reduce store lighting.

Dave Abbott, base utility manager, said the calculations for metered electrical consumption of the commissary was down by 120,000 kilowatt hours during the three-months following implementation — a savings of almost $6,000.

As commissaries provide "a taste of home" for servicemembers stationed worldwide, energy conservation can sometimes become complicated.

For most stores in the European Region, energy is procured from a local provider by the host installation under a "central buy." This arrangement takes advantage of lower costs for large volume purchases and avoids a value-added tax of nearly 16 percent. Total costs are then divided among each of the installation tenants according to usage.

Sound straightforward? It is unless you can't understand the bill. Overcoming the language barrier with the help of employees who speak the local language has resulted in promising cost savings.

Close scrutiny brought to light an inaccuracy in the factor applied to energy output at one commissary – an annual savings of $250,000.

The Defense Commissary Agency's European Region is also testing a system which electronically monitors, troubleshoots and controls all energy consuming features of the commissary including lighting, refrigeration and heating and cooling systems. If the test is successful, the system will be implemented region-wide in conjunction with ongoing renovation and repair projects.

Until then, commissary employees manually "put stores to sleep" by shutting off computers and lights at night.

"By leveraging technology and analyzing and reducing unit costs, I expect to see further reduction in usage and expenses," said Courter.

CHECK, From A-1

rector of marketing at MCCS. "This was the biggest BayFest so far, and the Marines and Sailors and civilians of Marine Corps Base Hawaii are the ones who made it a success."

More than 30,000 people visited BayFest this year, and MCCS officials said it was a success because everyone worked together.

"This was an all-hands effort," said Lt. Col. Mike Williams, for MCCS. "The entire base put the program together. They sold the pre-sale tickets, and they did all of the static displays."

SGLI expands coverage to spouses, children

Family members now eligible for varying amounts of coverage

Army Sgt. 1st Class
Kathleen T. Rhem
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance plan will also cover troops' spouses and eligible children beginning Nov. 1.

The Veterans' Opportunities Act of 2001, signed by President Bush last spring, allows for up to $100,000 coverage for military spouses and $10,000 coverage for each child.

If the servicemember has SGLI coverage of $100,000 or more, maximum coverage for the spouse will be automatic, and premiums will be deducted along with the member's premium from each month's pay.

If the servicemember carries less than $100,000 coverage, however, the spouse's coverage can be no higher than the member's, Navy Capt. Chris Kopang explained.

"For instance, if the member only had $50,000 in coverage on himself, he can only get $50,000 for his spouse," said Kopang, DoD director of compensation.

He added that spouse coverage must be elected in $10,000 increments. Premiums will be based on the amount of coverage elected and the spouse's age.

Spouse's coverage rate per $1,000

Maximum Monthly Premium:

Under 35	$.09	$9
35-44	$.13	$13
45-49	$.20	$20
50-54	$.32	$32
55+	$.55	$55

Coverage for children up to age 18, or 23 if a fulltime student, is free and automatic, so long as the member is participating in SGLI, Kopang said.

Eligible reserve component members will receive the same family-member coverage with premiums being deducted from their drill pay, he said.

Servicemembers will be able to decline or reduce spousal coverage, but officials are still working out the details. "Opt out" procedures and updates will be posted to the SGLI Web site at www.insurance.va.gov/sglivgli/sglifam.htm.

Kopang cautioned servicemembers to think carefully before opting out.

"Members may sometimes feel they don't need life insurance for a spouse, especially if the spouse doesn't work outside the home," he said. "However, look at the cost of providing childcare, a nanny perhaps, or other things that contribute to maintaining the home. These are costs servicemembers don't always realize they'll have."

Eligibility for spouse and children's coverage would end if the member terminates coverage, separates, retires, dies, or if the couple divorces. However, spouse coverage will extend 120 days past the date eligibility ends.

"That will give the spouse the opportunity to convert their policy to a commercial policy," Kopang said.

Spouse coverage can be converted to commercial policies when the servicemember separates from the military, but cannot be converted to the Veterans' Group Life Insurance plan.

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Doggone proud

Cpl. Roman Yurek

Cpl. Danno, MCB Hawaii mascot, donned his dress blues and stood proudly at the sunset change of command ceremony Thursday.

SALUTES

Marine Corps Air Facility

Promotions
Cpl. Richard B. Cauley (Meritorious Promotion)
Lance Cpl. Kenneth W. Dunne
Lance Cpl. James M. Clarke
Lance Cpl. Paul M. Hanhart
Lance Cpl. Joseph W. Knopp
Lance Cpl. Jacob M. Zanes (Meritorious Promotion)

Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal
Staff Sgt. Vernadel Green

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal
Sgt. Maria V. Zepeda (Gold Star in lieu of Third Award)

Naval Aircrew Insignia
Gunnery Sgt. Erwin B. Blankenship (Crew Chief)
Sgt. Nephtali D. Ricafrente (Loadmaster)
Cpl. Gabriel Cruz (Loadmaster)

1st Radio Bn.

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal

Staff Sgt. Joshua L. Paddock
Sgt. Sean M. Nakao
Sgt. Andrew D. McKnight
Petty Officer 1st Class James D. Brown
Sgt. Lawerence C. Goss
Megan J. Carnahan

Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal
Gunnery Sgt. Youssef B. Carpenter
Petty Officer 1st Class Richard A. Ralston
Sgt. Timothy L. Shields

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...a good thing

Meritorious Service Medal
Chief Warrant Officer 5 Fred J. Zauner
Gunnery Sgt. Christian J. Chekroun

Certificate of Commendation
Cpl. Jeremy D. Rose
Lance Cpl. Timothy L. Bradshaw

Meritorious Masts
Cpl. Nathan M. Landon
Lance Cpl. Denny C. Sanchez-Casilla

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