Hawaii MARINE

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Volume 31, Number 35 www.mcbh.usmc.mil September 13, 2002

'Go to war' units rotate from K-Bay, Japan

America's Bn., 1/12's Bravo Battery return

Sgt. Robert Carlson
Media Chief

After more than seven months deployed to areas throughout the Pacific, the Marines and Sailors of 3rd Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment, and Bravo Battery, 1st Bn., 12th Marine Regiment, returned to Hawaii this week.

The Unit Deployment Program, which takes Marines and Sailors away from their homes for longer than any other scheduled deployment in the Department of Defense, takes infantry battalions and artillery batteries to Okinawa to serve on the "Tip of the Spear" for seven months, and fill the billet of the "go to war" units in the Pacific.

"America's Battalion," the most deployed battalion in the Marine Corps, continued its tradition of tirelessly training for battle.

During the seven months 3/3 was deployed away from Hawaii, the Marines and Sailors were formed as a Battalion Landing Team three times, and participated in six major exercises including Millennium Edge in Tinian and Guam, Balikatan in the Philippines, the Korean Incremental Training

See 3/3, A-6

Island Warriors, 1/12's Charlie Battery depart for 'Tip of the Spear'

Sgt. Robert Carlson
Media Chief

Families and friends said farewell to the Marines and Sailors of 2nd Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment, and Charlie Battery, 1st Bn., 12th Marine Regiment, this week as they departed for a seven-month Unit Deployment Program trip to Okinawa and around the Pacific.

The "Island Warriors" of 2/3, and the Marines and Sailors of Charlie 1/12, take over the reigns at the "Tip of the Spear." They will fall in on the gear, weapons and quarters recently vacated by 3/3 and Bravo Battery, 1/12.

"These Marines and Sailors are going to be separated from their families for just about every major holiday this year, and we appreciate the support the families give while we go on deployment," said Capt. Keith E. Burkepile, battery commander for Charlie, 1/12. "We've got a great communication plan in place, and the Key Volunteers have been wonderful in preparing to make this deployment a success."

While missing Halloween, the Marine Corps birthday, Thanksgiving,

See 2/3, A-6

MCB Hawaii remembers 9/11

Guests from all branches of the military, and guests from the community attended a ceremony at the MCB Hawaii Pacific War Memorial Wednesday to honor those who lost their lives in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Sgt. Robert Carlson

Sgt. Richard W. Holtgraver Jr.

A color guard stands poised during a remembrance ceremony aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, to honor those who lost their lives one year ago in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. See page A-3 for coverage of the MCB Hawaii remembrance ceremony.

DoD names new CMC

Department of Defense
Press Release

Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld announced today that the president has nominated Lt. Gen. Michael W. Hagee for appointment to the rank of general with subsequent assignment as the commandant of the Marine Corps. He is currently serving as the commanding general, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

LT. GEN. HAGEE

He graduated with distinction from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1968 with a B.S. degree in Engineering. He also holds a M.S. degree in Electrical Engineering from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School and an M.A. degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College. He is a graduate of the Command and Staff College and the U.S. Naval War College.

Kaneohe Marines zero in at III MEF sniper contest

Sgt. Robert Carlson
Media Chief

Two snipers representing 1st Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment, took out their competitors and brought back first place honors in the recent III Marine Expeditionary Force Scout Sniper competition in Okinawa, Japan.

Corporal David A. Bendinger and Cpl. Wayne G. Altheuser, both with 1/3's Scout Sniper Platoon, were on the top of the heap when scores were tallied for the 17 events in the competition.

Five 2-man teams competed for the chance to become the best in III MEF and move on to the All-Marine scout sniper competition in Quantico, Va., in October.

A physical training test and a timed run made up the physical training events, and each of the five teams also competed in 14 other field and firing events.

A written examination rounded out the challenges, and after five days of showing what they knew, the Hawaii Marines came out in front.

"We were a little surprised because all of the scores were kept secret throughout the competition," said Altheuser, who just recently graduated from the 3rd Marine Division Scout Sniper School. "We were actually tied at the end of the competition, and the evaluators had to re-evaluate our scores and performance to break the tie."

ALTHEUSER

BENDINGER

The two Lava Dogs shined in events ranging from known and unknown distance shooting with the M-16A2 and M-40 rifles, to live-fire stalking exercises.

"This is a good chance for us to step up to the next level," said Bendinger. "We just kept a relaxed attitude and enjoyed ourselves. I think that contributed to our success."

Both Marines are fresh out of the sniper course, but were still able to prevail over teams much more experienced during the competition.

"The 1/3 Marines came out on top because they were consistent," said Gunnery Sgt. Richard Tisdale, staff noncommissioned officer in charge at the 3rd

See SNIPERS, A-4

MCBH NEWS BRIEFS

PARENTS NEED TO RETURN FEDERAL CENSUS SURVEYS

Military and other federally connected students in Hawaii's public schools began bringing home a federal census survey card, to be filled out by parents and returned to schools.

These survey cards are very important as they are used to determine the number of federally connected students in the public school system for which the Hawaii Department of Education receives Federal Impact Aid funds under Public Law 103-382.

Impact aid provides funding for a portion of the educational costs of federally connected students. Basically, it is the avenue the federal government uses to pay its "tax bill" to school districts, as a result of the presence of federal installations — to include military installations in Hawaii (which are not assessed property taxes by applicable states).

It is critical that all military and Department of Defense civil service parents with kids in Hawaii's public schools to complete the survey cards and return them to their child's teacher. This will ensure Hawaii receives its proper amount of Impact Aid.

MMOA ARRIVES, TUESDAY

The Manpower Management Officer Assignments Team will be visiting Hawaii to conduct briefings and to provide counseling as follows.

At MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay:

•Wed. at 8 - 9 a.m., Officers Brief at theater.

•Wed., 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1 - 5 p.m., counseling at the BOQ Conference Rm.

At Marine Forces Pacific, Camp Smith:

•Thurs., 9 - 10 a.m., Officers Brief at Pollack Theater

•Thurs., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., counseling at Pollack Theater

AESC REOPENS, TODAY

The All Enlisted Spouses Club will hold a grand re-opening festival at the all-new MCB Hawaii Thrift Shop today. New Thrift Shop hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Food, drinks, a bouncy house and more will be on hand.

Hawaii MARINE

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

HAWAII MARINE, BOX 63062, BLDG. 216,
MCB HAWAII, KANEOHE BAY, HAWAII 96863
E-MAIL: HAWAIIMARINE@MCBH.USMC.MIL
FAX: 257-2511, PHONE: 257-8840

Music to my ears

Cpl. Jason E. Miller

Corporal Daniel Cadra, formerly a hazardous materials technician for HMH- 463, recently took advantage of his trumpet playing skills by auditioning for the Marine Forces Pacific Band. After proving himself, Cadra received a lateral move into the military occupational specialty. Leathernecks wanting to accomplish a similar "lat-move" into a band MOS should contact Master Sgt. Teresa A. Browndorf, the enlisted band leader, at 257-7350.

Pentagon shows off video e-mail

The hi-tech exhibit features messages sent to deployed service members

Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — At the Pentagon on Sept. 6, a computer maker unveiled a special kiosk that features hundreds of video e-mail messages sent to service members deployed worldwide in the war against global terrorism.

The high-tech device highlights Hewlett-Packard's "Give Thanks America" program, launched in December 2001.

The program honors the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on America and thanks military members for their service in the war against terrorism.

The idea was developed by survivors of five Compaq employees killed in the New York World Trade Center attack, according to a Hewlett-Packard official. The company and Compaq merged earlier this year.

Hewlett-Packard President Michael Capellas and Navy Rear Adm. Craig Quigley, senior military officer in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs, dedicated the kiosk.

Gerry J. Gilmore.

Capellas (left) and Navy Rear Adm. Quigley shake hands at the dedication of the company's "Give Thanks America" kiosk at the Pentagon Sept. 6.

It's slated to remain in the building for about a week.

Capellas said he was proud that his company "was able to play a role in helping the nation heal and in conveying the country's pride in a job well done to the men and women who protect our freedom and way of life."

Since Give Thanks America began, military families, celebrities, athletes, politicians and the general public have recorded video messages nationwide at special kiosks.

The Pentagon kiosk features a large monitor and desktop computer that play a collection of those messages.

Hewlett-Packard officials note that messages have been uploaded to www.givethanksamerica.com or have been sent directly to military men and women around the world.

Most of the 12,000 messages recorded to date went to service members.

Quigley thanked the company for the program and the kiosk. He also expressed amazement in the advances in communication made possible by technology.

He called e-mail an incredible improvement in communications, especially for deployed service members.

"You've always been able to receive, slowly, ... a letter from your loved one," the admiral pointed out, noting that e-mail is immediate.

Quigley said service members reviewing Give Thanks America e-mails and video messages will see missives, often from strangers, who "have taken the time, because they care."

COMMENTARY

'...It became very clear why I joined'

(Editor's Note: The following is a letter written shortly after the terrorist attack on Sept. 11, 2001, by a young Marine who grew up in Boys Town, graduated from high school, then joined the U.S. Marine Corps. The letter was addressed to Father Val Peter, the executive director of Girls and Boys Town.)

EGGINK

"... I heard the kids' reactions about the attacks..."

Lance Cpl. Eric Eggink
A Rifleman with 2/4

"Dear Father Peter,

I know it has been a long time since I wrote. I've been really busy, especially since the terrorist attack.

I train every day in order to become part of the nation's greatest fighting force, Marine Corps infantry.

I got your letter, and I have to say it warmed my heart. We are in the field training for 18 - 19 hours a day. It gets lonely at times, and you start to wonder what you are doing it all for.

To us, it was like a bad dream. We have no radio or T.V. All news was through the word of mouth. If we're lucky, we get the paper once in a while.

Anyway, when I heard the kids' reactions about the attacks, it became very clear why I joined the Corps.

For centuries, men and women have fought so that the ones they love wouldn't have to. The rise and fall of nations has *never* been decided at a conference or a meeting. It's decided on the battlefields.

My parents write me continually and share with me the support our nation has for the apprehension and possible destruction of these terrorist organizations.

It breaks my heart when I think about how many lives had to be lost in order to bring our nation together.

We started the aerial attacks today, and it's only a matter of time until the ground forces go in. Many of my friends are already preparing to be some of the first ones in.

I'm getting stationed in Washington, D.C., on the 3rd of November. Maybe we can have lunch sometime as you work to get the D.C. site on line.

Thank you for your continued support. Wish me luck as I head into these next few months with uncertainty.

Next time you're at caucus, tell everyone I said 'Hi.'

I know I've only been out a couple of months, but give the seniors this piece of advice:

Never go half-hearted into any thing. If you relax and leave room for yourself to fail, you probably will.

Set attainable goals and then reach them. Then set more goals and reach them, too.

They should follow their hearts.

[Father Peter,] these are the things I've done, and I've enjoyed every minute of them.

Thank you for everything.

Sincerely,
Lance Cpl. Eric Eggink"

Before a crowd of more than 300 people, officials released white doves — symbols of hope and peace — at the Pacific War Memorial. The doves lingered around the statute before dispersing over Kaneohe Bay.

Sgt. Robert Carlson

MCB Hawaii remembers

Sgt. Alexis R. Mulero

Major Dave Burton, the executive officer at 1st Radio Bn., embraces his wife Paulette and his 11-month-old son Wesley during the Sept. 11 remembrance ceremony. Many audience members were overcome with emotion during the event.

Sgt. Richard W. Holtgraver Jr.

As a tribute to those who lost their lives during the horrific events of Sept. 11, 2001, officials released 21 doves to the somber and overcast skies of Kaneohe Bay.

MCBH honors the fallen at Kaneohe's Pacific War Memorial

Cpl. Jason E. Miller
Combat Correspondent

One year ago on Sept. 11, more than 3,000 innocent, American lives were lost when terrorists viciously attacked the heart of our country, using the cruelest of weapons — human lives.

Gathered at the Pacific War Memorial aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, more than 300 service members, firefighters, police officers, family members and civilians from surrounding communities paid respects to their fallen, fellow American citizens.

The setting couldn't have contributed more to the atmosphere, as the sun solemnly set over the Ko'o'lau Mountain Range and rays of light bounced off of Kaneohe Bay and the Pacific War Memorial.

The Marine Forces Pacific Band, with musical contributions from the bagpipes of 1st Lt. Justin Stodghill, of Marine Helicopter Training Squadron 301 and vocals of Letishia Jackson, a Jacksonville, N.C., native, set the tone for the audience with a number of spiritual and patriotic melodies.

The featured speaker at the ceremony was Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, commanding general of MCB Hawaii.

"In a great many ways, this is the right time and the right place to hold a memorial for those who lost their lives one year ago today," McAbee said. "This memorial stands as one of the greatest symbols of our nation."

The ceremony lasted the better part of an hour, and seemed to grab the emotions of everyone in attendance.

A wreath was laid at the foot of the Pacific War Memorial to commemorate those lost in the tragedy.

Twenty one doves were also released as a symbol of hope and peace for the country.

Once the colors were retired, victims of the Sept. 11 attacks were honored with a 21-gun-salute, provided by the Marines and cannons of Alpha Co., 1st Bn., 12th Marine Regiment.

A silent reflective crowd of Americans honored their lost.

Photos by Sgt. Robert Carlson

Above — Marines from 3rd Marine Regiment fire a 21-gun salute at the conclusion of the ceremony.

Right — Guests from all branches of the military, as well as guests from the local community, attended the ceremony to honor those who lost their lives in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

AAV maintenance keeps tracks afloat

Cpl. Jason E. Miller
Combat Correspondent

When many people think of United States Marines, immediately visions of amphibious assaults like the one on Iwo Jima appear in their minds.

They picture platoons of warriors running into a hail of gunfire as they approach in armored vehicles from the sea.

What they may not realize, however, is what goes on behind the scenes of an amphibious landing. It takes numerous mechanics and technicians hours of painstaking labor to prepare an Amphibious Assault Vehicle for an operation to deliver troops from sea to land.

According to AAV mechanics aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, the ratio stands at eight hours of maintenance per one hour of operation — quite a bit of work, but necessary to keep the machines running correctly.

Cpl. Jason E. Miller

Amphibious assault vehicle mechanics use a boom mounted atop an AAV to hoist an engine back into another AAV.

"We do what we have to do to keep these things up and running," said Sgt. Jessup McGowan, an AAV mechanic section leader with Combat Support Co., 3rd Marine Regiment. "We are constantly working on these things. They are great machines for what they're intended, but about the only time when there's not something to work on is when they're brand new."

With a huge Cummings 903 engine, the AAV cranks out some 525 horsepower and can travel 45 miles per hour on land. It can also reach speeds of 8 miles per hour when traveling in the water.

A dry engine soaks up 10 gallons of oil before it is considered full.

Amphibious Assault Vehicles are designed to hold 14 Marines, plus the three-man crew that operates them. Mechanics are an essential part of the AAV crew, as they are often needed to repair vehicles during situations when Marines are not near the mechanic shop.

Working on AAVs would likely seem difficult to most people who are not accustomed to repairing them, but mechanics generally know what is going on with their vehicle, since so much time is spent in everyday maintenance.

"We're basically out here every day, and there's always something that needs to be done," said McGowan. "We go by the book, because there's always a standard way to repair something, but if we were out somewhere and we had to find a way to make something work, we could definitely improvise."

Yearly preventative maintenance requires the mechanics to completely remove the connected engine, transmission and cooling tower, known as the pack.

Once out of the vehicle, the pack is placed atop a stand and run to check for any discrepancies. Most repairs on the pack can be made in-shop by the Marines of Combat Support Co.

Cpl. Jason E. Miller

Sergeant Jessup McGowan applies finishing touches to an AAV engine before having it replaced in the vehicle.

"It is very important that we keep these vehicles running smoothly," said McGowan. "These things carry a lot of responsibility and value in lives of Marines. We have to make sure it's all going right."

SNIPERS, From A-1

Marine Division Scout Sniper School at MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. "They didn't necessarily come out first in all of the events — they just consistently scored high."

Most of the competition involved skills the Hawaii Marines learned at the sniper course, but according to Tisdale, only about 10 percent of being a sniper involves shooting.

"Movement, calling for, and adjusting supporting arms, and reporting information back to higher headquarters makes up a lot of what scout snipers do," Tisdale added. "This competition covered the wide range of skills scout snipers are expected to know before they go out on a mission."

Both Marines graduated from the same Scout Sniper Course at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, and said the sniper competition was beneficial because of the extra training they were able to do.

"We got to work with a lot of comm. [communications], and we did a new course of fire we haven't done before, so it helped us a lot," Altheuser said. "Any time we get to do more training, and fire more live rounds, we benefit."

Photos courtesy of HMH-362

Above — An Ugly Angels CH-53D Sea Stallion helicopter approaches the USS Anchorage off the coast of Utapao, Thailand.

Left — Marines with HMH-362 help wash down aircraft alongside members of the Thai Air Force's Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting unit that provided the equipment.

HMH-362 wraps up Fish Hook, LF CARAT

Cpl. Joe Lindsay
MCAS Iwakuni Public Affairs Office

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI, Japan — The Ugly Angels of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362 might need a name change. They just completed a Herculean four-month evolution that began April 1 and took them to the Philippines, Brunei, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore.

Dubbed "Fish Hook," the evolution marked the first time CH-53D Sea Stallion helicopters and Marines have supported Landing Force Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training exercises.

"It's easy for guys like me to jump in a helicopter and fly a mission," said Lt. Col. Douglas Wadsworth, commanding officer of HMH-362, deployed here from MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. "But the success of this mission — especially since it had never been done this way before — depended on our young Marines on the ground, who were turning the wrenches and providing logistical support more than ... the officers up in the air."

"NCOs might argue this point, but lance corporals are the real backbone of the Corps," said Master Sgt. Richard McKnight, the HMH-362 maintenance chief. "Without them, nothing is going to happen.

"Day in and day out, our lance corporals did an outstanding job. Our success is a reflection of their effort."

The evolution first took the Ugly Angels to Okinawa (April 1 - 3) and the Philippines (April 3 - May 5) in support of Balikitan. From there, they moved to Brunei (May 5 - 13) for the LF CARAT.

Thailand (May 14 - June 21) followed, with another LF CARAT and Cobra Gold 2002.

The squadron headed to Malaysia (June 21 - July 2) for more LF CARAT before heading to Singapore (July 2 - 23) for the Fourth of July, and still another LF CARAT.

After wrapping up training, with subsequent visits to the Philippines and Okinawa, the Ugly Angels finally returned to Iwakuni. The squadron had logged a total of 7,114 miles.

"Our main mission was to cross train with all these different countries," said Capt. Shawn Budd, the HMH-362 administration and personnel officer. "We had pilot swaps and also taught classes in night vision goggles, terrain flight techniques, mission and roles of the Marine Corps and CH-53D helicopters," he explained, "[as well as in] survival, escape, resistance and evasion, and operational risk management."

Budd discovered that "the Marine Corps is an even more formidable force when our allies are properly trained."

Yet, training wasn't the only aspect of Fish Hook.

"I wanted to travel when I first joined the Marine Corps," said Lance Cpl. Bryant Moran, an HMH-362 aviation mechanic. "I got more than I ever bargained for on Fish Hook.

"Actually seeing all of these exotic lands really opened my eyes to the fact that there is a whole big world out there. I learned how important it is to learn different cultures and customs, and to respect and appreciate differences."

The Ugly Angels' whirlwind evolution was an overwhelming success from both a work and cultural standpoint.

"It's hard living out of a sea bag for four solid months," said Staff Sgt. James Sabourin, an HMH-362 life support systems technician. "Don't get me wrong. I wouldn't change the experience for anything, but I'd be lying if I said it doesn't feel good to be back."

3/3, From A-1

Program, the Fuji Combined Arms Operation in Japan, and as the Ground Combat Element for Landing Force Cooperation Readiness Afloat Training.

While underway during LF CARAT, the Marines and Sailors trained in Brunei, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines, with stops in Hong Kong and Bali.

For many of the 3/3 and Bravo, 1/12, Marines and Sailors, this was the first UDP trip. Even for those experienced with being away from home, this deployment provided a much more aggressive training schedule.

"This was the first time I got to train in Thailand, and the first trip to Fuji," said Sgt. Claude Jenkins, a section chief with Bravo Battery, 1/12. "The training was the best part of the trip."

The opportunity to train with military forces of so many different countries helped keep the units in tip-top shape and helped improve their combat readiness. The warfighters of 3/3 expended nearly a half of a million rounds of ammunition organic to an infantry battalion.

Photo courtesy of Lt. Col. David Close

Marines from 3/3 send rounds downrange during training in the Philippines during exercise Balikatan.

While there wasn't much liberty time during this deployment, the Marines and Sailors did have the chance to complete 23 community relations projects in Japan, the Philippines, Korea, Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia. The relationships forged with the Okinawan communities by 3/3 and 1/12 laid the foundation for projects during future UDP trips.

The Marines and Sailors of 3/3 and Bravo Battery, 1/12, have some much-deserved liberty time coming their way. After that, they will be able to use what they've learned during their travels to keep their edge as America's Battalion and the Kings of Battle.

Sgt. Robert Carlson

Sergeant Claude Jenkins, a section chief with Bravo 1/12, says "hello" to his 9-month-old son Claude II.

Sgt. Robert Carlson

Sergeant Javier Cortez, a data chief with 2/3, says "goodbye" to his son Gavin.

2/3, From A-1

Christmas, New Year's Day, Valentine's Day, Easter, and other holidays, is hard on families, Burkepile said he is confident the Key Volunteers will be able to help keep the lines open and handle any issue which may arise during the deployment.

The majority of the 2/3 Marines and Sailors have been to Okinawa on a UDP before, according to Sgt. Maj. Lek Puampai, battalion sergeant major, and he is also confident in the ability of the KVs.

"We are accustomed to working through weekends and holidays," he added. "We train ourselves to sustain a high level of readiness over a long period of time, and that training philosophy will benefit us during this deployment."

With a very aggressive training schedule ahead, Lt. Col. Robert F. Castellvi, 2/3 battalion commander, said the Island Warrior spirit will thrive throughout the next seven months during planned training at the Jungle Warfare Training Center in Okinawa, Mt. Fuji on mainland Japan, and in Malaysia.

"The same training philosophy that has carried us this far will continue as we work through the training schedule," he said.

"We're the go-to-war battalion for the 3rd Marine Division, and we're ready," he explained.