

# Hawaii MARINE

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## Island Warriors wow D.C. crowds

### 2/3's Super Squad received accolades from CMC; halted D.C. purse snatching

**Cpl. Jason E. Miller**  
Combat Correspondent

After Marines from Golf Co., 2nd Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment, took home the title of "Super Squad" by winning the 3rd Marine Regimental Super Squad competition, beating out their sister battalion,

3rd Bn., 3rd Marines.

They were afforded the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C., to meet the commandant and sergeant major of the Marine Corps, Aug. 23.

The "Island Warriors" billeted at Henderson Hall before attending a ceremony at Marine Barracks 8th and I, where they, along with the Super Squads from the 1st, 2nd and 4th Marine Regiments received praise from the commandant.

"The ceremony alone was definitely worth the trip," said Sgt. Charles Lee, super squad leader from Golf Co., 2/3. "It's not an easy thing to become the winners

of the Super Squad competition, and it was really a good thing to be recognized by the commandant."

The 2/3 Marines narrowly defeated Marines from 3/3 at the division matches to qualify for the trip.

"I wouldn't say that it was an easy or one-sided victory at all," said Lee. "We worked hard to get to where we are and having it all capped off by going to Washington made it even more special."

The Marines from 2/3, who were part of the Super Squad, received certificates of commendation and coins from the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James L. Jones, and Sergeant Major of the

Marine Corps, Sergeant Maj. Alford L. McMichael.

Always demonstrating the qualities that set Marines apart, members of the Super Squad also thwarted a purse snatching attempt, while in Washington, and turned over the assailant to local officials.

"Overall, for the entire squad, one of the best parts of the trip was the fact that we got to see some public appreciation," Lee added. "We don't get a lot of that here, but during the parade they held for us, there were thousands of people watching and it made us feel really appreciated."

## Blasting off



Pfc. Monroe F. Seigle

Landing Craft Air Cushioned 56 from Detachment Swap, Assault Craft Unit 5, left MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, to return to San Diego Aug. 28 after a 27-day deployment. The unit deployed to MCB Hawaii to exchange two old landing crafts with its forward-deployed detachment based in Sasebo, Japan.

## Base officials combat rodent infestation in Kaneohe Bay's family housing

**Pfc. Monroe F. Seigle**  
Combat Correspondent

They march down the hillside during the hours of darkness and break the perimeter without being seen or heard.

They are on a mission. A mission in which they have traveled long distances on their worn out feet.

They must not be seen in order to avoid capture and or death.

To many, this might sound like a top-secret mission. However, "they" are not Marines or soldiers. They are the pesky little critters that have invaded the homes aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

According to John H. Freeland, tenant relations manager for the Family Housing Department at MCB Hawaii, mice have been an ongoing problem for the past few summer months.

"We had a very wet winter," said Freeland, "this produced a lot of food. Now that the summer is here, it has dried up a lot of their food supply. They are coming in from the hillside (north-eastern rifle range hillside) and moving into the housing area in search of food."

The Family Housing Department is working hand in hand with the installation's pest control personnel, in order to solve the problem. Many traps have been set up along the rifle range fence to keep the mice from entering the housing area.

One of the biggest attractions to mice is pet



Staff Sgt. Jesus A. Lora

An open door is an invitation for a mouse to enter a residence, as well as collections of food and trash in housing areas.

food.

"People leave pet food outside," said Freeland. "This is a very easy and readily available source of food for them."

There are many other reasons that mice enter a particular house. "When the grass around the house grows more than three inches high, this gives the mice a place to hide while they work their way into the house," said Freeland.

Mice do not just seek shelter in houses. Storage areas provide an easy area to enter and nest.

Random checks of all storage areas should be conducted to prevent mice from entering and nesting. Unsecured boxes and clothing should be properly secured and not left in the open.

Other tips from the Family Housing Department on preventing mice from entering the house include: keep doors, windows and screen secured at all times; check for holes around air conditioning systems. If holes are found, contact

See RODENTS, A-8

## 31 new safety managers make MCBH workplaces more safe

**Sgt. Robert Carlson**  
Media Chief

After successful completion of the Ground Safety for Marines Course, hosted by the Base Safety Center, there are now 31 more school-qualified unit safety managers aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

The two-week course, sponsored by the Naval Safety Center and offered at Navy and Marine Corps installations all around the world, qualifies graduates to fulfill the Marine Corps requirement for the unit safety manager billet.

"This class gave me a better understanding of the [Occupational Safety and Health Administration] standards and the Marine Corps orders regarding ground safety," said Gunnery Sgt. Kurt H. Palmer, 3rd Marine Regiment safety officer. "It's still a challenging job, but with what I've learned here, it will be a lot less challenging."

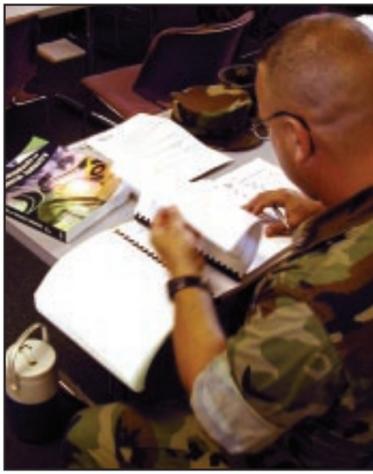
According to instructor John Ruth, a retired gunnery sergeant, that's the whole idea behind the course.

"We cover mishap prevention, workplace inspections, driver improvement, Marine Corps orders, and the Code of Federal Regulations," he said. "We cram about a month's worth of training into a two-week course, and give everyone a better understanding of safety topics."

The course gets students' noses into the orders and regulations, but it also helps to clear up some common misconceptions about workplace safety.

"The students start out with a head full of information, and we help them sort it out and pull everything together so it's clear," said Ruth. "We also do actual workplace inspections at one of the units on base."

"Each student did a presentation for the class about a safety topic of



Sgt. Robert Carlson

A Ground Safety for Marines Course student pours over his notes during the final written exam Aug. 30.

his choice."

The safety topic presentations gave everyone the chance to give an

See SAFETY, A-8

Catch tackle football tonight at 6 at Pop Warner Field.

## MCBH NEWS BRIEFS

### MCBH REMEMBERS 9/11

Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, will hold a Remembrance Ceremony at the Pacific War Memorial, Wednesday at 6 p.m., which will allow all to pay respect to the fallen Americans lost Sept. 11, 2001.

Those who lost friends, family or loved ones in the tragic events should contact the Public Affairs Office, 257-8840, for reservations to attend the ceremony.

### HISPANICS CELEBRATED

The Base Chapel, Kaneohe Bay, will conduct a Spanish Mass Saturday at 5 p.m. in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month.

Immediately following the Mass, the Hispanic Heritage Committee, in conjunction with the Base Chapel, will set-up a pot-luck dinner for those attending.

All are invited to attend and bring their favorite dish or dishes for everyone to enjoy.

The point of contact for more information is Master Sgt. Juan D. Rivera at 257-8872 or 254-9542.

All staff NCOs are invited to attend the Tejano Dance Night, to be held Saturday, Sept. 14 in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. at K-Bay's Staff NCO Rocker Room.

For more details, call Master Sgt. Arreola Ramiro Jr. at 257-1176 or 753-0936.

### AESC REOPENS

The All Enlisted Spouses Club will hold a grand re-opening festival at the all-new MCB Hawaii Thrift Shop, Sept. 13. Thrift Shop hours, starting Friday, will be 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

Food, drinks, a bouncy house and more will help open the AESC Thrift Shop with its new face, new hours and new manager.

Interested volunteers can call Denna Muncy at 245-0841 for more information.

### NEW HOUSING MODELS OPEN TO TOURS

The newly constructed and Marine Corps Exchange-furnished junior enlisted model home, located at 9561-A/B Shimabukuro Place, will open for guided, walk throughs Wednesday and Sept. 18 and 25, from 2 - 4 p.m.

## Hawaii MARINE

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# Sam Choy, Heloise to talk here

The national celebrities will speak at the Joint Women's Conference

**Sgt. Robert Carlson**  
*Media Chief*

Marine Corps Base Hawaii will host the 8th Annual Joint Women's Conference, featuring syndicated columnist Heloise and award-winning chef Sam Choy, Oct. 18 and 19 at the Officers Club.

The Joint Women's Conference is a forum for military spouses from all branches of service to come together as one family and share experiences about military life.

More than 50 events and work-

shops are scheduled for the two-day conference, covering topics including career enhancement, health, military benefits, cooking and cultural arts.

Key workshops will include Sam Choy of Sam Choy's Kitchen, and Heloise from "Hints from Heloise." Choy will demonstrate locally flavored gourmet cuisine from 11 a.m. to noon Oct. 18. Heloise, whose King Features daily column runs in more than 500 newspapers across the U.S. and in 20 other countries, was a military child and will share her experiences during a workshop from 11 a.m. to noon Oct. 19.

Registration began Sept. 4, and forms are available at military exchanges, commissaries, support centers, thrift shops and chapels.

Registration forms are also available at [www.JointWomensCouncil.org](http://www.JointWomensCouncil.org).

Childcare will be provided to participants who are registered at the Hourly Childcare Center and who pre-register for the conference, and will be arranged through the Child Development Center's Hourly Child Care program.

For information about childcare during the conference, call Kelli Allen at 257-8354.

The cost is \$25 for both days or \$15 Friday only, and \$15 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 early. All forms must be postmarked by Oct. 1st.

### ON THE HISTORY CHANNEL

## Recalling Wake Island during World War II



Sgt. Robert Carlson

Lieutenant Col. Aaron E. Aldridge, commanding officer, Marine Corps Air Facility, and Sgt. Maj. Arthur Taylor, MCAF sergeant major, escort Wake Island veterans from their plane Aug. 30 during a stopover at Kaneohe Bay. During their visit, the five Marines and one civilian construction worker discussed their experiences with Marines and Sailors aboard MCB Hawaii. The History Channel is producing a two-hour documentary on the Wake Island attack. The survivors were on Wake for five days, recounting their experiences for the cameras. The Japanese pounded Wake Island on Dec. 7, 1941, and made landings on the island by Dec. 23. During the attack, 49 Marines, three Sailors and 70 civilians were killed. One-third of the 470 Marines, Sailors and airmen, and 1,146 civilian construction workers taken prisoner perished during captivity.

### HOMELAND SECURITY

## DoD to establish biological defenses

**Defense Link**  
*Press Release*

The Department of Defense announced Aug. 27 that the deputy assistant to the secretary of defense for chemical and biological defense is initiating a new program to support homeland security called the Biological Defense Homeland Security Support Program.

The purpose of the program is to achieve early detection and characterization of a biological-related incident in an urban area in order to reduce casualties, minimize disruption to infrastructures and support consequence management efforts.

The program provides an integrated homeland security capability to detect, mitigate and respond to biological related incidents through enhanced biological detection capabilities and a fusion of medical surveillance systems, wide-area environmental sensors, and communications systems integration.

The program consists of two separate efforts: the Biological Defense Initiative, which will be executed by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency; and the National Capital Region demonstration, to be executed by the Program Executive Office for Chemical/Biological Defense.

The BDI objectives are to develop and deploy two prototype urban monitoring systems by June 2004 and demonstrate a potential model for a national capability.

The BDI program will demonstrate the feasibility of integrating disparate information sources to enhance the capability to detect and characterize a biological-related incident.

As part of the development effort, DTRA will establish a test bed using equipment deployed in Albuquerque, N.M.

The National Capital Region demonstration objectives are to expand the currently operational aerosol monitoring system in

the NCR and integrate the information into an expanded over-arching bio-surveillance network called Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics II.

This expanded capability integrates both military and civilian health care and other non-traditional medical indicators to allow for early warning of acts of bioterrorism.

Data collected from ESSENCE II will be used to determine the best methods and procedures for initiating similar urban bio-surveillance systems. This expanded capability will be operational by the end of fiscal 2003.



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.

# R.O.K. Marines have that 'ole Marine Corps spirit'

**Cpl. Luis R. Agostini**

*Marine Forces Pacific Public Affairs*

**PALAN, Republic of Korea** — One of the biggest reasons U.S. Marines look forward to participating in the Ulchi Focus Lens exercise each year is the opportunity to serve with their South Korean counterparts, the Republic of Korea Marines.

The mostly male, R.O.K. Marine Corps was established April 15, 1949, with an initial strength of 380 men.

The newborn Corps did not take long to hit the front lines. It fought side by side with American troops throughout the treacherous cold weather of the Korean War in the early 1950s, and again in the dangerous jungles of Vietnam. As a result, its Corps aptly earned the monikers of "The Invincible R.O.K. Marines" and "The Legendary R.O.K. Marines."

Now more than 25,000 troops strong, the R.O.K. Marine Corps is composed of a Headquarters R.O.K. Marine Corps Command, two divisions and one brigade, all of which are tasked with the responsibility of landing operations.

According to a report published by [www.globalsecurity.org](http://www.globalsecurity.org), the R.O.K. Marine Corps fleet of amphibious vehicles consists of 61 landing vehicles tracked and 42 amphibious assault vehicles 7A1.

Additionally, in an effort to replace the LVTs, the R.O.K. Marine Corps is in the final year of a 57-vehicle, three-year AAV7A1 co-production effort. It is also in the process of modifying that contract and producing an additional 67 AAV7A1 vehicles.

The R.O.K. Marine Corps stands out among the other Korean military services in several ways.

While military service is required for all 19-year-old males in the Republic of Korea, the only service in which the obligated young men volunteer to serve in is the R.O.K.



Cpl. Luis R. Agostini

Similar to the U.S. Marine Corps' eagle, globe and anchor, the R.O.K. Marine Corps' emblem — consisting of an eagle, star and anchor — overlooks the R.O.K. Marine Corps Headquarters.

**"From private through sergeant, we get paid only ten U.S. dollars a month."**

**Cpl. Calvin Lee**  
*Combat Photographer, R.O.K. Marines*

Marine Corps.

The policy is similar to U.S. Marine Corps recruiting agenda, where America's force in readiness dares young men and women to accept the challenge of becoming Marines.

Recruit training for all R.O.K. recruits lasts an intense six weeks. There they receive training in the fundamentals of K2 automatic weapon marksmanship, physical fit-

ness and R.O.K. Marine Corps customs and courtesies, all through the watchful eyes of drill instructors.

Marines around the world share many similarities, whether it's customs and courtesies, warfighting strategies or ethos.

"R.O.K. Marines and U.S. Marines both show a lot of pride, as if they are the best of the best," said R.O.K. Marine Cpl. Calvin Lee, a combat photographer.

There are also quite a few differences. One of the biggest is the amount of pay R.O.K. Marine troops receive.

"From private through sergeant, we get paid only ten U.S. dollars a month," said Lee.

Authority is more decentralized in the U.S. Marine Corps.

"The Korean officers do the job that my staff NCOs and NCOs do," said Cpl. Daniel Hong, a Korean interpreter brought aboard the Marine Combined Forces Command from MCAS Yuma, Ariz.

## Military reaps good seed at UFL

After more than a month, service members get a chance to enjoy life in "Tent City"

**Cpl. Luis R. Agostini**  
*Marine Forces Pacific Public Affairs*

**PALAN, Republic of Korea** — "We're going to the field."

For many Marines and sailors, that statement may create images of mud, rain, homesickness and a variety of other gut-wrenching feelings. However, soldiers from the 22nd Korean Service Corps Co., 194th Maintenance Bn., 473rd Field Service Co. and 226th Signals Co., ensured that the transition from sunny Hawaii to Camp Palan would go as smoothly as possible.

Camp Palan, a 225,000 square-foot soccer field, located below the Republic of Korea Marine Corps Headquarters Building on base, was transformed into the living and dining quarters for most of Ulchi Focus Lens 2002 participants.

About 23 soldiers from the 22nd KSC Co., and about 10 soldiers from the Department of Public Works, Camp Humphreys, Korea, arrived here July 17 to set up living quarters and telephone communi-



Cpl. Luis R. Agostini

**Military policemen in the Republic of Korea Marines ensured safety at Ulchi Focus Lens.**

cation for the 230 UFL 02 participants living on Camp Palan.

Soldiers from the 194th Maintenance Bn., Camp Humphreys, completed the mission Aug. 1, finishing last minute details.

They received the opportunity to tour the sites of Korea. A liberty shuttle, operated by Marine Forces Pacific motor transportation Marines, provided daily transportation for service members to Osan Air Base. From there, they ventured into town where they became familiar with the Korean culture.

However, the Marines did not have to leave

Camp Palan for morale boosters. In the administration tent, an Internet café was set up, allowing them to catch up on the latest news and send e-mails to their loved ones back home. For those preferring a more personal means of communication, phone lines were set up by the 226th Signals Co., Camp Humphreys.

Whether it was watching the latest home video release, or reading the latest issue of *Stars & Stripes*, the Morale, Welfare and Recreation tent gave the UFL 02 staff a chance to unwind.

After standing their 12-

hour shifts, service members were able to look forward to a nice, warm shower in the shave and shower facility, set up by the 473rd Field Service Co., Camp Kyle.

The true high was the hot chow, which was provided twice a day by a close-knit unit of food service specialists from MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

Service members had their choice of a variety of tasty breakfast and dinner meals, and an endless supply of delicious meals ready to eat for lunch.

Some Marines, like Sgt. Donny Plumley, a MarForPac staff judge advocate paralegal, were surprised at the selection of food provided by the mess hall staff.

"We ate fresh omelettes in the field," said Plumley. "What more can you ask for?"

Marines and soldiers alike greatly appreciated the teamwork and opportunity to participate in a successful joint effort.

"It was a good experience," said Army Sgt. Diosdado Claveria, generator mechanic from Camp Humphreys.

"I've worked with Marines before, but this is the biggest Marine unit I've supported, and I am impressed by their hard work and respectfulness," he added.

## WORD ON THE STREET

**"What were you doing during the Sept. 11 attacks?"**



"I was talking to my mom on the phone. We watched the attacks together on the T.V."

**Cpl. Ana L. Ayala**

Supply clerk  
CSSG-3



"I was preparing to conduct Marine Corps Martial Arts Program Training."

**Staff Sgt. Jason L. Hyndman**

Radio technician  
1st Radio Bn.



"I was discussing the plans of the day with some fellow NCOs."

**Petty Officer 3rd Class Sorann Khim**

Corpsman  
Fox Co., 2/3



"I was asleep, but my Dad called and told me about the attacks."

**Lance Cpl. David M. Gauer**

Purchasing clerk  
1st Radio Bn.



"I was talking to my wife on the phone, and she told me to turn on the news."

**1st Sgt. Troy A. Frazier**

First sergeant  
Combat Support Co., 3rd Marines

## EVERY CLIME AND PLACE

# 'Doing nothing about Iraq is not an option'

**Jim Garamone**

*American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON — Doing nothing about the serious threat Saddam Hussein poses to the world is not an option for the United States, President Bush said Wednesday.

Speaking during a meeting with Democratic and Republican leaders of Congress, President Bush said he looks forward to an open dialogue with Congress about the threat Iraq poses. He said the United States would work with the United Nations to counter the Iraqi threat.

President Bush said he will remind the United Nations that for 11 years, Saddam Hussein "has side-stepped, 'crawfished,' wheedled out of any agreement he had made not to ... develop weapons of mass destruction, [and] agreements he's made to treat the people within his country with respect," he said.

"I'm going to call upon the world to recognize that

[Hussein] is stalling the world, and I will ... talk about ways to make sure that he fulfills his obligations," the president said.

Reporters asked President Bush if getting U.N. arms inspectors back into Iraq was an option.

"The issue is not inspectors; the issue is disarmament," President Bush responded. "This is a man who said he would not arm up. This is a man who told the world that he would not harbor weapons of mass destruction. That's the primary issue. And I'll be discussing ways to make sure that that is the case."

President Bush will meet with British Prime Minister Tony Blair this weekend. Prime Minister Blair, talking to reporters in Britain Sept. 3, said the problem Iraq poses "is not one for the United States alone." He defended U.S. calls for regime change in Baghdad, and told re-



**BUSH**

porters that Iraq is "not some benign little democracy."

Prime Minister Blair said Saddam tortures and executes political enemies and "was probably responsible for up to 100,000 Kurdish people dying in a brutal campaign." He reiterated that Iraq has used weapons of mass destruction and is seeking to build more and more powerful weapons.

"Either the [Iraqi] regime functions in an entirely different way, or the regime has to change," Prime Minister Blair told the reporters.

In the next few days, President Bush said he will also meet with Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien, and he said he would speak with the leaders of Russia, China and France. Following those conversations he will speak at the United Nations.

"I am going to state clearly to the United Nations what I think, and I think that [Hussein] has not fulfilled any of the obligations ... that he made to the world. And I believe it's important for the world to deal with this man."

## Pentagon paintings capture 9 - 11 combat air patrols

Story and Photos by  
**Jim Garamone**

*American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON — September 11 was a day when Americans rushed to the aid of each other.

New York firefighters and policemen rushed into the World Trade Center, military and civilian personnel rushed into stricken offices of the Pentagon, medical personnel in New York and Washington rushed to their duty stations, and America's Air National Guard rushed to protect the United States against a terrorist enemy that turned passenger jets into guided missiles.

Air Force Secretary Jim Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper unveiled two paintings honoring that moment at a Sept. 4 ceremony in the Pentagon.

The paintings, by Rick



**A North Dakota National Guard F-16 fighter screams over a burning Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001.**

Herter, are now a part of the Air Force Art Collection. They were sponsored by Rolls Royce North America and Boeing Integrated Defense Systems.

One painting catches the moment an F-15 of the 102nd Fighter Wing, Massachusetts National Guard, arrived over the World Trade Center in New York. The other catches an F-16 of the 199th Fighter Wing, North Dakota National Guard, as it screamed over a burning Pentagon.

The pilots of the air-

craft, Lt. Col. Tim Duffy of the 102nd and Maj. Dean Eckman of the 119th, attended the unveiling.

"In those airplanes were pilots who had to contemplate doing the unthinkable. It's what all of us are trained to do, but none of us ever thought we might have to do someday," Jumper said, "and that is, to deal with the imponderable situation of having to confront one of our own airplanes, in our own skies, filled with our own citizens."

Jumper said the paintings capture the horror and spirit of the moment.

Herter said artists, reporters and photographers have always accompanied warriors onto the battlefield to chronicle great moments in

American history.

"Some of us would argue as to whether this is a great moment in American history," Herter said. "But I believe what made it great was the response of our military that day and the courage of the firefighters, police officers and rescue personnel."

The paintings are homages to the men and women of the military who put in long hours defending America, he said.

"Most of us go to bed each night and don't give those people a second thought. We live in a country that has been safe and secure for so long, and we have taken it for granted because our warriors are so good at what they do."

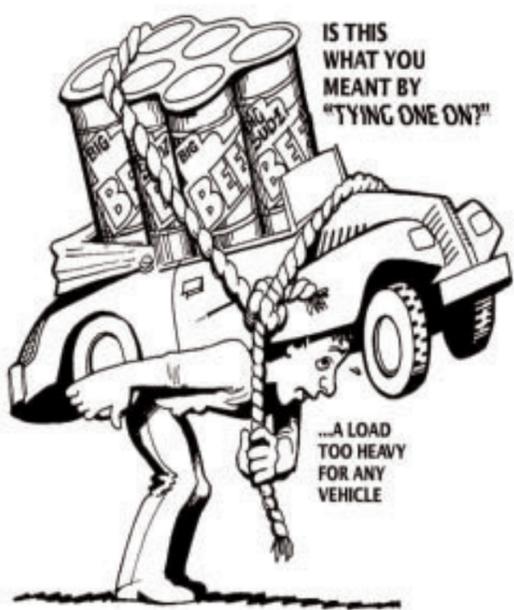
"It's very appropriate that these paintings are featured here at the Pentagon, because it is this building. Many of the individuals [here] that bear the scars of that morning."

The paintings will hang in Corridor 9.



**Artist Dick Herter joined Air Force officials when they unveiled two paintings Wednesday in the Pentagon. The artwork captures the arrivals of Air National Guard fighters over New York's World Trade Center and over the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001.**

## Regarding driving after drinking...



# Pay info becomes available, no farther than your fingertips

Army Sgt. 1st Class  
Kathleen T. Rhem

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Anything you ever wanted to know about your military pay but didn't know who to ask is now available within a couple of mouse clicks.

The Office of the Secretary of Defense has a military compensation Web site available at [military-pay.dtic.mil/pay/index.html](http://military-pay.dtic.mil/pay/index.html).

The site explains the differences between pay and allowances and describes the intended purpose for the various allowances. For instance, Basic Allowance for Subsistence is designed to offset the costs of a member's meals, but is "not intended to offset the costs of meals for family members," it says.

A separate Basic Allowance for Housing primer available on the site explains the ins and outs of BAH, including how it's computed and

why payment rates can differ so much from one location to another.

A link to the "Regular Military Compensation Calculator" can give service members a glimpse of how their pay and tax-free allowances stack up against civilian pay.

For instance, an E-6 with eight years of service living in the Washington, D.C., area with a spouse and two kids would have to earn more than \$51,000 to take home the same amount after state and federal taxes are deducted.

Active duty members approaching their 15th year of service might find the retirement choice calculator particularly helpful.

Members who entered active service after July 31, 1986, have to choose at 15 years whether they'll opt for the "high-three" or "redux" retirement plans.

High-three basically pays you 50 percent of the average of your three highest paying years of service.

Redux pays you a \$30,000 bonus at 15 years, then 40 percent of your base pay per month at retirement. Both have positive and negative points, and service members need to choose based on their personal situation.

A calculator on this site allows you to input personal data and then gives you charts to show how much each option would provide you over 40-year period.

Other sections on this site fully explain survivor benefits and the Thrift Savings Plan.

Other online sites provide additional information. Reserve-component and civilian pay charts can be found at [www.dfas.mil](http://www.dfas.mil); stateside and overseas per diem rates are at [www.dtic.mil/perdiem/pdrates.html](http://www.dtic.mil/perdiem/pdrates.html); and links to information on the federal long-term care insurance program, federal civilian careers and personnel matters are available on [www.opm.gov](http://www.opm.gov).

## Exceptional family members have support groups

Ed Josiah  
EFMP Coordinator

Are you enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member Program? Or, are you confused about what enrolling in EFMP can do for you?

If you are the sponsor of a special needs family member and would like to meet other special needs families, or if you have questions concerning the EFMP, the Military Committee for Persons with Disabilities has established

a support group onboard MCB Hawaii to help you answer those questions.

The support group was created by the MCPD in July, specifically to provide EFMP families an opportunity to meet and discuss their many issues regarding learning, mental and physical disabilities.

Resource information will be available to help sponsors make sound decisions



about their special needs family member.

Several topics will be discussed, and they include:

- Special education laws
- Parents rights in the public schools
- IEPs
- The Americans with

Disabilities Act

- The EFMP here, and much more.

Support group meetings are designed to provide families an opportunity to:

- Network
- Meet new friends

- Share issues and concerns
- Acquire information on local and base resources
- Lend to and obtain support from other families who face similar challenges or interests.

The first meeting of the Exceptional Family Member Program's general support group will be Tuesday at 6:30 pm at the Base Chapel, which is located in Bldg. 1090 adjacent to Dunkin' Donuts.

Childcare will be provided for participants.

For more information, contact the Exceptional Family Member Program at 254-2135.



Pfc. Monroe F. Seigle

Lance Cpl. Brett J. Goehring, a crew chief with HMH-363, observes the airfield at MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, during an operation.

The safety of the helicopter, airways and all aboard aircraft is the responsibility of men and women known as

# Crew Chiefs

**Pfc. Monroe F. Seigle**  
*Combat Correspondent*

Two pilots enter the cockpit of a CH-53D Sea Stallion helicopter. The propellers of the massive aircraft come to life while a vibrant hum of the powerful engine fills the air.

In order for the two operators of the aircraft to successfully complete a mission, a well-trained crew chief conducts a thorough pre-flight inspection to ensure that all monitored systems are functioning and to be sure that the aircraft will be safe for its next flight.

The crew chiefs of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363 at MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, have several guidelines they must follow when they check the aircraft for abnormal indications in all operational equipment.

Regardless of how many times they have inspected the aircraft, their precision in each pre-flight inspection is vital to the well being of all individuals occupying the aircraft during the flight.

Crew chief mechanics' jobs consist of daily flights, maintaining and inspecting the CH-53D. They must memorize the

outer and inner workings of the helicopter and be able to notice telltale signs of a possible malfunction before it occurs.

If a malfunction occurs during flight, it could end up being a disastrous and even deadly situation for all those aboard the aircraft.

Not only does the crew chief perform many rigorous inspections but also he is responsible for making sure that the aircraft is free from all obstructions the pilot might not be able to see during flight, which could include other aircraft.

"The crew chief is my eyes and ears during the flight," said Capt. Ben E. King, air frames officer for HMH-363. "He is an essential part of the crew. I would not be able to fly the aircraft without him."

Because the safety of everyone aboard the aircraft is at stake, a crew chief's job can be very stressful.

"If something as simple as a pin comes loose during flight, it could throw off the aerodynamics of the aircraft and the pilot could lose control," said Lance Cpl. Brett J. Goehring, a crew chief mechanic for HMH-363.



Pfc. Monroe F. Seigle

Lance Cpl. Brett J. Goehring, a crew chief with HMH Squadron 363, observes the surrounding area of a CH-53D while flying above the Pacific Ocean.

"If there is a problem during flight, I isolate the problem and decide whether or not to land the aircraft or continue on with the mission," he explained.

"Being a crew chief is not always an easy job," said Goehring. "After a long day of flying, I am usually exhausted and my ears are ringing from the sound of the engine inside the aircraft. But I think my job is one of the most exciting yet chal-

lenging jobs in the Marine Corps."

As another exhausting day comes to an end for crew chiefs, they know the time spent meticulously inspecting the many different mechanical components of a CH-53D has been well worth it.

Another mission has been successfully completed. Crew chiefs have ensured the safety of all in the airways and on the grounds below.

## Receiving shipboard honors



Photo Courtesy of Golf Co., 2nd Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment

Marines and Sailors from Golf Co., 2nd Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment, gathered aboard the Battleship Missouri at the Pearl Harbor Naval Complex, Sept. 2, where several Marines were promoted and awarded for their accomplishments. The battalion's scheduled for deployment later this month.

## SALUTES

Headquarters Bn.,  
MCB Hawaii

### *Promotions*

Cpl. Florencio Bermudez Jr.  
Cpl. Eric B. Deleon  
Lance Cpl. Edwin Arce Jr.  
Lance Cpl. Charles M. Jackson  
Lance Cpl. James Owens Jr.  
Lance Cpl. Brenda Perez  
Lance Cpl. Casey W. Riddle  
Lance Cpl. Brian O. Whitt  
Lance Cpl. Melba M. Willhite  
Pfc. Edwin Collado  
Pfc. Billy N. Edwards  
Pfc. Stefon A. Herbert  
Pfc. Brenda Saldivar

### *Navy Achievement Medal*

Staff Sgt. Alejandro Lejandro Solis Jr.  
(second award)

### *Good Conduct Medals*

Cpl. Anthony J. Banewicz (first award)  
Cpl. Andrew J. Belli (first award)  
Cpl. Justin A. Melton (first award)  
Lance Cpl. Thelton Plumzy (first award)  
Lance Cpl. John H. Shearer (first award)

# SAFETY: Ground course graduates new managers

From A-1

impromptu safety brief, and most students said it helped build confidence.

"The presentations helped me see how different people in different units handle the same situations," said Cpl. Terrance L. Underwood, an airframes mechanic at Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463. "[They] prepared me to go back and make a difference in my squadron by identifying and weeding out safety concerns."

"We try to mix the Marines, Sailors, enlisted, officers and civilian employees into each class, so everyone gets a broad sense of how different people handle situations," said Ruth. "A good cross section like this makes the program and the course run smooth."



Sgt. Robert Carlson

**John Ruth, right, a safety trainer, hands a diploma to Cpl. Terrance L. Underwood, an airframe mechanic with HMH-463, at the end of the two-week course Aug. 30.**

The requirement for each unit to have a safety representative was the driving factor behind bringing the course to K-Bay, but the benefits far surpassed what was expected.

"This gives us a much better network

between the units of MCB Hawaii and the Base Safety Center," said Dan Martyniuk, ground safety specialist at the Base Safety Center. "The interaction and communication between the Base Safety Center and the units will increase significantly, and everyone will benefit from the partnership."

The next class is not scheduled until August 2003, but with newly-qualified safety managers now at their units, the benefits are already evident.

"When I was in the Marine Corps in the late 70s, we were losing a lot of people to workplace accidents," said Ruth. "We called it 'the price of doing business.' That's all changed; we're committed to workplace safety."

## RODENTS, From A-1

the area inspector immediately.

Ensure that all foods are in containers and not left on counters, tabletops, stoves etc. Plastic containers work best for storage.

Be especially watchful at night not to leave any food out in the open, outside or inside the house. The smallest morsel of food can be detected by a hungry mouse from extensive distances.

"If someone wants to trap the mice themselves, one of the best baits for mouse traps is peanut

butter," said Freeland.

"However, it is very unsafe to use poison around the house, especially if there are children present. If children are present, be sure to place the traps in places they would not have access to," he added.

Self Help, in Bldg. 1505, will check out mouse traps made of glue and springs, free of charge.

If mice continue to be a problem in your location, contact pest control personnel at MCB Hawaii for an extermination appointment.

