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Hawaii Marine

John Finn dies at 100

Kristen Wong
Photojournalist


Finn

John Finn, namesake of the headquarters building bearing his name aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, died in California yesterday at the age of 100.

The retired Navy lieutenant was stationed aboard then Naval Air Station Kaneohe Bay during the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Oahu, and shot at enemy planes with a .50-caliber machine gun despite multiple wounds.

His decorations included the Medal of Honor and the Purple Heart. He was the guest of honor at the 28th annual Kaneohe Klipper Memorial Ceremony Dec. 7, 2009, reportedly the last trip he ever made.

Guardian Angel

Marine survives firefight by 6 inches

Sgt. Brian Tuthill
Regimental Combat Team 7

NAWA, Helmand Province, Afghanistan — All Marines endure some risk of serious injury or even death while deployed to combat, but for Lance Cpl. Christopher J. Gray, a few inches and a punctured rifle is all that separated him from a very bad day on the battlefield.

Gray, a 20-year-old rifleman with Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, and his Marines are no strangers to direct conflicts with insurgents in Nawa's northern area. On May 15, during the final patrol of his deployment, Gray and his seasoned squad were in a firefight near Patrol Base Poole.

The squad was engaged by approximately eight insurgents from two locations with machine guns and AK-47 rifles.

The patrol found cover in a nearby irrigation canal during the battle and Gray, who had his M-16A4 up in his shoulder looking through his rifle combat optics at a nearby building, heard the crack of a bullet and felt a sharp pain in his face.

Gray said he heard and felt shock of the bullet's impact, causing him to drop his rifle to his side.

See INCHES, A-6

What's in a Name?

1/3 Marines in Nawa honor fallen brothers

Sgt. Brian Tuthill
Regimental Combat Team 7

NAWA, Helmand Province, Afghanistan – Since their deployment to Afghanistan began in November, the Marines of 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, have conducted counterinsurgency operations from dozens of positions throughout Nawa District.

They have lived at these small camps and traveled on roads named by their predecessors, the Marines of 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, after their push into the area during Operation Khanjar last summer.

As new positions were erected and new roads established over the past few months, the Marines of 1/3 took the opportunity to name these locations for their five brothers killed during the deployment.

Those five Marines are the honored namesakes of Range Juarez, Patrol Base

See FALLEN, A-6

Welcome Home Lava Dogs


Lance Cpl. Vanessa M. American Horse | Hawaii Marine

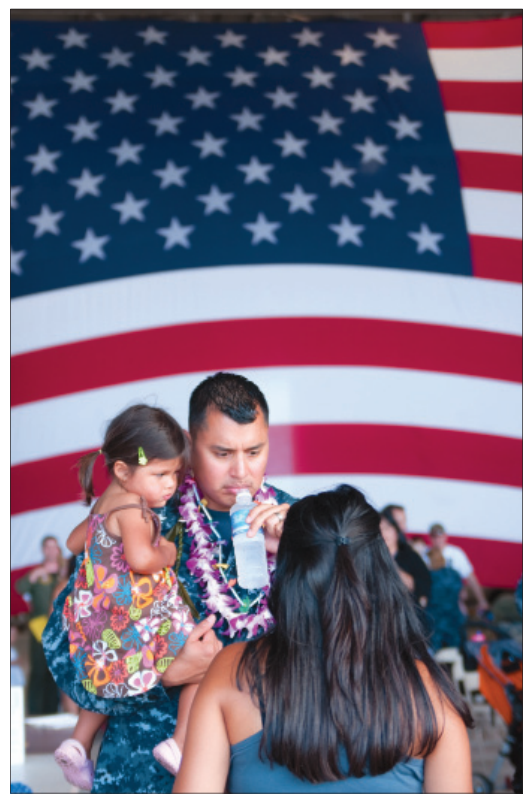
Greeted by his wife, 1st Lt. Charles W. Dotterrer sees his baby girl for the first time Wednesday after his seven-month deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. A total of 144 advance party Marines and sailors from 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment returned from Afghanistan to their family and friends. The main body is scheduled to return within a few weeks.

Golden Swordsmen return to Hawaii



Photos by Christine Cabalo | Hawaii Marine

Petty Officer 2nd Class Derek Schaefer, naval aircrewman, Patrol Squadron 47, hugs his family as other squadron members step off their plane May 20. Schaefer was one of several to return from a six-month deployment to Iraq and Japan. The unit supported patrols, reconnaissance and long-range missions.


Petty Officer Gilbert Rivas, aviation electronics technician, VP-47, spends time with his family May 20.

VP-47 welcomed back at K-Bay

Christine Cabalo
Photojournalist

Excited cheers and the rattling of flag-decorated maracas greeted Patrol Squadron 47 sailors who returned to Marine Corps Base Hawaii from May 20 through this week.

The Golden Swordsmen were welcomed back after a six-month deployment supporting operations in Japan and Iraq. Family, friends and pets welcomed 132 sailors who landed last Friday from Japan at Hangar 105. More sailors returned later on, coming in from Iraq.

"I'm looking forward to spending time at the beach with my dog and my fiancee," said Dallas native Petty Officer 2nd Class Adam Spann, naval aircrewman operator, VP-47.

Spann's fiancee and labrador shepherd mixed breed dog, Sake, were the first to greet him. Sake, named after the Japanese drink, and Spann's fiancee welcomed him back with an orchid lei and a hug. The Dallas native said he's glad to be back in Hawaii, and he'll enjoy a return to drumming in his band "This Ghost Is Dancing."

Some families crafted handmade signs for their loved ones, like Petty Officer 2nd Class Derek Schaefer's children. They simply wrote, "Hi" on yellow paper attached to a painted blue stick. Schaefer, an aircrewman operator, won a raffle for the first person off the plane to meet his family.

Others chose to express their homecoming messages to loved ones on T-shirts, like Brandy Stoudt's two older children, Pahyton and Makayla. The duo wore matching

See VP-47, A-6

Community honors service members with appreciation day

Sgt. Juan D. Alfonso
U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific

HONOLULU — Thousands of Hawaii-based service members, friends and family gathered May 22 in Waikiki for Military Appreciation Day.

The annual event, sponsored by USO Hawaii and the city and county of Honolulu, featured complimentary admission, food and drinks at the Honolulu Zoo for service members and their families.

Across the street at Kapiolani Park, the Combined Armed Forces Jazz Band, Hawaii, the Royal Hawaiian Band, local singer Henry Kapono and Blues rockers "Friends of Adam" played a collection of tunes.

Numerous booths and activities for the families were also provided.

"One of the ways the USO supports

See APPRECIATION, A-6


Sgt. Juan D. Alfonso | U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific

This year's Military Appreciation Day, sponsored by USO Hawaii and the city and county of Honolulu, featured musical performances, free admission, food and drinks at the Honolulu Zoo and a parade.

Inside today's Hawaii Marine



Take to the mats
Semper Fit Youth Wrestling team compete in a 200 person tournament, **B-2**



Into the wild
Hawaii Marine ventures into the unknown to discover himself, **C-1**

Weekend Forecast

Today	Saturday	Sunday
Scattered Showers	Scattered Showers	Scattered Showers
High — 85	High — 85	High — 86
Low — 70	Low — 71	Low — 72

NEWS BRIEFS

Marine Corps Casualty Assistance Calls Officer Training

From June 14 to June 16, Headquarters Marine Corps Casualty Section will conduct its annual CACO training on Marine Corps Base Hawaii in order to ensure those personnel involved in the administration and execution of the Casualty Assistance Program within MCB Hawaii and other indigenous units located on Oahu are provided adequate information pertaining to casualty policies, procedures, and responsibilities.

Training is scheduled at the Base Theater on June 14 and 15; and Building 208, Room 201 on June 16. Point of contact is Amy Madsen at 457-8866 or amy.madsen@usmc.mil.

MCB Hawaii Satisfaction Survey

Since last fall, the base has been taking various actions to improve the quality of service and base culture. To measure progress on these "Wildly Important Goals," the commanding officer of MCB Hawaii requests all base personnel (active duty/civil service/contractor) and customers take a short survey to determine levels of satisfaction within these two areas. Survey is available until June 11 and will be used to measure progress from the baseline measurement survey conducted six months ago.

Survey link: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NBLWPFD

Road Closures

G Street

Dates: Until May 28

Description: Closure of "G" Street to thru traffic at the intersection with 3rd Street. Closure will be at 6 p.m. to 2:30 a.m., Monday through Friday. Vehicles entering the base via the H-3 Gate will need to make a right turn on 3rd Street. Vehicles leaving the base via the H-3 gate will need to approach the intersection from 3rd Street only.

Third Street (Continuing)

Dates: Until May 31

Description: Closure of westbound (toward runway) lane between G Street and Selden Street. Flagmen to alternately control traffic around work area utilizing eastbound lane.

The closures are for new waterline construction and worker safety. For further information about this construction, contact Philip Lum at 257-6900.

Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE)

ICE provides customers with a convenient and efficient online method to express opinions to service providers with the option to receive feedback. You can share a comment, recommend an improvement or just say "good job" or "thanks." You may also use it to obtain information on services of interest (i.e. hours of operation, location, frequently asked questions, and special events). We want to hear from you about how MCB Hawaii services are doing at: http://ice.disa.mil. Just click on "Marine Corps-Pacific," which will lead you to Marine Corps Base Kaneohe Bay. Choose your service category to go to over 250 service providers. Although it's not mandatory, we recommend that you provide

your contact information so that the service providers are able to contact you to address your concerns and issues, if necessary.

Questions: contact the MCBH ICE Site Manager at 257-1283 or e-mail: therese.foster@usmc.mil.

CORRECTION

In the May 21 issue in the story "Learning to prevent sexual assault," the Mentors in Violence Prevention Program was misidentified in the article on page C-6.

Important Phone Numbers:

On-Base Emergencies	911
Military Police	257-7114
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Pothole & Streetlight Repair	257-2380
Base Information	449-7110
MCBH Duty Chaplain	257-7700
DEERS	257-2077

Hawaii Marine
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Top acts in aviation to fly K-Bay skies

Lance Cpl. Vanessa M. American Horse
Combat Correspondent

The skies above Marine Corps Base Hawaii are being checked out in preparation for September's big air show. Pilots are getting ready for MCB Hawaii presents the Kaneohe Bay Air Show, scheduled Sept. 25 to 26, which includes the U.S. Navy Blue Angels.

"We are expecting visitors from far away as the East Coast and Japan, excited to see this air show," said Chief Warrant Officer 5 Pete O'Hare, air show director, MCB Hawaii.

The highlight of the free show will be a the Blue Angels. Other scheduled performers include noted pilots Tim Weber, Greg Poe, Mike Wiscus, Jacquie B. Airshow, Hank Bruckner, Chuck Aaron and Clint Churchill. A precision freefall parachute demonstration is also scheduled for the event.

"Residents of Hawaii deserve this." O'Hare said. "They do a lot for the military and this is one way we can give back to the communities. We've included nothing but the top acts in aviation."

The route for the performing aircraft is a 5-mile radius, over water, circling the MCB Hawaii peninsula. The aircraft will fly to a maximum of 1,500 feet in the air, depending on the type of show.

Aircraft of all shapes and sizes will be flown into Kaneohe Bay from all over the U.S. for static displays.

Spectators will be able to take pictures and get close to the wide variety of military aircraft. Historic arms and uniforms will also be displayed. Visitors will be able to go inside the larger aircraft.The air show will be held in conjunction with Bayfest and a new attraction, the Taste of Oahu. Gates open at 9 a.m. each day. Large crowds are expected to attend the free show, held on Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay's flight line.

Traffic and parking may become an issue since there are limited parking spaces nearby the show.

"Come early and stay late," suggests 1st Lt. Derick E. Daley, Military Police operations officer, Provost Marshal Office. "There is plenty of entertainment for young and old, alike. It all starts as soon as the gates open."

Remote parking can also be utilized from the Pacific Aviation Museum located on Ford Island.

For more information visit http://www.mcbh.usmc.mil/airshow and see upcoming issues of the Hawaii Marine.

The final salute



Kristen Wong | Hawaii Marine

Sgt. Maj. Robert C. Hollings, sergeant major, 3rd Marine Division, retired after more than 30 years in the Marine Corps. His ceremony was held between Hangars 101 and 102 last week Friday. Hollings, of Florida, is the recipient of many decorations including the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, Navy Unit Commendation and the Joint Meritorious Unit Award. Hollings has supported Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm while deployed in 1991. Hollings' spouse, Sgt. Maj. Susan Hollings, was promoted to sergeant major during his retirement ceremony. Sgt. Maj. Susan Hollings, of Indianapolis, is now the squadron sergeant major for Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533 at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort.

Staying safe this holiday weekend and beyond

Christine Cabalo
Photojournalist

Packed to capacity with Marines and sailors on Wednesday, the first of several Memorial Day safety stand downs this week covered critical life and death matters.

Working to reduce fatalities, Marine Corps Base Hawaii's Base Safety office encouraged base personnel to be especially cautious during the holiday weekend. The office promoted this message the week before Memorial Day weekend, kicking off their seasonal summer safety campaign.

"The main message we want [the public] to take away is to be aware of the environment around them as well as their friends and family," said Derek DeMauro, safety specialist, Base Safety. "Especially since a lot of people are on vacation and with children out of school, there's more going on in the summer time."

This year, more than 20 Marine Corps personnel died due to safety failures on the job and off the clock, according a recent daily statistical update from the Naval Safety Center's website.

Addressing issues including water safety and suicide prevention, guest speakers from various departments on base had a chance to talk to audiences.

"We're hopefully starting it off on a safe note," said DeMauro, from Waipahu. "We'll be providing [needed] information."

Recent deaths of MCB Hawaii service members, including a car crash fatality earlier this month and an off-duty boating death in March, make the message a matter of life or death. As more people have time off during the weekend holiday, DeMauro said injuries and fatalities could be likely.

One area the public must be watchful is near the water, said Dino Leonard, assistant manager, Marine Corps Community Services Aquatics. Leonard hosted the stand down's water safety portion to prevent injury or fatal drowning. He notes checking in with a lifeguard is one way to take control of personal safety and look out for loved ones near the water.

At MCB Hawaii's beaches, Leonard noted warning flags are posted to beach users to alert them about water conditions. Red flags signal waves are too high, white ones mean waves at calm levels. Beaches patrolled by the City and County of Honolulu don't use flags, he said, so beach users need to be additionally attentive.

"Everyone wants to go to the beach when it's hot," said Leonard, from Upland, Calif. "Sometimes they go early in the morning or late in the evening, when there are no lifeguards posted. Or they go to areas where there are no lifeguards."

Leonard noted beach users must be careful against drowning and related water injuries. These include keeping an eye out for poisonous marine animals and knowing how to avoid dangerous environments.

Both Leonard and DeMauro said the public could increase their safety by evaluating any danger in their surroundings.

"We want to make people more aware of these things so they'll be able to prevent [danger]," DeMauro said.

DeMauro said one of the best weapons against accidents is planning. Having a clear plan for any activity is the best route to take. Scheduling time to check in with loved ones could be critical.

"Safety is a broad area," the safety specialist said. "In everything we do, whether it's work or recreation, [the public] just needs to be aware. We need to look out for each other."

AROUND THE CORPS

Your weekly guide to what's happening around the Corps

East Coast



Lance Cpl. Katherine M. Solano | 2nd Marine Logistics Group

Jane Wayne Day: a family affair enjoyed by all

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. — Family members of all ages came out to participate in a mock day in the life of their Marine counterparts during 2nd Supply Battalion's second annual Jane Wayne Day aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., May 21.

Jane Wayne Day allows wives and relatives to participate in various training activities, such as Marine Corps Martial Arts and weapons firing that their Marines conduct on a daily basis.

See http://www.marines.mil

West Coast



Pfc. John Robbart III | Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton

The transformation of Marine riflemen to shooting coaches

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — If the Marine Corps is known as a gun club, the Formal Marksmanship Training Course is their clubhouse.

The Formal Marksmanship Training Course teaches Marines how to effectively pass on their rifleman skills by certifying them as shooting coaches.

It is a four-week curriculum that instructs students how to train Marines on the fundamentals of rifle and pistol marksmanship. Attendees learn these skills in both a classroom setting and during shooting drills at a weapons range.

See http://www.marines.mil

Overseas



Sgt. Whitney Houston | Marine Forces Reserve

4th Marine Division CG visits troops in Morocco

AGADIR, Morocco — Brig. Gen. James Lariviere, the commanding general of the New Orleans-based 4th Marine Division, traveled here May 16 to visit U.S. service members participating in African Lion 2010.

About 700 Marines and sailors from Marine Forces Reserve, as well as several hundred Navy SEABEEs and U.S. Army and Air National Guardsmen are participating in this month-long joint and combined theater security cooperation exercise.

See http://www.marines.mil



This week's top story



Cpl. Richard Blumenstein | Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command

Lt. Col. Nicholas P. Vavich, the commanding officer of U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command's Marine Special Operations Intelligence Battalion (MIB), salutes the colors during a ceremony, which officially activated the battalion May 18, at the MARSOC headquarters building. The battalion will train and provide intelligence to Marine special operations missions worldwide.

MARSOC stands up MIB

Cpl. Richard Blumenstein
Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. — U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command's Marine Special Operations Intelligence Battalion (MIB) officially activated during a ceremony on May 18, at the MARSOC headquarters building.

The battalion was reorganized from a company in response to the ever-growing capabilities of MARSOC.

The mission of the MIB is to train, sustain, maintain combat readiness, and provide intelligence support at all operational levels within MARSOC, and to support MARSOC training and operations worldwide with mission specific capabilities.

"The MARSOC Intelligence Battalion produces the direct support teams, SOTF (Special Operations Task Force) enhancements, and other capabilities as needed by the commander of U.S. Special Operations Command, and the Commander of U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command," said Col. Richard Anders, the commanding officer of Marine Special Operations Support Group. "These intelligence capabilities are integral elements of our operating forces and a critical ingredient of the Marine Special Operations' concept."

During the ceremony, Anders addressed all in attendance and gave a special thanks to Lt. Gen. Dennis J. Hejlik, the commanding officer of II Marine Expeditionary Force, and former commander of MARSOC.

"A special welcome and word of gratitude is in order for General Hejlik, who four years ago, planted the seeds of Marine Special Operations Intelligence," Anders said. "Sir, the fruit of your vision and labor, along with that of your team four years ago, is before you."

See http://www.marines.mil

Top story from the front



Cpl. Justis T. Beauregard | 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (FWD)

The Supply Management Unit lot aboard Camp Leatherneck burns, May 16. Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 274 fought to contain the fire to save nearby facilities. Marines with Crash Fire Rescue also worked to subdue the blaze with water.

Marines battle fire aboard Camp Leatherneck

Cpl. Justis T. Beauregard
3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (FWD)

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan — A large cloud of smoke rolled into the air as the Supply Management Unit lot erupted in flames, May 16, — a stomach-churning site, especially in a combat zone.

Marines from Crash Fire Rescue and Heavy Equipment operators with Marine Wing Support Squadron 274 were among the first on the scene. Plowing right into the heart of the inferno, the heavy equipment operators worked hard to contain the fire by pushing dirt onto the blaze.

"The bulldozers played a huge role in containing the fire," said Sgt. Travis Hill, a heavy equipment lot manager for MWSS-274, who drove one of the bulldozers. "The dirt provided a berm to keep the fire from spreading."

The Marines with Crash Fire Rescue also worked to subdue the blaze with water.

"We immediately started doing our jobs," said Cpl. Nathan Corthell. "We laid out the hose and started spraying it down with the roof turret to cool and suppress the fire."

As if the furious fire on the base wasn't trouble enough for the Marines, a massive sand storm hit the base in the middle of the fight, blinding the Marines and stoking the fire.

"Right before the sand storm, we all thought we could get the fire contained and out," said Corthell. "As soon as the sandstorm hit, it started moving the fire around and it immediately became hard to contain. The sand got so thick you couldn't see three or four feet in front of you."

See http://www.marines.mil

Engaging with more than Rounds







Lance Cpl. Scott B. Raff, assistant patrol leader, 2nd squad, 2nd platoon, Company F, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines, and a native of Springfield, Mo., takes a knee during a dismounted patrol at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows May 20.



Photos by Lance Cpl. Reece E. Lodder | Hawaii Marine

A Marine assigned to Company F, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines, and an Afghan National Police role player sight in following an improvised explosive device attack at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows May 20. (Top) Lance Cpl. Nicholas Tunnell, squad leader, 2nd squad, 2nd platoon, Company F, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines, and a native of Phoenix, establishes a rapport with an Afghan local national on a patrol at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows May 20.

Marines with Company F, 2nd platoon, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines, listen intently as Mustafa Amanyar, interpreter and foreign language specialist, Defense Training Systems, and a native of north Kabul, Afghanistan, teaches them how to say "thank you" in Pashto during a Cultural Lane class at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows May 20.

'Island Warriors' prepare for OEF deployment

Lance Cpl. Reece E. Lodder
Combat Correspondent

MARINE CORPS TRAINING AREA BELLOWS — Marines assigned to 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, participated in predeployment training requirements at MCTAB, May 20.

In coordination with contractor Defense Training Systems, the Island Warriors executed the weeklong training evolution for the second time in recent months. They are slated to support I Marine Expeditionary Force on an Operation Enduring Freedom deployment in winter 2010.

"The mission of the training evolution is to allow the platoon commanders to tactically exercise their platoons in a COIN [counterinsurgency operations] environment in preparation for our upcoming OEF deployment," said Lt. Col. John Evans, battalion commanding officer, 2/3, and a native of Tupelo, Miss. "It's our last major training event for COIN prior to being evaluated at Enhanced Mojave Viper."

During the evolution, 2/3 Marines practiced quick reaction forces, vehicle control points and entry control points and executed mounted and dismounted patrols. On the patrols, they employed Humvees and Oshkosh M-ATVs, the Marine Corps' new mine resistant ambush protected armored fighting vehicles.

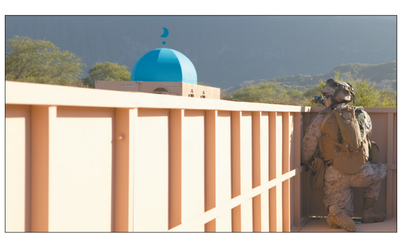
"The training evolution is part of a building block process," said Sgt. Maj. Chet Houston, battalion sergeant major, 2/3, and a native of Ark City, Kan. "It's set up so the Marines who've been on one or two deployments can pass their knowledge on to the brand new Marines."

Before each patrol, these squad leaders and assistant patrol leaders sat down with their Marines for mission briefings. They outlined the patrol's mission, described the area of operations, identified personnel of interest and covered rules of engagement.

"Having experience within the platoons helps out the younger Marines," said Sgt. Patrick Kennedy, platoon sergeant, Company F, 2nd platoon, 2/3 and a native of Portage, Ind. "The senior Marines are open with their combat experiences and help make the training as realistic as possible. We [the senior Marines] already know how to do things, so it's up to us to ensure the younger Marines know how."

In the middle of the dismounted patrols, each squad had the opportunity to partake in a "Cultural Lane" class taught by Afghan DTS employees.

"This is the second refresher class for the junior Marines before they go on their first pump [deployment]," said Lance Cpl. Jordan Christman, 2nd platoon, 1st squad, 2/3, Company F, and a native of Houston. "In the class, you learn some Pashto, customs and courtesies, and eat some Afghan food. It's pretty interesting."



Cpl. Tuan Nguyen, squad leader in training, 2nd platoon, Company F, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines, and a native of Myrtle Beach, S.C., provides coverage over the military operations in urban terrain training facility at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows May 20.

During the class, an interpreter taught the Marines common Pashto words and phrases, while another gave an in-depth explanation of Afghan culture, history, ethnic composition and languages.

"DTS #2 is an excellent [counterinsurgency operations] training tool," Houston said. "It puts Marines in the warrior mindset. Killing the enemy isn't hard — finding them is. This training helps us find them."

He stressed the importance of practicing COIN procedures, which he said would enable the Marines to effectively deal with injury, security and taking care of the populace. "It's all about total absorption and realistic training," Houston said.

An experienced training cadre of 2/3 Marines worked with DTS to set up the COIN operations scenarios and evaluate squad response and performance, Kennedy said.

Though the scenarios varied in mission, many included executing key leader engagements, meeting with tribal elders and building rapport within the villages. At times, peaceful situations developed into hostile ones and the Marines were forced to deal with improvised explosive device blasts.

The squads of infantrymen weren't the only Marines preparing for combat.

Sniper teams from 2/3 aided in the training by continuously conducting reconnaissance, collecting information and developing intelligence pictures out of the urban town, said 1st Lt. Joseph D. McNamara, executive officer, Company G, 2/3.

Between patrols, Marine Corps Base Hawaii explosive ordnance disposal gave classes to familiarize the infantry Marines with IEDs. They showed examples of IEDs insurgents have employed in theater, discussed how to detect them and explained the characteristics of those used in Afghanistan.

In addition, EOD responded to threats of possible IEDs, IED calls and blasts, allowing them to practice link-up procedures with on-scene commanders when integrating into infantry quick reaction forces.

Engineers assigned to 3rd Marine Regiment held generator mechanics classes, teaching Marines how to assess and address generator problems in a mechanic's absence.

The DTS #2 evolution further prepares the 2/3 Marines for their involvement as the ground combat element in the upcoming Rim of the Pacific Exercise.

Following RIMPAC, the battalion will complete predeployment training requirements with their evaluation at Enhanced Mojave Viper, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif.

FALLEN, from A-1

Swenson, Patrol Base Meinert, Route Pier and Patrol Base Poole.

Marines of Charlie Company, 1/3, also named Combat Outpost Reilly near Marjah during Operation Moshtarak in February, before another battalion took over that area.

That base is named for Lance Cpl. Thomas J. Reilly, Jr., the only Marine from 1/3 killed in action during the battalion's previous deployment to Karmah, Iraq.

On May 14, Marines of Headquarters and Service Company, 1/3, delivered a concrete security barrier to a small-arms rifle range just outside of Forward Operating Base Geronimo. One side is painted red with yellow letters, boldly identifying Range Juarez.

Cpl. Mark D. Juarez, who served with 1/3 as an armorer, was the first Marine killed during the deployment in January.

Although the range has been in use since last year, Marines said it was fitting that it was renamed for a Marine whose specialty was repairing weapons.

Patrol Base Swenson is named for Lance Cpl. Curtis M. Swenson, a Marine from Weapons Company, who was killed in April.

Patrol Base Swenson has been designated as a northern hub for Afghan national army and police forces in Nawa. A new batch of ANP recruits are expected to arrive there in a few weeks after their training.

In the northern area of 1/3's area of responsibility is Patrol Base Meinert, named for Lance Cpl. Jacob A. "Slim" Meinert, a fire team leader with Bravo Company killed in January.

The post was erected, April 15, and opened by Meinert's squad.

That same squad lost another Marine not long after Meinert was killed, Lance Cpl. Noah M. Pier, and they recently established a new gravel-paved road near OP Meinert and named it Route Pier.

The new road allows Marines, Afghan national security forces and local citizens to travel the area more easily.

Large photos of Meinert and Pier are displayed at the entrance to OP Meinert as a memorial to the two Marines.

"I think naming these bases is great way for us to honor our fallen brothers," said Sgt. Steven J. Habon, who was Pier and Meinert's squad leader, with 1st Squad, 3rd Platoon, Bravo Company, 1/3. "It really improves morale and makes us proud to serve at a place named for one of our guys.

"Naming these bases lets people know what we left behind here in Afghanistan. These Marines will be remembered," said Habon, 25, from San Jose, Calif. "It's a way for future Marines to know about those who were there before."

In March, Patrol Base Poole was opened in Bravo Company's kinetic western area, and Marines in that area have frequently been engaged in firefights with insurgents.

Lance Cpl. Timothy J. Poole, a Bravo Company Marine from 2nd Platoon, was killed in January and Marines from his platoon have held that position since it was established.

His photo is also dominantly displayed at the entrance to that patrol base.

"It's good to see his photo up there. Sometimes when I walk by it, I'll stop and say 'what's up?' and offer him a cigarette." said Lance Cpl. Nathan W. Klopp, a fire team leader from Poole's squad and one of his close friends who currently operates from PB Poole.

"I'm proud to be here, we just got into a firefight a couple of days ago, actually," said Klopp, 21, from Vancouver, Wash. "Our platoon and our squad have been in a lot of firefights. We're out here bringing the fight to the enemy. After having one of our Marines killed, it's good to be able to come out here and serve for him and carry on with the mission like he'd want us to do."

Many Marines serving at these positions echoed Klopp's sentiments, said they and their Marines are all proud to serve at a place named for a fallen friend, and hope when the next battalion comes to Nawa that they, too, will continue to honor those who did not return home.

INCHES, from A-1

When he noticed blood on his face, he notified his patrol leader, but continued to fight.

It was not until the firefight was over and Marines began to return to the patrol base did Gray notice that the bullet had punched a hole right through the base of his RCO's aluminum housing, sending the metal shard into his cheek.

Only six inches separated his right temple from the bullet's impact on his weapon. Gray said looking back on the events after they happened made him realize just how close he had come to being seriously injured or killed.

"That was my last patrol before going home," said Gray, a native of Warner Robins, Ga., while shaking his head.

Gray's squad has already endured one of their Marines killed in action in January.

That Marine is now the namesake of their patrol base. In total, Bravo Company has suffered three of the battalion's five fatalities during the deployment.

"When I first saw what happened to Gray, I thought it was a little too close for comfort," said 1st Lt. Paul C. Trower, 2nd Platoon commander, Bravo Company, 1/3 "When Gray arrived, he was fine, but a little shaken up and had some adrenaline pumping. He was very calm, considering what had happened."

Trower, 25, from Fort Hood, Texas, said as a platoon commander, hearing about engagements and close calls like that makes him hold his breath, but was relieved that all of his Marines came back alright.

VP-47, from A-1

"Welcome home, Daddy!" T-shirts in gold and navy blue. Each carried a polished kukui nutshell lei for their father.

Before leaving with the squadron, Brandy Stoudt's husband worked as an individual augmentee for a year overseas. Her family had just two months together between the deployments.

Now her husband has returned, she plans to enjoy their time together with other family members from out of state.

The need to be with family was just as strong for the deployed, including Petty Officer 2nd Class Gilbert Rivas, aviation electronics technician, VP-47. What he missed most of all on deployment was his wife and children.

"We'll all be spending time together," said Rivas, from Converse, Texas. "Just hanging out."

Now that he is back, the family agrees they'll be relaxing and enjoying the upcoming summer months together. Rivas said he's looking forward to barbecuing and watching Milwaukee Brewers baseball games with his children.

During the deployment, some families had a chance to fly out to see their spouses, including the wife of VP-47's commanding officer, Cmdr. George Landis III.

She was able to spend several days with her husband and children while the squadron was in Japan.

Together the family toured historic Shuri Castle in Okinawa and enjoyed sushi. The trip was a great experience, she said.

"It's something [my children and I] may never be able to do again," said Landis, from Edgewater, Fla.

Family members during the deployment also regularly met for meetings together, like the Family Readiness Group. They also made the time for scheduled excursions while their loved ones were away including a whale watching cruise and an Easter egg hunt.

Funds for the activities were raised through volunteers selling patterned blankets that depicted each of the P-3 Orion squadrons aboard MCB Hawaii.

The time apart went by quickly for Candice Wiesner, who was able to talk with her husband through phone calls. Like many families of the returned, she and her husband plan to spend the post-deployment break with relatives.

She said making the most of their time together is important, especially since they haven't seen other relatives in the last year.

Now, enjoying something as simple as the upcoming baseball season is a treasured treat.

"We're so proud of Patrol Squadron 47 and all they've done," said Wiesner, from Louisville, Ky. "And we're glad to have them home."

APPRECIATION, from A-1

the military is by providing morale, welfare and recreation opportunities for service members and their families," said Kyle Brockett, USO Hawaii chairman-elect. "We really try to focus on their families as much as we can. A lot of them have husbands and wives in Iraq and Afghanistan right now and having the opportunity to take their minds off of that with a day of fun and recreation makes it all worth the effort."

For many, the highlight of the festivities was a parade featuring more than 2,000 service members from all branches of the military, vehicles, bands and several military affiliated organizations, such as local Junior Reserve Officer Corps cadets.

"I think this year's Military Appreciation Day went really well not just for the service members but also for the all the tourists and people who were at the parade," Brockett said. "You could tell they really enjoyed getting to see the U.S. military march in the parade. Overall I'd say it was a big success."

This year's Military Appreciation Day Parade was the first since 2006.







Lance Cpl. Tyler L. Main | Hawaii Marine

Marines are invited to sit and eat while observing a class given by Afghan nationals on culture, respect and proper conduct while in their country during "cultural lane" training at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows. "The Afghan natives play the roles that a real villager would in country and insure the training is more realistic," said Yousef Noor, an interpreter for the Marines there. (Right) As Marines conducted a consultation or shura, food and drink is served to all members of the meeting. All of the local village's elders attend shuras to insure their village is heard.

2/3 chows down on culture training

Marines practice proper customs, courtesies the Afghan way

Lance Cpl. Tyler L. Main
Combat Correspondent

MARINE CORPS TRAINING AREA BELLOWS — People skills probably isn't what comes to mind when one thinks of Marine Corps infantry training. But the Marines of 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment are learning that and more to ensure they give the proper respect and courtesies while in Afghanistan.

The 2/3 Marines conducted a culture lane this and last week at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows where Marines observed a shura (formal Afghan consultation), attended a culture class and even enjoyed an Afghan meal. This class was to educate them on proper customs and courtesies of the Afghan people.

"Every culture is different, and we need to learn how to respect that no matter what," said Staff Sgt. Cameron S. Clarke, the Weapons Platoon commander for Company E, 2/3. "Marines can learn and grow from this experience today and hopefully win more hearts and minds."

Clarke sat in on the shura as a Marine representative with the local village elders.

"Conducting the shura gives senior leadership a brief but realistic view of how a real Afghani shura is conducted," said the Saint Vincent and Grenadines native. "It forces and prepares you to deal with true problems of real people."

The cultural lane is also authentic, Clarke said.

"It's outstanding because they stay in character and are real Afghanis," Clarke said. "They know the culture and customs and that gives us a realistic edge while training."

The Afghan natives — including Yousef Noor, an interpreter, and Hshah Helmand, a police chief role player — agree the realism educates Marines.

"We are here to help Marines help the Afghan people the right way," Noor said. "To bring security for the world and prevent atrocities."

According to Noor, "helping the right way" includes knowing cultural baselines regarding mosks, elders, women, eating and greetings.

Although the training is for the Marines, both Noor and Helmand admit they have learned a lot themselves.

"The Marines are great people," Noor said. "Being with them has made me a much tougher person, and I have so much respect for what they do."

Noor says the cultural lane and similar training is helping Marines more than they realize.

"A lot of them surprise me with how well they know the language," he said. "They pick things up really fast and have a tough, never give up attitude."

Ultimately, this training is about becoming more successful at winning hearts and minds, agreed Marines and role players.

"The more you get to know the villages and the more you respect the simplest things, even though they may not disrespect us in America, the more allies you make and improve the working relationship," Clarke said.

"Establishing these things will solidify a good relationship and help us gather [intelligence] and work with them now and in the future."

Hawaii Marine

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Lance Cpl. Vanessa M. American Horse | Hawaii Marine

Headquarters Battalion Warriors shortstop Peter Russell started the third inning out with a single but was out after he attempted to make it to second base on a hit from left fielder Anthony Smith at the Intramural Softball game Tuesday night at Riseley Field. The Warriors lost the game 16-9. "We're just going to need to stay consistent next time, but it could be their fancy jerseys that intimidated us," Russell said. "But I'd like to believe in rags to riches for us."

Easy Ridaz ride bases in win over Headquarters Battalion

Lance Cpl.
Vanessa M. American Horse
Combat Correspondent

The Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light 37 Eazy Ridaz defeated the Headquarters Battalion Warriors 16-9 at an Intramural Softball League game Tuesday night at Riseley Field.

"This game was our first real test," said Warriors head coach Romeo P. Ibrao before the game. "Our previous games were called early after three innings because we smoked our competition. Now, we're actually playing a team that hits and scores."

The Warriors batted at the top of the first inning.

"I always like to hit first because it makes your opponent chase after you for the rest of the game," Ibrao said.

The Eazy Ridaz saw an opportunity to get ahead and started the bottom of the second inning with a home run by pitcher Ezra Harn. This was followed by a doubles from outfielders Scott Westervelt and Tyler Roberson. As Warriors pitcher Ernest Martinez walked Eazy Ridaz's batters, the RBIs ran up the score to 3-1, Eazy Ridaz. The inning ended with a pop fly and a streak of outs with quick thinking from the Warriors infield.

"We just have to keep on pushing and not let up," Roberson yelled to his team. "We're going to have to do whatever it takes to win this game."

Warriors shortstop Peter Russell started the third inning out with a single but was out after he attempted to make it to second base on a hit from left fielder Anthony Smith. The inning was short for the Warriors as their next two batters hit infield pop fly balls causing the changeover. However, the Eazy Ridaz quickly gained three outs themselves.

A serious of unintentional walks from Harn's pitching made it harder for the Eazy Ridaz infielders. They relied on infield skills, only allowing the Warriors to score four runs. Once at bat, the Eazy Ridaz regained their lead with a bottom of the fourth inning score 7-5.

The teams stayed tied in the fifth inning at 9-9. But, in the bottom of the sixth inning the Eazy Riders went on a hitting streak. Right center Doug Decambra, Westervelt, Harn and Roberson all hit singles, loading the bases. Shortstop Tomas Lucero sent the runners home with a double.

Quick thinking from Warriors first baseman Brandi Mack and Russell stopped the following the takeover leaving the score 16-9, Eazy Ridaz. The Warriors only scored two more runs in the seventh inning, with an RBI from Jack Missler and Smith. Time was called on the game and the teams continued to play for fun.

"We're just going to need to stay consistent next time, but it could be their fancy jerseys that intimidated us," Russell said. "But I'd like to believe in rags to riches for us."

Blind, double amputee finds solace in swimming

Cpl. Achilles Tsantarliotis
U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific



Cpl. Achilles Tsantarliotis | U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific

Chuck Sketch gets ready to train in the pool before Competing as a swimmer in the inaugural Warrior Games competition May 10. Sketch was the only blind handicapped competitor on the All-Marine Warrior Games Team.

COLORADO SPRINGS Colo. — Chuck Sketch is 37 inches tall. His place in a tallest-to-shortest line would be somewhere between a dwarf and a mini-fridge.

Sketch wasn't always 37 inches tall. He once stood at 5' 9, 135 pounds. He doesn't mind he's no longer average height, middle of the line. But, if asked to line up according to height he wouldn't have any reservations about jumping up front, in the middle — or making his own line altogether. Not because he's stubborn. It's because he can't see — an unwelcome trophy from his victory over brain cancer.

Competing as a swimmer in the inaugural Warrior Games competition May 10, Sketch was the only blind handicapped competitor on the All-Marine Warrior Games Team. With only half his limbs, he was roughly half as fast as the best swimmers who competed.

Sketch is one of the only lance corporals on the team not injured by an improvised explosive device — or suffering from a combat-related injury at all. Sketch enlisted because of conflict in the Middle East, like many of his teammates. But, he enlisted as the Gulf War began.

Charles "Chuck" Sketch was born in November 1967 in Mexico City. He moved to Phoenix in the third grade. His family was filled with relatives in the military, including his father. Sketch took Russian in college — to help his country in case the Cold War escalated.

"I started as a Russian major at Arizona State University," he said. "I thought it'd be necessary to protect my country."

In his third year of college, he started looking at government employment as well as becoming commissioned in the Marine Corps. Sketch enrolled in Platoon Leaders Course, Juniors, successfully completing the first half of his commissioning process with the second half waiting after graduation. Sketch wouldn't get to finish PLC, nor graduate. As Desert Shield developed, Sketch couldn't wait to be commissioned and serve his country. So he enlisted.

Sketch enlisted as an infantryman and shipped to Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego in January 1991. Desert Shield ended after the first week of recruit training, but Sketch didn't mind.

Halfway through his first year, Pvt. Sketch began his long, drastically life-changing string of head problems when a tonic-clonic seizure hit after a routine physical fitness test.

"Our gunny called everyone to attention and everyone stood at attention — except me," he explained.

In May 1993 Sketch was diagnosed with a brain tumor. He was medically retired after three years in the Marine Corps.

A month after getting his bachelor's degree in international business, his tumor became cancerous and he soon lost his sight.

"I was in emergency surgery," Sketch said. "The tumor was really big when I went in. I was having severe headaches. All the swelling was slowly cutting off the blood supply to my optic nerve. Everything went black from right to left."

The tumor's irregular form complicated Sketch's surgery. Instead of a small contained area surgeons could remove, it had a shape like an octopus with it's tentacles throughout his brain, Sketch explained.

"After about four days, the doctor had come to me and my dad and told me to call my relatives," Sketch said. "The doctor said if my relatives came quickly they might be able to see me one last time.

They asked me what kind of funeral I wanted. It was unreal. It was like being in a car going a million miles an hour and all I could do was hold on and keep cool."

Sketch didn't want the surgery. His doctors asked him if he wanted to die. He didn't. He said he didn't want to risk his personality or intellect nor come out of the surgery any different then when he went in.

After a psychiatrist visited Sketch, he finally agreed to have the surgery.

"She said to me, 'I understand you want to die,'" Sketch explained. "I told her I didn't want to die — I just didn't want the surgery and if I die, that's OK because everything will be better. She asked me what if I was wrong. I said, 'Well if things are worse, that's not good. I'll get the surgery."

About six months into his recovery, Sketch woke up without any feeling in his legs. He had significant blood clots that turned to gangrene. Doctors told him they had to remove his legs.

"I just remember crying," said Roger Sketch, Chuck's father from Wildomar, Calif. "Chuck had a tube down his throat and I remember looking at him and he asked for a pen and paper. He wrote down, 'Dad, I can handle this.' And he gave me thumbs up. So they did the surgery."

As Sketch slowly adapted to his disabilities and felt confident his cancer was in remission, he began swimming. He started out with a life jacket, and after soon realizing he could float without it, left it behind on his trips to the pool. Sketch eventually got coaching, learning how to swim faster as well as more efficiently.

"When I met Chuck I was just amazed," said 41-year-old swimming coach Stephanie Barns from San Antonio. "I could tell Chuck had been swimming for some time. It's really impressive to see someone without their lower body swim as fast as he can."

Chuck eagerly competed in the inaugural Warrior Games 50 and 100-meter freestyle. He said it meant a lot to him and the other competitors to be back with Marines training and competing.

"I just loved it," Chuck said. "It gave me a sense of worth again. As much as I enjoyed actually swimming, the whole concept really helped me in my recovery process."

Nuupia Ponds Fun Run launches "101 Days of Summer"



Christine Cabalo | Hawaii Marine

Runners and walkers turn a corner toward the end of the Wednesday Fun Run/Walk at Nuupia Ponds. The first of the "101 Days of Summer" activities, units could earn up to $750 for first place and $500 for second place.

Christine Cabalo
Photojournalist

Runners and walkers speeded along jogging paths of Nuupia Ponds Wednesday morning, marking the start of the "101 Days of Summer" program at Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

Units can earn up to $750 for their discretionary fund through the program, which aims to increase healthy habits and eliminate substance abuse. Points are awarded through September for joining in activities like Wednesday's Fun Run/Walk.

"This is the first time I've done the Fun Run," said Vicente Juarez from Chandler, Ariz. "I thought it would be a good experience with my unit, Marine Corps Air Station."

Juarez was one of many who ran with their unit in formation. Members of MCAS carried a "South Park" inspired guidon with the Mr. Mackey character and his catchphrase "Drugs are bad… mmkay?"

At the 7 a.m. start time, participants travelled from the entry point near Pollack Field and followed Mokapu Road. Units who brought the maximum participants kicked off the summer contest with 40 points. The Run/Walk was not a timed race, but a clock was set up near at the end point for runners to check their time.

Parents also took on the challenge with their children, including Crystal Miller and her 3-year-old son. Both wearing reflective belts, the two said they were excited to speed through the 4-mile course.

"I just think it's good to bring him with me and be with the Marines," said Miller, from St. Louis. "He can see what I do for work. [He knows] what his mom does every day."

Another Fun Run/Walk is scheduled Sept. 1, at the end of the 101 Days of Summer program.

Until then, upcoming activities include a softball tournament, horseshoes contests, bowling and a swim meet.

Units can also receive points by taking any of the nine wellness classes offered by the Health Promotion Program.

"The majority of the points in the program can be obtained by the units participating in those classes throughout the summer," said Kailua resident Dan Dufrene, health promotion coordinator, Marine Corps Community Services. "Literally, they can get 1,800 points pretty easy."

Every point mattered for competition last year. Marine Corps Air Station earned 5,400 points in the small division for units of less than 300 people. Last year two units tied for first in the large division. Both 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment and Headquarters Battalion won $750 for generating 4,230 points.

This year units can also earn points by taking the online Health Risk Assessment. After taking the anonymous survey, users receive personalized health advice. The overall results are also sent to unit commanders, giving them a chance to improve on healthy habits.

As the program begins, Joseph Stevens, coordinator for 1/12, said he will pull out all the stops to get every point possible. He noted many from 1/12 are already eager for the softball tournament in August. He likes how the Fun Run/Walk and other 101 Days of Summer activities are a fun way for Marines and sailors to challenge themselves and each other.

"It's good going with the battalion for this run," said Stevens, from Woodbury, Minn. "At the ponds, you don't have to stop for traffic, and it's nice to see the water and sand."

For MCAS coordinator Joseph Bartling, the events relieve stress for participants outside of work. Whenever he runs around Nuupia Ponds, Bartling likes seeing the wildlife and remembers the fun of running other base events like the annual Swamp Romp.

"You're relaxed and you can have fun trying to do your best," said Bartling, of Elk Grove, Calif. "We all work full time, and these competitions are time to relax."

For more information about upcoming events for the 101 Days of Summer, call 254-7636.

Take to the MATS

Semper Fit Wrestling competes in tournament

Kristen Wong
Photojournalist

More than 200 youth wrestlers competed in a freestyle wrestling tournament at the Semper Fit Center Saturday.

Among them, Sydney Stanley knows how stressful wrestling tournaments can be. The 13-year-old has been wrestling for three years.

"It's very stressful especially when everyone's yelling at you, telling you what to do," Stanley said. "It can get very confusing."

Still, she describes wrestling as a fun sport and enjoys wrestling with her friends at practice. Stanley was one of 38 wrestlers on the Marine Corps Base Hawaii team, Semper Fit Wrestling, to compete in the Hawaii USA Amateur Wrestling Association tournament.

A number of Semper Fit Wrestling competitors earned medals during the tournament, including Dillon Blanchard, who received first place in his weight class.

"It was great," Dillon Blanchard said. "I feel good about it."

The wrestlers, ranging from as young as three years old to 13, compete in as many as eight wrestling meets a season, which generally lasts from the first week of March to the first week of June.

The championship had two sessions, one for ages 10 and under, and the second for ages 11 and older. Youths were divided according to age and weight.

Competitors are normally paired with an opponent of the same age and weight. In some cases, competitors may have to wrestle with an opponent only slightly older or heavier.

"I like [wrestling] because it's fun," said Noah Taylor, 12, who has warmed up to wrestling since his parents registered him.

The Semper Fit wrestlers practice two to three times a week — the younger wrestlers for the first hour, and the older wrestlers for the second.

"The kids can't wait to go to practice," said Beth Mann, assistant coach and team manager, Semper Fit Wrestling. "They can't wait to go to meets."

Mann, of Worcester, Penn., has been coaching wrestling for two years. While she is in charge of the younger group of wrestlers, her husband, a former All-Marine wrestler, coaches the older children. Mann had enjoyed watching her son wrestle, and wanted to become more involved.

"It's the greatest sport," Mann said.

Wrestling is more of an individual sport, Mann said, even though the wrestlers are part of a team. She also said wrestling is not only a physical challenge, but a mental challenge.

"In wrestling, it's all about you," Mann said. "It takes a lot of courage. It takes guts."

Mann's son, Calvin, 13, said the hardest part about wrestling is competing in a tournament. Nerves abound during tournaments. Still, Calvin Mann enjoys being able to say he's a wrestler.

"You're respected more," Calvin Mann said. "It's a really good sport to help you raise your self confidence."

Beth Mann said one of the team's strengths is the fact that they have a sense of humor.

"Almost all of our kids have an awesome sense of humor and that matters in a sport where you're basically attacking someone," Beth Mann said. "You have to be able to laugh it off and move on."

Some wrestlers enjoy the challenge of wrestling, like Dillon and Patrick Blanchard, who both previously won first place in a previous folkstyle tournament.

Dillon Blanchard, 6, a base resident, wants to be a professional wrestler as an adult. He said one of the hardest things about wrestling was "when you have to get someone older and tougher than you." Dillon Blanchard said because of his weight, he is normally moved up to wrestle with the 7-year-olds.

At the tournament, Semper Fit Center was crowded with volunteers, competitors, coaches, referees and parents. The gym soon became as hot as an oven, as competitors sat on blue gym mats, awaiting their turn, playing video games.

Coaches on every mat screamed encouragement and advice to the wrestlers, referee arms with colored wristbands shot up in the air, awarding points.

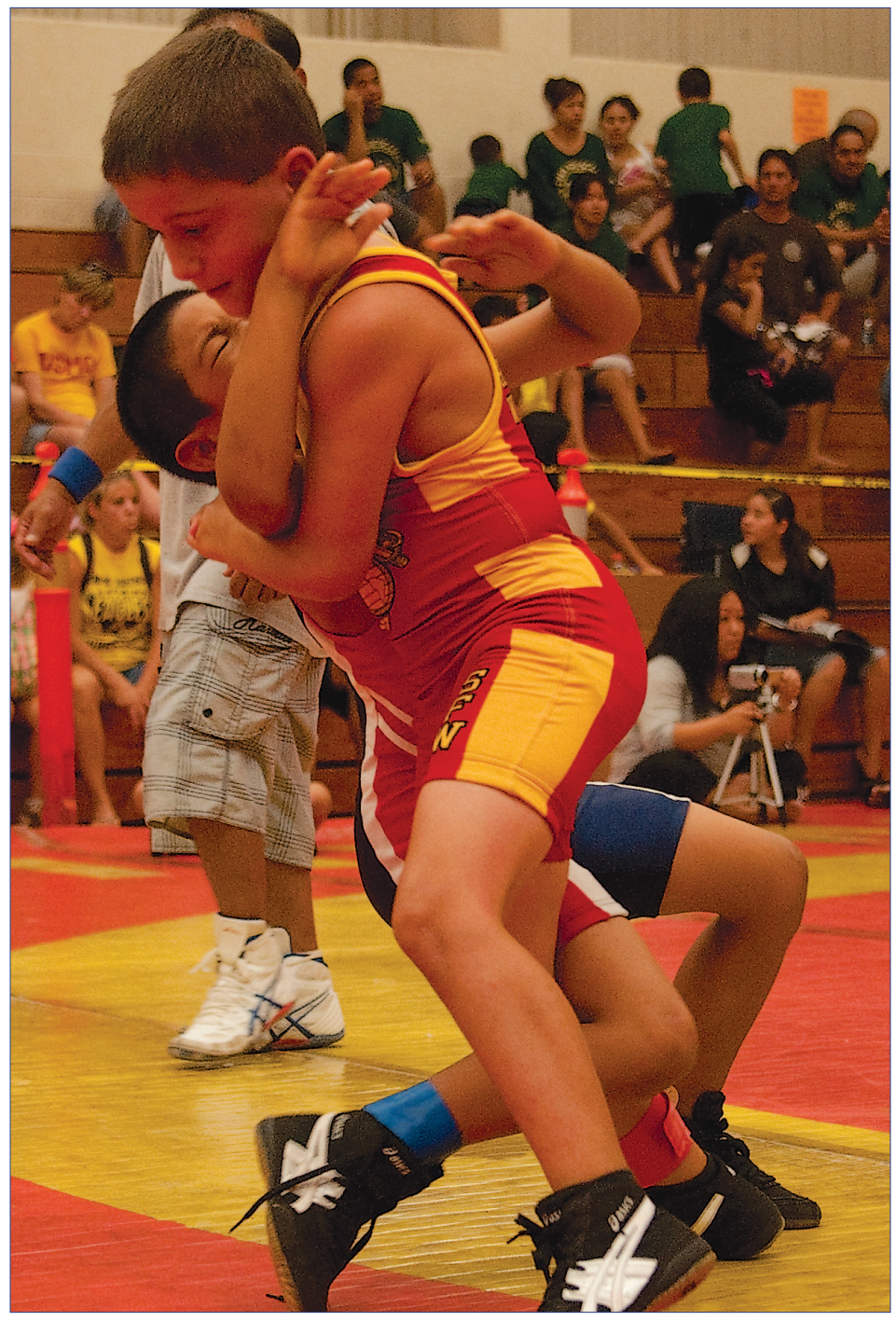
"It's going very smoothly," Beth Mann said. "We're definitely where we wanted to be."

Mann said the tournament was actually ahead of schedule toward the end of the first session.

"It was a run for my money," said Colby Wentlandt, 9, of Kaneohe, resting after one of his matches. "He'd always try grabbing my head first."

"It took effort from everyone to run a wrestling tournament," said Clark Abbey, youth sports specialist, Semper Fit Center. "[This is the] sixth tournament. I think it's the best tournament that we've run."

Abbey, of Kaneohe, was thankful not only for support by the sponsors and Semper Fit, but parent support and the volunteers from Headquarters Battalion and Combat Logistics Battalion 3. In the future, Abbey said he hopes to create an all-services wrestling program. For more information about the youth wrestling program, call Abbey at 254-7473.



Base resident Patrick Blanchard, 7, of Semper Fit Wrestling, wrestles with Shayden Pojas, 8, of Waianae Wrestling in the Hawaii USA Amateur Wrestling Association Tournament Saturday at the Semper Fit Center.



Patrick Blanchard grapples with Shayden Pojas.



Photos by Kristen Wong | Hawaii Marine

Kailua resident Luis Martinez, of Semper Fit Wrestling, wrestles with Pono Enos-Ho, of Ewa Wrestling, at the Hawaii USA Amateur Wrestling Association Tournament Saturday at the Semper Fit Center. Martinez received a first place medal during the tournament.

RUNWAY 5K RUN

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AWARDS Top three (3) finishers overall (male and female) and top finishers in each age group.

PACKET PICK-UP Packets may be picked up at the Semper Fit Center on July 2, 2010 (Friday) between 0900-1600.

RESULTS The official results will be posted at **www.mccshawaii.com/cgfit.htm**

Register & Pay Online
www.mccshawaii.com/cgfit.htm
(online registration deadline June 30)

Commander's
FITNESS SERIES

To register for events in the Commander's Fitness Series visit the Semper Fit Center or go to the MCCS Web Site at http://www.mccshawaii.com/cgfit.htm. For more information about the events, call Tina Lui at 254-7590.

VP-47 5K Runway Run
Sunday, July 4

All of Oahu is invited to get physical and enter the VP-47 5k Runway Run at 7 a.m. The race starts and finishes at Hangar 104, and takes runners along the MCB Hawaii Flightline, catching glimpses of historic Pyramid Rock. MCCS will present awards to the top three finishers in various age groups, as well as, to the top three overall men and women finishers.

MCAS Tradewind Triathlon
Sunday, Aug. 15

The MCAS Tradewind Triathlon is a challenging triathlon offered in Hawaii this year, so get registered early. It includes a 500-meter swim followed by an 11.1-mile bike course, and ending with a 5-kilometer run. This event is ideal for amateur or experienced triathletes, and even serves as the official Hawaii Senior Olympic Triathlon for 2010.

HSL-37 Splash & Dash Biathlon
Saturday, Oct. 16

Enter the HSL-37 "Easyriders" Splash & Dash Biathlon. The race begins with a 500-meter open water swim, then grab your running shoes and head around the Flightline for the five-kilometer foot race.

Running by the Flightline enhances the race by giving participants a military feel during their run. The scenery is beautiful and runners get a chance to run on an active taxiway and see military aircraft.

Jingle Bell Jog
Tentatively December

Jog off that Thanksgiving feast! This 8K run will help you stay fit throughout the holiday season.

In the spirit of the season, a one-mile Family Fun Run will take place after the race.

Spotlight On Sports

Sports Briefs

Criterium Bike Race Series

MCCS and others will conduct a series of Criterium bike races as part of the Commanding Officer's Semper Fit Series Sunday, June 13. Participants may sign up online for a fee at http://www.mccshawaii.com/cgfit.htm. The deadline for registration online for the June 13 race is Friday, June 11. You can register in person the day of the race by 2:30 p.m., 30 minutes prior to kick-off. Race participants may also turn in registration forms aboard MCB Hawaii at the Semper Fitness Center (Building 3037), and the Fit Center (Building 2C) aboard Camp Smith. Points of contact for these events are Staff Sgt. Salgado at 257-1113/8576 or Karlo.Salgado@usmc.mil, and MCCS Varsity Sports Coordinator Tina Lui at 254-7590 or luicm@usmc-mccs.org.

Personal Trainers Available at Semper Fit

For those looking to get into a tailored exercise regimen, or just looking for good advice on weight management and weight control, the Semper Fit Center offers free personal training consultation. You can schedule an appointment with a trainer who will take body fat measurements, blood pressure and heart rate readings. They will do all this and tailor a program, based on your physical needs and ambitions. For a small fee per workout, a professional trainer will actually work with you to ensure maximum efficiency. Patrons may sign up for an initial assessment and one session a week up to three weeks. Because of a high demand for personal trainer appointments, patrons must wait four weeks between sessions following the initial three visits. For more information, contact Semper Fit at 254-7597.

Adventure Training Program

Designed to promote unit cohesiveness and enhance confidence in the water, Adventure Training is a fun alternative to regular unit workouts. Learn different water sports and do P.T. at the same time. Classes are offered in scuba, kayaking, power-boating and water skiing. Adventure Training is offered at no charge to all Marine Corps Base Hawaii units. Training NCOs and SNCOs should call the Base Marina at 254-7667 for more information.

Satellite Fitness Centers

A Satellite Fitness Center is located in Building 1033 and the Flightline Mini-Gym, Building 301. Free weights and weight machines are available for use at these locations. Hours vary due to operational commitments. Call 254-7594 for more information.

The Health Promotion Program

The Health Promotion Program at MCB Hawaii is a branch of the Semper Fitness Division of MCCS and is under the direction of HP Coordinator, Dan Dufrene. The Health Promotion Program umbrella embodies nine key elements, which guide patrons to live a healthy lifestyle.

2010 INTRAMURAL SPRING SOFTBALL CHEDULE

TONIGHT

ANNEX FIELD
6 P.M. MALS-24 vs. BREWER
7 P.M. DRAGONS vs. BLACK KNIGHT
8 P.M. 3rd RADIO BN. vs. CLB-3 #2

RISELEY FIELD
6 P.M. 2/3 vs. CLB-3 #2
7 P.M. VP-47 vs. MARFORPAC
8 P.M. COULSON vs. 1/12

TUESDAY

ANNEX FIELD
6 P.M. MALS-24 vs. HMH-463
7 P.M. CLB-3 #2 vs. HQBN
8 P.M. VP-4 vs. JOKERS

RISELEY FIELD
6 P.M. 3rd RADIO BN vs. BLACK KNIGHT
7 P.M. MCAS vs. CPRW-2
8 P.M. DRAGONS vs. BREWER

WEDNESDAY

ANNEX FIELD
6 P.M. 3RD RADIO BN vs. BREWER
7 P.M. MARFORPAC vs. CPRW-2
8 P.M. HSL-37 vs. CLB-3 #1

RISELEY FIELD
6 P.M. 2/3 vs. BLACK KNIGHT
7 P.M. VP-47 vs. HQBN
8 P.M. MALS-24 vs. CLB-3 #2

Semper Fit Group classes

Boot Camp
This class is an extremely intense cardio workout with a tough strengthening portion that is sometimes held in the basketball court for a more intense workout.

Cardio Kick
If you're trying to get rid of pent up frustration or just looking for an awesome workout, this is the class for you! This high-energy class incorporates punches and kick combos to improve endurance, speed and agility, while burning calories and increasing muscle tone.

Cycling
Tired of those boring three-mile runs? Well, come for a ride with us. This class uses specialized stationary bikes to help you burn a large amount of calories and tone up while improving your core strength. Set to specialized music as you pedal off the pounds.

Gut Cut
You've heard the stories. Come experience it for yourself — or are you scared? This 30-minute abdominal class is designed to strengthen your core muscles.

High Intensity Circuit Training
Put the "fun" back into functional training! This is a great workout for people on the go. This hour-long class will incorporate a series of circuits designed to challenge your muscular endurance and will strengthen your cardiovascular system.

Lower Body Blast
Want to tone up your legs? This class targets all the major muscle groups in your legs, including your core muscles. Strengthening these muscles will not only help firm up those areas but also maintain a healthy posture.

Keiki and Me
Don't have a sitter? This class is designed for the active parent done in an outdoor setting involving the kids. Build strength and cardiovascular endurance during this fun group setting. With the use of resistance bands, body weight exercises, abdominal work and plyometrics this can help strengthen your body and mind. Bring your own stroller.

Muscle Conditioning
Not coordinated for a traditional aerobics class? This class has minimal choreography so this is safe. A muscular endurance workout using hand weights and bands to work all muscle groups.

Pilates
This amazing class uses a powerful series of non-impact exercises for total body sculpting. This class will help develop strength, flexibility, balance, and weight loss to sculpt lean, long muscles and reshape your body from head to toe.

PiYo
If pilates and yoga were mixed together, this is what you would get. This class will help develop strength, flexibility and balance to sculpt long, lean muscles. With pilates, yoga and a combo of upbeat moves, this mat class will get your blood flowing while re-shaping you from head to toe.

Power Yoga
If you're looking for a class to increase strength, stamina and flexibility, this class is for you. They use yoga postures that are an excellent cross-training routine for athletes, along with poses to calm the mind and body.

Speed and Agility
Swifter, Higher, Stronger ... Train like an athlete. This class focuses on developing strength, power, balance and agility while maintaining flexibility. Dynamics of this class include plyometric type exercises designed to produce fast, powerful movements and improve functions of the nervous system while increasing foot speed.

Step
This is a tried and true classic. Fads come and go, but step endures all. This fundamental class focuses on getting a great workout on the steps with basic choreography — nothing fancy — just hard work and a ton of sweat.

Step and Tone
The best of both worlds in one class! A great step class and some resistance training in an hour and 15 minutes. Get your heart pumping with an upbeat step session that will tone your muscles.

Step Challenge
To step it up even more. This class is for the seasoned stepper or for those just looking for a challenge. This class is a full hour of fun and challenging choreography.

Water Aerobics
This non-impact workout is excellent for cardiovascular conditioning, flexibility and strengthening. Aqua training is a terrific way to gain fitness without the stresses of gravity experienced in land-based training.

Zumba
This is a Latin inspired, dance-fitness class incorporating international music and dance movements. It includes a combination of fast and slow rhythms, that tone and sculpt. The class integrates aerobic, interval and resistance training. Dancers and non-dancers will have a blast while getting an incredible workout!

Normal hours of operation:
Monday-Friday, 4:30 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.
Saturday, 7 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Sunday and holidays, 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Hurry and get off the court

Lance Cpl. Vanessa M. American Horse
Combat Correspondent

Who even watches the Women's National Basketball Association games? I've never walked into a sports bar and seen the WNBA on. Nor have I seen someone walking down the street rocking a Sheryl Swoopes jersey. In fact, I believe she is the only WNBA player's name I know and she's retired.

I recently found out my hometown of Tulsa, Okla. acquired the former Detroit Shock WNBA team. So, I realized we now have the Tulsa Shock, but only thanks to a brief mention of it on ESPN. None of my family in Tulsa seemed to even know about it.

What a waste of money! Free tickets to see the Tulsa 66ers, an NBA development team, are also given out at the gas stations in town. How do they expect to make a profitable fan base with two no-name teams?

> "It's just boring to watch, like paint drying."

I'm pretty sure the city has potholes to cover up and schools that need new textbooks. It's hard to see folks pour money into something that I have no desire to enjoy.

I know the NBA picks up the tab for the money lost, but they should keep their money and spend it on something entertaining, like new funny commercials for me to DVR over or at least give it to charity.

As the WNBA inspires young women to strive to make it pro, they also hire shameful drug addicts like Marion Jones. What a great role model, David Stern (WNBA creator). I don't want my kids growing up thinking they can go to the Olympics, use steroids and then get another glorious job after they're released from jail. Maybe our tanking economy will bring down this disgrace to basketball. At least you don't hear talk about a WNFL starting.

I'm not trying to be sexist. I enjoy watching women whip men at sports any day. I just don't think they should waste time and money on a league in a pathetic effort for women to feel equal.

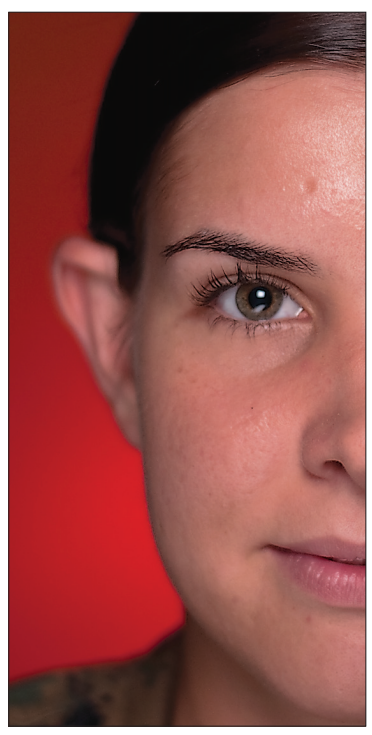
It's just boring to watch, like paint drying. I always feel bad for the players because they are talented and for the most part, stay away from scandal. But there's no getting around the fact that it's 40 minutes of women fighting for loose balls and throwing bad cross court passes, interspersed with tons of hand checking and confusion.

And no one can dunk.

VS

WNBA

VS is a recurring column tackling debatable issues in the sports world. Hawaii Marine readers can submit a subject for future columns by e-mailing their ideas to hmeditor@hawaiimarine.com. If there's a topic you would like to discuss/defend or if you think we missed the mark, let us know and you could see your "opinion," regardless of how wrong it is, below. Suit up ladies ... it's game time.



AMERICAN HORSE



WOODALL

Let the ladies play

Cpl. Danny H. Woodall
Combat Correspondent

I have never seen a Women's National Basketball Association game. Many of you are probably wondering why I would choose to defend a topic that I seem to have no knowledge of or interest in. Even more are probably wondering how I can still call myself a red-blooded sports fan for defending a beleaguered and failing organization such as the WNBA. But now, however, as the WNBA season has begun I realize just how important the WNBA is to our nation's sporting community.

For the record, I am a die-hard American sports fan. That's the NFL, MLB and NBA for those who may be confused. I'm sure I'm not the only person who hasn't seen a WNBA game due to a complete lack of interest in the league. I have no connection to it. I'm a man and like to see other men playing sports. Is that sexist? Of course not — it just sounds strange and looks even stranger when written down. Several teams have been forced to relocate or fold altogether because of a lack of local financial support. Television ratings have never been high and networks refuse to give the WNBA any legitimate coverage because it's in such low demand. Though it's true that the WNBA has had its ups and downs — a lot of downs — it needs to exist.

> "Though... the WNBA has had its ups and downs — a lot of downs — it needs to exist."

Women, turn away. Skip to the last paragraph because I'm addressing only the men now.

All right men, are you listening? I know how you feel about the WNBA. Trust me, I can't stand it either. Just the thought of a bunch of women who bullied me in grade school (and high school and college) getting paid to do something that we think we should be able to do better is terrifying … but hear me out. If the WNBA folds, we'll have a catastrophe on our hands of epic proportions. The WNBA is the most prolific professional sport American women have right now. If we take that away, what do you think will happen? All women athletes will just fade into obscurity and join the normal work force? No. They'll get bigger … faster … stronger. Pretty soon, a significant amount of female athletes will be clawing at the NFL's and UFC's doors in order to be seen on a grander stage than what they've had in the past.

Then, a new all-female warrior class will emerge, stronger than the Amazonians and 10 times as fierce! They will usher in a new world order as stability becomes chaos and day becomes night. Is that what you want?!

Go WNBA!

Hawaii Marine
Lifestyles

May 28, 2010
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Lance Cpl. Ronald W. Stauffer took a 3-day trek through the Haleakala Crater in Maui, April 9.

Into the Wild

Part 1 of a Maui adventure

Lance Cpl. Ronald W. Stauffer
Combat Correspondent

My lips were burnt-brown and chapped. It had been raining all morning and despite the help of my rain gear, my pack was soaked to the core and heavy on my sun-withered body. But it was okay — I made it out of the Haleakala Crater.

As I sat on my 120-pound, waterlogged pack, and thought of my prior three-day adventure, I weighed the pros and cons of my Maui trip.

I watched vehicles of all shapes and sizes roll past me on the park road. But I don't think many saw my arm extended out and my thumb pointed toward the sky.

With the opportunity to rest and sip water out of my canteen alongside the winding Haleakala National Park road, the reason for my trip came flooding back.

I love the outdoors because I grew up around it. I wanted to take this trip to Maui not only to get off of Oahu, but also because it would be an adventure — and it was.

I arrived in Maui late on a Thursday night. It was too late to get a rental car, and I wasn't going to pay a large sum of money to get a hotel room. My next best option was the North Shore Hostel. There was supposed to be a shuttle, but there wasn't one. I asked a security guard if he knew where I could find it.

After scratching his head for a minute in deep thought, the most intelligent thing he could say was "taxi," and pointed across the street.

My savior. So I called the hostel and got a room and sure enough, I was in taxi.

Skeptical as I was to stay in a strange place surrounded by people who, perhaps like in the 2005 horror film "Hostel," might try to kill me, I took my chances. For $22 and a bunk bed, I couldn't complain, and the people were really nice. See, movies aren't real.

The next challenge was planning my attack on the massive crater. Why should I over extend my bank account?

I cancelled my rental car reservation and decided to use public transportation — fail!

The summit of Haleakala National Park is 38 miles from Kahalui Airport. And once you hit a certain point, it's all uphill.

The next morning, I found out the bus wouldn't accept my 100-pound pack and didn't go anywhere close to the park. So I began to walk. Good training, I thought to myself. And then I hit 10 miles, swollen feet and sore shoulders. I should have gotten the rental car.

Luckily, I caught a couple rides from some good samaritans who were headed in the same direction. There is one sign I will never forget in my life. At the bottom of Haleakala Crater Road, there is a sign reads: "no food, no gas, 22 miles to summit."

I made it one mile up the switch back road and called a cab. This was my second mistake because it cost more money than I wanted to spend, but it saved my legs.

By late evening I found myself in the lower Hosmer Grove Campsite of the park. I was in — goal accomplished.

At the campsite, a nice couple from Washington offered me dinner and a tasty beverage. It tasted way better than the jerky I planned on eating. By the end of dinner, I was exhausted and had a full stomach. I was out in my sleeping bag in minutes.

It was now day two in the park, and I woke to a light misting rain on my one-man hiking tent. I sleepily arose and began repacking. It was overcast and cool that morning. Perfect for hiking.

As I followed the never ending road to the visitor center I saw a sign that read "visitor center next left." I was enthusiastic to see I was making progress, until I got to the next left. The sign lied. There was still more road and no building, so I kept marching.

I did make it to the center a few lefts further. I had to watch a nature video about the park and sign in for my campsite pass, which was free. From there, I caught a ride up to the summit.

The summit is no joke. It sits 10,023 feet above sea level and has a beautiful view into the crater on a clear day. It also gets freezing cold, with temperatures as low as 30 degrees Fahrenheit. Luckily, I had cold weather gear. I just didn't have it on.

This is where my actual hike into the crater began. I loaded up my canteen and camelback with fresh water because there is no potable water in the park.

I secured my pack, and took my first step onto the Sliding Sands Trailhead.

My first destination was a short 9.8 miles to the Paliku Campsite.

To be continued ...



Throughout my hike to the Haleakala Crater, I often stopped and enjoyed looking at the peaceful wildlife.



Photos by Lance Cpl. Ronald W. Stauffer | Hawaii Marine

I ventured to the Sliding Sands Trailhead. My first stop to the Paliku campsite was just less than 10 miles away into the Haleakala Crater.

Pass In Review

Your weekly guide to all aspects of entertainment

Welcome to the Pass In Review, your number one source for cinema, music, video game and book reviews. The Pass In Review crew consists of more than 10 critics, each with their own idea of what makes a movie, album, game or book great. So be sure to take advantage of the Better Know A Critic section, which spotlights this week's critics to better help you choose the critic with opinions most like your own. Using our breakthrough four-point scale system you can quickly decipher what is worth your time and what isn't, or read the full review for an in-depth analysis and explanation of the rating. The rating system uses ammunition and range terminology, so if you're not familiar, here's a quick breakdown of the ratings ...

1/4 — No Impact, No Idea
Horrendous. Among the worst of the worst in its genre. Dedicating time to this is not only wasteful, but unforgivable. Avoid at all costs.

2/4 — High And To The Right
Mediocrity at its best. Lacks a few things that might have made it really good. A decent time waster, partake only if you have nothing better to do.

3/4 — On Target
Praiseworthy. A great endeavor, not quite an instant classic but still very entertaining. This is a sound investment of your time.

4/4 — Confirmed Kill
Genius. In the top 10 percent of its genre. This is the stuff legends are made of. Missing out on it would be a disservice to yourself.

So, there you have it and we hope you enjoy our weekly reviews. Don't forget, The Hawaii Marine accepts submissions from its readers so if you consider yourself a film buff, music aficionado, gaming geek or bookworm feel free to submit your own reviews. Or, if you disagree with a review published and want fellow readers to know the real scoop, send in a condensed review and we'll run it as a second opinion.



Come for the music, stay for the ghosts

Kristen Wong
Photojournalist

You know a book is good when your eyes race across the page, eagerly awaiting what happens next. "Hell's Gate: Terror at Bobby Mackey's Music World," by Douglas Hensley is a tale that does just that.

Though I am a self-proclaimed coward, I tend to gravitate toward ghost stories like a moth to a flame. This story in particular hits close to home. As a college student in Greencastle, Ind., I once went along on a ghost tour, and heard the story of a young woman named Pearl Bryan. She was killed and decapitated while pregnant with her murderer's baby. The student guides on the ghost tour claimed this woman haunts the cemetery near the school, looking for her head. But this is not the only place where she has been seen; nor is she alone in her other haunt.

3/4
(On Target)

Hensley's book is set in Wilder, Ky., where country singer Bobby Mackey and his pregnant wife, Janet, purchase an old nightclub. The nightclub has seen many people through the years and many deaths. Despite Janet Mackey's uneasy feeling about the building, Bobby Mackey is anxious to get started cleaning up and reopening the club as "Bobby Mackey's Music World."

In the meantime, Bobby Mackey meets Carl Lawson, a former staff member of the old nightclub, and hires him as a handyman. Much to Bobby Mackey's frustration and confusion, Lawson and Janet Mackey frequently experience malicious ghosts he never seems to see or hear. But he must soon contend with more stories from customers and staff.

I appreciate Hensley's introductory paragraphs at the beginning of each chapter. This story is based on true accounts, and Hensley makes it a point to let the reader know who his sources were and how long it took to compile the data. Sometimes he'll describe the emotions individuals evoked while they were telling their story.

Even though the story is told in third person, one can see and hear the individual's personality coming through the words. Sometimes words sounded like direct quotations from the actual person interviewed.

Each individual recorded in this book is described in detail, from height, build and appearance, to where they grew up and the schools they attended. Hensley even describes the type of clothes they wore, making it easier to imagine them in action, as if watching a movie.

But now I will tell you why I only gave it a three.

Although the story was highly engaging, the presentation of the book frequently disappointed me. It seemed as though many of the pages had spelling errors and sentences were cut off halfway through and continued on the next line. Not to mention I really had to push the spine to the limit just so I could read the words nearest to the middle of the book.

If you can get past these imperfections, the book is a must-read. There are even pictures in the back that give faces to the names and a bibliography of news articles and books for the ghost enthusiast to follow up on.

If you're still not quite convinced and need a teaser, check out the Discovery Channel "A Haunting" documentary series. The episode entitled "Gateway to Hell" gives audiences a taste of the occurrences and stories from the nightclub.

Better Know A Critic


WONG

Kristen Wong admits she sometimes has to be dragged to movies that she later finds to be outstanding. She prefers fantasy driven movies, like Lord of the Rings, the Harry Potter films, and The Matrix Trilogy. She hopes one day she'll see "Based on the book by Kristen Wong" on the big screen.

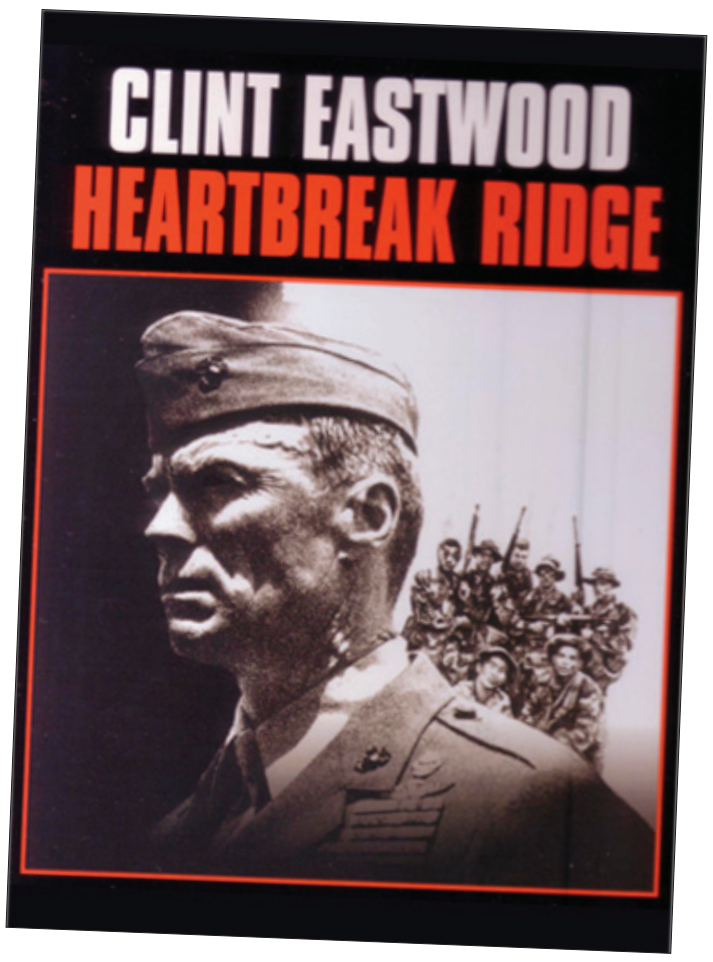

AMERICAN HORSE

Lance Cpl. Vanessa M. American Horse can't stand to watch corny comedy flicks. Horror movies incite violent rage in her so she tends not to watch them. A good gangster flick or a comedy with intelligent humor entices her leave base to see a movie and buy over-priced popcorn.

Second Opinion
"Heartbreak Ridge"
4 out of 4 (Confirmed Kill)

I don't know why so many guys like this movie. It didn't inspire me and it definitely didn't make me want to join the Marine Corps. It's just a 90-minute chick-flick with Sigourney Weaver and Jennifer Love Hewitt prancing around trying to be funny. I don't get it. Why … what? Oh … right. "Heartbreak RIDGE." I thought … ahem. Well then yes, I did enjoy this 1986 film starring Clint Eastwood, one of the greatest actors of any generation. For the record, 2001's "Heartbreakers" is not worth watching … unless you're alone on a Friday night and you happen to own the "Collector's Edition" DVD.

– Cpl. Danny H. Woodall



Improvise. Adapt. Overcome.

Lance Cpl. Vanessa M. American Horse
Combat Correspondent

Clint Eastwood has always been known for his gritty tough guy roles, so what better role for him to portray then a die-hard Marine?

This 1986 classic Marine Corps war movie depicts the transformation of a reconnaissance platoon by the highly decorated, disgruntled and romantically challenged Gunnery Sgt. Thomas Highway.

Eastwood produced, directed and starred in this film, which encompasses the 1983 U.S. invasion of Grenada, West Indies. "Heartbreak Ridge" was so titled after Eastwood's character was awarded the Medal of Honor for his efforts in the Battle of Heartbreak Ridge during the Korean War.

4/4
(Confirmed Kill)

As Gunny Highway approaches mandatory retirement, he is transferred back to his old unit, which is now full of disrespect and shenanigans. The platoon quickly learns who is the boss as Highway whips them into shape and prepares them for battle. His previous battlefield experience gives him the respectable authority to rain down an iron fist on his disorganized platoon.

Nothing shakes Highway when it come to the Marine Corps, but the presence of his ex-wife (played by Marsha Mason) scrambles his senses and causes him to reflect on his love life mistakes.

He makes a desperate attempt to win her back from a local bar owner who has promised her a good, honest life with him. She can't stand Highway, but can't help but feel sorry for the devil dog.

Once his platoon understands Highway's high expectations, they open up to him. Highway learns about the struggles his Marines face within themselves and with their families.

Eastwood's portrayal of a salty gunny is nothing less than inspiring. This is not your "Gran Torino" elder Eastwood. This is Eastwood at his finest (think "Dirty Harry," "Magnum Force," etc.) playing a stereotypical hardcore grunt.

His acting shines when the men eventually are given orders to Grenada where their skills are tested in real-life warfare. Highway's stubbornness gets the job done, and showcases his fearless attitude and inspires his platoon to stand their ground and fight.

Contrary to many other Marine Corps movies, this one is generally received well by Marines both young and old.

A Marine I knew before I enlisted said I just had to see it to get a feel for the ways of the Corps.

It motivated me after watching it, but also made me understand why we follow orders and talk to each other the way we do. I guess it gave me the chance to see how an ass chewing can be comical.

Eastwood portrays Highway as the kind of gunnery sergeant that you love to hate because he'll put your face in the dirt and motivate you at the same time.

Marines all know that feeling of dread when stuff's about to hit the fan — but afterward, you feel so damn capable of anything.

TALK* STORY

On May 28,1984, then President Ronald Reagan presented a posthumous Medal of Honor to Army 1st Lt. Michael Blassie at Arlington National Cemetery. That day, he was classified as an unknown soldier from the Vietnam War until modern DNA testing identified him in 1998. Many service members like Blassie are honored on Memorial Day. What is the most memorable moment in history for you?

*[tôk stôreï] Hawaiian slang for an informal, lengthy conversation. Often used as a method to bond, or a good way to kill time.

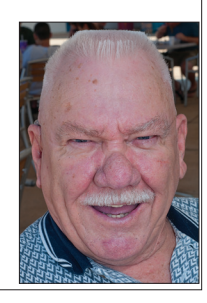


"9/11. Because it showed that America was united. At that moment everybody came together. At a time of need you look to your left, you look to your right — there's your brother."
– Cpl. Jason Cunes



"Attending the inaugural parade for George W. Bush. It was a once in a lifetime experience. It was after I came back from my first deployment."
– Sgt. Jesus Rubalcado

"I was in Hawaii the day it became a state. I was in the Navy. I've had a lot of good times in Hawaii since then. Not too many snowstorms."
– Richard Hall



Going above and beyond



Kristen Wong | Hawaii Marine

Command Master Chief James Lyle, command master chief, Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light 37, receives the Above and Beyond Award from Dita Holifield, radio personality, Salem Media of Hawaii at Hangar 103 May 20. [Right] Seaman William Kueffoua, logistics specialist, HSL-37, of St. Paul, Minn., nominated Lyle, of Henderson, Nevada, for his volunteer work of more than two years with Access Surf Hawaii, which allows the disabled to learn how to surf. The Lex Brodie's Above and Beyond Award monthly honors a person in uniform for exceptional performance. Lyle is the first sailor to receive this award. Lyle, was "definitely surprised and honored."

Making choices about life

Chaplain (Lt.) Troy K. Todd
Marine Aircraft Group 24

Life can be viewed from many different angles. You can look at life through the lens of relationship, education or vocation. Have you ever considered looking at life from the perspective of "choices?" Consider this list of choices.

Choose to love — rather than hate
Choose to smile — rather than frown
Choose to build — rather than destroy
Choose to persevere — rather than quit
Choose to praise — rather than gossip
Choose to heal — rather than wound
Choose to give — rather than take
Choose to act — rather than delay
Choose to forgive — rather than curse
Choose to pray — rather than despair

Of all the choices that we can make in life, do you know one that is one of the most difficult? It is the choice to make a willing effort to forgive someone who has hurt us. We don't like to forgive, we would rather hold onto a grudge and remind ourselves how we have been mistreated, hurt or wounded by someone, sometime, at some place.

In the Bible, the question was raised, how many times should we forgive someone, up to seven? Seven is a symbolic number that represents perfection. The answer came back, not up to seven, but 70 x 7 (490). Can you imagine being mad at someone and saying I forgive you 490 times? The first 10-20 times you probably don't mean it nor do you feel it in your heart. But, when you near the 400 mark, it will most likely feel natural because repetition is a good teacher.

The point is simple, "it is better to forgive than to hold onto a grudge." Let me add one crystal thought, forgiveness does not equate trust. We can forgive someone and still not trust them. Trusting someone is built over time and consistency.

Cheric Carter–Scott reflected on forgiveness by stating, "Anger makes you smaller, while forgiveness forces you to grow beyond what you were."

We cannot change the past, but we can do something about the present — and that is to ask God's help as we work through the emotions to forgive. When we choose to forgive, it releases us from the bonds of negative thoughts and emotions while also allowing us to feel renewed and refreshed. The person who chooses to forgive benefits the most from the action to forgive.



Learn to start a business at K-Bay

Marine Corps Community Services
Marine Corps Base Hawaii

Want to do business at Marine Corps Base Hawaii? There is still time to sign up for an upcoming free event for those interested in building a business here.

MCB Hawaii and Marine Corps Community Services are hosting the open industry day on Tuesday, June 8 to share information about how to do business on base.

Businesses interested in working with the government on a local level are invited to the Koa Malina Lanai Ballroom for an information session from 9 to 10 a.m. An informal networking reception will follow from 11 a.m. to noon.

From contracting to advertising, there are numerous ways to build business with MCB Hawaii. Find out how to get a product into military hands. Learn about the procurement process and how to bring your business, product or service on base. Meet representatives from MCB Hawaii regional contracting; MCCS contracting and procurement; food, beverage, hospitality and catering; health and fitness; marketing, sponsorship and advertising; and retail purchasing.

Any company, large or small, interested in reaching the military market and growing its business is encouraged to attend this free event.

Register online at www.mccshawaii.com/industry.htm. For more information, call 257-2651.

Community center holds open house today

Press Release
Forest City

The Waikulu Community Center is holding an Open House Event today, from 3 to p.m.

Tour the center. Also, enter to win a gift card. There will be free balloons and refreshments. Room reservations start June 1.

The center is located on 5081 Bingham Way. Limited parking available within the community. For more information, contact your Resident Services Office at 839-8700.

Darryl Worley to perform at BayFest

Marine Corps Community Services
Marine Corps Base Hawaii

The 21st annual BayFest will join forces with the Kaneohe Bay Air Show, Sept. 25-26, providing free entertainment at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

Known for twenty years of headline entertainment, BayFest will provide staged performances during daylight hours then kick into high gear with music the moment the last planes land, going well into the evening both Saturday and Sunday nights.

National country artist Darryl Worley will headline Saturday's entertainment, with support from Mike Corrado and the Kings of Spade.

Sunday's lineup will be filled with local entertainers Natural Vibrations, BET and Willie K. The Marine Forces Pacific Band will also be showcased both nights.

Other elements of BayFest wrapped into the air show include rides and fun. A carnival of children's rides throughout the day will feature inflatable bouncers and mechanical keiki rides.

A signature BayFest fireworks show will conclude the entertainment on Saturday night.

A new addition to the BayFest and Kaneohe Bay Airshow combined event is a "Taste of Oahu" highlighting restaurateurs from across the island who will provide a wide variety of food available for purchase by hungry attendees.

The gates will open at 9 a.m. both days of the Kaneohe Bay Airshow, enabling attendees the leisure of all-day access to MCB Hawaii.



Helene C. Stikkel | Department of Defense

National country artist Darryl Worley will headline the Sept. 25 BayFest concert.

The addition of the BayFest evening concerts will also help lessen the rush of traffic exiting the airshow.

The Kaneohe Bay Airshow and BayFest entertainment are free to the public. Premium seating will be available for purchase. See http://www.mcbh.mil/airshow.

WORD TO PASS

On Base

Military Academic Skills Program
Monday to June 21

There will be a Military Academic Skills Program available May 24 to June 21, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., in classrooms C and D. This four-week program provides intensive English and math instruction ("Academic Boot Camp"). It's an effective way to prepare for success on many tests such as the GED, SAT, & ACT, and taking college-level courses. Must have commanding officer approval to participate. Call Maria Fullenwider at 257-2158.

MOPS registration
Wednesday and Thursday

It is time to register for the Mothers of Preschoolers groups starting in the fall at the Base Chapel. There is a morning and evening group. Groups are open to moms of children ages birth to five who are spouses and active duty. Childcare is available. The morning group will meet the second and fourth Wednesday of the month, from 9 to 11 a.m. The evening group will meet the fourth Thursday of the month, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Registration is free but required. POC is Colleen Schiefelbein at 262-6399.

In the Community

Hawaii Military Band Mele
Saturday

Listen to a free concert at Fort DeRussy from 7 to 10 p.m. Guest artists Kapena will be there as well as the local military bands.

The concert offers a variety of styles — top 40, country, classic rock, Motown, and island music — will be played by military bands from the Marines, Navy, Air Force and Army.

For information, contact the USAF Band of the Pacific-Hawaii at 448-0281.

Pearl Harbor Historic Sites offer free admission to military
May 31

Admission to all Pearl Harbor Historic Sites will be free this Memorial Day, May 31, for active-duty, reserve, auxiliary and retired U.S. military personnel and their family.

Qualified visitors must present a valid military ID upon entering the sites of their choice, including the USS Bowfin Submarine Museum and Park, Battleship Missouri Memorial, and Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor.

The USS Arizona Memorial and USS Oklahoma Memorial do not charge general admission.

GIVE BACK TO YOUR COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER

Aviation Museum looking for support

The Pacific Aviation Museum on Ford Island needs volunteers. Positions include docents/tour guides, education program docents, aircraft restoration, exhibit construction and setup, curatorial support, special event support (including the upcoming Biggest Little Airshow in August 2010), flight simulator operators, greeters, historical and technical researchers, and clerical support. Training is provided for all volunteers. Special discounts and rewards are among the benefits of volunteering here. Call the volunteer coordinator at 441-1008.

Feed the Homeless

Program volunteers are needed to help feed the homeless. The Base Chapel is looking for volunteers to serve and prepare hot meals to the homeless through the Institute of Human Services in Honolulu.

Volunteers do not need be attendants to chapel services. Call 257-5138 for more information.

Commander's Fitness Series

All events for the Commander's Fitness Series are open to the public. For more information on volunteering at upcoming events, contact Tina Lui at 254-7590.

Youth Sports Volunteer Coaches

Youth Sports is constantly on the lookout for volunteer coaches. For more information, contact Clark Abbey, the Youth Sports Coordinator at 254-7473 or e-mail clark.abbey@usmc-mccs.org.

Help make wishes come true for families and children

Whether they help create the magic that surrounds each wish, work behind the scenes at fundraisers or explain the role that Make-A-Wish plays in our island communities, it is the volunteers who carry the torch. A wish can teach a sick child that anything is possible, even the future. In Hawaii, between 40 and 50 wishes are granted each year. At any given time, there are between 15 and 20 wishes pending.To sign up as a volunteer for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Hawaii, call 537-3118 or visit online at http://www.makeawishhawaii.org/.

Guides needed at Coconut Island

Join the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology's Community Education Program as a volunteer interpretative guide. All training provided to lead tours of this famed island and research facility. Call 235-9302 for more information.

Waikiki Aquarium training volunteers

Offering the chance to teach residents and visitors about Hawaii sea life and conservation, the Waikiki Aquarium will hold free volunteer training until June 5. Aquarium Interpreters share natural history information on the Waikiki Aquarium's outdoor reef exhibit, guide visitor observations and answer questions about Hawaii's marine environment.

The training course covers interpretation and hospitality skills, information on exhibit operations, and various marine sciences. For more information, times or to reserve space in a class, call 440-9020.



Movie Times

“The Ghost Writer” - PG-13	Today | 7:15 p.m.
“Hot Tub Time Machine” - R	Today | 9:45 p.m.
“Date Night” - PG-13	Saturday | 7:15 p.m.
“Why Did I Get Married Too” - PG-13	Saturday | 9:45 p.m.
“The Last Song” - PG	Sunday | 2 p.m.
“The Ghost Writer” - R	Sunday | 6:30 p.m.
“Hot Tub Time Machine” - R	Wednesday | 6:30 p.m.

Prices: *All shows are $3.25 for adults and $2.25 for children. For ticket pricing, the Base Theater Box Office defines an adult as a patron 12 and older and defines a child as a patron from 6 to 11. Children 5 and younger are admitted free of charge. Parents must purchase tickets for R-rated movies in person at the box office for children 16 and younger. Patrons must present their military identification card when purchasing tickets. Call 254-7642 for recorded information.*

Hurricane season is coming — be prepared!

Hurricane season begins June 1 and runs through Nov. 30 of each year, but a disaster could strike at any time. Don’t wait for an emergency to occur — now is the time to prepare.

Develop an emergency response plan and a family emergency kit with items such as water, non-perishable foodstuffs, flashlights, canned foods, baby food, baby wipes and other essential items. Don’t forget those important papers such as wills, birth certificates, etc., as well as current medications. Each kit should be tailored to your specific needs and easy to move around.

Go to http://www.mcbh.usmc.mil for more information. Click “Hurricane Awareness.”