

# M Hawaii MARINE

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Discovery  
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## Embedded Training Team returns home

Lance Cpl. Alesha R. Guard

Combat Correspondent

Marines and Sailors from Embedded Training Team, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Hawaii returned from an eight-month deployment to Afghanistan Friday in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

The Marines volunteered for the deployment to be embedded with Afghan National Army units and help train them to become a stable, self-sufficient military.

"The Embedded Training Team goes over there to train the Afghan National Army in everything we do as Marines - weapons, tactics, weapon systems," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Charles B. Van Allen, ETT coordinator, Hawaii teams, 3rd Marine Regiment.

The Marines are the Afghan's link to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, said Sgt. Ian Parrish, ETT assistant coordinator, Hawaii teams, 3rd Marine Regiment. The ETT coordinates patrols for the Afghan Army, and goes out on missions with them. In most parts of the country the Afghan soldiers aren't allowed to go out unless an ETT is with them. This is in case U.S. troops go out and don't know who the Afghan

troops are, they can contact the ETT Marines.

"If they're on a deployment, we'll go out with them and patrol, or if they're doing training, we'll go through the training cycle with them," Parrish said.

Most of the predeployment training was done here, but they also went to the Mojave Viper Exercise at Marine Corps Air Ground Center, Twenty-nine Palms, Calif., said Van Allen.

"The pre-deployment training was basically more advanced infantry tactics," Parrish said. "When you're out there, you're the only thing they have - you're their radio operator, their corpsmen - if something goes wrong, then you're going to have to fix it."

Parrish said the Afghans greatly value relationships. Once they realized the Marines were there to train them and share their knowledge, he noticed they were more attentive and willing to learn.

"The ETT Marines are out with Afghans all day, constantly building relationships with them, with no U.S. troops around most of the time," Parrish said. "You make such good rela-

See RETURN, A-5



Lance Cpl. Alesha R. Guard

Staff Sgt. Nicholas Dospital, Embedded Training Team, 3rd Marine Regiment, hugs his son, Braiden, at the Honolulu International Airport Friday during the ETT Homecoming Ceremony. The Embedded Training Team returned from an eight-month deployment to Afghanistan to train the Afghan National Army units.

## Rise in motorcycle accidents puts base focus on safety

Lance Cpl. Regina A. Ruisi

Combat Correspondent

A recent rise in off base motorcycle accidents has prompted the base Military Police Department to take a firmer stand on safety violators.

Three accidents in March and two so far in April have resulted in serious injury of Marines, and most have been the result of speeding once leaving the base's front gate.

"Once they're out past the barrier, they gun it," said 1st Lt. Tyson Scott, patrol operations officer, Military Police Company. "The speed limit is 35 [miles per hour] and the projected speed for the Marines in the accidents was more than 80."

Two of the Marines weren't licensed motorcycle operators, without registration on or off base,



Courtesy photo

or insurance. Inexperience on a motorcycle is the key factor blamed for the accidents, and the base offers required classes to help assuage the issue.

See SAFETY, A-5



Cpl. Chadwick deBree

Iraqi civilian workers, alongside Marines of Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 1, put up a HESCO wall at the Iraqi Police Station in Sitcher, Iraq, March 29. The Iraqis and Marines are building around the station in order to make it safe for the Hawaii-based Marines to conduct operations out of it.

## Hawaii Marines construct improved security for IP station

Cpl. Chadwick deBree

Combat Correspondent

**SITCHER, Iraq** — The sun suspended high in the sky, beating down on all who didn't seek shelter from its rays. But the mid-day heat didn't stop Iraqi workers and the Marines with Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 1.

The Hawaii Marines, partnered with Iraqi Police and Iraqi civilian workers, continued with a two-week project March 29, to build up security around the IP station here.

The IP station is being fortified so Marines can conduct joint operations and work even closer with their Iraqi counterparts, said 2nd Lt. Husein Yagham, platoon commander, second platoon, Golf Company, 2/3.

"We are going to move out to the IP station in order to work closer with the Iraqis," Yagham, a 24-year-old native of Toledo, Ohio, said. "We should be done with the construction by the end of the week and move there shortly after."

Yagham said most Marines associate the word construction with combat engineers, but not so in this case.

"No engineers were here to help us do the construction around the IP station," he said. "It was just Iraqi workers and our grunts doing all the work. We worked on everything; building the HESCOs, placing the razor wire and guard posts, we did it all."

Within a two-week period, the Marines were able to flatten the ground, build up a guard post and build the wall

about half way around the station, said Sgt. Dane Y. Kincaid, section leader, second platoon, Golf Company, 2/3.

"Once we are all done we're going to be occupying it, so we have to make sure it is good," said the 25-year-old native of Makawao, Maui, Hawaii. "I'm looking forward to us going out there because it takes up a lot of our time driving out there everyday. It takes about an hour to drive out there and an hour to drive back."

The Marines are also anticipating working with the Iraqi Police on a daily basis.

"We've built a good relationship with them [the IP]," Kincaid said. "They've been willing to do their job and work hard to keep peace in their area. They are good at

See SECURITY, A-5

## Telling history from the front lines

Lance Cpl.  
Ronald W. Stauffer

U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific

**CAMP H.M. SMITH, Hawaii** — History can be remembered by those who were there, or by those who took the time to capture it in story, photo, song or video.

Ernest Taylor Pyle is one of those people who left his small mark in the history books as a war correspondent, giving his sweat and blood to tell the stories of the fighting men of World War II before his life ended in combat April 18, 1945.

Pyle spent a brief period

of his young adulthood in the U.S. Navy during World War I. He later found his niche in journalism.

His skill soon drew him back to the military as a war correspondent, informing those back home of the patriotic fighting and sacrifices made.

"Among World War II war correspondents, Ernie Pyle was the best in his time and over the war," said Richard Pyle, Associated Press writer (No relation). "Since then he has remained the standard by which others may be judged."

Pyle said Ernie had his would-be imitators, but

nobody ever did the job exactly the way he did, nor did it as well.

Ernie covered the German bombing blitz in London in 1941 and spent the rest of the war covering U.S. forces in combat.

He also covered the fighting forces in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, France and finally in the Pacific, where he covered the invasion of Okinawa on April 1, 1945, said Pyle.

Ernie showed the world the true picture of an infantryman fighting in the war.

See HISTORY, A-4

## NEWS BRIEFS

## SNAKE ALERT

At approximately 7:30 a.m. Thursday morning, a base resident sighted a snake while jogging down from Kansas Tower on the east side of the road by a concrete culvert just upwards of the Officer's Club overflow parking. The snake is reported to be thin, dark green/brown and about 2 ft long, and slipped into the brush near the culvert upon approach.

Snakes are an invasive species and a serious threat to Hawaii's ecosystem and can be a threat to the health and safety of MCB Hawaii residents and native wildlife. If you see a snake at any time, please call the Military Police Desk Sergeant at 257-7114 and leave your name and number in order to track the sightings effectively. Reminder: Pet snakes are unauthorized in the state of Hawaii.

## Mokapu Mall

Mokapu Mall will celebrate its tenth year here by hosting a 10th Anniversary and Travel Fair Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, contact Christopher Sereno at 254-7563.

## Marine Corps League

The Marines Corps League, Aloha Detachment, is encouraging Marines, Fleet Marine Force Corpsmen and anyone who has the desire to preserve the traditions and promote the interest of the U.S. Marine Corps to join Aloha Detachment on Oahu.

For more information, contact John Ah Chick at 227-9115 or 261-9693.

## Beach Cleanup

The Hawaii State Bobsurfing Association will host a beach cleanup Sunday at Sandy Beach in celebration of Earth Day. For more information, contact Capt. Benjamin Mercier at 257-2089.

## BayFest 2008

Tickets for the 19th Annual BayFest 2008 are currently on sale.

Two types of tickets are available for the event: the BayFest ticket, which allows one-day access to the carnival fairgrounds, contest, military static displays and the Island Lifestyle Exposition. The all-inclusive ticket, which provides patrons with the same one-day access as the BayFest ticket, will also include concert admission.

Tickets are available at Ticketmaster or your local Information, Tickets and Tours office. For more information, contact your local ITT office or Marine Corps Community Services.

## Channel 2 Survey

Combat Camera is conducting a survey to gather information about usage of the Base Commander's Channel, Channel 2. Combat Camera is using the information to improve the service in order to better serve the base community.

For more information, call Gunnery Sgt. Schellenbach at 257-1365, or to take the survey visit <http://ice.disa.mil/svy.cfm?channel2>.

## Important Phone Numbers:

On-Base Emergencies	911
Military Police	257-7114
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Business Management Hotline	257-3188
Pothole & Streetlight Repair	257-2380
Base Information	449-7110
MCBH Duty Chaplain	257-7700
DEERS	257-2077

## HAWAII MARINE

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## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER — Decision Points in Times of Change

Lt. Alan Rogers

CPRW-2 Wing Chaplain

During a recent visit here, Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Adm. Mike Mullen noted something endemic to us in the military community:

"We live in a time of tremendous change. This is an uncertain and unpredictable time when we are constantly learning and updating our tactics, techniques and procedures." It has been said that the only thing constant in life is change.

This month marks the anniversary of another perilous time in our nation's history when the need to change was not only a fact of life, but also a necessity for survival. The year was 1942, and there was good reason for apprehension in America. Only 131 days following an attack that left conventional wisdom at the bottom of Pearl Harbor, many seemed to be more interested in fixing the blame rather than the problem. Fear loomed over the nation, and hope turned to American military forces as the only line of defense against an aggressor rolling across the Pacific with increasing intensity. The response that would follow was unlike anything ever attempted. An imaginative and courageous plan was launched, based on a scenario that many deemed unworkable and impossible.

Was it a risk worth taking? Decisive leaders recognized the significance of the times and knew that a drastic change in systems and methods was imperative. The necessity for action precluded the luxury of additional time, funding, research or argument. Available resources would be utilized in new and innovative ways, and success depended not only on technology and tactics, but also on a change in the mindset of those who would employ them. Old

paradigms would have to die. Personal agendas crumbled under the weight of collective survival. Joint planning was required where turf battles for limited service budgets once reigned. Focusing on commonalities rather than on differences, teams worked together to overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles.

Eventually, trust replaced suspicion and hope prevailed over cynicism. Survival and victory would, however, depend on the ability of those from differing backgrounds and beliefs to commit and submit every effort to a common purpose. Placing their trust in personal faith, one another, their leadership and their cause, they embraced



ROGERS

change as an opportunity. A strike at the heart of mainland Imperial Japan utilizing only sixteen Army B-25 bombers launched from a Navy aircraft carrier might have appeared at best a long-shot, at worst suicidal. Even the initial vision for this bold retaliatory strike came from an unlikely source — a submariner! The result was what history remembers as the "Doolittle Raid" of April 18, 1942.

While inflicting only minimal tactical damage on Japan's military infrastructure, the daring operation ultimately produced results of incalculable strategic value. Marking the beginning of

a psychological turn toward a vision of victory, hope was restored as Americans committed to the long struggle ahead. Higher morale translated into increased war production and operational planners became less reactive and more aggressive in taking the fight to the enemy. Stunned Japanese strategists overreacted by pulling forward-deployed troops to defend the Japanese mainland. Events would culminate later that same year in the Battle of Midway, another defining moment that would ultimately turn the tide of the war in the Pacific.

Surely those who planned and conducted the Doolittle Raid could not have imagined its eventual impact on the outcome

plays an integral role. We all place faith and trust in something. God's intervention in the lives of people throughout history is a powerful illustration that old paradigms pass away to be replaced by something new, different and full of opportunity.

God is in the business of doing things that have never been done before, beginning something fresh in something old. Faith in God is not a blind faith, but a well-founded confidence in the demonstrated character of God; a character that transforms lives by translating faith and hope into its purest expression and ultimate outcome — love. Even more dependable than the constancy of change is the prevalence of God's love.

“Regardless of one's religious affiliation, faith plays an integral role. We all place faith and trust in something. God's intervention in the lives of people throughout history is a powerful illustration that old paradigms pass away to be replaced by something new, different and full of opportunity.”

of the war and on world history. In contrast to those initial detractors whose limited vision was characterized by fear, negativity and defeatism, they chose to act decisively on a plan that was consistent with their purpose. While always involving risk and some pain, change is required anytime we transition from theory to practice. This is the stage where we, and others, learn who we really are. But even after the vision has been articulated, the road ahead might still seem somewhat uncertain. It is. We have never done tomorrow this way before. Regardless of one's religious affiliation, faith

Perhaps you're at a point in a relationship, career decision or time of struggle where you could use a renewal of hope and purpose, a fresh perspective or a new start. Times of change provide great opportunities to change. When we remain faithful to our principles, loyal to our convictions, and act with honor and moral courage regardless of potential risks or personal costs, neither past failures nor present circumstances define us. We have the power to embrace these changing times as defining moments in us as we dare to grasp a new vision of victory for our lives.



Lance Cpl. Regina A. Ruisi

Combat Correspondent

"I am alive today because of the kindness of a stranger." — Peggy, kidney recipient

It takes only a moment to change a life. Filling out paperwork for a driver's license or getting a military identification card takes only a few minutes, and still less time is required to place a small check in a box. It takes little effort, but a lot of consideration to become an organ donor. In honor of Donate Life Month, here is some information about becoming an organ donor.

Hundreds of thousands of men, women and children are waiting for organ donations to save their lives. The New York Organ Donor Network estimates more than 98,000 Americans in 2007 were waiting for organs, and becoming an organ donor is a way everyone can potentially help save a life. An identifying mark on the back of your mili-

tary ID or driver's license lets doctors and family members know you made the choice to donate your organs. In the event of an organ donor's death, their organs are medically screened for possible donation and a match is found among the growing list of those in need.

A single organ donor can help up to eight people. The hearts, intestine, kidneys, liver, lungs and pancreas are the organs a person who was healthy before death can donate to help someone else's life. Every day approximately 17 people waiting for organs die, totaling more than 6,000 people yearly in the United States who die because a replacement organ isn't found. More shocking is the fact that every 13 minutes another name is added to the national waiting list for organs.

In the greater New York metropolitan area in 2007, there were 600 potential organ donors who died. Only 319 of them were organ donors. That's a 56 percent consent

rate, meaning 44 percent of those who could have saved a life said "no."

The greatest concern a potential donor can have is if organ removal interferes with funeral arrangements. According to the New York Organ Donor Network, there is no damage or disfiguring done to a donor's body, and organs are removed with "respect and in an operating room under sterile conditions." The only thing a donor has to worry about is making the decision to save a life and identify that decision on their driver's license.

Other arguments against donating organs after death seem greatly dwindled by the prospect of saving a life. There is no preference to wealth, status, race or ethnicity of patients, and being an organ donor doesn't change the effort doctors will put into saving your life.

Signing the back of your driver's license or having your donor status on the back of your ID card doesn't necessarily mean your organs will be donated. In most states, next-of-kin consent is required, so make it known to your family you wish to donate your organs in case of your death. While your death may not be something you want to think about, the possibility to save someone else's life in the event of it is something you should consider. It takes little time to change your donor status, and the simple act could result in up to eight people's lives being saved.

For more information on organ donations or becoming an organ donor, visit <http://www.organdonor.gov>.

"Thank you for my new heart. It works very good for me." — Caitlyn, eight years old, heart recipient.

## Weekend weather outlook

## Today



**Day** — Scattered showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 79. East wind around 11 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

**Night** — Scattered showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 72. East wind around 11 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

**High** — 79

**Low** — 72

## Saturday



**Day** — Scattered showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 80. East wind around 13 mph, with gusts as high as 21 mph.

**Night** — Scattered showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 72. East wind around 11 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40 percent.

**High** — 80

**Low** — 72

## Sunday



**Day** — Scattered showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 79. East wind around 13 mph, with gusts as high as 21 mph.

**Night** — Scattered showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 72. East wind around 11 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

**High** — 79

**Low** — 72

# FAMILIES who *train* *stay* TOGETHER



Photos by Lance Cpl. Brian A. Marion

Jessica Milburn fires 5.56 mm rounds down range with an M-249 squad automatic weapon during 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment's Jane Wayne Day at the Marine Corps Base Hawaii rifle range and Landing Zone Boondocker here Saturday. The battalion hosted the event for Marine spouses to show appreciation for all they do and to help gain a better understanding of their husband's job.

**M**ore than 100 Marine wives attended 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment's Jane Wayne Day at the Marine Corps Base Hawaii rifle range and Landing Zone Boondocker here Saturday.

The battalion hosted the day to show their appreciation for the wives' understanding their hard work.

"We take the Marines away from their families during [Puhakuloa Training Area] and during deployments," said 1st. Lt. Mike Deredita, assistant operations officer, training, Alpha Company, 1/3. "We wanted to give back and say 'thanks' to the families."

Although the battalion didn't expect many spouses to attend, they were happy with the turnout.

"Based on the number of spouses who attended last year, we were expecting around 30 spouses," said Lt. Col. Andrew Milburn, commanding officer, 1/3.

"We tried to encourage the Marines to bring their spouses out, and it looks like it worked," Milburn added. "The incorporation of families into battalion events is vital. We take the

## Spouses become Marines during Jane Wayne Day

Lance Cpl. Brian A. Marion

Combat Correspondent

Marines away from their families for months on end."

The battalion split the wives into two groups based on companies and sent each group to the rifle range or LZ Boondocker. When the groups finished the tasks at each area, they convoyed to the other.

The battalion set up various weapon displays at the range, showing the spouses what they do while deployed.

"We wanted to show the spouses what the battalion is capable of," Deredita said.

"We have a humvee with a Mk 19 grenade launcher, one with a [M-220 E4 tube-launched, optically tracked, wire-guided missile] and one

with an M-2 50 caliber machine gun," he said.

"In addition we also have Marines from our scout sniper platoon with their rifles and some corpsmen at the static displays."

Along with the static displays at the range, the wives shot the M-16A4 assault rifle, the Mk 12 special purpose rifle and the M-249 squad automatic weapon.

Afterward, they watched as 300, .50-caliber rounds thundered down range from the humvee-mounted M-2 50 caliber machine gun.

At the Boondocker, the wives subjected themselves to the gas chamber, fighting skills from the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program

and a slightly bumpy ride inside an assault amphibious vehicle.

"We had unusual events, like the gas chamber, because we wanted the wives to see what their husbands go through and to experience what they experience," Milburn said.

While a few wives entered the gas chamber, the others boarded the AAV's for a swift, but wet, ride to the beach where Marines simulated an improvised explosive device detonation, forcing the spouses to form a 180 degree protective half-circle before boarding the vehicles once again and returning to Boondocker.

"The AAV's were the best part," said Amanda Kapton. "It wasn't like what I was expecting. It was more like off-roading Marine style."

The morning turned into afternoon, and the spouses finished the day with a better understanding of what their husbands do.

"I'm soaked in sweat, and I now know more about what they do than before," Kapton said. "It was tiring, especially wearing all the gear, but it was fun. I'll be back for the next one."



Trees whiz by Marine spouses Saturday as they hold on to an assault amphibious vehicle as it races through the woods around LZ Boondocker during 1/3's Jane Wayne Day.



A Marine with 1/3 fires an M-2 50 caliber machine gun down range Saturday at the MCBH rifle range here during 1/3's Jane Wayne Day. More than 100 Marine spouses attended the event.



Spouses of Marines assigned to 1/3 position themselves inside the hull of an amphibious assault vehicle in preparation for a ride to Fort Hase beach during 1/3's Jane Wayne Day here Saturday.



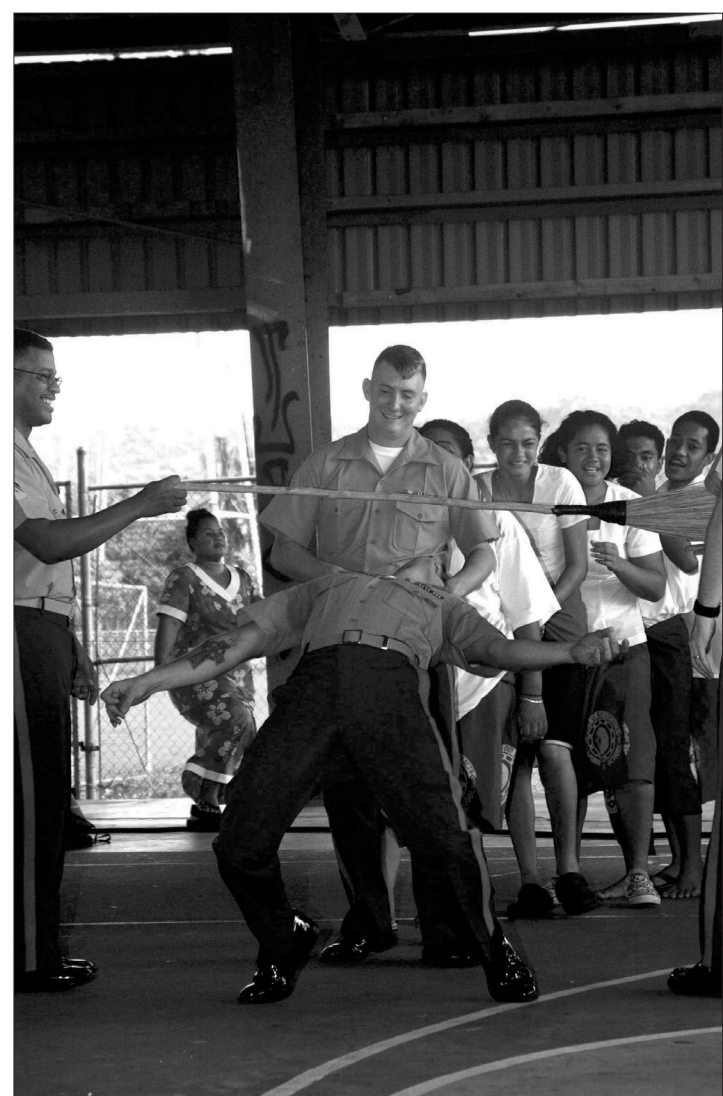
Marine spouses, participating in 1/3's Jane Wayne Day, line up to enter the back of a mine resistant, ambush protected vehicle to participate in a convoy over to LZ Boondocker from the Marine Corps Base Hawaii rifle range Saturday.



Marines with Combat Assault Company, 1/3, drive back to LZ Boondocker Saturday after taking Marine spouses on a ride to Fort Hase beach and back during 1/3's Jane Wayne Day.



A Leone High School Student performs with the U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific Party Band during a high school visit, Monday.



The U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific Party Band members and Leone High School students perform the limbo during the band's visit to Leone High School as part of the 108th anniversary of the American Flag Raising over American Samoa, Monday.

## Marine Forces Pacific Band rocks Samoa

**Master Sgt. Lesli Coakley**

*U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific Public Affairs*

### PAGO PAGO, American Samoa

— The skies were cloudy and the air was thick and sticky as the Marines off-loaded their weapons of mass hysteria. Fine tuning their equipment, the pupils stared in juvenile curiosity. The blue trousers with blood red stripes were not a common sight on this tiny Pacific island. But by the time the morning was over, the Marines of the U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific Band developed new relationships and a new status in the Pacific Rim — rock stars.

"I'm really excited about the Marines being here," said Laentoy Matagi, principal of Leone High School, Leone Village, American Samoa. "The students don't know they are coming. It's going to be a surprise."

The surprise came at the beginning of the school day April 14th. The students, still groggy from a weekend of celebrating Samoan heritage, filed into the sports complex to be awed with the precision musical performance of the Hawaii-based musical troupe. The party band waltzed into the open-air steel arena with their whimsical brand of upbeat party music. Half quality musical stylings and half comedy skit performances, the seven Marines comprising the party band performed to the cheers and clapping of the 954-student strong Leone Lions.

After the light-hearted and perfected performance of the party band came the more modern beats of the Show Band. Performing such classics as "Mustang Sally" and The Beatles' "Come Together," the Show Band caught the attention of the next generation with tunes from No Doubt and Santana. Inspiring staff and students alike, the band found new performers and dancers willing to assist in the show. Teachers boogied with Marines and students sang back-up with the band. Marines and students even teamed up to perform the limbo.

All this excitement was a first for



Leone High School Senior Olita Hollister and Master Gunnery Sgt. Joseph Elisara perform a traditional Samoan dance after the U.S. Marine Forces Pacific Band's performance at the school as part of the 108th anniversary of the American Flag Raising over American Samoa, Monday.

*Photos by Master Sgt. Lesli Coakley*

Leone High School.

"This is the first time we've had any band here. I want to show there are other options out there. I don't think the parents see this as a venue for further education," said Matagi. "We want to start a music program next year."

While Leone High School sports a world-famous choir, they don't have an instrument-based musical program.

This concept was summed up in the comments of junior Angela Segal.

"This was absolutely perfect," said Segal. "The only experience I've had with bands was from TV. I want to learn to play (a musical instrument)."

With a thumbs-up, Matagi said, "Perfect."

Perfection was only the beginning for these Polynesian perform-

ers. The firsts continued when the band traveled a little further East to Fa'asao Marist College Preparatory School. While the student body was less than a quarter of that of the morning's performance, the energy was more than doubled.

Performing much the same music as the morning's show, the students cheered and danced wildly to the sweat-soaked Marines' songs. As the act progressed, the students crowded the stage reminiscent of many mainland rock concerts. At one point, the aisles cleared as the students joined the Marines on stage to take part in a highly energized version of the Village People's "YMCA."

When the last song was sung and the last of the Marines' energy spent, the Marist students provided a cultural exchange with a traditional Samoan dance and song revue.

The Marines were humbled by these teenagers' synchronized performance to traditional music played on Samoan drums and guitar.

"It is an honor to have you guys here," said Gwen Sagapolutelu, principal of Fa'asao Marist College Preparatory School. "We're very excited. This is the first time we've had a musical unit at the school."

The Marines are here at the invitation of Governor Togiola Tulafono to perform as part of the 108th anniversary of the American flag-raising over American Samoa.

"It's always been Marine bands (who have performed for the flag day celebration). We have a strong Marine Corps presence here. There are more former Marines per capita than any other service on the island," said SgtMaj. (Ret.) Filipo Ilaoa, military liaison to the governor.

The U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific band performed for the Flag Day celebration before, but never had the opportunity to showcase their talents to local school children. This year, the band is able to perform for five different high schools and expose thousands of young men and women to the musical arts.

"This is great for Marine Corps exposure," said Gunnery Sgt. Julius Nofo, recruiter, Permanent Contact Station, American Samoa. "Even though the Marine Corps doesn't have an [Military Occupational Specialty] for singer, these Marines sing and play a multitude of instruments. With the help of the media, we are able to reach all of the island's residents."

While these performances lasted an hour-and-a-half each, the impression planted on this island nation will last a lifetime.

### HISTORY, from A-1

"What made Ernie Pyle different was that he spent all his time with the line troops, telling their stories in his Scripps-Howard newspapers columns almost as if writing letters to the folks back home," Pyle said. "He didn't glorify war or wave the flag, he told how miserable war was for the ordinary soldiers, and how they endured and survived, believing in their cause and looking out for each other."

Pyle said there were other reporters in WWII who wrote about soldiers and Marines the way Ernie did, but nobody was as

good at it or had the same kind of impact on the military or the American people.

"He said he didn't hang out with generals, or write about the 'big picture' because he didn't know anything about it," Pyle said. "Actually, he did know a lot of generals and was on good terms with some of them, especially Omar Bradley, but he didn't see them, or the war's grand strategy, as the story he wanted to write."

During Ernie's time as a correspondent he wrote several books about the war and the men and woman who fought for their country.

The titles of his books, which were mostly compilations of his columns, were "Here is Your War," "Brave Men" and "Last Chapter," which told the stories of those around him.

"One measure of Ernie Pyle may be that he was well liked by his colleagues despite his fame," Pyle said. "When Hollywood decided to make a movie about him in 1944, he agreed only on the condition that other reporters be contracted to play themselves on screen."

The movie, titled "The Story of G.I. Joe," was based on the book "Here is Your War" and starred

Burgess Meredith as Ernie Pyle.

Another of Ernie's many accomplishments was winning the Pulitzer Prize for distinguished war correspondence during 1943.

With all his accomplishments set aside, it was not enough to pull him away from his writing and devotion to those who he fought with.

"Ernie was killed by a Japanese machine gun bullet on April 18, with the Army's 77th Infantry Division on Ie Shima, a small island off Okinawa," Pyle said. "He was buried there a day after he was killed but moved to Punchbowl in 1949."

The National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, better known as Punchbowl, was dedicated Sept. 2, 1949, but the gates were opened to burial July 19, 1949.

"The gates were open to the public at 9:30 a.m. and services were held for five war dead," said Retired Marine Corps Col. Gene Castagnetti, director of the NMCP. "An unknown serviceman, two Marines, an Army lieutenant and a middle-aged veteran of WWI were the first to be buried in the cemetery."

The middle-aged veteran was Ernie Pyle, who was laid to rest and is now surrounded by more than

35,000 others who've served their country.

Castagnetti said it's one of the greatest honors to be buried in Punchbowl and Ernie's gravestone is one of the most viewed graves in the cemetery.

"I respect the fact that in his writings he took the time to describe what combat was like from the lowliest man who had to fight that war," Castagnetti said. "He talked about the young men who fought in WWII and the feelings they went through."

History will live on through the words of many, but the lives of others will live on through the stories of Ernie Pyle.

**SAFETY, from A-1**

"A driver needs to have a motorcycle endorsement on their license, insurance, be registered in Hawaii, be registered on base, and to do that they need to attend the base motorcycle safety course," Scott said. "They also need to be wearing the [Proper Protection Equipment]."

Because of the importance put on wearing PPE, gate guards are now checking motorcyclists before they can leave or enter base. The gate guards are looking for required equipment like Department of Transportation approved helmets, goggles or a face shield, sturdy footwear that covers the ankle, long sleeved shirts or jackets, long legged trousers, full fingered leather gloves and a brightly colored upper garment, like a reflective vest.

"The reasons the regulations exist is for the protection of individuals," said Maj. Rebecca Furman, provost martial, Military Police Department. "Our goal is, ideally, to not write any citations. We just like to see the people driving safely. It's important for people to follow the regulations. If they don't, we'll enforce them."

The guards are also checking for motorcycle licenses before a rider can be allowed off base.

Military Police also operate a sky tower at the front gate where they radar the speed of vehicles that exit base and enter the common accident area at the beginning of the H-3 highway. Collaborative efforts with the Hawaii Police Department help catch speed limit and safety violators on the H-3.

"I doubt the riders who crashed would consider the brief speeding worth their bikes being destroyed, them being severely injured and now they get to go to federal

court to top it all off," Furman said.

The risks may not be considered when faced with the dare-devil mentality Marines are famous for, Furman said. Nineteen to 24-year-old males are the prime population for motor vehicle accidents, and, although Furman realizes this is the biggest populace of Marines, she said there is no need to put lives in danger to fulfill risk-taking urges.

"They don't consider the risks they're putting other people in," she said. "Going 85 [m.p.h.] is just asking to get killed. It's one thing to put your own life in danger, but it's another to put other people in danger. A lot of these guys go on deployment after deployment, putting their lives at risk every day. It's such a tragedy to come home and get severely injured or killed because of a motorcycle accident. It's such a waste."

**RETURN, from A-1**

tionships with the Afghans, and they care about you so much that they would do anything for you."

Parrish said it was an Afghan soldier who came to him first when he was hit while deployed with them.

"They believe we are helping them for their cause as well as our own," Parrish said. "I think the ETT as a whole is probably one of the most important jobs, because if we do our job and train their army to be more tactically proficient, we don't have to go over there and do their job for them. I think it's a great job, and I'd suggest it to anyone."

The ETT Marines are striving for the Afghan Army to be able to eventually function independently.

"I volunteered because I wanted to give a deprived country a better chance," said Staff Sgt. Nicholas Dospital, staff noncommissioned officer, ETT, 3rd Marine Regiment. "I wanted to help them be able to accomplish the mission themselves. The deployment was very physically and mentally challenging, but overall was very rewarding."

The ETT team had to rush Parrish home after being hit, and lost two of their own in combat, Petty Officer 3rd Class Mark Cannon, 5-2 ETT, 3rd Marine Regiment, and Sgt. Phillip Bocks, 1-9 ETT, 3rd Marine Regiment.

A memorial service will be held today at the base chapel at 1 p.m., to honor the fallen heroes. Following the service, a state representative from 34th District, Hawaii, will present Cannon and Bocks' families the Hawaii Medal of Honor at the Iwo Jima Memorial here.



Cpl. Chadwick deBree

**A bulldozer dumps dirt inside a HESCO while Iraqi workers level the dirt March 29, at the Sitcher Iraqi Police station. The workers, alongside Marines of Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 1, began building up the station two weeks ago in order to fortify it so the Marines can base their operations out of it.**

**SECURITY, from A-1**

their job and believe in what they are doing."

Yaghnam said the Iraqis play a key role in providing security for the area.

"We found our joint partnership beneficial in counter

insurgency warfare," he said. "I look forward to working with them on a daily basis."

The Island Warriors are working closely with the Iraqi Security Forces during their seven-month deployment to help bring security to the region.

# AROUND THE CORPS

## Marines revamp local police pistol range

**Staff Sgt. Bryce Piper**

*26th MEU Public Affairs*

**FORT PICKETT, Va.** — Wherever the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit goes, whether training or supporting America's global interests, the Marines want to make their destination a better place.

For example, in 2007 when the MEU went to Kenya, they built a school for one local community.

Now, during the MEU's first unit-wide training exercise since forming Feb. 15, they've improved the community around Fort Pickett, Va. Marines from the MEU's logistics workhorse, Combat Logistics Battalion 26, volunteered to make enhancements to a pistol range used by local law enforcement.

The project began March 31 and the Marines wrapped up their work April 4.

Blackstone police, local state police and other agencies all use the range to improve their marksmanship skills. The most significant improvement the Marine engineers made was the construction of a shelter and storage facility. Previously, whenever officers wanted to use the range they had to transport their own targets and equipment.

Sergeant Chris B. Mathias, supervising officer at the Blackstone Police Department, said this relatively simple task will benefit officers and the community in many ways.

"The range is also used by the state police, the sheriff's department and Fort Pickett police," Mathias said. "This building not only helps the department, it helps other departments in the area. This building is going to enhance our training program, which is going to be a benefit to the community, of course. We can offer a lot more training and actually be out here for longer periods of time, so we can actually use that building for breaks and things like that."

Mathias also said the storage space will keep officers from having to transport their heavy gear each time they want to use the range. As for the Marines, they were eager to get to work.

"This is the kind of thing we like to do," said Sgt. Matthew Dike, combat engineer section head. "We like to get hands-on with engineering and construction," he said.

However, the project was more than something nice for the community, it was excellent training for the engineers.

To support the swift, expeditionary nature of the MEU in its upcoming deployment this fall, these Marines will be called upon to construct operational and humanitarian assistance structures quickly and proficiently.

"It will help us learn our trade before we even get deployed," said Dike.

"It's a good chance to work together as a team before the deployment," agreed Lance Cpl. Ethan Tobias, assistant tool room NCO.

As the engineers put their finishing touches on the project and began to clean up, 26th MEU Commanding Officer Col. Gregg A. Sturdevant arrived to praise them. "Congratulations, Marines," Sturdevant told the

engineers. "You've done an excellent job here. And I know this experience will be good for you in the future. You've managed to help the community and improve your skills at the same time. Nice work."

The first day of the project saw the Marines working in the rain at temperatures reaching only the mid-40s. The rain continued intermittently all week. Undeterred, the engineers of CLB-26 leapt into their work with vigor. Corporal Larry Pearson, combat engineer, shrugged the harsh weather off with defiance.

"Mother Nature's got to come up with something a little better than a couple rain drops to stop the combat engineers," Pearson said.



Lance Cpl. Jacob W. Chase

Sergeant Matthew Dike, combat engineers section head with Combat Logistics Battalion 26, advises Lance Cpl Ethan Tobias and Cpl Larry Pearson as they lay the first row of blocks for a new pistol rangehouse for the Blackstone Police Department in Blackstone, Va., March 31. Marines from CLB-26, the combat logistics element of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, endured cold and rain for the project, which helped the Blackstone community and sharpened their own skills. The 26th MEU is conducting unit training here to prepare its Marines and Sailors for a planned deployment later this year.

# Hawaii MARINE LIFESTYLES

HAWAII MARINE B SECTION

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APRIL 18, 2008

## Hawaii Children's Discovery Center

*Where imaginations,  
adventure take flight*

**Lance Cpl. Regina A. Ruisi**  
*Combat Correspondent*

There is only one place children can go to become a firefighter, travel to India and take a walk through the human stomach in one afternoon. The Hawaii Children's Discovery Center offers hours of imaginative and educational fun for children and their parents to enjoy, seven days a week.

The Hawaii Children's Discovery Center in Honolulu, which opened in December 1998, has four galleries with hundreds of different exhibits, all with the goal of entertaining and educating children of all ages.

"We like to think of ourselves as educational," said Dana Nishiyama, who has been working at the center for four years. "Children learn by playing here. The exhibits are designed with educational intent. We hope children have fun learning."

The first gallery is "Fantastic You," where children can learn about different parts of the human body. Children can pump a heart, walk through the stomach, make a skeleton ride a bike and take a step into the human head, seeing how the brain and eyes work. A diner exhibit offers children a chance to learn about nutrition, and a clinic teaches children about their own bodies, how they grow, what they weigh and what body parts look like through an X-ray machine.

When children are done learning about their bodies, they can walk into the next gallery, "Your Town." In Your Town, children can become a firefighter, postal worker, judge, police officer, grocery store clerk, auto mechanic, bus driver and other jobs that help a town operate.

In the fire house, children learn about the busy lives of firefighters. In the police station, children learn how to dial 911, and in the grocery store, children can either shop or ring up groceries. A full veterinary clinic teaches children about different kinds of animals and allows them to run free and play. Children also get the opportunity to dress up in costumes and perform a play, in charge of their own curtain pulling and lighting. The KKID news station teaches children about the different aspects of the news, allowing them to be an anchorperson, read the weather or control the cameras.

"My sons like the freedom, the chance to run around and go from one scene to another," said Cindy Owens, as she chased her four and two-year-old sons around the stomach. "I follow them. It's not like the outside world where you try to keep your kids close to you. It's very safe."

On the second floor, visitors enter "Our Rainbow World," where houses from different countries and cultures are set up. Children can walk into an American front yard and plant different vegetables, walk through an Indian seamstress shop to learn about sewing machines, and even "eat" sushi at a Japanese table. Houses from Portugal, India, the Philippines, Japan, China and Korea show visitors how families from around the world celebrate together.

The final gallery is a Hawaiian display, which teaches children about the history and present of Hawaii. Children and their parents can create an underwater scene, go into the Aloha Tower, board a jet from Aloha Airlines, steer a ship and pick pineapples at the Dole Plantation.

A day at the center costs \$8 for adults, \$6.75 for children two through seven, and is free for children under two. A senior discount is available for adults 62 and over. The entire center promotes the use of imaginations for both children and adults, and provides educational lessons along the way.

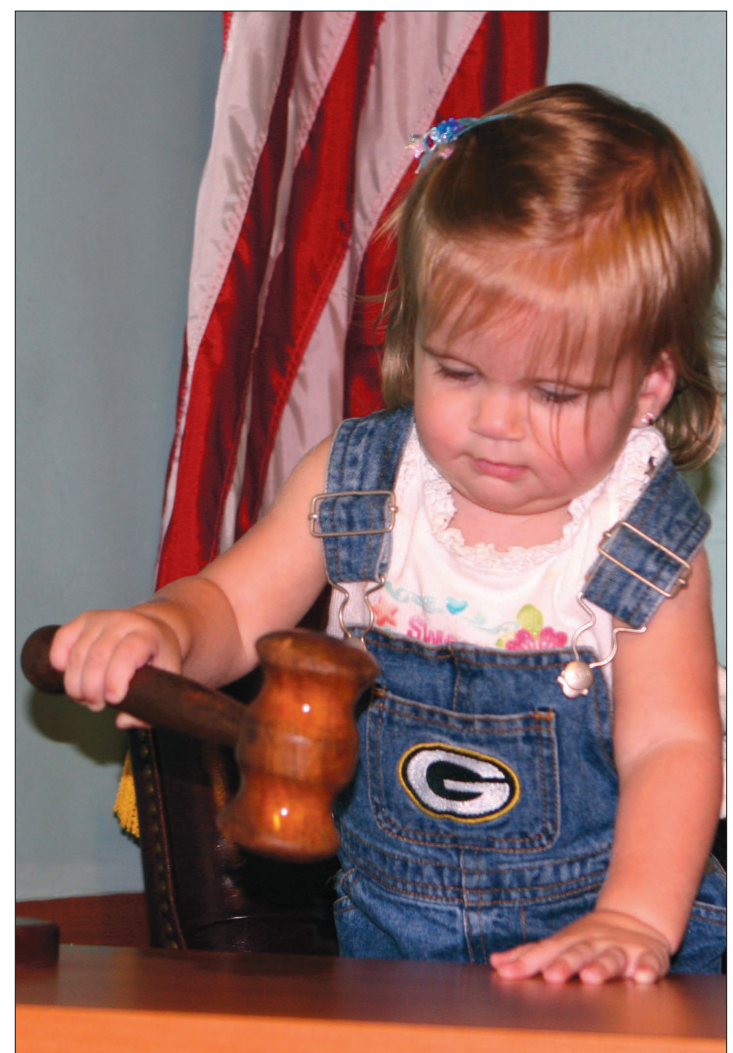
"We're really high on families playing together," Nishiyama said. "That's our mission, family interaction. It's great to see."



Visitors to Hawaii Children's Discovery Center in Honolulu can blow big bubbles together in the Hawaiian gallery at the center. The center is hands on and fully interactive, and gives parents and children the chance to have fun while learning.

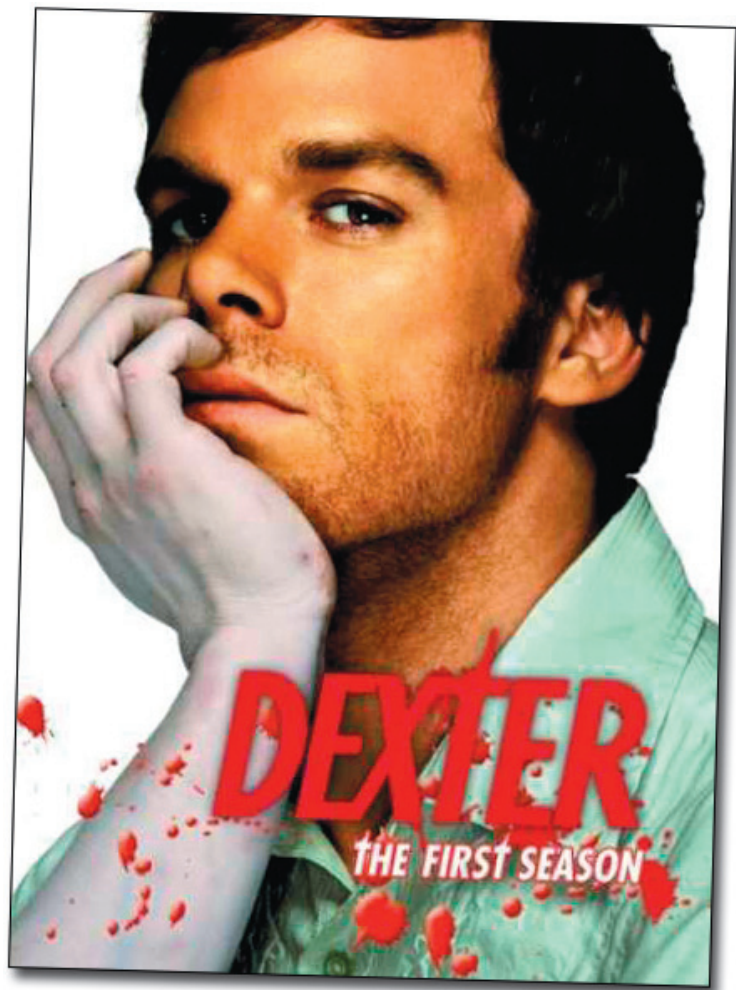


A grocery store clerk rings up groceries for a shopper at the "Your Town" grocery store in the Hawaii Children's Discovery Center. The gallery allows children and adults to learn about different jobs citizens of their town have.



Children of all ages can experience different professions, from judges to bus drivers, in the "Your Town" gallery of the Hawaii Children's Discovery Center. The center, in Honolulu, is open seven days a week for children and adults to play and learn together.

# PASS <sup>IN</sup> REVIEW



## A 'killer' hit

**Lance Cpl. Regina A. Ruisi**  
*Combat Correspondent*

He's funny, successful, charming, and completely addicted to blood. That might be why Dexter Morgan is a blood-pattern analyst for the Miami Police Department homicide section. That may also be why he's a serial killer.

Showtime's "Dexter" series' first season brings the thrills of murder and mystery to DVD in a four-disk collection, which is good because once you've seen one episode, it's hard to stop.

The first season collection introduces viewers to Dexter Morgan and follows him through his daily (and nightly) lives as both a "good guy" and "bad guy."

At first glance, Dexter seems to be your all around upstanding citizen, working to put murderers behind bars, dating a beautiful woman and caring for her two children. It isn't until Dexter is confronted with a particularly interesting series of killings that his true monster comes out, and the viewer sees Dexter isn't all he appears to be. He has

been secretly and meticulously committing murders throughout the city, claiming the lives of some of Miami's shadiest characters.

Adopted by a homicide detective, Dexter's secret bloodlust is recognized early, and his adopted father trains him to channel his violent urges and use them for good.

After years of perfecting his skills, Dexter spends his nights ridding the Miami streets of convicted felons who get out of prison easily, human traffickers, drug lords and fellow murderers.

Carefully trained in leaving a clean crime scene, Dexter never comes close to being caught until halfway through season one, when a skilled serial killer begins taunting him. From that moment on, it becomes Dexter's professional and personal mission to bring the killer to secret justice.

I've always found it thrilling to

root for the "bad guy," and while Dexter may be a serial killer, his good motives and careful executions are hard to ignore, and I found it hard not to sit on the edge of my seat praying Dexter doesn't get caught.

Michael C. Hall ("Six Feet Under") portrays the likable anti-hero well, keeping his secret darkness alive while charming all the while.

A fantastic cast of characters help make the show addicting, adding to the drama, humor and irony of the series.

Those with a queasy stomach or a blood-phobia, be warned: there are a lot of mangled corpses, blood splatters and violence.

Complete with murderers, foul-mouthed cops and a lot of dead bodies, the show's not one for children, unless parents are trying to give them gruesome nightmares.

But for those who don't mind a little gore, the series is entrancing.

Based on a series of novels (the first season being based on "Darkly Dreaming Dexter") by Jeff Lindsay, the series is captivating, exciting and funny.

"Dexter: The First Season" is the perfect purchase for deploying service members looking for something to keep them busy (or distract them), or for T.V. series addicts who have watched every episode of "Nip/Tuck" or "The Gilmore Girls" they can get their hands on.

The four-disk collection can be found at prices varying between \$27 and \$40, and is worth every penny. For those who want a taste of "Dexter," without having to pay, edited (lame) versions of the show air on basic cable on CBS Sundays at 10 p.m. eastern time.

## Your weekly guide to all aspects of entertainment

Welcome to the Pass In Review, your number one source for cinema, music, videogame 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.

## Better Know A Critic



**Corporal Mark Fayloga believes "there are few things in the world better than a good book."** His love for reading is a direct result of his father's discipline. "I used to get into a lot of trouble as a kid and the only thing I could do when I was grounded was read. I learned to love it originally just to spite my Dad. Joke's on me I guess." He enjoys fiction the most and avoids nonfiction like the plague.



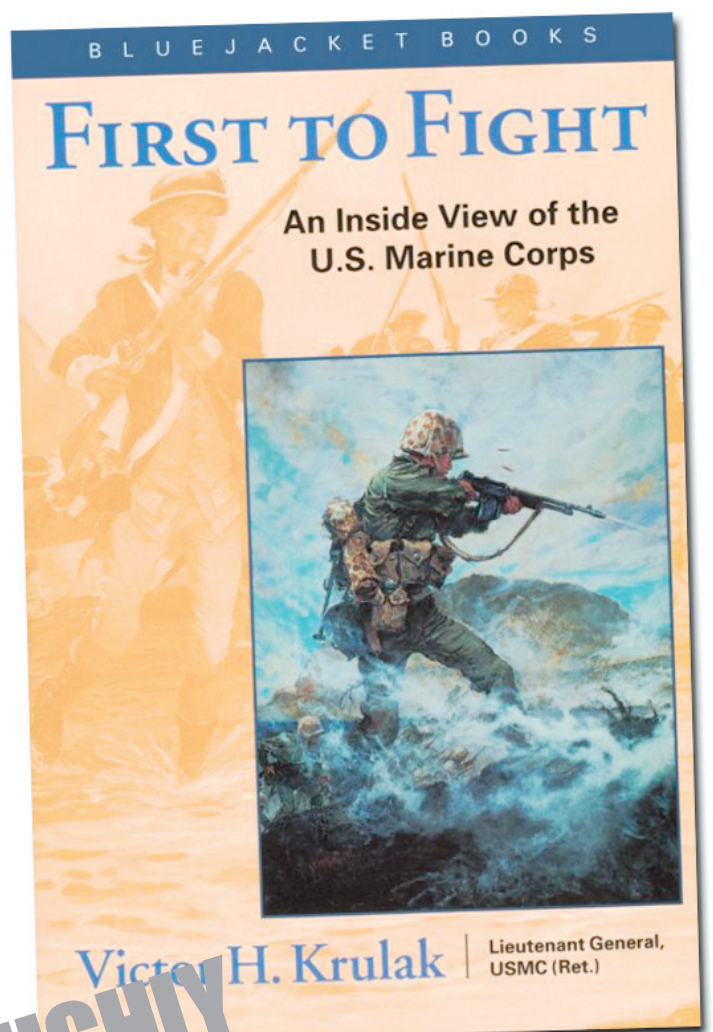
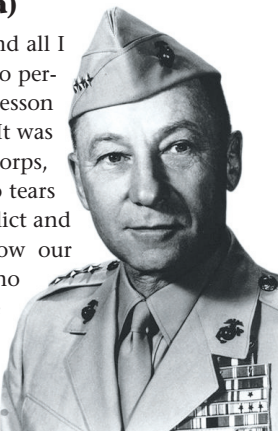
**Lance Cpl. Regina A. Ruisi believes a good film should inspire you.** She's embarrassed to admit that she loves the flick "Ten Things I Hate About You" and believes all movies should be considered art. She thinks classic Hollywood 30's and 40's cinema was the golden age for film because "movies weren't based around gratuity and special effects, they were based around a good screenplay and good acting."

### Second Opinion

#### "First To Fight" 1 out of 4 (No Impact, No Idea)

What can I say about a book written by a general? From the title and all I heard about the book, I was kind of expecting a slug-fest of action to permeate between the covers. Instead, "First to Fight" gave a history lesson about how our Corps came to be with little action the title implies. It was interesting learning more in-depth history about the origins of the Corps, but the political maneuverings within the book almost drove me to tears of boredom. Learning more about battles during the Vietnam Conflict and the Korean Wars would interest a history nut, and learning how our amphibious role came into being is enlightening. For anyone who reads to become more knowledgeable in the inner workings of the Corps, I would recommend this book, but for anyone who reads as a form of entertainment, for all that's decent and holy, don't pick up this book.

— Lance Cpl. Brandon A. Marion



## HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

### Book about Corps has bit of something for all Marines

**Cpl. Mark Fayloga**  
*Press Chief*

For me, reading "First to Fight: An Inside View of the U.S. Marine Corps" is much like my life as a Marine. There were swells of pride, bouts with boredom and moments when I had entirely no clue what was going on, yet I pressed forward anyway.

The book, penned by retired Lt. Gen. Victor H. Krulak, comes highly recommended as it holds the distinction of being the only title on the Commandant's Reading List to be suggested reading for Marines of all ranks.

In "First to Fight," Krulak presents Marine Corps issues from its inception up through the Vietnam War using historical facts, interviews and personal recollection.

My primary complaint about the book

is that it reads the way you would expect an officer to write: facts, figures, strategy and history — all things that are really not what I typically look for in a great book. It is the moments when Krulak falls into a personal anecdote, story of Marine Corps lore, or shares his pride in the Corps' successes when the book really shines, and something I wish he had done far more often.

If you're a history buff, you will likely find infinite delight in this book, and if you're not, struggling to read through technical mumbo-jumbo can be frustrating at times, but is well worth the effort when you do reach a break from Krulak's officer-speak when he reflects earnestly about his own experiences or retells stories of former Marines and events so intriguing, they should rightly have their own book.

The book touches on pretty much every aspect of the Marine Corps. From its humble beginnings, near demise (on multiple occasions), victorious battles and practices long forgotten (they need to okay Institutional Theft again — our office could really use a coffee maker), Krulak is sure to devote attention to everything.

If you're looking for a book which touches strictly on any one of the above named, then you will be disappointed. My advice is to simply read along and stay open to where Krulak leads you.

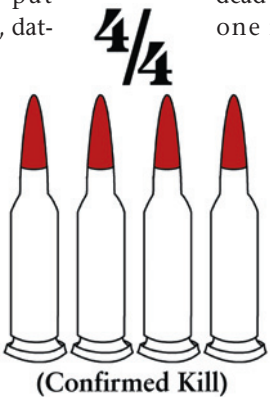
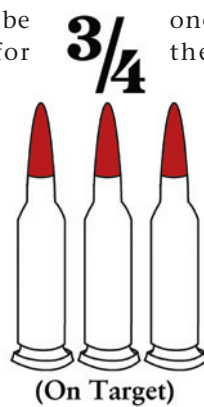
There will be bouts of boredom, but I promise, what you're looking for is just a few pages away.

There are several copies available at the base library or if you're looking to buy your own edition, paperback copies can be found for just a bit more than \$10 online.

It may take reading a few chapters worth of strategy and names you've never heard of to find a little heart, but once you do it's well worth it. I usually avoid nonfiction at all times possible, but "First to Fight" is a title I'm glad to have read.

There were times when it was a struggle to make it through the page, but redemption was always just a page away as I learned a new interesting fact, or read about a story that reaffirmed my faith in the Corps' legacy.

It only makes sense for a book that has something to interest any Marine for it to be recommended reading for all Marines.



(Confirmed Kill)

## TALK\* STORY

Anyone living in Hawaii can't help being amazed by its beautiful landscape. Waking up to rainbows, driving past scenic beaches, and enjoying the yearlong good weather makes everyone seek to protect it. In the spirit of Tuesday's celebration of Earth Day, we wondered ...

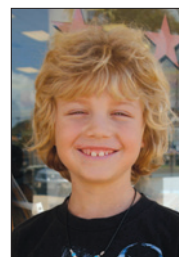
### What do you like best about Hawaii's natural environment?

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



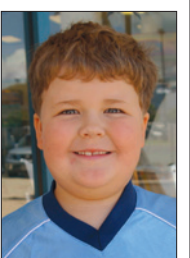
The mountains are just extraordinary. The structure is unbelievable, and you can't see mountains with those kind of rugged ridges anywhere else.

— Sgt. Charles Martin



"I like waterfalls. They look good in the environment."

— Blake Page



"I like Hawaii's fish because they have all kinds of colors."

— Breckin Page



# Desert Diaries

**Lance Cpl. Regina A. Ruisi**

Combat Correspondent

Since 1965, the Marine Corps has effectively preserved its history through the Marine Corps Oral History Branch. The corps-wide program is conducted here by Lt. Col. Tim Crowley, the historical program officer, who documents the accounts of Hawaii's service members. The warriors' stories are collected orally and join the ranks of thousands of Marines and Sailors who've come before them, dating back to the Vietnam War.

"Desert Diaries" tells the personal stories of pride and loyalty, humor and sadness, and the glory and horror of America's wars. The stories are provided by the base historian, and are published to help share our warriors' stories with the public.

When Sgt. Thomas Rooney joined the Marine Corps Reserves at 19, he wasn't expecting to go to war. He left for boot camp from Jacksonville, Fla., in July 2001 before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, and remembers the event clearly.

"At that time we didn't really know what was going to happen," Rooney said. "We knew we were going somewhere, but we didn't know where."

After combat training, Rooney returned to Jacksonville, where he spent the next 18 months trying to become an active duty infantryman. He was finally sent active duty to Hawaii in September 2004, and after two

months of on the job training in the infantry field, his unit was deployed to Afghanistan.

At the time, things calmed down considerably in the country for the Marines, and Rooney was able to sharpen his new infantry skills.

"We were in Afghanistan during fall until the beginning of summer, and there was such a dramatic difference

between summer and winter," Rooney said. "In winter you'd be patrolling through waist deep snow, then walking around in 130 degrees in the summer. The mountains there are brutal, walking up and down them in all the gear."

In Afghanistan, he became a team leader in a line platoon, and returned safely to Hawaii to try out for the scout sniper platoon.

After being accepted to the scout sniper platoon but before receiving training, Rooney's unit deployed again in support of the Global War on Terrorism, this time to the sands of Iraq in 2006.

"There was a lot going on there," Rooney said. "There were a lot of [improvised explosive

“  
You don't really know  
who's good or who's bad  
until they have a weapon  
pointed at somebody or  
they're placing an IED.  
”

devices.] We lost a few guys there. I think we played a major role, though. Our platoon had quite a few number of kills. We stopped a lot of IED emplacements."

Rooney's platoon's main mission was to stop insurgent IED emplacements. They hid along roadways and observed insurgent action.

"We'd see guys pulling up cars and getting out, shooting at tanks," he said. "We'd see them and engage them. One time we saw two men roll up on a motorcycle and start digging. We engaged them and stopped an IED from being placed."

After his first Iraq deployment, Rooney returned to Hawaii and completed scout sniper

school. In 2007 he deployed again for Iraq, this time as a scout sniper. As a sniper, he provided surveillance and reconnaissance for 3rd Marine Regiment. He helped establish an Iraqi civilian watch, which helped the Marines watch for insurgents placing IEDs.

"It's kind of a gray, fuzzy line between good guys and bad guys because they blend in so easily," Rooney said. "You don't really know who's good or who's bad until they have a weapon pointed at somebody or they're placing an IED. That's where the rules of engagement came into play. You had to be really sure. Being a sniper you can make the call. You have to have positive identification, hostile act and hostile intent. Once you have those, you can go ahead and pull the trigger, but it's on you. At times the rules of engagement tie your hands."

The last deployment brought all the Marines in his unit back to Hawaii, and although Rooney considers that a success, he hasn't forgotten fellow Marines who have been killed in action.

"You've got to keep pushing on because that's what he would do if you were lost," he said. "You can't back down. You have to remember it's what you signed up for. You knew it could happen, you didn't want it to happen, especially if it's a friend, but you can't do anything about it, so you have to keep pushing on. You never forget that person. You remember them. You always remember and look back and laugh, but you have to go on."

## A Day in the Life

**Lance Cpl. Achilles Tsantarliotis**

Combat Correspondent

Editor's note: A Day in the Life highlights military occupational specialties and Department of Defense jobs throughout the Marine Corps. This series gives appreciation to the thousands of service members, DoD employees and civilians who make Marine Corps Base Hawaii and installation of excellence.

"The priest elevated the host and said, 'This is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.'"

At that moment then Petty Officer 1st Class Richard House felt so empowered he abandoned his Pentecostal upbringing to begin his journey to become a Roman Catholic, then a priest, and eventually a Navy chaplain and share a feeling so strong, a passion so fervent, and a faith so conclusive, that he couldn't see himself doing anything else. Now a Navy Lt., House serves as priest to the Roman Catholic community here.

"I was in Okinawa at the time when I decided I wanted to become a Roman Catholic," House said. "I first enlisted in the Navy as a printer, but was then serving as a Religious Program Specialist. I set about to finish my bachelor's degree, left active duty to earn a Master of Divinity required to become an ordained Roman Catholic Priest. In time I returned to active duty as a chaplain."

House said he was always a religious person and has family members with varying denominations.

"I have Baptists, Mormons and Jewish family members," he said. "And I don't tell any of them they're going to hell, because they don't believe the same things I do. I ponder that God will sort it all out later. If you're on a path, any path, that takes you to a higher level ... to something that takes you out of yourself and exposes you to something higher - then I say stay on that path. But, I ponder when it's all over and done with, we'll all be surprised."

As a Navy chaplain, part of House's role is guidance and counseling, regardless of religion, for distraught or distressed service members, he said. Service members will come in throughout the day to speak with chaplains, a service he balances with his diligent schedule, due to a shortage of Roman Catholic chaplains in the Navy, he said.

"I think there's a shortage because of the uniqueness of being a chaplain in the service," said Chief Kelvin Nicholas, religious program specialist chief, HQBN. "Putting yourself in harm's way discourages a lot of people. It takes someone that's in it for Christianity - you got to be a chaplain first, not an officer. People are more likely going to come for guidance to a chaplain."

"Out of about 900 Navy chaplains, roughly 120 are Roman Catholic," House explained. "We're few and far between, and within five years the numbers will drop. And right now, I'm bouncing around, to [Naval Base] Pearl Harbor to offer service until they get a chaplain, 3rd Marine Regiment - actually, any [military base] that needs Roman Catholic assistance."

Despite being ordained in the largest Christian church - representing over half of all Christians - and one sixth of the world's population, Catholic service members are slowly fading, or losing their appetite to attend mass, House said.

The slowly digressing attendance is likely the result of a few reasons, said Lance Cpl. James Hlavacek, field cannoner, 1st Battalion, 12th Marines.

"The reason I stopped attending church services is because I married outside my religion, and my wife had been married before," explained Hlavacek, who was raised Catholic. "I'm sure a lot of people stop going because they were



Lance Cpl. Achilles Tsantarliotis  
Navy Lt. Richard House, chaplain, Headquarters Battalion, takes the podium at the Base Chapel here Tuesday. House abandoned his Pentecostal upbringing after an empowering service.

so used to their church back home, where it was like a family - and here they're in an unfamiliar environment."

Making the church service more appealing is something House works for, he said.

"I'm trying to [revamp] some of the services to make it more appealing for the Marines and Sailors," House said. "I'll ask a group of Marines how many went to church before they joined, and a good amount will raise their hands. I'll ask how many went during boot camp, and nearly all of them raised their hand ... then I'll ask how many go now, and there's not many hands up."

House said low attendance is the main reason in trying to offer new services and make it more appealing, because he believes a true bond, connection and trust are formed spending time with the Catholic community.

"Beginning in July we're going to start having a 'Pizza with the Padre,' after our Sunday evening Catholic Mass," he said. "Just sit with the Marines and talk, have an open discussion - open to anything. It's better to worship as a group, to come together as one, and the Pope might not like this but, I like to say, 'It's not Jesus and me, but Jesus and we.'" "I ponder that we need to gather together as a people of faith, to share our common experiences, but to learn and grow from each other."

## Base housing provides waiting list

**Lance Cpl. Alesha R. Guard**

Combat Correspondent

The Department of Defense housing policies, which govern the housing application process, are the same throughout the services with small differences within each branch.

Marine Corps policy is as follows: Individuals, with command-sponsored dependents, may apply for housing and be placed on a waiting list once they have Permanent Change of Station orders (advance application). They can progress up the waiting list, but may not be assigned housing until the military member has checked into his/her unit. They are placed on the waiting list based upon their grade and bedroom requirement.

"The overall goal of [MCB Hawaii] Family Housing Department is to provide good housing choices for our Marines and Sailors," said Lydia Caldwell, housing management specialist, MCB Hawaii Family Housing Department.

There are six categories of waiting lists that include junior enlisted E-1 to E-5, staff noncommissioned officer, senior enlisted, company grade officers, field grade officers and senior officers.

"An individual goes on the waiting list based upon the date they departed their previous permanent duty station," said Jess Park, housing manager, MCB Hawaii Family Housing Department. "If someone is [TAD] en route, their eligibility date is still the date they departed their previous permanent duty station. Also, if someone arrives from an unaccompanied tour overseas, they can get up to 12 months credit on the waiting list, appearing to 'jump' on the list."

For those who fail to apply for housing within the first 30 days of arriving on base, their date of eligibility becomes the date of application, Park said.

"Newly married personnel, with command-sponsored dependents, are placed on the waiting list on the date of marriage, provided they apply within 30 days of the marriage," Park said. "Pregnant single Marines and Sailors may go on the waiting list upon doctor's verification of the pregnancy."

There are two other categories of individuals who get priority on the waiting list, including personnel who must live on base as well as members with [Cat IV] Exceptional Family Member dependents, Park said.

"The provost marshal, the facilities officer, or battalion/squadron level commanding officers, go on the waiting list directly below the freeze zone (top 10%) of the list," Park said.

Recently, the commanding officer of Marine Corps Base Hawaii changed the policy affecting priority assignment for inbound battalion/squadron commanders," Caldwell said.

See HOUSING, B-5

## MOVIE TIME

**Prices:** Friday and Saturday 7:15 p.m., shows are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children. Sunday matinee is shown at 2 p.m. Shows are \$2 for adults and \$1 for children. Evening showings on Sunday and Wednesday are at 6:30 p.m. and late shows are shown Friday and Saturday at 9:45 p.m. Cost is \$2 for adults and \$1.50 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.

**Sneak Preview Policy:** One hour and 45 minutes prior to the movie, tickets will be issued to first priority patrons waiting in line, then second and third priority patrons.

In an effort to prevent piracy, the following security measures will be enforced on base for sneak preview screenings: bag checks, confiscation of cameras or cell phones with picture taking capability (items will be returned after screening), magnetometer wand, audience scanning with night vision goggles during screening.

The Base Theater and film companies thank you in advance for your cooperation and hope you will enjoy the show. For recorded information, call the Base Theater at 254-7642.

Definitely, Maybe (PG13)  
Witless Protection (R)  
Vantage Point (PG13)  
Semi-Pro (R)  
College Road Trip (G)  
Definitely, Maybe (PG13)  
Jumper (PG13)  
10,000 BC (PG13)  
Vantage Point (PG13)

Today at 7:15 p.m.  
Today at 9:45 p.m.  
Saturday at 7:15 p.m.  
Saturday at 9:45 p.m.  
Sunday at 2 p.m.  
Sunday at 7:30 p.m.  
Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.  
Friday at 7:15 p.m.  
Friday at 9:45 p.m.

# SPOTLIGHT ON BASE

## WORD TO PASS

### Sea Life Park Military Promotions

April is military child month for Sea Life Park. Children 12 and under will be admitted free with paid adult admission.

When you purchase any dolphin interactive program you can choose from a free Hawaiian Ray Encounter or a free sea lion feeding with the purchase of any dolphin interactive program.

May is military appreciation month at Sea Life Park. The park is offering a free Hawaiian Ray Encounter or a free sea lion feeding with the purchase of any dolphin interactive program.

For more information, call John Hobus at 259-2503.

### Mongolian Barbecue

Mongolian Barbecue is now available at Camp Smith's Sunset Lanai every Wednesday from 5:30 to 8 p.m. The barbecue will cost 80 cents an ounce.

For more information, contact Marine Corps Community Services at 484-9322.

### Crafters Wanted for Annual Puohala Elementary School Craft Fair

The 15th annual 'Imi Pono Craft Fair and Concert will be held on May 3, 2008 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Pu'ohala Elementary School. We are looking for crafters for our event.

Crafter fees include a \$10 deposit fee and a booth fee ranging from: \$30 for a lawn area, \$40 for a covered walkway and \$50 for the cafe.

For an application or more information, contact Nita at jwolfgramm@gmail.com.

### "The Bee Movie"

The Kupulau Child Development Center will show "The Bee Movie," for free today starting around 7 p.m. The movie is open to all families in the Marine Corps Base Hawaii community.

For more information, contact Youth Activities at 254-7563.

### Mokapu Mall

Mokapu Mall will celebrate its tenth year

here by hosting a 10th Anniversary and Travel Fair Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The mall will have a sidewalk sale and travel fair. The event is open to all active duty, family members and Department of Defense employees.

For more information, contact Christopher Sereno at 254-7563.

### Family Picnic and concert

The Kupulau Child Development center will host a family picnic and the U.S. Marine Forces, Pacific, band Friday from 5 to 6:30 p.m. The event is open to the base community, so bring a picnic dinner, blanket or chairs and enjoy the music. The band will perform at 5:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Tebra Minor at 257-1388.

### Recognition ceremony

The annual Marine Corps Base Hawaii Volunteer Recognition Ceremony will be held April 30 at Kahuna's Ballroom from 9 to 11 a.m. The ceremony will recognize individuals and groups that volunteered here from May 1, 2007 to April 30. A Continental Breakfast will begin at 8:30 a.m., and the U.S. Marine Forces, Pacific, band will perform.

For more information, contact Debbie Hauhio at 257-7786.

### Books and Cookies

Come listen to stories and enjoy cookies with Wally "Famous" Amos at the Base Library April 30, from 3 to 3:45 p.m. The event is open to all military families, sponsored guests and Department of Defense employees.

For more information, contact Merri Fernandez at 254-3890.

### Cinco de Mayo

A Cinco de Mayo celebration will be held at the Officers' club May 2, starting at 4:30 p.m. The event is sponsored by Marine Corps community Services and officers from Combat Service Support Group 3. The event is open to all officers and sponsored guests.

For more information, contact Don Figueira at 254-7650.

## ON THE MENU

AT ANDERSON HALL

### Friday

*Lunch*  
Sour braten  
Jaeger schnitzel  
Hot potato salad  
Tossed green rice  
Simmered cabbage  
Simmered asparagus  
Simmered sauerkraut  
Boston cream pie  
Chocolate chip cookies  
Pineapple upside down cake  
Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding  
Strawberry/raspberry gelatin

### Dinner

Roast pork loin  
Chipper fish  
Mashed potatoes  
Wild rice  
Simmered broccoli  
Corn on the cob  
Applesauce  
Chicken gravy  
Desserts: same as lunch

### Saturday

*Dinner*  
Herbed rock cornish hen  
Country fried steak  
Rice pilaf  
Candied yams  
Herbed green broccoli  
Simmered carrots  
Vegetable gravy  
Chicken gravy  
Pumpkin pie  
Chocolate cookie  
Easy chocolate cake w/chocolate butter cream frosting  
Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding  
Strawberry/raspberry gelatin

### Sunday

*Dinner*  
Yankee pot roast  
Baked ham  
Mashed potatoes  
Boiled egg noodles  
Simmered mixed vegetables  
Simmered pinto beans  
Vegetable gravy  
Dutch apple pie  
Brownies  
Lemon cake w/lemon cream frosting  
Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding  
Cherry/lime gelatin

### Monday

*Lunch*  
Baked meatloaf  
Creole pork chops  
Lyonnaise potatoes  
Noodles Jefferson  
Boston baked beans  
Simmered peas and carrots  
Tomato gravy  
Cheese cake w/strawberry topping  
Cherry pie  
Sugar cookies  
Peanut butter cake w/peanut butter cream frosting  
Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding  
Orange/raspberry gelatin

### Dinner

Russian turkey stew  
Baked fresh fish w/garlic butter  
Steamed rice  
Simmered corn  
Brussels sprouts parmesan  
Cream gravy  
Desserts: same as lunch

### Tuesday

*Lunch*  
Beef sukiyaki  
Chinese five spice chicken  
Egg foo young  
Chinese fried egg rolls  
Steamed rice  
Pork fried rice  
Fried cabbage  
Simmered carrots  
Chow mein noodles  
Sweet and sour sauce  
Lemon meringue pie  
Lemon cookies  
Strawberry shortcake  
Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding  
Strawberry/lime gelatin

### Dinner

Creole macaroni  
Baked turkey & noodles  
Mashed potatoes  
Grilled cheese sandwich  
Simmered green beans  
Cauliflower au gratin  
Turkey gravy  
Desserts: same as lunch

### Wednesday

*Lunch*  
Cantonese spareribs  
Country style steak

Red beans and rice  
Mashed potatoes  
Club spinach  
Simmered corn on the cob  
Cream gravy  
Apple pie  
Brownies  
Pineapple upside down cake  
Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding  
Orange/raspberry gelatin

### Dinner

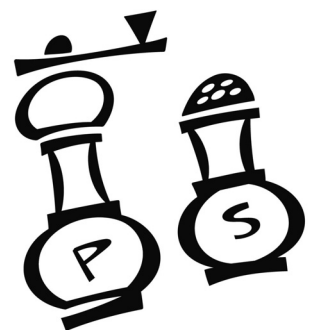
Savory baked chicken  
Beef pot pie  
Boiled egg noodles  
Mashed potatoes  
Southern style squash  
Simmered peas w/mushrooms  
Chicken gravy  
Desserts: same as lunch

### Thursday

*Lunch*  
Baked lasagna  
Veal parmesan  
Oven glo potatoes  
Simmered carrots  
Italian mixed vegetables  
Tomato gravy  
Garlic toast  
Cherry pie  
Oatmeal raisin cookies  
Marble cake  
Chocolate cream frosting  
Chocolate/vanilla cream pudding  
Orange/strawberry gelatin

### Dinner

Chili macaroni  
Simmered corned beef  
Parsley buttered potatoes  
Grilled cheese sandwich  
Glazed carrots  
Fried cabbage with bacon  
Brown gravy  
Mustard sauce  
Desserts: same as lunch



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RECRUITING OFFICE

## Marine Corps Base Hawaii Command Religious Program

### Weekly Services

#### Roman Catholic

Tuesday – Friday - 11:45 a.m. - Daily Mass  
1st Friday of Every Month - 12:15 p.m. - Eucharistic Adoration  
Sunday - 9:30 a.m. - Sunday Mass  
Sunday - 5 p.m. - Sailor – Marine Mass

#### Protestant

Sunday - 8 a.m. - Liturgical Service  
Sunday - 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages  
Sunday - 11 a.m. - Contemporary Service

#### Jewish

Aloha Jewish Chapel Pearl Harbor (Bldg 708) across from Makalapa Medical Clinic  
POC Mr. Daniel Bender, 523-4814  
Monday - 6 p.m. - Jewish Bible Study  
Friday - 7:30 p.m. - Kabbalat Shabbat  
Saturday - 8:15 a.m. - Shabbat Morning Services

### Community Outreach

#### "Feeding the Homeless"

Our next scheduled "Feeding the Homeless" volunteer project will be on Saturday. We will meet at the chapel lanai at 2:30 p.m. and van pool to the Institute of Human services in downtown Honolulu. We will return around 7:30 .m.. The POC is Jessica Broda 351-6531.

#### CREDO Hawaii Spiritual Fitness Center

Located at the MCBH Theater's Courtyard, 257-1919.  
Personal Growth Training - Feb 20-21 amd Mar 8-9.

### Contact Numbers

Recorded message:	257-3552		
Chaplain Linehan:	257-5138	RPC(SW/AW/FMF) Nicholas:	257-8319
Chaplain Stroud:	257-1501	RP3 Chambers:	257-4463
Chaplain Cates:	257-8318	Marlene Miller (Rel. Education):	257-1499
Chaplain Hill:	257-2734	Nadine Kurtz (Secretary):	257-3552

FAX#: 257-5995 MCBH Duty Chaplain: 257-7700

\*The Base Chapel maintains a list of local religious churches and congregations. For information on holiday services, call 257-5138.

# Modest proposals: Simple suggestions save big

**Christine Cabalo**

*Photojournalist*

Simple suggestions may save big for anyone submitting their ideas to the Marine Corps Beneficial Suggestion Program.

In place since the '80s, the program takes cost-saving proposals from any employed civilian or service member. There is no limit on how many suggestions anyone may propose for how to keep the base running efficiently.

"A lot of people think they don't have time for it," said former BSP coordinator, Sharon Zauner, administrative management specialist, Base Safety. "Even if it saves the base money, but people at the Business Performance Office can help them. Those who submit something may even win an award."

Zauner, who worked as the coordinator for four years, said the program encourages suggestions from anyone who sees a way to reduce costs or improve processes aboard the base. She said the best part about her previous job was working with positive-thinking service members and civilians who thought of ways to make the base better.

People can submit their suggestions online or by paper copy. Last year less than 10 people submitted proposals for improvements, and the former coordinator said the office is always looking for good ideas.

"The key is people should understand the intent of the Beneficial Suggestion Program," said Bill Tourek, business manager, Business Performance Office. "Their ideas need to be above and beyond what's normally expected of an individual on a day-to-day basis."

Kurt Uchimura, working at the time as a fuel systems inspector with the Installations/Logistics Department, came up with a quicker way to judge fuel quality. Thanks to his suggestion, fuel inspectors have a reliable way to calculate solid contaminants that degrade



Courtesy photo

quality. When he received an award for his suggestion in November 2006, Uchimura saved the base \$24,000. He now works as a Hawaii Air National Guard master sergeant with the 204th Airlift Squadron.

"His graph made figuring out fuel quality much easier," Zauner said. "He received \$2,140 as a reward for his work."

Serving as an aid for those who make suggestions, the BPO sends submissions to the departments that will benefit. Those departments will evaluate whether a suggested improvement may reduce costs or time. Submitters will still receive a thank you letter

from the commanding officer or chief of staff for their idea, even if a submission doesn't work for the department.

"Some of the suggestions don't make it because they're already implemented by that department," she said. "One person suggested we send basewide e-mails just as the program for it was beginning."

Workers internationally make suggestions in diverse departments from more efficient computing for promotion to better protection for vehicles in combat. If ideas work on a wider scale, some proposals may take effect for the entire Marine Corps.

Zauner said proposals

should include good evidence of how a suggestion makes impacted departments more efficient without spending more than what the new proposal saves.

"The frustrating thing is there are probably a lot of good ideas out there," he said. "But people, for whatever reason, don't choose to submit them."

For more information about the Beneficial Suggestion program or to fill out a proposal form, log on to <http://www.mcbh.usmc.mil/bri/beneficial.htm>. For specific criteria about submissions, see Base Order 1650.1 online at <http://www.mcbh.usmc.mil/g1/adjutant/Borders.htm>.

*HOUSING, from B-3*

"They are now placed on the waiting list, below the freeze zone, upon their arrival at MCB Hawaii vice 180 days before the change of command."

While MCB Hawaii has housing areas on both the Leeward and Windward sides of Oahu, housing on Windward is primarily for those assigned to Kaneohe Bay, Park said.

"When an individual reaches an assignable position on the waiting list and housing is available at both Windward and Leeward locations, the first offer will be for housing near the work place [for Camp Smith that would be Manana, AMR, or Camp Smith]," Park said. "If the individual turns down the offer, they can indicate they want their second offer at the other location [Windward or Leeward]. They would then wait their turn for the second offer. If they turn down the second offer, they come off the waiting list."

The Family Housing Department is in charge of housing applications and the corresponding policies and procedures, Park said.

"When an individual reaches an assignable position of the waiting list they are referred to MCB Hawaii's [Public Private Venture] partner, Forest City, for the actual offer and subsequent assignment to housing," Park said.

The Family Housing Department has housing counselors available for MCB Hawaii families to provide help and answer additional questions about housing policies.

"Housing counselors process housing applications, manage housing waiting lists and provide current residents with assistance when needed," Caldwell said. "They make referrals to our private partner for privatized housing; they handle assignment/termination functions for Section 802, Hana Like Housing [government-leased housing]. They provide assistance with loaner furniture and off-base housing referral services."

Caldwell said the department's goal is to provide exceptional housing services to their customers by supporting all MCB Hawaii commands.

Housing counselors can be reached at 257-1257 ext 272 or at <http://www.mcbh.ga.fmly.hsg.fmb@usmc.mil>.

# AROUND THE CORPS

## World War II aviators tour base, share past with present pilots

**Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler**

*Iwakuni Approach staff*

### MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI, Japan —

As young men, most barely out of their teens, they answered the call of a country at war. Theirs was a dangerous mission, one that often meant a one-way ticket to an early grave.

Nerves of steel and unwavering patriotism are necessities when you're staring certain death in the face at several hundred miles an hour.

Today their bodies bear testament to the passage of time. Many are bespectacled with white or silver hair, some walk with canes, one must balance himself on the arm of a peer when getting off the bus. But looking into the eyes of any of these gentlemen reveals that same youthful vibrance, that combination of courage and pride displayed more than 60 years ago in the cockpits of some of the most infamous weapons of World War II.

Members of the Imperial Navy Surviving Aviators' Association came to tour the air station and share their history with pilots here April 4.

The visit began with a brief and tour of the current Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force headquarters building. There the group posed for a photo before a quick stop at Building 360, once Iwakuni's headquarters for the Imperial Navy, which now houses station facilities departments.

Next was a windshield tour of the base. A bus took the visitors around the harbor and across the JMSDF flight line, where many curiously watched the Japanese sea planes and helicopters being serviced, taking off and landing.

"We had the opportunity to see operations on the airfield today, and as old memories pulled us we were reminded of ourselves many years ago," said Jun Takahashi, a former fighter pilot who now serves as the CEO of the Japan Flight League. "We too once committed our lives and went to war in hope of prosperity for our country and happiness for our families."

The day's final stop was at the officers' club, where the former Imperial Navy pilots were welcomed by station Commanding Officer Col. Michael O'Halloran.

"I've heard so much about your organization," O'Halloran told the visitors, some of whom traveled from as far as Tokyo to attend. "We were discussing a couple of months ago your meetings, and I said it would be great if you could come here to Iwakuni to have a meeting. ... We gather today in the spirit of friendship (and) also professionalism."

"I'm sure that there's a lot we can learn from each other," he added.

The large group of U.S. Navy and Marine Corps aviators gathered at the club wasted no time getting to know their guests. Sharing stories and enjoying the camaraderie, two different generations found the common ground that unites fighter pilots both former and present.

"Though they were our grandfathers' adversaries,

individually they were all warriors," said Capt. Ernie Drake, Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533 F/A-18 pilot. "It was the countries that set us apart. Basically, they fought for their country, just like we're fighting for our country. That's the similarity."

I thought it was a unique, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," he added. "It's rare, especially 10 years from now, to be able to speak to a World War II pilot."



Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler  
Tetsuo Kondo, a former World War II Japanese fighter pilot, shakes hands with Lt. Col. Bret Saunders, Marine Aircraft Group 12 F/A-18 pilot, during the Imperial Navy Surviving Aviators' Association's visit to the air station April 4.



Tim King, catcher, Marine Aircraft Group 24 Swingers, pops a ground ball into left field during an Intramural Baseball League playoff game against the Headquarters Battalion Warriors at Riseley Field here Monday.

Lance Cpl. Brian A. Marion

# 14-4 Swingers slaughter Warriors

**Lance Cpl. Brian A. Marion**  
Combat Correspondent

The Marine Aircraft Group 24 Swingers defeated the Headquarters Battalion Warriors, 14-4, during an Intramural Baseball League playoff game at Riseley Field here Monday.

With 12 runs in the final two innings, the Swingers pulled out the victory, advancing to the next level in the playoffs.

Both teams came to the game with little or no practice.

"We didn't have a chance to practice, because of all the rain we had last week," said Paul Matchniff, Swingers coach. "[The Warriors] have beaten [Combat Service Support Group 3] twice, and they have beaten us, so we'll see how this game plays out."

Romeo Ibrao, Warriors coach, gave his team the week to rest before the remaining playoff games.

"The players have a long week in front of them," Ibrao said. "I'm only letting the pitchers pitch one or two innings to keep them fresh. Whomever has good pitching today, and the least amount of errors, will win today."

In an explosive first inning, the Warriors brought in three runs. Jim Newman, Warriors center fielder, slugged the ball into the out-

field, allowing Eric Gamboa, shortstop, and Todd Lawhon, catcher, to run home. A base hit from first baseman Travis Grenlund, brought Ibrao home.

The Swingers tried to rally in the bottom of the first, but didn't get to their fifth batter in the lineup before getting three outs.

The score at the top of the second was 3-0.

"Too many errors guys," Matchniff said to his team. "Way too many errors in that inning."

The Swingers stepped up their defense in the top of the second, allowing no runs from the Warriors' offense.

The Swingers' offense also increased their intensity in the second inning, narrowing the lead to one run. Chris Telles, Swingers left fielder, batted the ball into the outfield, allowing Larry Stephens, first baseman, and Tate Poyner, right fielder, to run home, bringing the score to 3-2 for the top of the third.

The Warriors retaliated in the third, bringing in Bradley Rich, left fielder, and giving them their last run of the game.

Both teams fought viciously in the fourth inning, but neither one took advantage. They traveled into the fifth inning with the score still at 4-2.

The Warriors' defense

See SWING, C-5

## Sweating off the pounds ... temporarily

**Lance Cpl. Alesha R. Guard**  
Combat Correspondent

The benefits of saunas have been argued and continue to be tested while many athletes use them for health benefits as well as quick weight loss.

As saunas prove to be beneficial, it's important to know how to use them safely to prevent serious health risks.

"Some service members use the sauna to lose a few pounds right before a weigh-in," said Tina Lui, assistant manager, Semper Fit Center here. "This can be very hard on their body especially if done before a physical fitness test. The weight loss comes from losing water weight, ultimately dehydrating the body and

causing them to be fatigued for the PFT."

Wrestlers and boxers also use saunas to get their weight down for weigh-ins, but usually have enough time to re-hydrate their body before they compete, said Morris Watson, personal trainer, Semper Fit Center. If you weigh in right before a PFT, you won't have time to re-hydrate your body.

"The weight you lose in a sauna is only a temporary loss of water weight from your body, essentially dehydrating your body," Watson said. "As soon as you drink water, you'll gain that weight right back."

Although permanent weight loss isn't one of them, the sauna can provide other benefits,

See SWEATING, C-2



Malia Benzmanns, Maui native, uses the Semper Fit Center's sauna after a workout Monday afternoon. She said it's a great way to top off the end of a hard workout.

Lance Cpl. Alesha R. Guard

## Sailor first in years to play "All-Marine" Basketball from K-Bay

**Lance Cpl. Achilles Tsantarliotis**  
Combat Correspondent

It didn't bother him when he played basketball nearly half the day as a kid because there was nothing else to do.

His love of the sport.

It didn't bother him when he didn't get a scholarship he was more than worthy of because he lived in such a small town college scouts dismissively overlooked it.

His endless passion for the sport.

It didn't bother him playing as much as he did in high school, even though he had a full time job.

The pure joy of the sport.

Twenty-seven-year-old Travis Carter started his pastime as a 14-year-old trying to keep busy; he quickly took to the game of dexterity, agility and camaraderie, and it became more of a lifestyle than a pastime.

"I'd just play with the kids in the neighborhood," said the Demopolis, Ala. native. "I had some family that played too, but we used to play every day, all day - like 10-hours on some days."

Carter credited his small town upbringing for his "religious fervor" for the game.

"We didn't have much else to do, and if it wasn't basketball we'd probably be getting into trouble," he said laughing.

Although tall in stature, the roughly 6'1" aviation administration Sailor has played guard since high school.

"It came pretty easy to me," he said humbly. "But, since there were no scouts to come to our games, I had to decide

See SAILOR, C-2

# Young Devil Dogs learn ground fighting early

**Lance Cpl. Alesha R. Guard**

*Combat Correspondent*

Youths from four to 13 years of age are wrestling together Tuesday and Thursday nights to learn discipline, self-confidence and self-control.

Beginning in March, young boys have trained together to get ready for the freestyle wrestling season tournaments. Hours of practice are spent going through moves and techniques to prepare their bodies for the competition.

"Wrestling is one of the oldest sports, and it's really rewarding being able to teach it to young athletes," said Jeffrey Caraway, 3rd year coach. "The past few years, we've only had about 12 wrestlers, but this year we've grown to about 35."

Tim Morris, 3rd year coach, has enjoyed coaching with Caraway and is enjoy this season so far.

"I enjoy seeing them learn and progress as wrestlers," Morris said. "It's great when they get excited after a win and you know you helped them achieve that."

Each tournament, the participants get to wrestle three to four matches, Caraway said. The smaller participants wrestle three, one-minute periods, and the older participants wrestle three, two-minute periods. The wrestlers are declared a winner by pinning the opponent or by a "technical fall," which is gaining a six-point lead in a period, two periods in a row.

"Wrestling is an awesome sport for young athletes because it teaches them sportsmanship and self-discipline," Caraway said.

Caraway said he's been wrestling since he was in second grade and enjoys helping the young wrestlers learn the sport and grow as athletes.

"Wrestling is very repetitious, so a lot of practice is spent going over moves over and over again, which can be frustrating for the kids," Caraway said. "Once they start competing though, they realize that how hard they wrestle in practice is how hard they wrestle in the tournaments. They understand after competing in the tournaments how important it is to put out during practice, and why we do certain drills to prepare them for competition."

The young athletes are improving with each tournament, and are having fun cheer-



Photos by Sgt. Jeffrey Caraway

**Caleb Pulley, eight-year-old wrestler, Semper Fi Team, wrestles a Westside Cobra during the freestyle wrestling season's first tournament. His first time wrestling in a match, he won a first place gold medal in the tournament.**

ing each other on to victory.

"This is Caleb's first year wrestling, and so far he's really enjoying it," said Randall Pulley of his eight-year-old son. "Caleb said he's excited about this season. He said he loves practicing and competing, and I think this will be a sport he continues in the future."

The team's first tournament was April 5, at Moanalua High school.

"Caleb scored a ten in the first match and earned a gold medal in the tournament, so he was really excited," Pulley said. "The team has new matching singlets this year with Eagle, Globe and Anchors on the chest, so we're looking pretty top notch."

Their second tournament was Saturday, at Calvary Chapel Komo Mai in Pearl City. The team's next tournament takes place at Marine Corps Base Hawaii on May 3.

Go get 'em Devils!



**Clint Hunt, Semper Fi coach, gives Rigo Vera, seven-year-old wrestler, a pep talk during the first tournament of the freestyle wrestling season. The season began in April and runs through July.**

## SAILOR, from C-1

what to do. I had a few uncles in the military, and it seemed like a good deal. I couldn't go to college because I didn't have the money, but I think if I was in a bigger city I would have easily gotten a scholarship."

The Navy probably would have lost a Sailor if he was in a bigger city, as coaches tried to persuade him to different schools even while he was in the service.

"He's a great ball player," said teammate Shaw Ballentine, Commander Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 2. "He's probably the best on base, he's an all around good player; he's got a great shot, he's a great defender and a great all around athlete. He's a good teammate, and I love playing with him."

Even though coaches were trying to pick up Carter, he remained loyal to the service.

"I was playing on a team in California," he explained, "and a coach from a nearby college was trying to get me to leave the Navy and play college ball. I had a few years left at the time though. As long as I'm having fun in the Navy, I got no reason to leave. I'm just about half way to 20 years of service."

Carter has played on the MCB Hawaii team since arriving in Dec. 2001, and was the first service member from here in years to play on the All-Marine Basketball Team, a feat that took him a few years to accomplish, despite annual

invitations, because of the necessary paperwork to get time off of his primary duty as a Sailor.

"I went to the All-Marine Camp from Feb. 18 to March 27 this year," he said. "It was tough, we practiced three times a day, but I loved it. I was the only Sailor on the team, and I thought the Marines would give me a hard time, but no, everyone got along really good, and we had a good time. We did a lot of community service - talking to kids in high school and orphanages, it was good."

Being the first, and only considered, basketball player from MCB Hawaii says a lot, said Meghan Brophy, varsity sports coordinator, Marine Corps Community Services. He's obviously an amazing player, and exceptional athlete.

Unfortunately for the MALS-24 basketball team, they were a "Carter" short for nearly the entire season, arriving at the start of the playoffs where they were cathartically defeated in the championship game by a reckless 10-points.

Although Carter's favorite point in a game is when his team is down by a few points, Carter emphasizes he usually likes to end the game in his team's favor.

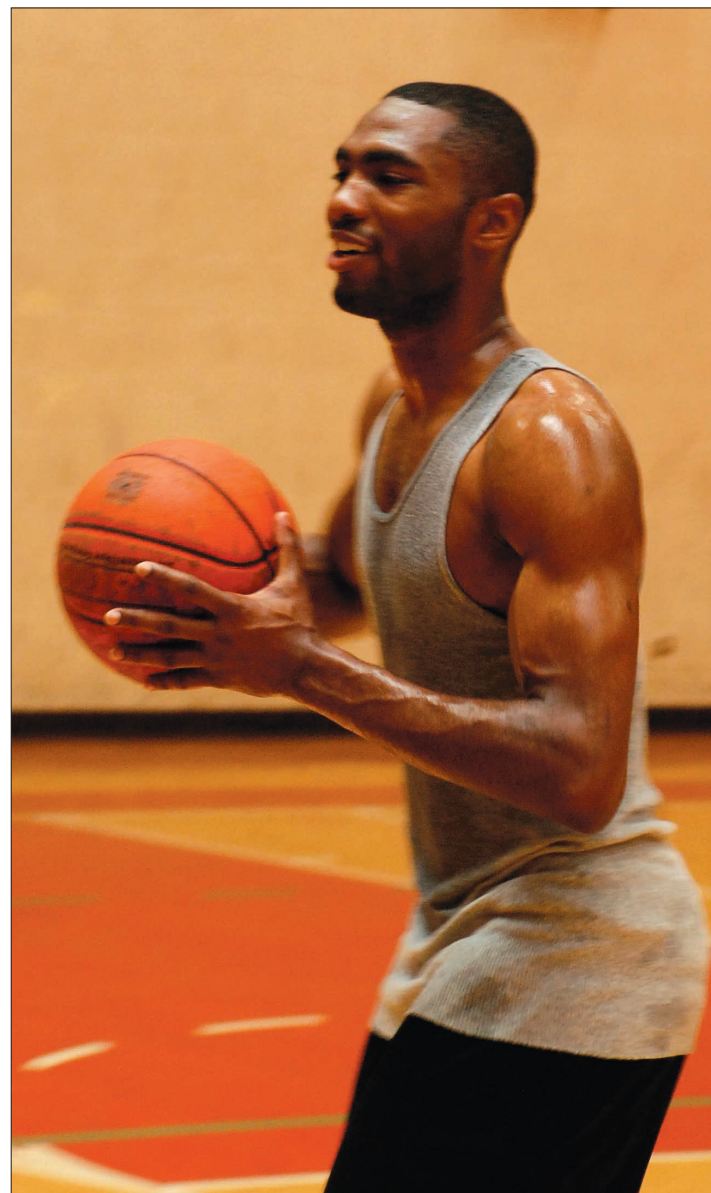
"If we're down and we need a few points to get ahead," Carter explained, "that's when I get real focused, and it's the best feeling, 'cause if we're on top by like 15, 20 points, we'll know the team can't hang with us."

As a leader on the court, Carter said he'll often help other players out in any way he can. That's what a captain does, he said.

Carter said he's a big fan of

Kobe Bryant and the Lakers, and he's looking forward to the Lakers, Celtics show-down, 'cause, "Phoenix can't do it."

"I'm all about basketball;



Lance Cpl. Achilles Tsantariotis

**Travis Carter waits for the next pickup start during lunchtime at the Semper Fit Center Tuesday. Carter has been playing basketball since roughly 14 years old, and has continued to play as often, if not more, than the 10-hour days he played as a teenager, eventually becoming the first in years from Marine Corps Base Hawaii to play for the All-Marine Basketball Team.**

## SWEATING, from C-1

Watson said. Some people find sitting in the heated room therapeutic as they feel their body sweat and their muscles warm.

"Sweating itself is a good way to detoxify the body," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Edward Hanson, general duty corpsman, military medicine, base health clinic. "Sitting in a sauna forces your body to sweat-out toxins while increasing your circulation. It can be beneficial after a workout because it helps relieve lactic acid, which is what makes your muscles sore after physical activity."

Malia Benzmar, Maui native, said she enjoys the sauna post-workout. She uses Semper Fit's sauna after a workout to help release toxins in her body and relax her muscles.

"While it feels like it's warming your muscles, it isn't preparing them for a workout," Lui said.

Although the sauna may heat your muscles, it doesn't prepare them for physical activity and is not a substitute for a warm-up routine, said Crystal King, personal trainer, Semper Fit Center.

"You should not use it as a pre-workout routine," King said. "You still need to get your heart rate up, and prepare your body for a workout with cardio and stretching."

For long-term weight loss, you will have to lose it the old fashioned way with diet and exercise, King said. While your body may feel fatigued after using the sauna, sweating alone doesn't burn calories.

"If you do use the sauna, you need to limit your time to 20 minutes," Watson said. "Staying in there longer than recommended can lead to you passing out or possibly having a stroke."

Wear breathable clothing and be well hydrated before using the sauna, Lui said.

"Extra clothes clog pores, so your body can't naturally evaporate sweat into the environment," Lui said. "When that happens, your natural body heat regulation is thrown off."

After using the sauna, be sure to replace your lost fluids with water or a sports drink to replenish lost electrolytes, Hanson said.

Because there are many misconceptions of sauna's health benefits, the personal trainers agree you should consult your personal physician about other potential health benefits. As far as your next PFT, save the sauna for afterwards, and hydrate your body beforehand for optimum performance.

# SPOTLIGHT ON SPORTS

## — SPORTS BRIEFS —

### Beginner Outrigger Canoe Paddlers Wanted

Windward Kai Canoe Club in Kailua recently provided beginner outrigger canoe paddling classes for Marines from Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

Several Marines are now training for the summer racing season. WKCC practices at Kailua Beach and welcomes active duty and family members (18 and older) to participate in this Hawaiian sport and culture.

The club is especially seeking to field a beginner womens' crew to race this summer. No experience is necessary and all training and equipment are provided.

For more information, call Derrel at 383-0400 or Greg at 255-9977.

### 3rd Marines 10K Run

The 3rd Marine Regiment will hold a 10K run April 26, at the Pop Warner Field beginning at 7 a.m. The run, which is part of the Commanding Officer's Semper Fit Series, is open to active duty and civilians. Early registration fee is \$18 and a \$3 fee will be added to registrations after April 18.

For more information, contact Meghan Brophy at 254-7590.

### "Call of Duty 4"

The Single Marine and Sailor Program will host a "Call of Duty 4" tournament at the Camp Smith Recreation Center April 26, from 2 to 4 p.m.

For more information, contact Marcella T. Cisneros at 254-7593.

### Camp H.M. Smith Intramural Softball

The Camp H.M. Smith Intramural Softball season kicks off April 29, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Bordelon Field. The games, open to military service members, families and Department of Defense employees, will be held every Tuesday and Thursday.

For more information, contact Kelly Fornes or Curtis Stranghoener at 477-0498.

### Day on the Docks

The Base Marina will host "Day on the Docks," May 4, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The family fishing event will teach the ecological significance of the oceanic environment. The cost will be \$12 per child and includes lunch.

For more information, contact Neil Morgan at 254-7667.

### Spring Swim Lesson

The Main Pool will begin spring swim lessons May 6 through 16, from 1 to 5:30 p.m. The lessons are open to the base community and will provide water safety instruction for all ages.

For more information, contact Kari Hemund at 254-7655.

### Dodgeball Tournament

The Single Marine and Sailor Program will host a Dodgeball tournament May 6 at the Semper Fit Center from 5 to 7 p.m. The event is open to all single Marines and Sailors E-5 and below. There will be a \$10 entry fee for teams of 6. Teams must register by May 1.

For more information, contact Marcella T. Cisneros at 254-7593.

### Women's Base Softball Team

The women's base softball team is looking for players. Anyone interested can attend their practice every Thursday from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Annex Softball field.

For more information, contact Meghan Brophy at 254-7590.

### All-Marine Women's Softball

The All-Marine Women's Softball coach will be here from April 29 through May 5. He'll be looking for players for the All Marine team.

For more information, contact Meghan Brophy at 254-7590.

### Goju-Kan Karate

Aspiring martial artists can participate in Goju-kan Karate Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 5:30 p.m. at Building 1090's multi-purpose room (the old Base Chapel).

For more information or to sign up at Youth Activities, call 254-7610.

### Youth Gymnastics/Dance Class

Youth of all ages can attend gymnastics and a variety of dance classes Monday through Saturday at Building 1090. Classes are at varying times in the morning, afternoon and evening, so interested parents and youth should stop by Youth Activities for more information. Classes include dance, hula, tumbling and more.

For more information, call 254-7610.

## Pumpin' 'new' iron



Lance Cpl. Achilles Tsantariotis

Luis Rodriguez puts up 150-pounds on the bench press while Richard Knopp spots, ending his set of pyramids. This is a technique that slowly increases and decreases the amount of weight, efficiently building muscle and definition, at the Semper Fit Center, April 10. The gym has been slowly replacing old equipment, with more reliable and effective weight lifting equipment, and is slated to complete the upgrade by the end of 2008. The old equipment is being donated to various base units who need them.

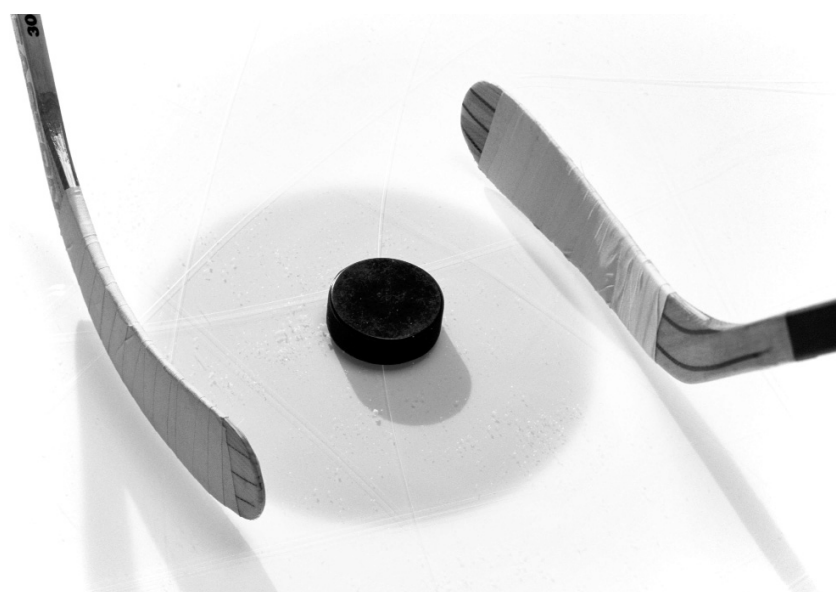
## Youth In-Line Hockey

Registration begins in July

Season runs  
Sept. 27 through Nov. 15

Practice starts Sept. 2

For more information, call Youth Sports at 254-7611.



## Youth Soccer

Registration ongoing through April

Season runs:  
June 28 through Aug. 15

Practice starts:  
June 2

For more information, contact  
Youth Sports at 254-7611.



## Youth Flag Football and Cheerleading

Registration begins in July

Season starts Sept. 27

Practice starts Sept. 2

For more information, call Youth Sports at 254-7611.



# HEALTH AND WELLNESS

## Deployment Roller Coaster: Emotions of children

### Press Release

LIFELines

Deployment is something that Navy and Marine Corps families live with. It's part of your life if your spouse is a member of the seagoing services. Adults experience a whole spectrum of emotions, but we can usually discuss our feelings about the deployment and find understanding among our peers. We can learn about the roller coaster of emotion that comes along with a deployment.

Once we understand our emotions, we can begin to adjust and prepare to combat the more difficult times. Children, however, don't always understand that roller-coaster ride. Without their permission or consent, they're loaded into the front seat of the emotional roller coaster and taken through the loops and turns of deployment.

There are seven emotional stages adults typically experience during a deployment. It's harder to put a label on what children go through. We can't always tell how they're feeling, and they can't always tell us what they're thinking, or what they might be afraid of. We can help children prepare for the deployment, but in the end, we must often live in the moment with them. If one thing is predictable when it comes to children and deployment, it's that children and deployment are highly unpredictable.

### Stop, Look and Listen

Active listening is important no matter what your child's age. Often you must listen "between the lines" as your children are talking. Helping them express their thoughts, feelings, and concerns throughout the entire

deployment process is healthy. Acknowledging their feelings and then reassuring them that both their parents love them can bring them comfort.

A younger child who can't talk yet or is unable to put his thoughts and fears into words will instead give you clues by his behavior. You can read your child better than anyone, so it's up to you to start the conversations and give the attention and affection that will reassure your child.

### Before Your Sailor or Marine Leaves

Even before a Sailor or Marine parent leaves, some children start to behave differently— some children act out, while others withdraw. They may become anxious at the thought of their parent leaving, and develop unfounded fears. Older children who can understand more of the current events that affect our military (and, by default, them) may develop fears that are not unfounded, and cannot easily be put to rest.

Children have an uncanny habit of asking profound questions that have no easy answers. Questions dealing with life, death, and a hundred "what ifs" in between can really test your parenting skills, but take the time to answer them truthfully and matter-of-factly. When answering, consider your child's age, emotional maturity and



File illustration

ability to process tough issues. Give enough information to satisfy their questions, but be careful not to bring up additional issues or subjects they may not be ready to know. As the deployment draws near and the day of departure approaches, some children will become more sensitive and need to be close to their parents, so be patient if they seem needy or clingy. Others may withdraw, become quiet, and separate themselves, so be ready to spend extra quiet time alone with them if they don't want to join the family group.

In one family's experience with a deployment, some of the children expressed love and concern for the departing parent, while their 5-year-old sister acted as if the parent was merely going to the Commissary for milk. The next morning, when still half asleep, the little girl asked for her daddy. Her mother explained Daddy had left the day before.

The little girl sleepily said she missed her daddy and didn't want him to leave. The mother took the opportunity to tell her daughter that she missed Daddy too (validating the little girl's feelings), and that he would be home when they got to the big heart circled on the calendar (reassuring that all would be well). The child's detachment had only been a coping mechanism to help her deal with

what she could not comprehend—her home without her daddy for six months.

### In the Beginning

As the deployment begins, the whole family works to establish the new routine. Children may test the parent left behind to find out what they can get away with. Everyone is readjusting to help fill the empty space left by their Sailor or Marine. It's important to establish structure and routine as soon as possible. Don't be surprised if some of the kids become melancholy, and their grades begin to slip. Other children may display defiance and belligerence. Younger children may regress back to bedwetting or "accidents." Clearly defined limits will give children a feeling of security at a time when they may feel the most insecure but can't express it in words.

### During the Deployment

Life will settle down into some semblance of routine and normalcy. Don't get too comfortable, though. Someone forgot to tell the children that this is the time to stabilize and hit their stride. Most of the time things do settle down, but keep watching for signs of distress in their behavior and attitude. If you feel your children are having more difficulty adjusting than you think is normal, consult the counselors at your Fleet and Family Service Center or the Marine Corps Community Services.

### Your Sailor or Marine Is Coming Home

As homecoming approaches, don't be tempted to let things slide. The reunion can be as unsettling for children as the departure. Don't worry

that all the projects were not accomplished or that you didn't meet the goals you may have set. Your children will take their cue from you. Happy anticipation is better than stressful worry about the fast-approaching reunion.

### Welcome Back

If you thought the roller-coaster ride had stopped the day the ship pulled in, then you're in for a surprise. There will be a honeymoon period, but then the reorganizing of the family begins. The children may resent being disciplined by their returned parent and react in various ways. They may need time to adjust to having to answer to two "big people".

Children may have great anxiety when the Sailor or Marine first returns to duty. They need to be reassured that they will see their parent again that evening. Other children may not be able to wait for their Sailor or Marine to go back to work because their routine has been upset once again.

Communication helps children deal with their feelings when it comes to deployment and the reunion. Encouraging your children to talk (and really listening to them thoughtfully) will help you help them with those sudden dips and turns.

The parent at home is the emotional rudder that steers the family through the deployment. You have a great effect on how your children handle life in the Navy or Marine Corps, and how well they handle deployments. If they know you're there beside them on that roller coaster, they won't be as afraid the next time they have to take that first big hill.



*SWING, from C-1*

Lance Cpl. Brian A. Marion

Todd Lawhon, 29, catcher, Headquarters Battalion Warriors, catches an errant pitch during an Intramural Baseball League playoff game against the Marine Aircraft Group 24 Swingers at Riseley Field Monday. The Swingers defeated the Warriors under the Mercy Rule, 14-4.

managed to hold off the Swingers until the fifth inning. With excellent batting from John Telles, third baseman, Tim King, catcher, Stephens and Tate made it home, bringing the score to 5-4.

The Swingers weren't done with the inning as an error in the infield allowed pitcher Marcus Galvan's ground ball to slip into the outfield, bringing in three more runs.

"Come on guys," Ibrao said. "There's still a lot of ball left. Keep your heads up. We've come back from more than this."

The momentum never returned to the Warriors, who received their last outs in the top of the sixth.

The "swinging machine" revved back up in the bottom of the sixth, looking to end the game via the mercy rule (if a team leads by ten after the fifth inning, the game is called). The Swingers brought in six more runs at the bottom of the sixth, and mercy ruled the Warriors, winning the game, 14-4.

"We had a few errors in the first few innings, but we settled down and had no errors for the rest of the game," Matchniff said. "For the next game, we'll have to work on starting off with no errors in the beginning."

# AROUND THE CORPS

## Marines, PSF have a kick

**Cpl. Erik Villagran**

*Regimental Combat Team 5*

**HIT, Iraq** — Usually the sight of Marines and the Iraqi Provisional Security Force jawing at each other would be a bad sign. In this case though, they were actually making their bond stronger.

Marines with India Company, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 5, participated in a game of soccer April 10 with PSF troops to help build unity between them. Soccer games between the two units have become a routine in Hit, Iraq.

"We play them once a week," said Lance Cpl. Austin D. Breedlove, 19, a rifleman with India Company from Gowanda, N.Y.

Marines needed three hours to pull out the 10-8 victory against the Iraqis.

"We usually lose," Breedlove said. "The first game we lost 5-0, then 5-2 and 3-2. Not today though. Today we won."

The game started off playfully on both ends, but as the minutes passed, the play intensified. Each team began to compete harder trying to win. The PSF jumped out to a 3-0 lead and Marines had to claw their way back.

The PSF and Marines understand the importance of the games. To them it is a way to make the bond

they share stronger.

"These games mean we have good relations," said 2nd Lt. Marwan Naji, 24, a PSF soldier. "It makes me happy to play against the Marines."

It wasn't always apparent during the game that good relations were being built. Marines and the PSF exchanged verbal jabs while the PSF built an 8-5 lead in the game. However, both teams understood that the jawing was all in good fun.

"They can't understand us and we can't understand them, so a lot of trash talking goes on," Breedlove said. "A lot of the trash talking is physical gestures. It never gets violent out there though."

Despite the trash talking from the PSF and a big deficit in the game, the Marines were able to mount a comeback. They scored five unanswered goals to seal the victory. The PSF had a hard time accepting the loss, but came around shortly after the defeat.

"It was a good game even though we lost because we got tired," Naji said.

Marines agreed that it was their endurance that allowed them to snatch victory away from the PSF.

"It got off pretty rocky, but halfway through we started getting them with our stamina," Breedlove said.

The PSF troops were disappointed in the loss, but hopeful about future games against the Marines.

"They are good players and they played, but we are better than them," Naji said. "Next week we'll make a new team and I'm sure we'll win."

One thing is for sure, with Marines and PSF building stronger relations, the guaranteed winners are the locals in Hit.



Cpl. Erik Villagran

Marines with India Company, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 5, and Iraqi Provisional Security Force troops play soccer in Hit, Iraq, April 10. The PSF and Marines play once a week to build unity between the two units. At the end of the game, Marines claimed victory, 10-8.