

Hawaii Marine

Afghan National Army logistics unit begins independent operations



Cpl. Danny H. Woodall | 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward)

A convoy of vehicles belonging to soldiers with the Afghan National Army's 5th Kandak, 1st Brigade, 215th Corps, departs Camp Shorabak, Afghanistan, Nov. 22. After nearly a year and a half spent training with Marine Embedded Partnering Teams, the logistics soldiers with 5/1/215 conducted their first independent operation.

Cpl. Danny H. Woodall
1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward)

CAMP SHORABAK, Afghanistan — Members of the Afghan National Army's 5th Kandak, 1st Brigade, 215th Corps conducted a 60-mile combat logistics patrol from Camp Leatherneck to Camp Dwyer, Afghanistan, Nov. 22.

The ANA logistics battalion carried out the mission independent of their coalition partners with the Embedded Partnering Team, Combat Logistics Battalion 3, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward). The Afghan soldiers provided their own security while transporting personnel, food and water to the 1st Brigade headquarters at Camp Dwyer.

In the summer of 2009, the Afghan National Army formed the 5/1/215 in order to provide tactical logistics support to various ANA battalions throughout Afghanistan's Helmand province.

Since the unit's formation, Marine Embedded Partnering Teams have been training, advising and mentoring the soldiers of 5/1/215 in order to help them conduct logistics operations independent of coalition forces. These operations include delivering provisions to various ANA units and transporting personnel to and from forward operating bases.

"We knew they had the ability to conduct this mission," said Gunnery Sgt. Leroy A. Forbes, operations chief, EPT, Combat Logistics Battalion 3, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), 32, a native of Hartford, Conn. "The end state to our mission is to get [5/1/215] to operate without our assistance — to put us out of a job. If we had accomplished nothing else while we're here in Afghanistan, the fact that [on Nov. 22] we took them through being dependent on us to operating independently is a great feeling. [It feels great] to be a part of a team that took them to the next level."

Though the mission on Nov. 22 is considered general support, it is also important, said Capt. Victor Kamantauskas, 27, commanding officer, EPT, CLB-3, 1st MLG (FWD).

"[The operation] demonstrates 5/1/215's ability to conduct operations independently and it builds confidence in their own abilities," the Orange, Texas native said.

Conducting logistics patrols without coalition assistance is a big step forward for the approximately 330 soldiers with 5/1/215 as they plan for future operations. Despite the success of Nov. 22nd's mission, the 20 Marines and sailors with CLB-3's EPT will continue providing guidance, security and tactical support for 5/1/215.

In keeping with the highest traditions



Lance Cpl. Tyler L. Main | Hawaii Marine

Staff Sgt. Cody M. Maynard stands humbly wearing his Bronze Star Medal with combat distinguishing device after it was pinned to his uniform during an awards ceremony Tuesday at the 3rd Marine Regiment, Combat Assault Company headquarters building.

Lance Cpl. Tyler L. Main
Combat Correspondent

For displaying gallantry in more than 20 firefights and 80 combat patrols, Staff Sgt. Cody M. Maynard was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with combat distinguishing device Tuesday at the Combat Assault Company headquarters building.

Maynard, a Carleton, Ore., native, was deployed to Afghanistan from August 8, 2009, to April 1, 2010, as an Embedded Tactical Trainer, Embedded Training Team 7-5, Regional Corps Advisory Command Central 3-7, 201st Corps, Afghan National Army in support of Operation Enduring Freedom during the time

he demonstrated the valor required to receive his honors.

"I'm happy I got [the award], but I was just trying to make sure we got out alive," Maynard said. "I was just doing my job."

But according to the summary of action, it was more than just a day on the job.

One of the many valiant actions performed by Maynard occurred at 5 a.m. on Sept. 25, 2009, near the town of Dargo, Afghanistan.

Maynard and fellow ETTs along with 1st Platoon, Company C and one squad of Afghan National Army were conducting a key leader engagement and searching for enemy weapons caches.

Once, while searching

for weapons cache sites, the warriors found nothing. As a result, they began their trek off of a large mountain where the search ended. The ANA and ETTs were in the rear of the formation.

As they were heading down, intense enemy small arms, rocket-propelled-grenade and recoilless rifle fire began to accurately rain down on their position. They were in a kill zone.

The barrage pinned down Maynard, fellow ETT Marines and their Afghan counterparts. It wasn't until Maynard and his team began returning suppressive fires on the enemies elevated position that the ANA were given a chance to move out of the kill zone.

See BRONZE, A-6

A return with Grace

Vietnamese refugee born aboard USS Tarawa revisits birthplace

Lance Cpl. Tyler L. Main
Combat Correspondent

JOINT-BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM — In May of 1979 441 Vietnamese refugees fled their country in hopes of landing anywhere but Vietnam. Shortly after leaving, pirates raided their vessel and the refugees were left adrift for days. The USS Tarawa, a United States Navy amphibious assault ship, finally rescued

the refugees on May 8. Grace Tarawa Tran was born two days later and immediately became a U.S. citizen.

Tran revisited her birthplace Monday, where she met with then-Petty Officer 2nd Class Richard A. Reed, a hospital corpsman who assisted in her delivery. Reed was assigned to Battalion Landing Team, Third Marine Regiment, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines.

"I've seen pictures of him my whole life," Tran said, trying

to find words. "I'm so excited to finally meet everyone. I didn't know how big of a deal this would be until I got here."

"Being with the BLT and the spectacular Marines, picking up the refugees and seeing the suffering they went through really changed my life," Reed said. "Then I became a pastor and it's all because of this young lady right here. I wanted to do more for people."

See TARAWA, A-6

Inside today's Hawaii Marine



Revving up the show. Hot cars and rides cruised to K-Bay in support of Toys for Tots, **B-1**



Quilted support. Quilts are donated to the Wounded Warrior Detachment, **C-1**

Weekend Forecast

Saturday

High — 78
Low — 70



Sunday

High — 79
Low — 70



NEWS BRIEFS

WikiLeaks guidance

Department of Defense military, civilian and contractor personnel should not access the WikiLeaks website to view or download the publicized classified information. Doing so could introduce potentially classified information on unclassified networks. There has been rumor that the information is no longer classified since it resides in the public domain. This is NOT true. The subject information was not “declassified” by an appropriate authority and requires continued classification or reclassification.

If someone else asks you about the WikiLeaks material or the validity of this suspect information, remember that you can never confirm or deny the validity of leaked government information. Any comment by you could be treated as an official confirmation by a government spokesperson.

For more information, see https://powhatan.i.iiie.disa.mil/webteam/content_pages/guidance.html or contact the base security manager, Brian Nuss, at 257-8856.

Postal deadlines

Upcoming military postal deadlines for arrival by Dec. 25 are today for parcel airlift mail; Dec. 10 for priority mail and first-class mail, letters and cards; and Dec. 18 for express mail military service.

Holiday packages and mail headed for Iraq and Afghanistan must be sent a week earlier than the deadlines above. Express mail military service is not available to those destinations.

For more information, see <http://www.usps.com/holiday/shippingcalendar.htm>.

Special Olympics Holiday Classic

Come out to support Special Olympics Hawaii athletes! The 2010 Holiday Classic happens aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii Dec. 4-5, with basketball at the Semper Fit Center and bowling at K-Bay Lanes.

Influenza shots

On Dec. 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Marine Corps Exchange, Naval Health Clinic Hawaii will have their mobile unit set up in the parking lot of the Exchange. all active duty, civilian dependents and civilian DoD employees are welcome to get a free influenza shot. DoD identification card required.

For more information, call the Force Protection Office at 257-8845.

Extended closure of Nu’upia Ponds Running Trail until Dec. 31

The entire trail will remain closed for all civilian and military use, whether you enter from the Mokapu (back gate) side or the pedestrian footbridge side near the H-3 (front) Static Display Park. Access is totally prohibited.

The closures are due to an extended time frame needed by contractor to complete all work on the wastewater effluent pipeline replacement project and associated safety concerns.

For information about the project, call Philip Lum at 257-6900. For information about the trail, call Dr. Diane Drigot at 257-3694.

Important Phone Numbers:

On-Base Emergencies	911
Military Police	257-7114
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Pothole & Streetlight Repair	257-2380
Base Information	449-7110
MCB Hawaii Chaplain	257-3552
DEERS	257-2077

Hawaii Marine

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Celebrate holidays with Christmas tree lighting, concert on Sunday

Kristen Wong

Photojournalist

The base community is invited to the annual tree lighting ceremony by the chapel this Sunday. The celebration begins at about 5 p.m.

“It opens up the holidays,” said Master Sgt. William Paulino, operations chief, Operations and Training.

The ceremony has been a tradition since December 1999. Sunday’s event will also feature performances by the Windward Choral Society, Mokapu Chorus and the U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific, Band. The Operations and Training Directorate, Marine Corps Community Services and numerous other entities on base organize the event.

Paulino said the ceremony encourages the holiday spirit on base, and shares some of that cheerful spirit with families currently affected by deployments.

The 40-foot tall tree has a steel frame and contains 1,488 ball, star, and snowflake ornaments. It debuted last year.

“The artificial tree is easier to deal with than a real tree,” said Bob Lottie, deputy director, Installations, Environment and Logistics Directorate. “[Artificial trees are] symmetrical and easier to decorate.”

Paulino said the chapel serves as a “central location,” close to base housing and near Mokapu Mall, where the tree attracts attention.

Children are again involved in the festivities. Before 2008, the base commander lit the tree with assistance by children of deployed service members. Afterward, Master Sgt. Christopher Jordan, then operations chief, and Lt. Col. Glen Butler, then director of Operations and Training decided to open up the privilege to more children on base.

Since then, Mokapu Elementary School has held an essay and coloring contest. The younger students were encouraged to submit a drawing for this year’s theme of “military family traditions,” while the older students could submit an essay on the same topic.

The winners, 1st-grader Cameron Church, 2nd-grader Samantha Dean, 3rd-grader Alyssa Strait, 3rd-grader Jayla McCutcheon, 4th-grader Katelyn Winship, 6th-grader Jada Anduha and 4th-grader Antonio Dominguez will help Col. Robert Rice, base commanding officer, light the tree. The winning drawings and essays will also be on display at the ceremony.

Paulino said he hopes for more attendees this year. He said last year, attendees filled two bleachers, and some even sat on lawn chairs.

Due to limited seating, families are encouraged to bring lawn chairs to the event. Members of the base community are asked to plan accordingly as the roads near the chapel will be closed.

“It’s great for the kids,” Jordan said. “Anytime kids get to see Santa is a good time.”



Lance Cpl. Vanessa M. American Horse | Hawaii Marine

A new base Christmas tree made its debut last year in front of the chapel. The tree towers over three stories high. This year’s tree lighting is scheduled Sunday. The evening will also include performances by the Windward Choral Society, Mokapu Chorus and the U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific, Band.

LOG INTO LEARNING



Lance Cpl. Reece E. Lodder | Hawaii Marine

Ray Kitagawa, Hawaii Learning Resource Center facilitator, and John Barnette, senior network administrator, Hawaii LRC, work on two of the 18 computers available at the new Hawaii LRC in Building 1045, during its opening Nov. 15. “The purpose of the Learning Resource Center is to support the Marines in their distance learning education,” Barnette said. “We’re providing them a place to meet the goals of their distance learning training.” At the LRC, Marines can find the tools to accomplish annual, predeployment, and military occupational specialty-specific training, and resources for on-site exam proctoring. In addition, Marines may use center’s Navy Marine Corps Intranet computers for personal use, including e-mail and social networking sites, Barnette said. The LRC is sponsored by the Marine Corps College of Distance Education and Training and 3rd Marine Regiment.

Base chapel holiday services schedule

Until Dec. 8, at sunset	Chanukah Menorah Lighting
Dec. 8, 5 p.m.	Chanukah Lighting and Party (Interfaith)
Dec. 8, 5 p.m.	Immaculate Conception Mass (following Chanukah)
Dec. 14, 6 p.m.	Catholic Penance Service and Confessions
Dec. 18, 7 p.m.	Children’s Christmas Pageant “The Mouse’s Tale”
Dec. 24, 7 p.m.	Protestant Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Dec. 24, 10:30 p.m.	Caroling (Chapel, Catholic)
Dec. 24, 11 p.m.	Catholic Christmas Eve Mass
Dec. 25, 9:30 a.m.	Catholic Christmas Day Mass
Dec. 26, 8 a.m.	Protestant Liturgical Service
Dec. 26, 9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.	Catholic Mass, Holy Family
Dec. 26, 11 a.m.	Protestant Contemporary Service
Dec. 31, 5 p.m.	Catholic Mass – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Jan. 2, 8 a.m.	Protestant Liturgical Service
Jan. 2, 9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.	Catholic Mass, Epiphany
Jan. 2, 11 a.m.	Protestant Contemporary Service
Jan. 9, 8 a.m.	Protestant Liturgical Service
Jan. 9, 9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.	Catholic Mass, Baptism of the Lord
Jan. 9, 11 a.m.	Protestant Contemporary Service

Marines, sailors train Afghan soldiers to operate independently

Cpl. Danny H. Woodall
1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward)

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Helmand Province, Afghanistan — For the past two months, Marines and sailors with Combat Logistics Battalion 3, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), have been mentoring approximately 330 soldiers with the Afghan National Army.

While deployed, the team has been tasked with training, advising and mentoring the 5th Kandak, 1st Brigade, 215th Corps — an ANA logistics battalion — on the functions of tactical logistic support while preparing them for unilateral operations, said Capt. Victor Kamantauskas, 27, commanding officer, Embedded Partnering Team, CLB-3, 1st MLG (FWD).

In recent speeches, Afghan President Hamid Karzai has expressed his desire to see coalition forces play a more limited role in current operations, allowing the Afghan National Security Forces to operate autonomously throughout the country. Embedded partnering teams have been training Afghan forces to do just that.

Combat Logistics Battalion 3 is the third unit to embed a Partnering Team since 5/1/215’s formation in the summer of 2009.

“We have definitely seen a paradigm shift in the ANA where they are more willing to take on their own tasks,” said Kamantauskas, a native of Orange, Texas. “They are building their confidence and ability to conduct independent operations day by day.”

The soldiers of the ANA battalion are responsible for providing logistics support to three ANA infantry battalions throughout Afghanistan’s Helmand province. To accomplish their mission of providing 5/1/215 with the skills to become a self-sufficient logistics battalion, CLB-3’s EPT conducts daily mentoring sessions spanning a wide-range of logistics and military topics, as well as frequently



Photos by Cpl. Danny H. Woodall | 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward)

Mohammad Zaman, a soldier with the Afghan National Army’s 5th Kandak, 1st Brigade, 215th Corps, serves as a spotter as Cpl. Phillip Sever, 20, Headquarters & Service Company mentor, Embedded Partnering Team, Combat Logistics Battalion 3, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), sights in during a weapons class on Camp Leatherneck, Nov. 21. The Marines and sailors with CLB-3’s EPT are mentoring and training the soldiers of 5th Kandak, 1st Brigade, 215th Corps so they can operate independently.

conducting partnered combat logistic patrols.

“We’re taking a ‘back-seat’ approach right now, letting the ANA lead but eventually we’ll wean off of that,” said Capt. Redmond B. Gautier IV, 34, executive officer, EPT, CLB-3, 1st MLG (FWD), a native of Miami. “That’s not to say our replacing unit won’t have a job; there’s still work to be done. The ANA are definitely taking the lead — more than we expected — and that’s a positive thing.”

The Marines and sailors who compose CLB-3’s EPT were hand-selected prior to their Afghanistan deployment because they are generally considered the most proficient individuals in their respective military occupational specialties.

For Cpl. Phillip Sever, 20, Headquarters and Service Company

mentor, EPT, CLB-3, working with the ANA has been an enjoyable experience. Prior to joining the EPT and becoming a mentor, Sever served as a bulk-fuel specialist with CLB-3’s Engineer Company.

“I joined the EPT because I wanted to make a difference, and I knew this would be the best way to do it — working with Afghans in their own country,” the Effort, Pa., native said. “Basically our mission here is to work with the ANA on a daily basis to make them self-reliant so one day we can leave this country. The language and cultural barriers are the most difficult aspects of the job. Their customs are much different than ours, and having to work through interpreters slows the work down a little.”

Fortunately, Sever is not alone in thinking the EPT makes a difference

in Afghanistan. Afghan National Army Lt. Col. Amanullah Kohbandi, commanding officer of the ANA battalion, believes the joint efforts of Marines and Afghans will help make a better country for his people.

“I am thankful the Marines are here to help,” said Kohbandi, speaking through an interpreter. “[As a logistics battalion] we’re the heart of the brigade. If the heart stops pumping, the blood stops flowing.”

The Marines and sailors of CLB-3’s EPT will continue training and mentoring respective Afghan battalion until the spring of 2011 when CLB-3 is scheduled to redeploy. For the soldiers of 5/1/215, their passion for success is apparent in Kohbandi’s parting words: “As long as there is one drop of blood left in my veins ... I will continue to stand and defend my country.”



Soldiers with the ANA’s 5th Kandak, 1st Brigade, 215th Corps practice weapons drills as Sgt. Charles Carder, 23, Headquarters and Service Company mentor, EPT, CLB-3, 1st MLG (Forward), looks on.

“As long as there is one drop of blood left in my veins ... I will continue to stand and defend my country.”

- Lt. Col. Amanullah Kohbandi, commanding officer, 5th Kandak, 1st Brigade, 215th Corps, Afghan National Army



Cpl. Michael Wimberley, 22, Headquarters and Service Company mentor, EPT, CLB-3, 1st MLG (Forward), and an Afghan National Army soldier practice weapons-handling drills Nov. 20.

Kings of the Road, Jacks of all Trades:

For Jump Platoon No Mission Is Too Small

Sgt. Mark Fayloga
Regimental Combat Team 1

NAWA, Afghanistan — The Jump Platoon, though the members of it would never say so themselves, is special.

Unique in size, mission and structure, the platoon is entrusted with the responsibility of providing security for the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, commanding officer while circulating him throughout 3/3's battle space in Helmand province roughly every eight days.

While this is an honorable task and certainly Jump Platoon's most visible function, the platoon continuously works behind the scenes to accomplish many other vital tasks for 3/3 as well.

The Jump Marines perform a variety of tasks, from providing supplementary security and running vehicle checkpoints, to masonry and gardening.

Not only have they logged more than

traditional roles, Law said.

The mentality that each man might be called upon to perform any task is a driving force in Jump, and a part of the reason Law is in the platoon. It isn't typical for a battalion gunner to be as much of a part of the battalion's security team as Law, but in a small section tasked various responsibilities, necessity dictates otherwise.

"There's no other way I could get around the battlefield without being with these guys," Law said. "Nawa is too large and we're too few in numbers to have a special group that takes me around. I'm another member of the team."

Being a part of that team affords Law the ability to perform more traditional battalion gunner duties. Here, he moves from position to position, teaching and mentoring Marines. Although he says it's rarely necessary, he'll dig into Marines for the small mistakes.

have morale courage to correct him."

When Jump travels, they roll rank heavy, typically moving with the battalion commander, the battalion sergeant major and the battalion gunner, at least.

When that many command and combat outposts, a general feeling of unease sometimes spreads through the Marines and sailors who live there. Although they have no reason to be on edge, as Law says, "Our corporals and sergeants are some of the best I've ever seen."

Still though, there is a general attitude about Jump.

"The Jump Platoon is kind of an outcast because we're different, not because we're anything special," said Cpl. Parsons, a Jump Platoon vehicle commander. "We're the same riflemen that are in line companies. Only, because we're a small unit in a large battalion,

"Lt. Col. [Jeffrey] Holt and Sgt. Maj. [Andrew] Cece came on board as new commander and sergeant major and decided, graciously, to give me an opportunity to redeem myself," Parsons said. "Since then, I've been reestablishing my identity in the battalion and trying to piecemeal a career back together. Working as the colonel's personal security assistant is an honor. It's put me in the right place at the right time to try and salvage and rebuild what I've previously destroyed."

Parsons has worked hard at redeeming himself. He's already picked up one of the ranks he lost and is among the most active members of Jump Platoon.

Parsons, along with most members of the platoon, checked out and completed four to five Marine Corps Institute distance learning programs — all on non-infantry topics including refrigeration, welding, generator repair and others.

"We did the MCLs on those topics because we had no understanding of them prior to this deployment and there was a need for it," Parsons said. "Sitting there looking at a broke generator won't fix it."

Cpl. Calvin Vaulner, a Jump Platoon vehicle commander and currently the acting platoon sergeant, attributes Jump's mentality not just to necessity, but to upbringing.

"We keep busy with work all the time because for most of these guys it's just part of their background," Vaulner said.

So now, with just weeks left to go in the deployment, after thousands of miles have been driven and hundreds have been patrolled, the radio operator can do what the machine gunner can do, and the corpsman can do what the rifleman can do.

"Everyone took their own expertise and expanded it and blended it in with each other," Vaulner said. "Everybody ended up coming out on top, knowing a little bit of everything."

"We're the same riflemen that are in line companies. Only, because we're a small unit in a large battalion, and we're not 300 strong like the line companies, people look at us different. You see the same kind of attitude toward elite units, only we're not elite."

Cpl. Parsons, Jump Platoon vehicle commander

5,000 miles on the road in Helmand province while performing their primary duty, they've also assisted with reinforcing defensive positions and taken to odd tasks like planting a vegetable garden.

"It's kind of cliché to say, but no mission is too small or too big," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 James P. Law, the Jump Platoon commander and battalion gunner for 3/3. "We do whatever the battalion needs us to do."

Because the Jump Marines are capped to a certain size, everyone pitches in, regardless of rank, and has to be prepared to complete tasks outside of their

"I would feel I was not doing my job if I did not go around and get into people for little minor things that I think could save their lives," Law, from Portland, Ore., said. "The Marine Corps picked me to be a battalion gunner; they didn't pick me to be a guy that sits in an office and critiques people. I'll go out there and teach a Marine how to change magazines quicker and, when necessary, I will explain to him why his gloves need to be on correctly and why his sleeves need to be rolled down, because if he goes home with horrific burns on his arms, what do I tell his mom? 'I was a weak leader and didn't

and we're not 300 strong like the line companies, people look at us different. You see the same kind of attitude toward elite units, only we're not elite."

But in a way the platoon is elite. The majority of the men who make up Jump were selected by their company first sergeants to represent their respective company and the battalion as a whole. For Parsons, the opportunity to be a part of Jump was a shot at redemption.

Parsons, from Pensacola, Fla., had gotten himself into trouble and after losing two pay grades, the Marine was facing administrative separation.



Cpl. Anthony Patris, a vehicle commander with Jump Platoon, 3/3, provides security from the rooftop of the Nawa District Governance Center, during a visit by the deputy secretary of defense, Oct. 28.



Lance Cpl. James Torres, a rifleman with Jump Platoon, 3/3, mans a vehicle checkpoint in Helmand province, Afghanistan, Oct. 22.



Pfc. Steven L. Blizzard, a driver with Jump Platoon, 3/3, provides security while escorting media through the Nawa Bazaar Oct. 22.



Photos by Sgt. Mark Fayloga | Regimental Combat Team 1

Brandon Owensby, a radio operator with Jump Platoon, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, walks back during a patrol while escorting media through the Nawa Bazaar in Helmand province, Afghanistan, Oct. 22. Jump Platoon's primary mission is to provide security for the battalion commander and transport him throughout 3/3's battle space, but the platoon performs a variety of tasks from providing supplementary security and running vehicle checkpoints, to masonry and gardening.



Petty Officer 3rd Class Jorge Medina, a Navy corpsman with Jump Platoon, 3/3, provides security while escorting the deputy secretary of defense through the Nawa Bazaar Oct. 28.

TARAWA, from A-1

Tran also met retired Master Sgt. Teetai A. Nuusolia, then a corporal, and former corporal John Ishikawa, who were both on ship during her birth. Both Marines were assigned to BLT, 2nd Battalion 3rd Marines at the time and reside on Oahu today.

Nuusolia was on duty that night and still recalls the events perfectly, he said.

“I was on duty when I heard someone shout, ‘Baby, baby, baby!’” he said. “I [replied], ‘Baby?’ and immediately sounded off, ‘corpsman up!’ I remember everyone sounding off after me. When someone said corpsman up you immediately stopped what you were doing and found a corpsman.”

Reed was first to respond to the hollers.

“It was an unexpected surprise,” Reed said. “We’re taught medical protocol, but I was used to dealing with Marines. Ya know, sewing them up, giving them shots and going to sick call. But delivering a baby that was a brand new experience and a once-in-a-lifetime experience.”

It seemed the Tarawa, known to those aboard as “Big T,” happened to be in right place at the right time when it found the refugees.

Its mission during

that particular deployment was, “To embark, deploy and land elements of Marine Landing Force in as assault by helicopters, landing craft and amphibian vehicles and by any combination of these methods,” according to a statement made then by the former chief of naval operations’, Adm. Thomas B. Hayward. “We were showing force around the world,” Nuusolia said.

The refugees were debarked at Phattaya Bay, Thailand, on May 12. There, Tran and her family began making arrangements to emigrate to the U.S.

“They did not know which nation they were going to, they just wanted to escape Vietnam. My mother said she was really scared, but this was the opportunity to leave Vietnam and find freedom. They took a really big risk.”

It was moments like this that helped write the bright history the Tarawa would soon unfold.



Lance Cpl. Tyler L. Main | Hawaii Marine

[From left] Teetai A. Nuusolia, John Ishikawa, Grace Tran Tarawa and Richard A. Reed stand in front of the now ex-Tarawa, Tran’s birthplace, after reuniting Monday to celebrate Tran’s birth on May 10, 1979. Former Marines Nuusolia and Ishikawa and then Navy corpsman Reed were assigned to Battalion Landing Team, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment during the events.

“1979 was a banner year for the Tarawa, marking her transition from a newly commissioned first-of-class ship to a fully operational ship-of-the-line,” read the operational history log of the deployment.

The tour showed the impressive capabilities of the Tarawa, which housed up to

30 aircraft and 163 vehicles at one point, transporting and deploying them to various exercises and humanitarian missions around the world.

Since then, both the Tarawa and Tran have made themselves permanently at home in America. The Tarawa was decommissioned in March of 2009 and is now

anchored at the Naval Inactive Ships Maintenance Facility in Middle Loch on Joint-Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Tran currently resides in Philadelphia and works as a financial analyst for an insurance company. Her mother, two brothers and uncle, also U.S. citizens, live in Philadelphia as well.

BRONZE, from A-1

Maynard moved from his covered position into open territory, still under heavy fire, to reach the ANA squad leader.

He gave the ANA instruction and provided additional covering fires so that all ANA could evacuate the kill zone and continue to a safe exit route.

Next, Maynard and the ETTs followed. But Maynard wasn’t done.

The warrior called in corrections to air assets fire resulting in accurate and devastating air attacks on enemy positions.

This allowed the patrol to continue down the mountain without suffering any life threatening casualties.

A fellow ETT sprained his ankle on the way down and Maynard took most of the ETT’s gear, still keeping heavy suppressive fire on pursuing enemy fighters.

After reaching their base, Maynard rallied the ANA and prepared for additional attacks.

There was more than four other recorded occasions where Maynard displayed similar gallantry in the face of danger. During the first month alone, Maynard was involved in more than 20 firefights and 90 combat patrols.

“During the first month we were there was [during] election week,” Maynard said. “That was like a four day firefight itself. Over the entire deployment, we racked up around 70 or 80 firefights. We eventually stopped counting them. It was ridiculous.”

3rd Marine Regiment commander Col. James W. Bierman Jr. and Sgt. Maj. Paul G. McKenna honored his actions in Afghanistan.

“When a Marine goes out on an ETT you find out if he’s got game,” McKenna said. “Staff Sgt. Maynard has got game.”

“What an opportunity it is for the

“When a Marine goes out on an ETT you find out if he’s got game. Staff Sgt. Maynard has got game.”

Sgt. Maj. Paul G. McKenna, 3rd Regiment sergeant major

sergeant major and I to come down to this great company and present a combat award with a write-up like the one you just heard,” Bierman said. “I can’t tell you how proud I am of Staff Sgt. Maynard and this company.”

Maynard’s medal is one of fewer than five Bronze Stars with combat distinguishing device awarded to Marines with CAC, a company with approximately 100 Marines.



Lance Cpl. Tyler L. Main | Hawaii Marine

Staff Sgt. Cody M. Maynard’s Bronze Star Medal rests on his chest during an award ceremony Tuesday. Maynard, an amphibious assault vehicle section leader, was awarded a Bronze Star Medal with combat distinguishing device for multiple displays of valor while on an Embedded Training Team in Afghanistan where he trained and fought alongside Afghan National Army soldiers.

Afghan, US forces spread holiday cheer, gift hundreds in Helmand province during Id al-Adha

Sgt. Mark Fayloga
Regimental Combat Team 1



Photos by Sgt. Mark Fayloga | Regimental Combat Team 1

Army Sgt. Jason Raehal, a team leader with 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, hands out radios and coats to Afghan children in Nawa, Afghanistan Nov. 17. Marines from 3/3, provided security while Afghan National Army soldiers and U.S. Army personnel gave out supplies as a goodwill gesture during the Muslim holiday of Id al-Adha, the Feast of Sacrifice. Raehal is from Greeley, Colo.

NAWA, Afghanistan — In Afghanistan’s Helmand province, a young Afghan boy ran faster than the speed of sound.

As Army Sgt. Jason Raehal drove out toward a bridge in Nawa, his vehicle filled with gifts for Afghans in honor of the Muslim holiday of Id al-Adha, the Feast of Sacrifice, he had a couple worries.

The first was that there wouldn’t be many people at the bridge. The second was that his vehicle, outfitted with a speaker system, wouldn’t be able to broadcast a message loud enough to reach the nearby villages.

His first concern was a valid one. “When we got to the bridge there was just one boy and one adult,” Raehal, a team leader with 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, said.

His second concern, however, was irrelevant.

Raehal greeted the adult and boy with an “Id Mubarak,” or “Happy Id,” and gave them each a new radio. By the

“It was a great goodwill gesture and it’s good to help the Afghans as much as we possibly can.”

- Army Sgt. Jason Raehal
a team leader with 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment

While a squad of Marines from 3/3 provided security, Raehal and the Afghan National Army soldiers with him gave away more than 300 gifts to nearly 100 Afghans — all within 15 minutes of arriving at the bridge.

“By the end of it, I was shocked to see so many people there,” Raehal, from Greeley, Colo., said.

Afghans approached Raehal’s interpreter, thanking him for the supplies and expressing their gratitude. The radios were in high demand, which Raehal was happy to see. A few weeks earlier, Raehal had been surveying Afghans about the coalition-run radio station, and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. People like the music, but more importantly, Raehal said, they enjoy the news.

“People love the radio station,” Raehal said. “In this part of the Helmand province, with the lack of print media and the low literacy rate, the radio is a great means of communication.”

In addition to radios, gifts included coats, sporting goods, cooking utensils, hats, kites and notebooks.

Marines from 3/3 and their Afghan counterparts held three similar events across the Helmand province, targeting areas where Afghans were the most in need.

“It was a huge, huge success,” Raehal said. “It was a great goodwill gesture and it’s good to help the Afghans as much as we possibly can.”

Lance Cpl. Steven Finlayson, a team leader with Headquarters Company, 3/3, pauses before returning to Forward Operating Base Geronimo after providing security Nov. 17. Finlayson and his squad provided security while Afghan National Army soldiers and U.S. Army personnel gave out supplies as a goodwill gesture during the Muslim holiday of Id al-Adha.



Cpl. Christopher Squire, a squad leader with Headquarters Company, 3/3, yields the right of way to an Afghan farmer’s passing herd while providing security Nov. 17. Squire is from Grayling, Mich.



Lifestyles & Sports



Photos by Jay Parco | Hawaii Marine

Taylor Crockett of Junior Girls Scout Troop 381 helps the 21st Dental Company collect toys during the 36th Annual Oahu Car Cruise and Car Show here Saturday.

Toys for Tots revs into the holidays

Christine Cabalo

Photojournalist

Volunteers shifted into high gear to collect Toys for Tots donations at Saturday's 36th Annual Oahu Car Cruise and Car Show here. More than 500 cars and hundreds of spectators showed up at Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay to support the campaign.

"We definitely saw a lot of people out there," said Staff Sgt. Rafael Arriaga Jr., Toys for Tots coordinator, 4th Force Reconnaissance Company. "We had a lot of fun, and there was such a positive feeling from it."

Volunteers, including service members, spouses and Girl Scouts, collected an estimated \$1,200 and more than

1,190 toys for the campaign.

Despite the turnout, Arriaga said toys for certain age brackets are still greatly needed to meet requests from the local community. Toys for newborns up to 2-year-olds are needed, along with toys for girls aged 8 to 10 and all children 11 years old and older.

To bridge the gap, Marines visited Toys R Us in Aiea Wednesday with students from Huakailani School in Kailua to buy toys with available funds. Arriaga said people may be nervous about what to buy, but any donation to the needed age groups would be greatly appreciated.

For more information about upcoming events or to volunteer, call 257-7147 or see <http://kaneohe-bay-hi.toysfortots.org/>

Also, mark your calendars for these Toys for Tots events:

- Street Biker United Annual Toy Run — Sunday, at 9 a.m. Join dozens of local motorcyclists in this 36th annual event starting at Magic Island in Honolulu. Marine Corps vehicles and the Honolulu Police Department bike detail escort will ride down Kalakaua Avenue with volunteers ready to take toys at Kapiolani Community College. Entertainment and food is scheduled.

- "Na Mele o Na Keiki" Holiday Concert — Dec. 10, at 7 p.m., Neal Blaisdell Concert Hall. This free concert includes an all-star lineup including the U.S. Marine Forces Pacific Band, Jim Nabors, Henry Kapono and Anita Hall. Pick up free tickets at the Blaisdell Box Office.

- Star Wars Toys for Tots Night — Dec. 17, at 6-9 p.m., Honolulu Hale. The Pacific Outpost 501st Legion of Stormtroopers will be at the mayor's office to collect toys. Bring your donations and take photos with your favorite Star Wars characters. For more information, call 768-6622 or e-mail moca-info@honolulu.gov

- Hawaiian Airlines Diamond Classic — Dec. 22-23, various times, Stan Sheriff Center. Donate a new, unwrapped toy and receive free admission into any of the daytime basketball games. For more information, call 257-7147.

To donate toys at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, visit any of these drop-off locations through December: MCX Annex; Base Comptroller's Office, Bldg. 216, Room 8; Bank of Hawaii, Bldg. 1196 at 5th Street; and Installation Personnel Administration Center (IPAC), Bldg. 1044 at Selden and 3rd Streets.



A Corvette modified with a Thunderbird conversion was one of many show stopping cars at Hanger 101.



Gregg Fujii, a classic car owner, greets Aden Kai Rodriguez with some new toys for the Toys for Tots campaign.

PASS

IN

REVIEW



‘The Walking Dead’ rises to the top of TV lineup

Christine Cabalo
Photojournalist

“The Walking Dead,” about a worldwide undead invasion, hits the ground running as AMC’s newest original TV series.

Wounded in the line of duty and awakening from a coma, Georgia sheriff’s deputy Rick Grimes (Andrew Lincoln) wakes up to a drastically changed world overrun with flesh-eating zombies. Stuck in an abandoned hospital, Grimes searches for his family. He meets several survivors, trying to fight the dangerous zombies and the fallout of civilization in Georgia.

Based on the popular graphic novel series, “The Walking Dead” focuses on how the characters attempt to live on dwindling resources. The show keeps the best of its source material while adding some surprising twists. The series opening sequence inside in an empty hospital is straight from the graphic novel, which pre-dates the 2003 zombie film “28 Days Later.”

Horror fans will delight in the gorier aspects of the series, as Grimes and non-infected humans sometimes fight hundreds of zombies.

One episode is called “Guts” for a good reason. Since zombies infect by bite and can only be killed by severing the brain, there’s bloodshed.

Viewers learn the rules about dealing with the zombies or “geeks” early on. Loud noises draw a zombie’s attention. Although they move slowly, it’s the hundreds in a horde that the living need to worry about.

The show mostly focuses on what the characters do

to survive, some heroically sticking up for each other like Glenn (Steven Yeun) does when Grimes gets into a tough spot. Others become tyrants themselves, like Grimes’ friend and former patrol partner Shane Walsh (Jon Bernthal) who harbors a lot of jealousy and resentment.

If there’s any fault to the series, it’s a lack of main female characters doing anything exciting or heroic. There are some stand-outs like Andrea (Laurie Holden), who has the potential to be as go getting as her comic book character. Grimes’ wife Lori (Sarah Wayne Callies), seems a bit divided in her affection to her husband, but devoted to their son.

With just one more new episode left of the first season, the group makes a last ditch trip to Atlanta in the hope of finding more survivors and a cure to the disease.

Grimes learns from the first survivors he met, Morgan Jones and his son Duane, that the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention is working on a cure. In the latest episode the group is desperately trying to enter the CDC facility as a horde of zombies descend upon them.

With the next episode entitled “TS-19,” it looks like the plague’s origins will be revealed to fans. A sample with that label was tested by a mysterious scientist in the last episode.

Who lives or dies is still up in the air, but the show’s popularity has earned it another 13-episode season next year.



Your weekly guide to all aspects of entertainment

Welcome to Pass In Review, your number one source for cinema, music, videogame, book and product reviews. The Pass In Review crew consists of more than 10 critics, each with their own idea of what makes a movie, album, game, product 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



BROWN

Cpl. Colby W. Brown reads on his free time and during down time on the weekends. His favorite type of book is adventure and action. When reading, he not only wants a book to capture his imagination but one that will keep his mind thinking about the characters and plot.



CABALO

Christine Cabalo believes every person goes to the movies hungry. “Audiences feed on movies that astound and amaze. Whether short or long, movies should tell people a story through vivid imagery.” Her favorite genres include action, adventure and fun epics. She also likes eclectic TV shows.



Big time ‘Pygmy’

Cpl. Colby W. Brown
Combat Correspondent

From best selling author Chuck Palahniuk comes “Pygmy,” a story about a 13-year-old secret operative from a totalitarian, communist country with a mission to wipe out America.

The book is written from the perspective of Pygmy, the main character, in the style of dispatches back to his home country. Information like names, places and dates are very rarely, if at all, given out. Instead words are blacked out like a top-secret document.

At the age of four, Pygmy was adopted by the state and separated from his parents for training. During training, he is formed into a drone operative with the one purpose in life — destroying America from within.

Under the guise as a foreign exchange student, Pygmy and a dozen other operatives travel to the U.S. to accomplish their mission of bringing down the American horde.

The novel follows Pygmy’s story of being raised in one culture and being sent to destroy another. The more he learns about the U.S., the less his mission makes sense.

Pygmy also falls in love with “Cat Sister,” his name for his host family’s daughter. This makes finishing his task difficult.

The novel gives readers a different view of America. Pygmy was raised being taught that America is the evil overlord of the world. His views also include that everyone in America is overweight and feeds off deep fried food in memory of the great war hero

Colonel Sanders.

It shows the side of past communist leaders like Adolf Hitler and Karl Marx, making their views the popular belief. Pygmy hates everything about America and its citizens and through his views, the novel builds an interesting way to think about how foreign countries view Americans.

This novel is difficult to start because it is written in broken English, which may be hard to understand. But after the second chapter, the style will make sense and putting the book down will become a more difficult thing to do.

Entertaining in a way that makes you feel guilty, “Pygmy” lives up to Palahniuk’s style. He delivers yet another daring and utterly raw satire. His patented dark humor and ability to reinvent how literature can be written will keep eyeballs glued to the pages.

As an American, reading this book gives a fictional insight into what other countries think about the country. Although some of the perspectives are antagonistic, instead of being insulted you won’t be able to put the book down. It’s like reading a manuscript of what people say behind your back.

“Pygmy,” is a delight if you are a fan of sadistic humor and vivid depictions of disgusting scenarios. This novel doesn’t disappoint, if you are a Palahniuk fan. If you aren’t a fan, “Pygmy” will make you one.

It does include dramatic and mature situations better suited for adults.



“The Social Network” PG-13
“My Soul to Take” R
“Life As We Know It” PG-13
“Case” R
“Legend of the Guardians” PG
“Paranormal Activity 2” R

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

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

WORD TO PASS

On Base

Mokapu Elementary Chorus and Drama performance

Tonight

Students perform “North Pole Exposure” at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. Admission is free. Cookie donations are welcome for refreshments after the show.

Holiday Family Craft Night at Mokapu Elementary

Dec. 10

Come by Mokapu Elementary from 6 to 8 p.m. for a free holiday craft night in the cafeteria. There are eight tables of crafts. Hot Chocolate and cookies will be served. The event is sponsored by the Mokapu PTA and cookie donations will be accepted the night of the event.

Santa’s Village Celebration

Dec. 11

The celebration will be held at Youth Activities, Bldg. 1090B, from 9 a.m. to noon. The event is free to all base youth and families. Scheduled activities include a child photo with Santa, games, bounce houses, arts and crafts, giveaways, prizes, dance performances, children’s rides and more.

For more information, contact Youth Activities at 254-7610.

Seether in concert

Dec. 17

Listen to Seether at Dewey Square at 7 p.m. This free concert brought to you by the USO. Food and beverages will be available for purchase at the concert.

For more information, call Bobbie Brock at 257-2651.

NMCRS Budget for Baby Workshop

1st and 3rd Monday of every month

The Navy Marine Corps Relief Society offers valuable training for new parents, expecting parents, as well as those considering parenthood. The classes are held from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Seating is limited.

Call NMCRS to sign up at 257-1972/1973.

Become a Scout

Tuesday evenings

Troop 425 here is looking for young men who want adventure and to be challenged. Meetings are at the Youth Activity Center beginning at 7 p.m.

If interested, call Adam Gramann at 254-5533, Ty McCarthy at 888-7122, or Bill Tourek at 349-0283.

In the Community

Windward Choral Society 3rd Annual Holiday Concert

Tonight at 7 p.m. and tomorrow at 2 p.m.

Performances will include choral music from China, Hawaii, Israel, Romania, Scotland, South Africa, and gospel and spirituals from the U.S. The audience will also have a chance to sing along to a few traditional holiday tunes. Admission and parking is free at Windward United Church of Christ, 38 Kaneohe Bay Drive.

For more information, call 254-5717.

Kaneohe Christmas Parade

Tomorrow, 9 a.m.

This parade starts at Windward Mall at Haiku Road, heads to Kamehameha Hwy., to Kaneohe Bay Drive and ends at Castle High School.

For more information, call Anna Kuulei Richardson Olsen at 348-2749 or 262-3323.

Mayor’s Christmas tree lighting and parade

Tomorrow, 6 p.m.

This parade starts at Aala Park in Downtown Honolulu, heads to King Street and ends in a closed off portion of King Street, between Punchbowl and South Streets.

For more information, call Eddie Oi, Department of Customer Services, at 768-3499.

Volunteer in the Community

Feed the homeless through Base Chapel outreach

Program volunteers are needed to help feed the homeless.

The Base Chapel is looking for volunteers to serve and prepare hot meals through the Institute of Human Services in Honolulu. Volunteers do not need to be attendees of chapel services. For more information call 257-5138.

Head on the road for Meals on Wheels

Lanakila Pacific’s Meals on Wheels program always needs volunteers to help deliver food to those who need it.

For more information, call Randi Jeung at 356-8532. See <http://www.lanakilapacific.org>.

Sports and Health Events

Single Marine and Sailor Program

Surf Lessons

Take your board to White Plains Beach on Sunday, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fees for this outing will pay for board rental, transportation from Kahuna’s and barbecue.

This event is open to single or unaccompanied E5 and below.

For more information, contact Neil Morgan or Karley Peterson at 254-7593.

Tobacco Cessation

Classes start on the first Tuesday of the month and run for four consecutive Tuesdays.

For more information, contact Health Promotions at 254-7636.

All-Marine cross country team

applications due next week

Semper Fit is seeking participants for the All-Marine Cross Country Championship team.

Runners need to be able to attend the competition from Jan. 5-9, 2011 at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.

Marines who are interested in competing must submit an application no later than Dec. 10. Application forms are available online at the MCCS website (<http://www.usmc-mccs.org/sports/appform.cfm?sid=ml&smid=4>).

For more information, call Joe Au at 254-7591.

Commander’s Cup Golf Classic

Register by Dec. 10 for this Dec. 17 event at the Klipper Golf Course. Shotgun start is at 12:30 p.m.

Special prize awarded for best holiday-themed costume. Grand prize is an overnight stay for two at the Waikiki Resort.

For more information, including fees, call Todd Murata at 254-1745.

Nutrition Class Focusing on

Performance and Supplements

On Dec. 16, Tripler Army Medical Center dietician Capt. Joy Metevier will conduct a class providing information on performance and supplements. The free class will be held in the base chapel conference room from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

It will clear up faulty ideas about weight loss and supplements, and ensure people are using the safest and most effective techniques for performance training.

It’s open to all active duty, retirees, family members and Department of Defense employees.

For more information, contact Neil Morgan or Dan Dufrene at 254-7636.

Satellite Fitness Centers

Satellite Fitness Centers are located in Building 1033 and the Flightline Mini Gym, Building 301. Free weights and weight machines are available for use at these locations. Hours vary due to operational commitments.

Call 254-7594 for more information.

Personal Trainers Available

For those looking to get into a tailored exercise regimen, or just looking for good advice on weight management and weight control, the Semper Fit Center offers free personal training consultation.

Schedule an appointment with a trainer who will take body fat measurements, blood pressure and heart rate readings. For a small fee per workout, a professional trainer will actually work with you to ensure maximum efficiency. Patrons may sign up for an initial assessment and one session a week up to three weeks.

Because of a high demand for personal trainer appointments, patrons must wait four weeks between sessions following the initial three visits.

For more information, contact Semper Fit at 254-7597.

Semper Fit Group Classes

Boot Camp

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

Cardio Kick

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

Cycling

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

Gut Cut

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

High Intensity Circuit Training

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

Moms on the Move

This class is designed for the active parent done in an outdoor setting involving the kids. Build strength and cardiovascular endurance during this fun group setting. With the use of resistance bands, body weight exercises, abdominal work and plyometrics this can help strengthen your body and mind.

Normal hours of operation:

Monday-Friday, 4:30 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.

Saturday, 7 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Sunday and holidays, 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.

TALK*STORY

In four days, the country will observe the anniversary of the Japanese attack on the island of Oahu Dec. 7, 1941. Where were you on that historic day?



“I was in Burlington, Colo. I went to [high] school [and] that’s all they talked about ... It really mobilized the country. Everybody felt they had that duty to go to war. ... [I have] three brothers and we all fought in World War II.”
– Thomas Kalus, retired lieutenant colonel, World War II veteran



“I was at church. We could see the planes flying overhead, but ... I don’t think people realized there was a war until about 8 ‘o clock when they announced it on the radio. They asked the workers to return to their duty posts. A lot of them were killed on the highway. We were in evacuation for two weeks.”

– Carol Shimada, who worked at the Kaneohe Naval Air Station and is still here at Marine Corps Base Hawaii



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

Burning off calories at Semper Fit

As many celebrated Thanksgiving last week, others hit the gym to work off their holiday feasts.



Aedan Jex, 13, of the Pink Panthers, spikes the ball during a tournament game Saturday. The Hawaii Military Youth Athletic Association held its volleyball tournament at the Semper Fit Center, with games between Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and Marine Corps Base Hawaii. The Pink Panthers won two of five games against JBPHH. Tournament winners were presented with gold medals and the runners up received silver.



Photos by Kristen Wong | Hawaii Marine

Attendees at the Turkey Burn-Off Aerobathon engage in half an hour of Gut Cut at the Semper Fit Center Nov. 26. Base patrons headed for the gym the day after Thanksgiving to burn off some calories at the four-hour event. Group fitness instructors each taught a half hour class such as Step, Cardio and Tone and Zumba. Patrons brought a brand new, unwrapped toy as admission to the aerobathon classes, which were donated to Toys for Tots.

A little blood never hurt anyone

Lance Cpl. Tyler L. Main
Combat Correspondent

It seems odd to me that one of the most popular and one of the least popular sports in America share the same main characteristic.

Mixed Martial Arts and hockey both feature athletes duking it out at any given time. The sports have obvious differences but, for the most part, it's true.

Imagine if other professional sports allow the same conduct. Instead of fining Houston Texans' wide-receiver Andre Johnson and Tennessee Titans' corner back Cortland Finnegan for hooking and jabbing on the field Sunday, the winner could have been rewarded \$25,000 and viewers would go wild.

Naysayers may call this barbaric and unprofessional but I don't care and some fans are with me. I want to see Shaquille O'Neal choke slam someone.

Imagine it's the Super Bowl and there is a controversial call made in the final seconds of play. The coach who feels mistreated throws the "blood flag," a replacement of the challenge flag. Instead of referees conferring on the sideline, the fans see two gargantuan football ogres take the 50-yard-line.

The giants remove their helmets and begin tenderizing each other's face with the protective equipment. BOOM!

Your mind just explodes with happiness because although your player didn't win and he played a terrible game, you're still excited to see him in a body cast.

If hockey continues to be the only sport that allows fighting then the idea will never catch on because nobody watches it. We need sports people actually like. Allowing hockey to be the only sport that sanctions fights is like putting the prettiest ornaments on the backside of a Christmas tree. No one will ever appreciate them.

It's not like hockey would continue to provide the best fights if all other sports would allow brawling. Most NFL players would knock the snot out of an NHL athlete. Granted NHL athletes

are tough, but they usually don't have the size or athletic ability of even many NBA stars.

Soccer should be the exception. If you watched the 2010 FIFA World Cup, then you know that soccer players can't take the pain. They begin to fall before actually being struck. In my book, FIFA stands for the Fakers International Faking Association.

Golf and tennis on the other hand, have some players with serious anger problems. You could get fights out of tennis sisters Serena Williams and Venus Williams and turn some golfer's clubs into kendo sticks easily enough.

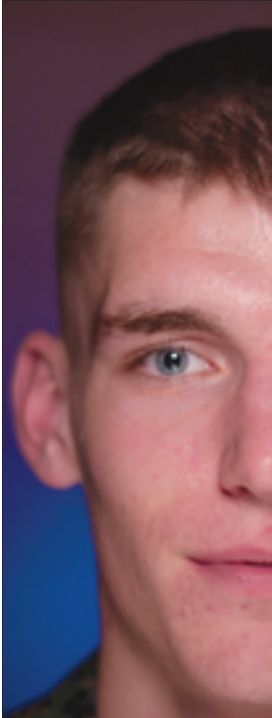
Hand to hand combat is the most physical form of competition and arguably the oldest sport the world has. Adding it to most sports would only help the industry and please the fans.



Fighting in Organized Sports

VS is a recurring column tackling debatable issues in the sports world. Hawaii Marine readers can submit a subject for future columns by e-mailing their ideas to hmeditor@hawaiimarine.com.

If there's a topic you would like to discuss/defend or if you think we missed the mark, let us know and you could see your "opinion," regardless of how wrong it is featured below. Suit up, ladies ... it's game time.



MAIN



BROWN

Men play hockey. Men watch hockey. Men cheer when an athlete takes their skate off and uses it as a lethal weapon to severely prove that he is right.

Men don't whine at officials if a play doesn't go their way and they don't cry when they get punched in the face.

Hockey is the only sport that accepts fighting and when two athletes go at it everyone is OK with it. The sport is in a realm of its own and it will stay that way.

All the other sports could change their rules and allow fighting, even promote it. But it would never be the same as hockey. In comparison, the athletes in other sports would look like fools. Could you imagine Tiger Woods trying to fight another golfer? It would be more comedic than anything else.

Hockey has its own tradition, and that tradition is fighting.

You have to be a man

Cpl. Colby W. Brown
Combat Correspondent

What is the best thing about organized sports? It's not touchdowns, championships, slam dunks or home runs. The best thing is when two athletes throw down in the middle of the rink and slug each other black and blue.

Yeah, you can watch the Ultimate Fighting Championship or boxing, but watching two men in tights dance around in front of a lot of other men gets old after a while.

There is only one sport that has the quality of athletes to encompass such an event. The true sport is hockey, and only men can play. Why? Because it's the only sport that has the capacity for fistfights. It is the only sport that contains athletes at a high enough physical caliber to make for an entertaining fight. And it is the only sport where actions based on emotion (fighting) is accepted as normal. With more than 40 percent of all hockey games having at least one fight, it is arguable that hockey is the only sport where fistfights belongs.

It's not basketball because athletes who play that sport jam their thumb on a hard bounce pass and have to sit out the rest of the season. It's not football because the zebra men will throw their yellow coward flag before it gets good. It's not baseball because when they get angry at each other, instead of letting fists fly, they kick dirt at each other and throw a tantrum like a five-year-old. It's not golf, tennis or soccer because in those sports it's not nice to make fun of others, pull hair or bite one another. Or that's what their mommies told them.

No other sport has enough hate, anguish or spite between teams to cause them to actually throw a punch. In no other sport do athletes immediately throw their gloves off to attack one another after a foul play. And, in no other sport is missing your front teeth a good thing.

It's not hockey's fault the other organized sports' players can't handle a little mid-court rumble every now and again.

Men play hockey. Men watch hockey. Men cheer when an athlete takes their skate off and uses it as a

“Allowing hockey to be the only sport that sanctions fights is like putting the prettiest ornaments on the backside of a Christmas tree. No one will ever appreciate them.”

“Men play hockey. Men watch hockey. Men cheer when an athlete takes their skate off and uses it as a lethal weapon to severely prove that he is right.”

K-Bay sailors help clean Hawaii highways

Kristen Wong
Photojournalist

KAILUA — Cigarette butts and old soda cans beware: Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 2 is here to wipe you from the face of the highway.

Recently, members of the First Class Petty Officer Association within the unit collected 23 bags of trash on their first Adopt-A-Highway trash clean up Nov. 22. In October, the FCPOA joined the Adopt-A-Highway program.

“Our mantra is to take care of junior petty officers [through] military education and leadership training,” said Petty Officer 1st Class Michael Boldizsar, a naval air crewman operator, CPRW-2.

Boldizsar is the new president of the FCPOA this year and coordinated the cleanup. The organization, which has existed within the unit since 1998, has a membership of 26 first class petty officers.

The organization adopted a two-mile stretch of road on Route 61 Kailua Road, which starts at Hamakua Street and ends at Castle Medical Center.

The program, run by the Department of Transportation, asks organizations to clean their highway each quarter.



Kristen Wong | Hawaii Marine

Petty Officer 1st Class Dan Faulkner, naval air crewman operator, and Petty Officer 1st Class David Rister, intelligence specialist, both from Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 2, look for litter on a Kailua highway Nov. 22.

The program provides equipment for trash pick up, including gloves, vests and trash bags.

According to Ken Teutsch, the Oahu Adopt-A-Highway coordinator, there are more than 100 organizations on Oahu which have adopted a highway.

Of these, 25 to 30 percent are military groups.

Highways in Hawaii would likely be in worse shape if not for the Adopt-A-Highway program, said Teutsch. From tires to fast food wrappers, the amount of trash collected from the highways

is high. But Teutsch said there isn’t enough manpower or money for the state to clean up the highways.

“The state has cut back over the years,” Teutsch said. “Plus we’re on furloughs two days a month. The program overall is saving the state millions of dollars a year.”

The program also prevents litter from entering the storm drains and eventually into the ocean.

The work is nothing new for Petty Officer 1st Class Brooks Wakefield, Navy career counselor, CPRW-2, who volunteers at every place he is stationed to “be a positive role model as a sailor.”

Wakefield has participated in three Adopt-A-Highway programs in Washington, California and here. He said the project “gives the locals a sense of pride.”

In addition to Adopt-A-Highway program, Boldizsar said the group also participates in the Partners in Education program with Kaneohe Elementary School. Every Wednesday, CPRW-2 sailors spend the morning assisting students with physical education.

Boldizsar said they hope to have the rest of the unit come out for the next highway clean up.

Around the Corps

In December, we take an expanded look at what's happening around the Corps

SHARING SOME WARMTH

Gayle Goodman and retired Marine Lt. Col. Mary Ford, presented five quilts to Marines of Wounded Warrior Detachment Hawaii Nov. 17. They have visited the wounded warriors several times over the last few years, giving quilts. Goodman said that two of the five quilts were made by Ford and the other three were made in conjunction with the Eastern Washington State Quilters, comprised of Goodman and her sisters Jan Stevenson and Trish Gion. The sisters each made different parts of the quilts and sent them to each other to work on until completed.

[Left] Ford gives a quilt to Lance Cpl. Richard Cook.

[Below] Staff Sgt. Jason Rodden appreciates a quilt from Goodman.

[Bottom] Wounded warriors keep warm with their recent guests.



Courtesy photos

Brothers in arms: Siblings share Marine brotherhood during Afghanistan deployment

Cpl. Paul Zellner
1st Marine Logistics Group

CAMP DWYER, Afghanistan — Pfc. Clint and Brian Sorg, brothers from the small town of Pocahontas, Ark., used to spend their days riding four-wheelers and relaxing in the river near their home, but now they spend their days driving tactical vehicles in Afghanistan where they are deployed together in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

In 2008, bored with their civilian lives in a town of fewer than 7,000 people, the brothers made a choice to answer the call to serve their country as active duty Marines, a choice that would strengthen their bond as brothers and change their way of life. They had no idea what the Corps had in store for them or when they would be separated, but they knew it was the right choice.

"At first we were going to the Air Force, but when the Air Force recruiter was late, we decided to ask the Marine recruiter if he knew when he'd be back," said Brian, 20, who's a little more than one year younger than Clint. "Needless to say, we ended up in the Corps and have no regrets."

More than two years later, the brothers have since graduated from recruit training, Marine Combat Training, military occupation specialty



Cpl. Paul Zellner | 1st Marine Logistics Group

Steve Longwell, deputy safety director, and Patrick Kaiahua, safety specialist lead, Base Safety Directorate, celebrate their completion of the CP-12 training internship, returning to the base with new initiatives and insights.

school, and both received orders to Okinawa, Japan, at Combat Logistics Battalion 4 where they served as motor transport operators.

After serving only a few months on Okinawa with the battalion, they both received another call — the call to serve beside their Marine Corps brothers in Afghanistan.

They were assigned to Combat Logistics Battalion 3, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), and went through

pre-deployment training together in Hawaii and Twentynine Palms, Calif. In late September, they arrived with their battalion at Camp Dwyer in Afghanistan's Helmand province.

The Sorg brothers went from driving all-terrain vehicles in the backwoods of Arkansas to driving the Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected All-Terrain Vehicles, used in Helmand province.

Clint works with Motor Transport Company B where he serves as a motor

transport operator and company clerk, ensuring all ammunition, weapons and Marines are accounted for.

Brian serves with Security Platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, where he remains on standby 24/7 for vehicle recovery and security missions. He also serves as the line of communication between the brothers and their family.

"I feel bad for my mother; it's kind of up and down for her because it's double the risk, but she knows we've got each other's backs," said Clint. "[Brian] keeps mom and the family informed of what's going on with both of us."

Having separate missions keeps the brothers apart, but they make time to meet, usually at the smoke pit, to catch up and see how each other is doing. On rare occasions, they get to spend a little more time together and go to the gym or watch a movie.

"I wish I did get to spend a little more time with him, but time passes when you stay busy," said Brian.

The Sorg brothers don't know where their travels will take them next or if they'll be separated, but one thing is for certain: the bond they share as brothers has only strengthened during this deployment. They also realize that they joined a new brotherhood more than 200,000 strong.

Base Safety personnel share, learn knowledge through Army class

Kristen Wong
Photojournalist

Base Safety Directorate personnel recently returned from a 15-week training internship and are in the process of sharing new initiatives to benefit the base.

From February to October, Steve Longwell, deputy safety director, Base Safety, and Patrick Kaiahua, safety specialist lead, Base Safety, attended the CP-12 safety training internship, sponsored by the Army Combat Readiness Safety Center.

“It’s 15 weeks of broad but detailed safety training covering all types of all elements of a safety program,” said Longwell, of Ewa Beach. “[CP-12’s purpose is] to help broaden the overall working knowledge of safety professionals.”

Although the course originally had limited space, Longwell said the Marine Corps took a strong interest in the program and created a partnership with the Army to reserve more spaces. The course is open to several types of professionals, including safety specialists, industrial hygienists and safety engineers. Since 2005, five professionals from this base were able to attend.

Students spent part of the training at Eastern Kentucky University, and also at Fort Rucker in Alabama. According to Longwell, six of the 15 weeks featured training by Occupational Safety and Health Administration. During that time, students were given an overview of safety topics such as confined spaces, electrical standards and hazardous materials. Students learned through various means, such as reading assignments, group work and computer based assignments.

Toward the end of the internship, Kaiahua and Longwell conducted a staff study on a subject which would improve an aspect of safety on the base.

Longwell’s study looked at workers’ compensation claims and what organizations can do to decrease the number of claims each year. Upon completion of his staff study, Longwell presented his findings and proposed four courses of action to Col. Robert Rice, base commanding officer, still under review.

Kaiahua, of Aiea, worked on the

Utility Task Vehicles training course, which as of Nov. 5 held its second session on base. Many commands use UTVs to run errands around the base.

“Rollover is one of our biggest concerns,” Kaiahua said.

Kaiahua described his experience at CP-12 as being like a “refresher course.” The course went over many aspects of safety which he was already trained in. However, what he found most beneficial from the course was new information he received from the Army’s methods which can be applied to the Marine Corps.

“The training is definitely a tool I can use for memorization,” Kaiahua said.

Last year, Base Safety also sent Safety Specialist Terri Watkins to CP-12, resulting in the implementation of the Voluntary Protection Program on base.

The VPP, a program through OSHA which gives an organization a chance to be recognized as

having exemplary safety standards and practices. By late this year or early next year, Watkins said they hope to submit their application to achieve star status as an organization.

Since the implementation of VPP, Watkins said the number of incidents has decreased. Between 2005 and 2007, workers compensation claims decreased by 43 percent, and between 2005 and 2008, decreased by 20 percent. The numbers come from the dollar amount spent on workers’ compensation claims. Therefore, even though the 2010 number appears higher than last year, Watkins said in this case it is because of higher medical costs rather than an actual increase in incidents.

Some of the single most common incidents occurring in the workplace are slips, trips and falls. From 2006 to 2009, Watkins reported approximately 140 injuries, 32 percent of which were attributed to slips, trips and falls. Watkins said although this is the most common safety issue, it is also one of the most preventable. However, some people merely don’t take the time to fix a problem.

For Watkins, a mere two minutes spent cleaning a spill or fixing a tear in the carpet can go a long way.

“You just got rid of a hazard, kept one of your coworkers or yourself safe,”



Courtesy photo

Steve Longwell, deputy safety director, and Patrick Kaiahua, safety specialist lead, Base Safety Directorate, celebrate their completion of the CP-12 training internship, returning to the base with new initiatives and insights.

Watkins said.

Watkins said CP-12 expanded his knowledge of some aspects of safety. Through a simulator trainer, Watkins was able to learn proper steps that should be taken prior to entering a confined space.

Watkins said the class also benefited him because he was able to interact with

representatives from other branches of the Department of Defense and share ideas. Longwell goes one step further, saying through the course students can also “establish a network,” creating connections such as e-mail trees in an effort to exchange ideas.

“[CP-12] gave me additional tools for my safety toolbox,” Longwell said.



CHEF OF THE QUARTER

Cpl. William Johns, food service specialist, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, cooks at Anderson Hall Dining Facility, where he won the Chef of the Quarter competition Nov. 17 with French cuisine. His menu included chicken roulade, berry panna cotta and French onion soup.

Christine Cabalo | Hawaii Marine

New water survival qualification streamlines training, enhances individual Marine

Lance Cpl. Christofer P. Baines
Headquarters Marine Corps

MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, Va. — Effective now, the Marine Corps has implemented a new qualification system for combat water survival. The new system enhances safety, increases effectiveness and simplifies qualification requirements.

“The new Marine Corps Water Survival training program provides a more streamlined and expeditionary-force-relevant program, while simultaneously reducing training requirements on the operating forces,” said Capt. Andrew Snyder, program manager, Marine Combat Water Survival Program, Training and Education Command.

This new program breaks down the qualification levels to three instead of six — basic, intermediate and advanced — much like the rating system for the marksmanship program, he added. It allows

commanders and unit leaders to know how comfortable their Marines are in water with the name associated.

In addition to the new qualification ratings and mission enhancement, new elements have been adopted to give Marines practical skills for the combat zone. One such element, known as the gear drop, evaluates the Marines’ ability to shed all of their gear while submerged.

“One of the biggest changes is the gear shed,” said Gunnery Sgt. Roy Partin, Marine Combat Water Survival instructor trainer, Marine Corps Combat Service Support School, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C. “The battlefield is changing so we have to adapt our training to coincide with that. They’ve got a lot of gear on. If a vehicle turns over in the water, egress situations are going to come.”

Another goal of the new MCWS program is to enhance the abilities of Marines that may not be

as strong in the water as others, allowing those who usually complete the minimum score, CWS-4, to learn and be proficient with gear in the water, which isn’t required with the old program.

“Instead of Marines coming in and just [achieving CWS-4] it allows them to do the gear side of things,” said Cpl. Katherine Smith, an administrative clerk with 4th Marine Corps Recruiting District and Combat Water Survival instructor. “In the case you’re in a combat zone, you know exactly how to use it and help somebody in water survival situation.”

Unit instructors who are unable to receive the training are cleared to continue with the previous system until their training has been updated. The window currently in place for those instructors to get the required training is March 1, 2011.

For more information, read Marine Corps Order 1500.52D at <http://www2.marines.mil/news/messages/Pages/MARADMIN650-10.aspx>.

US senators visit Marines, locals in Nawa

Sgt. Mark Fayloga
Regimental Combat Team 1

NAWA, Afghanistan — Four U.S. senators visited Forward Operating Base Jaker and the surrounding area in Nawa, Afghanistan, to note progress by the Nawa Government and coalition forces in the region, Nov. 11.

Senators John McCain, a senior senator from Arizona, Lindsey Graham, a senior senator from South Carolina, Kirsten Gillibrand, a junior senator from New York, and Joseph I. Lieberman, a junior senator from Connecticut, visited Marines of 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, where they toured Khalaj High School, the Nawa District bazaar and the Nawa District Governance Center



Senators Lindsey Graham and John McCain, along with Maj. Gen. Richard P. Mills, commander, regional command (southwest) and the commanding general, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), make their way off of the Forward Operating Base Jaker landing zone during a visit to Nawa, Afghanistan, Nov. 11.

as well as meeting with Nawa government officials.

The trip was brief, but the senators were able to speak with Afghan students, farmers, shopkeepers and government officials as well as meeting with Marines and sailors from their home states.

The trip concluded with a lunch hosted by Nawa District Gov. Haji Abdul Manaf at the Governor's Marine House inside of the governance center.

Haji Abdul Manaf, the Nawa District Governor, spoke to the senators of the partnership between Coalition Forces and the Nawa Government, attributing teamwork to success in the region.

During the lunch Manaf fielded questions from the senators and when McCain

asked what has changed in Nawa since the Marines arrived, Manaf spoke of what he sees as the key changes.

"In the past we did not have an education department here and now we do," Manaf said. "Farmers were planting and growing opium, but now opium crops have been eradicated and we don't have that problem. Before, we had no Afghan government presence, but now we do."

And then Manaf hit on something he's often proud to point out — partnership.

"In the past there was no teamwork here," he said. "No team relationship between the local security forces and Afghan National Army and National Police, but now with the Marine presence here we can have that teamwork."



Photos by Sgt. Mark Fayloga | Regimental Combat Team 1

Children at Khalaj High School raise their hand after their teacher asked who wants to grow up to be a Marine during a visit from U.S. senators to Nawa, Afghanistan, Nov. 11. Senators John McCain, a senior senator from Arizona, Lindsey Graham, a senior senator from South Carolina, Kirsten Gillibrand, a junior senator from New York, and Joseph I. Lieberman, a junior senator from Connecticut, visited Marines of 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, where they toured Khalaj High School, the Nawa District bazaar and the Nawa District Governance Center as well as meeting with Nawa government officials.

Marines instruct Afghan National Army IED course

Sgt. Jesse Stence
Regimental Combat Team 1

CAMP DWYER, Helmand province, Afghanistan — Afghan National Army soldiers from Garmsir, Helmand province, Afghanistan, completed a three-day improvised explosive device course at Camp Garmsir, here, Nov. 25.

The soldiers learned how to identify IEDs, use metal detectors, and report the discovery of IEDs during patrol.

Sgt. Michael Mondt, the lead instructor with the Regimental Combat Team 1 Embedded Training Team, said the Garmsir class was among the most experienced he has instructed. Mondt is one of many International Security Assistance Force personnel responsible for helping the ANA refine their standard operating procedures.

Capt. Stephen Kulas, the ETT operations officer, said his Marines learned something from the ANA as well. Enemy tactics differ from region to region, and the Garmsir soldiers shared their battle field experience with the Marines, he said.

On the final day of training, the soldiers conducted a practice patrol through Camp Garmsir. The last stretch took them around a pit filled with totaled vehicles, all of which had been destroyed by IEDs.

“When they saw the vehicles that were blown up and they saw the importance [of the training], they liked it,” Kulas said.

After finishing the evaluation, the soldiers received a Thanksgiving feast, served up by the ETT. The feast included typical Thanksgiving fare, such as turkey and sweet potatoes; and local favorites, such as Nan, a broad, flour-based bread that is popular throughout the Middle East.



Sgt. Jesse Stence | Regimental Combat Team 1

Afghan National Army soldiers receive improvised explosive device training at Camp Dwyer, Helmand province, Afghanistan, Nov. 24. The Regimental Combat Team 1 Embedded Training Team instructed them in identifying IEDs, mitigating IED threats during patrols and identifying various kinds of unexploded ordnance.

More Marine tanks arrive in Afghanistan

Staff Sgt. Jennifer Brofer
1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward)

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan — Marine Corps M1A1 Abrams tanks continue to roll into Afghanistan and are being staged here for inspection before being assigned elsewhere in Helmand province as another tool in waging counterinsurgency operations.

Five tanks have arrived so far, and another dozen or so are expected to arrive in the coming weeks, according to 2nd Lt. Matthew Glisson, officer in charge of the Initial Issue Provisioning lot aboard Camp Leatherneck, where the tanks will undergo inspections and any required maintenance.

“In support of Operation Enduring Freedom, the Marine Corps is looking to boost the combat power of the infantrymen on the ground and what better way to do that than with tanks,” said Glisson, 26, from Oxford, Pa., a member of Support Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 15 (Forward), 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward).

Marines from Maintenance Company, CLR-15 (FWD), 1st MLG (FWD), will assist civilian contractors in inspections and conducting maintenance on the tanks as



Staff Sgt. Jennifer Brofer | 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward)

Five Marine M1A1 tanks recently arrived to Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, and another dozen or so are expected to arrive in the coming weeks. The tanks will undergo maintenance before being assigned missions elsewhere in Helmand province as another tool in waging counterinsurgency operations.

operations continue, added Glisson.

In addition to increased maneuverability and precision firepower, the tanks will provide superior optics, allowing coalition forces to spot improvised explosive devices being em-

placed by the Taliban, their primary weapon of choice, according to Maj. Gen. Richard Mills, commanding general of Regional Command (Southwest).

“The superior optics provided by

the tanks give us one more tool to take away the night from the enemy ... he can’t use the darkness to lay his IED’s that cause so many casualties among our forces and the civilian population,” said Mills.

SECNAV VISITS K-BAY



Cpl. Colby W. Brown | Hawaii Marine

Secretary of the Navy, Ray Mabus greets a Marine from 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment at the Chapel Nov. 19. Mabus spoke to 1/3 about their deployment to Afghanistan and plans for the future of the Corps. “There is no one else I’d rather be associated with [than] the United States Marine Corps,” Mabus said.