

Hawaii Marine

‘Ugly Angels’ begin return home

Lance Cpl. Tyler L. Main
Combat Correspondent

More than 50 Marines with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362 “Ugly Angels” advance party returned home from Afghanistan Monday to Hangar 105 here after a seven-month deployment to support Regional Command Southwest during Operation Enduring Freedom. The unit provided self-support transportation and conducted various land-based operations while deployed. The unit who replaced them in Afghanistan, Marine heavy Helicopter Squadron 463 “Pegasus,” deployed from here early Monday morning. “We flew between 450 and 500 hours per month doing transports and participated in multiple land operations,” said Capt. William Cronkright, a CH-53D Sea Stallion pilot with the Ugly Angels. “As a unit, we worked well together at keeping our mission in focus and being successful despite daily challenges.”

A successful deployment made coming home that much more enjoyable, said Staff Sgt. Hugo Paniagua.

“This is like a dream come true,” Paniagua said, an aviation ordnance and aerial observer Marine. “It’s almost surreal to come home and be back with your family again. It all complements each other — the successful deployment and this awesome homecoming.”

Spouses watched smiling — some teary eyed — as their significant others stepped off the plane.

“The comfort of knowing he’s back at my side is what I missed most,” said Lisa Rachunek, a Marine spouse. “My father passed away while he was gone and I had to go by myself with the kids. [My husband] is that rock, a steady source of strength and I know, no matter what, I can always lean on him.”

Children pressed their faces between the bars of the gate dividing the flight line and hangar as they watched for their parent to appear from the aircraft.

“The main thing my son talked about was wrestling with daddy and riding four-wheelers with daddy,” Rachunek said. “He can’t wait to wrap his arms around his

See HOME, A-8



Lance Cpl. Tyler L. Main | Hawaii Marine

Maj. Mark A. Merrill, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362 executive officer, is greeted by his daughter upon arrival at Marine Corps Air Station, Kaneohe Bay, Hangar 105, on Monday. Merrill and the rest of the Ugly Angels provided transportation support to Regional Command Southwest while deployed to Afghanistan.

Training facility upgrades in progress

Lance Cpl. Vanessa M. American Horse
Combat Correspondent

MARINE CORPS TRAINING AREA BELLOWS — Enhancements continue at the Marine Corps Training Area Bellows Military Operations in Urbanized Terrain facility.

Pre-cast concrete walls are being installed as part of the modular component system. The new buildings are being added to the stacked metal shipping containers previously installed in the 2007 MOUT. Contractors are applying fine details, such as colored spackling, to the walls to make the site more realistic, appearing as if it were in Afghanistan or another rural village around the world.

“Before, our MOUT towns were basic,” said Chief Warrant Officer 5 Christopher H. Harris, regimental gunner, 3rd Marine Regiment. “Now we’re focused on creating an immersive environment for our Marines to train in.”

The site will include structures that mimic residences, bazaars, schools, alley ways and religious facilities. According to Harris, the focus is on Third World countries unfamiliar to the Marines. The next step is to install a tactical video capture system and projectors which display enemy and civilian avatars on the

See MOUT, A-8

Lava Dogs bring Hawaiian spirit to Southern California

Cpl. Colby W. Brown
1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. — During the Mojave Desert’s winter season with temperatures between 30-50 degrees, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment arrived here Feb. 19-21 to conduct the training exercise Enhanced Mojave Viper.

EMV is the closest equivalent to how the battalion will operate in Afghanistan and allows the Lava Dogs to rehearse counter insurgency operations while conducting clear, hold and build exercises. Clear, hold and build is the fundamental mission in Afghanistan and its main purpose is to clear a threat area, hold and secure the position, and build up the lines of operation of security, security force development, governance, economic development, and essential services in the surrounding area.

While the Lava Dogs conduct EMV, their evaluators, known as Coyotes who specialize in each exercise, will grade them and pinpoint any weaknesses within the battalion.

“It’s not exactly Afghanistan, but it does a great job of simulating the environment and gives us the opportunity to rehearse how we will fight the enemy and how we will engage the Afghan people and explain to them our mission of who we are, why we are there, teach them about democracy and that it makes the government accountable to its people and explain to them why they have a better future without the Taliban,” said Lt. Col. Sean Riordan, battalion commanding officer and native of Mount Clair, Va. “At the end of this exercise, we will have trained in harsh conditions, built deep bonds of trust and solidified our team Lava Dogs’ identity.”

Operations during EMV include multiple squad, platoon and company live fire and maneuver ranges, military operations in urbanized terrain and combined arms exercises, which includes working with mechanized and air assets.

“My expectations for every Marine is to be more tactically and technically proficient in their [military occupational specialty’s] than before they came to EMV, which will enable them to be better prepared for our upcoming deployment to Afghanistan,” said Sgt. Maj. Dwight Jones, battalion sergeant

See LAVA DOGS, A-8



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

Cpl. James McCarthy, 29, generator mechanic, Support Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 3, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), repairs a generator aboard Camp Dwyer, Afghanistan, Feb. 17. Marines with CLB-3’s Utilities Section have repaired nearly 300 generators and utility equipment for Marines operating in Afghanistan’s Helmand province.

CLB-3 generator mechanics give powerful support

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

CAMP DWYER, Afghanistan — Whether deployed or in garrison, Marines require electrical power to maximize their operational efficiency. Lightweight, tactical generators provide Marines with a reliable mobile power source.

Like most frequently-used military equipment, lightweight, tactical generators require routine maintenance. Thankfully, generator mechanics with Combat Logistics Battalion 3’s Utilities Section work around the clock to ensure that Marines operating throughout Helmand province

have the electric power they need to accomplish their mission.

Fewer than 30 Marines with CLB-3’s Utility Sections are responsible for providing generator maintenance for every camp, forward operating base, combat outpost and patrol base in southern Helmand province, said Staff Sgt. Jason Garcia, utilities maintenance chief, Support Company, CLB-3, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward). They are also tasked with repairing water pumps, portable showers and air-conditioning/heating units.

See CLB-3, A-8

Inside today’s Hawaii Marine

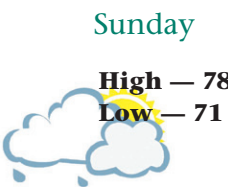


Taking a splash
Something’s a-muck at the insanely muddy Swamp Romp, **B-2**



Back to nature
A serene scene awaits in Kaneohe, **C-1**

Weekend Forecast



NEWS BRIEFS

Vehicle decals issued at MPD

Starting March 7, base vehicle decals will no longer be issued at the H-3 gate Bldg. 1637. Decals for authorized personnel will be issued at the Military Police Department, Bldg. 1095, 2nd deck, weekdays from 7 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Contact the Pass and Registration office at 257-2047 if there are questions.

Operation Ooh-Rah KIDS

Marine Corps Family Team Building presents the first ever Operation Ooh-Rah KIDS (Kids in Military Deployment Status), a mock deployment fun day geared toward children of deployed or deploying parents. Operation Ooh-Rah KIDS will be held March 25, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The check-in and pick-up location will both be at the K-Bay Theater.

All children of base personnel are invited to attend, including Navy units and U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific.

To secure a spot for your child, RSVP by March 14, to the Readiness and Deployment Support Trainer, Jayme Alexander at 257-2650 or 257-2410. Volunteer opportunities are also available.

Cushman Avenue closure

Cushman Ave will be partially closed between Lawrence Road and Mokapu Road for repaving until April 7. One lane will remain open at all times for use alternately by motorists as directed by flagmen.

Mokapu Road (westbound) will be coned off to one lane entering and exiting Cushman Avenue. Entrance to exchange and commissary parking lot via Cushman will be limited.

For more information, call Marc Hirano at 257-6896 or Michael Ishibashi at 257-9958.

Counterintelligence/ Human Intelligence opportunities

Looking for a challenge? Want to make a difference? Experience real world operations with unlimited training opportunities. Contact a Counterintelligence/Human Intelligence recruiter for more information.

Call 477-8956/8583.

DSTRESS Line

The DSTRESS Line is the Corps’ main effort to help Marines and family members deal with stress and mental health issues.

DSTRESS Line gives Marines — active duty, reserve, veteran and retiree, as well as their families and loved ones — a place to call and speak with “one of their own.”

Callers will speak with veteran Marines, former corpsmen, and other licensed behavioral health counselors who have been specifically trained in Marine Corps culture and ethos.

See <http://www.dstressline.com>. The DSTRESS Line is at 1-877-476-7734.

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

www.mcbh.usmc.mil

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3/3 Motor T Marines rev up transport association awards

Lance Cpl. Vanessa M. American Horse
Combat Correspondent

Two Marines from motor transport management, Headquarters and Service Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment were recently selected as recipients of a 2010 United States Marine Corps Motor Transport Association Awards.

Harwitch, Mass., native 1st Lt. Nicholas C. Harwood, motor transport officer, H&S Co., is the 2010 Marine Corps motor transportation officer of the year, and Amherst, Ohio, native Staff Sgt. Justin D. Johnson, motor transport maintenance chief, H and S Co., Johnson is the 2010 Marine Corps motor transportation maintenance chief of the year.

Both Marines worked together on their last deployment to Helmand Province, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

“I’ve never seen and junior officer and a staff noncommissioned officer work together so well as a team,” said Capt. William, V. Gorsuch, battalion logistics officer, 3/3.

“They helped lead our outstanding Marines to have the highest motor transport readiness status for Regimental Combat Team 1 during our last deployment in Afghanistan. And I think the board recognized that.”

Along with his team, Harwood logged more than 1,200 hours of maintenance, closed over 350 equipment repair orders and conducted more than 88 annual preventive maintenance checks and services during the deployment, said Gorsuch.

Recently, Harwood executed a permanent change of station to become the officer selection officer in Roanoke, Va., under 4th Marine Corps recruiting district. He will help screen and select candidates

desiring to become Marine officers.

“I’ve been in the Marine Corps for 14 years and [Harwood] was the best motor transport officer I’ve ever worked for,” said Johnson. “He’s a forward thinker who led by example. He had a detailed knowledge of all motor transport aspects and that made him excel.”

1st Lt. Elan H. Greenberg, assistant battalion logistics officer, 3/3, drafted both nominations on behalf of his Marines, and said they were enthusiastically endorsed by 3/3, Regimental Combat Team 1 (Forward), and 1st Marine Division in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

“Staff Sgt. Johnson leads by example, “ said 1st Lt. Elan H. Greenberg, assistant logistics officer, H and S Co., 3/3. “He knows his Marines, and he has proven that he can support uninterrupted combat operations during this last deployment.”

Johnson is in the process of submitting a warrant officer program package to continue supporting his military occupational specialty as a highly skilled, single-track specialty officer. His years of award winning experience will allow him to share his knowledge with Marines under his charge.

The awards will be presented at the Motor Transport Association dinner in Arlington, Va., Mar. 29.

The battalion named motor transport unit of the year was 1st Battalion, 8th Marines, serving under Regimental Combat Team 2 while deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Combat Logistics Regiment 35, motor transport company, III Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), based out of Okinawa, Japan, was awarded the motor transport maintenance unit of the year.



Amherst, Ohio native Staff Sgt. Justin D. Johnson, motor transport maintenance chief, Headquarters and Service Company, is the 2010 Marine Corps motor transportation maintenance chief of the year. He worked alongside the 2010 Marine Corps motor transportation officer of the year, 1st Lt. Nicholas C. Harwood, motor transport officer, 3/3, from Barnstable, Mass., during their last deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Both Marines will be awarded at the first annual Motor Transport Association dinner in Arlington, Va. March 29.

NMCRS fund drive begins today

Helping service members help each other

Christine Cabalo
Photojournalist

With volunteers from every unit at Marine Corps Base Hawaii ready to go, the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society begins its annual active duty fund drive today through April 16.

The drive raises awareness of how the society supports service members. Active-duty volunteers are reaching out to help the society that helps them when they need financial assistance.

“NMCRS provides interest-free loans and grants,” said MartyAnn Grant, director, NMCRS. “[It could be used] for emergency travel, funeral assistance, food, rent, utilities, car repairs, car payments, disaster, pay issues and lost funds.”

The society offers several financial resources to help Marines and sailors manage debts or financially plan ahead for life-changing events.

Among the counseling NMCRS provides is the “Budget for Baby” class, discussing financial entitlements, variations in pay and increased expenses for expecting parents. NMCRS volunteers also run more than 25 thrift stores globally, for service members and their families to

purchase items at reduced prices.

Besides raising awareness to how active duty members can directly support these programs, volunteers are also spreading the word about the society’s services, said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jason Beaty, Kaneohe Bay area coordinator, Marine Corps Base Hawaii. Beaty said it’s his main goal to make sure everyone he talks to during the fund drive also knows how the NMCRS can help them.

“The saddest thing is to see someone run into town for a high-interest loan when they could have gone to the NMCRS to get a low-interest loan,” he said.

In Hawaii, private high-interest lenders may charge as much as 459 percent annual percentage rate for a two-week loan, according to state figures from the Consumer Federation of America’s website. For example, loans for just a \$100 could cost the consumer more than \$450 interest to repay.

Last year the society helped 99,854 financial cases internationally, including support for 771 widows. Thanks to the generosity of supporters around the world, the society offered \$49.9 million in

assistance to service members and their families. In Hawaii, the NMCRS helped more than 2,410 eligible personnel with more than \$1.5 million in assistance.

None of that is possible, without support for the NMCRS, Beaty said.

“If we don’t help NMCRS, we won’t help ourselves,” he said. “Marines and sailors are dependant on the funds we raise this year.”

Even after Marines and sailors retire, they are still eligible for NMCRS assistance.

Both Grant and Beaty added that the society is also dependant on financial and volunteer support to continue supporting Marines and sailors when they need it.

“The generosity of every Marine and sailor makes a difference,” Grant said. “If every Marine and sailor here donated \$10 we would generate \$1.2 million for the fund drive this year.”

To help raise awareness, the society is also hosting a fundraising golf tournament March 18 at the Kaneohe Klipper Golf Course.

For more information about NMCRS, call 257-1972 or see <http://www.nmcrs.org/>

AROUND THE CORPS

This week's top story

Feeding the children of Now Zad's stomachs and minds

Lance Cpl. Clayton Vonderahe
Regimental Combat Team 8

NOW ZAD, AFGHANISTAN — A test operation to provide lunch for the students of Now Zad's Asad Souri boys and girls school was conducted, Feb. 21, by the Marines of Civil Affairs Team, 11th Marines, Regimental Combat Team 8.

Now Zad is in a phoenix-like state where they will rise from the ashes of the battle damages inflicted on the city. The poverty level has affected many residents' way of life during this transition.

"A lot of these families don't have two or three meals a day," said Maj. Richard Graham, the civil affairs team leader. "For most, it is just one meal at the end of the day."

Graham had noticed that many of the school's children would come to school hungry. In an effort to help feed their stomachs and their minds, he devised a plan to periodically offer the students lunch. Before the plan could be implemented it had to be given a test run.

The plan was to feed the 710 children that attend the school. The program is headed by the district governor of Now Zad, allowing more responsibility to be shouldered by the local leadership, ultimately developing their ability to effectively handle situations that may arise in the absence of the Marines.

"It's going to be their program," said Graham. "All we're going to do is provide the funding for it."

Food was served in a buffet fashion, with large trays containing fruit, rice, bread and kidney beans being given to groups of children.

The meals are intended to be healthy and well balanced.



Lance Cpl. Clayton Vonderahe | Regimental Combat Team 8

Maj. Richard Graham, the team leader with the Civil Affairs Team from 11th Marines Civil Affairs, Regimental Combat Team 8, sits down with the children of Now Zad, Afghanistan's boys and girls school as they prepare to eat lunch. The lunch is provided to feed the existing students of the school, and potentially entice more to join.

The lunch program will also offer an incentive for children to attend school, as well as for their parents to allow them to attend.

Because of a large portion of Now Zad has received no formal education, the parents do not see the benefit of sending their children to school when they can be working or helping around the house.

"When people have nothing, they have to have an incentive," said Graham. "On their day-to-day life, there is nothing

modern about it. When their primary concern is survival, the more immediate demand is that the children work instead. It is hard for them to see the long term benefits."

Afghanistan is one of the least literate countries in the world, and out of all the provinces in the country, Helmand, in which Now Zad resides, is the least educated. The long-term goal is to help bring education levels up, hopefully affecting the future development of

Afghanistan through the efforts of its own people.

"There is nothing for them to be ambitious for so hopefully by educating these children, they will see other things in the world that they can go after," said Graham. "Through education they will gain a new perspective for life."

The children had eaten and returned to class. Once a week, the students will be provided a good, square meal, giving a little food for thought.

Battle Sim Center prepares Marines for roll-overs

Lance Cpl. Sarah Anderson
*Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center
Twentynine Palms*

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER TWENTYNINE PALMS, California — Forward deployed Marines and sailors fight the danger of vehicle roll-over incidents in their heavily armored vehicles on a daily basis. The Battle Simulation Center offers a training simulation that will teach Marines what to do to stay alive during these situations.

The Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer and Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) Egress Trainer are the frames of their functioning tactical vehicle counterparts. While inside, the simulator spins, giving the Marines inside the closest feeling possible of a roll-over while remaining in a safe, controlled environment.

"We want to make sure the Marines can safely egress that vehicle," said Gunnery Sgt. Hector Viramontes, a combat tactics instructor at the Battle Simulation Center. "We teach them also how to exit and post security."

Before the simulation, the Marines are given a 20-minute class on vehicle roll-over prevention.

The Marines are then put through

multiple scenarios inside the simulator, such as evacuating the vehicle at any angle the instructor chooses, and often also evacuating of a dummy casualty "hurt" in the roll-over.

"The Marines have to open different doors to get out," Viramontes said. "The doors here weigh 60 pounds. On a real vehicle, the doors weigh near 260 pounds."

The Marines learn to get their seatbelts off quickly, balance themselves, communicate with their team and safely evacuate while posting security. They also practice stripping off their gear as fast as possible should their roll-over land them underwater. A flick of the lights gives the Marines yet another avenue of realistic training. During simulated night roll-overs, they learn to feel their way around without the convenience of sight.

"Units have even added smoke to the simulation to emphasize a matter of urgency," said Doug Peercy, an instructor at the Battle Simulation Center.

The simulations have "opened the eyes" of some Marines who have trained with it.

"It can get pretty hectic in there. I was the smallest guy. It was crazy trying to scramble around," said Lance Cpl.



Lance Cpl. Sarah Anderson | Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms

Marines with 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion from Marine Corps Base Camp Lejuene, N.C., exit the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) Egress Trainer, a roll-over simulator at the Battle Simulation Center in Camp Wilson Feb. 9.

Dominic Taylor, a warehouse clerk with 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion from Marine Corps Base Camp Lejuene, N.C., who recently completed the training.

The instructors at the Battle Simulation Center offer up the simulations at any time convenient

to units wanting to give their Marines another survival tool.

"We teach unit sergeants how to operate this machinery and how to conduct the training," Viramontes said. "So they can train any time they want."

Kuwait celebrates 50/20 alongside U.S. brethren

Cpl. Cassandra Flowers
Marine Central Command (Forward)

CAMP VIRGINIA, Kuwait — Service members from Marine Corps Central Command (Forward), based out of Bahrain, participated in a weeklong celebration of Kuwait's 50th year of Independence and 20th year of liberation.

More than 30 Marines and sailors marched with the Marine Corps colors and drove a formation of HMMWV's in the 50/20 parade Saturday alongside 12 other countries including French, British and Kuwait military personnel. The two-hour event was in honor of veterans from Operation Desert Storm, and recognized the long-standing and successful partnership that is indicative of the friendships in the region.

"A lot of coordinating went into planning this event," said Maj. Gary D. Thompson, commander of troops for the Marine formation, MarCent (Forward).



Cpl. Cassandra Flowers | Marine Central Command (Forward)

Marines with Marine Corps Central Command Forward march during the 50/20 Celebration Saturday. The 50/20 parade signifies the 50th National Day and 20th Anniversary of the Liberation of Kuwait. The U.S. support of this celebration is symbolic of the historical importance of Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

"There are a lot of moving parts to this celebration, especially dealing with the complexities of different nations, but I think the event was pulled off well."

The week consisted of early mornings and long days of rehearsing. However, the Marines participating said they felt the time they gave in support was rewarded

by the unique opportunity of being a part of the celebration.

"It's been an honor to be one of the few Marines to represent the Marine Corps and the United States in the 50/20 celebration," said Cpl. Jessica Bauerlien, a marcher from MarCent (Fwd). "It's interesting to see the different services

and to interact with so many different countries. It's such a unique experience, and I'm proud to be a part of it."

With many different cultures and militaries being involved in 50/20, the Marines appreciated the amount of time and energy spent planning such an event.

Thompson said he enjoyed seeing the interaction between the junior and veteran Marines throughout the week.

"I'm proud of our Marines, and I feel the opportunity to build friendships and partnerships amongst ourselves and other countries is great," Thompson said. "Two years down the road, these countries will remember the times they had with the U.S. Marines, and when it comes to coordinating bigger events they will remember the friendships created in Kuwait."

Whether marching in formation next to each other or sharing stories during their down time, the Marines said they enjoyed their experience while in Kuwait.

Back to the Basics

Lava Dogs sharpen infantry tactics

Cpl. Colby W. Brown
Combat Correspondent

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. — The lock to the back door of an amphibious assault vehicle releases. Before the door is halfway down, Marines sprint out. They form an assault line in front of the AAV and buddy rush into town. Insurgents send small arms fire at the Marines from windows in buildings. The Marines engage and eliminate the threat. Tanks roll through the main intersection of the town, drawing out remaining insurgents to clear the area.

That was the scene as 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, began Enhanced Mojave Viper with Clear, Hold and Build Exercise 1 at Range 215 here Sunday. Each company from the Lava Dogs cleared the mock town of a military operations in urban terrain facility in platoon-sized assault forces. A platoon of tanks from 1st Tank Battalion and AAVs with 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion were integrated with the Lava Dogs while each platoon commenced their assault.

The exercise spanned a three-day period, encompassing a different part of the exercise each day. "Clear" is the first part, focusing on the fight, and is an assault into a known hostile territory with the mission of eliminating any hostiles or driving them away from the area.

"This training exercise gives us the opportunity to practice going from an all out fire fight to focusing on the Afghan people," said 2nd Lt. Josh White, 1st Platoon commander, Bravo Company, 1/3, of Hayti, Mo. "Today we focused on the fight, and while conducting the exercise we focused on basic infantry tactics and information gathering."

During the assault, each platoon was able to practice buddy and fire team rushes. They also practiced communicating between each squad while taking fire and assaulting an enemy position.

"We're sharpening our ability to work together as a unit, and with this being the first exercise of EMV. Everything goes back to the basics," said Staff Sgt. Michael Euler, platoon sergeant, 1st Platoon, Bravo Company, native of Rison, Ark. "We're building on the skills we will need when we deploy to Afghanistan."

This exercise also allows squad leaders and platoon leaders to evaluate their unit and pinpoint any areas that need improvement. Coyotes, or evaluators of the unit's readiness during each exercise help by giving a third party view of their performance and advice on how they could do better.

"We're combining all the things we have learned from previous training and working on how to employ it in a real life scenario," said Sgt. Ruben David, squad leader, Bravo Company, and native of Allen Park, Mich. "It allows us to see where we are at as a squad and as individuals, so we can become more successful as a unit."

For the Lava Dogs, training in the field provides them much more learning experiences than classroom teaching or their regular duties while in garrison. It also allows them to work together as team as they will while deployed learn firsthand.

When Marines are on a base or waiting for training to begin, it can sometimes be difficult to maintain a positive mindset, said Lance Cpl. Edward Stevens, designated marksman team leader, 1st Platoon, Bravo Company. "But when we come out to the field and train, it is easier to find something good to be happy about. We're all hands-on learners, so for us to learn something we have to do it. You will never find the stressful atmosphere of the field during a PowerPoint presentation."



Cpl. Matthew Harman, combat engineer, Combat Engineer Platoon, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, native of Cincinnati, checks his position during a platoon assault, part of Clear, Hold and Build Exercise 1 at Range 215 here, Sunday. CHB-1 is the first exercise of Enhanced Mojave Viper 4-11. EMV is the Lava Dogs final pre-deployment training exercise before their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan.



Marines from 1st Platoon, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, perform two-man rushes while assaulting a military operations in urban terrain facility during Clear, Hold and Build Exercise 1 at Range 215 here, Sunday.

“We’re sharpening our ability to work together as a unit, and with this being the first exercise of EMV. Everything goes back to the basics.”

—Staff Sgt. Michael Euler,
platoon sergeant, 1st Platoon,
Bravo Company



Pfc. Robert Fshachelord, 1st Platoon, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, native of Fredericksburg, Va., climbs a ladder over a stone wall during a platoon assault, part of Clear, Hold and Build Exercise 1 at Range 215 here, Sunday.



Marines from 1st Platoon, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, sit quietly in the back of an amphibious assault vehicle after assaulting a military operations in urban terrain facility during Clear, Hold and Build Exercise 1 at Range 215 here, Sunday.



Lance Cpl. Jacob Hoover, fire team leader, 1st Platoon, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, native of Avon, Ohio, waits for the signal to move across the street to another building during Clear, Hold and Build Exercise 1 at Range 215 here, Sunday.

CLB-3’s ‘Metal Man’: Marine uses welding skills to improve Helmand province

Cpl. Daniel Woodall
1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward)

CAMP DWYER, Afghanistan — A generator’s hum followed by an intense flash of light means only one thing to the Marines of Combat Logistics Battalion 3’s Engineer Company: Lance Cpl. Jesse G. Mudd is working.

While deployed aboard Camp Dwyer and various locations throughout Afghanistan’s Helmand province, Mudd serves as the only metal worker and welder for Engineer Company, CLB-3, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward).

For the past four months, the 20-year-old native of Smith Center, Kan., has established himself as a mission-critical asset for several engineering projects throughout Helmand province.

Engineering and civil development projects, including bridge construction and road repair, often require steel reinforcement to create more permanent structures for coalition forces and Afghan civilians.

Given the constant demand for these projects, CLB-3’s Engineer Company calls upon Mudd to employ his welding skills. With no welding experience prior to joining the Marine Corps, Mudd has since attained a great appreciation for the craft.

After completing high school in 2008 with only 31 fellow graduates, Mudd enlisted in the Marine Corps to serve his country and gain some valuable life experience. According to Mudd, the most accurate portrayal of his small-town upbringing can be summed up by detailing the proximity of well-known establishments to his home town. For instance, one would have to travel nearly 90 miles to reach the nearest Wal-Mart or McDonald’s restaurant — a disturbing thought for some people.



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

Lance Cpl. Jesse G. Mudd, 20, a welder with Combat Logistics Battalion 3, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), welds metallic siding to a bridge in Durzay, Afghanistan, Jan. 22. Mudd, a native of Smith Center, Kan., is the only metal worker for CLB-3’s Engineer Company. While deployed to Afghanistan, Mudd has played a key role in several military construction projects for coalition units as well as civil development projects for the Afghan community.

“Smith Center is an amazing town,” Mudd said. “Everyone knows everyone, everyone cares for each other. It’s just home. It’s a small community, but no matter where life takes you, you never feel like you’re home until you go back there.”

Since CLB-3’s arrival in Afghanistan in October, Mudd has used his welding skills in the construction of five bridges and various other projects to give coalition and Afghan personnel greater mobility in southern Afghanistan.

“Welding is a good trade, and the Marine Corps has given me the tools to

succeed when I go back home,” Mudd said. “Welding is a little more difficult while deployed. Every mission has [different] requirements so I just have to make it work. I also try to assist in other aspects of combat engineering — whether that involves heavy equipment vehicles or manual labor — whatever it takes to get the mission done.”

With the amount of time CLB-3’s Engineer Company spends operating in forward areas, Mudd is grateful to be able to help the Afghan people and complete projects without interference from Taliban insurgents. Rather than

citing good fortune, Mudd attributes each site’s security to the hard working Marines operating in Helmand and those within his own company.

“Afghanistan has been quite an eye-opener,” Mudd said. “Being out here makes you appreciate what you had before. When the temperature drops down in the 20s and we’re trying to finish our work in the middle of [Helmand province], you start to realize certain things you’ve taken for granted. This deployment isn’t over, but I’m proud of the Marines in my company and the work we’ve done.”



SEMPER SEUSS!

Celebrating Dr. Seuss’s birthday, Lt. Col. Jeffrey C. Holt, commanding officer, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment and the “Cat in the Hat” read stories to Mokapu Elementary School students Wednesday. The celebration is part of the National Education Association’s “Read Across America” program, encouraging children to read.

Christine Cabalo | Hawaii Marine

Hawaii wounded warriors shine at competition

Kristen Wong
Photojournalist

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — Marines from Wounded Warrior Battalion West - Hawaii Detachment brought home gold, silver and bronze from the 2011 Marine Corps Trials here.

Hawaii-based Marines 1st Lt. Richard Rush, Sgt. RaShon Palmer, Cpl. Clifford Sandy and Lance Cpl. Joshua Jablon were among 50 chosen for the All-Marine Warrior Games Team. Competitors from various branches participated in the trials, hosted at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Feb. 18 to 27.

“We’re racking up the medals, it’s pretty exciting,” said Jessica Peters, recreation therapist, Naval Health Clinic Hawaii, who accompanied the Marines to the trials.

Peters said the Warrior Games were established last year to give wounded warriors an opportunity to “heal through competitive sport.”

The games are funded by the Department of Defense Office of Wounded Warrior Care and Transition Policy, and the Marine Corps’ Wounded Warrior Regiment. Competitors engaged in multiple sports, including archery, basketball, swimming and cycling.

Master Gunnery Sgt. Daniel Carrillo, staff noncommissioned officer in charge,

Wounded Warrior Battalion West - Detachment Hawaii, said the detachment started a new archery team in preparation for the trials, providing the Marines with brand new equipment.

An archery coach from Camp Lejeune, N.C., traveled to Hawaii and trained four of the Marines. In addition, two Marines attended an archery camp last September at Camp Lejeune.

“There have been huge improvements from ‘unable to hit’ to ‘dead on,’” Carrillo said.

Carrillo said he anticipated at least one warrior would be accepted to the Warrior Games.

Rush, who scored a silver medal in company archery, and bronze in the rifle competition, was excited about having been chosen for the Warrior Games. He said he thought the games were a neat idea, and he was glad to be able to compete in a sport during his Marine Corps career.

“I was hoping to do a little bit better,” Rush said.

Still, he said he was “pleased with the outcome” considering he had not had as much practice as he hoped.

He said overall there was good competition at the trials, and he was excited to be chosen for the Warrior Games.

Rush, a former logistics officer with 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, was injured in Afghanistan’s Helmand province Jan. 9, 2010, suffering



Lance Cpl. Damien Gutierrez | Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton

Injured veteran Marines compete in the wheelchair basketball portion of the 2011 Marine Corps Trials at Camp Pendleton’s Paige Field House, Feb. 24.

multiple injuries, including a collapsed lung and a broken left ankle.

Today, the 30-year-old from Coos Bay, Ore., battles constant back and occasional knee and ankle pain, Rush stays active at the gym and with archery. Last year, he took up archery again, nearly seven years after he first became interested.

Palmer of Greenwood, S.C. competed for the first

time in the Warrior Games trials. Although he cannot run because of a stomach condition, he was able to compete in the discus and shotput portion of the track and field competiton. The 30-year-old earned a bronze medal in wheelchair basketball and gold in discus.

Palmer said competing in the Warrior Games trials reminded him of activities he

once enjoyed but forgot about since he started dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder.

“It is awesome,” Palmer said. “You can’t explain how you feel after you get done with it. Just to compete is a great experience.”

Rush, Palmer, Sandy and Jablon will move on to compete in the Warrior Games at the in Colorado, from May 16 to 22.

Congratuations to 2011 Marine Corps Trials medal winners

WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL

Gold – Cpl. Clifford Sandy
Silver – Lance Cpl. Joshua Kelly
Bronze – Sgt. RaShon Palmer

DISCUS

Gold – Sgt. RaShon Palmer
Silver – Lance Cpl. Joshua Jablon

SHOTPUT

Bronze – Lance Cpl. Joshua Jablon

COMPANY ARCHERY

Silver – 1st Lt. Richard Rush

SHOOTING: PISTOL STANDING

Bronze – 1st Lt. Richard Rush

100 M TRACK AND FIELD EVENT

Bronze – Pfc. Matthew Roach

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Marine Corps
Base Hawaii



Cpl. Colby W. Brown | 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment

Cpl. Douglas Nowak, embarked, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, native of Pound, Wis., works on building 1/3's combat operations center Feb. 21. The Lava Dogs arrived Feb. 19 – 21 to conduct the training exercise Enhanced Mojave Viper. They are scheduled to deploy to Southern Afghanistan in coming months.

LAVA DOGS, from A-1

major and Detroit native. Training is scheduled to last 30 days and culminates with a battalion-sized live fire and maneuver exercise. “It’s an intense evaluation for all parts of the battalion and covers the entire spectrum of battalion operations,” said Gunnery Sgt. Steven Taylor, assistant battalion operations chief, of Buffalo, N.Y. “Mojave Viper is the last test for any Marine unit before they deploy.” For some of the men in 1/3, this

isn’t their first time here. 3rd Marine Regiment is the most deployed regiment in the Marine Corps and 1/3 has been a part of that with a back-to-back deployment schedule. “We’re deploying in a few months so I’m excited for the training,” said Lance Cpl. Doug Miller, squad leader, 1st Platoon, Charlie Company, from Saratoga, N.Y. “I’m ready to get my new guys up to speed and ready for the deployment. EMV really counts for everything, it’s the most important field exercise we do before deploying and we

have a lot of training assets available to us here. So this training is very important to us,” said the second-time EMV participant. The Lava Dogs have been busy since September completing multiple training exercises. They have trained at the Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, Calif., and recently finished training at the Pohakuloa Training Area on the Island of Hawaii. Enhanced Mojave Viper will be their last major training exercise before deploying to Afghanistan in coming months.

MOUT, from A-1

walls. The multiple video camera capture system will record Marines training, then footage can then be used as a tool to evaluate Marines’ tactics. Smell generators and Afghanistan-specific atmospherics, such as furniture, decorations and props, will be added in the final steps of the project to

make the training more authentic. All the enhancements are scheduled to be finished by the end of September. “Completion of this facility will significantly enhance the training of our Marines and better prepare them for combat,” said Dan Geltmacher, range officer, Marine Corps Base Hawaii Operations and Training Directorate. “When it kicks off, it should feel almost like the real thing.”

HOME, from A-1

father again.” The Rachunek family won the privilege of greeting their Marine first. Ethan Rachunek started a dead sprint to his dad from about 50 yards away. The two ran and jumped into each other’s arms.

Afterward, the rest of the Marines walked swiftly in a single column through a line of greeters where they received leis and finally made their way to the families they left for seven months. The Marine Forces Pacific Band chimed in with patriotic songs as the families enjoyed refreshments and

conversed with one another. After their post-deployment leave, the Ugly Angels will conduct warrior transition training to help shift their focus back to garrison operations. HMM-463 will take now take over the mission support provided by the Ugly Angels while deployed. They’ll provide self-support transportation

CLB-3, from A-1

“Most Marines out [in Helmand province] don’t have the basic necessities we have here at Camp Dwyer,” said Garcia, a native of Moreno Valley, Calif. “The quicker we can repair a generator and send it back to the Marines in the fight, the sooner they have the ability to continue operating and accomplish their mission. The most rewarding aspect of my job is seeing my Marines completely repair a generator from scratch. These Marines are able to troubleshoot this equipment efficiently and with a quick turn-around. They do it on a constant basis — as if it were second nature — and the warfighters use [these generators] to their package.” Since October, CLB-3’s Utilities Section has repaired nearly 300 generators and other types of utility equipment for several units throughout Helmand province. According to Sgt. Joshua Q. Brown, platoon sergeant, Support Company, CLB-3, 1st MLG (FWD), the mechanics’ efforts provide several advantages for Marines in Afghanistan. From a tactical standpoint, these generators provide Marines with the power to maintain communication and command and control operations. However, these generators also provide certain morale-boosting amenities. “These generators supply running water, climate control and power for computers, phones and anything that requires electricity,” the 25-year-old Houston native said. “Without these mechanics, any irreparable piece of gear is useless – but we provide a level of repair which salvages that gear. The good work our Marines do here positively affects other Marines’ morale. Operating in this climate, power is necessity.” More than ever, coalition forces require a reliable source of electrical power to conduct combat operations. Fortunately, the efforts of generator and utility mechanics will continue providing the power necessary to keep Marines operating in any clime and place around the world. to Regional Command Southwest during Operation Enduring Freedom. Their deployed mission statement is to, “provide assault support of combat troops, supplies and equipment during expeditionary, joint or combined operations.” The remainder of the Ugly Angels are expected to return this month.

Hawaii Marine Sports & Health

K-Bay Bulls fall to JBPHH Warriors in close game

Kristen Wong
Photojournalist

The Marine Corps Base Hawaii Bulls fell short of a win against the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Warriors in a youth basketball game at the Semper Fit Center gym Saturday. The Warriors won, 8-9.

Both teams struggled to score at the start. Though the Bulls and the Warriors fought tirelessly for possession of the ball, the score was still 0-0 by the end of the first quarter. It wasn't until a minute into the second quarter that the Warriors put the first two points on the board.

K-Bay Bull Tiale Movete, 7, took possession of the ball not long after that, to attempt a basket.

"Tiale! Shoot it!" roared coach Marques Farmer from the sidelines as Movete secured the Bulls' first two points of the game.

The Warriors and the Bulls took a breather during a time out with 3:28 left in the

second quarter. Farmer reminded his team to "pop out," while coach Brian Keene praised his for playing good defense.

Before going back out, Keene asked his team to "shoot the ball where?"

"To the basket!" the Warriors shouted back.

By the end of the second quarter, the score was 2-5, Warriors. As the Bulls quenched their thirst on sports drinks, Farmer encouraged his team to be more aggressive. Keene said his Warriors have been listening and doing well on the defensive side and getting many good shots.

The Bulls raised their score to six by the end of the third quarter. Movete shot a two pointer at the 3:07 mark, while Emery Kellogg, 6, sunk another



Kristen Wong | Hawaii Marine

K-Bay Bull Moriah Farmer, 6, works possession of the ball against a Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Warrior Saturday. The Bulls lost 8-9 Saturday at the Semper Fit Center gym.

two points in with a mere 15 seconds left.

However, during the fourth quarter, the Warriors bounced back with two

points at 3:43 and two more points a minute later.

Midway down the court, the sharp blast of the buzzer stopped the Bulls

and the Warriors in their tracks, proclaiming the Warriors the winners. Both teams gave each other high fives, and both left with smiles.

"Everybody had fun," Keene said. "That's what's important."

But like Keene, Farmer agreed that the priority is on learning and having fun.

"The kids played a good game," Farmer said. "They applied everything we used in practice."

Though victory belonged to the Warriors, K-Bay Bull Moriah Farmer felt the game was a good one. One of the challenges she faced was "trying to get a hoop." The 6-year-old said she wants to play basketball when she's older.

Referee Jerry Goode said the game was "very close." Goode said the main concern was to stay consistent with each call, though it can be a bit more difficult with youth basketball. He said youth basketball there is a lot of double dribble and traveling offenses.

Youth basketball also differs from regular basketball in several ways, including a lower basketball hoop and different rules.

Clark Abbey, youth sports coordinator, Marine Corps Community Services, said for instance the program enforces a rule requiring every player to participate in the game for at least two uninterrupted quarters. In addition, the different age groups are allowed a certain number of steps before they are called for "traveling."

This year, there are 19 teams from Marine Corps Base Hawaii competing in youth basketball. The last game of the regular youth basketball season is Saturday. The youth basketball tournament is scheduled for March 12.

For more information about Semper Fit Youth Sports, call 254-7473.

CPRW-2 snatches win from 3rd Marine Regiment in final seconds

Lance Cpl. Tyler L. Main
Combat Correspondent

Commander Patrol and Reconnaissance Squadron 2 barely overcame 3rd Marine Regiment in Wednesday's regular season Intramural Basketball League game. The final score was 42-41, with CPRW-2 for the win.

"I wasn't worried about losing," said Elton Garner, Commander Patrol and Reconnaissance Squadron 2's starting center. "The point is that we as a team didn't play to our potential. We were up by 10 and we let them get close again."

During the first half, CPRW-2 pulled ahead, 18-8, and looked to be on a roll. Their opposition was playing at an extremely fast pace and always seemed like they were neck-and-neck with CPRW-2. But CPRW's passing and shooting accuracy kept them one step ahead of 3rd Marines.

The score gap closed to 23-20 going into the second half with CPRW-2 maintaining their lead.

Both teams were trying to play the game outside the 3-point line. Taking shots often to hit 3-pointers with only limited success.

An immovable object and an unstoppable force met in the second half when speedster Greg Garcia of 3rd Marine Regiment and rebound king Elton Garner of CPRW-2 stepped up their games.

Garcia was constantly handling and moving the ball down the court, most of the time at a dead sprint. He never seemed to tire or show frustration.

Garner was consistently under then rim, like an anchor, keeping the ball from getting too far out of reach. He had 14 points to his name, mostly

layups, and more than 20 rebounds during the game.

Between these two players alone, much less the rest of the team, you could feel the intensity and desire to win.

Most of the action took place in the final minute of play. The leader changed three or four times in the last minute alone.

It came down to the free throw line for CPRW with a few seconds left because 3rd Marines were trying to stop the clock by fouling CPRW-2. The whole game weighed on two shots. The CPRW-2 player delivered and made both of them, bringing them up to 42 points.

3rd Marine Regiment ballers tried to deliver an upset in the final seconds but the ball was stolen by CPRW-2's Mike Vitale who eluded defenders until time expired.

Although they won, Garner wasn't satisfied with their performance, he said.

"When we out rebound other teams instead of



Lance Cpl. Tyler L. Main | Hawaii Marine

Greg Garcia, 3rd Marine Regiment point guard, pressures an opponent during a regular season Intramural Basketball League game on Tuesday at the Semper Fit Center.

giving them second and third changes at scoring that's when we're at our best," Garner said. "We didn't do as well at that tonight."

Ronald Perkins, shooting guard for 3rd Marine Regiment, said the only way his team will get its season back on track is through better defense and practice.

"We kept making bad passes and not following up with our shots," he said. "We need to improve on our basic game play fundamentals."



Showing off some muscle

The spotless engine of a 1969 Camaro SS 396 sits on display during a Wounded Warrior Benefit Car Show outside the Navy Exchange in Pearl Harbor, Saturday. The car show, organized by Marines from Aircraft Rescue Firefighting, Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, was held to honor and raise money for wounded Marines and sailors with Wounded Warrior Battalion West — Detachment Hawaii. See story on B-3.

Cpl. Reece E. Lodder | Hawaii Marine



A racer belly flops into a mud puddle Saturday at the 17th annual Swamp Romp at Marine Corps Base Hawaii. The race consisted of five miles of mud pits, obstacles and sand.

Annual Swamp Romp breaks attendance record

Lance Cpl. Tyler L. Main
Combat Correspondent

The 17th annual Swamp Romp, hosted by Combat Logistics Battalion 3 and Marine Corps Community Services, set a record with about 2,700 participants, racing in 450 teams, at the Boondocker training area here Saturday.

Some teams came to experience the course, but most came to win the race.

“We came to kick some ass and regain our title because we won last year,” claimed Tori Orton of the Filthy Farm Girls team.

To some, five miles may not seem daunting for an endurance race but the Swamp Romp is like a natural obstacle course.

Competitors start out on the side of a large grass field. Soon, they are mired in waist deep mud.

“It was harder and wetter and smellier [than last year],” Orton said.

Each year, military and civilians from Oahu and off island come romping through the swamps like they’ve done it all their lives.

“There’s nothing like this in Canada. This is wild!” Terry Koeck said, a Vancouver, Canada native. “We flew all this way to support our team, the Swamp Pigs, and they did really amazingly well.”

The course included long stretches of shallow and slippery puddles, a trio of chest-deep mud ponds, and even a run through the tides and sands of Fort Hase Beach.

Despite the physical challenges, the hardest part for some teams seemed not to be the course, but rather picking an outfit.

“The main thing for us was to look cute,” Orton said wearing a plaid shirt, “Daisy Duke” shorts and a straw cowgirl hat with pigtails in her hair. “It’s all about the outfit every year.”

Other teams focused on dressing as oddly as possible.

One group ran the whole race in business suits, complete with tie and dress shoes. Another team of burley-looking men ran in neon-colored bikinis.

Posting the overall best time in any category was team “HTT1” with a time of 50:10. “Boca Women” recorded the best female team time with a 1:04:44, despite a one-minute penalty.

The three fastest teams in the men and women categories were awarded trophies.

Afterward, most people romped over to a spraying water hose Marines used to get rid of the swamp grime. Some preferred to take the mud home as a keepsake. Either way, the smell of the Marine Corps Base Hawaii swamps will probably stay with them for at least a few days.



Navy racer Jeremy Sanders-Lewis, shows off the battle scar he earned at the 17th annual Swamp Romp on Marine Corps Base Hawaii. When given medical attention by a corpsman, Lewis said, “Come on, doc, I don’t have to quit, do I? I want to win!”



Hundreds of racers waded through waist-deep ponds of mud and grime at the 17th annual Swamp Romp at Marine Corps Base Hawaii. Combat Logistics Battalion 3 hosted the race Saturday.



Swamp Romp competitors shower off after trudging through five miles of mud and obstacles Saturday. This year’s race had more than 2,700 racers — the most ever to compete in the Swamp Romp.



Teams of racers trudge through shallow mud pits at the beginning of the 17th annual Swamp Romp Saturday.



Spectators cheer as their team crosses the finish line of the 17th annual Swamp Romp five-mile race Saturday.

Marines show hot rides to help wounded warriors

Cpl. Reece E. Lodder
Combat Correspondent

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM — Beneath the glistening chrome and flawless paint jobs of rows of cars and motorcycles, revving engines roared and throaty exhausts thrust vibrations through the ground at a Wounded Warrior Benefit Car Show outside the Navy Exchange near Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Saturday.

The car show, organized by Marines from Aircraft Rescue Firefighting, Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, was held to honor and raise money for wounded Marines and sailors with Wounded Warrior Battalion West — Detachment Hawaii, on Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

“None of our wounded warriors should be forgotten,” said Cpl. Nathan Whitaker, a firefighter with ARFF who helped organize the event. “They are deploying, coming back hurt and giving up time from their families, so the least we can do is honor them by hosting this car show.”

Touted as one of Hawaii’s largest ever, the car show featured 311 hot rods, imports, trucks and motorcycles entered by prior, retired or active duty service members, the general public and clubs such as 808 Camaro, Aloha Mustang, Corvette of Hawaii, Mopar Hawaii, The Rust Buckets and the Volkswagen Club of Hawaii.

“This car show gives us a chance to show the wounded warriors we support them,” said entrant John Eagle, a Navy Fleet Marine Force hospital corpsman who served on the USS Lexington and USS Yorktown from 1955 to 1963.

Coming on the heels of the completion of December’s 26.3-mile Honolulu Marathon by seven ARFF Marines, the car show was the second event the firefighters used to raise money for wounded warriors. For the second year in a row on Dec. 12, they completed the grueling marathon in boots, camouflage utilities, and over 70 pounds of gear and raised more than \$2,000 for their cause.

“Our biggest reward was seeing the wounded warriors smiling and enjoying the show,” said Whitaker, from Burlington, Iowa. “I never thought the car show was going to be this big, but its success made the man hours and stressful nights of planning worth it.”

Surveying the show’s competition, wounded warriors from the detachment selected their top three vehicles, awarding customized “Wounded Warriors’ Choice” awards to the proud drivers of a 1969 Harley Davidson 900cc Ironhead motorcycle, a 1956 Chevy Truck, and a 1978 Pontiac Grand National.

“We like to see the support because it shows that people still care about us and what we’re doing,” said Lance Cpl. David Hawkins, formerly a scout sniper with Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, and now a wounded warrior with the detachment.

During a deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom last September, Hawkins and two fellow Marines were injured when



Photos by Cpl. Reece E. Lodder | Hawaii Marine

Ewa Beach native John Eagle, a Navy Fleet Marine Force hospital corpsman who served from 1955 to 1963, sits on the fender of his custom 1934 Ford Cabriolet and surveys the colorful collage of vehicles at a Wounded Warrior Benefit Car Show outside the Navy Exchange in Pearl Harbor, Saturday. The car show, organized by Marines from Aircraft Rescue Firefighting, Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, was held to honor and raise money for wounded Marines and sailors with Wounded Warrior Battalion West — Detachment Hawaii, on Marine Corps Base Hawaii. After the last vehicle left the parking lot, the ARFF Marines counted a total of \$6,349 raised for their wounded brothers-in-arms.



The custom detail work on retired Gunnery Sgt. Joe Torres’ 2009 Harley Davidson Fat Boy motorcycle nods to his military service as it sits on display during a Wounded Warrior Benefit Car Show outside the Navy Exchange in Pearl Harbor, Saturday.

they were struck by a remote-controlled improvised explosive device.

“This is why I joined — to see events like this come together,” said Hawkins, from Parker, Colo.

After the last vehicle left the parking lot, the ARFF Marines counted a total of \$6,349 raised for their wounded brothers-in-arms, bringing the amount from the marathon and car show to \$8,418.

The Wounded Warrior Detachment will largely use the donation for family support, such as

childcare emergencies due to doctor’s appointments, or purchasing plane tickets to reunite wounded warriors and their families, said Lt. Col. Gregory Price, officer in charge, Wounded Warrior Battalion West — Detachment Hawaii.

“We rely heavily on non-government support to help our wounded warriors and their families during their recovery and rehabilitation,” said Price, of Carlsbad, Calif. “There are already significant amounts of stresses in their lives, and this money will be used to minimize these stresses.”

Under a setting orange sun, white-haired former corpsman John Eagle, sat relaxed on the fender of his custom, yellow 1934 Ford Cabriolet, surveying the colorful collage of vehicles that filled the parking lot.

“Having been in the military, we know what these guys are going through,” said Eagle, from Ewa Beach. “Once you’ve been in the service, you don’t forget about the sacrifices our service members make.”

He spoke slowly and calculatedly, each pause revealing a deeper meaning to his attendance at this car show.

“We want the wounded warriors to get better, no matter what the cost is to us,” Eagle said. “They’re pretty much all we’ve got, aren’t they?”

Amidst the dull roar of mechanic chatter, oldies music, and the occasional revving of an engine, his words faded into the falling darkness.

SWAMP ROMP EXPO IS GOOD, CLEAN FUN



Photos by Christine Cabalo | Hawaii Marine

[Above left] Amy Eck, Duane DeSoto and Shonny Vanlandingham smile in front of their pictures at the Swamp Romp Expo Feb. 25. They were at one of several booths expo attendees could visit before the big event. Eck, a former Marine, has competed in the Swamp Romp several times. She, DeSoto and Valandingham were available for attendees to talk to and get autographs.

[Above] Lesile McDonald, licensed massage therapist, Semper Fit, gives a short massage to Connie Kadetz during the Swamp Romp Expo Feb. 25 held at Samuel Adams Bar and Grill. Kadetz, a member of ‘Team Aloha Spirit,’ was one of thousands who ran in the 2011 Swamp Romp the next day.

[Left] Retired Col. Mark Dungan, former commanding officer, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, takes a shot testing new golf clubs during the 2011 Swamp Romp Expo’s golf demo Feb. 25. Expo attendees could also meet with vendors offering health products, massages and free items. The expo happened the day before the Swamp Romp, which had an estimated 2,700 racers.

SPOTLIGHT ON SPORTS

Sports and Health Events

Register by today for Commander’s Cup Golf Classic

This event is scheduled at the Kaneohe Klipper Golf Course March 9. Check in is at 11 a.m. and shotgun is at noon. Register your foursome by today. The tournament grand prize is an overnight stay for two at a resort and spa. This tournament is open to all hands.

For more information, call Todd Murata at 254-2107.

Gluten free/casein free diet workshop

This is scheduled at Waikulu Community Center today, from 9 a.m. to noon. It covers living with a gluten and casein free diet. It’s open to active duty, reserves, family members and Department of Defense civilians.

For more information, call the Exceptional Family Member Program at 257-7782/7787.

Swim program registration begins

Registration for the spring swim program sessions begins tomorrow from 8 to 10 a.m. at the base pool. The program includes classes geared toward various levels of preschool aquatics, introduction to water skills, fundamental aquatic skills, and stroke development and improvement. Fees apply.

For more information, visit <http://www.mccshawaii.com/aquatics.shtml> or call 254-7655.

Commander’s Fitness Series: The Beast 10K

This challenging race is scheduled on March 12. Register by March 9. It starts and finishes at Pop Warner Field. The Beast 10K is the longest race in the Commanding Officer’s Series.

For this year’s remaining events, see below.

Health Benefits Counseling

Counseling is scheduled on Mondays at Marine and Family Services, Bldg. 216 from noon to 3 p.m. Veterans Administration health benefits counseling and enrollment services are offered. This is available to retiring and separating Marines, sailors and their family members. Walk ins welcome. No appointment is required.

For more information, call Jeff Esposito at 257-7787/7790.

Tobacco Cessation

Tobacco cessation classes are open to active duty, their family members and Department of Defense civilians.

There are four sessions in each series, which starts the first Tuesday of each month. Classes are scheduled at the Branch Medical Upper Deck, from 10 a.m. to noon.

If this does not meet your schedule, contact us directly to make other arrangements.

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

Commanding Officer’s Fitness Series

- March 12 – The Beast 10K
- March 13 – Criterium Bike Series
- March 27 – Criterium Bike Series
- April 9 – Surf and Turf 5K
- May 22 – Sprint Triathlon
- July 4 – Runway Run 5K
- July 30 – Camp Smith Grueler
- Aug. 14 – Tradewind Triathlon

- Oct. 22 – Splash and Dash
- Nov. 19 – Turkey Trot

For more information, call the race coordinator at 254-7590.

Race dates, times and locations are subject to change.

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. It is 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. Strollers are required if you bring your child.

Muscle Conditioning

Not coordinated for a traditional aerobics class? This class has minimal choreography so this is safe. This muscular endurance workout uses hand weights and bands to work all muscle groups. Also try Cardio and Tone for a great cardio/muscle conditioning workout.

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

Selfless service: NCO proves he is a leader among leaders

Cpl. Paul Zellner
1st Marine Logistics Group

CAMP DWYER, Afghanistan — A tactical data network specialist with Communications Platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 3, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) is using his Marine Corps Martial Arts Program skills and family values to lead fellow Marines to the next level.

Every afternoon after his shift ends, Cpl. Alfred J. Joseph, a 22-year-old native of Waterville, Maine, can be found at the MCMAP pit, teaching Marines the skills they need to progress in the program.

“I became an instructor so I could help the other Marines grow as I did,” said Joseph. “I think MCMAP helps build a lot of confidence in Marines while teaching them a new skill.”

Joseph takes his duties as a MCMAP instructor as serious as he does his normal duties as a data network specialist and as a Marine noncommissioned officer.

“He’s the first person who will lend a helping hand for anything, no matter how it inconveniences him,” said Cpl. Gregory M. Baxley, a friend and fellow tactical data network specialist for Comm. Plt., H&S Co., CLB-3. “I haven’t seen a limit to the lengths he’ll go to help someone out. He’s a great leader who the junior Marines can look up to because he leads by example.”

Joseph says his motivation comes from what awaits him at home, when he’s done assisting others here. Joseph is known by his peers and superiors to be reliable and says his motivation comes from a strong family bond.

A small but meaningful tattoo on his right wrist is a reminder of his responsibility to the two special ladies who make him the friend and man he is today.

“My wife and daughter are the driving force behind everything I do,” said Joseph. “They’re why I do what I do.”

Joseph’s strong family background



Cpl. Alfred J. Joseph, a tactical data network specialist with Communications Platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 3, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), is shown outside of the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program pit aboard Camp Dwyer, Afghanistan, Feb. 21, where he uses his skills to train fellow Marines.



Cpl. Paul Zellner | 1st Marine Logistics Group

Cpl. Alfred J. Joseph, a tactical data network specialist with Communications Platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 3, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), instructs Marines on the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program aboard Camp Dwyer, Afghanistan, Feb. 21. He is known by his peers and superiors to be reliable and says his motivation comes from a strong family bond.

plays a major role in how he cares for his Marine Corps family.

“We’re a very close family ... my mom and dad still live happily in the same house me and my identical twin brother grew up in,” said Joseph. “He’s out living the American college-kid dream, and I’m proud of him for that because he’s as dedicated to his choices as I am to mine.”

Joseph’s selflessness and dedication to those he cares for extends from his own home to the office where he also makes sure his junior Marines and any who needs his assistance are taken care of.

“The way I was raised our community was one big family,” said Joseph. “Like the saying goes, you have the family you were born into and the one you were sworn into. You have to do your best to

support both.”

As a leader, his peers and superiors agree he is motivated and someone who all ranks can look up to for his work ethic and enthusiasm.

“Joseph is motivated and has the courage to take on any task no matter how challenging,” said Sgt. Ryan B. Jasman, data chief for Comm. Plt., H&S Co., CLB-3. “He’s someone who not only the junior Marines can look up to, but also Marines higher ranking than him because of his leadership skills.”

Joseph’s friends, family and fellow Marines know that no matter their problem, great or small, Joseph is someone who can be relied on whether for instruction in the MCMAP pit or elsewhere as a friend, a brother-in-arms and a leader.

Hawaii Marine Lifestyles

A not so secret garden Hoomaluhia Botanical Garden delights visitors

Kristen Wong
Photojournalist

KANEOHE — On the end of Luluku Road, near where the Likelike and Kamehameha Highways cross, you'll find a green world. Here beneath tall trees and a blue sky, an occasional mongoose scurries across the road and birds serenade visitors. Hoomaluhia Botanical Garden is one of five Honolulu Botanical Gardens offering an array of programs and some quiet time with nature. The original intent of the garden, built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and opened in 1982, was to protect the community from flooding.

Open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, the garden consists of more than 400 acres of plant life from countries including Sri Lanka, India and the Philippines. Some visitors to the garden spend weekends camping at Hoomaluhia.

The Fernandez family, from the North Shore, recently camped in the Kuou area campsite in the gardens. Jessica Fernandez has been on camping trips since she was a child. She continues the camping tradition with her husband, Adam, and their two sons. While at Hoomaluhia, they enjoyed catch and release fishing and marshmallow toasting by the fire. Adam Fernandez said the family camps to "unplug for awhile."

"It's nice to get out here and semi-rough it," Adam Fernandez said. "It's a break from the norm."

Adam Fernandez said the campsites at Hoomaluhia are spacious compared to campsites in Arizona or Colorado, where "you're in the thick." For him the view of the gardens is "like looking down the first hole of a golf course." He suggests visitors bring



Sun Blaze, 2, examines flowers during preschool nature hour at Hoomaluhia Botanical Garden. The garden was built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and opened in 1982.



Mike and Vicki Weight frequent Hoomaluhia Botanical Garden three times a week. They've been visiting the garden for nearly six years.

binoculars to the garden to see the birds.

"It's beautiful and it's well kept," Fernandez said. "The people are very nice." Others, like Mike and Vicki Weight, have been taking three-mile walks through what Mike calls an "absolutely beautiful" garden three times a week, for the past five years.

Vicki Weight also said they notice the subtle changes in nature as they visit, such as the garden's blue marble tree, which produces blue fruit when in season. Mike Weight remarked that they are as blue as robin eggs.

"It's just green and pretty," Vicki Weight said. "It's got good energy."

For them the garden is ideal to walk because there is very little traffic and a paved road. Vicki Weight added that walking through the gardens is a good workout.

"You work up a good sweat," Mike Weight said. Some garden visitors choose to take in the scenery by themselves, others may choose to join a two hour guided tour of the garden, offered Saturdays at 10 a.m. and Sundays at 1 p.m.

Just a brief walk from the visitor's center brings visitors to Loko Waimaluhia, which means "peaceful fresh water lake." Catch and release fishing is permitted here on Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The garden plans to hold a Keiki Fishing Derby for children in June.

Among other programs, the garden hosts a preschool nature hour on the third Tuesday of each month, for children ages 2 to 4. Each session has a different nature topic for children to learn.

Caleb Young, 4, who attended a session on Feb. 15, said he enjoyed hearing bird sounds from a book the garden staff presented.

Marine Corps Base Hawaii spouse Melissa Nasky, originally from Cleveland, brought her daughter Nadia to preschool nature hour, where they learned about birds. Nasky called the garden programs "a nice resource for the community," and is glad there are programs available for children.

"I think they're doing a fantastic job," Nasky said. Lauren Gainey, who brought her son, Grayson,

3, to preschool nature hour, considers the garden beautiful even when it's raining, and plans to bring her older children in the future. The Louisville, Ky., native and her son also visited Loko Waimaluhia to see the ducks and the fish.

Erika Takashi brought her son, Sun Blaze, 2, to preschool nature hour. She brings her family to Hoomaluhia Botanical Garden once every few months. She said the place exposes her children to more green than a small park surrounded by city buildings.

"We're fortunate that we found out about this program," Takashi said. "Not a lot of people know [about this program]."



Hoomaluhia Botanical Garden is home to many different species of plant life from all over the world, including Sri Lanka, India and the Philippines.

The garden is closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Admission to the garden is free. For more information on the garden's programs or reservations, call the visitor's center at 233-7323, or visit <http://www1.honolulu.gov/parks/hbg/hmbg.htm>.



Aidyn Stouffer, 2, and Grayson Gainey, 3, feed bread to the ducks at Hoomaluhia Botanical Garden. Stouffer and Gainey also attended the garden's preschool nature hour.



Hoomaluhia Botanical Garden has a variety of trails for visitors to walk through. The garden is open daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

PASS

IN

REVIEW

Your weekly guide to the best aspects of entertainment

Welcome to the 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.

Better Know A Critic



AMERICAN HORSE

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



WHITTINGTON

Sgt. Scott Whittington is an action-movie junkie. As a kid he would sneak on roller coasters he was too short for, rode dirt bikes without his mom’s permission and occasionally smacked bullies in the face with schoolbooks. He loves the rush.

New online game ‘Rift’ rocks ‘Warcraft’

Lance Cpl. Vanessa M. American Horse
Combat Correspondent

A friend of mine purchased a new video game and I wanted to see why he spent all day with his eyes glued to his computer monitor. “Rift” just came out on Tuesday.

I’ve outgrown my days of playing massively multiplayer online role playing games like “World of Warcraft,” and because of a lack of time, I’m afraid to get hooked on another game. But I had to play “Rift” for a little while, because the graphics looked awesome and all my gaming friends said it’s supposed the best new MMORPG.

“Rift” creators are using new, faster servers that will limit long queues, glitchy gameplay and server shutdowns. The game started up fast and I like the class system to personalize your role-playing character.

There are four classes: Warrior, Cleric, Rogue or Mage.



After choosing a class, you can choose from a variety of callings, or specialties for your avatar.

There are two forces you must choose from in the game battling for control of the world known as Telara, the Guardians and the Defiant. The Guardians believe the powers of their ancient gods will stop the mysterious rifts that open in the sky and unleash hordes of bad guys. The Defiant believe their gods have abandoned them and they want to integrate technology, rather than magic, to save their world.

Each faction works in different ways to preserve Telara’s future, and both seek to undermine the other.

Once I started playing, I was impressed with the realistic graphics. They were also mature and brutal for a game with a “Teen” rating. I liked it because they weren’t the cartoon-like characters I’ve seen in other games.

The main point of the game is to kill invaders that come out of mysterious rifts in the sky. They are

attacking Telara and threaten to destroy the planet.

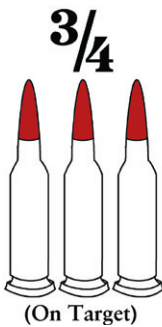
I finally got some action when a rift opened up. Intruders poured out of the portal like they were entering a rabid muppet convention. Other players came to help close the rift and kill the invaders.

I learned that there’s an option to try another challenge instead of simply fighting the rift, which was great, because sometimes it gets old. Either way you get a reward after conquering a quest.

This next generation game is dynamic with its ever-changing scenery.

Everything is new and the whole world was waiting for me to explore it. The way groups form, take care of business and then disperse is really good at helping to bring players together.

I think “Rift” will be the MMORPG that finally beats “World of Warcraft,” but anytime a game is predicted it will kill “WoW,” it doesn’t. This might have a chance.



‘Gods of the Arena’ remains true to predecessor

Sgt. Scott Whittington
Combat Correspondent

With the success of last year’s TV series, “Spartacus: Blood and Sand,” this sequel promised to bring more graphic violence and barbaric sex scenes. There’s even a disclaimer before each show that states the show is intended to depict ancient Roman society.

Unfortunately, Spartacus (Andy Whitfield) doesn’t make any appearances in the second season due to the actor’s serious illness. So STARZ made the call to make a six-show prequel which I’m sure co-stars Lucy Lawless and John Hannah were happy to hear since ... well I won’t ruin the first season if you haven’t seen it. But I highly recommend you watch both. It’s also on Netflix.

The story starts well before Spartacus’ arrival at the Batiatus’ ludus or school for gladiators. Crixus (Manu Bennett), who is champion in “Blood and Sand” is a new, shaggy arrival and makes his way up the gladiator food chain. Quintus, (Hannah) has “control” over the ludus until his father Titus, (Jeffrey Thomas) shows up from his trip and interrupts a steamy exchange between “Mac Daddy” Quintus, Lucretia, (Lawless) and a very attractive house guest, Gaia (Jaime Murray) from Showtime’s serial killing series “Dexter.” Another new character for this season is Gannicus (Dustin Clare). Gannicus is the current house champion but he fails

to impress Titus, the real ruler of the House of Batiatus. So eventually Titus holds a contest to prove who the real champion is.

An enjoyable aspect of this series is the poetic way everyone speaks. I’m well aware that ancient Romans didn’t speak English, but if they did, I’d like to think it sounds like that. Their speech has a Shakespearean flow, but I completely understand what they’re saying without my 11th grade literature teacher explaining it to me.

Now I have to warn you, the scenes referenced by the disclaimer are quite explicit. There are some racy sex scenes of all sorts, so if you’re easily offended by nudity, you may not want to watch. But if you can stomach it, it adds to the story.

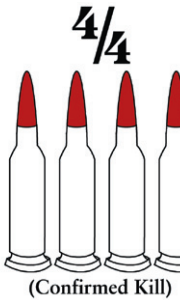
And there is plenty of blood spilled. Picture this – if “300” and “Gladiator” had a child, it would be this series. Also if you have sensitive ears, there is plenty of

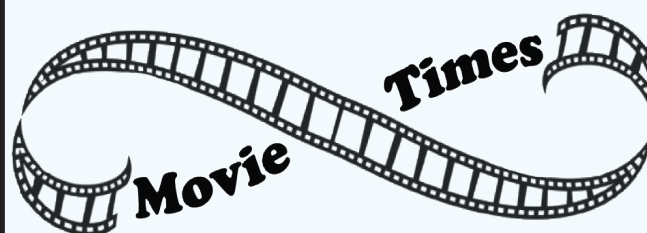


cursing. Let’s just say if you had a drinking game that included a shot for every “F bomb” or certain four-letter “C” words, you wouldn’t make it past the show’s halfway mark.

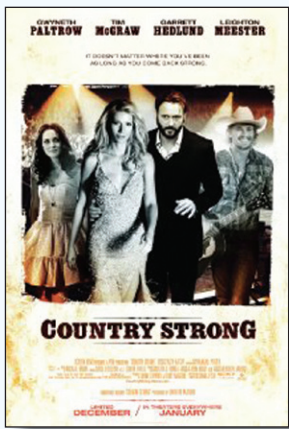
Quintus is the king of cursing and he has every right to be upset. Titus expresses how appalled he is with the ludus’ progress and the swinging manner in which Quintus gains title and privilege. Titus doesn’t care for Lucretia and gives his son an ultimatum that comes back to bite him. In the meantime, another ludus master, Tallius, does everything in his power to bring down the younger Batiatus to include beating him up and urinating on his face. Titus doesn’t seek retribution for his son’s attack and this of course doesn’t sit well, but don’t worry, Tallius gets his in the end.

The sixth and final show is the bloodiest of the prequel and ends with the opening of the new arena with a battle royale to determine which house reins as King of the Primus. Even without Spartacus, “Gods of the Arena” is true to its predecessor.





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.



“Country Strong” PG-13 Today | 7:15 p.m.

“The Green Hornet” PG-13 Today | 9:45 p.m.

“True Grit” PG-13 Saturday | 7:15 p.m.

“No Strings Attached” R Saturday | 9:45 p.m.

“Despicable Me” PG Sunday | 2 p.m.

“The Dilemma” PG-13 Sunday | 6:30 p.m.

Driving a car that won’t break the bank

Vanessa M. American Horse
Combat Correspondent

The days of flashy sports cars and monster trucks on roadways hasn’t changed. But a new breed of vehicles is emerging into the spotlight including here.

Some base residents are trying to save money by changing to low or zero-emission vehicles. Global Electric Motorcars are a popular choice on a base. These pint-size vehicles hide a spacious interior with their curved structure, and the best part is, they don’t require any gasoline.

Base resident Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jeremy P. Lowe, survey inspector, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, has owned a GEM for more than a year now. With four passenger seating, he can take his family almost anywhere in surrounding Kaneohe and Kailua since most roads have a speed limit of 35 mph or less.

“I may fill my other vehicle with gas once every three months because I only use it to make trips across the island,” Lowe said.

The all-electric motor means GEM vehicles are emission-free and run nearly silent. The 72-volt battery charges in three hours and can travel about 50 miles on a full charge.

“People ask me if charging the car impacts my electric bill, but I just got a \$56 check back from Forest City for last month,” Lowe said. “So, I’m still



Lance Cpl. Vanessa M. American Horse | Hawaii Marine

Marine Corps Base Hawaii resident Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jeremy P. Lowe, survey inspector, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, drives his Global Electric Motorcar on base Feb. 24. Lowe said he likes that he doesn’t have to fill gas as much in his other car.

below the average electricity usage.”

The City and County of Honolulu Division of Motor Vehicles agency recognizes the vehicles as “neighborhood electric carts.” They must be registered, tagged and insured with the DMV. His insurance costs around \$100 a year for his GEM, according to Lowe.

Recently, low emission or fuel-

efficient vehicle parking spots were added to the new Forest City Residential Management office to encourage others to drive economical cars.

Lowe hopes to see more charging stations and parking spots installed at other places on base.

“Right now there aren’t any new plugs,” said Lee Yamamoto, deputy director, Base Facilities Department. “In the future, it’s a possibility to see centralized power outlets, but for now we ask people to plug them into outdoor building outlets.”

Another benefit for service members to drive neighborhood electric carts is that they can be shipped easily overseas and at no cost when transferring duty stations on official orders.

“The GEM cars and golf carts alike are considered household goods,” said Cpl. Andrew B. Leituda, household goods noncommissioned officer, Traffic Management Officer, MCB Hawaii. “They can be shipped just like a motorcycle and it doesn’t take the place of a full-sized vehicle.”

Lowe hasn’t decided if he will take his GEM car back to the mainland after his permanent change of station, but he said he’s enjoying the benefits here.

“I’ve saved a lot of money on gas, and my 7-year-old loves to ride in it,” Lowe said. “Every time I pick her up from school, it’s the coolest thing in town.”

MarForPac clears leave and liberty misconceptions

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

CAMP H.M. SMITH — U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific Marines thinking about taking leave and special liberty may be surprised to find there are special regulations when taking their hard-earned time off in Hawaii.

Marines stationed on the mainland are accustomed to beginning their leave at 12:01 p.m. and ending it at noon on the last day of leave, but due to the nature of living on an island, leave in Hawaii is conducted from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. of the Marine’s last day of leave.

To clarify the issue and other leave and liberty misconceptions, Col. Alan L. Thoma, commanding officer for Headquarters and Service Battalion, MarForPac, signed Policy Letter 12-10 recently.

“I think it’s important to talk about why the ‘noon-to-noon policy’ exists,” said Lt. Col. Milo L. Shank, executive officer for Headquarters and Service Battalion, MarForPac.

According to Shank, West Coast units began instituting the 12:01 p.m. to noon leave policy between 2002 and 2003.

The policy changed to prevent vehicular accidents that occurred when Marines drove back to their duty stations at night to check in from leave by 7:30 a.m.

Due to the decrease in vehicular accidents from Marines driving long distances during leave, the policy became standard Corpswide.

At duty stations in Hawaii, it is physically impossible to drive outside of the local area. Travel off any Hawaiian island is conducted by boat or air, making it less likely an accident would occur due to the driver’s fatigue. As a result, the policy states the authorized check-in and out times are the end and beginning of standard working hours, 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 a.m.

The policy letter also clarifies and updates other leave procedures. Rather than Marines checking in and out of leave with the officer of the day, Policy Letter 12-10 states a Marine’s officer-in-charge can now check them in and out of leave, and the battalion is looking into expanding that authority to the staff noncommissioned officers when checking sergeants and below in and out of leave.

According to Shank, the battalion is reviewing Marine Corps policies to ensure they are authorized to give that authority to the unit’s senior enlisted.

In addition to leave procedures, Policy Letter 12-10 also clarifies special liberty rules unique to living in Hawaii.

Normally, Marines who remain within predetermined distance of their duty station do not require any special permission. Though the distance between the Hawaiian Islands is relatively short, interisland travel requires special permission.

“If you want to take liberty instead of leave to Maui, you can, but you need special liberty, or what we call an out of bounds chit,” said Cpl. Aphilia Robinson, noncommissioned officer in charge of the Headquarters and Service Battalion, MarForPac administration section. “Your flight might be cancelled or postponed. So you may end up being late for work, which is why you need special liberty.”

Leaders are reminded that Marine Online, the system Marines use to submit and approve leave, automatically defaults check-in and out times from noon-to-noon and must be changed to 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. to comply with the policy.

For more information, refer to the policy letter, located on the MarForPac SharePoint site at <https://intranet.mfp.usmc.mil>.

Survey now online for those concerned about COLA

News Release
United States Pacific Command

Military personnel in Hawaii have an opportunity to affect their paychecks this year by participating in a Cost of Living Allowance Living Pattern Survey.

This survey of families’ shopping patterns is available until March 31 and affects the COLA that military personnel stationed in Hawaii receive each month.

The approximately 30-minute online survey asks personnel and their families to identify the off-base retail outlets they use when they shop for food, clothing, and many other goods and services, such as restaurant meals, hair care, and auto repair.

It also requests information on how much they shop in the local economy off-base, and how much they shop at the commissary, exchange and via the internet.

The data collected in this survey will be used to adjust the COLA for Hawaii.

The LPS is one of the “building blocks” of COLA. Every three years, an LPS is conducted to update the names of the local economy outlets where military families shop and the frequency they shop at these outlets. An annual market

basket survey — the Retail Price Survey — collects the prices of 120 goods and services from these outlets.

These prices are compared to those in the continental United States, and a Cost of Living Index is computed that reflects the difference. The Hawaii COLA allowance is designed to compensate Service members for the difference between the costs of goods and services in CONUS, and the same goods and services in Hawaii. All uniformed military members assigned to Hawaii as their permanent duty station for at least three months who do not reside in the barracks or on a ship, should take the survey. This includes all Coast Guard, U.S. Public Health Services and Hawaii Army and Air National Guard personnel.

Service members are encouraged to take the survey at home with their families to ensure that input is received from the people who actually do the shopping for the household. Maximum participation is key to a successful Hawaii LPS, and ultimately, a fair and accurate COLA rate.

The Hawaii LPS will be available at both the USPACOM website, <http://www.pacom.mil>, and the USPACOM Personnel Readiness site, <https://community.apan.org/pop/>.

Contact the USPACOM Personnel Readiness Branch at 477-8121 with any questions.

WORD TO PASS

On Base

Kindergarten registration night

March 9

Mokapu Elementary School will be hosting a kindergarten registration night from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Complimentary pizza dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m.
For more information, call registration clerk Breeana Kamakeeaina at 254-7964 ext. 297 or base school liaison Derrick Kerr at 257-8826.

Hooked on Phantasy Book Club

March 12

The club meets at the base library, from 6 to 7 p.m. It’s for people who love vampires, demons, fairies, and other paranormal characters out there. The club is free and open to all military families, sponsored guests and Department of Defense civilians.
For more information, call Merri Fernandez at 254-7624.

Marine Corps Base Hawaii Job Fair 2011

March 18

The fair is scheduled at Kahuna’s Community Ballroom, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Attendees can pick up applications, research the job marketing and speak with representatives from 50 employing agencies and companies around the state and the mainland.
The fair is open to the military community between 9 to 11 a.m. and open to U.S. citizens from the local community, ages 18 and over afterward.
Professional attire is required. Children will not be allowed entry so please make other arrangements.

Personal Finance Resource Fair

March 19

Learn about minding your money at Mokapu Mall from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
This exciting financial management fair includes a fashion show, cooking competition, a budget event and vendors to help you with your financial well-being. The event is open and free to everyone with base access.
For more information, call Bruce Sneddon at 257-7790/87.

JEC Spring Education Fair

March 24

Come to Mokapu Mall from 10 a.m. to noon for this biannual fair showcasing more than 15 university and college programs as well as benefit, scholarship and grant opportunities for education for military members and their families.
Find out about your education benefits and changes to the Post 9/11 GI Bill.
For more information, call Caron Ferguson at 257-2158.

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

Discovering Your Future in Aviation conference

March 4-6

Young people interested in aviation as a career or hobby will want to attend the Discovering Your Future in Aviation Conference at the Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
It promises to be a weekend filled with hands-on workshops and seminars, a career fair, aviation films, interactive science exhibits, and the opportunity to talk one-on-one with aviation professionals and learn more about careers in aviation and the related sciences. The conference is free with museum admission.
Call 441-1012 for more information.

National Alliance on Mental Illness Windward group meetings

Second Tuesday of the month

Do you or someone you love suffer from a mental illness? The National Alliance on Mental Illness Hawaii provides support, education, and advocacy for families of and people living with mental illness. Support groups meet once a month.
This group on the Windward side meets at Castle’s Wellness and Lifestyle Medicine Center on the second Tuesday of the month from 5:30 to 7 p.m.
For more information, call NAMI Hawaii at 591-1297.

Volunteer in the Community

Volunteer for Special Olympics

Volunteers are needed for Special Olympics 2011 Play Days. Come out and help get pre-school special education students active. Volunteers are needed to run various activity stations and for some of these special children, this will be their first try at an organized Play Day, so come out and see their smiles.
Upcoming dates are locations are: April 8, 8 a.m.-noon, Manoa District Park (30 volunteers needed); April 14, 8 a.m.-noon, Nanakuli High School (40 volunteers needed); and April 21, 8 a.m.-noon, Mililani District Park (50 volunteers needed).
T-Shirts and certificates of appreciation will be available to all volunteers. For more information, call Cindy Ujimori at 695-3527.

Help at Mokapu Spring Carnival

The Mokapu Elementary PTA is hosting its 3rd Annual Spring Carnival April 2. Volunteers to help with set-up, breakdown, game and activity booths and more. For more information, call Patricia Carter-Moore at (888) 778-0425, ext. 4.

Support veterans at the National Veterans Golden Age Games

Volunteers are needed to support the 25th National Veterans Golden Age Games in Honolulu May 26-31. The largest sports and recreation event for military veterans age 55 and older in the world is expected to draw 700 athletes.
Veterans will compete in 14 athletic events to include swimming, cycling, golf, shot-put, discus, 10-meter air rifle, table tennis, dominoes, shuffleboard, horseshoes, nine-ball, bowling, checkers and croquet. Each event has seven age categories for participation: 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, 80-84 and 85 and up. Additionally, veterans with visual impairments and those who use wheelchairs for mobility will compete in unique categories based on their abilities. The events will be held at Fort DeRussy, Mamala Bay and Ke’alohi golf courses, Hawaii Convention Center, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and other sites throughout the island.
This is the first time the annual event will be held in Honolulu. The games are co-sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Canteen Service and Help Hospitalized Veterans, and will be hosted locally by the VA Pacific Islands Healthcare System based in Honolulu.
For more information, contact Shelley Eyerly at 585-6191.

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.

Pacific Aviation Museum welcomes volunteers

At the Pacific Aviation Museum on Ford Island, volunteers are engaged in a multitude of activities like hosting tours, teaching visitors to fly simulators, assisting with exhibit building and aircraft restoration and more.
For more information, call 441-1008 or visit the website at <http://www.pacificaviationmuseum.org/aboutus/volunteer.html>.

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>.