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Hawaii Marine

Honoring Heroes



Cpl. Brian Adam Jones | 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing

Lt. Col. Mark Revor, commanding officer of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363, pays his respects to his six fallen Marines during a ceremony at Camp Bastion, Afghanistan, Jan. 24. The men died when their CH-53D Sea Stallion helicopter went down while conducting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan, Jan. 19. While the mishap is currently under investigation, NATO officials said there were no signs of enemy activity in the area at the time of the incident. "It is difficult to be here, easier to suppress our emotions and move on with our daily routine," said Revor during the ceremony. "It is difficult because they were more than friends, more than family — they were our brothers and our comrades." See story on A4-5.

Base resident finalist in Military Spouse of the Year

Kristen Wong
Photojournalist

She's helped plan events for the families of 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment. She's in the upcoming movie "Battleship," and on top of raising three sons, working on a screenplay and answering military spouses' questions online. Kerry-Ann Ellington also enjoys a friendly game of Boggle or Monopoly.

Ellington, a military spouse and one of 15 family readiness assistants for 1/12, is one of 30 finalists for Military Spouse of the Year, coordinated by Military Spouse Magazine.

"This year's nominees were the best we've ever had," said Babette Maxwell, the founder of the Military Spouse of the Year promotion and Military Spouse Magazine. "[The 30 nominees] can each stand alone in their own right. It's just going to be who the public wants to see represent them in the service. Any one of them could win easily, and we would be proud to have any of them represent us. I'm sure the community feels the same way."

Sponsored by Armed Forces Insurance, the annual Military Spouse of the Year title goes to one military spouse who makes significant contributions to his or her community.

The Military Spouse of the Year works to make change within a cause they believe in, while maintaining a blog and making various public appearances. The Military Spouse of the Year will be honored on May 10 during a luncheon at the home of Gen. James Amos, the commandant of the Marine Corps.

Ellington's sister, Latoya Hawthorne, 26, of Los Angeles, nominated her for the award. She described her sister as a role model with a sense of humor and "bubbly personality."

"I wasn't really surprised that she was picked as one of the finalists. She definitely deserves it," Hawthorne said. "The world needs to know what this wonderful woman has to offer. I'm really glad her voice is being heard."

If chosen as Military Spouse of the Year, Ellington hopes to be an advocate for the standardization between on-base schools to Defense Department schools.

Because military children tend to move frequently and adjusting to a new school's rules can be difficult, she felt all on-base schools sharing the same curriculum could provide a smoother transition.

"I was shocked," Ellington said of being a finalist. "I thought 'oh my gosh, that's a lot of people to go through' … but I was happy about it."



Courtesy Photo | Crystal Nix Photography

Kerry-Ann Ellington and her family pose for a photo.

Ellington, a native of Kingston, Jamaica, has a bachelor's degree in communications from the University of South Florida. She is interested in writing, acting and modeling, and has been in several TV shows and movies.

She has been a Marine spouse for 11 years and a family readiness assistant [what used to be known as a key volunteer] for several units, including 3rd Marine Regiment and 1/12. With the other 1/12 FRAs, Ellington has helped host events such as bingo night and BBQs.

She regularly contributes to http://www.askthemilies.com, created by Army spouse Jacqueline Goodrich, which answers questions about military life.

See SPOUSE, A-8

The museum of boom

Explosive ordnance disposal personnel collect many years of dangerous work

Lance Cpl. Jacob D. Barber
Combat Correspondent

In the Combat Logistics Battalion 3 Explosive Ordnance Disposal complex building hides a room with hundreds of bombs from multiple, past wars. These destructive packages have been collected, not only to inform EOD Marines about explosives, they should expect to encounter during operations, but to inform the public as well.

This room is the EOD Museum aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii. Gunnery Sgt. William Walker, EOD operations chief, said a majority of the inventory came from countries such as Iraq and Afghanistan, however, some of it came from within the U.S. as training aids for combat.

"Most of what you see used to be explosives, but all ordnance was removed," Walker said. "We like to use these in particular to train because if we don't have the actual items to look at and study, then our boys will go over there, try to diffuse a mine they've never seen before, and it'll be like staring at something brand new."

The museum is filled with bombs and gadgets of all different varieties. From an old chemical rocket, to a nuclear bomb, EOD has collected much of this equipment over the years not only for training purposes, but to put on display.

"We do tours in the museum sometimes," Walker said. "We've had Boy Scouts come through and take a look around and JNROTC students have been here before as well. We also give classes in here on occasions to teach about some of the stuff you see on the shelves. We use this room for a lot."

Though a bomb museum might not sound like a safe place, all explosive material has been stripped from the items and some are even cut open so guests can see what the items look like on the inside.

"Cutting open some of these bombs is another way for Marines to learn about these objects inside and out," Walker said. "It's cool to pick one up and look inside and see so much more than what you would expect."

Though there are shelves filled with explosives, the museum has a few other keepsakes the Marines have collected.

See BOOM, A-8



Lance Cpl. Jacob D. Barber | Hawaii Marine

Combat Logistics Battalion 3, Explosive Ordnance Disposal, train with real bombs, grenades, mines and rockets collected over time—ensuring all EOD Marines know each explosive inside and out. Though a bomb museum might not sound like such a safe place, all explosive material has been stripped from the items and some are even cut open so Marines and guests can see what some of the items look like on the inside.

The Visiting General



Lance Cpl. Jacob D. Barber | Hawaii Marine

Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck, commanding general, III Marine Expeditionary Force, talks to some of his Marines aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Jan. 19. Glueck, who is also the commander of Marine Corps Forces, Japan, met with Marines from 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Radio Battalion and 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment during his visit. Glueck spent most of his day answering questions and visiting units who are a part of III MEF. Glueck had nothing but good things to say about the hard work of his Marines and what they have accomplished overseas. "Everyone is talking about us right now," Glueck said to three sets of packed bleachers. "All the focus is in the Pacific. Every eye is on us, so our role right now is vital. But I'm confident in all of you because I know we aren't the biggest MEF, but we certainly have the biggest bite."



Take the Hill
While you slept, they charged the hill. Check out the King of the Hill 5K race, **B-1**



Life is a breeze
Looking for a place to have some water sport fun? Check out Seabreeze water sports, **C-1**

Saturday	Sunday
High — 79	High — 78
Low — 71	Low —70

NEWS BRIEFS

Free tax preparation service

The Base Tax Center will be open through April 17. The center's hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Tuesday and Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Please bring all W-2's (including spouse's), bank account and routing numbers, copy of last year's tax return, all other tax forms (1099s, etc.) and Social Security cards for all family members.

The tax center is located at Bldg. 455 on the first deck. Bldg. 455 is across the street from Forest City and adjacent to the Youth Activities Center. **NOTE:** To schedule an appointment call **257-1564**.

Taekwondo Classes offered at Semper Fit

Semper Fit and the American Taekwondo Association present: Taekwondo Classes for Adults, taught by Andrell Durden, a second-degree black belt and ATA Member since 1985. Class includes sparring, form and weapons.

Classes start Feb. 25. You can continue your taekwondo advancement at your next military station through 1,500 licensed ATA locations on five continents. Classes are held at the Semper Fit Center Monday and Wednesday from 8-9 p.m. and Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Call the Semper Fit Center at 254-7597 or Durden at 229-507-0156 and learn more about ATA at http://www.ataonline.com/.

Marines needed for Individual Augmentee Award Luncheon

On Feb. 24, the Navy League will host their annual Individual Augmentee Award Luncheon to recognize Marines who deployed as an individual augmentee in fiscal year 2011.

Marines of all ranks are eligible to be recognized. The event will be held at the Ala Moana Hotel in Honolulu and registration begins at 10:30 a.m.

Marines must wear their Service "C" uniform. The luncheon is free for all IA awardees and one guest. There is a fee for additional guests. MCB Hawaii-based sailors will be identified separately through Navy Region Hawaii.

Contact Sgt. Danny Woodall at daniel.woodall@usmc.mil or 257-8838 for more information.

"The Power of Poetry" event seeks talent

If you write poetry, have skillful singing vocals, rap, dance, step, perform comedy, or play an instrument, "The Power of Poetry" is looking for you. Military personnel and civilians 17 years and older can volunteer their talent in future poetry shows, held once a month.

The next poetry show will be Feb. 17. An audition will be held on Feb. 1. "Let the art of poetry be an inspiration amongst the power of the soul."

If you are interested please contact Sgt. Jasmine D. Matos at 434-250-4698 or 257-6473, or jasmine.matos@usmc.mil, or Gunnery Sgt. Ray Robinson at 843-321-1389.

Important phone numbers

On-Base Emergencies	911
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

Correction

In last week's edition, the photos accompanying the K-Bay Invitational Regatta article were improperly credited. Jillian Cutter took the photos and gave Hawaii Marine permission for use in the paper. Sorry for the inconvenience.

Hawaii Marine

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Dash for Trash: Former captain cleans, jogs at K-Bay

Christine Cabalo
Photojournalist

Once his trash bag and long-reach trash pick-up tool are in hand, Robert Mumper is ready for a run through Kaneohe Bay.

Mumper, a former captain who served in Vietnam, has been running and picking up litter along Mokapu Road at Marine Corps Base Hawaii for the past nine years. He makes a regular stop at the base to clean and run in addition to taking care of his hometown of Kailua.

"I don't mind doing it," said Mumper, 68, who was a supply officer with 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment and left the Corps in 1969. "I think people should take pride in their base, and it's my exercise."

Picking up trash is his motivation to continue to be active, even during the weekends. Although he's been a lifelong runner, Mumper began actively cleaning Kailua and other areas while running since he retired from his civilian job as an elementary school teacher.

"He's helped a lot," said Victor Varela, deputy base inspector, MCB Hawaii. "Even though we have a number of Marines set aside to pick up trash, the trade winds bring in a lot."

Either to jog or to volunteer at Marine Thrift Shop K-Bay, Mumper always makes sure to have a trash bag for litter and another reusable bag for recyclables. He'll clean two or three times a week on base and clean daily wherever he may be.

It's how he pledges to help his community as a believer of the "broken window theory." He said by regularly maintaining an urban area, he hopes to inspire others to do the same for less litter and fewer broken windows. After cleaning multiple times a week, Mumper said he's collected less trash. Before, he'd regularly find as many as 50 soda bottles in a single area during a run. Now, he said it's much less.

Mumper said he hopes to break past the stigma of picking up trash, as many think of litter pickup as a punishment.

"I don't look at it that way," he said. "I think regardless of your rank, you should help out. You might not do it to the extent of what I'm doing, but you can start on your own street."

He takes regular routes around the base and Kailua, especially focusing on main roads and areas that are a challenge to maintain. Besides doing the long stretch of Mokapu Road near the Kailua entrance, Mumper also cleans along the streams near Kaneohe Kipper Golf Course.

Often, he'll be on his routes jogging and picking up trash wearing his grey USMC shirt with the phrase, "Served with Pride, '65-'69." He's caught the eye of joggers and other base residents, including Master Sgt. Eli Ginez, Manpower Information Systems Support Office staff noncommissioned officer, Headquarters Battalion.



Christine Cabalo | Hawaii Marine

Robert Mumper, with his dog Butters, picks up trash at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Jan. 20. Mumper, a former supply officer with 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, said he started regularly picking up trash along his running routes since he retired from his civilian job nine years ago.

"He's been really selfless," Ginez said. "He manages to do it and get some exercise in. He doesn't live on base, but still takes time to pick things up."

Ginez said he admires how the Kailua resident continues to serve the Marine Corps and stays physically active at the same time. Both Ginez and the deputy base inspector said they've never seen anyone who's been so dedicated to keeping K-Bay clean. Mumper said he's happy to continue well into the future.

"Marines take pride in their caring for their uniform or their cars," Mumper said. "People can feel that same pride in a clean base."

Marina personnel awarded for mission excellence



Lance Cpl. James A. Sauter
Hawaii Marine

Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Brian Huff, U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Walnut (WLB-205) commanding officer, presents Shayne Bimpliciano, Marina laborer, a letter of appreciation and command coin during an award ceremony at the Base Marina here, Jan. 19. "[The Coast Guard] wants to say thank you and [we] appreciate all your effort to help us get out [to the buoy]," said Huff to the award recipients. Laborers helped transport a dive team to a sunken buoy in the Sanpan channel. The laborers hoisted the buoy out of the water with a boat crane while the dive team installed a new buoy, Dec. 17.

Hawaii-Pacific Combined Federal Campaign New Record for Donations

Lt. Theresa Donnelly
Pacific Command Public Affairs

CAMP H.M. SMITH — The Hawaii-Pacific Combined Federal Campaign celebrated the end of a record campaign season with a recognition ceremony Jan. 13 at the Sunset Lanai located on Camp H.M. Smith.

"We accomplished this achievement through hard work by our key people and volunteers and were able to make face-to-face contact and achieve our goals," said Lt. Cmdr. David Koch, this year's CFC project officer. "Without those that went the extra yard and above and beyond their normal duties we would never have achieved so much for those that need our help," he added.

More than 120 people attended, honoring the people who raised $6.4 million dollars for 2,700 charities, beating the 2008 CFC donation record of $6.3 million. Despite low participation levels with troops deployed, the team's hard work ensured face-to-face contact with more than 34,000 donors.

During the campaign, teams assembled 18 kick-off events with 111 speaking opportunities for charities with 1370 attendees. The Pacific Command-led team conducted 27 training sessions with 110 speaking opportunities for charities with approximately 1,000 agency and unit individuals, who in turn were responsible for training others as well as accountability of pledge cards and donations.

Agency and project officers used multiple communication channels to promote the program, such as web announcements, emails, base newspaper articles, commander's messages and a Facebook page. Additionally, the team promoted a newly-established online pledging program, resulting in $660,000 for multiple charities.

Most notable were the efforts of United States Army Pacific. Their team nearly doubled their contributions from $543,000 to $993,473. Next year, USARPAC will lead the campaign, building on their already successful outreach efforts.

"This group did a magnificent job. It really takes all of you who stuck your head in people's offices and accounted for your people, ensuring everyone had the opportunity to help. Thank you so much for your wonderful efforts," said Gloria Uyehara, executive director, Federal Executive Board.

CFC is the world's largest and most successful workplace fundraising campaign, where with more than four million federal employees and military personnel participating.

President John Kennedy established CFC by Presidential Executive Order in 1961. This campaign ran Oct. 3 to Nov. 18.

AROUND THE CORPS

Hard-bitten battalion heads home after 3rd consecutive combat deployment

Cpl. James Clark
Regimental Combat Team 6



Cpl. James Clark | Regimental Combat Team 6

1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment was split across three distinctly different areas of operation. Charlie Company was in Marjah, reinforcing Marine and Afghan forces operating in the city's remaining troubled regions. Alpha Company was in Sangin District, where they supported the 3rd and later, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion. During Operation Eastern Storm, Headquarters, Bravo and Weapons companies secured route 611, which runs through Kajaki Sofla, an area that had long been a safe haven for insurgent sub-commanders and for arms and drug trafficking.

KAJAKI SOFLA, Afghanistan — With three deployments in three years, the men of 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment were called upon to serve as the tip of the spear for large scale offensive operations across Afghanistan's contentions Helmand province.

During months of heavy fighting in Garmsir, Afghanistan in 2008, the men of 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment put their moniker '1/6 HARD,' to the test and came through the other side battered, but unbroken.

In 2009, during the helicopter-borne insertion into the Taliban-held city of Marjah, the Marines of 1/6 disembarked tilt-rotor aircraft as vibrant-red tracer rounds zigzagged across the skyline.

For weeks they fought their way across muddy fields, amidst accurate small arms and indirect fire, and for several months, waged a deliberate counterinsurgency campaign in order to garner local support for Afghan National Security and Coalition forces.

On their current deployment, the battalion was split across three distinctly different areas of operation, explained Capt. Brandon Turner, operation's officer, 1/6. Charlie Company returned to Marjah, reinforcing Marine and Afghan forces operating in the city's remaining troubled regions. Alpha Company moved to the Sangin District, where they supported the 3rd and later 1st, Reconnaissance Battalion. During Operation Eastern Storm, Headquarters, Bravo and Weapons companies secured route 611, which runs through Kajaki Sofla, an area that had long been a safe haven for insurgent subcommanders and for arms and drug trafficking.

"Within this [area of operations] itself, just length-wise along route 611, we're spread out," Turner said. "Each platoon within a company has a large portion of the [area] and not a lot of interaction with the battalion, and even the company itself.

"The platoon commanders, platoon sergeant and squad leaders are left to carry out the battalion commander's intent, without ever hearing it from his mouth. We really have to trust what we're hearing over the radio and go back to the basics," said Turner, adding that each member of the unit from the top down has been required to follow through with their assigned task, with minimal direction.

Story continues at http://www.dvidshub.net

Blue Knights deploy to Afghanistan



Lance Cpl. John Suleski| Marine Corps Air Station New River

Lance Cpl. Christopher R. Furr, Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 365 crew chief, lifts his wife into the air before deploying, Jan. 6. Marines of VMM-365 said farewell to their friends and family aboard Marine Corps Air Station New River.

Lance Cpl. John Suleski
Marine Corps Air Station New River

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION NEW RIVER, N.C. — The parking lot in front of Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 365's hangar was full of families posing for one last photo, children reaching for their parents, and lovers embracing each other and not wanting to let go.

The Blue Knights left behind their loved ones to deploy to Afghanistan in an event outside their hangar, Jan. 6. Although some people gave in to tears, the Marines remained tough, knowing the separation is necessary to do their job.

Capt. Ryan E. Benes, VMM-365 MV-22B Osprey pilot, said their deployment is to support the Marines on the ground in Helmand province by transporting supplies and personnel wherever they need to go.

The pilots and crew chiefs have been training for this deployment ever since they knew they were going, said Benes. The training consisted of practicing flights the squadron anticipates performing in theatre, including confined area landings and supply missions.

Benes was better able to prepare himself and others for the deployment because he had deployed to Afghanistan once before, and said it has given him valuable experience.

The squadron has many Marines going on their first deployment, including Lance Cpl. Danny A. Schumacher, VMM-365 Osprey crew chief. He joined the squadron last year and has continuously learned more about his job in order to prepare for the deployment.

During the going-away event outside the hangar, Schumacher said goodbye to his father, Dennis, and his wife, Courtnie.

Dennis said seeing his son deploy makes him proud and sad at the same time.

"When he first told me he was joining the Marine Corps, I did whatever I could to try to talk him out of it," said Dennis. "Now, I'm proud of him."

Courtnie said the same is true for her. However, the pride doesn't come without concerns for his safety.

"My biggest fear is him coming home in a casket," she said.

To keep her mind off of it, Courtnie said she will keep busy finishing her associate's degree in applied science and starting a program in dental hygiene back home in Bentonville, Ark.

Hours before Schumacher left, he and his wife finished packing their belongings and putting them in storage. Later, the two spent their last moment hugging and holding back tears, said Courtnie.

The moment lasted until a little before 2 p.m., when a voice yelled, "1400! Get inside for lockdown!"

Then, the families and friends of VMM-365 watched as their loved ones disappeared into the hangar to await their departure.

Although they just left, Courtnie said she can't wait for her husband to return.

Singapore, US leap for joint readiness



Lance Cpl. Michael Granahan | III Marine Expeditionary Force

A rescue craft rushes toward members of its team as a CH-47 Chinook helicopter regains altitude and exits the area after members of Singapore Armed Forces Naval Diving Unit leapt out of the aircraft during helocast training off the coast of Singapore, Jan. 12.

Lance Cpl. Michael Granahan
III Marine Expeditionary Force

SINGAPORE — After a carefully planned leap, U.S. Marines and members of the Singapore Armed Forces Naval Diving Unit made a splash landing off the coast of Singapore Jan. 12.

The Marines, part of Company A, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, conducted the bilateral helocast training with their Singapore counterparts as part of Exercise Sandfisher.

Sandfisher is an annual training exercise in which the Singapore Armed Forces Naval Diving Unit conducts bilateral amphibious reconnaissance and combat diving training with 3rd Recon. Bn. to sustain tactical proficiency. The engagement also supports the U.S. Pacific Command's theater security cooperation program.

Helocasting is a form of tactical insertion where service members are flown by helicopter within one nautical mile of a shoreline. They then cast themselves out the back of the aircraft, which is still flying at about 10 knots, carrying all of their gear. From there, they make their way into enemy territory, preferably undetected.

"It is a specialized insertion method to get swimmers ashore when the landing area is not conducive of small craft," said Gunnery Sgt. Hunter B. Sorrells, a platoon sergeant with the company. "We are able to get the reconnaissance team in with very little to no signature."

The Marines of 3rd Recon. Bn. are well-versed in the art of helocasting, but this jump was prepared by the NDU and was carried out "flawlessly," said Sorrells.

The briefing held by the NDU the morning of the jump was extremely detailed, going over things including weather, the exact scheme of maneuver, and a recovery plan, said Sgt. Joshua Margolies, a team leader with 3rd Recon. Bn.

"Singapore provides a unique capability, in that they have a very robust training capacity," said Capt. Chris J. Kearney, a platoon commander with Company A. "We learn from them as much as we teach."

For most of the members of the NDU this was their first experience helocasting.

"I think everything went really well, they did everything exactly the way they planned it out," said Margolies. "It was probably one of the easiest helocasts I've ever done."

The Marines were thoroughly taught and tested throughout the course. The challenges they faced brought the Marines together and helped them embrace the fact that they are a band of brothers.

"Not everyone was excited to come to class everyday but I think it makes the guys think about reenlisting and it puts the Marines' priorities in order," Carpenter said. "It lifted morale and increased our motivation these two weeks we were together."

Although the wounded Marines signed up for the opportunity, many were admittedly apprehensive in the beginning but were appreciative of the experience by graduation day.

Story continues at http://www.dvidshub.net

Lucky Red Lions honor brethren killed in helicopter mishap

Cpl. Brian Adam Jones
2nd Marine Aricraft Wing

CAMP BASTION, Afghanistan — The Marines of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363 filled the pews of a small chapel at Camp Bastion, Afghanistan, to bid farewell to six fallen brothers, Jan. 24.

In a somber scene, coalition forces gathered to memorialize the six Marines with the squadron who died when their CH-53D Sea Stallion heavy-lift helicopter went down while supporting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan, Jan. 19.

During the ceremony's final roll call, Sgt. Maj. Mitchell Green, the squadron's sergeant major, called the names of the fallen – Capt. Daniel B. Bartle, a native of Ferndale, Wash.; Capt. Nathan R. McHone, from Crystal Lake, Ill.; Master Sgt. Travis Riddick, a native of Centerville, Iowa; Cpl. Joseph D. Logan, of Willis, Texas; Cpl. Kevin J. Reinhard, from Colonia, N.J.; and Cpl. Jesse W. Stites, who grew up in Roxana, Ill., and Interlachen, Fla.

"It is difficult to be here, easier to suppress our emotions and move on with our daily routine," said Lt. Col. Mark Revor, commanding officer of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363, in his remarks at the ceremony. "It is difficult because they were more than friends, more than family – they were our brothers and our comrades."

A few hundred yards from the chapel, outside the squadron's hangar, the American flag flew at half-staff beside the squadron's sign depicting their logo, "The Lucky Red Lions."

"It's hard to feel lucky today, but I know that I could not describe [it] better than to say I was lucky to serve with these men, lucky to have known them as well as I did," said Revor, "and I will be lucky indeed if I can brighten the days and nights of my friends the way that they brightened mine."

The squadron, deployed from Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, [Marine Corps Base Hawaii], utilizes CH-53D Sea Stallion helicopters to provide heavy-lift capability to 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward), enabling the squadron to move cargo and troops across the battlespace.

As the aviation combat element for the southwestern regional command of NATO's International Security Assistance Force, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward) offers air support for coalition forces operating in Helmand and Nimruz provinces.

While the Jan. 19 mishap is currently under investigation, NATO officials said there were no signs of enemy activity in the area at the time of the incident.

"Every Marine in this squadron understands the dangers of our job, but that doesn't make it any easier when something like this happens," Green said. "People are shocked, people are upset and people are hurt. We still have a mission to do, and it's not done until we're heading back home to Hawaii."



Courtesy Photo

Capt. Daniel B. Bartle, native of Ferndale, Wash.



Courtesy Photo

Capt. Nathan R. McHone, native of Crystal Lake, Ill.



Courtesy Photo

Master Sgt. Travis W. Riddick, native of Centerville, Iowa



Courtesy Photo

Cpl. Kevin J. Reinhard, native of Colonia, N.J.



Courtesy Photo

Cpl. Jesse W. Stites, from Roxana, Ill., and Interlachen, Fla.



Courtesy Photo

Cpl. Joseph D. Logan, native of Willis, Texas



Sgt. Maj. Mitchell Green holds the dog tags of a fallen Marine as he pays his respects to his comrades during a ceremony at Camp Bastion, Afghanistan, Jan. 24. Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363 held a ceremony to honor six Marines who were killed when their CH-53D Sea Stallion helicopter went down while conducting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan, Jan. 19.



Photos by Cpl. Brian Adam Jones | 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing

Marines stand at attention as taps is played at a memorial ceremony at Camp Bastion, Afghanistan, Jan. 24., led by Sgt. Maj. Mitchell Green, left, and Lt. Col. Mark Revor, center, the sergeant major and commanding officer for Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363. While the mishap is currently under investigation, NATO officials said there were no signs of enemy activity in the area at the time of the incident.



The American flag flies at half-staff outside the hangar of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363 at Camp Bastion, Afghanistan, Jan. 24.

> "It's hard to feel lucky today, but I know that I could not describe [it] better than to say I was lucky to serve with these men, lucky to have known them as well as I did. I will be lucky indeed if I can brighten the days and nights of my friends the way that they brightened mine."
>
> — Lt. Col. Mark Revor, commanding officer of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363

MCB Hawaii trains to aid survivors of sexual assault

Christine Cabalo
Photojournalist

More than 2,610 service members reported they were sexually assaulted in the last year, according to the March 2011 Department of Defense Annual Report on Sexual Assault.

With new training, Marine Corps Base Hawaii is working to increase awareness about reporting crimes as well as preventing sexual assault.

"Sexual assault is often a hidden secret, a topic that no one feels comfortable talking about," said Brenda Huntsinger, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program manager, Marine and Family Services. "Across civilian and military communities, sexual assault is a crime that is seriously under-reported."



Christine Cabalo | Hawaii Marine

First Lt. Victoria Crowder, Headquarters and Service Company executive officer, 3rd Radio Battalion, discusses how to support survivors of sexual assault with others also training as Uniform Victim Advocates, Monday.

To help prevent and report assaults, Huntsinger is training service members as Uniform Victim Advocates. These volunteering active duty service members can help survivors find medical and legal aid. At least two UVAs are available per unit.

In addition to learning general information about assisting survivors, the volunteers were also certified to teach the "Take A Stand" course for their units. The new three-hour course is now required for all enlisted non-commissioned officers to take by October.

"This training includes video clips featuring Marine Corps leadership, noncommissioned officers and Marines sharing their stories and experiences regarding sexual assault," Huntsinger said. "'Take A Stand' encourages noncommissioned officers to set the tone in preventing sexual assault by identifying at-risk situations and types of intervention."

During the first day of UVA training, Marines and sailors discussed obstacles for survivors or bystanders who want to report a crime. Many of the volunteers did not realize how prevalent unreported assaults were in the past, including 1st Lt. Victoria Crowder, Headquarters and Service Company executive officer, 3rd Radio Battalion.

Crowder said the training has shown her how one poor decision in garrison or on deployment could result in serious consequences.

"Incidents aren't isolated," she said. "[Sexual assault] affects more than the victim — [it affects] their families and even entire countries."

Crowder said she'll work to ensure others know UVA volunteers are supporters of survivors who need help. She said her first step after training will be making others aware they can still report crimes confidentially if they aren't ready to inform their chain of command.

Many said they were ready to help survivors or those reporting it, especially if anyone felt they were singled out for coming forward.

"Some I think are afraid to say they've been assaulted because there's a feeling of helplessness, especially those who may be junior Marines," said Staff Sgt. Marquis Bean, Echo Battery operations chief, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment. "It's our job to be unbiased and remind them through the process, rank has nothing to do with it."

Bean, who had previous training regarding sexual assault prevention, has met with family members of the survivors. He said he's glad to participate in a program where Marines can ask other impartial Marines for help.

The UVA training is one of several programs conducted at MCB Hawaii to prevent and report sexual assault. Huntsinger and others from the prevention and response program coordinate "Sex Signals," an annual training session to promote bystander intervention of assault. She said the UVAs provide her office with needed support to ensure active duty assault survivors know their rights and their options to report crimes.

"Regardless of choosing restricted or unrestricted reporting, survivors are offered the option to receive a general medical exam, STD testing and an optional forensic exam," Huntsinger said. "The forensic exam can either be done at Kapiolani's Sex Abuse Treatment Center or Tripler Army Medical Center. Counseling is offered, survivors can receive counseling from MCCS Counseling Services, Sex Abuse Treatment Center, or receive a referral for an outside provider."

For anyone interested in becoming a Uniform Victim Advocate for their unit, call 257-7777 or see http://www.mccshawaii.com/sexualassault.shtml. The next quarterly session of UVA training occurs in May.

MCB Hawaii police refresh on emergency response

Lance Cpl. James A. Sauter
Combat Correspondent

Civilian and military police underwent annual alarm response training at the military police department here, Tuesday.

The training refreshed police officers on procedures in response to Marine Corps electronic security system alarms to keep Marine Corps Base Hawaii and Camp Smith's sensitive compartmented information facilities safe in support of the units stationed at both bases.

"The mission is to provide more economical and efficient use of security personnel through the employment of mobile security forces," said Brian Catron, a police officer stationed here, to the classroom audience. "[The purpose] is to enhance the security force's capability to [respond to emergencies]."

Several different types of security alarms exist on the base, such as at the Marine Corps Exchange, commissary and SCIF facilities.

These facilities, which contain classified national security information, exist on the majority of federal government installations.

"The different alarms we respond to are duress alarms, intrusion alarms, all communication lost alarms and low battery alarms," Catron said. "Sometimes we get false alarms, but we react to them like there is [an emergency]. It's important we don't lose our focus."



Lance Cpl. James A. Sauter | Hawaii Marine

Staff Sgt. Chad Townsend, military police platoon sergeant stationed at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, talks to his classmates about alarm response procedures during a training class at the military police department, Tuesday.

When responding to an alarm, the police officers assesses the cause of the alarm, talk with the person who made the emergency contact to police and keep the area safe.

These basic procedures are used when responding to an alarm in a public place or at a confidential location.

"When responding to an alarm [at a SCIF location], we still have procedures to follow," said Cpl. Phillip Maheux, military police. "Deadly force is authorized in cases when national security is at risk."

Other mission essential areas, in addition to SCIF, include the various weapons armories and magazines on base and at Camp H.M. Smith. The police officers continued the training with a practical application scenario for an alarm response as part of their training to keep MCB Hawaii and Camp Smith safe for the tenant commands.

Advance to the next L.I.N.K.S.

Kristen Wong
Photojournalist



Kristen Wong | Hawaii Marine

Students of the Advanced Lifestyles, Insights, Networking, Knowledge and Skills for Spouses class speak with various representatives at a mini-resource fair on Tuesday in front of Bldg. 244.

Excitement buzzed in the Marine Corps Family Team Building conference room as students tested their military knowledge during games during the Advanced Lifestyles, Insights, Networking, Knowledge and Skills for Spouses class, Tuesday.

This is the first Advanced LINKS class of the year, and the second overall aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii. The class, coordinated by MCFTB, is open to Marines, sailors, and their families.

Unlike the regular LINKS class, which helps new spouses adjust to military life, Advanced LINKS for spouses is tailored toward the seasoned spouse, or the service member and spouse who are separating or retiring from the military.

"This is not the basic [LINKS] 101," said Amanda Taylor, LINKS trainer. "This is taking it a step further."

Advanced LINKS for Spouses is offered on a quarterly basis throughout the year. In addition to using lecture, hands-on activities, games, and guest speakers, MCFTB provides a mini resource fair for LINKS participants.

Representatives from various organizations including TriCare West and the New Parent Support Program hand out informational brochures and flyers while chatting with participants.

"We've had a great response," Taylor said. "The [students] liked the fact that they got more in-depth information from the resources themselves."

Jeff Esposito, the Transition Assistance Program manager, is just one of many guest speakers featured at Advanced LINKS for Spouses to give an overview of requirements for separation or retirement. One of his key topics include taking a Transition Assistance Program seminar.

This seminar guides outgoing service members through the process of leaving the military, including "starting a new career and successfully relocating." Esposito said service members can take a TAP seminar as early as two years ahead of retirement or one ahead of separation.

"Networking, research and being proactive are key ingredients to a successful transition out of the service," Esposito said. "It cannot be overstated how crucial it is to get into a TAP seminar as soon as possible."

Base resident Sandra Sharpless attended LINKS twice, and took Advanced LINKS for Spouses on Tuesday. Sharpless, has been married to her husband, a Marine, for 11 and a half years. She came to the class to find out information to help her when her husband retires.

"I want to know how to make a smoother transition out of the Corps," Sharpless said. "There's a lot of information that I didn't know."

For instance, while attending LINKS, Sharpless said she learned how to use her GI Bill, and what she needs to do if she chooses to return home while her spouse is deployed.

After attending Advanced LINKS for Spouses, Sharpless said she would save for retirement and make use of resources available to her, such as Marine One Source.

Like Sharpless, Ann Davis is also a seasoned spouse, having been married to her service member for eight years. Davis, a base resident, is a family readiness assistant for her husband's unit, and wants to be able to offer her fellow spouses more information.

She described Advanced LINKS for Spouses as "refreshing, very educational" and "empowering." Davis said the class is empowering because she now has more information to share with the spouses within the unit.

Through Advanced LINKS for Spouses, Davis said she was able to learn about grants for spouses.

"It's a must-do," Davis said. "[LINKS is] very worthwhile regardless of upcoming retirement."

Taylor who also teaches LINKS for Spouses monthly, alternates between LINKS for Kids and LINKS for Teens each quarter, and LINKS for Marines as needed.

The next LINKS for Spouses will be on Feb. 14 and 15, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Waikulu Community Center.

The next Advanced LINKS for Spouses is scheduled for March 27, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Waikulu Community Center.

For details, call 257-2657.

BOOM, from A-1

A corner filled with old machine guns, rocket launchers, rifles and pistols is prominent upon entering. The walls of the museum not only display information about the EOD military occupational specialty and mission, but there is a memorial dedicated to EOD Marines who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Whether to train, observe or study, the museum is significant according to Walker. Years of EOD history hang on the walls and sit on the shelves of this museum, however, there is much more room left to fill and a lot more to learn about the explosives our Marines and sailors encounter.

There are not many people willing to work with explosives for a living. To help prepare these Marines for any situation they might encounter, training must be consistent and materials must be life-like. EOD Marines don't use manufactured mock explosives, they train with real bombs, grenades, mines and rockets collected over time, ensuring all EOD Marines know each explosive inside and out.

SPOUSE, from A-1

Ellington's husband said he was overjoyed when he found out she was a finalist. He describes her as the "rock of the family" and "simply amazing" because she is able to keep their house in order, care for their children while he is deployed, and support the unit.

"I don't know how she does it but I'm glad she does," her husband said. "[As the MSOY] she can reach out more to the military spouses across our services."

Ellington looks to TV personality Oprah Winfrey and Christian author and pastor Joyce Meyer for inspiration. She describes them both as "powerhouses" and appreciates their straightforward personality.

"These two women will definitely leave a positive imprint on the world," Ellington said. "If they can do it going through what they went through in their life, I'm sure I can do something, even if it's just a little bit."

Ellington said being a military spouse has allowed her to experience new cultures and meet her closest friends, who are also military spouses.

Sgt. Maj. Ansil Lewis, sergeant major of 1/12, described Ellington as "devoted" and "loyal to her family and to the Marine Corps."

"The day [I met Ellington] she was onboard talking to the [family readiness officer]," Lewis said. "[She] represents not only the battalion but the Marine Corps as a whole … we here at the battalion are extremely proud of her and we're behind her 100 percent."

Voting for Military Spouse of the Year started Jan. 16 and will end Feb. 3. For more information about the Military Spouse of the Year award, visit http://www.milspouse.com.

Hawaii Marine

Sports & Health

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Lance Cpl. Jacob D. Barber | Hawaii Marine

Participants in the 5th Annual King of the Hill 5K run make their way to the finish line at Dewey Square, Jan. 21. More than thirty people showed to compete in the race, which consisted on running up Kansas Tower Hill and down the other side near The Officers' Club. Participants included people of all ages and though many contestants came out for a good time, it was also a means of training for others.

'King of the Hill'

Servicemembers, families and friends participate in 5th Annual King of the Hill 5K Run

Lance Cpl. Jacob D. Barber
Combat Correspondent

It was a chill morning when service members, families and friends met at Dewey Square to compete in the 5th Annual King of the Hill 5K run Jan. 21. The competition, coordinated by Semper Fit Center and Patrol Squadron 9, is the first race of the Commanding Officer's Fitness Series Races for 2012.

More than thirty people competed in the race, which consisted of running up Kansas Tower Hill and down the other side near The Officers' Club. Racers started and finished the race at Dewey Square.

Participants included people of all ages and though many contestants came out for a good time, it was also a means of training for others.

"I've been running since I was in seventh grade and have been in more than 250 Marine Corps Triathlons" said 1st Lt. Sean Sullivan, assistant intel officer, 3rd Marine Regiment. "I noticed on this one [race] it was important to pace your miles. The hill was difficult going up and I thought it was even harder going down. This race was a great run for experienced runners and beginners."

Sullivan, who is competing in the All-Marine

See KING OF THE HILL, B-4

It's 'Shady' Time at the Pro Bowl



Jay Parco | Hawaii Marine

Quarterback for the New Orleans Saints Drew Brees hands the football off to LeSean "Shady" McCoy of the Philadelphia Eagles in the first NFC practice Wednesday morning at Kapolei High School. The NFL players will be practicing until "Ohana Day," Saturday, where fans and families can come and watch the players practice for free and enjoy the stadium's festivities. The 2012 Probowl game will be held at the Aloha Stadium, Jan. 29. For more information on all this week's Pro bowl events go to http://www.alohastadium.hawaii.gov.



Lance Cpl. James A. Sauter | Hawaii Marine

Sport Fushee, age 5, Mini Mite Cavaliers, looks for an open teammate to pass the basketball to during a youth basketball league game against the Mini Mite Heats at the youth activity center here, Jan. 21. The game started with the Heats moving the ball down the court but was fouled. The Heats took the lead with a single foul shot, putting them in the lead with a quick 1-0. "Good job, good job," said Marques Farmer, Heats head coach, to his players as they transitioned to defense.

Cavaliers defeated rival Heats in mini matchup

Lance Cpl. James A. Sauter
Combat Correspondent

The youth basketball Mini-Mite division, ages 5-6, Cavaliers and Heats faced off on the court during a game at the Youth Activity Center here, Jan 21.

At the youngest age to play in the youth basketball

See MINI-MITE, B-4

MMA will reign in the Olympic games

Lance Cpl. James A. Sauter
Combat Correspondent

Since the dawn of western civilization, the sound of cheering fans seeking bloody entertainment has echoed through ancient arenas and began in the corridors of the Roman coliseum and circus maximus. Gladiators were pitted against each other, clashing hard-forged, steel on steel, all for the glory of the empire and its emperor.

While Roman entertainment was far from the grace of the Olympic games, fans of violent entertainment never died away. Gladiatorial games have only been replaced by modern pastimes. Such as ice hockey players slamming into one another and breaking teeth and bones. Now, a new sport is rising up like the phoenix to take center stage, and should be herald in the Olympic arena as it once was in ancient times.

Mixed Martial Arts, or MMA, is the world's fastest growing sport. In just a very short time span, it has spread over international borders, dominated ESPN, conquered clothing brands, merchandise and more. Fights are advertised on a scale that rivals old-school boxing during the beginning of the 20th century, or even a "Rocky" movie. Besides the violent content and recent appearances on the silver screen, the sport is more challenging than what may be portrayed in popular media. MMA is a combination of several martial arts disiplines, such as karate, Brazilian jiu-jitsu and boxing. This mixed martial art style gives audiences fresh adrenaline as they observe fighters performing their own styles of fighting. Just the sheer level of difficulty to master the art of fighting and the training that goes into it alone should make MMA worthy of being in the Olympics.

> "MMA may not be in the Olympics right now, but it's certainly encompassing multiple nations as if it were."

MMA may not be in the Olympics right now, but it's certainly gaining fans in multiple nations as if it were. It's not just popular in the U.S., but also in Brazil, Europe and Japan as well. Foreign fighters are loved here, in the U.S. as much their American counterparts.

For all the haters of the sport who see MMA as just a caged cockfight and not a sport, they are very far from the truth. MMA is a very arduous style of fighting, because it combines multiple fighting styles. To perfect oneself in a single art requires the practitioner to be disciplined and focused.

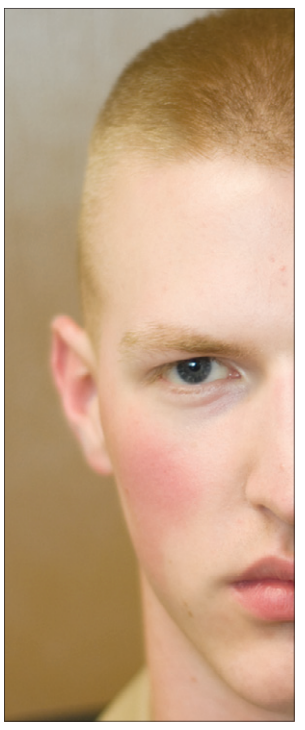
Now take that and combine it with several forms of fighting. The legendary Bruce Lee said that the best fighter is someone who can adapt to any style, and the perfect style, is no style.

Last, just imagine the possibilities if MMA actually did become an Olympic event? The world's fastest growing sport would become even bigger and set the Olympic bar even higher.

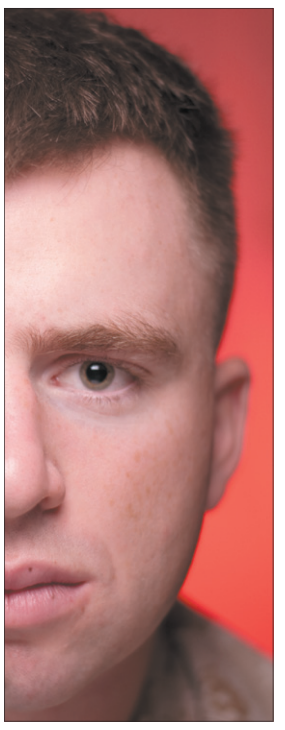
What fighters do to train and compete to win a MMA belt would only multiply to win an Olympic gold medal.

Should MMA be an Olympic Sport?

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



SAUTER



BROWN

Mixed Martial Mediocre Arts

Cpl. Colby Brown
Combat Correspondent

Mixed martial arts has rocketed into the spotlight of mainstream entertainment in the past ten years. Shows like 'The Ultimate Fighter' have only aided in highlighting this sport as our generation's 'American Gladiators.' Some have even gone to the length to say it deserves to be in the Olympics. Well … it shouldn't. Before your ego and need to see two men batter each other makes any argument irrelevant, hear me out.

Mixed martial arts is just that, mixed. It doesn't focus on one style allowing fighters to be mediocre in few martial arts and still have the ability to be successful in fights. Essentially, MMA is a group of fighters who never made the cut in their original sport. So instead of dealing with life like a normal person and moving on, they decided to make their home an arena where anything goes. Now you have wrestlers trying to box and boxers trying to do taekwondo, which is an embarrassment to the individual sport. These fighters should have picked up a job at the local mill instead of going on a conquest for glory that will never happen.

> "Mixed martial arts isn't an Olympic quality sport. You can't effectively grade a fighter on his skill level because no single skill is ever used. The sport is pretty much a bar room brawl minus weapons of opportunity and alcohol."

The amount of success MMA has derived from the fact that blood on the mat masks low skill level in any sport. I wrestled in high school, and honestly I wasn't very good, but I can still correctly critique any wrestling move any fighter shoots because they are mediocre as well. And I'm sure the same goes for boxers or taekwondo martial artists who watch MMA. This sport is a horse and pony sport, no one fighter is amazing, it's about who can make the other person bleed first.

Match the number one boxer in the world up with the equivalent MMA fighter and have them abide by regulation boxing rules. The MMA fighter would get decimated. In any regulation martial arts match, a MMA fighter will loose if they actually abide by said named martial art's regulations. It's that simple.

If my points thus far seem incorrect then my following comments will nail the coffin shut. The Olympics currently include judo, taekwondo, wrestling, weightlifting and boxing; essentially everything that makes up MMA excluding a number of martial arts you never see in MMA anyway. To include MMA in the Olympics would be the equivalent of inventing a sport that combined golf, football, rowing, tennis and hockey, and then calling is Mixed Organized Sports. Martial arts are already in the Olympics because each sport can stand on its own just as each fighter can stand on their own in each sport. Adding MMA to the Olympics would allow fighters who would have never been Olympic athletes in their original sport the opportunity to get a gold medal for being mediocre at a couple martial arts.

Mixed martial arts isn't an Olympic-quality sport. You can't effectively grade a fighter on his skill level because no single skill is ever used. The sport is pretty much a bar room brawl minus weapons of opportunity and alcohol.

SPOTLIGHT ON SPORTS

Sports and Health

Spring Board Diving Class

Diving classes are available for children as old as 13. Sessions are held Wednesdays and Fridays in the afternoon. Learn how to dive off of the 1-meter and 3-meter spring boards at Marine Corps Base Hawaii's main pool.

Class fees include four sessions. For more information about the class, call 754-4602 or see http://www.mccshawaii.com/aquatics.shtml.

Semper Fit Juniors Program

The Semper Fit Juniors Program will be held every second Thursday of each month. The program is open to 14 and 15-year-olds who, upon the completion of a Fitness Basics class, will be issued an individualized pass to use the center without an adult present. There is a registration fee to cover materials and a replacement fee for lost badges.

The Fitness Basics class covers several topics including a review of facility policies, fitness center etiquette and attire, and cardiovascular and strength training equipment instruction. Upon completion of the class the participants will receive a badge and will be granted independent access to the Fitness Center from 2 to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and during regular operational hours on the weekends and holidays.

Pro Bowl Ohana Day

Once again the NFL Pro Bowl is hosting a free Ohana Day at Aloha Stadium on Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon (one day before the Pro Bowl).

A special package is available to military families which includes bus service to and from Aloha Stadium. For pick up from the Youth Activities Center, Bldg 6753 call 257-2030, and for pick up from Manana Housing call 456-1662.

This event is for military youth and parent chaperones (for youth 15 years and under). Kids will have a chance to participate in drawings throughout the day, get on the field for contests, challenges and games and a sneak peek at the pre-game and halftime shows.

Transportation is also available for DoD ID cardholders with children in attendance.

High Intensity Tactical Training Center Hours

Work out with TRX trainers, kettle bell weights, tethered medicine balls and more at the High Intensity Tactical Training Center at Building 1034. Marine units or groups may use the center on weekdays from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Personnel who wish to use the facility must request the key from the Satellite Fitness Center at Bldg. 1033 next door. A noncomissioned officer must be responsible for returning the key and cleanup of the center after use. For more information, call 254-7594.

Fundraising tennis tournament

The Kaneohe Officers' Spouses' Club is hosting a fundraising tennis tournament Feb. 3 from 8:30 a.m. to noon, at the MCB Hawaii tennis courts.

The tournament is open to the public with a limit of 28 players. Please visit http://www.KOSCHawaii.com to register and learn more about where all of the proceeds will go.

Swamp Romp

The 5th Annual Combat Logistics Battalion 3 Swamp Romp is on Feb. 25 at 7 a.m. starting from the Boondocker Field. This 5K mud run obstacle course is infamous for a dirty good time. Get your six-person team together and register today.

Stop by the Semper Fit Health and Fitness Expo and pick up a Swamp Romp packet on Feb. 24 at the Kahuna Community Ballroom from 3 to 8 p.m. Register for all races online at http://www.mccshawaii.com/cgfit.shtml or in person at the Semper Fit Center. Online registration ends Feb. 17, but people may still sign up by Feb. 22.

2012 INTRAMURAL SPORTS CALENDAR

Feb. 10 Co-ed softball starts at Annex field
Feb. 22 Bowling Tournament
April 20 Men's softball starts at Annex field
May 21 Soccer league starts at Pop Warner field
May 19 Men's/Women's volleyball starts at SFC
June 11 Men's/Women's 2nd bowling session starts
July 18 Men's basketball starts at SFC 2nd session
Aug. 1 Tackle football practice starts
Sept. 4 Tackle football season starts (Pop Warner Field)
Sept. 17 Intramural softball tournament (Annex Field)
Oct. 22 Intramural softball tournament (Annex Field)
Nov. 19 Intramural softball tournament (Annex Field)

New child care center construction completed

Press Release
NAVFAC Hawaii Public Affairs

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM — Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawaii turned over the newest military Child Development Center in the state to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Morale, Welfare and Recreation, Jan. 17.

"This project brought Navy and contractor personnel into a very close working relationship that enabled us to not only build one of the largest Child Development Centers in the nation, but also include a multitude of sustainability innovations, potentially achieving the first Leadership in Environmental and Energy Design Platinum facility on a military base in Hawaii," said Lt. j.g. Christopher Hoggan, project manager NAVFAC Hawaii.

LEED is an internationally-recognized "green" building certification system, developed by the U.S. Green Building Council. It has a point-based rating system which offers four certification levels for new construction, certified, Silver, Gold and Platinum. Each level corresponds to the number of credits accrued in five "green" design categories: Sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources and indoor environmental quality.

"Initially, our goal for this facility was LEED Silver," Hoggan said. "With additional sustainability and energy efficient design elements, material reuse, and other innovations identified after award, the project began moving towards LEED Gold."

The Pearl Harbor CDC has 24 classrooms for infants, pre-toddlers, toddlers, and preschoolers which enclose a large grass courtyard area with multiple age-appropriate play areas. In addition, the facility includes a full kitchen, laundry room, toilet facilities, storage and administrative spaces.

"Construction of this large CDC progressed well from start to finish and was ahead of schedule during much of the project," Hoggan said. "NAVFAC Hawaii and contractor personnel set up a great working relationship that resulted in a wonderful addition to Navy and Air Force child care facilities in Hawaii."

According to JBPHH's MWR Director, the facility is expected to be open for business in late March.

"Currently there are seven CDCs and 37 Child Development Homes that accommodate 586 children, said Frank Faria, MWR director, JBPHH. "With the opening of the new one on Center Drive in March 2012, Wahiawa in March 2012, and Ford Island in May 2012, an additional 680 quality child care spaces will become available for Navy and Air Force families."

BASE AND COMMUNITY EVENTS, VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer with Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society

Help the society that helps Marines and sailors. Workers needed to be:

Publicity Coordinator — Use your journalism skills to help Marines and sailors discover unknown resources. Editing a newsletter, conducting a publicity campaign and designing other public affairs materials are just a few of the accomplishments we can add to your resume if you're the right person.

Layette workers — Do you love knitting and crocheting? Use your skills to make baby blankets for our Budget for Baby program. These blankets are added to the Gerber gift set given to newborn babies.

Caseworkers — Are you good with finances and want to help Marines and sailors with financial education and assistance? A position is open and we provide training and reimbursement for childcare and mileage.

If you're interested please contact the local office at 257-1972/1973 or email kaneohenmcrs@gmail.com.

RAMSAR World Wetlands Day

Hoolaulima is Kawainui, a consortium of NGOs, federal/state/county agencies, businesses, and faith & cultural organizations will be celebrating the designation of the Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh Complex in Kailua as a RAMSAR Wetland of International Importance. The event will be held Feb. 4, from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Kailua United Methodist Church, in Kailua.

Another draft master plan dealing with cultural and educational resources will also be available that day for public comment and discussion.

All activities, live entertainment, educational and cultural exhibits and Marsh tours are free.

Tour pre-registration will start Jan. 23. Call Kaimi Scudder at 262-8008 or send him an email at email@ahahui.net. NOTE: There is a maximum of six people per reservation.

Hoolaulima is also looking for volunteers ages 15 on up to help out with event set-up, working with exhibitors and vendors, helping with the parking and post-event clean-up.

For details, call Shannon Wood at 247-6366 or 224-4496 or email info@waa-hawaii.org.

Free concert

Gary Sinise and the Lieutenant Dan Band will be performing a free concert at Dewey Square, Feb. 11. The show is open to all military members and their families. No reservation is required. For details, call Marine Corps Community Services Marketing at 808-628-1681.

Celebrate Koolaupoko

Join a community-wide celebration of the history, heritage and people of Koolaupoko during the Koolaupoko 2012 Launch at the Windward Mall in Kaneohe, Sunday.

Hawaiian entertainment, business displays and information tables from surrounding community organizations will be offered.

For more information go online at http://www.koolaupokohcc.org.

4th Annual Cool Kailua Nights

Oct. 13

The 4th annual Cool Kailua Nights, a free block party and health-awareness fair benefiting the Boys and Girls Club and Castle Medical Center is scheduled for Oct. 13, from 4 to 9:30 p.m. at the Whole Foods Market parking lot in Kailua Town Center. Whole Foods will open this spring.

Other festivities include healthy cooking demonstrations, a wellness center, eco-products, live entertainment, carnival rides and giveaways.

Interested vendors or sponsors can connect with Scherman at http://www.coolkailuanights.com for more information, or email danielle@coolkailuanights.com.

MARINE MAKEPONO

Kailua apartment for rent. One bedroom apartment with one bath including air-conditioning and parking.

Walk easily to Safeway and all Kailua restaurants, shops and beaches.

Apartment features nice large picture windows in bedroom and living room. $1,700. For more information, call 239-5459.

Yard Sale. One-day sale starts Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon. Selling women's clothing, sizes 18-24 in various styles.

Also selling several women's shoes size 10. Sale held at Aliamanu Military Reservation on 4702 Naio Lane. For more information, contact 334-603-3365.

If you would like to sell, buy or trade something in the Marine Makepono section of the Hawaii Marine, please stop by the Marine Corps Base Hawaii Public Affairs Office in Building 216. Please have with you your DoD ID and a short write-up of what you'd like to run. You can fill out the form on the spot or return it later. Emails, faxes and telephone calls are not accepted for Makepono ads. Marine Makepono may only be used by active duty, reserve, retirees or their immediate families.

ENVIRONMENTAL CORNER

THAR SHE BLOWS!

It has begun … whales have been spotted off the shoreline at MCB Hawaii Kaneohe Bay!

Until May, humpback whales will come to the warm Hawaiian waters to breed and give birth to new calves. Whale watching vessels are prohibited within 500 yards, a marine wild life buffer zone, so take a pair of binoculars to one the beaches on base and catch a glimpse.

Good view points are North Beach and Pyramid Rock Beach. Though we don't know exactly when they'll surface, be patient and you might see one breaching or a burst of mist as the whale breaks the surface to breathe.

When breaching, these giants generate enough upward force with their powerful flukes to lift approximately two-thirds of their body out of the water. Researchers believe breaching is part of the whale's courtship or play activity. Whales also do fluke slaps, flipper slaps, and headslaps in the water.

Adult whales range from 40-50 feet long and weigh about 25-40 tons with flippers as long as 1/3 of their body length. Every year they travel 6,000 miles round-trip from Alaska to Hawaii and back. It's one of the longest migration distances of any animal species. Listed as an endangered species, we're fortunate that a few of them have come to play in Hawaiian waters this year.



Courtesy photo

For more information go to http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov/.

MPD

Crime Prevention Tip of the Month:

Make sure to secure your windows, doors, and garage before leaving your residence or vehicle unattended. Do this before going on leave, deployment, or for a short trip

MPD Contact Numbers & Locations

- To report suspicious activity/behavior or for non-emergency calls contact the Desk Sergeant:
  (808) 257-1018/2123; Bldg. 1096
- For information regarding check in/out, fingerprinting, or weapon registration contact:
  (808) 257-6994; Bldg. 1095
- For information regarding pet registration, fishing regulations, or lost/found animals contact the MPD Game Warden:
  (808) 257-1821; Bldg. 1821
- For information regarding vehicle decals, base passes, and vehicle registration contact:
  (808) 257-2047/0183; Bldg. 1637/1095 for MCBH & (808) 477-8734/8735; Bldg. 601 for Camp Smith
- For information regarding traffic regulations, citations, or traffic court contact the Traffic Court Bailiff:
  - **(808) 257-6991/6992; Bldg. 1095**
- For all other numbers not listed contact Base Information:
  (808) 449-7110

For more information visit the MPD website:
http://www.mcbh.usmc.mil/mp/default.htm

Topic of the Month

The topic for this month is firearms registration. In compliance with Hawaii State Law, all firearms must be registered in person, within 72 hours of their arrival on island, at the Honolulu Police Department , 801 South Beretania street Honolulu. Ensure you bring the signed bill of lading ,listing each firearm and serial number , as well as each firearm, unloaded, safe, and locked, preferably in a hard case. If you reside on base you must **ALSO** register firearms with MPD, building 1095 lower deck check in/out office. BEQ residents must store weapons in their unit armory. Other weapons requiring registration: Underwater spear guns ,Air pistols and rifles ,Air compressed gas pistols and rifles that fire a pellet, BB, or dart and Crossbows and bolts. For further information contact MPD at 808-257-2123.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY DIAL 9-1-1

MINI-MITE, from B-1

league, the players finished the third game of this season with a fun competitive attitude.

The game started with the Heat moving the ball down the court but were fouled. The Heats took the lead with a single foul shot.

"Good job, good job," said Marques Farmer, Heat head coach, to his players as they transitioned to defense.

Even though the Heat took a quick lead, the Cavaliers offense slipped by the defense and scored two baskets, taking the lead 4-1 by the end of the first quarter.

"We have to get back on defense," Farmer said to his team. "Keep your hands up and spread out."

Farmer made substitutions to keep fresh feet on the court. Dawud Hakim, the Cavaliers' head coach, did the same with his team to even out the playing field.

The Cavaliers' offense kept the momentum and started by scoring a quick basket, bringing their lead 6-1.

"That's what I'm talking about!" Hakim cheered.

With 1:37 left on the clock, the Heat called a timeout and Farmer reiterated to his players that they need to stay on defense and keep their hands up. The clock kept counting down as the Cavaliers' offense pounded the Heat defense, placing them 13-5 at halftime.

"See that score board," Hakim said to his team as he pointed to the digital numbers. "Again that's what I'm talking about."

The Cavaliers offense never waned from the halftime hiatus as they started the 3rd quarter with another basket. The Cavaliers stole possession and drove in for easier shots. A tired Heats defense was struggling to bridge the gap in the score, entering the final quarter 15-7.

"Timeout, bring it in Heat," Farmer said. "Grab the ball and hustle on the defense."

Both teams brought more intensity as they switched out their players for the final quarter. One team would attempt to score but the other would make a rebound and race back to the other end of the court. The Cavaliers scored and then the Heat scored. The buzzer sounded and the Cavaliers cooled the Heat, 18-11.

"Alright team," Farmer said to players for the end game pep talk and cheer. "We played a good game and remember, 'what wins games — defense. Who are we — Heats!"

The next set of games for the youth basketball league will be this Saturday.



Lance Cpl. James A. Sauter | Hawaii Marine

The youth basketball league Mini-Mite Cavaliers and Heats face off on the court during a game at the youth activity center here, Jan. 21. The game started with the Heats moving the ball down the court but was fouled.



Keller Schutt, 5, a Mini Mite Cavalier, passes the ball during a youth basketball league game against the Heat at the youth activity center here, Sat. The game started with the Heats moving the ball down the court but was fouled. Both teams brought more intensity as they switched out their players for the final quarter.

Lance Cpl. James A. Sauter | Hawaii Marine



Lance Cpl. Jacob D. Barber | Hawaii Marine

Participants in the 5th Annual King of the Hill 5K run take a look at their times at Dewey Square, Sat. More than 30 people competed in the race, which consisted of running up Kansas Tower Hill and down the other side near "The Officers' Club". Racers started and finished the race at Dewey Square.

KING, from B-1

Triathlon in June, placed second overall in this 5K and said he looks forward to competing in the next one.

Staff Sgt. Tyler K. Hubbard, staff noncommissioned officer in charge of fuels, Marine Aviation Group-24, said the race was fun and a great challenge.

"I haven't had a chance to do this race before but the big hill was a little different than what I was used to," said Hubbard after finishing first overall in the race. "It's a good challenge if you want to get a little more distance under your belt before the [PFT]."

Hubbard, who is no stranger to winning marathon competitions, finished first overall; adding another notch to his belt. When asked what his secret was to tackling KT hill, Hubbard smirked and said being conservative is key.

"I wanted to save all of my energy for the hill," Hubbard said. "I went out conservative, which happens on some of these races, especially with hills like this."

Though the first race of the 2012 Commanding Officer's Fitness Series is over, the 18th Annual Swamp Romp is scheduled for Feb. 25. Participants are promised a little fun in the mud during this race which is coordinated by Semper Fit and Combat Logistics Battalion 3.

For more information on upcoming races go to www.mccshawaii.com/cgfit.shtml or stop by the Semper Fit help desk located at the Semper Fit Center.

Hawaii Marine
Lifestyles

January 27, 2012
Volume 43, Number 4
www.mcbh.usmc.mil



John Pang, Jetlev jet pack instructor, demonstrates a few of the capabilities of the futuristic flying device. With only ten of these water-propelled jet packs made in the world, SeaBreeze is the only location in Hawaii that offers the activity.

Lance Cpl. Jacob D. Barber | Hawaii Marine

Courtesy photo

A WATER SPORTS WONDERLAND

Lance Cpl. Jacob D. Barber
Combat Correspondent

Living in Hawaii offers many options for those who wish to find hobbies. From hiking trails at Koko Head to surfing waves at North Shore, there are many places on island that welcome service members and their families for a visit.

Sea Breeze Watersports offers many activities including parasailing, jet skiing, banana boat rides, bumper tubes, scuba diving and snorkeling. These activities are available to all who wish to try, and a military discount is offered on every activity.

Courtney Krantz, co-owner and vice president, has been working at SeaBreeze Watersports for nearly 20 years. Founded in 1986 by her husband, Jeff Krantz, the couple continues to strive and make their business not only successful, but an unforgettable experience.

"I think we're very unique," Krantz said. "There aren't too many companies like us around here. We have the best location, in my opinion, because we are sitting right between Diamond Head and Koko Head craters. It's a beautiful area to be in and we are also open year round, which a lot of other companies around here are not."

Though it's good to have a shop always open, the hours and location are just small details when looking for an unforgettable experience.

The Jetlev is an answer to all questions pertaining to a good time. With only ten of these water-propelled jet packs made in the world, SeaBreeze is the only location in Hawaii that offers a chance to be strapped into this futuristic flying device.

"It looks crazy," Chan Yian, Oahu native, said. "I've never seen something like it before and what surprised me was how high they go. I thought it was something fun for kids, but if you put any grown man or woman on that jetpack I guarantee they won't want to come down. Who said humans couldn't fly?"

Another service SeaBreeze offers is the free transportation from Waikiki. Four shuttles work throughout the day to bring people to the store. Not only does this store offer you what no other store in Hawaii can, they also take the time to drive customers from Waikiki and back, on a day to day basis.

"We like to consider ourselves to be Disney Land on water," Krantz said. "There is just so much to do and try and we are in a great location with great employees. We love our military and want our military families to come out. We have true military discounts and we do it all."

For those who are in search of a hobby, an unforgettable experience or just a day off of work, SeaBreeze Watersports is the place for you. For further questions please contact SeaBreeze Watersports 396-0199 or go online at http://www.seabreezewatersports.com to make reservations.

Photo illustration by Jay Parco



Josan Nyung, Tokyo native, rides one of the many jets skiis offered at Sea Breeze Watersports. Sea Breeze Watersports offers many activities including parasailing, jet skiing, banana boat rides, bumper tubes, scuba diving and snorkeling. These activities are available to all who wish to try, and a military discount is offered for every activity.

Lance Cpl. Jacob D. Barber | Hawaii Marine

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 …

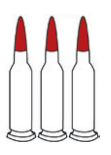
1/4 — No Impact, No Idea
Horrendous. Among the worst of the worst in its genre. Dedicating time to this is not only wasteful, but unforgivable. Avoid at all costs.



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.

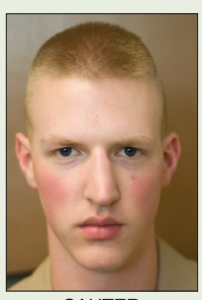


4/4 — Confirmed Kill
Genius. In the top 10 percent of its genre. This is the stuff legends are made of. Missing out on it would be a disservice to yourself.

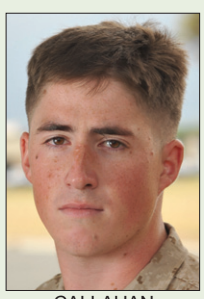


So, there you have it and we hope you enjoy our weekly reviews. Don't forget, The Hawaii Marine accepts submissions from its readers so if you consider yourself a film buff, music aficionado, gaming geek or bookworm feel free to submit your own reviews.

Better Know A Critic


SAUTER

Lance Cpl. James A. Sauter believes that a good movie begins with a good story. The story needs to be well balanced between the chemistry and variety of characters with an original plot or setting that keeps the reader or audience up on its toes.


CALLAHAN

Lance Cpl. Matthew A. Callahan likes amazing movies. He believes that a good movie doesn't always have to get the highest rated reviews or do the best at the box office. It's all about context. If there's an action movie that claims it's all about action, then he watches it just for the action. It's as simple as that.

There will be no awakening for 'Underworld'

Lance Cpl. James A. Sauter
Combat Correspondent

Hollywood has obviously beaten dead the concept of vampires, werewolves and zombies. Every year a movie studio cranks out at least one film featuring anyone of these folklore monsters. The films coming out now are too predictable and lack anything new that will keep the audience intrigued, or at least, keep them engaged to avoid the destruction of brain cells and collapse into stoic apathy.

The "Underworld" franchise is another group of films with a long line of could-have-been-good flicks, but have always failed to deliver. The basic story line of the four-film installment is a gothic Romeo and Juliet plot crossed with Spartacus. There's a centuries-old blood feud between the aristocratic vampires and the street-gang lycans, or werewolves. The previous three films spend a short time trying to convey a story but failed from the beginning of each movie.

So when Hollywood announced the return of Kate Beckinsale as the vampire, Selene, in "Underworld: Awakening," everyone wondered why they were trying to revive an already damned series. The only thing the studios counted on was dressing an aging Beckinsale in a tight leather costume to suck audiences dry of their money.

The movie starts with a brief commentary by Beckinsale about everything that happened in the previous films. Probably because the studio thinks that the audience never watched them and they're partially correct. Beckinsale explains that humans have discovered the existence of both vampires and lycans and began a purge of both races. Selene and Michael, a lycan/vampire hybrid who has been the centerpiece of "Underworld" and "Underworld: Evolution," attempt to escape but are caught and held captive for 12 years as lab experiments. Selene somehow escapes and spends the rest of the movie seeking vengeance on her captors and finding the person who set her free.

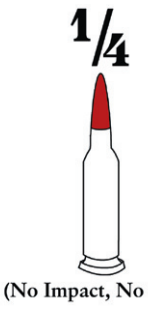


The storyline is by far the most disappointing portion of the film. While the previous films follow the concept of how the blood-feud started and ended, "Awakening" doesn't stay true to that idea at all. The story was completely irrelevant and doesn't expand on the characters or the original conflict. The movie began with the battered idea of a 'hybrid can end the war' and it ended with the cliché-ish, 'the future is unclear.'

The acting in the film is only average. The studio responsible for this mess probably begged Beckinsale to return as Selene because no one else could play the part. In fact, no one from the other films made an appearance either. They even replaced Scott Speedman as Michael with a look-alike double and filmed him from far away and with cutaway shots so no one can tell it's not Speedman.

Even the special effects were nothing to take note of. The beastly carnage of Selene slaying lycans caused enough mental aggravation in the audience to prevent anyone from understanding what's going on. But there's nothing in this movie to understand, so by the time the audience reaches the end of the movie, all they would have remembered is sitting down at the start and leaving the theatre at the end.

The entire "Underworld" series could have been very good. The filmmakers tried too hard or not hard enough to tell a story that could have made an excellent novel series. Seeing "Awakening" is a complete waste of money and should be avoided at all costs.



Violence of action in 'Haywire'

Lance Cpl. Matthew A. Callahan
Combat Correspondent

Steven Soderberg, director of the "Ocean's 11" trilogy and other memorable movies like "Traffic" and more recently "Contagion," has decided to strip the glitz and excess and go for straight up violence-of-action in "Haywire."

"Haywire" is a subtle film with outrageous bursts of crazy, white-knuckler violence that leaves the viewer begging for more, but forces him or her to wait patiently as the movie feathers forward. "Haywire" is effective in lulling the movie-goer into a state of relaxation before letting all hell break loose. I knew I was getting into something fun when Mallory Kane (Gina Carano) confronts former sidekick, Aaron, (Channing Tatum) in a roadside diner.

Gina Carano is better known for her mixed martial arts career and blossoming modeling stints. I believe Soderberg recognized her for her butt-kicking ability, above all things, and exploited these attributes heavily in the film.



"Haywire" follows mercenary covert operative Kane as she winds her way through a series of events that leaves her hunting for the truth behind her apparent expulsion from the private firm she was contracted with.

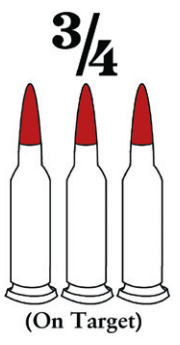
The film displays, but also disdains, the star-power behind it, with Antonio Banderas, Ewan McGregor and the fast-rising Michael Fassbender as major players in the storyline.

But the plot in "Haywire" is hardly what kept me interested. The story is acceptable and believable, but was no match for the cool, jazzy brutality the movie flaunted just enough to keep me gripping the ends of my seat. The violence is elegant, well choreographed and thought out, allowing me to actually root for the female badass and enjoy her company along the way.

Carano's acting might not be the best (she sounds more like a radio personality than anything else). When pitted against foes as the story progresses, it became very clear, quickly that nothing mattered to anyone who cast her, other than the MMA fighter's astounding ability to make grown men howl like school children.

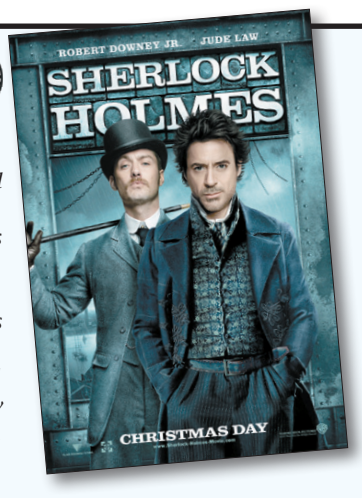
I felt like there was a lot of passive direction to make the audience forget that Carano wasn't in the film to act but instead to fight, letting the other more notable actors take the speaking parts. Most of the dialogue took place between Fassbender, Banderas and McGregor. But like I said, Carano didn't seem to be in the movie to act. She was there merely to elegantly destroy things — mostly people.

Honestly, I have gotten sick of action films not delivering much in the intensity department, and it's nice to see that someone hasn't left the genre for broke. If you like the "less-is-more" approach to action flicks, and laud superbly violent discourse between people, "Haywire" will do the trick.



Movie Times

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.*



"Hugo" PG	Today | 7:15 p.m.
"New Year's Eve" PG13	Today | 9:45 p.m.
"Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows" PG13	Saturday | 7:15 p.m.
"The Sitter" R	Saturday | 9:45 p.m.
"Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked" G	Sunday | 2 p.m.
"Hugo" PG PG	Sunday | 6:30 p.m.
"Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows" PG13	Wednesday | 6:30 p.m.

Military child explores what lies beneath the bay

Kristen Wong
Photojournalist

The afternoon sailing lesson is about to begin. Zack Ellison helps his fellow classmates carry their Topper sailboats to the dock, rigs his own and sets it into the water. As the other young sailors finish rigging their boats, Ellison combs the docks for life. He picks up a small crab, and as his classmates look on, explains that she is pregnant.

"He's a fountain of knowledge when it comes to the different types of fish," said Ken Bwy, sailing instructor, Base Marina and Outdoor Recreation Center. "Before all the other [students] are ready he'll look under the docks … searching for critters."

Bwy and sailing instructor Ed Matthews, said Ellison has found sea horses during sailing class.

"It's like you're getting two classes for one," Matthews said. "One is education in sailing and the other is Marina life."

The 12-year-old from the Maunawili area of Kailua, has enjoyed the company of various creatures ever since he could crawl, according to his parents.

"Anything that seemed to crawl or move around he was interested in it," Ellison's father said.

Because Ellison's father is in the Army, he has lived in multiple places: Washington, North Carolina, Texas, Kansas and Tennessee. In his earlier years, Ellison would collect small insects in a red wagon. Gradually he began to catch bigger creatures, including a 4.5-foot long rattlesnake.

"Whenever I catch something, [I feel] joy, happy," Ellison said. "You don't 'see' an animal until you actually catch it."

He has now lived in Hawaii for two and a half years. Since he moved to Hawaii, Ellison has taken advantage of his new island home to explore and find new animals. In his spare time, Ellison enjoys being outdoors, whether spear fishing, scuba diving or exploring the pond behind his house. He has been close to three white-tip sharks while diving.

"It's like you're in another world," said Ellison of diving into caves underwater.

He also enjoys eating crawfish and his father taught him how to prepare fish for a meal. He has also caught fish with his bare hands.

Ellison's sister, Kate, calls his hobby "strange," though she will occasionally accompany him to the pond.

Out of all the animals he has encountered, Ellison has found snapping turtles and ducks to be the most interesting. While fishing with a friend, Ellison caught a snapping turtle.

"It took an hour to get the hook out of its mouth," Ellison said. "It was not happy."

Ellison said he finds ducks interesting because of their personality. He once brought home a baby duck, raising it for a time before releasing it back into the wild. Ellison said he noticed the duck would follow him around, sit next to him and peck him if it was hungry. Ellison's father said the duck would even go swimming with the family in their pool.

"They're soft and they're nice," Ellison said. "They have a hundred times more personality [than other animals]."

His love of animals extends to sharing his home with them. He has a dog named Tobi, a rabbit named Coco, and assorted fish in a three tanks.

Ellison's mother, Andrea, said he is only allowed to keep the animals if he knows how to feed them. He earns money for the animals by cleaning koi ponds in other people's homes.

"I love it because there's always something new and exciting [for Ellison to find]," said Andrea Ellison. "He has a talent for dealing with animals and he appreciates that talent."

Andrea Ellison said it was exciting to come to Hawaii because of the new variety of animals Zack could encounter. Since coming to Hawaii, Zack has also become scuba certified and has learned to sail. Bwy said he is a fast learner, and has expressed an interest in racing.

"I think it's amazing how he picks up a crab that big," said Lucas Angulo, 11. "It's pretty impressive."

Angulo, Ellison's sailing classmate, watched him carrying a blue crab about the size of his hand on Monday.



Kristen Wong | Hawaii Marine

Zack Ellison, 12, examines a blue crab he found in Kaneohe Bay, Monday. Ellison, who lives in Maunawili, enjoys many outdoor activities including catching animals, fishing, scuba diving and sailing.

When Ellison is not searching for animals or fishing, he enjoys playing video games and watching TV. He has also been involved with the Boy Scouts since he was in first grade.

"He's a cool guy," said Michael Mossman, 14. "Ellison is pretty nice, helpful, knowledgeable with the animals and … fish."

Mossman, of Kailua, met Ellison through a mutual friend, and frequently goes fishing with him on weekends and in the summer. By hanging out with Ellison, Mossman said he learned the names of certain types of fish.

But for all the animals Ellison has cared for, raised or caught, there are some he has yet to see. Ellison said he hopes to see a dragon moray eel, and a grizzly bear someday. He also plans to make the most of his time in Hawaii, while his father is stationed here.

"He loves life and he loves the outdoors," Ellison's father said.

Faces of Transition: The goofy logistics lieutenant

Cpl. Reece Lodder
Regimental Combat Team 5

Editor's note: This is the first installment in an ongoing series featuring Marines and sailors serving with 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, during their deployment to Afghanistan's Helmand province. Many are infantrymen, others are combat service support, but each is part of a historic transition in the making. They are the unique ingredients in a melting pot of service members devoted to preparing the Afghan National Security Forces for assumption of lead security responsibility in Garmsir district.

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DELHI, Helmand province, Afghanistan — U.S. Marine 1st Lt. Ryan Gulliksen is goofy.

The proclamation isn't an outside observation. It's an insistent confession backed by an animated personality and matching enthusiasm the lieutenant carries into his duties as a logistics officer with Headquarters and Service Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment.

On deployment in southwest Afghanistan's Helmand province, Gulliksen spends each of his days supporting the approximately 1,200 Marines and sailors in his battalion.

"I love being a logistician," said the 26-year-old native of Ormond Beach, Fla., and 2003 graduate of Mainland High School. "It's completely unrewarding from other people's perspectives at times, but I affect the lives of every Marine in this battalion, one way or another."

As the infantrymen of 3/3 patrol Garmsir district, Gulliksen works behind the scenes with a small team of logistics Marines to plan, pick-up and deliver food, fuel, water and ammunition.

"The day I prevent the 19-year-old infantry lance corporal, who is patrolling three times a day and freezing his butt off, from coming home to a warm tent, dry boots and chow, I will put my rank on the battalion commander's desk because I've failed that Marine," Gulliksen said. "They can shoot, move and communicate for only so long. If I'm not giving them what they need, I haven't done my job."

While coordinating the movement of three logistics convoys several times a week, he tracks every piece of gear in the battalion's battle space, ensuring all equipment is accounted for and functioning properly. He organizes the movement of a wrecker operator when tactical vehicles need service, and employs generator mechanics when the power goes down.

"If a piece of gear breaks or something goes wrong, somebody's kicking in my door," Gulliksen said, his eyes wide and hands moving wildly. "When everything is going well, people don't care, but it's fine. I'm not the main effort — I'm combat service support."

True to his unique character, Gulliksen readily, and loudly, proclaims he isn't the smartest Marine. He's in a position to give Marines the equipment they need to do their jobs and said he'll work tirelessly to do just that.



Cpl. Reece Lodder | Regimental Combat Team 5

1st Lt. Ryan Gulliksen, a 26-year-old logistics officer with Headquarters and Service Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, stands on top of one of the armored vehicles under his charge as a logistician, Jan. 12. Gulliksen, a native of Ormond, Fla., spends each of his days on deployment in southwest Afghanistan's Helmand province supporting the approximately 1,200 Marines and sailors in his battalion.

"I can't express things in words, but give me a bunch of numbers and I'm set," he said. "I can do trigonometry and calculus in my head, but ask me how to spell 'ocean,' and I'll look at you silly."

Gulliksen realized his forte as he labored through classes at the University of North Florida to earn a bachelor's degree in quantitative economics. He paid his way through school by working three jobs, a testament to the work ethic he learned from his mother, a high school teacher who raised three children on her own.

"When we were growing up, my mom did less with more, and it wasn't the best, but it was exactly what we needed to get by," Gulliksen said. "She sacrificed everything for her kids, and that's why we're successful."

Gulliksen is honored to make "the smartest lady I've ever met" proud by serving in the military alongside his younger brother, an explosive ordnance disposal officer in the U.S. Navy. While learning from a great example, he also grew in the absence of a lesser one.

"My father walked out on us when we were younger," Gulliksen said. "My brother and I decided that if we're going to do something, we wanted it to better the people around us."

Near his college graduation, Gulliksen joined the Marine Corps, completed Officer Candidate School and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in August 2009. While attending follow-on training at The Basic School in Quantico, Va., he learned he'd been assigned to the logistics field.

The news was disappointing as he had hoped to become an infantry officer. Gulliksen saw the assignment quickly change into "the perfect job" as he began working with other Marines in the logistics field.

"I don't ever wake up and say, 'Dang it, I've gotta go to work,'" Gulliksen said. "I love my job because of my Marines. They aren't just men you want to go to war with; they're people you want to sit around a dinner table with back home."

As an officer, Gulliksen oversees enlisted Marines, most of whom have served longer in the Marine Corps. He's friendly and excitable, constantly joking with his men, learning from their experience and building relationships. He said the investment in getting to know his Marines and their backgrounds has led to open communication and a better work environment.

"I know any one of these guys would do anything for me, and I don't think it's because I'm a great leader," Gulliksen said. "I'm not going to be their Gen. Patton, standing in front of a giant American flag, but they believe in my abilities and they know that I care about them."

The officer assumes a leadership position, but insists his Marines do the leg work.

"I'm very fortunate I work with the Marines I do," he said. "I do Excel spreadsheets, sit in meetings, look at charts and devise a plan on how to re-supply from A to B. All I need to do is pass them my guidance, give them the end state and they carry out the plan. They're the ones who make a difference."

As Marines in Garmsir prepare to transition lead security authority to Afghan forces and the district government, Gulliksen will lead them in the daunting task of redeploying an extensive set of gear back to the U.S. During this period of transition, he'll also support the consolidation and de-militarization of bases throughout the district.

However challenging his tasks, Gulliksen manages by focusing on his men and thinking of his family. His mother keeps him in check, constantly asking if he's taking care of his Marines — "or else."

Tucked inside his Kevlar helmet, Gulliksen carries a folded piece of an American flag that once flew in front of his grandfather's house alongside the Navy and Marine Corps colors. The small piece of cloth, wrapped in plastic, is a constant reminder of the reason he serves.

"This is the greatest job in the world," Gulliksen said with a grin. "I don't look at how many days I have left until I go home; I look at how many days I have left to support my Marines. I'm not just collecting a paycheck… I know I'm making a difference for these guys."