

# Hawaii Marine

## Remembering Dec. 7, 1941

Sailors attempt to extinguish the fire on a burning PBY patrol bomber at Naval Air Station Kaneohe, Oahu, during the Japanese attack, Dec. 7, 1941.



Official U.S. Navy photograph, National Archives Collection

### News Release Marine Corps Base Hawaii

This morning, Marine Corps Base Hawaii will be honor the 18 sailors and two civilian contractors who died here Dec. 7, 1941. Today marks the 71st anniversary of the Japanese attacks on Oahu. The annual Kaneohe Klipper Memorial Ceremony is scheduled this morning at Hangar 101 at 8 a.m. On that day in 1941, aircraft of the Japanese Imperial Navy attacked Naval Air Station Kaneohe Bay. At 7:52 a.m.,

eight minutes before the attacks at Pearl Harbor, the quiet peace of that Sunday morning was shattered by the sudden rattling of strafing machine-gun fire and the explosions of bombs. Two waves of Japanese Zero aircraft assaulted the runway and hangars of the air station, destroying 27 of the 33 PBY Catalina aircraft on the ground. By the time the dust settled, 18 sailors and two civilians had been killed; Hangar 101 was destroyed by fire, and all but three planes (out on patrol) were destroyed. A group of survivors and family

members founded the Klipper Association years later. The Klipper Association was responsible for dedicating the monument by the flag pole in 1981. They held a reunion here on base every five years. In 2005, the Klipper Association disbanded. However, every year MCB Hawaii holds the Kaneohe Klipper Memorial Ceremony to honor those individuals who sacrificed their lives that sombering Sunday morning. Medal of Honor recipient and retired Navy Lt. John Finn was a naval ordnance chief Dec. 7, 1941 at NAS Kaneohe Bay

on the day of the attacks. He manned a .50-caliber machine gun in a completely exposed section of the aircraft parking ramp. Although painfully wounded many times, he continued to man his gun and returned the enemy's fire vigorously and with telling effect throughout the enemy's strafing and bombing attacks. Finn was the guest speaker at the Kaneohe Klipper Memorial Ceremony in 2009. In 2011, a memorial plaque in honor of Finn was unveiled during the Klipper ceremony, and the plaque was placed at Hangar 103, where Finn's office was located.

## MALS-24 WELCOMES NEW SERGEANT MAJOR



Kristen Wong | Hawaii Marine

Sgt. Maj. Vincent C. Santiago receives a ceremonial staff noncommissioned officer sword from Lt. Col. Edwin R. Rich, commanding officer, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24, at a relief and appointment ceremony, Thursday. Santiago is replacing Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey T. Dixon, as the sergeant major of MALS-24. Dixon, a native of Grifton, N.C., will be transferring to the Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji. "I think this will be bittersweet for me," Dixon said of his transferring to a billet out of the aviation community. "I grew up as an aviation Marine." He said he would miss the camaraderie of the squadron leaders as well as the pride and professionalism that the Marines and sailors come to work with every day. The 48-year-old plans to retire from the Marine Corps after his last assignment at Camp Fuji. Santiago was stationed here in 2004 with 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, and in 2007 with Combat Service Support Group 3 (now Combat Logistics Battalion 3). The Merizo, Guam native said he put his name in for the position of command sergeant major because he enjoys the aloha spirit and family-oriented culture of the Hawaiian Islands. "It's definitely great to be back in Hawaii," Santiago, 41, said. He said he hopes to carry on what the commanding officer and previous sergeant major established, and do whatever he can to expand what's already built.

## GOLDEN EAGLES MIGRATE HOME FOR WINTER



Chuck Little | U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific

Petty Officer 2nd Class William Conrad Haas III, naval aircrewman, Patrol Squadron 9, meets his 4-month-old son William Conrad Haas IV for the first time Nov. 30, as the Golden Eagles of VP-9 returned from a six-month deployment. Haas was among several new fathers meeting their children for the first time when they landed at Hangar 105.



**Winter sports**  
MCB Hawaii hosts Special Olympics Hawaii Winter Classic, **B-1**



**Music for the children**  
MarForPac hosts annual concert benefitting Toys for Tots, **C-1**

**Saturday**  
High 81  
Low 71

**Sunday**  
High 81  
Low 71

# NEWS BRIEFS

## Base marina pier parking off limits to public

Members of 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment will use the base marina pier for recovery of gear from operations at Pohakuloa Training Area.

They will be using the pier starting Dec. 14 at 6 a.m. until Dec. 16 at 4 p.m. Parking will be restricted in the area near the pier where unit members will be unloading equipment.

## Windward Choral Society presents "Tis the Season!" fifth annual holiday concert

The 110-voice Windward Choral Society presents its fifth annual holiday concert with performances today and Saturday. The concert includes a set of traditional holiday music from around the globe.

Performances on both days begin at 7 p.m. and take place at Windward United Church of Christ in Kailua. Admission is free.

## "Santa on the Beach" visits at Bellows Air Force Station

Santa will arrive via jet ski to the shores at Bellows Air Force Station, Dec. 15, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Bring your camera for a photo with Santa. Location is behind Pavilion A on the beach.

## Youth Activities takes a visit to Santa's Village

Celebrate the holidays at the 19th annual Marine Corps Base Hawaii Santa's Village at the Youth Activities Center, building 6753, Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. The free event is open to all base youth and their families, and includes photos with Santa, arts and crafts and a performance by the K-Bay Dance Movement Academy. For details, call 257-2030.

## Enjoy free fun at Leatherneck Comedy II tour

The Leatherneck Comedy II tour is for single Marines and sailors Wednesday at Dewey Square. Free lunch will be served from noon to 1 p.m. Kimberly Cole is scheduled to perform from 1 to 1:45 p.m. Gabriel Iglesias is scheduled to perform from 1:45 to 3 p.m. For details, call Bobbie Brock at 254-7502.

## New DEERS operations/appointment system

Starting Jan. 1, the RAPIDS/DEERS appointment system will be fully implemented on base and patrons must make an appointment online at <https://rapids-appointments.dmdc.osd.mil>.

Walk-ins will no longer be accepted. Appointments are normally scheduled Monday through Friday from 7:20 a.m. to 2:40 p.m., subject to holiday closures and manpower availability. For further information about changes at RAPPIDS/DEERS, call Russell Nakahara at 257-2077.

## Find help against stress with DSTRESS line

The DSTRESS line is a special line dedicated to active duty, reservists, veterans, retirees and their families in the western U.S., Hawaii, and Alaska to cope with military life. Visit <http://www.DStressLine.com> or call the line at 877-476-7734.

## Manning Street closed due to road construction

From now through Jan. 2, Manning Street will be closed between the Lawrence Road intersection and the Manning Court (B2554-B2558) area to replace the transit water main. For details, call 257-6896.

## Important phone numbers at MCB Hawaii

On-base emergencies	911
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Base information	449-7110
MCB Hawaii Chaplain	257-3552
DEERS	257-2077

# Hawaii Marine

[www.mcbh.usmc.mil](http://www.mcbh.usmc.mil)

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# WE SALUTE YOU

## MCB HAWAII MARINE, SAILOR HONORED BY USO



Kristen Wong | Hawaii Marine

Sgt. Daniel DeJong, section leader, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, and his wife greet a guest at the USO Service Salute, at Gordon Biersch, Saturday. Service members, spouses, and distinguished guests attended the USO Service Salute, which included a program and ceremony at Gordon Biersch in the Aloha Tower Marketplace, followed by an evening cruise on the Star of Honolulu. DeJong and Petty Officer 3rd Class Andrew Tamez, a corpsman with Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Bn., 3rd Marines, were among the honorees chosen this year by the USO.

# COOKING UP A WIN AT K-BAY



Lance Cpl. Nathan Knapke | Hawaii Marine

Sgt. Jalisa Joseph, a food service specialist, Headquarters Battalion, prepares a nicoise salad for the judges during the chef of the quarter competition at Anderson Hall Dining Facility, Nov. 28. Joseph also prepared chicken cordon bleu with parmesan, cream sauce, rice pilaf, oven roasted asparagus and a strawberry cream filled puff pastry with strawberry coulis. Joseph took first place in the competition.

# FIRST CLASS OF MCB HAWAII PYRAMID ROCK YOUNG MARINE RECRUITS GRADUATE



Teri Lathrop | Courtesy photo

Four new recruits stand at attention during their graduation ceremony, Sunday. The new Young Marines graduated and officially obtained the rank of private in the Pyramid Rock Young Marines, Sunday. During the weekend, the Pyramid Rock Young Marines toured the Federal Fire Department, stayed in the barracks and ate at Anderson Hall Dining Facility. The group conducted a physical fitness test, a final exam and other requirements needed to graduate to private status. Retired Lt. Col. Michael Kessler, the national executive director of the Young Marines program, attended the graduation.

# AROUND THE CORPS

## Marines returning to Marjah, work with improved Afghan Forces

**Cpl. Timothy Lenzo**  
Regional Command Southwest

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE GERONIMO, Afghanistan** — Marines with 3rd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 7, recently returned to southern Afghanistan, two years after their deployment to the Marjah area.

The opportunity to return to the same area allowed some Marines to see firsthand the difference two years of teaching and mentoring with various Marine battalions and training teams can make.

"We were in the Marjah District on the edge of Trek Nawa from December 2010 to June 2011," said Lance Cpl. Limuel Richards, a team leader with the battalion.

Richards and his squad leader, Sgt. Ben Edwards, were with the battalion two years ago. Because of their previous deployment, the two Marines have a better perspective of the progress made by Afghan National Security Forces.

"I honestly thought when we came back it was going to be like before," said Edwards. "Everyone told me the war had changed, but I see it now with my own eyes."

Last deployment, the Marines worked relatively independent of their Afghan counterparts. They operated and patrolled through the district, occasionally with Afghan National Army soldiers attached to their squad. This is a stark contrast with how Marines run missions now.

"The biggest difference is the ANA are running their own operations," said Richards, from Ninety Six, S.C. "They understand tactics and how to patrol a lot better than our last deployment."



Cpl. Timothy Lenzo | Regional Command Southwest

**Lance Cpl. Clinton Rivas, rifleman, Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 7, patrols through southern Helmand province, Afghanistan, Nov. 27. The patrol teamed with Afghan National Army soldiers and visited an Afghan Local Police station.**

Recently, Edwards' squad patrolled through the surrounding area with an Afghan National Army squad.

"I led the patrol down to a local police station," said Edwards, from Walhalla, S.C. "We checked on a school that recently opened and had chai tea with the (Afghan Local Police) officer and Afghan squad leader. Afterward, I talked to the ANA squad leader, and he took charge and led the patrol back."

The last time Richards was here, they used simple hand signals to show the Afghan soldiers how to patrol, where to post security, and other squad and fire team level tactics. The development of the Afghan forces is much farther along than those days.

"On today's patrol, they knew what to do," said Richards. "I

was really impressed with their improvement."

When the squads arrived at the police station, ANA Staff Sgt. Samandar Khan, squad leader, Headquarters Tolai, 1st Kandak, 4th Brigade, 215th Corps, set his soldiers in security positions outside. The command impressed Edwards and showed him how much the ANA have progressed.

"While we had the meeting, (Staff Sgt. Khan) mentioned going out and checking on his soldiers, which stood out to me," said Edwards. "Checking on his men and posting security really showed how he acted like a leader, doing the things leaders should."

Edwards and Richards drank tea with Khan and ALP 3rd Lt. Shah Mohammad. The Marines, ALP and ANA representatives

sat on a patch of grass inside the police station while the sounds of children playing could be heard from a nearby school, yet another sign of significant security progress made in southern Helmand province.

The Marines made sure the ALP were being supported by their higher command, as well as asking about the recently opened school.

After the meeting, it was Khan who approached Edwards about leading the patrol back, another indicator of how much the Afghan forces have improved.

"I didn't realize it would be like this," said Edwards. "We are starting to see the ANSF take charge and take control of their own country."

The development of the Afghan police and ANA allows

less Marines to support a larger area this deployment.

"I enjoy being in the same area because I get to see the progress firsthand," said Richards. "The Afghans are doing great. What we helped them with last deployment they've continued working on."

With a battalion full of Marines on their first deployment, Marines like Edwards and Richards are sharing their previous experiences to help the younger Marines understand the changes that have been made.

The compound to compound clearing operations are a thing of the past for the Marines who now support their Afghan counterparts. It is a welcome sight in the community and a sign of progress in the area as ANSF take control of their country.

## Squadron's Sea Knights make final flights

**Lance Cpl. Mike Granahan**  
III Marine Expeditionary Force

**CAMP KINSER, Japan** — The last of the CH-46E Sea Knight helicopters with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 265 flew here from Marine Corps Air Station Futenma Nov. 26 through 27 to await final disposition.

Although many Marines with VMM-265, a part of Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, are disappointed to see the CH-46E go, they are excited about the enhanced capabilities the MV-22B Osprey brings to the table, according to Staff Sgt. Bradley A. Leddy, a crew chief with the squadron.

"The CH-46E is a battle-proven aircraft, but it is older technology," said Leddy. "Bringing in the Osprey gives us the ability to go about three times as fast and four times as far. They provide a long reach and over-the-horizon capabilities."

The phasing out of the CH-46E is bittersweet, but the reputation it obtained during its more than 50 years of service will not be forgotten. The Osprey has some big shoes to fill, according to Col. Jeffrey K. Arruda, the commanding officer of MAG-36.

"The legacy that the CH-46E has in the Marine Corps,

everything that it's done from Vietnam to Lebanon, Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, is a testament to its capabilities and dependability," Arruda said.

Most Marines have a nostalgic side that will miss the old aircraft, but the new capabilities of the Osprey are necessary for the Marine Corps to move forward, according to Leddy.

"Everyone is sad to see (the CH-46E) go. It's an icon in the Marine Corps," said Leddy. "Pretty much every motivational video and every motivational poster you see in some way has a CH-46E in it."

The Osprey brings 1st MAW into the future, providing an enhanced ability to provide support to the Asia-Pacific region, according to Arruda.

"It's the way ahead for the Marine Corps. The Osprey brings an enormous capability, it's great to have it out here in this theater, and we're going to do a lot with it," said Arruda. "The MV-22 is a great, safe aircraft and we expect great things."

Though VMM-265's Sea Knights have transitioned out of operations, there will still be CH-46E sightings around Okinawa. Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262, MAG-36, will continue to fly its CH-46E helicopters until next summer.



Lance Cpl. Mike Granahan | III Marine Expeditionary Force

**A CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter makes its last flight over Marine Corps Air Station Futenma Nov. 26.**

## MALS-13 Marines 'follow the bomb'

**Cpl. Sean Dennison**  
Marine Corps Air Station Yuma

**MARINE CORPS AIR STATION YUMA, Ariz.** — Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 13 ordnance technicians gave station Marines a glimpse of the bread and ballistics of Marine Corps Air Station Yuma's aviation operations, Nov. 19, during a "Follow the Bomb," event.

Follow the Bomb, which began three years ago, provides non-ordnance Marines a chance to spend the day with MALS-13 ordnance technicians, the men and women who assemble and distribute the bombs and munitions used by the aircraft on base, primarily the AV-8B Harriers.

The purpose of this event is to educate the bomb followers on aviation ordnance, a mission-essential task that they indirectly support by merit of

them being part of base operations.

The day is exactly like it sounds: Marines witness the assembly and distribution of the bombs, from the MALS-13 ordnance technicians building them to the Marine Attack Squadron ordnance technicians loading the bomb onto the aircraft.

"It provides a different perspective," said Lance Cpl. Christine Keaney, a Marine Aircraft Group 13 intelligence specialist and a native of Boston. "It's very interesting to see what goes on behind the scenes. It's one thing to hear about various aircraft's armament, but to actually see the components go together, it's very educational."

The observers watched the MALS-13 ordnance technicians put together GBU-16s, and then traveled to VMA-214 to see the bombs put on an aircraft, where their existence would end once the pilot's acquired their target.

"It's a lot more complex than taking bombs out of a box," said Staff Sgt. Joseph Walsh, the MALS-13 munitions support supervisor and a native of Greenville, S.C. "There's a lot of work and a lot of man hours."

MALS-13 ordnance technicians can come into work before sunrise and often leave after sunset; their schedules are dictated by squadron operations and how much ordnance they want to drop, which, according to Walsh, can be anywhere from "two to 40 bombs a day."

MALS-13's ordnance arsenal includes active and inert bombs used for training purposes in order to qualify the pilots to drop ordnance. The technicians see their work being put to use during combat operations, where ordnance saves, and ends, lives.

"I wake up every day knowing what I've done has made a difference," said

Walsh. "When you need that airstrike, the feeling comes with building the bomb and seeing it work as advertised."

The abilities of MALS-13 ordnance technicians also mean they are often called on for deployments, and are thus away from their families for longer stretches of time.

"It makes it more personal," said Keaney, who, with the others, listened as Walsh related stories from his ordnance deployments, some lasting for more than a year, others lasting for a few months. "It's one thing to be in the shop reading about these various weapons. To learn how they work ... I think it will change how I view my job."

After the Marines followed the bomb to its end point, the underside of a Harrier, they each returned to their respective section, wiser in how aviation operations impact the Corps' ground combat element.

# Ugly Angels deactivate after 60 years of service



Story and photos by Kristen Wong  
Marine Corps Base Hawaii

The Marines and sailors of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362 flew their squadron's colors one last time during their deactivation ceremony between Hangars 101 and 102, Nov. 30. The tents were set, the U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific Band played its familiar tunes, and the sun draped the backs of those in formation for the farewell of the "Ugly Angels."

"It is a bittersweet ceremony," said Lt. Col. Christopher Oliver, commanding officer, HMH-362. "I'm trying to smile on the outside, but I'm hurting on the inside." Oliver has served with the Ugly Angels twice in his Marine Corps career, once as a captain in 2000, and currently as a lieutenant colonel. To date, the Ugly Angels have earned various awards, changed their name several times and accomplished many missions, which include deployments to Japan, Iraq and Afghanistan. Col. Paul L. Fortunato, commanding officer, Marine Aircraft Group 24, described each unit member as someone who "performed with precision, pride and excellence — (HMH-362 is) an outstanding squadron through and through." "(To) the Marines and sailors of HMH-362, commander of troops (Lt.) Col. Oliver, Sgt. Maj. Tackett, thank you," Fortunato said. "The parade, the ceremony, (and) the Marines looked absolutely ugly and absolutely wonderful." The squadron was first activated April 30, 1952, in Santa Ana, Calif. The Marines and sailors of HMH-362 earned the nickname "Archie's Angels," referring to Lt. Col. Archie Clapp, the squadron commanding officer at the time, and eventually they would become the "Ugly Angels." The squadron became a part of Marine Corps Base Hawaii in 1995. In August, HMH-362 was the last squadron to use the CH-53D Sea Stallion before the aircraft was retired. The Ugly Angels flew them in one last mission while deployed to Afghanistan. But Oliver said he was most proud of another mission the Ugly Angels took on this deployment. In June, a group of reconnaissance Marines was being attacked but were lacking in ammunition. Despite poor visibility in the sky that day, Oliver said the "quality training program" of the Ugly Angels helped them complete the mission. Oliver and Sgt. Maj. Timothy C. Tackett carefully rolled up the squadron's colors, shielding the precious fabric from the elements with a black cover. As the color guard marched away from the formation, the colors encased and no longer waving freely, Oliver stood alone, and rendered his last salute. "I've been extremely fortunate to have this opportunity to be the current last CO of the Ugly Angels but my sincere hope is that I'm not the last CO," Oliver said. "Hopefully the future of the Marine Corps is bright with new aircraft coming online. Someday, when they have more CH-53Ks coming off the line and are not sure what to do, hopefully they'll call the Ugly Angels again, bring us back out and activate us."



The color guard marches off the colors while the Ugly Angels render a salute during a deactivation ceremony between Hangars 101 and 102, Nov. 30.



Lt. Col. Christopher H. Oliver, commanding officer, and Sgt. Timothy C. Tackett, sergeant major, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362, cover the squadron's colors at a deactivation ceremony between Hangars 101 and 102, Nov. 30.



Lt. Col. Christopher H. Oliver, commanding officer and Sgt. Maj. Timothy C. Tackett, sergeant major, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362, embrace after retiring the colors at a deactivation ceremony for the squadron, Nov. 30.



Lt. Col. Christopher H. Oliver, commanding officer, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362, salutes the color guard as they march off the colors at a deactivation ceremony between Hangars 101 and 102, Nov. 30.



The Marines and sailors of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362, stand in formation during the deactivation ceremony between Hangars 101 and 102, Nov. 30. The unit's nickname is the "Ugly Angels," and their mascot is a red-haired angel named Olaf. The Ugly Angels have fought in many conflicts and were one of the first aircraft Marine units in Vietnam, landing April 15, 1962.

# Toys take wicked Waikiki ride with Marines

**Kristen Wong**

*Marine Corps Base Hawaii*

**HONOLULU** — The warm exhaust of an estimated 5,000 motorcycles and motor bikes blew dust across Ala Moana Beach Park as the 38th annual Street Bikers United Hawaii Toy Run Parade roared off, Saturday.

Motorcycle enthusiasts and riding clubs statewide participated in the annual event, which included entertainment, food and other booths at Magic Island followed by a parade through Waikiki. Participants brought brand new, unwrapped toys to donate to the local U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program.

"This is our 38th year," said Ray Pagan, the state treasurer of Street Bikers Hawaii. "It's been great. Every year it's been getting better. I have more people that want to get involved."

According to Pagan, the Street Bikers United event has the biggest collection of toys each year, with as many as 10,000 toys donated by participants. This year even actor Daniel Dae Kim, from the TV show "Hawaii Five-0" rode his motorcycle in the parade and donated toys.

Windward Oahu Chapter Harley Owners Group members Gary D. Lloyd and Bob Shampoe sat in a sea of motorcycles and toys, chatting prior to the parade.

"We love motorcycles and biking, and it's a way to combine that with helping the keiki," Shampoe said.

Shampoe donated a Cabbage Patch doll while Lloyd donated a Nerf pistol.

"There are a lot of underprivileged kids on the islands," Lloyd said. "(The families are) really encouraged by the support that the kids get."

Many decorated their bikes in ribbon, tinsel, wrapping paper and more. Honolulu residents George and Barbara Townsend, dressed up as Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus for the event. The Townsends' motorcycle was covered in stuffed animals and carried a large red bag of additional toys. George Townsend said it took about five hours to decorate the bike. He also spent a year growing a beard for his Santa role.

"January — it's gone," George said of his beard, with a chuckle.



Kristen Wong | Hawaii Marine

**Motorcycle riders give toys to Cpl. Doug McClurg, an intelligence specialist with Joint Intelligence Operations Center, at Kapiolani Community College during the 38th annual Street Bikers United Hawaii Toy Run Parade, Saturday.**

George, who is a member of the Sons of Hawaii motorcycle club, served in the Marine Corps from 1979 to 1984, and was stationed at Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

The bikers roared out of Magic Island and drove through Waikiki, accompanied by Honolulu Police Department escorts and Marines at the front.

Marines from various units were on-hand at Magic Island and Kapiolani Community College to collect the donations. Some of the Marines volunteering came from other units outside of MCB Hawaii. Sgt. Jeffrey Tang, who is now stationed in Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, is a Honolulu

native and wanted to volunteer for Toys for Tots while he spent the holidays at home. Aside from his love for volunteering, he said he appreciated the fact that all of the local drives will be supporting local kids.

Sgt. Jerel Bersalona, a rifleman from Fox Company, Anti-Terrorism Battalion, was among the Marines volunteering at the event. Bersalona said he volunteered for Toys for Tots to give back to the Marine Corps.

At Kapiolani Community College, motorcycles crowded the parking lot while participants rested after the parade and turned in their donations to

the Marines. The toys filled nearly four large vehicles.

"I think we probably got over \$100,000 worth of toys, easily," said Staff Sgt. Edward Hans, this year's Toys for Tots coordinator, with 4th Force Reconnaissance Company. "We got everything from matchbox cars to stuffed animals to train sets to remote controlled cars, it's unbelievable ... it was a very good turnout."

The Marines will be accepting donations until Dec. 14. For details, visit <http://kaneohe-bay-hi.toysfortots.org/local-coordinator-sites/lco-sites/default.aspx>, or call Hans at 348-4532.

# Support a second holiday helping



Armed Services YMCA | Courtesy photo

Marine volunteers help sort the many canned goods and non-perishable food donations the Armed Services YMCA received to make Thanksgiving food baskets. The ASYMCA is still looking for donations for the upcoming winter holidays, taking donations until Wednesday at building 455.

**Christine Cabalo**  
Marine Corps Base Hawaii

The Armed Services YMCA strives to can hunger this holiday season with donations from Marine Corps Base Hawaii residents and workers.

The organization sent out more than 200 food baskets for Thanksgiving to active duty service members in need and is still gathering food and monetary donations through the winter.

"The ASYMCA strives to make the entire holiday season an enjoyable and comfortable time for as many military families as possible by assisting them with their holiday meals," said Karin Brown, Kaneohe Bay branch office manager, ASYMCA. "It is important to us that military families know they have the

support and services they need, especially during such a special time of the year."

Brown said donations go to active duty service members experiencing financial difficulties, including junior Marines who are single parents. Volunteers from each MCB Hawaii unit are taking referrals for those who need food. The ASYMCA is collecting donations and referrals until Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. Base volunteers will then distribute the collected food by Dec. 18 and 19. Brown said every donation goes to service members and their families within MCB Hawaii who need it.

Although there were previous large-scale Thanksgiving donation drives from Headquarters Battalion, the base chapel and other units, Brown said some MCB Hawaii service

members still need support beyond the fall holiday. Luckily, this year several other base and community organizations were also able to gather non-perishable foods for the cause.

Mokapu Elementary School students gathered 1,353 non-perishable items during their drive, said school librarian Lori Kidani, who is also a student council co-advisor. She said the students collected twice as many items than last year. Kidani said school officials made this year's collection drive a priority by posting flyers of needed goods, encouraging the students with rewards for their collecting and using social media to inform the community about the need for donations.

"I think doing this food drive is one of the most important things we can do," Kidani

said. "Outreach activities like this build good citizenship in students. The student council worked hard on this and have been good role models for the rest of students."

After the community efforts for Thanksgiving, units are especially eager to keep up the holiday giving, said Ed Hanlon, family readiness officer, 3rd Marine Regiment. Families within his unit received more than 100 baskets for Thanksgiving, and Hanlon said others in his unit want to put in a full amount of effort to gather food for Christmas as well.

"The baskets over the Thanksgiving holiday definitely helped families who needed an extra boost," he said. "I've informally heard feedback from other Marines about how the food helped them."

Both Hanlon and Brown said military families in need might feel stress not only from preparing for the upcoming holidays but also from their unique circumstances.

"The holidays are a time of year when the effects of isolation are amplified for many military families," Brown said. "Although Thanksgiving and Christmas are just a month apart, they are two major holidays that traditionally embrace the gathering of family and friends."

So for some in need this holiday season, the best gift they could receive might be a second helping of food.

For more information about donation or the services available from the ASYMCA, call 254-4719 or visit their offices in building 455 along Lawrence Road.

# MCBH host annual *holiday tree lighting ceremony*

Children dance to holiday music played by the U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific Band and sing by the Windward Choral Society, under a 40-foot tree, decorated with colored lights and various ornaments of many sizes during the lighting of the Marine Corps Base Hawaii holiday tree, Nov. 29.

Lance Cpl. Nathan Knapke | Hawaii Marine

## Lance Cpl. Nathan Knapke

Marine Corps Base Hawaii

The holiday season has arrived, and in front of the base chapel stands a 40-foot tree, decorated with lights of all colors and ornaments of many sizes. The front of the chapel was filled with people and holiday spirit for a tree lighting ceremony on Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Nov. 29.

After the opening prayer, the U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific Band, played holiday classics, including "Deck The Halls," "Jingle Bells" and "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer."

"It's a great event to be a part of and we love to support our community," said Elizabeth Nowinski, a Windward Choral Society singer. "Everyone with the group really enjoys coming to Marine Corps Base Hawaii and celebrating the tree lighting ceremony with the local community."

The crowd cheered and applauded after the band and choir finished "Santa Claus Is Coming To Town." Families throughout the base community gathered by the tree and joined the band and chorus in singing familiar holiday classics.

"You better watch out, you better not cry, better not pout, I'm telling you why, Santa Claus is coming to town," the crowd sang as the band played and children danced along to popular holiday tunes.

"Marine Corps Base Hawaii is one big family and this ceremony brings us all together," said Lt. Col. Carolyn Bird, Headquarters Battalion commanding officer. "It's nice to get people together, and give them an opportunity to bring their families out and enjoy beautiful music."

After the music finished, Bird introduced contest

winners from the Mokapu Elementary School: Eliana Alvares, Salene Sili, Isaiah Jones, Jade Ostrowski, Hannah Barnett, and Sabrina Duffy. As a reward the winners helped Bird light up the tree by pushing a lever.

Without hesitation, children began the countdown, "on the count of ... three ... two ... one." The lever on the box was pressed, and the lights illuminated the tree and all of its decorations.

"The tree doesn't just light up because of power, it's the Christmas spirit that gets the tree to light up," said Sgt. Vince Everett, with Headquarters Battalion's communication and information systems, from Ardmore, OK. "For people whose spouses are deployed it's a very good time to remember loved

ones and everything you love about them."

Before the ceremony ended, a very jolly man in red visited the ceremony with a big, red bag of gifts. Bird pumped up the crowd by having the kids chant "Santa". Without hesitation, all the children started to chant, in excitement for Santa Claus.

Shortly after the children started chanting, he rode up, not in a sleigh pulled by reindeer, but under the lights of a base fire truck. Santa walked over to all the children, greeting everyone and handing out holiday candy.

After the music was done and the holiday carols were no longer being sung, Bird thanked everyone for coming out, and told them to have a great and safe holiday.



# Sports & Health

## Special Olympics' all-stars compete on base

**Lance Cpl. Nathan Knapke**

*Marine Corps Base Hawaii*

Families, friends and athletes gathered together for the 2012 Special Olympics Hawaii Holiday Classic, Saturday and Sunday, at Marine Corps Base Hawaii and Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Approximately 800 athletes with intellectual disabilities competed in basketball, bowling and soccer, with the guidance of 250 coaches and more than 1,000 volunteers.

"Basketball is my favorite sport because it's so fun," said Amy Luuloa-Kealaiki, a player for the Molokai team. "We all play well together and we make a lot of our layups. We like to go home with medals."

The athletes competed in a series of matches and practice sessions to qualify for the event. Once the teams are qualified, the athletes travelled from all over the state to compete in the state championships.

"The athletes here take the game of basketball very seriously," said Danny Kao, a paramedic volunteering for medical aid 38 from Honolulu. "It was like watching the UFC of basketball. Everyone was playing hard, slide tackling, football diving, being very physical, leaving it all on the court."

Volunteers were scattered throughout the gym providing assistance to the players. These volunteers included Marines, sailors, high school athletes and civilian personnel.

"This is the closest I'm going to get to heaven," said John Kikukawa, a volunteer coach for Koa Mana Elva basketball team. "The players give more to us, than the volunteers give to them. They teach us how to enjoy the moment and appreciate life."

Each team played in a round robin in order to get placed in their appropriate brackets. Sunday afternoon the "A" Division standings and results were final, with Molokai winning first place, Anuenue taking second place, and Maui Warriors earning third place.

During the medal and award ceremony, players could not help but smile when their name was called to go receive their gold, silver or bronze medals.

The Molokai team, who took first place in the tournament, raised their index fingers high, celebrating their victory as "number one."

Special Olympics Hawaii give athletes with disabilities an opportunity to learn and develop their skill in individual or team sports. Athletes must be 8 years old or older to participate in Special Olympics sports.

During the holiday classic, the athletes also had an opportunity to enjoy many special events, such as the opening and closing ceremonies, Olympic town and the victory dance.

"I met new friends here that like to play basketball as much as me," said Timothy Pascua, a player for the Molokai team. "Everyone's nice and cheers me on when I score. It's really fun to be a part of a good team ... I can't wait for next year."

For more information about Special Olympics Hawaii, visit <http://www.specialolympicshawaii.org>.



Lance Cpl. Nathan Knapke | Hawaii Marine

Amy Luuloa-Kealaiki, a player for Molokai, attempts a lay-up shot during the 2012 Special Olympics Hawaii Holiday Classic championship game at the Youth Activities Center gym, Saturday.

## Junior sailors launch from K-Bay

**Christine Cabalo**

*Marine Corps Base Hawaii*

Children are learning the ropes of sailing and racing with classes taught by the base marina's Outdoor Recreation Center aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

Students are reaping the benefits of upgrades now available inside the center's recently reconstructed facility. One big improvement is having a dedicated space to teach class, said Ken Bwy, lead sailing instructor, MCB Hawaii.

"We have a classroom inside the new building, where we go over the daily lesson plans on a whiteboard," Bwy said. "Then right outside the door is where we store the boats. It's pretty convenient and less noisy."

The classes also launch from a new streamlined dock closer to where the class boats are stored. Bwy said the new setup ensures the boats are put away properly so the equipment remains in peak condition.

What remains the same even with the center's recent upgrades is the excitement of the young sailors as they practice their skills in the water.

"Racing can be so exhilarating," said 15-year-old Zachary Cutter, who is one of several students who compete in local races. "One day the weather can be against you, and you're fighting the wind and the rain. Then the next day it can be sunny and calm."

Advanced students learn about racing tactics and put their skills to the test in a mock racecourse inside Kaneohe Bay. Racing season runs from March to October, with events happening at Kaneohe Bay and other areas around Oahu.

Beginners with little or no experience in the water sport are welcomed to try the introductory classes. The weather conditions at Kaneohe Bay are ideal for beginners since the wind patterns



Christine Cabalo | Hawaii Marine

Jenna Ryan, 8, watches Zachary Cutter, 15, demonstrate tying a square knot before they set sail into Kaneohe Bay. The two are participating in the junior sailing lessons available through Marine Corps Base Hawaii's Outdoor Recreation Center.

are predictable and generally mild, Bwy said. In their class, Bwy teaches new sailors what to do if their boat capsizes, how to properly leave the marina dock and more.

"They'll learn the parts of boat, rigging a boat and how to do all of that by yourself," Bwy said. "Once you can identify parts of a boat, then when we're on the water and if it needs to be fixed, I call you over to try fix it."

Classes are open to children as young

as 8 years old. Among the new students learning how to race is 8-year-old Jenna Ryan. She and other new young sailors were teamed with more experienced students in their class. Ryan was paired with Cutter as he assisted her with some of the basic maneuvers to guide a boat's direction and speed.

"I want to learn how to go racing on my own," Ryan said. "I learned new things today, like tying a square knot."

Students may keep coming back be-

cause of the thrill of adventure in the water and learning new things, but Bwy said the water sport offers skills for life. He said students find confidence and get firsthand experience in being responsible.

"You're skipping the boat," Bwy said. "You have to learn not to run into other people. You learn self-reliance, and I think sailing helps the kids in focusing. They need to focus on what they're doing as they're in the water."





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](mailto: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.

## Can Notre Dame take down 'Power House' Alabama?

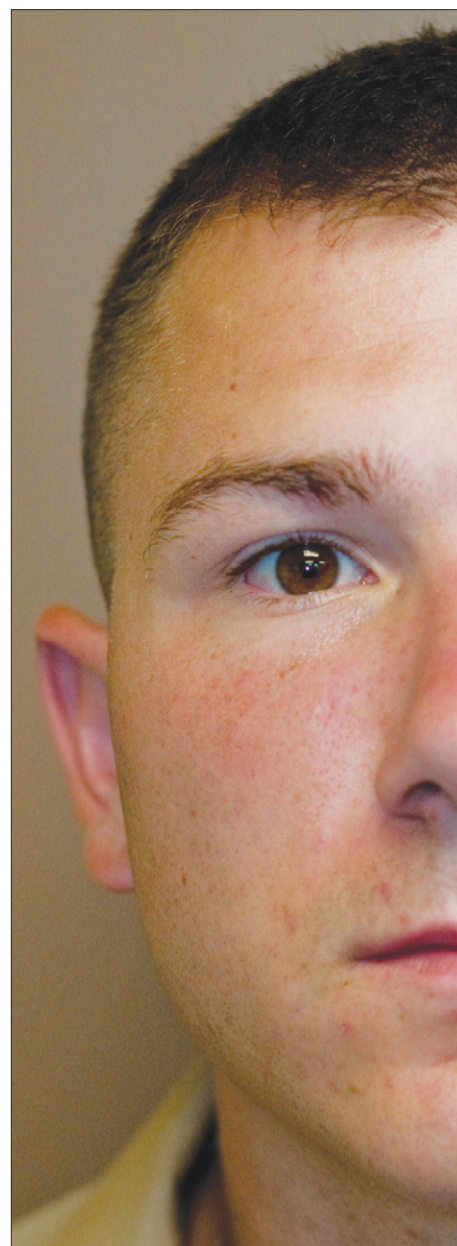
**Sgt. Skyler Tooker VS. Lance Cpl. Jacob Barber**

**BARBER:** Notre Dame's perfect season has been the talk of the year, as they finally reached their "heavenly" place, the Bowl Championship Series final bowl game. Their opponent, an Alabama team, who was lucky to get past Georgia, is not ready to face the Irish. Regardless of what you have to say about Notre Dame, understand they are perfect. They have a great defense with an unmovable linebacker core. They have a quarterback able to run the pass-run option with talented receivers to back him up. However, most importantly they have God on their side. I don't know if he's a big football fan, but I'm sure he'll be rooting for the Irish in January. You know who the better team is? Is there even a need for this debate?

**TOOKER:** (Let's get one thing straight before we start this, I am not an Alabama fan. Never have been and never will be.) Really? I can't believe you would even debate this topic with me. First of all, Alabama's loss to Texas A&M Aggies was a fluke. Alabama should be perfect right now. Second of all, how is number one ranked Notre Dame the underdog in the BCS National Championship

game against number two ranked Alabama? Oh I know, because everyone knows Alabama is unstoppable and Notre Dame had an easy schedule that got them to the big show. How does a team that barely beats Purdue, BYU and Pittsburgh make it to the BCS Championship? One more question Notre Dame also struggled against Michigan 13-6 when Alabama crushed them 41-14. I guess that wasn't a question, it was just more of a fact. Notre Dame could have the best linebacker core ever and still couldn't beat Alabama.

**BARBER:** First off, Alabama is not unstoppable. Look at their record. Did you forget Notre Dame is the only undefeated team this season? That means they're perfect, and it doesn't matter if they "almost" lost. What is "almost" losing called? Oh yeah, a win! Both of these teams have strong defenses that will affect every possession. They also have great running backs that will be a huge part of the offensive game. However, Alabama runs a spread offense which proved promising throughout their season against weaker teams. But I wouldn't expect that same game plan to work on



**TOOKER**

Notre Dame, considering their strong linebackers and secondary. I don't see Alabama scoring on the goal line either. Their offense just isn't strong enough to push back Notre Dame's defense.

**TOOKER:** Alabama's offense and defense are both better than Notre Dame's. Plus, the only weakness Alabama has shown this year is thinking they were unbeatable, and A&M running the hurry up offense on them letting them know not everyone is afraid of them. But, the truth is everyone doesn't need to be afraid of them, only Notre Dame should be. Notre Dame has one good linebacker and that is it. I won't take credit from him. He is good, but when a freshman quarterback is outshining all of the senior Heisman candidates something is wrong. One: The freshman is really awesome, which situation not the case now. Or two: this year's senior class are a bunch of scrubs. Either way you want to argue, Alabama is going to run all over Notre Dame. One good linebacker is not going to stop Alabama from claiming their second BCS Championship title in a row. Notre Dame has no chance against the power house Alabama.



**BARBER**

**BARBER:** Notre Dame has plenty of tools on their side to win this game. If they stick to what they've been doing all year, by playing 'team' football, they will easily earn this victory. Notre Dame will have to watch their turnovers and make opportunities for themselves offensively. This is college football. Any team can beat any team, and Alabama is not a power house. They're a decent team, with pretty good athletes. Notre Dame has everything they need this year to bring that trophy home, and Alabama will have to do a lot more than run the ball to beat the Irish.

**TOOKER:** You know you don't believe in what you are saying when you have to try and convince yourself that it's true. Notre Dame is a great team but they are not in the same league as Alabama. Alabama will run the ball all over Notre Dame, and there is not anything Notre Dame or their linebackers can or will do about it. I really don't care who wins this game to tell you the truth, but realistically we all know Alabama is going to win. Notre Dame can take their 'team' football and try again next year. Good try. Next please.

## SPOTLIGHT ON SPORTS

### Fight tobacco with help from Naval Health Clinic Hawaii

End your addiction to nicotine with free group help. The four-class series starts the first Tuesday of the month. Classes are available at the Kaneohe Bay branch clinic, 10 a.m. to noon. Makalapa branch clinic also holds class at different times. All active duty, retired military and family members are welcome. For more information, call 254-7636.

### Children can HITT hard at gym

Sign up to increase speed, quickness and agility with "HITT for Kids." The program is a modified High Intensity Tactical Training clinic, running from Dec. 11 through Dec. 20. Students who sign up will learn techniques to help in youth sports as well as with their overall physical fitness.

The classes are held Tuesdays and Thursdays and divided into two groups for children ages 5 to 9 and ages 10 to 18. Space is limited. To register call 254-7597 or download the online form at <http://www.mccshawaii.com/pdfs/2012DecHITTForKids.pdf>.

### Pro Bowl tickets available now

Pro Bowl tickets are on sale at the Information, Tickets and Tours office. Each military identification cardholder is limited to six tickets. The office will offer tickets until they are sold out. For more information, call 254-7563.

### Find your strength at HITT Center

Work out with kettle bells, TRX Trainers and more at the center located in building 1034 near the Satellite Gym. Units can check out the center's key from the Satellite Gym and may

schedule sessions at least one day in advance. The center is open Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. For details, call 254-7594 or 257-7597.

### Can't swim? Learn at MCBH pool

Adult lessons are available for ages 16 and up at the base pool. Pre-registration is required and the rates are per half-hour of instruction. For more information, call 254-7655.

### Join Semper Fit Juniors Program

Any student ages 14 and 15 who, complete the program's Fitness Basics class will receive a badge and be granted independent access to the center from 2 to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and during regular operational hours on the weekends and holidays. Otherwise, badge holders must be accompanied by an adult outside of these designated

hours. Independent access will be granted to all group exercise classes regardless of times (participant fees will still apply). Participants must present their military identification and badge upon entering the facility after completing the class. For details, call 254-7597.

### Adults can take up Taekwondo

Learn good form, sparring and more from second degree black belt Andrell Durden. Classes are held Monday, Wednesday or Saturday. Discounts available for family members who sign up together. To register, call 254-7597.

### Exercise in winter with Kid Fit

Children can stay fit during their school break with Kid Fit. The classes are available Dec. 17, 19 and 21, from 8:30 to 11 a.m. Call the Semper Fit Center for details at 254-7597.



Cpl. Josh Sams and members of the Team X-T.R.E.M.E., pause for a photo opportunity before going skydiving, Sunday. Sams spent five days doing a wide range of activities with Team X-T.R.E.M.E. He visited the USS Arizona Memorial, went scuba diving and skydiving.

# Wounded warrior gets 'X-T.R.E.M.E.' in Hawaii

Story and photos by Lance

Cpl. Nathan Knapke

Marine Corps Base Hawaii

People show appreciation in many ways. Some donate money, time, food or personal belongings, but then there are those who take giving back to a whole new level.

A team of volunteers called "Team X-T.R.E.M.E." made a commitment to help our nation's wounded heroes. They are a nonprofit organization with a mission too. "Our mission is to honor, empower and motivate wounded veterans through a physical and mental rehabilitative cycle that is a model for overcoming adversity and hardship through innovation, teamwork and perseverance," said Jeremy Soles, a member of Team X-T.R.E.M.E.

Cpl. Josh Sams, from Wilmington, Ohio, served three tours in Afghanistan, two as an infantryman, and his last tour as a scout sniper. During a combat patrol he was wounded by an improvised explosive device, losing both legs and breaking his pelvis and arm.

Sams came to Hawaii for an extreme vacation he would never forget.

Team X-T.R.E.M.E. wanted to help Sams by making a few of his dreams come true for all that he has sacrificed for our country.

The "Extreme" vacation started Nov. 29 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on the Admiral's Tour and the Diving Board Adventures Tour. The tours consisted of an introduction to the area, a description and history of the various ships lost Dec. 7, 1941, during the attack on Pearl Harbor.

After getting acquainted with the area, Sams along with Team X-T.R.E.M.E. headed out to see the USS Arizona memorial where they explored the memorial and viewed the remains of the ship resting below them.

"I couldn't help putting myself in the situation of being attacked and wondering what it would have felt like," Sams said while touring the memorial. "The attack was at 8 a.m. during a 72-hour liberty holiday, most of the men were attacked while resting from a rough night.

Sams and the team stopped for some dinner at the end of the tour, replenishing their energy for what was still to come on this X-T.R.E.M.E. vacation.

Team X-T.R.E.M.E. traveled to Waikiki Nov. 30 for some scuba diving. Sams and the team took a boat to two separate dive sites. Once at the dive site, Sams geared up for his first scuba dive and made his way

down the steps to the water. Once at the bottom of the ocean floor nearly 50 feet below the surface.

"I got to see fish of all colors of the rainbow and sea turtles that were almost as big as I am," Sams said. "I also saw sea urchins, and got to swim all around the coral reef."

Sams said this experience has exceeded all his expectations.

Saturday provided an opportunity Sams had been looking forward to for a long time. He was going to go surfing. With the help of a program called "AccesSurf," that help people with disabilities to surf in an unrestricted environment, he rode waves into the shore several times.

Once Sams made up his mind he was going to surf, there was no turning back. Sams said he wasn't leaving until he accomplished his goal of riding some Hawaiian waves.

Sams and the team packed up their beach gear, thinking the day was over.

What Sams and the team didn't know was that they were about to go skydiving in preparation for Sunday's sky dive into the Xterra Trail Run World Championships at Kualoa Ranch. During the rehearsal, he jumped out of an airplane at 14,000 feet over the Pacific Ocean. After jumping out of the airplane and breaching through the clouds, he had a bird's-eye view of the North Shore coastline.

"It's the coolest thing ever," Sams said. "There is nothing like the feeling of being weightless and the rush of skydiving. Once we broke through the clouds, we could see the waves break on the island shore from that viewpoint ... It's an experience I'll never forget."

Sams said his first jump was awesome and couldn't wait to jump again.

He wouldn't have to wait long because Sunday the stage was set for him to jump into what is considered by many of the local skydivers to be the best view of Hawaii.

Mike Elliot, a skydiver who conducted tandem jumping with Sams, said Sunday's jump is in a valley between two mountain ranges where some of the movie "Jurassic Park" was filmed. He said he has jumped more than 10,000 times, and this jump is the most beautiful sight he has ever seen.

Sams said during the five days on Oahu, the trip far exceeded everything he thought it was going to be. Sams credited Team X-T.R.E.M.E. for making everything possible.

"Extreme and awesome are key themes through out the trip, they took it over the top," said Sams.



LEFT: Cpl. Josh Sams sits in the shrine of the USS Arizona Memorial, in front of a marble wall enscribed with the names of services members who did not survive during the attack on Dec. 7, 1941. Sams explored the memorial and viewed the USS Arizona wreckage that rested below him.

BELOW: During a scuba diving trip off the coast of Oahu, Cpl. Josh Sams tests his equipment before an underwater adventure Nov. 30.



# 'GREATEST GENERATION' VISITS 'TODAY'S GENERATION'



Lance Cpl. Jacob Barber | Hawaii Marine

Veterans from World War II arrived at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Wednesday, to tour the base and talk to Marines enrolled in the Corporals and Sergeants Courses. The "Greatest Generation," a nickname given to these men for their bravery decades ago, talked with more than 40 Marines about their service, what their life was like in the service and how things have changed now. The veterans then opened the floor up for any questions as the two generations of service members mingled and talked for more than an hour.

## Flu season off to early start, CDC urges vaccination

### Press Release

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Significant increases in flu activity in the United States have occurred in the last two weeks, indicating that an early flu season is upon us. These increases in activity overlap with National Influenza Vaccination Week, observed Dec. 2 to Dec. 8.

"Increasing flu activity should be a wake-up call," said Dr. Melinda Wharton, acting director of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases. "For anyone who has put off vaccination; it's time to get your flu vaccine now."

In 48 states and Puerto Rico there have been reported cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza, according to CDC's weekly surveillance report published Nov. 30. Influenza-like-illness activity levels in parts of the country are already higher than all of last season. Nationally, the United States reached the baseline level for the activity levels in the week ending Nov. 24. Five states are already reporting the highest level of activity possible.

Wharton explains, "Baseline is the point at which we know the Influenza-like-illness activity we are seeing is most likely caused by influenza and not other viruses."

With the exception of the 2009 H1N1 pandemic, this is the earliest that the nation has hit the Influenza-like-illness baseline since the 2003-2004 season, which was early and severe, especially for children. Last season, which was mild and late, the U.S. did not reach baseline for Influenza-like-illness

until mid-March. Flu activity is most intense in the south-central and southeast of the country right now, according to reports. However, it shows signs of increasing across the rest of the country as well. Most of the viruses characterized so far this season have been H3N2 viruses, which are typically associated with more severe seasons.

The good news is that most of the viruses characterized at CDC so far this season are well-matched to the vaccine viruses.

"How well the vaccine works depends in part on the match between vaccine viruses and circulating viruses," Wharton said. "If the influenza viruses spreading are very different from the vaccine viruses, the vaccine won't work as well. While it's early in the season, it's encouraging to see a well-matched vaccine so far. That bodes well for how well this season's vaccine will protect against illness, hospitalizations and deaths."

Wharton addressed the media during a briefing to kick-off the national awareness week, which has been a national observance since 2005. The week highlights the importance of continuing flu vaccination through the holiday season and beyond. In the past, the CDC has observed that influenza vaccination has declined rapidly after Thanksgiving. The yearly observance provides a post-Thanksgiving opportunity for public health professionals, health care professionals, health advocates, communities and families from across the country to work together to promote the benefits of ongoing flu vaccination.

During a Dec. 3 media briefing, Wharton provided preliminary estimates of vaccination uptake through

early-mid November. Vaccination rates among the general public are about even with last year at an estimated 37 percent. "We're glad to see that, despite the mild 2011-2012 season, people are still getting vaccinated," Wharton said. "But that number still leaves a lot of vulnerable people out there unprotected."

It's not too late to get vaccinated. Each flu season varies, but influenza can be severe. The flu hospitalizes up to 200,000 people and kills between 3,000 and 49,000 during a season. While the protection afforded by vaccination varies based on vaccine match and the health and age of the person getting vaccinated, flu vaccination is the best way to protect against influenza. Everyone aged 6 months and older should get a flu vaccination each year to protect themselves and their loved ones against the flu.

Vaccination is especially important for people who are at high risk of serious flu-related complications, like young children and people 65 and older, pregnant women, and people with certain chronic medical conditions, like asthma, diabetes and heart disease.

In past flu seasons, as many as 80 percent of adults hospitalized from flu complications had a long-term health condition; as did about 50 percent of hospitalized children. In addition to speaking with traditional media, the CDC is also blogging and using social media outreach to highlight the importance of continuing vaccination after Thanksgiving.

For more information about influenza and vaccination see the CDC's website at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu>.

# TAKE A SWAB, SAVE A LIFE

Cpl. Crystal Herrera, legal clerk, Headquarters Battalion, places one of four DNA swabs into a packet for the Department of Defense Bone Marrow Program's donor registry drive. Bone marrow transplants can help patients with blood cancers including lymphoma and other bone marrow diseases. Any military ID holder in good health from ages 18 to 60 can visit the Naval Health Clinic Hawaii's Kaneohe Bay branch clinic or Makalapa branch clinic to register throughout the year. Those who may be ineligible for blood donations due to deployments or receiving tattoos can still register to be potential bone marrow donors.

Christine Cabalo | Hawaii Marine

## MARINE MAKEPONO

Means 'Marine Bargains' in Hawaiian

**Kitten Adoption.** Scrappy is a 6-month-old domestic short-haired cat. Scrappy is a clean indoor cat. He plays well with children as well as dogs. Any supplies I've accrued during the time I've fostered him are available upon adoption for free. Scrappy is very loved and it's unfortunate I am unable to keep him being that he is an amazing, low-maintenance pet with the best personality I've ever known a kitten to have. Call Ku'uipo Rodas at 377-0716.

**Apartment for rent.** Two-bedroom, 1.5 bath Kailua apartment available. \$1,975 per month. Rental lease includes water and digital cable with Showtime Premium channel. Apartment has new washer/dryer in unit, air conditioning, full kitchen, night security guard and two parking stalls (one covered and one outside) that are close to building elevator. Pets are not allowed in unit. One-year lease available with security deposit due at the signing of the contract. Call Jesse at 728-2331.

*If you would like to sell, buy or trade something in the Marine Makepono section of the Hawaii Marine, fill out a form at the Marine Corps Base Hawaii Public Affairs Office in Building 216, Room 19. Please have your Military 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 to the office later. Emails, faxes and telephone calls are not accepted for Makepono classified ads. Marine Makepono may only be used by active duty, reserve, retirees or their immediate families.*

## COMMUNITY EVENTS AND VOLUNTEER LISTINGS

### Enjoy family holiday fun at Children's Discovery Center

The center is holding its inaugural "Holiday Faire," Dec. 16 at 10 a.m. in Honolulu. The fair will feature local vendors, fresh-baked goods, handmade crafts and more. Booths will be inside the museum's lobby. Admission to the fair is free, but normal rates apply for visiting the center.

### Free tasting at Whole Foods

Enjoy tasting some of the fine cuisine available in time for New Year's Eve at Whole Foods Kailua. The free tasting starts Dec. 27 at 5 to 7 p.m. Chefs will be preparing sweets and seafood.

### Nominations open for the Military Spouse of the Year

Military Spouse magazine is accepting nominations for the 2013 Armed Forces Insurance Military Spouse of the Year award.

A nominee must be the spouse of a current member of the U.S. Armed Forces. Nominations can be submitted at <http://msoy.militaryspouse.com> through Jan. 4.

If nominated, military spouses can also submit an issue that is impacting the military community and a recommendation for how they would like to influence change in this area.

Installation, state, and district winners will be selected via an online vote Jan. 22. Six branch level winners will be selected from the installation level winners in a subsequent online vote Feb. 5. These six finalists will be considered for the 2013 Armed Forces Insurance Military Spouse of the Year award. For more information, visit <http://www.militaryspouse.com>.

### Learn the lay of the land

Help keep Native Hawaiian traditions and culture alive by caring for taro patches in Heeia. Volunteers can plant, harvest and dig for taro in the outdoors.

Other duties also include removing invasive pest plants, clearing nearby streams and additional farm duties. For more information, see <http://www.kakooiwi.org>.

### Help out Marine Thrift Store Kaneohe Bay

The thrift store is on the lookout for volunteers to help sort donations and work at the store. The store is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. It is closed Sundays, Wednesdays and federal holidays. Call ahead at 636-9074.

### Explore the Wailupe Loop

Join the Hawaiian Trail and Mountain Club in an intermediate ridge hike Dec. 16 at 8 a.m. See native plants and panoramic views of the windward side. For more information, call 234-9069.

### Volunteer for the Hawaiian Humane Society

The society needs volunteers to work with the animals and keep the shelter going. Volunteers can do a variety of tasks: dog walking, foster care, grooming and assisting with pet adoption. For more information, visit <http://www.hawaiian-humane.org> or call 356-2216.

# Hawaii Marine Lifestyles

The U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific Party Band performs during the Na Mele o Na Keiki (Music for the Children) Holiday Concert Sunday.



## Hawaii musicians make time for giving

Henry Kapon, Grammy nominated singer and songwriter, performs alongside the U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific Band at the Na Mele o Na Keiki (Music for the Children) Holiday Concert Sunday. The concert was an opportunity to receive donations for the U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Reserve nationwide "Toys for Tots" donation program to provide gifts for the less-fortunate children in the U.S.

Story and photos by  
Cpl. Isis M. Ramirez  
U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific

**HONOLULU** — Whether military or civilian, it made no difference for the many musicians in Hawaii who donated their time and talent to make a difference.

U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific and BAE systems held the fifth annual Na Mele o Na Keiki (Music for the Children) Holiday Concert at the Hawaii Theatre Sunday. The event's performance was MarForPac's gift to the community.

Every year, as the holiday season draws near, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Reserve, conducts a nationwide donation program to provide gifts for less-fortunate children in the U.S. Oahu Marines used the concert to help the Toys for Tots program in Hawaii.

At the concert, more than 1,000 toys and more than \$1,200 were donated for the less-fortunate keiki in Hawaii, but the real gift was the show put on the by the band and its guest artists.

Ginai, one of Hawaii's most accomplished entertainers, sparkled across the stage, charming the audience during her second performance in the annual concert. It was the meaning behind the concert that drew her back for another show.

"I really, really love charity events," Ginai said. "It just feels good to be here. It feels good to donate and it feels good to give back."

She wasn't alone in returning; Henry Kapon, Chris Vandercook and Aiden James were other returning artists.

The Abrigo Ohana added Hawaiian warmth to the event while Son Caribe performers, Cynthia Romero and Eddie Ortiz, input a bit of Latin charm.

While everyone enjoyed the concert, it was more than just entertainment but also a chance for the Marines to bond with the community for the holidays.

"It's an opportunity for us to give something back to the community," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Michael W. Smith, officer in charge of the MarForPac band. "This is just a duty station for us, but for the time we're here, this is where we live. This is where our spouses go to work. This is where our children go to school. This is where our family goes to church. I think this helps us be better custodians for the community we live in. It helps us interact with our host ... and maybe opens eyes a little bit, that we're not just Marines, we are here, we're a part of the community too."



**LEFT:** Ginai, one of Hawaii's most accomplished entertainers, sings alongside the U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific Band at the Na Mele o Na Keiki (Music for the Children) Holiday Concert at the Hawaii Theatre, Sunday.

**BELOW:** Sgt. Maj. William R. Sweet, Headquarters and Service Battalion, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, performs a skit during the Na Mele o Na Keiki (Music for the Children) Holiday Concert at the Hawaii Theatre, Sunday.



# PASS IN REVIEW

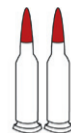
Your weekly guide to the best aspects of entertainment

Welcome to the Pass In Review, your number one source for cinema, music, video game, 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



BARBER

**Lance Cpl. Jacob D. Barber** has a curiosity for good books. Thriller, excitement, realism, and action always seem to capture his attention. While he isn't necessarily an everyday reader, when he finds a good book he finishes it. Look for more of his book reviews in the Hawaii Marine.



QIU

**Grace Qiu** is probably the only advocate for the end of the world. Addicted to apocalypses and dystopias, she immerses herself in fictional literature while singing along to indie rock. With a love for also superheroes and flying cars, she believes the best movies trap you in the story even after you dazedly exit the theater, and the best books leave your perspective on life slightly shaken.

## 'Bud, Not Buddy' takes reader on a remarkable journey

**Lance Cpl. Jacob D. Barber**  
*Marine Corps Base Hawaii*

I was in fifth grade when I first came in contact with the book "Bud, Not Buddy," by Christopher Paul Curtis. In fact, it was the first book report I ever had to do in elementary school.

A few days ago, I once again picked up the book that I've probably read more than 10 times.

I reflected on what I said about it years ago in my book report, and I realized my thoughts about the story haven't changed. I think "Bud, Not Buddy," is an amazing story about a journey to find home and I encourage all youth to read it.

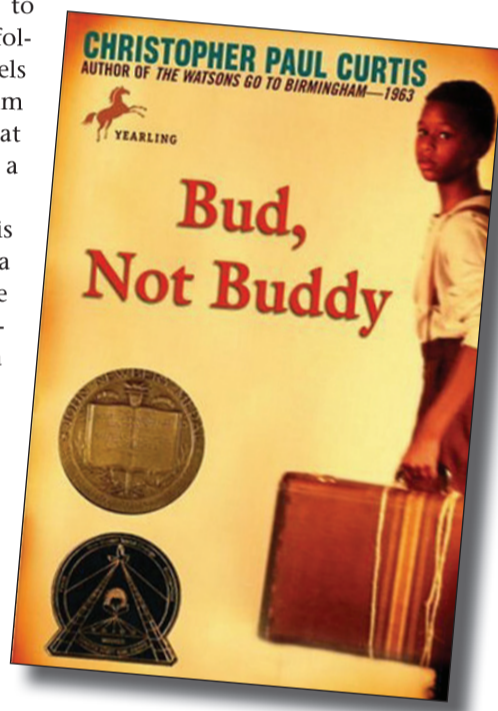
The book is based in Michigan during the great depression. Bud, a 10-year-old, is left motherless after a tragic

incident. With nothing but a suitcase filled with paper flyers and a few things of sentimental value, Bud is taken on a long journey to find his father by following a clue he feels his mother gave him before she died — that his father plays in a jazz band.

Bud's first stop is an orphanage, and a few chapters later he finds himself fighting for respect in a whole different kind of surrounding.

Bud's character in this book changes as he learns more about his life and makes it through obstacles he encounters on his way to find his father. Don't give

up, don't give up, is something I found myself saying a lot while reading this book for the first time.



The storyline is constantly changing and moving. If you miss out on one chapter you'll most likely miss out on a big part of the book. It's the perfect read for those who seek a journey, and I believe readers will become attached to Bud and his outgoing, strong personality. Readers will also be able to read Bud's book, "Bud Caldwell's Rules and Things for Having a Funner Life and Making a Better Liar Out of Yourself," which he keeps updated throughout the chapters with life lessons he learns along the way.

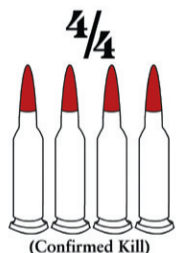
His story is one of tragedy, struggle, happiness and strength.

When I think back to the book report I wrote in third grade, I remember giving the book an "A" because it was a good book and easy read. But, it actually was a great book that opened my mind to the char-

acters, stories, and plots written onto each page.

Since reading this book for the first time, I have read hundreds of more, however, there aren't many I enjoy quite as much as this one. I reviewed this for younger children, especially for the children and young teenagers who haven't quite made their way up to the Tom Clancy books yet.

Overall, I would say the book is a testimony of hope. It teaches that no matter how many puzzle pieces you have to put together, or how hard your life might be, you can always get through it and find your own way home. "Bud, Not Buddy" is a true testament of ambition and hope.

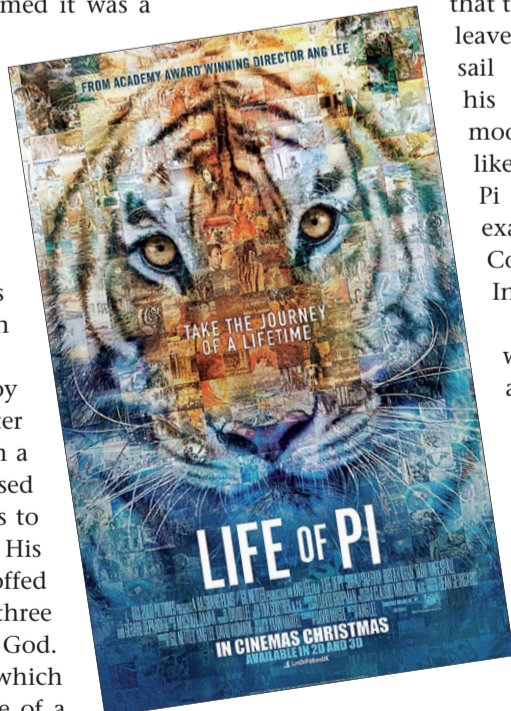


## Watch the impossible in 'Life of Pi'

**Grace Qiu**  
*Marine Corps Base Hawaii*

When first encountering the novel "Life of Pi" by Yann Martel, I automatically assumed it was a novel on mathematics. I didn't pay it another glance until I saw the trailer for the movie adaptation. Low and behold, it was about the exploration of the human soul and our universe not involving math. After seeing the movie just this past weekend, I bought the nearest copy of the book to read it and keep this fantastical story from slipping between my fingers.

Piscine Molitor Patel, an Indian boy named not after the number but after the famous pool in France, is raised in a zoo in French Pondicherry. Though raised as a Hindu, at a young age he decides to follow Christianity and Islam as well. His father, a firm believer in science, scoffed at Pi's determination to follow all three religions in order to become closer to God. He emphasized rational thinking, which is ironic considering "Pi" is the name of a



famous irrational number. Despite the spiritual and serious tone of the story, the movie interjects with comedic conversations.

When Pi's parents tell him over dinner that they intend to sell the zoo, leave their lives behind and sail all the way to Canada, his dad tries to lighten the mood by saying, "We will be like Columbus!" to which Pi throws his arms out and exasperatedly exclaims, "But Columbus was going to India."

As the family makes its way across the ocean on a Japanese cargo ship, a freak storm sinks the ship. Pi's entire family and the ship's crew are killed, leaving him as the sole human survivor along with a Bengal tiger named Richard Parker. Stuck on a wooden lifeboat, he embarks on an unbelievable and

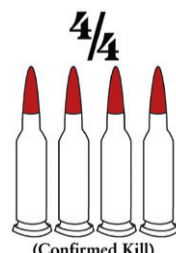
impossible journey that tests his faith in not only the gods, but also in himself.

The cinematography of this movie was absolutely stunning, rivaling the revolutionary 2009 movie "Avatar" that took place on a fictional planet called Pandora. Seeing "Life of Pi" in 3D was the best extra \$4.50 I ever spent. In the movie's night scenes, the ocean is illuminated from pulsing jellyfish glowing a beautiful blue hue in the endless waters.

In one particularly beautiful scene, Pi plays with the water. As he swirls it around, it glows and suddenly a gigantic whale leaps out of the water, glittering in glorious neon green droplets. In other night sequences, the ocean cannot be seen. It reflects the pitch-black night sky and the stars, to the point where ocean and sky mesh to become one.

Not only was the story incredibly poignant, it was illustrated through stellar cinematography. I never wanted the story to end.

Everyone claimed that "Life of Pi" was an impossible movie to film. But in my opinion, director Ang Lee proved them all wrong a hundred times fold, combining both effective and enthralling storytelling with unparalleled computer-generated imagery.



**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.



"Hotel Transylvania" PG Today | 7:15 p.m.

"Argo" R Today | 9:45 p.m.

"Silent Hill Revelation" R Saturday | 7:15 p.m.

"Cloud Atlas" R Saturday | 9:45 p.m.

"Fun Size" PG-13 Sunday | 2 p.m.

"Alex Cross" PG-13 Sunday | 6:30 p.m.

"Cloud Atlas" R Wednesday | 6:30 p.m.

# Sharing happiness with others

**Lisa Smith Molinari**

*Contributing writer*

About a year ago, my phone rang, and for once, it wasn't my kids, my husband, my mother, my carpool partner, my in laws or one of those pre-recorded doctor's appointment confirmation messages.

"Hey Lisa, what have you been up to?" the caller asked. I was dumbfounded. I had not received a purely social call in months — it was as if I had forgotten what to do. My mind raced as I tried to remember how to engage in idle chit chat.

Why on Earth is she calling me? I thought. I mean, we only know each other because our husbands work together, and besides, I'm new here, but she has plenty of other friends to call ... there must be some problem.

"Oh, you know, the usual ... busy, busy, busy!" I lied, waiting for her to ask to borrow money, give her a ride to the airport, or buy overpriced candles for her son's baseball team fundraiser.

"Well, listen, would you like to go on a power walk or something?"

"Really? Yes! I'd love to! What time?

Where do you want me to meet you? I'll go anywhere! I already have work out clothes on, so I'm ready to go whenever you are. Just say the word and ..."

"Nine-fifteen at the Park and Ride lot on Wonderwood Drive," she interrupted my pathetic ramble.

"You got it!"

I arrived 20 minutes early, and sat desperately waiting to spot her mini van. When she arrived, I bolted from my car as if it had burst into flames.

"Hi!" I yelled and waved across the parking lot, startling her out of her morning haze. For the next hour, we did what military spouses do so well — analyzed, pondered, proclaimed, opined, pontificated, empathized, chastised, gossiped and even listened a little bit, all under the guise of exercise. I thoroughly enjoyed myself.

Back in the parking lot, my new friend suggested we make the outing our new Thursday routine.

I eagerly agreed, and nearly skipped back to my car with a goofy grin.

On the drive home, I thought, finally, a real friend. I can't wait for next Thursday. I wonder if she'd want to meet Tuesday, too ... Maybe that's

too much, I'll scare her away. Come to think of it, maybe I came on too strong. I think I did most of the talking. Why do I always do that? She was probably wondering if I'd ever shut up. I'll bet she'll call and cancel because she thinks I'm an annoying blabbermouth ...

I pulled into my driveway and looked at myself in the rear view mirror. Not only did I realize that my bangs had fallen into that unflattering middle part that made my face look like a full moon, it also occurred to me that this had all happened before.

Suddenly overwhelmed with that bizarre déjà vu sensation, I tried to recollect the past. I soon realized that I'd had the same internal conversation with myself in 2008, 1998, 1996, 1994 and 1993 — basically, every time the military ordered us to move.

After every move, you busy yourself with setting up your new life — new house, new schools, new doctors, new dentists, new music teachers, new church, new pizza place. But once new routines are in place, there's nothing left to do except live.

Whether you live in Poughkeepsie or Prague, boredom eventually sets in. You

find yourself dawdling on the Internet, ignoring housework, and eating too much. You put on workout clothes, but never make it to the gym. You call your husband even though you know he can't chat.

You write long emails to old friends who are too preoccupied to write back. Even the family dog, has no good gossip to share.

You are bored out of your mind.

As I fixed my bangs in the rearview mirror, I remembered the story of Christopher McCandless, a young man who disappeared "Into the Wild" (by Jon Krakauer) to live free from obligations and relationships. After spending more than three months utterly alone, he realized that he had been wrong about life all along. Days before he died of starvation trying to make it back out of the wild, he wrote, "Happiness is only real if shared."

Remembering the quote helped me understand why I always get a little pathetic every time we move, and although I'm in no danger of starving anytime soon (quite the contrary in fact), I realized that everyone needs a good friend or two to nourish the soul.



Kristen Wong | Hawaii Marine

## MELE KALIKIMAKA KANEHOE

Cub Scout Phillip Vargas, 10, of Cub Scout Pack 225, carries the troop flag during the 50th annual Kaneohe Christmas Parade, Saturday. To his right, Cub Scout Ty Freiburger, 9, carries the American flag. Many sons of Marines and sailors aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii are part of Cub Scout Pack 225. The parade hosted approximately 1,800 marchers, 25 vehicles, 16 floats and eight bands. Local organizations, clubs, schools and churches participated. It started at Windward Mall on Haiku Road, and ended at Castle High School.

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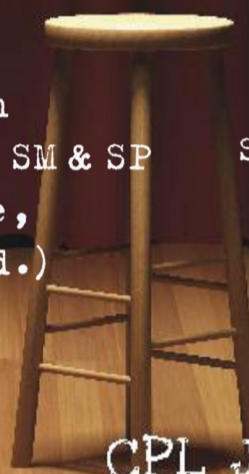
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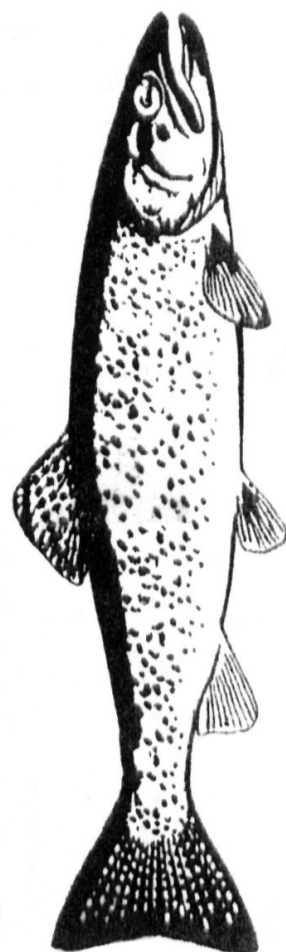


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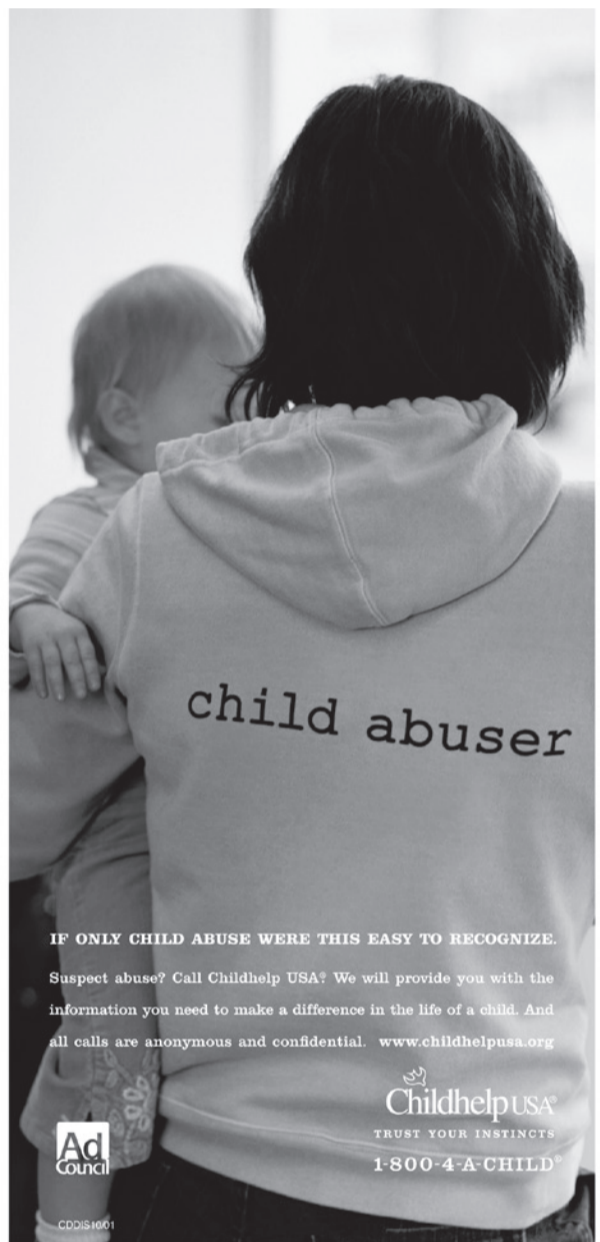
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