

Hawaii Marine



Lance Cpl. Jacob Barber | Hawaii Marine

Lance Cpl. Jordan Finestone, rifleman, Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, embraces his girlfriend after returning from a six-month Unit Deployment Program to Okinawa, Wednesday at Hangar 105.

'Island Warriors' reunite with loved ones in time for holidays

Lance Cpl. Jacob D. Barber
Marine Corps Base Hawaii

More than 150 Marines from Golf, Echo, and Headquarters Companies, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, walked off the plane at Hangar 105 and to their families after returning from the Unit Deployment Program to Okinawa, Wednesday.

Approximately 700 Marines and sailors deployed as part of the UDP, strengthening relationships with other nations in the Pacific through peacekeeping operations and bilateral and multilateral training.

The UDP started in 1977 but was reduced in scale in 2003 due to personnel and equipment demands in Central Command. In June, 2nd Bn, 3rd Marines was the first Marine Corps infantry battalion to resume the UDP since 2003.

During their deployment, Marines conducted jungle warfare training and live-fire exercises in various countries, taking advantage of unfamiliar environments and terrain.

The battalion successfully deployed units to conduct bilateral and multilateral exercises in Australia, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, New Caledonia, Philippines, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea, and mainland Japan.

"When we work with other forces we are able to learn their strengths," said Maj. Nicholas Nuzzo, executive officer, 2nd Bn, 3rd Marines. "During this deployment we were able to learn jungle warfare in the Phillipines, send a unit out to Mongolia for partnering missions, learn Martial Arts in the Republic

of Korea, as well as to just make our presence known in the Pacific and be ready for any missions III Marine Expeditionary Force, or 3rd Marines might throw our way."

Interoperability has been a Marine Corps focus for several years. The ability to operate anywhere in the world, at any time, in any conditions, has been a foundation for Marine forces throughout years. Marines with 2nd Bn, 3rd Marines participated in the first of many more UDPs to come.

When asked the importance of the deployment and what he learned from it, Lance Cpl. Brandon E. Bustler, Headquarters Company, said, "We were able to do so much in this period of time that it almost seems unreal. We did a lot of training in different places and islands and I personally was able learn a lot from each of these countries and it was an unforgettable experience but it feels great to be home."

The girlfriend of Lance Cpl. Jordan Finestone, rifleman, Echo Company, 2nd Bn., 3rd Marines, said she was extremely proud of what her boyfriend was able to accomplish throughout the deployment but was eager to see him again.

"I know they did a lot of training, and it's awesome what he and his fellow Marines were able to accomplish. I'm sure I'm not the only one proud of them and I know I'm not the only one excited to see them come home."

Marines from 1st Bn, 3rd Marines will replace their brothers in Okinawa in late December. They are the second of a UDP rotation made to enhance relationships with allies.

III MEF CG issues new conduct order to Marines, sailors of III MEF, Marine Corps Installations Pacific

News Release

Marine Corps Base Hawaii

A new policy has been established for Marines and sailors of III MEF and Marine Corps Installations Pacific, under the direction of the commanding officers of both units.

In order to reinforce existing good behavior, Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck, Jr., the commanding general, III Marine Expeditionary Force; and Commander, Marine Forces Japan, and Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri, commanding general, MCIPAC; recently released the Hawaii Professional Warrior Conduct and Ethos Campaign Plan.

This new campaign is a directive for Marines and sailors of III MEF and MCIPAC, to include Marine Corps Base Hawaii. The campaign strongly encourages leadership involvement and holds every service member accountable for their actions, regardless of rank. This policy recognizes that the overwhelming majority of service members are law abiding, honorable and respectful.

The order also implements new requirements, regulations and briefings in an effort to promote responsible, honorable behavior.

"The bottom line is that we are all under a magnifying glass," Glueck said in a presentation to service members in Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Oct. 24. "We can talk about how our incidents rates are down, but what I need you to do is to go out there and prove it."

New requirements include ensuring all service members checking into a new duty station attend the New Arrivals Orientation, receive an "Arrive Alive" card, a card of Chain of Command Contact card and a Corps Values card and keep those cards on-hand.

Responsibilities are specifically outlined for different levels of leadership. For instance, officers of the day and duty noncommissioned officers are required to make rounds during certain hours at the barracks and reporting serious incidents.

In a renewed effort, each month Force Preservation Councils will determine which Marines and sailors may be "at-risk" of engaging in misconduct, and assist in preventive measures accordingly. "At-risk" personnel may have to periodically check in with a staff noncommissioned officer or officer in charge.

Finally, as has always been the case, all Marines and sailors must follow all policies and laws regulating their behavior whether working or during free time. They are encouraged to "have a buddy" for support while on liberty, have a designated driver and also report incidents they witness.

For more specific guidance on this new order, refer to III MEF/MCIPAC Order 1050.2.

71st anniversary of 'day of infamy' commemorated at MCBH

Kristen Wong

Marine Corps Base Hawaii

Shiny planes with red meatballs. That's what William Watson remembers about the day his father died.

The son of a sailor, Watson remembers walking to the post office with his family to mail a letter on the morning of Dec. 7, 1941, when the Japanese Imperial Navy attacked Naval Air Station Kaneohe Bay.

"A bomb went off, so we went back home," Watson said. "At home we put mattresses against the wall."

Watson's father, Raphael A. Watson, an aviation machinist's mate of Patrol Squadron 12, was one of 18 service members and two civilians who died during the Japanese attacks, devastating NAS Kaneohe Bay before striking Pearl Harbor Naval Station.

On Friday morning, at 8 a.m., Marines, sailors and civilians gathered on the flightline beside Hangar 101 for the annual Kaneohe Klipper Memorial Ceremony.

The Marines dressed in their dress blue "C" uniforms, the sailors, their dress whites. The sky remained clear of winter rain as the color guard marched in front of the crowd, the colors of the American flag and the Marine Corps Base Hawaii flag billowing in the breeze.

Watson, a resident of Lanikai, attended this year's ceremony to share his father's story. His father was injured



Kristen Wong | Hawaii Marine

The traditional wreath for the Klipper Memorial sits in front of the audience outside of Hangar 101, Dec. 7. On Dec. 7, 1941, the Japanese Imperial Navy attacked Naval Air Station Kaneohe Bay just minutes before it hit the naval station at Pearl Harbor.

while aiding in the counterattack, and died of his wounds that evening. Years later, Watson met a veteran who was with his father that day, supplying him with ammunition.

"He said to my dad when he was hit,

'Is it bad Ray?' That was his nickname. He said 'I think so,'" Watson said.

Watson said he does not remember the noises from the attacks, though he does remember his mother crying.

"The enlisted pilots were all promoted

to ensign when the war started, so they honored my mom by giving her officer privileges," Watson said. "They also supported her by giving her a job at the civil service supply on base."

As Watson stepped down, Col. Brian P. Annichiarico, commanding officer, MCB Hawaii, approached the podium, and provided some historical background about the day of the attacks.

"It can happen any time, and as a military we have to be the most prepared when the country's least prepared," Annichiarico said. "We're here to honor the heroes of that day and I appreciate you for coming."

Also in attendance was Sue Goodfellow, Ph.D., the head of Facilities Planning and Conservation at Headquarters Marine Corps in Washington, D.C. Goodfellow was present to introduce a new series of posters which commemorate four national historic landmarks for the Marine Corps. The newest poster in the series, entitled "Defining Our Cultural Heritage," features Naval Air Station Kaneohe, and includes historical and modern pictures.

Prior to this, Headquarters Marine Corps started and continues to support the series called "A Few Good Species," which features animals with whom the Marine Corps shares a relationship. The

See **KLIPPER, A-8**



Kids HITT
Semper Fitness
Center hosts kids
fitness class, **B-1**



Santa's Village
Children make arts
and crafts at Santa's
Village, **C-1**

Saturday
High 81
Low 70

Sunday
High 81
Low 72

NEWS BRIEFS

Base marina pier parking off limits to public

Starting today at 6 a.m. until Sunday at 4 p.m., parking will be restricted in the area near the pier where Members of 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment will be unloading equipment for gear recovery from operations at Pohakuloa Training Area.

Enjoy a Christmas brunch with Santa Claus

Have a full brunch Sunday at The Officers' Club from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. with a special visit from St. Nick. Reservations are recommended. The brunch is open to staff noncommissioned officers and higher. For more information, call 254-7650.

Base chapel hosting Christmas Sermon Series

Every Sunday in December, the base chapel invites all the community to its 8 a.m. Protestant Holy Communion Service celebrates the Advent season with the Christmas Sermon Series: "Hope, Joy, Love and Peace." There are also snacks and bible study. For details, call Chaplain Bob Crabb at 257-2734.

Find out how to become a federal employee

Considering federal employment? Take this upcoming workshop to learn the process for applying for a federal position. The class is open to all military ID cardholders with base access. Reservations are required. The next class is Dec. 20 from 9 to 11 a.m. in building 267. Another session is scheduled Jan. 17. For more information, call 257-7787 or 257-7790.

Base pass house scheduled to close for holiday

The pass house at the H-3 gate will be closed Christmas Day. For assistance, see the military police department gate sentry. Call Violet at 257-2047 with questions.

Learn interview tips at upcoming workshop

Need to know how to prepare for a job interview? Sign up for your space in this class, which is open to all military ID card holders with base access. Registration is required. The next class is scheduled on Dec. 21 from 9 to 11 a.m. in building 267. The next session will be Feb. 14. For details, call 257-7787 or 257-7790.

New DEERS operations/appointment system

Starting Jan. 1, the RAPIDS/DEERS appointment system will be fully implemented and walk-ins will no longer be accepted. Patrons must make an appointment online at <https://rapids-appointments.dmdc.osd.mil>. Appointments are normally scheduled Monday through Friday from 7:20 a.m. to 2:40 p.m., subject to closures due to holidays, manpower shortages and technical issues. For more information call Russell Nakahara at 257-2077.

Find help against stress with DSTRESS line

The DSTRESS line is a special line dedicated to assist active duty, reservists, veterans, retirees and their families in the western U.S., Hawaii, and Alaska in coping 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

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|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
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| Combat Correspondent | Lance Cpl. Jacob Barber |
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BUILDING JOYFUL CHRISTMAS MEMORIES



Christine Cabalo | Hawaii Marine

Staff Sgt. Carlos Morales, airframes mechanic, Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 367, builds a gingerbread house with his wife and daughter at the Armed Services YMCA's "Santa's Workshop" held Tuesday in building 455. Children could get their faces painted like reindeers, play with expanding snow and do other Christmas-themed activities with their parents.



Christine Cabalo | Hawaii Marine

Contestants in the Christmas cookie eating contest compete to consume 24 sugar cookies and a quart of cold eggnog in the fastest time. Lance Cpl. Aargon Eversum, (second from left) won the contest with a time of two minutes and seven seconds.

'Holiday Bash' spreads festive cheer

Christine Cabalo

Marine Corps Base Hawaii

The games of this year's "Holiday Bash" at Pollack Field tested agility and quick thinking, but had nothing to do with football or traditional sports.

Single Marines and sailors of Headquarters Battalion competed for bragging rights and prizes by busting out holiday dance moves and ugly sweaters for several of the bash's holiday-themed contests. The games kicked off after the battalion's leaders served lunch, with seasonal cookies for dessert.

"This is just for them," said Heather Jessip, family readiness officer, Headquarters Bn. "It's something the staff noncommissioned officers and officers can take charge of. [The single Marines and sailors] work very hard during the year, and we want them to have a merry holiday."

Each of the contests had a coveted prize: a day off from work for the winner.

It's what motivated several Marines to compete in the Christmas cookie eating challenge, consuming 24 sugar cookies and a quart of cold eggnog in the fastest time. After just two minutes and seven seconds of eating, Lance Cpl. Aaron Eversum took first place. Eversum's hand was still shaking as he handed an empty eggnog carton to Gunnery Sgt. Shawn Forde, the bash's master of ceremonies.

"This was my first eating contest. I figured the eggnog

would be good to wash the cookies down, so it wouldn't make my mouth dry out at the end," said Eversum, an administration clerk with the battalion's Installation Personnel Administration Center.

The rest of the bash's challenge contestants had to court the audience's favor to win. Cpl. Jeremiah McCoy cajoled the crowd, winning a day off for wearing the ugliest Christmas sweater at the bash.

"It's literally the ugliest-looking Christmas sweater I could find," said McCoy, the battalion's Single Marine and Sailor Program representative. "It's something that's the cream of the crop for ugly."

McCoy bought the worn-out green sweater several years ago from a thrift store for another ugly Christmas sweater party. He convinced the audience it was the worst by pointing out the sweater's aged applique patches, painted stars and ragged leaf cutouts in the shape of the Christmas tree.

Crowd approval also crowned Lance Cpl. Jarvis Brown as best gift-wrapping contest winner. He and four other contestants had just five minutes to wrap difficult presents using only a small bag of supplies. Brown chose a round blue Christmas ornament to wrap, while others struggled with a wooden nutcracker and candy cane flashlights.

"I was thinking I'd wrap it up like candy and tie it on both ends," said Brown, who works as a deployment clerk with the

battalion. "But the wrapping paper wasn't as big as I thought. So I just wrapped it like a candy apple."

Jessip and other coordinators brought back popular challenges from previous years, including a holiday dance contest. Pfc. Michael Lim won this year, after three rounds of elimination.

"They put on the song 'Gangnam Style' and I did the routine," said Lim, an operations clerk with IPAC. "I do mostly hip-hop dancing."

In between contests, coordinators gave away prizes donated by several businesses aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii and in the local community. Prizes included gift certificates to local restaurants and high-price items such as a new iPad and Beats by Dr. Dre earphones. Each Marine and sailor also left with free giveaways including designer fragrances, messenger bags and desk accessories.

Jessip said the bash was a chance for her office to show their appreciation for the daily effort single Marines and sailors shoulder each day. She said the bash offered the junior Marines a rare chance to relax.

"They have so many things on their plate," Jessip said. "When I see folks have a good time and smiling, it makes me feel good as the family readiness officer, knowing they enjoyed it before they go on leave."

Whatever the single Marines and sailors have on their plate, those in Headquarters Bn. can say they unwrapped their presents early this year.

AROUND THE CORPS



Lance Cpl. Austin Long | 2nd Marine Division

Marines with Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment rush out of a CH-53 helicopter to provide security in a landing zone during a field exercise Dec. 3. In preparation for 3rd Bn., 6th Marines' upcoming deployment, the battalion conducted an Alternate Mission Rehearsal Exercise in order to evaluate their core and assigned tasks.

Marines with 3rd Bn., 6th Marines complete final field exercise before deployment

Sgt. Steve Cushman
2nd Marine Division

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. — A company of Marines with faces camouflaged wait tensely for their helicopters to land. With a bump, the choppers touchdown and the Marines rush out into a freshly mowed field of grass.

As the helicopter-borne Marines set up security at one end of the field, a second company secured the other side of the field, which was to become the base of operations for 3rd battalion, 6th Marine Regiment during their final field exercise prior to deployment.

"This is our last major exercise before our deployment," said Lt. Col. James Ryans, the battalion commander and an Hampton, Va., native. "We have now been trained or exposed to all the required elements for deployment."

The scenario the Marines played out consisted of a notional call from an ambassador to reinforce an embassy in an increasingly hostile environment. Their tasks included securing a beach landing area and main route to the embassy.

"As the scenario escalated, the 'ambassador' called for all Americans to be evacuated," said Capt. Matthew Bronson, the 3rd Bn., 6th Marines

operations officer and a Barre, Mass., native.

The tactical scenario created for this field exercise was designed to strain and exercise all facets of the battalion's organic assets. Contracted role players acting as local nationals and Marines from 1st battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, acting as enemy forces brought a sense of realism to the training.

"We've received a lot of positive feedback from the Marines," said Benson. "They're being given realistic missions and fighting against a real (opposing force), which is able to adjust and force the Marines to adjust what

they are doing."

The battalion commander echoed that sentiment.

"Many people think the apex of training is live fire ranges," Ryans said. "But the apex of training is going against a living, breathing force. Fighting against someone who can choose to do or not do something, forcing you to make tactical adjustments."

"We're operating against a living, breathing (opposing force), this is the first time some of my Marines have been exposed to this type of training," said Ryans.

He said his Marines "have done well."

Afghan Border Police conduct independent clearing operation

Sgt. John Jackson
Regional Command Southwest

SOUTHERN HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan — Governor Naeem, Helmand province governor, Maj. Gen. David Berger, Task Force Leatherneck commanding general, and coalition and Afghan National Security Forces officials visited members of the 6th Zone Afghan Border Police at a remote location in southern Helmand province, Afghanistan, Sunday. The visit allowed Gov. Naeem, Maj. Gen. Berger and the officials the opportunity to see the 6th Zone ABP conduct a clearing operation in southern Afghanistan.

The operation, which includes four kandaks of ABP from both Helmand and Nimroz provinces, was planned, coordinated and executed by the 6th Zone ABP commanders.

"There are several different things we are trying to accomplish during this clearing operation," said Col. Hamidullah Sadiki, 6th Zone ABP chief of staff. "We are trying to rid the area of Taliban. We are talking to the civilians about government policy. We are also speaking to them about poppy and telling them why they should not be harvesting it. And we are also meeting with village elders to discuss what issues they have."

During the past five days, the 6th Zone ABP has had success accomplishing their mission.

"When we started this operation, the men had very high

morale, and they were proud to be serving their country," said Sadiki. "We have had very good coordination throughout, and we continue to keep pushing. We have found and disposed of 21 (improvised explosive devices). The men are very brave."

While there is a small element of coalition advisors with the ABP during the operation, it has been and continues to be 100 percent Afghan led.

"(The advisor teams) are here solely as enabler support," said Army Maj. Will Garrison, advisor to the 6th Zone ABP chief of staff. "There is about 500 ABP conducting the operation, and this is the first time a zone-level operation has been conducted in Helmand province."

Although this is the first time an operation of this size has been conducted by the ABP in southern Afghanistan, the results are exactly what the soldiers were hoping to obtain.

"We have had great leadership and management," Sadiki said. "I am very proud of my soldiers, and they are doing a great job."

The advisors embedded with the ABP are pleased with the coordination and execution of the mission.

"After seeing this operation, I think (the ABP) are doing great," said Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Wilburn, an ABP advisor. "They have a very strong group of soldiers who know what they are doing, and they are making this country a safer and better place."



Sgt. John Jackson | Regional Command Southwest

Col. Hamidullah Sadiki, 6th Zone Afghan Border Police chief of staff, receives a status update via radio in southern Helmand province, Afghanistan, Sunday.

Steel Knight: 1/4 begins annual Combat Center exercise

Lance Cpl. D.J. Wu
Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms

TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. — As Exercise Steel Knight 2013 progresses, members of 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment were at the Combat Center's Range 410 practicing platoon-sized, combined arms live-fire maneuvers Nov. 30. The exercise is a starting point for the battalion's training while they're at the Combat Center for Steel Knight.

The unit is working alongside the other battalions in their regiment under the umbrella of Regimental Combat Team 5 for the division-level exercise. Bravo Company, 1st Bn., 4th Marines conducted the platoon-sized attack as the first step in preparing for the division-level final exercise and for future deployments.

"This is practice for the bigger picture," said Cpl. Eric Flores, squad leader, Bravo Company, 1st Bn., 4th Marines. "It helps build confidence and helps me become a better leader."

Flores was just one of the battalion's many Marines using this training to improved small unit leaders. This

stage of the exercise lets platoons, squads and teams of Marines work out their deficiencies and improve cohesion to work better as a team in the long run.

"Keeping my guys alive and completing the mission are my biggest concerns," Flores said. "Ultimately the biggest thing I want to take from this training is the confidence that my Marines have in me. I want to be that go-to leader."

The beginning stages of SK13 include individual units conducting training with the Tactical Training Exercise Control Group. TTECG puts units participating in SK13 through elements of the forthcoming Integrated Training Exercise, TTECG's new pre-deployment training program.

"This is actually a new version of Steel Knight," said 1st Lt. Jake Crockett, executive officer, Bravo Company, 1st Bn., 4th Marines. "We're the first ones to go through this version of Steel Knight, where TTECG is validating what they're calling (the Integrated Training Exercise), which is the new Enhanced Mojave Viper."

The Marines are going step-by-step in the exercise. They start with platoon-sized attacks and work their

way up to company attacks before integrating with mechanized assets.

"It's a building block approach," Crockett said. "We want to set them up for success by starting at the platoon level."

Marines and sailors began the attack at Range 410 with combined arms to make their way through the range's trench system.

Their advance to the enemy position was aided by employing maneuver with fire, breaching procedures and rocket assets.

"All of those things induce some sort of friction with the Marines," Crockett said. "Those are major takeaways from this exercise, from rifleman all the way up to platoon commander."

The Battalions of 1st Bn., 4th Marines will join the other battalions of the regiment in later segments of the exercise.

"It's unique in the fact that the whole regiment hasn't operated under the same command since Bataan," said Crockett.

SK13 is 1st Marine Division's largest combined arms live-fire exercise and will continue until Dec. 18.

Kings of Battle

hone artillery prowess, prepare for Pacific shift

Story and photos by
Cpl. James A. Sauter
Marine Corps Base Hawaii

POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA — As the sun begins to peak above the horizon, a cold wind blows across a barren wasteland, high in the mountains and hills of the island of Hawaii. Used for military field exercises, the Pohakuloa Training Area sits in a valley between two dormant volcanoes, and is covered in loose rock, dust and inhabited by few species of animal.

On a hill side along the flank of the firing batteries, Headquarters and Service Battery of 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, sets up to provide command and control over the battlespace. Shortly after the day reached noon, the battalion's officers and staff noncommissioned officers gathered around a ground layout design of the area of engagement against an enemy with capabilities similar to their own.

During the following days, the Marines and sailors of 1st Bn., 12th Marines updated their proficiency in mortar and howitzer shooting drills and applying those skills and techniques to a mock battle scenario during Operation Spartan Fury, Nov. 26 through Dec. 16.

"Spartan Fury is an opportunity to conduct live-fire artillery day and night in order to build upon training we've already done," said Lt Col. Michael Roach, 1st Bn., 12th Marines battalion commander and native of Tampa, Fla. "It's a chance to do what we do best and that's to support the Marine Air-Ground Task Force. It also helps us build on the battalion's maneuver element and prepare for the missions that we might do in the future."

Once Spartan Fury kicked off, there was very little rest for the Marines and sailors out in the field. The guns would fire and the batteries moved to different locations, sometimes three to four times a day and into the night.

During the early morning, thick fog covered the ground and the batteries ceased fire until the fog cleared for a better



Cpl. Michael Oberley, 1st Bn., 12th Marines section chief and native of Greeley, Colo., inspects the mechanics of a M777A2 155mm light howitzer before a firing mission during Operation Spartan Fury, Dec. 4. During the following days, the Marines and sailors of 1st Bn., 12th Marines updated their proficiency in mortar and howitzer shooting drills and applying those skills and techniques to a mock battle scenario.

visual of the impact area. A constant factor the Marines and sailors had to deal with was the harsh conditions of PTA, which made it seem like a combat environment.

"Being out here really gets us exposed to the elements of nature," said Capt. John McNulty, Charlie Battery commanding officer and native of Lafayette, La. "When you think of Marines, we really thrive when we're under pressure. When we're hot or hungry, all those things put pressure on us to perform. We can never realistically recreate what happens in combat, but here we can get out, get tired and safely employ our weapon systems."

The batteries primarily utilize the M777A2 155mm light howitzer and the 120mm rifled towed mortar system. Every Marine a part of a section was responsible for the efficiency of their gun and had to perform quickly to have their section ready to shoot when the order came to fire.

"The most amazing feeling I get doing this job is the adrenaline rush of getting ready, shooting off a round and blowing things up," said Lance Cpl. Bradley Bizzle, a 1st Bn., 12th Marines ammo technician and native of Washington, Mich. "The process of firing could only take a few minutes from the time the forward observ-

ers call in a mission to the time the section is ready to shoot."

After the section was ready to fire, the section chief called 'set' and waited for the order to fire. When it came, a Marine holding the lanyard cord made a swift rotation with cord and the howitzer exploded, sending a 155mm shell down range. Off in the far distance, a cloud of smoke was seen rising above the earth followed by the sound of impact.

Using this one shot as a marker for adjustments if needed, the forward observers called in another mission except this time for the entire battery. The battery's four guns erupted in a constant barrage of the simulated enemy miles away. When the dust cleared, only craters were left of the destroyed enemy. After the day was done, the batteries packed up and trucked to a new location and repeated the missions until the battle scenario was completed.

"This island that we're on provides great opportunities for training that you don't see anywhere else in the Pacific," Roach said. "We appreciate coming here and we get to work closely with other armed services here, and what we get out of this the most is embarkation from ship to shore and back to ship again. It helps us get back to our expeditionary roots."



Cpl. Michael Oberley, 1st Bn., 12th Marines section chief and native of Greeley, Colo., gives instructions to the Marines of his gun section after receiving an order to prepare for a firing mission during a training exercise for Operation Spartan Fury, Dec. 4.



Cpl. Michael Oberley, 1st Bn., 12th Marines section chief and native of Greeley, Colo., and Cpl. Kyle Beagle, 1st Bn., 12th Marines mortar gunner and native of Deland, Fla., fire a round from a 120-mm mortar system during a training session for Operation Spartan Fury, Dec. 2.



Cpl. Michael Oberley, 1/12 section chief and native of Greeley, Colo., and Cpl. Kyle Beagle, 1st Bn., 12th Marines mortar gunner and native of Deland, Fla., fire a round from 120-mm mortar system during a training session for Operation Spartan Fury, Dec. 2.



Gunnery Sgt. Gustavo Faran, 1st Bn., 12th Marines assistant battalion truck master and native of Meriden, Conn., pulls the lanyard cord of a M777A2 155mm light howitzer and sends a shell downrange during a firing mission for Operation Spartan Fury, Dec. 4.

Wounded sergeant tackles course

Christine Cabalo

Marine Corps Base Hawaii

It was unfinished business Sgt. Jesus Mendoza was determined to complete.

Mendoza became the first from Wounded Warrior Battalion West — Detachment Hawaii to finish Sergeants' Course while still in recovery when he graduated Wednesday. Mendoza suffered a leg injury, ironically, while training during Sergeants' Course in Okinawa in January 2011.

"It's hard for someone with two good legs to do this course," said Mendoza, a Dallas native. "It's even harder for someone with one and a half good legs."

The Dallas native fell from a height of more than 15 feet, causing a pilon fracture in his right leg. Doctors installed 15 metal screws and a plate inside Mendoza's limb to treat the injury. Although he was eventually cleared for physical training, Mendoza found himself needing to start the course all over again.

"In the beginning (of Sergeants' Course) I was still going through the final stages of physical therapy appointments," he said. "They told me I was as good as I was going to get. I was going at 80 to 90 percent of what I did before, due to the hardware."

Before the course, Mendoza participated in several types of sports at the Wounded Warriors to assist with his physical therapy. He rode along with his cycling coach, Staff Sgt. Jason Bailey, administrative chief, Wounded Warriors, twice a week.

"Sgt. Mendoza did activities in the 'Ride 2 Recovery' program," Bailey said. "He did some of the harder cycling events. Those are pretty intense, riding anywhere from 50 to 100 miles a day. He did running and other physical activities on his own time too."

Mendoza said all of the activity at Wounded Warriors prepared him for the rigors of Sergeants' Course. Initially worried about his leg slowing him down, Mendoza was surprised at his ability to tackle the physical training. The biggest challenge, Mendoza said, was keeping up a motivated attitude to excel at each of the course's tasks. His positive outlook impressed several officials at the Staff Noncommissioned Officers Academy.



Christine Cabalo | Hawaii Marine

Sgt. Jesus Mendoza, (left) navigates down Puu Hawaii Loa during an exercise for Sergeants' Course at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Dec. 6. Mendoza, currently stationed in Wounded Warrior Battalion West — Detachment Hawaii, was the first to graduate from the course while still recovering from injuries.

"He never quit in anything," said Staff Sgt. Kendrick Scott, faculty adviser, SNCOA. "We did a beach run, and he never quit. We went to the obstacle course, and he never quit. We did (land navigation and patrol), and he never quit."

Mendoza's achievement has been inspirational for Bailey and others at Wounded Warriors. Bailey said the detachment strives to encourage other Marines and sailors try their physical and mental best, whatever the end result.

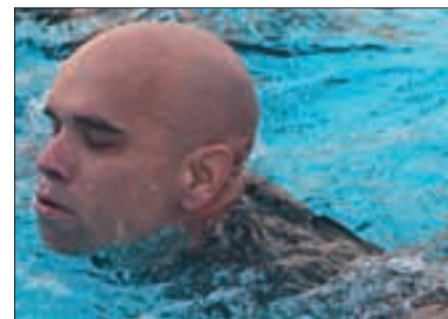
"Part of the process for when recovering service members come to the detachment is doing physical events," Bailey said. "It's always a build up, so no matter where you are at, we're going to

get you better. We're working to assist you to make the transition back to the Marine Corps or to civilian life."

Mendoza said he is now ready to lead junior Marines and work on more physical goals after successfully finishing the course.

"I want to run the Honolulu Marathon next year if I'm still stationed in Hawaii," he said.

In his daily life, Mendoza said he rarely notices the impact of his injury. If he looks closely enough, he can see exactly where the metal plate is under his muscles. But from the assembled crowd at the base chapel, Mendoza was just another one of the 27 graduates in MCB Hawaii's latest Sergeants' Course class.



Christine Cabalo | Hawaii Marine

Sgt. Jesus Mendoza swims to complete aquatic physical training for Sergeants' Course at the base pool, Dec. 7. Mendoza injured his right leg in 2011 during Sergeants' Course training in Okinawa. Recently, Mendoza attempted and succeeded at taking Sergeants' Course again at Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

Asian Pacific Leadership Program sharpens leadership skills at MCBH

Lance Cpl. Nathan Knapke

Marine Corps Base Hawaii

People throughout the world recognize the Marine Corps for the leadership qualities its members' possess. A civilian program discovered an opportunity to practice some team building and leadership skills aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

The Asian Pacific Leadership Program traveled to MCB Hawaii to rope down the rappel tower and work together as a team to complete tasks to gain knowledge for their "leadership tool box," Tuesday.

The Asian Pacific Leadership Program creates a professional networking group in the Pacific. Professional students from 18 countries with diverse backgrounds such as monks, engineers, diplomats, lawyers and doctors, come to pursue higher education while expanding leadership capabilities and answering the following three questions after completing the program.

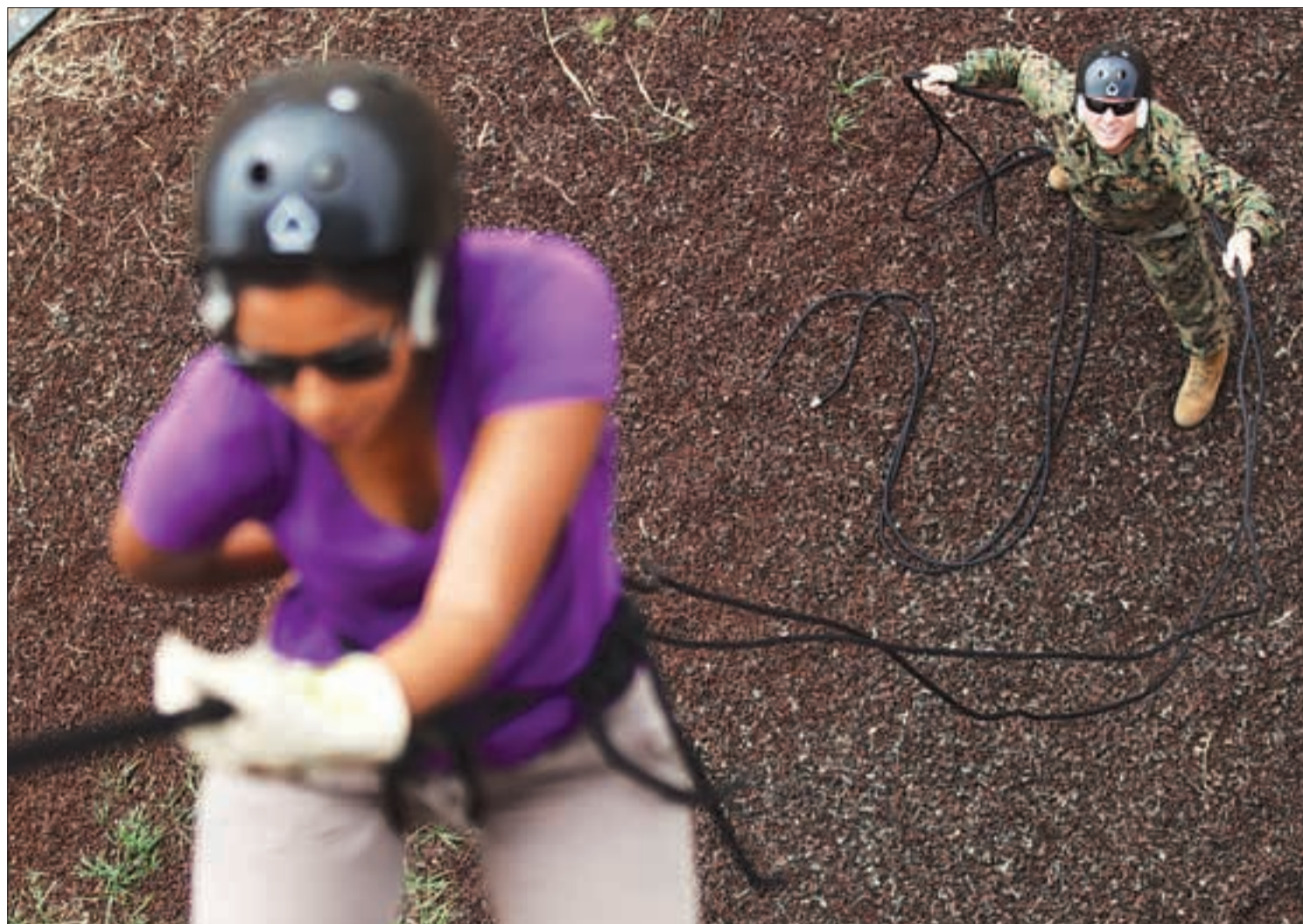
What's going on in the world, not just today but in the future?

What kind of leadership will solve what's going on in the world?

Where do each of them fit into solving the problems that are occurring in the world now or in the future?

"Some students involved with the program are from New Zealand, China, United States, Myanmar and Thailand," said Scott Macleod, the director of the Asian Pacific Leadership Program, from British Columbia, Canada. "They need to find the strengths and benefits of each person on the team to function at the highest productivity level."

Problems discussed include disaster response and navigation change throughout the world. Leaders are expected to



Lance Cpl. Nathan Knapke | Hawaii Marine

Gunnery Sgt. Edward Myers, a rigger with 4th Force Reconnaissance Company, Detachment Hawaii, monitors each member of the Asian Pacific Leadership Program as they make their way down the rappel tower on Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Tuesday.

know what to do, when they face unknown problems. These ideologies are the main learning points behind most of the lessons in the program.

The program doesn't have set courses but, each week students discuss new issues and perform field studies. Classmates get paired with other peers from different countries. The pairs traveled through rural areas of China, Australia and the east coast of the United States learning from one another and overcoming language and cultural barriers, forcing the students to learn

from each other's weaknesses and strengths.

Members of the program leaped off the rappel tower and completed obstacle courses to build team skills. It was another way the students learned how to use each other's strengths for the benefit of the whole group.

"The group does a lot of study and academic work," said Maj. Sean Barnes with 4th Force Reconnaissance, 2nd and 3rd platoon, Fox Company, and Anti-terrorism Battalion. "Today gave them an opportunity to put everything they've been studying into

practice, and put them in an unfamiliar physical domain they aren't use to."

Many members liked the opportunity to join up with Marines and get a taste of how Marines work together in a stressful environment.

"The fact that we were doing physical activities, is great because we haven't done anything like this throughout the whole course," said Rangimarie Mules, a member of the Asian Pacific Leadership Program from New Zealand. "We had to figure out what to do on the spot, work together

and put into practice what we have been learning with a full body and full mind exercise."

Marines were more than happy to help the students further their education and show them a little about how Marines train.

"A key point of this event is to have members of the Asian Pacific Leadership Program leave with a positive experience, so when they go back to their countries and jobs, they will tell friends and family the positive experience they had with Marines," Barnes said.

1/3 PACKS UP GEAR FOR UDP



Cpl. James A. Sauter | Hawaii Marine

Marines and sailors of Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, gather at the Wiki parking lot beside the Marine Corps Exchange annex on Marine Corps Base Hawaii before embarking on a unit deployment program to Okinawa, Wednesday. During the six-month exercise, Alpha Co. will be staged in Okinawa as a forward deployed unit and will conduct a number of training missions, such as participating in Operation Cobra Gold in Thailand and conducting winter survival training in South Korea. In addition Alpha Co. will stay up-to-date on basic training skills and prepare for humanitarian assistance in the Pacific.

KLIPPER, from A-1

poster series includes Hawaiian monk seals that frequent Marine Corps Base Hawaii shores, and Hawaiian stilts, who nest on base in the Nuupia Ponds.

"This year we decided that cultural resources should also have their own poster initiative," Goodfellow said. "We developed a series called 'Defining Our Cultural Heritage.'"

Goodfellow said the first four posters "highlight the 'jewels in the crown' for the Marine Corps, which are the four national historic landmarks that the Marine Corps stewards and protects."

In addition to NAS Kaneohe Bay,

posters have also been designed for Marine Barracks, Washington and the home of the commandant, The Charlesfort-Santa Elena site at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island and the Las Flores Adobe site at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton.

Cmdr. Steve Platt, commanding officer, Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 2, Annichiarico and Watson carried a wreath of flowers in front of the crowd, and placed it between the two formations of Marines.

The U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific Band played "Eternal Father, Strong to Save." The crowd was silent, and looked on as one by one, the fallen service

members and civilians were once named, and a special bell tolled for each. Further down the flightline, Marines raised their rifles, and performed a three-volley salute.

The base hosts the Kaneohe Klipper Memorial Ceremony each year, commemorating the two-wave attack which left then-Hangar 1 burning, more than 30 aircrafts destroyed, 20 dead and more injured.

Lives were lost that day, but memories still live on. Navy Lt. John Finn, who was a chief ordnanceman at NAS Kaneohe Bay that day, continued firing on the Japanese despite receiving many wounds, and later earned the Medal of

Honor. The headquarters building for CPRW-2 is named after him, and last year, a contract was awarded to build a new USS John Finn Arleigh Burke class destroyer.

Japanese Lt. Fusata Iida, the commander of the 3rd Aircraft Group of the Japanese Imperial Navy, crashed his zero on the hillside near Kansas Tower on Dec. 7, 1941, and is today memorialized by a plaque on Reed Road.

The Japan Religious Committee for World Federation annually visits the base to pay their respects not only to Iida, but to all lives lost at NAS Kaneohe Bay.

Sports & Health

Kids HITT Semper Fit

Children aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii undergo agility training

Lance Cpl. Jacob Barber
Marine Corps Base Hawaii

Several parents sat near the bleachers inside the Semper Fit Center as their children participated in several speed, quickness, and agility exercises as part of HITT for Kids, a nine day clinic that focuses on teaching children the basics of speed and agility training in conjunction with youth sports.

The first class was held Dec. 9 and was divided into two-hour sessions. The first for children ages 5 through 9, and the second for ages 10 through 18.

At the start of the class, participants received instructions on proper stretching procedures by Jason Cutitta, a personal trainer at Semper Fit.

According to Jason, the class was made to build an athletic foundation for kids who will play or are playing youth sports.

Cutitta also explained the importance of warming up and staying active.

Following the stretches, participants did a series of warm-up exercises such as sprinting, crab walks, bear crawls, and toe-touches. Beckie Page, assistant manager, Semper Fit Center, and Cutitta then took the children through a series of agility exercises.

When asked how he liked his instructors, Derrick Brown, 5, said, "They help make me stronger and faster. I like them a lot because they make fun games for us to play and we can try to beat each other."

Like Brown, several other participants said their favorite part about the clinic was the competition.

"I like racing other people and trying to beat the other team," said Faith Rodriguez, 5. "The class makes me strong and it's fun when we get to jump around (star jumps) because I feel like a kangaroo."

The class ended with a relay race where the seven participants were divided into two teams. The race resembled "shuttle runs" where they would have to run to one line, pick up a ball, and bring it back to the starting point. The children repeated this until everyone was done and sitting down.

Cutitta and Page were there to assist and motivate the teams as they repeated the drill.

When asked her favorite part about the program, Page said, "I love watching the improvements they make from their first day to the end of the clinic."



Lance Cpl. Jacob Barber | Hawaii Marine

Children aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii participate in High Intensity Tactical Training for Kids, at Semper Fit Center, Dec. 11. The class's primary focus is to increase speed, quickness, and agility in conjunction with youth sports. The class, which started Dec. 11, was developed and instructed by certified strength and conditioning specialists and is held every Tuesday and Thursday.

This course started with actual service members and we really wanted to test the water with children. As the course progresses you see such a big change in their agility and quickness. It's awesome to see."

The clinic is held every Tuesday and Thursday until Dec. 20. For more details on how to register your child for this class, call Semper Fit Center at 254-7597.

Gain help, lose weight

Christine Cabalo
Marine Corps Base Hawaii

Making smart choices to lose weight can be a little easier to swallow with help from the Semper Fit Health Promotion Office.

The office regularly hosts free monthly nutrition classes at Marine Corps Base Hawaii led by Army Capt. Joy Metevier, nutrition clinic chief dietitian, Tripler Army Medical Center. Metevier also meets with Marine Corps Base Hawaii residents and workers for free individual counseling to help them meet their health goals. She spoke about the roadblocks to losing or maintaining weight during her latest one-hour class held Tuesday.

"Things we do not have control over can make maintaining weight harder," she said. "There's genetics, body type and even a naturally smaller neck that makes meeting a measuring tape test difficult."

Service members and civilians directly asked Metevier questions about weight loss while she spoke about this month's topic: weight maintenance while on active duty. Attendees also left with a worksheet featuring online resources and charts with calorie information. They used formulas on the sheet to determine roughly how many daily calories they need and when they might be consuming hidden calories.

"You may not realize that you're drinking 900 calories in beverages each day," she said. "That's the same amount of calories as two Big Mac burgers, but you don't feel like it is. You don't get full the same way from drinking calories."

Metevier asked the audience for examples of what methods they've employed for health and what the outcomes have been. She then suggested alternatives to maximize their efforts, which was helpful for Lance Cpl. Robert King, radar technician, Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay.

"I've heard a little about how your metabolism shuts down if you eat too little," he said. "From her words today,



Christine Cabalo | Hawaii Marine

Army Capt. Joy Metevier, nutrition clinic chief dietitian, Tripler Army Medical Center, speaks about how there is no one miracle diet plan during one of her free nutrition classes held Tuesday at the Education Center. Metevier is also available to military ID cardholders for individualized nutrition counseling.

I know I need to try being patient about losing weight and not losing motivation."

King said he was familiar with most of Metevier's suggestions since he successfully lost weight before joining the Marine Corps and while on active duty. He said the class has been popular with fellow unit members regardless of their current weight, and after attending this class he appreciates how it's been a nice reminder

of healthy concepts.

One of the core concepts Metevier stressed is consistent calorie and portion monitoring. Although several diet systems are available, the dietician stresses there isn't one miracle plan.

"I don't talk about how one diet works better for you than others," Metevier said. "Success in those diets is more about what works for your personality." She stressed losing weight is about

reducing calories consumed, with partial assistance from physical activity. She spoke about human nutrition professor Mark Haub lost 27 pounds in 2010 with a "Twinkie Diet." Although Haub ate several dessert snacks and other processed food, he still reduced his weight by carefully monitoring his calories. It's a message about portion control King agreed with.

"One thing I'm glad to see is that she tells us to pay more attention to our food than just our exercise habits," he said. "I'm happy to hear that. Not many people realize exercise alone isn't enough. This is one of the first classes I've been in where that has been stressed."

Metevier said attendees are welcome to her next class, scheduled Jan. 8, after they take the holidays to digest the information.

For more information about upcoming nutrition classes or counseling, call the Health Promotion Office at 254-7636.



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.

Is Pacquiao's boxing career over?

Lance Cpl. Nathan Knapke VS. Lance Cpl. Jacob Barber

BARBER: Manny Pacquiao proved in his last fight against Juan Manuel Marquez he no longer has the assets to be a top contender in the boxing world. After a solid punch from Marquez in the sixth round of their fourth fight, Pacquiao went down hard on the mat and started dreaming about his retirement plans. Now, the knockout itself was crazy, considering Pacquiao has been known throughout his career for being a pound for pound boxer who never gets knocked down. However, the way he fought during that round was different from what you would expect from a championship contender. Pacquiao started off the first five rounds great, even knocking down Marquez early in the fight. I don't know what happened during the break between round five and six, but the legendary boxer came out with no defense and left his face wide open on several occasions. Was he tired? Hurt? Lazy? I don't know what it was, but he got dropped

and as he plummeted to the ground, so did his career.

KNAPKE: No longer has the assets? Really? Manny Pacquiao is still one of the top dogs in boxing. Pacquiao connected on 94 punches to Marquez's 52 punches. He broke Marquez's nose and dropped him in the previous rounds, not to mention his face was tore up, pouring out blood. You are right, it took a solid punch to knock out Pacquiao. He was knocked out in the last second of the sixth round during a high amount of exchanged punches from each fighter. This was the kind of fight any fan of boxing wants to watch. This is why he will continue to fight, people simply want to watch him. There are too many Manny fans.

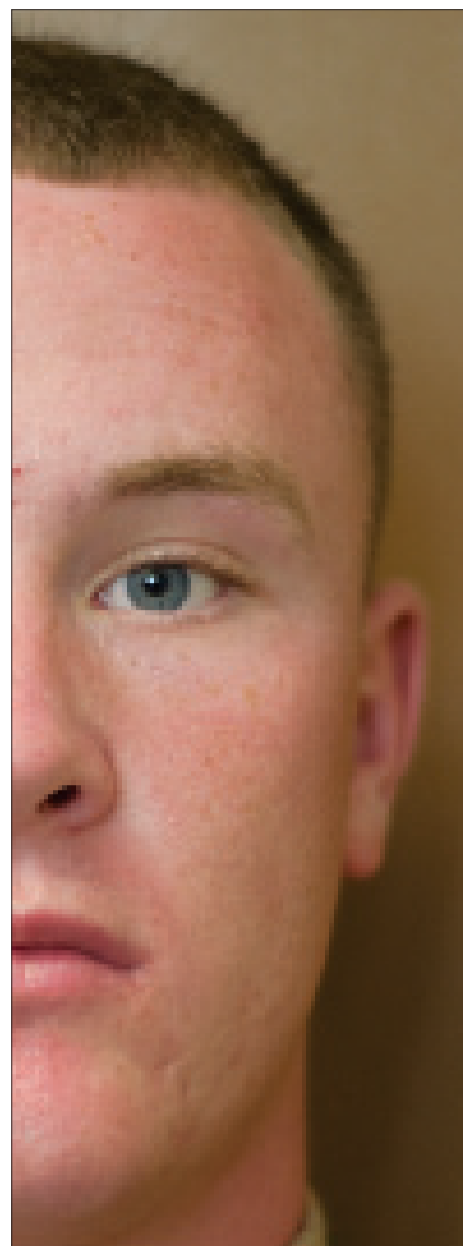
BARBER: What does Pacquiao have left to do in his boxing career? Fight Mayweather? No, because that opportunity ended when he hit the mat. That was the fight people wanted



KNAPKE

to see. Mayweather and Pacquiao. Marquez was fighting to create a better name for himself, nobody cares about his career or his victory. Boxing fans would rather talk about Pacquiao losing instead of Marquez winning. With this loss, Pacquiao is now backed against a wall with a hard decision to make — whether he will continue to fight, and get his shot at Mayweather, or whether he will call it quits, realize he is too old, and become the president of the Philippines. I personally like the second option because I like Pacquiao as a man. He is very humble, but he is too old to bounce back from a loss like that.

KNAPKE: I think if you were to back Manny Pacquiao up against a wall, he would fight back. The same could be said for his career. After this loss he is going to come out and prove to his fans he is still the top boxer. This loss is not a career ender. He is going to bounce back and win. To say he is just going to stop boxing because he



BARBER

lost a fight isn't a familiar characteristic of Pacquiao. Pacquiao had Marquez up against a wall, and what did he do, he threw a desperation punch. Pacquiao won't come back with desperation, but instead determination to be back on top. By the way, who wouldn't want to see Mayweather versus Pacquiao. That fight is just another example of people wanting to watch Pacquiao fight, win or loose, because he brings the pain every time he gets in the ring.

BARBER: Paquiao is too old for a comeback. His fact sheets prove he isn't in his prime anymore. So you're telling me, after losing two fights in a row, being put to sleep in his last fight, he will be able to make a huge comeback and beat Mayweather? Get outta here with that.

KNAPKE: No, I'm saying Paquiao got where he was through hard work and dedication, and I'm sure a simple knockout will not stop this fighter from fighting.

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 details, call 254-7636.

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.

Taekwondo for adults

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

All-Marine Corps Bowling Team Tryouts

Tryouts will begin on Jan. 10, 17, 24, and 31. The top six men and top four women will make the team and will participate in the Hawaii All-Military Bowling Tournament April 2 through 5, 2013.

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.

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 Semper Fit Juniors 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 weekends and holidays. 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 still apply). Participants must then present their military identification and badge upon entering the facility. For more details, call 254-7597.

Exercise with Kid Fit

Children can stay fit during their school break with Kid Fit. The classes are available Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 8:30 to 11 a.m. Call the Semper Fit Center for more information at 254-7597.

Spring Board Diving Class

Spring Board Diving classes for kids ages 7 and under and 8 through 13 years are now available at the base pool. There is a fee for four sessions and U.S.A. Diving Insurance is required. Call the base pool for details at 254-7655

Marriage Doldrums

Is your relationship still on course?

Lisa Smith Molinari

Contributing writer

One busy night after the kids had gone to bed, I settled into my well-worn spot on the sofa for some mind-numbing television.

"Can you believe this guy?" I asked my active duty Navy husband, seated in his favorite recliner beside me. When no answer was forthcoming, I glanced over to witness an all-too-familiar scene: Deeply imbedded in the recliner's cushions lay my husband of 19 years, sound asleep.

Normally, I would giggle, turn the lights out around him and go to bed – a sort of revenge for being "abandoned" for the umpteenth time. He'd eventually wake up alone in the dark and trudge upstairs to find me tee-heeing under the covers of our bed.

But on this particular night, I gawked at my dreaming husband as if I was seeing this for the first time. Is this the man I married? Panic gripped my soul as I realized: We've changed. We're tired, boring, predictable. We're doomed.

One evening in 1992, my husband-to-be and I were at an Italian café in Pittsburgh, sipping wine and falling in love.

"I really want to travel," I said.

"Me too," he said. "I want to live near the ocean."

"Me too," I said.

"I don't care about money, I just want happiness," he said.

"Me too!" I said.

It was a match made in heaven and our future was destined to be perfect. But maybe if we understood the reality of marriage our conversation would have been different:

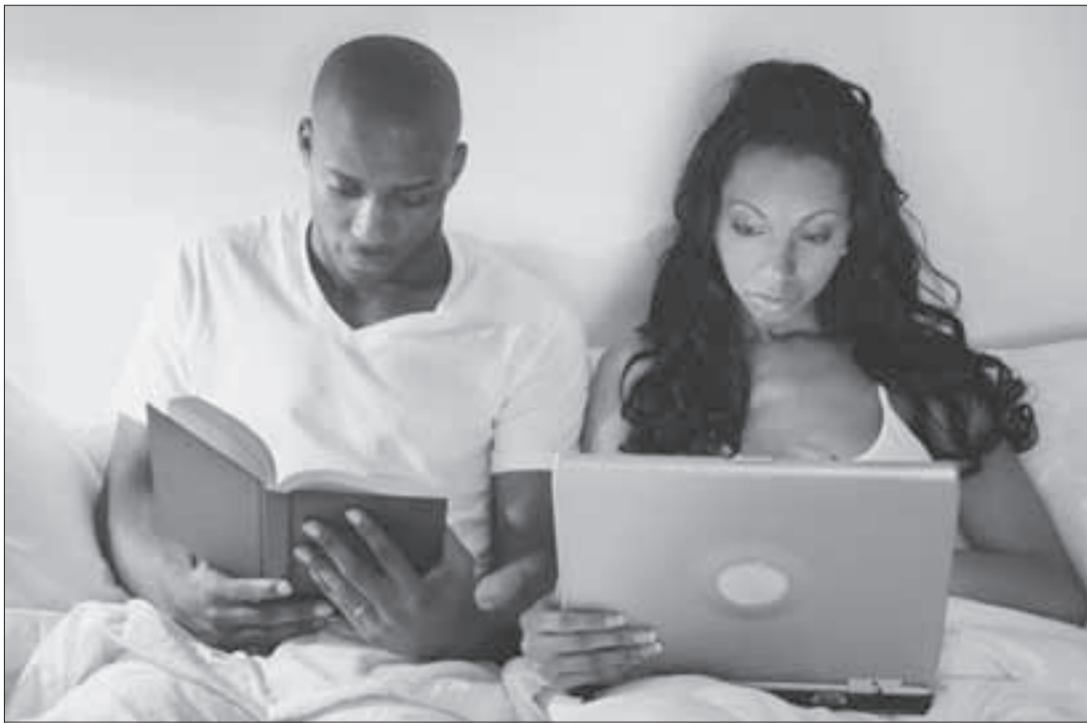


Photo illustration

"I'm going to go bald, but ironically, hair will sprout out of my ears and nose," he might've said.

"I'm good with tweezers," I might've said.

"I'm going to deploy a lot, and will feel no embarrassment if my wife handles all the home repairs," he should've said.

"I won't have a problem with that for the first 10 years or so, but then I'll get really fed up," I really wish I'd said.

But back then, we weren't thinking about annoying habits, multiple permanent changes of station and clogged drains. We were too busy planning our perfect life to be bothered with reality.

Our unrealistic expectations persisted after we were engaged. "Oh pardon me!" my fiancé yelled after accidentally belching. Although he insisted he would never expel any kind of gas in front of me, it didn't take long to erode his steely resolve.

Today, expelling gas is almost commonplace and

happens as soon as the urge beckons. —Mid-sentence, under the covers, in the recliner.

"Why do you have to burp while I am talking to you?" I've said.

"I didn't burp," he's said, sincerely oblivious.

Before marriage, I preened and pampered my fiancée like a primate, manicuring nails and plucking stray hairs to maintain his ruggedly handsome good looks. I thought this giddy nurturing stage would last forever; I had no idea that those stray hairs would later multiply so profusely that our grooming sessions now take place in the garage and involve the leaf blower. The pedicures have become completely intolerable because my husband's left piggy toe now resembles a tiny hoof. One of the kids recently asked him if it was made of

wood. I had to draw the line somewhere.

So what am I saying? Are we doomed because we haven't met our premarital expectations?

That night as I watched my husband dozing, I realized something very important. We did not meet our original expectations, we've exceeded them. Back when we were dreaming of a life of romance uninhibited by responsibility, stress and aging, we couldn't fully comprehend the complexity and depth of the marital relationship.

What we didn't understand then is that romance is more than candlelight dinners and adventurous travel. The foundation of long-term romance is really commitment, companionship and comfort.

Realizing this, my initial repulsion at the sight of my sleeping husband turned to adoration. And as I turned the lights out and sneaked upstairs to wait for him to wake up alone in the dark, I felt happy that our marriage is on an unexpected course to paradise.

Holiday SAFETY TIPS to live by

Steven Longwell

Deputy Safety Director

When most people think about the holidays, family festivities and good cheer likely come to mind. What few of us consider is the holidays also present an increased risk of home fires and injuries. Home fires during the holiday season often involve cooking, holiday trees, candles and decorations.

Injuries are typically the result of not using the right tools for the job, or using them in an unsafe manner. By taking some preventative steps and following simple rules, most home fires and injuries can be prevented during the holidays and beyond. Here are a few tips provided by the National Fire Protection Association and the National Safety Council to consider during the holidays:

- **Stay in the kitchen while you're cooking and turn off the stove when you leave.**
- **If you have a cooking fire, just get out! Close the door behind you and call 911 immediately.**
- **Use artificial candles; they are less likely to start a fire.**
- **Do not place Christmas trees near any heat sources.**
- **For fresh trees: Before placing it in the stand, cut 2 inches from the base of the trunk, use a sturdy base and add water daily.**
- **Artificial trees with built-in electrical systems should have the Underwriters Laboratory label.**
- **Only use indoor lights indoors (and outdoor lights only outdoors) and check for serviceability.**
- **Use the proper step stool, step ladder, or an extension ladder to reach high places.**
- **Use a fiberglass or wooden ladder if there is any chance of contact with electricity.**
- **Never stand on the top two rungs of a ladder.**

Before starting any holiday decorating, check with your local fire department, the Base Housing Office, or unit safety representative to ensure you are not violating any Marine Corps Base Hawaii, City and County of Honolulu, federal, or state codes and regulations.

Being aware of these hazards and taking the necessary

steps to eliminate them will lower the probability and severity of a mishap. Once you have everything in place, go back and re-check everything daily to ensure no one came up behind you and made any changes.

Take your time and plan to make this holiday season a joyous, happy, and safe one to remember.

CHILL out, don't STRESS out this holiday season

Lara H. Smith

TriWest Healthcare Alliance

It's supposed to be the most wonderful time of the year. Yet for many, it's anything but.

"If the holidays have you overwhelmed, you are not alone," says TriWest Healthcare Alliance Behavioral Health Educator Kristin Musch. "Expectations are high, to-do lists are long and, often, the budget is tight, which can result in sadness, anger, frustration and resentment."

But stress can be reduced, allowing you to actually enjoy this time. "The key is to plan ahead," she added.

Check out our eight top tips for a stress-free holiday season:

1. Check your expectations. Are they higher now than other times during the year? Ask yourself why. The holidays don't have to be perfect. Find a way to incorporate a few rituals that bring you happiness and comfort. Fewer expecta-

tions can lead to greater appreciation and enjoyment.

2. Manage your time. Schedule specific days and times for shopping, baking, wrapping and other holiday commitments. Make sure what you are doing is important to you. Add in some scheduled downtime for reading, watching a movie or taking in a favorite hobby.

3. Just say no. This is not the time to take on extra projects at home, school or for others. Know your limits and stick to them. Productivity expert David Allen has sage advice on this topic. "You can do anything, but not everything."

4. Move it. Feeling overwhelmed? Exercise is one of the best ways to relieve stress, says Musch. The few minutes you take to get in a walk, rake some leaves or go for a run will clear and calm your mind. Include your kids or other family members in your activities.

5. Indulge carefully. Whether gift shopping, snacking on tasty holiday treats or celebrating with cocktails, make



sure to do it all in moderation. The indulgence now could leave a sour taste in your mouth when that credit card statement or scale presents you with a number you weren't expecting.

6. Keep visions of sugar plums dancing in your head. That's right. Sleep is a must during this busy time. It will restore your energy, ward off illness and will keep your head clear during a time of year when we all have a lot on our minds.

7. Laugh it up. All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy, the saying goes. Surround yourself with people and

activities that bring a smile to your face. And be sure to stay away from those who bring you down.

8. Focus on the haves, not the have-nots. Author Melody Beattie may have said it best. "Gratitude turns what we have into enough." Every day there is something for which to be grateful. Whatever that is, however small it is, identify it, share it, write it down. When we focus on what we have, it truly becomes enough.

Here's to a happy, healthy and stress-free holiday season. For more tips, visit <http://TriWest.com/BH>.



Crime Prevention Tip of the Month

If you witness any suspicious activity or behavior on base don't hesitate to call the PMO desk sergeant directly at 257-2123/1018. Remember, callers can remain anonymous.

PMO Contact Numbers and Locations

To report suspicious activity/behavior or for non-emergency calls contact the desk sergeant:
257-1018/2123; Bldg. 1096

For information regarding check in/out, fingerprinting, or weapon registration contact:
257-6994; Bldg. 1095

For information regarding pet registration, fishing regulations, or lost/found animals contact the PMO Game Warden:
257-1821; Bldg. 3099

For information regarding vehicle decals, base passes, and vehicle registration contact:
257-2047/0183; Bldg. 1637/1095 for MCB Hawaii and 477-8734/8735; Bldg. 601 for Camp H.M. Smith

For information regarding traffic regulations, citations, or traffic court contact the Traffic Court bailiff:
257-6991/6992; Bldg. 1095

For all other numbers not listed contact Base Information:
449-7110

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

Topic of the Month

The Provost Marshal's Office would like to wish all military and civilian personnel aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Camp H.M. Smith, and Manana Housing a Happy Holidays. If going on leave or vacation for the holidays be sure to secure your residence and your vehicle(s). If possible have a close friend or trusted neighbor occasionally check on your residence and your vehicle(s). Stopping newspaper delivery while you are away, by either suspending your subscription or having a neighbor collect them, will prevent others from knowing you have been away from your residence for an extended period of time. Do not leave valuables in plain sight either in your residence or in your vehicle(s). Be sure to document all highly valuable items with photographs and pertinent information such as receipts and serial numbers. If possible utilize an automatic lighting device at your residence in an effort not to let others know you have been away for an extended period of time. As always, when enjoying the holiday season be sure to do so responsibly. Local law enforcement personnel and PMO will be strictly enforcing moving violations and alcohol laws to ensure a fun and safe holiday season. Have a safe holiday season!

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY DIAL 911

Need a new ID?

Before you go, read below!

As of Jan. 1, 2013, walk-ins will no longer be accepted. You must make an appointment online at <https://rapids-appointments.dmdc.osd.mil/>.

- Appointments are available at 20 minute intervals from 7:20 a.m. and 2:40 p.m. weekdays. Appointments are subject to closures due to holidays, manpower shortages and technical issues.
- Only one appointment is necessary per family.
- A list of required documents is available at the website above.

Questions? Call the Site Security Manager at 257-2077.

Directions? DEERS/ID Card Center is located in building 1044, room 102.

From the H-3 Gate, turn right, and the office is located on the first left at the split onto Selden Street.



HAVE YOU SEEN THIS BIRD?



The months of November and December make up the “annual shearwater fallout” season on base and around the islands.

Juvenile wedge-tailed shearwaters (seabirds) that are learning to fly often get disoriented by city lights, and fly inland instead of toward the sea.

Consequently they fall to ground and get injured or become vulnerable to predators or other hazards.

If found, please contact the Military Police Department at 257-2123.

Military Police will mobilize designated personnel who will take follow-on actions to rescue and safely re-release these birds to the wild or to rehab.

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND VOLUNTEER LISTINGS

Holiday fun at Children's Discovery Center

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

Celebrate in style with free food tasting

Sample some of the fine cuisine at Whole Foods Kailua in time for New Year's Eve, Dec. 27 from 5 to 7 p.m. Chefs will prepare sweets and seafood.

Nominate a 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. Nominated 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>.

New Arrivals Orientation

The New Arrivals Orientation is scheduled on Jan. 3 from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. The orientation provides important information about MCB Hawaii policies, services, and programs.

No reservations are needed. MCO 1320.11F requires all newly assigned active duty personnel to attend. Family members and newly employed MCB Hawaii civilians are invited. For details, call the Relocation Assistance Program at 257-7787.

Church services at Liberty Christian Center

Church services are available at Liberty Christian Center in Aiea. Worship service is held Sundays at 10 a.m. Communion is held the first Sunday of every month. Bible study is Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Women's Ministry is the second Saturday of each month at 1 p.m. Corporate Prayer is Tuesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For details, call 239-1099.

Volunteer to 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 details, visit <http://www.kakooiwi.org>.

Volunteer at 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.

Count down to the new year in Kakaako

The 3rd annual New Year's Eve Party of the Year, is scheduled for Dec. 31. at Kakaako Beach Park. Activities include Eat the Street food vendors, music and more. Email kai@emergingnewmedia.com.

Birdies for the Brave at the Sony Open

The Sony Open is scheduled at the Waialae Country Club Jan. 7 through 13. The Birdies for the Brave program offers service members the opportunity to caddie the 18th hole for a PGA Tour professional during the Official Pro-Am on Jan. 9. If you are interested in caddying the 18th hole for a PGA Tour Professional, please contact Marc Raiken at 904-543-5112.

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.hawaiianhumane.org> or call 356-2216.

Stormtroopers to collect Toys for Tots

The 501st Legion of Stormtroopers, a worldwide Star Wars costuming organization, will make a special appearance at Honolulu Hale in full costume to collect new, unwrapped toys for the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots Program today from 6 to 9 p.m. The Marine Corps has continued this tradition since 1947. All toys collected in Honolulu are distributed to local children. For more information, call the Mayor's Office of Culture and the Arts at 768-6622.

Art and Flea to host 3rd annual Ugly Sweater Party

Enter your ugliest holiday sweater in a contest at the 3rd annual Ugly Sweater Party at Fresh Cafe in Honolulu, Dec. 20 at 5 p.m. Enjoy live music, find vintage art bargains and more. For details, see <http://www.artandflea.org>

Meet Santa on the Beach at Bellows

Santa will be visiting Bellows Air Force Station Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Bring your camera for a photo opportunity. The location will be behind Pavilion A on the beach. For details, call Bellows Air Force Station at 259-4112.

Island Storm to perform at K-Bay Lanes

On Dec. 23 from 7 to 10 p.m., local band Island Storm will be playing free live music at K-Bay Lanes as part of the Strikers Live Concert Series. K-Bay Lanes is open to all authorized patrons. For more information, call Elden Doi at 254-7693.

MARINE MAKEPONO Means 'Marine Bargains' in Hawaiian

Kitten Adoption. Scrappy is a 6-month-old domestic short-haired cat. He plays well with children and dogs. Any supplies accrued during the time I've fostered him are available upon adoption for free. Call Kuuipo Rodas at 377-0716.

Apartment for rent. Two-bedroom, 1.5 bath Kailua apartment available. Lease is \$1,975 per month. Apartment has new washer/dryer in unit, air conditioning, full kitchen and two parking stalls. No pets. 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.

Hawaii Marine Lifestyles

Santa is coming to town

Story and photos by
Lance Cpl Nathan Knapke
Marine Corps Base Hawaii

With Christmas right around the corner, Marine Corps Base Hawaii children celebrated the season early at the Youth Activities Center, Saturday.

The holiday festivities featured a petting zoo and various other animals for the children, from turtles to goats.

An arts and crafts area let children make personalized ornaments. Children chose from 8 to ten ornaments, to personalize with their name and other designs to take home and put on their tree.

Inside the Youth Activities Center gym, members of Di Rodin's K-Bay Gymnastics and Dance Movement Academy performed holiday dance routines while children lined up for Santa Claus.

Santa was busy straight through the day, as children eagerly waited to meet him. Volunteers working with Santa's Village took pictures of the children and parents received free prints that day.

"We get a lot of volunteers for Santa's Village," said Estella Euclide, a program specialist with Marine and Family Programs. "This is an opportunity for Marines and family members to volunteer to support their community."

Fifteen to 20 volunteers from units across the base supported the event. Many were dressed in a holiday costume, which allowed Marines and sailors to do something they aren't used to every day.

"The whole event is free, which is fantastic," said Euclide. "It's a great opportunity for parents to bring their children and have a relaxing time at a fun and safe event. The event allows people to meet new neighbors and see people that you wouldn't normally be able to (see)."

"I really think the kids enjoy coming and seeing Santa and interacting with the events available to them," said Cpl. Franklin Ellinger, a mobile facilities mechanic with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24, who volunteered with his wife. "It gives the community a chance to come out and spend time with family and friends."

Surveyors at the event counted more than 700 children and 500 adults in attendance at Santa's Village.

"We really hope the popularity of this event continues next year and hope to do better and grow next year," said Euclide. "If anyone has any suggestions for events they would like to see, or about this year's events, we are always looking for comments or advice."



Skylah and Dacian, son and daughter of a Headquarters Battalion Marine, tell Santa Claus what they want for Christmas while their mother takes a photo during Santa's Village at the Youth Activities Center, Saturday.



Jonathan Orebaugh, son of a Special Projects Patrol Squadron 2 sailor, pops bubbles during the Santa's Village event at Children's Youth Center, Saturday. Several volunteers from base came out to help coordinate many stations at the Youth Activities Center.

Children enjoy tricks and games played by a clown during Santa's Village, at the Youth Activities Center on Saturday.

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.

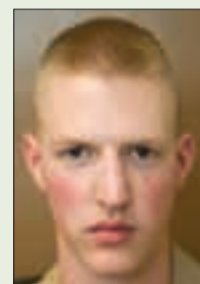


4/4 — Confirmed Kill
Genius. In the top 10 percent of its genre. This is the stuff legends are made of. Missing out on it would be a disservice to yourself.



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



SAUTER

Cpl. James A. Sauter looks for that perfect balance between the shooting and role-playing aspects that make the game worthwhile. While not immediately diving into the multiplayer titles, he looks for the in-depth story that draws you into the game's universe like a classic thriller novel or movie.



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.

Mankind evolution is possible with 'Human Revolution'

Cpl. James A. Sauter

Marine Corps Base Hawaii

As quickly as the winter holiday shopping season came, it's coming to an end just as fast. With it goes the video game blockbuster season of this year's innovative achievements in the 21st century entertainment median. We've saw groundbreaking titles such as "Halo 4," "Call of Duty: Black Ops II," "Assassin's Creed III," and "Far Cry 3" which catapulted gameplay innovation and pushed the bounds of what video games could accomplish.

Unfortunately, titles like these are followed by a huge mega-marketing campaign that eclipses other games worthy of much recognition. One of my favorites worthy of such attention would be last year's "Deus Ex: Human Revolution." The game is an open-ended story set in the year 2027, when mankind is in the middle of seminal moment in history which man can control his own evolution through advanced prosthetic technology.

The most profound aspect of the game is the sense of universe and real world themes incorporated to give "Deus Ex" a realistic feel. Themes like globalization, extensive healthcare, politics, global economics, conspiracy and human augmentation are only a few

things that build the story. The story, after all, is the main focus of this game rather than online multiplayer social connection through computer violence.

The gameplay is built on four pillars of gameplay experience, centered around



a first-person shooter perception of the main character Adam who unwillingly received augmentations to save his life after a corporate attack left him mortally wounded and crippled. The four pillars include combat, stealth, computer hacking and social interaction. It's the last of the gameplay pillars that gives the player a true open-ended storyline in "Deus Ex."

The player can control how Adam reacts toward other people through conversation and physical action. This forms the basis of ethical choices during the story. For example, Adam may be faced with a situation where he's given the choice of either killing or sedating a suspect or foe and his reward or other

character perception will adjust accordingly to fit the player's choice. The outcome of the game will also be dictated by the player's choices and actions throughout the course of the storyline.

However, "Deus Ex" does have a downside as a trade off for its concentration on the storyline. The combat experience is severely lacking, but it does prevent neat challenges. A constant irritation for the player is the lack of ammunition and other equipment during gun-fights. In this aspect, when the player is fighting multiple enemies, it's imperative the player makes every round count.

The other flipside is the weak stealth component of the gameplay. Like the combat portion, stealth provides its own challenges from a lack there of. The player can only remain in stealth for a few seconds before the player's energy is completely exhausted and it never recharges completely either. So the player needs to use stealth frugally when trying to move about undetected.

Overall, "Deus Ex" has a few pitfalls but its depth of story trumps any mishaps. And after being on the shelf for more than a year, it's possible to get it at a decent price. "Deus Ex: Human Revolution" is a worthy addition to any gamers' collection.



To infinity and beyond: Tales of a wallflower

Grace Qiu

Marine Corps Base Hawaii

Adolescence is a stage every person on the planet passes through during their life, a stage on which a sporadic dance of pirouettes and stumbles is performed.

Perhaps a modern day rendition of "Catcher in the Rye," "The Perks of Being a Wallflower" captures this chaotic dance of growing up and projects it through the eyes of a teenager named Charlie living in the 1990s.

The reader follows Charlie through his journey of mixed tapes (he directly recommends listening to "Asleep" by The Smiths) and falling in love, but also of losing innocence and experiencing deep sorrows you were always protected from as a child.

The youngest child of three, Charlie has always been very quiet and reflective. He is honest about his opinions, but not in an aggressive manner. This book is written as if he were writing a

personal letter to the reader, catering to his very honest personality. Soft spoken and incredibly kind, Charlie is a charming young man. He is not your average teenager. He is an innocent child trapped in the body of a growing adolescent. To Charlie, infinity is the untainted feeling of the world's potential open for his taking. It is like finding a golden ticket hidden in your chocolate bar.

From the very start of this novel I fell in love with Charlie's character. I believe he embodies the idea teenagers have deeply embedded in their hearts, the yearning of being innocent again and

leaving their worries behind. He is the epitome of what teenagers wish to be, but cannot because of social pressures and society. This is why to me, this novel is absolutely precious.

The novel follows Charlie in his first year of high school, including his fateful meeting of soon-to-be friends Sam and her stepbrother Patrick. Reading Charlie's story of self-discovery through this thorny and jumbled path of growing up led to me making my own personal insights.

Though I am older than Charlie's character, I can see myself in him and in his experiences. Charlie is in everyone. He is our long lost but achingly yearned for innocence, the tangible manifestation of those halcyon years we call childhood. He is an infinite presence that will never die as long as humans exist. Though

it sometimes hurts to see little Charlie lose his oblivious innocence that characterizes a child, in the end he retains a different type of innocence: of being a kind and thoughtful human being despite knowing life's soaring highs and also crevice-like lows. It's best summed up in one of my favorite paragraphs:

"When we got out of the tunnel, Sam screamed this really fun scream, and there it was. Downtown. Lights on buildings and everything that makes you wonder. Sam sat down and started laughing. Patrick started laughing. I started laughing. And in that moment, I swear we were infinite."

If this book was intriguing enough, readers may want to check out the recent movie adaptation starring Emma Watson and Logan Lerman, directed by the novel's author.



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.

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| "Fun Size" PG-13 | Today 7:15 p.m. |
| "Silent Hill Revelation" R | Today 9:45 p.m. |
| "Lincoln" PG-13 | Saturday 6:30 p.m. |
| "Flight" R | Saturday 9:45 p.m. |
| "Wreck It Ralph" PG | Sunday 2 p.m. |
| "Cloud Atlas" PG-13 | Sunday 6:30 p.m. |
| "Flight" R | Wednesday 6:30 p.m. |

Leatherneck Comedy, Entertainment Tour returns to MCB Hawaii for second year

Kristen Wong

Marine Corps Base Hawaii

Marines and sailors laughed, clapped and cheered as Kimberly Cole and Gabriel Iglesias took to the stage at Dewey Square for a special performance, Wednesday.



Kristen Wong | Hawaii Marine

Comedian Gabriel Iglesias performs for Marines and sailors at Dewey Square, Wednesday. This was the first year Iglesias was part of the Leatherneck Comedy and Entertainment Tour, sponsored by Headquarters Marine Corps. Iglesias and pop singer Kimberly Cole are currently traveling to numerous Marine Corps bases to entertain the single Marines and sailors.

For a second year in a row, the Headquarters Marine Corps-sponsored “Leatherneck Comedy and Entertainment Tour” is visiting numerous Marine Corps bases, including Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

The afternoon kicked off with free lunch for the service members, provided by the Single Marine and Sailor Program, as well as soft drinks from United Services Organization Hawaii.

During the first portion of the show, Cole and her team performed several hits, inspiring cheers and smiles. Several Marines and sailors were even recruited to share their dancing skills on stage.

Lance Cpl. Matthew Avila, a gunner with India Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment participated in a “dance-off” with a fellow Marine on stage. The native of El Paso, Texas, said he was nervous about being onstage with an entertainer for the first time. He said he thought he’d be dancing to a techno or house beat, but was instead competing with Sir Mix-a-Lot and Britney Spears songs.

“(Kimberly Cole is) a very good singer and dancer,” Avila said. “(This is the) first time I’ve seen Gabriel Iglesias. I like him a lot.”

“There are many programs and activities that are provided to support our families aboard the base,” said Karley Peterson, Single Marine and Sailor Program coordinator. “We also want to ensure we provide programs and services that also support our single Marines and sailors on the installation. We’re hoping that by featuring entertainers as big as Gabriel Iglesias, it would be a big draw to our target audience.”

Headquarters Marine Corps provided this exclusive tour for Marines and sailors aboard Marine Corps’ installations.

“(The purpose of the tour is to) improve the quality of life for the Marines and sailors,” said Donna Morsi, the supervisory program manager for Recreation and Deployment Support at Headquarters Marine Corps.

Morsi is one of three coordinators for the tour, along with Nancy Pasternack, the commercial recreation program specialist, and retired Sgt. Maj. Michael Brown, the Single Marine and Recreation Center Program Specialist.

Morsi described the feedback for the last tour as wonderful. She said the majority of surveys and studies that came back detailing what the Marines wanted all echoed the same desire: entertainment.

“We wanted to be able to go to units that were returning from deployment or a major training exercise and provide them with some entertainment, and the type of entertainment they like,” Morsi said.

She remembered when she was at the performance in Okinawa, she said Marines were approaching her and Brown after the show to express their gratitude.

“(They said) we don’t know how to thank you because we needed the stress release we just didn’t know it,” Morsi said. “So it’s been amazing ... I cannot tell you (about) the fun and enjoyment they had. They were really grateful.”

The excitement is felt among the performers as well.

Cole, who hails from Orange County, Calif., recently co-hosted the 2012 American Music Awards. She is currently working on a new album, a song scheduled to release in January and she has a show called “FM” (Fashion + Music). Cole has not been in Hawaii since the last Leatherneck tour show, and is eager to return, and spend more time in the islands.

“The reason why I am an artist is to make people happy and to give back,” Cole said. “These shows make me feel like I’m living what I set out to do ... I wish I could do more shows like this. This is the reminder of why I do what I do.”

Cole said during these tours, she has met “interesting, amazing people,” and has even kept in touch with a number of them through social media outlets.

Though Cole was part of the tour last year, this was a first for Iglesias, who has performed for service members through other venues, including Afghanistan.

Iglesias, a native of Long Beach, Calif., has been featured on various television shows and has toured worldwide. He will also soon be filming season three of “Stand-Up Revolution.”

“Performing in a hot zone is kind of intense,” Iglesias said. “You want to enjoy yourself, you want to bring joy but at the same time it’s always going on in the back of your head, ‘what if something goes down?’”

But like the Marines, no matter the climate or place, Iglesias has performed in numerous countries for various people.

“Someone wants to laugh, I go there,” Iglesias said.

Morsi added some entertainers enjoy performing for service members some much that they have been willing to go above and beyond to accommodate performances for them.

“(The entertainers) come to understand the esprit de corps,” Morsi said. “They have gained a respect for the Marine Corps.”