



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

3D BATTALION, 3D MARINES
3D MARINE DIVISION (-)(REIN)
UNIT 44070
FPO AP 96607-4070

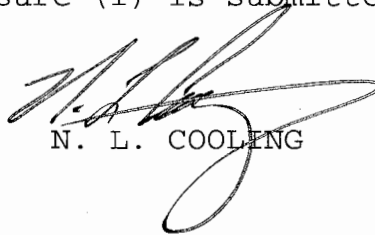
IN REPLY REFER TO:

5750

S-3

18 Feb 05

From: Commanding Officer, 3d Battalion, 3d Marines
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code HDH-4), Headquarters,
United States Marine Corps, Washington DC 20380-0001
Via: (1) Commanding Officer, 3d Marine Regiment
(2) Commanding General, 3d Marine Division
Subj: COMMAND CHRONOLOGY FOR THE PERIOD 01 JULY TO 31 DECEMBER 2004
Ref: (a) MCO 5750.1G
Encl: (1) 3d Battalion, 3d Marines Command Chronology
1. Per the reference, enclosure (1) is submitted.



N. L. COOLING

SECTION I: ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Unit Designation.

a. Reporting Unit Code: M13130

b. Table of Organization Numbers:

(1) 1013G Rifle Company, Infantry Battalion

(2) 1013G Rifle Company, Infantry Battalion

(3) 1013G Rifle Company, Infantry Battalion

(4) 1027H Weapons Company, Infantry Battalion

(5) 1037F Headquarters and Service Company, Infantry Battalion

2. Period Covered and Location. From 1 July 2004 through 31 December 2004, Kaneohe Bay, Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH) and Forward Operating Base (FOB) Salerno, Khowst, Afghanistan.

3. Personnel Information.

a. Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Norman L. COOLING
1 July 2004 - 31 December 2004

b. Executive Officer VACANT
1 July 2004 - 6 August 2004
Major Patrick A. BECKETT
7 August 2004 - 31 December 2004

c. Subordinate Commanders

(1) India Company Captain James G. SWEENEY
1 July 2004 - 31 December 2004

(2) Kilo Company Captain Skyler D. MALLICOAT
1 July 2004 - 31 December 2004

(3) Lima Company Captain Eric W. KELLY
1 July 2004 - 31 December 2004

(4) Weapons Company Captain Kenneth C. BARR
1 July 2004 - 31 December 2004

(5) Headquarters and Service Company

Captain David A. MCCOMBS
1 July 2004 - 31 December 2004

d. Principal Staff Officers

(1) S-1 Officer First Lieutenant Jon D. MOHLER
1 July 2004 - 31 December 2004

(2) S-2 Officer First Lieutenant Jeffrey P. HAAS
1 July 2004 - 31 December 2004

(3) S-3 Officer Major Andrew T. PRIDDY
1 July 2004 - 31 December 2004

(4) Air Officer Captain Donald B. BLUME III
1 July 2004 - 7 November 2004
Major Gerald C. GRAHAM
8 November 2004 - 31 December 2004

(5) S-4 Officer Captain Peter L. MORALES
1 July 2004 - 31 December 2004

(6) S-6 Officer First Lieutenant Robert M. DYKMAN
1 July 2004 - 16 August 2004
First Lieutenant Brendan P. MOONEY
17 August 2004 - 31 December 2004

(7) Chaplain Lieutenant Commander Paul H. EVERS
1 July 2004 - 31 December 2004

(8) Battalion Surgeon Lieutenant Jeremy B. HAMMEL
1 July 2004 - 31 December 2004

e. Staff Historian Captain Thomas E. LAMI
1 July 2004 - 31 December 2004

f. Sergeant Major Sergeant Major Dorsey E. ROBERTS JR
1 July 2004 - 27 August 2004
Sergeant Major William T. STABLES
28 August 2004 - 31 December 2004

4. Average Monthly Strength.

MONTH	USMC		USN	
	OFFICERS	ENLISTED	OFFICERS	ENLISTED
JULY	42	810	2	37
AUGUST	47	1006	2	42
SEPTEMBER	48	1076	3	61
OCTOBER	48	1075	3	61
NOVEMBER	51	896	3	64
DECEMBER	51	899	3	64

5. Equipment.

MARES Reportable Assets:

TAMCN	NOMENCLATURE	SECTION	AUTHORIZED	POSSES
A0918	AN/PSC 5	COMM	0	3
A1530	AN/PPN-19 (V) 2	COMM	0	2
A1935	AN/MRC-138	COMM	0	3
A1957	AN/MRC-145A	COMM	5	7
A2042	AN/PRC-150	COMM	4	4
A2065	AN/PRC 104	COMM	3	3
A2069	AN/PRC 113	COMM	5	5
A2070	AN/PRC-119D	COMM	36	38
A2074	AN/VRC-88D	COMM	16	17
A2075	AN/VRC-89D	COMM	2	2
A2079	AN/PRC-119F	COMM	36	44
A2164	AN/VRC-83	COMM	3	3
A2167	AN/VRC-88A	COMM	8	7
A2168	AN/VRC-89A	COMM	2	2
A2169	AN/VRC-90A	COMM	2	2
A2505	SB-3614	COMM	1	1
A2542	AN/GYK47 (V) 7	WPNS	0	1
A2545	AN/GYK47 (V) 7	WPNS	0	1
A8100	OK-648/U	COMM	17	17
B1291	M1731	NBC	3	3
B0730	GENERATOR SET	MT	0	2
D1001	AMBULANCE	MT	2	2
D1002	AMBULANCE	MT	2	2
E1911	AN/TSM-152	ORD	2	3
E1912	AN/TSM-140B	ORD	2	2
E0980	.50 CAL MG	ORD	6	13
E0989	7.62 MG	ORD	29	37

E0994	MK 19 40MM	ORD	11	14
E1045	AN/PAQ3	ORD	2	5
E1159	AN/PVS-5	ORD	0	18
E1475	SNIPER RIFLE	ORD	0	2
E0915	83MM MK153	ORD	18	18
E1065	60MM MORTAR	ORD	9	9
E0180	M2A2	ORD	4	4
E0207	M98A1	ORD	8	8
E0330	AN/UAS-12A/C	ORD	8	8
E0935	TOW M220E4	ORD	0	8
E1095	81MM MORTAR	ORD	8	8
B0953	GENERATOR	ENG	0	2
B2685	WELDING SHOP	ENG	0	1
PRINCIPLE END ITEMS TOTAL			254	332

SECTION II: NARRATIVE SUMMARY

Command, Operations, and Training

The month of July found 3d Battalion, 3d Marines (3/3), "America's Battalion," at the bottom of the rotational readiness cycle. Greatly impacted by the loss of Fleet Assistance Program billets, individual augments, and combat replacements sent to support Operation Iraqi Freedom units the Battalion was at approximately 65 percent deployable strength. The Battalion also had all new company commanders, an all-new primary staff, and was without a Battalion Executive Officer or a Battalion Gunner. 3/3 was preparing to participate in the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2004 exercise. RIMPAC 2004 provided an opportunity for 3/3 to embark aboard naval vessels and operate as the Ground Combat Element (GCE) for Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force (SPMAGTF) 3. The Battalion viewed RIMPAC 2004 as an opportunity to train for the upcoming deployment to Okinawa, where 3/3 was slated to become the GCE for the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (31st MEU). Along with 3/3, elements of Marine Aircraft Group (MAG) 24 and Combat Service and Support Group-3 (CSSG-3) rounded out SPMAGTF-3 as the Aviation Combat Element and the Combat Service Support Element, respectively.

The line companies primarily focused on synchronizing their Rapid Response Planning Process (R2P2) procedures with the Battalion Headquarters while developing Standard

Operating Procedures (SOP) for MEU (Special Operations Capable) type missions. During RIMPAC 2004, India Company embarked aboard the USS Tarawa (LHA-1) and provided security for CSSG-3's Noncombatant Evacuation Operation (NEO) and B Battery, 1st Battalion, 12th Marines' artillery raid on Barking Sands, Kauai. India Company also conducted a nighttime heliborne raid in the Kahukus Training Area, Oahu, and a heliborne raid on the Schofield Military Operations on Urbanized Terrain (MOUT) facility. Lima Company embarked aboard the USS Rushmore (LSD-47) and conducted amphibious mechanized raids on Pyramid Rock Beach and Marine Corps Training Area Bellows (MCTAB) aboard Amphibious Assault Vehicles (AAV). Both India and Lima Companies repeatedly rehearsed their contingency planning.

Weapons Company focused on supporting the rifle companies with Combined Anti-Armor Teams (CAAT) and the 81mm Mortar Platoon, and assumed the duties as the Tactical Recovery of Aircraft and Personnel (TRAP) force. Charlie Company, Second Royal Australian Regiment (2RAR), on exchange from Queensland, also participated in RIMPAC 2004 as part of America's Battalion. The Australian Soldiers conducted cross training and a heliborne raid on the airfield at Barking Sands, Kauai. It was during final planning for RIMPAC's culminating BLT amphibious assault that the Battalion received word that it would possibly replace 3d Battalion, 6th Marines (3/6) in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). RIMPAC 2004 ended as SPMAGTF-3 executed a combined heliborne/mechanized amphibious assault on MCTAB and Schofield Barracks. While this exercise highlighted the complex planning involved in being a part of an amphibious force, the exercise demonstrated the versatility and lethality of a Marine Air Ground Task Force.

While the Battalion and Charlie Company 2 RAR were employed in RIMPAC, Kilo Company was detached to Australia with the 2 RAR for exercise GOLD EAGLE. The company participated in a military skills competition, MOUT training, and several live fire ranges. From 19-25 July, the 2 RAR hosted Samichon Week. This week, also known as "Blood Week," was observed in remembrance of the Battle of Samichon in which U.S. Marines fought along side soldiers from the 2 RAR against Chinese forces during the Korean War. The Marines and Soldiers focused on sports competitions and camaraderie as part of this event. Kilo Company also participated in the Samichon Day Parade,

marching through the streets of Townsville with the 2 RAR. Exercise GOLD EAGLE 2004 provided excellent field training as well as an opportunity for Kilo Company to gain an appreciation for the capabilities of our Australian Allies.

The month of July ended with an administrative and maintenance stand-down. During this stand-down, the Battalion Staff cancelled the MEU Pre-deployment Training Program (PTP) and began constructing a new PTP to support the potential deployment to Afghanistan. Simultaneously, Headquarters Marine Corps Manpower made the Battalion an urgent priority for personnel staffing, and on 25 July, 3/3 received its initial fill of 22 Marines from the School of Infantry (SOI).

The Battalion Staff spent the month of August coordinating with higher headquarters to arrange a three-phase OEF PTP in Southern California. The three phases were to include a Revised Combined Arms Exercise (RCAX), a Stability and Support Operations (SASO) Field Exercise (FEX), and a high altitude mountain warfare training package. The Battalion Staff spent considerable time developing the PTP with the Training and Education Command (TECOM) and obtaining essential personnel and equipment to deploy with a fully staffed Table of Organization (T/O). Because 3d Marines was committed to the Hawaii CAX, the Battalion Staff would have the added challenge of conducting an RCAX without the benefit of the normal MAGTF Command Element assistance.

Supply was busy in August filling Battalion Table of Equipment shortages and requisitioning specialized gear for OEF, such as Special Application Protective Insert (SAPI) plates, desert uniforms, cold weather gear, and the Improved Load Bearing Equipment (ILBE) packs, to name but a few. Motor Transport worked to ensure the Battalion's rolling stock was operational and ready for embark while simultaneously making arrangements to acquire the vehicular armor needed for OEF and drawing 87 pieces of rolling stock from the Enhanced Equipment Allotment Pool (EEAP) in California in support of the RCAX. The armory received the new M16-A4 (a one-for-one replacement for the Battalion's M16-A2s), 30 M4 Carbine rifles, two Ground Laser Target Designators (GLITD II), and 108 AN/PAS-13B thermal sights. An effort was made to field as much of the new equipment as possible prior to and during the training cycle. Receipt of the new equipment during the PTP provided the Marines

with "hands on" experience that allowed them to become familiar with the gear before deploying for OEF. Simultaneous embarkation of equipment to California and Afghanistan in preparation for RCAX and OEF, respectively, began in late August.

Meanwhile, the line companies spent August focused on training to the standards associated with their new OEF Mission Essential Tasks. They developed and refined their SOPs for convoy operations, Immediate Action (IA) drills, Vehicle Check Points (VCP), Entry Control Points (ECP), patrolling, and cordon and search operations. The companies also began to Battle sight Zero (BZO) their newly issued rifles and focused on developing individual and crew serve weapons proficiency while conducting as many live fire ranges on Oahu as possible. Other preparations included conducting a Battalion Mortar School; several Motor Vehicle Operator Schools (MVOS); Dari and Pashtu language courses (taught by the Defense Language Institute); and briefs on Afghanistan and enemy tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) by the National Ground Intelligence Center (NGIC).

Also during August, Weapons Company organized a Fire Support Training Exercise (FiSTEX). This package consisted of a Fire Support Team (FiST) procedures review class, a Close Air Support (CAS) class, a laser safety class, and practical application in the Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer (ISMT). Each company's FiST made their way through this evaluated training package. Additionally, the Battalion evaluated all of its Squad Leaders and Platoon Commanders on call for fire procedures. Medical readiness preparations to include Anthrax and Small Pox shots, hearing tests, and dental stand-downs became routine until each Marine and Sailor in the Battalion had been vaccinated, tested, or treated. This process took place throughout the three-month period prior to the OEF deployment as new-join Marines and attachments continued to pour into the Battalion. Late in August, 3/3 received another 28 Marines from SOI, but remained short of the deployable T/O staffing goal.

The Advanced Echelon (ADVON) for RCAX, departed for California between 20 and 22 August. Also on 12 August, the Pre-Deployment Sight Survey (PDSS) team departed for Afghanistan. The PDSS team consisted of the newly appointed Battalion Executive Officer, the S-1 Administrative Chief,

the S-2 Officer, the S-3 Assistant Operations Officer, the Assistant S-4 Logistics Officer, the Battalion Motor Transportation Chief, 3d Marines' S-4 representative, the H&S Company Commander, and a Battalion Aid Station (BAS) representative. During their short stay in Afghanistan, the PDSS team surveyed forward operating bases in Salerno and Jalal Abad. The remainder of the Battalion arrived in California between 22 and 27 August. The PDSS team rejoined the Battalion in 29 Palms, CA from Afghanistan on 28 August. Also on 28 August, the Battalion conducted a Sergeants Major Post and Relief Ceremony at Camp Wilson in 29 Palms.

Throughout the months of August and September, the Battalion received supporting attachments to augment the approaching OEF deployment. These attachments included combat engineers, heavy equipment operators, and a third echelon motor transport section. Debarkation in Southern California in preparation for RCAX 2004 was still in motion while OEF equipment was simultaneously being prepared and embarked from the Battalion's home station in Hawaii. The Battalion engaged in a coordinated effort with the Enhanced Equipment Allowance Pool (EEAP), Combat Service and Support Battalion (CSSB)-10 from 29 Palms, Combat Service and Support Group (CSSG)-11 from Camp Pendleton, the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC) Central Magazine Area (CMA), and the Southwest Regional Fleet Transportation (SWRFT), to draw all the necessary gear needed for the PTP. H&S Company spent much of August sustaining the companies various needs, while providing a security Guard Force at the exercise Forward Operating Base (FOB), Camp Wilson in the desert of 29 Palms. The Battalion received its final fill of 40 0300 military occupational specialty, Marines from SOI (West) while deployed to 29 Palms, just as Phase I of the PTP began.

During Phase I of the PTP at the MCAGCC, each company executed multiple squad, platoon, and company live fire exercises on the 100 and 400 series ranges. They also used the open training area to conduct specialized live fire training such as the Convoy Assault Course (CAC). The 100 series ranges afforded each company the opportunity to conduct crew served weapons exercises, to include machine-gun and mortar shoots, a night-fire small arms shoot, and a squad level maneuver range. The 400 series ranges (R410, R410A, and R400) allowed for platoon and company reinforced (rein) live fire exercises. The CAC provided the Marines

necessary live-fire convoy training. Also during Phase I, the Battalion conducted a Fire Support Coordination Exercise (FSCEX), which involved the integration of mortar and artillery fires as well as air support. The FSCEX exposed each FiST to the intricate details of combined arms planning and execution. The 400 series ranges and the CAC were part of the RCAX that was orchestrated and evaluated by the MCAGCC's Tactical Training Exercise Control Group (TTECG). Leveraging the TTECG's personnel and expertise enabled the Battalion and Company Staffs to participate in the training without having to focus on conducting the training themselves.

Phase II of the PTP focused on Stability and Support Operations (SASO) with special emphasis on entry control points, vehicle checkpoints, convoy operations, urban patrolling, and cordon and search operations. The Battalion conducted Phase II in round robin fashion with three stations and with H&S and Weapons Companies broken down and attached to each of the three line Companies so that all received the training. The two venues that supported SASO training were at a 29 Palms condemned housing development (Marine Palms) and Segall Studios, San Diego, California. The Segall Studios training package was divided between the San Diego Studio itself and Camp Elliot, Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Miramar, which was just minutes away from the Studio. The use of Segall Studios was necessitated by the turnover of the SASO Training Package at March Air Reserve Base between the 1st Marine Division and TECOM. TECOM could not stand up the instructor and role player support cadre in time to support 3/3. Marines from Third Battalion, Fourth Marines (3/4) insightfully and enthusiastically provided the instructors and role players for the three-day evolution held in the Marine Palms development. Marines from 3/4 willingly sacrificed their weekends to share their recent experiences from Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) while passing along useful TTPs. The training at Segall Studios, San Diego, was an excellent, realistic training experience. Professional, civilian actors were the role players throughout and provided a sense of realism to the exercise. The elaborate outside village set and indoor "shooting house" also proved beneficial to the training experience. At Camp Elliot, Marines participated in entry and vehicle control points and convoy exercises complete with civilian role players (actors) and special effects pyrotechnics and explosives. The Segall Studios training also exercised the

Battalion's corpsmen with realistic, fully moulaged casualties. The third Phase II training station, held at Camp Wilson, included familiarization classes and practical application sessions on mountain warfare and high altitude operations as well as a scenario-based block of instruction on the OEF rules of engagement.

During Phase III, the Battalion displaced to conduct high altitude Mountain Warfare training at the Mountain Warfare Training Center (MWTC) in Bridgeport. Initially, the Battalion divided into three elements. Each element worked on one of the following techniques for three days: rappelling, rope bridge construction and crossing, and steep terrain association. Due to the compressed timeline during this stage, it was necessary to arrange the elements in such a way as to spread-load the skill sets throughout each company. The second stage of training consisted of a company level long-range patrol Field Exercise (FEX). The companies conducted several long, arduous movements while sending out constant patrols in the high altitude, mountainous terrain. The last stage of training at the MWTC was a Battalion FEX. 3/3 conducted a 14-kilometer foot movement through high altitude mountainous terrain to a village that was suspected of harboring enemy personnel. Upon arrival at the village, the Battalion executed a cordon and search operation. As with the TTECG during RCAX, the Battalion leveraged the MWTC instructor cadre to free the Battalion Staff to participate in the training. The MWTC instructor cadre evaluated both the Company and Battalion FEXs. The Southern California PTP accomplished its purpose. It provided the Battalion, filled with new personnel and equipment, the opportunity to deploy to an area free of training distractions, leverage standing exercise cadres, refine SOPs and train to standard on the OEF-specific Mission Essential Tasks.

The month of October began with the Battalion redeploying from California to Hawaii. Upon arrival in Hawaii, the Battalion immediately began an administration and maintenance stand down period. A 70-man OEF ADVON led by the Battalion Executive Officer, had been sent back from California to MCBH early to prepare for the Main Body's return and complete miscellaneous administrative tasks before departing on family readiness leave. Throughout October, the Battalion continued training to include conducting classes on intelligence gathering, force protection, Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), calls for

fire, close air support, casualty evacuation procedures, and combat lifesaving. Also during this time, 3/3 Marines continued to draw new gear from the Consolidated Issue Facility (CIF) and supply, updated the Marines records of emergency data and recall rosters, and conducted weapons maintenance. The companies conducted their physical fitness tests and continued to update their medical and dental readiness. The Battalion also completed its annual Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical (NBC) training. After completing these administrative and training tasks, the family readiness leave block began for all Marines and Sailors identified as the main body echelon for the OEF deployment. The ADVON returned from leave as the Main Body departed for theirs. The ADVON spent the end of October, coordinating final preparations for the Battalion to execute Reception, Staging, Onward movement, and Integration (RSO&I) for OEF. The Main Body Echelon returned from the family readiness leave block on 27 October and completed the month finalizing preparations for deployment.

On 1 November, the ADVON departed for Afghanistan where they dispersed to stage at Bagram Air Field (BAF) and the Forward Operating Bases (FOB) at Khowst, Gardez, Jalal Abad, Asad Abad, and Nangalam to receive the main body echelon. Between 8 and 11 November, the Main Body Echelon departed Hawaii in waves as Companies (reinforced). The companies took various routes, eventually all making their way through Manas International Airport, Kyrgyzstan, BAF, and then out to their respective FOBs. While in BAF, the companies received indoctrination refresher classes on language and customs, Persons Under Control (PUC) handling, Rules of Engagement (ROE), and mines and Unexploded Ordnance (UXO).

H&S Company arrived at FOB Salerno in Khowst between 13 and 16 November to take over the responsibility of the Exterior Guard Force. Weapons Company arrived at FOB Salerno between 15 and 21 November to begin security operations in the Khowst Province. Due to the demands of 3/3's AO, both H&S Company and Weapons Company were deployed in a non-doctrinal manner, similar to rifle companies. Lima Company arrived at FOB Jalal Abad on 17 November to begin security operations in the Nangahar and Laghman Provinces. Kilo Company arrived at FOB Gardez on 19 November to begin security operations in the Paktia and Logar Provinces. And, finally, India Company arrived at

its Area of Operations in Asad Abad and Camp Blessing from 21-23 November to begin security operations in the Kunar Province.

Immediately upon arriving in their respective FOBs, each company began a Relief in Place (RIP) with their 3/6 counterparts. India Company's RIP was unique in that 3/6 had no forces in Asad Abad and had only recently located a platoon at Camp Blessing in Nangalam. On 22 November, 3rd Platoon, Lima Company quickly learned that the rugged roads of the outlying areas were not exempt from IED attacks. About three kilometers south of a village, an IED exploded in the middle of a convoy that was part of their "right seat/left seat" turnover with 3/6. Fortunately, the IED exploded prematurely, and there were no coalition casualties. After an exchange of small arms fire, the Platoon secured the area for the IED Task Force and an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team to arrive and investigate the site.

On 25 November, 3/6 transferred authority for Tactical Area of Responsibility (TAOR) Teufelhunden to 3/3, and the TAOR was redesignated as "TAOR Trinity." During the RIP and in the month following the transfer of authority (TOA), each company focused on familiarizing themselves with their respective areas of operation. This process included meeting and forging relationships with key Afghan leaders in the District and Provincial governments, the Afghan National Army (ANA) and the Afghan National Police (ANP). The companies consistently maintained at least one reinforced maneuver platoon outside the wire at all times while conducting security assessments of each of the districts in their respective provinces. They placed special emphasis on conducting joint, mounted and dismounted patrols, ground assault convoys (GACs) and vehicle check points (VCPs) with the ANA and ANP in order to build their capabilities and to foster the credibility of those forces in the eyes of the local population. The companies worked feverishly to incorporate information "fires" into each of their operations and to conduct civil affairs and humanitarian assistance missions while focusing on winning the trust and friendship of the Afghan people as a conduit to gaining actionable human intelligence (HUMINT) against anti-government forces (AGF). As the year ended, these efforts were already beginning to pay dividends as each of the companies received information on the locations of enemy emplaced improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and

arms caches. During the last week of November, from TOA until the end of the month, 3/3 conducted a total of 48 patrols, to include 15 joint patrols with Afghan forces. During December, the Battalion conducted 372 of security patrols, 205 of which were joint patrols. Meanwhile, the Battalion's Alpha Command Group conducted assessments of both the security situation and the Marines' quality of life while spending all of December conducting a ground convoy across the entire TAOR from FOB Salerno to FOBs Gardez, Jalal Abad, Asad Abad and Blessing and then back again.

The companies also performed missions that were unique to their respective areas of responsibility from TOA until the end of the year. Lima and Kilo Companies, for example, conducted special joint VCPs in support of the inauguration of President Hamid Karzai, the first democratically elected President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. India and Lima Companies oversaw the disarmament of the Afghan Militia Forces (AMF) in their respective areas. Because FOB Salerno and Camp Blessing were subject to rocket attacks, H&S Company and India Company spent considerable time conducting counter-rocket patrols in Khowst and Nagalam, respectively. Weapons and H&S Companies worked closely with the Khowst Provisional Force (KPF), a special force trained to provide security on the border between Khowst and Pakistan. Weapons and H&S Companies also provided security for Fox Battery, 7th Field Artillery Division as the Battalion positioned them forward, outside of the protective FOB, in order to range the Border Control Points (BCPs) when intelligence indicated that the BCPs were likely to be attacked. This action enabled Fox Battery to provide timely and accurate fire support to the U.S. Special Forces and indigenous forces operating on the border on several occasions. Lima Company's arrival in Nangarhar coincided with the Afghan Government's crack down on the illegal growth of hashish and poppies used in the manufacture of heroin. Because Nangarhar produces 80 percent of the world's heroin, the Afghan government's counter-narcotics program led to a number of special security missions for Lima Company. For example, when the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) initiated a grain distribution program in Nangarhar with the goal of providing a replacement for the poppy crops, Lima Company provided security for opening ceremony and subsequent distribution.

Providing the first sustained, conventional Coalition Force presence in the Kunar Province, India Company also met with some unique challenges. The Battalion immediately tasked India Company with killing or capturing specific individuals that intelligence identified as mid-level HiG, Taliban and Al Qaeda leaders operating in and out of the region. On 4 December, while pursuing some of these individuals in the mountains around Nagalam, India first engaged AGF that were preparing an attack on Camp Blessing with snipers, mortars and close air support. India Company disrupted the AGF attack, killing one enemy combatant in the process. Shortly thereafter, India Company conducted Operation Cornhuskers in pursuit of AGF leaders in the Korengal Valley of Kunar. Following the operation, they left a remain behind squad along with signals intelligence equipment to collect in the area. This squad was attacked on the evening of 23 December. The Company's Quick Reaction Force, deployed the next day to extract the squad from the valley and, after linking up and beginning the movement out of the area, the enemy initiated an ambush that wounded several Marines (one due to a gunshot and others due to shrapnel). All of these Marines returned to full duty within the next month. The Marines maneuvered against the ambush site killing two enemy combatants and capturing another eight in what many Marines described as the most interesting Christmas Eve they had ever experienced.

The Battalion hosted a number of distinguished visitors throughout the month of December. On 14 December, Brigadier General Jerry C. McAbee, the Deputy Commanding General, Marine Forces Central Command, received the Command Brief and visited with the Marines at FOB Asad Abad. Two days later, on 16 December, General Michael Hagee, the 33rd Commandant of the Marine Corps, paid a holiday visit to the Battalion's most forward post -- India Company's platoon at Camp Blessing in Nagalam. On 21 December, Lieutenant General Wallace Gregson, the Commanding General, Marine Forces Pacific and Central Commands, and Colonel Jeffrey Patterson, the Commanding Officer, 3rd Marine Regiment, visited with Lima Company's Marines at FOB Jalal Abad. General Gregson accompanied the Marines on a mounted security patrol through the city.

America's Battalion concluded 2004 fully engaged in their West Virginia-sized Tactical Area of Operations along the Pakistan border in eastern Afghanistan. The Battalion

continues to conduct stability and support operations while working to promote the Afghan government agencies and forces responsible for providing security in the region.

Legal Action

The Commanding Officer, 3d Battalion, 3d Marines is the Special Courts-Martial Convening Authority for the five separate companies; India, Kilo, Lima, Weapons, and H&S. As such, the following legal proceedings were held at this level.

General Courts-Martial	0
Special Courts-Martial	3
Summary Courts-Martial	4
Non-Judicial Punishment	43

Awards

3d Battalion, 3d Marines recognized its outstanding Marines by presenting them with the following awards:

Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medals	2
Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medals	19
Certificates of Commendations	19
Meritorious Masts	20
Letters of Appreciations	42

S-4/Logistics and Embarkation

During July 2004 the Embark Section successfully managed the embarkation of the Battalion in support of exercise Rim of the Pacific 2004 aboard the USS Tarawa and the USS Rushmore. The Embark Section was divided during the majority of the time frame from August through December while simultaneously embarking the Battalion and its attachments to the Pre-deployment Training Package (PTP) in

Southern California and sending its rolling stock and numerous sensitive equipment items to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF).

During the PTP, the Section moved over 800 Marines and 1600 bags to California and eventually back to Hawaii. While in California, the embark section coordinated the Battalion's movement between three distant training areas at MCAGCC 29 Palms, MCAS Miramar, and MWTC Bridgeport.

While the PTP was being conducted in California, the Embark Officer and Chief were in Hawaii embarking the Battalion's entire equipment inventory. This included packing, inspecting, and embarking aboard black bottom shipping, 52 quad cons, fourteen 20-foot containers, and 125 pieces of rolling stock. During the month of September, the Embark Officer traveled to Oakland, California to supervise and coordinate the embarkation of the Battalion's Heavy-Highly Mobile Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (H-HMMWV), seven-tons, and trailers. This was followed by a trip to Singapore during October to oversee the trans-loading of the Battalion's equipment from one ship to another.

Between 1 and 12 November, the Embark Section successfully moved the Battalion and its sensitive equipment (ordnance and communications) to Afghanistan for operations in support of OEF. This movement of personnel and equipment was accomplished by using dedicated airlift and included over 1,000 Marines, approximately 3,000 bags, 10 quad cons, and numerous pal cons and seven-cubes. Once in country the Embark Section coordinated efforts with outside air and logistics agencies to move Marines and equipment to their respective Forward Operating Bases.

Facilities

From the month of August through the month of November, the Facilities Section of S-4 supported numerous work requests and trouble calls for Barracks 1655, 1656, and 7059, Supply Building 3091, and the Battalion Command Post (Building 1087). Facilities completed the turn-in of all required barracks occupancy reports and linen requirements.

During the month of September, contractors put solar reflective window film on the majority of the windows in

the Command Post to reduce heat and energy use. This project was approximately 60 percent complete when the workspaces were turned over in November.

During the month of November, the Battalion completed a turnover, to include numerous joint inspections with the Regimental Facilities Section. This resulted in a successful turnover of living quarters and workspaces.

Battalion Aid Station

During RIMPAC 2004, 10 Sailors received Letters of Commendation for helping perform a bone marrow drive with a 97 percent success rate. Also during this month HM3 (FMF/SW/AW) Toloumu, won the Command Advancement Program for 3rd Marine Division, and was frocked to Petty Officer Second Class. HM3 (FMF) Garcia earned the honor of 3d Marine Division Junior Sailor of the Quarter. In support of exercise GOLD EAGLE, the BAS had four Line Hospital Men (HM) deployed with Kilo Company for direct Medical Support.

During the month of August, the Battalion Aid Station (BAS) deployed one Sailor to Afghanistan in support of the Battalion's Pre-Deployment Site Survey. In addition, 62 Sailors deployed in support of the Battalion PTP in Southern California through the month of September. BAS supported multiple shot exercises to improve medical readiness for deployment in support of OEF. BAS also held medical training classes for Marines throughout the Battalion.

During the month of October, BAS continued to hold multiple immunization exercises to improve Medical Readiness. BAS ensured the improvement of Dental Readiness from 77 to 100 percent deployable.

In month of November, the BAS had three Sailors promoted to the next pay grade. BAS also had one Sailor successfully qualify for their Enlisted Fleet Marine Force Warfare designator, the primary warfare qualification for all Corpsmen assigned to Marine Corps Units. BAS sent three Sailors with the advance party for the Battalion's deployment to Afghanistan. Later, the Main Body Echelon departed in support of OEF, and BAS participated in the RIP with 3/6 and assumed medical support for five Forward Operating Bases.

SECTION III: SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1	Jul	Kilo Company conducted platoon level classes and practical application on navigation, disassembly and assembly of weapons in Australia as part of exercise GOLD EAGLE
1	Jul	Lima Company conducted a Battle Sight Zero (BZO) aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH)
1-3	Jul	India Company completed redeployment from Alaska to MCBH after participating in exercise NORTHERN EDGE 2004
3	Jul	Kilo Company hosted an Independence Day picnic in Townsville, Australia
5	Jul	3d Battalion 3d Marines (3/3) embarked aboard the USS Tarawa and the USS Rushmore as SPMAGTF-3's Ground Combat Element for exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2004
8-9	Jul	Kilo Company participated in a two day squad-level military skills competition at Shoalwater Bay Training Area, Australia as part of exercise GOLD EAGLE 2004
9-12	Jul	India Company conducted Rapid Response Planning Process (R2P2) coordination and a Raid SOP course with Charlie Company, Second Royal Australian Regiment (2RAR) aboard the USS Tarawa
10	Jul	Weapons Company stood up a Tactical Recovery of Aircraft and Personnel (TRAP) force aboard the USS Tarawa during exercise RIMPAC 2004
12-14	Jul	India Company with Weapons Company attachments provided security for a

Noncombatant Evacuation Operation (NEO) conducted by CSSG-3 on Barking Sands, Kauai as part of exercise RIMPAC 2004

12-14 Jul Kilo Company conducted Military Operations on Urbanized Terrain (MOUT) training in the Shoalwater Bay Training Area high ranges and cross trained with an Australian Armor Personnel Carrier (APC) Company as part of exercise GOLD EAGLE 2004

13 Jul Lima Company conducted mechanized raid Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) rehearsals at Barking Sands, Kauai as part of exercise RIMPAC 2004

14-16 Jul India Company conducted fast rope qualifications aboard the USS Tarawa

15 Jul Kilo Company conducted a mechanized assault on Shanty Town MOUT Facility, Australia as part of exercise GOLD EAGLE 2004

16 Jul Weapons Company conducted fast rope qualifications aboard the USS Tarawa

17 Jul India Company with Weapons Company reinforcements conducted a heliborne night raid in the Kahukus Training Area, Oahu as part of exercise RIMPAC 2004

18 Jul Lima Company conducted a mechanized amphibious raid at Pyramid Rock aboard MCBH as part of exercise RIMPAC 2004

19 Jul Lima and Weapons Company executed an amphibious assault rehearsal as part of exercise RIMPAC 2004

19-24 Jul Kilo Company participated in Samichon Week, hosted by 2RAR in Townsville, Australia as part of exercise GOLD EAGLE 2004

20	Jul	3/3 conducted a combined heliborne and mechanized amphibious assault at MCTAB as part of exercise RIMPAC 2004
21	Jul	India Company conducted a heliborne raid into the Schofield MOUT Facility as part of exercise RIMPAC 2004
22	Jul	Remain Behind Element (RBE) of the battalion completed off load from USS Tarawa and USS Rushmore to complete exercise RIMPAC 2004
25	Jul	Kilo Company participated in Samichon Day parade in Townsville, Australia
26-28	Jul	Kilo Company redeployed to MCBH from Townsville, Australia concluding exercise GOLD EAGLE 2004
26-29	Jul	3/3 conducted a post exercise Administrative/Maintenance Stand-down
2	Aug	Kilo Company conducted an Administrative/Maintenance Stand-down
2-6	Aug	India Company conducted a patrolling exercise at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows (MCTAB)
2-6	Aug	Kilo Company completed Squad Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer (ISMT) and sent 65 Marines to Grass Week at the Puuloa Rifle Range
2-6	Aug	Lima Company conducted live-fire exercises at Schofield Barracks
2-6	Aug	Weapons Company conducted platoon level training aboard MCBH
2-13	Aug	81mm Mortar Platoon conducted the Battalion Mortar School at the ISMT aboard MCBH

4	Aug	Battalion Staff conducted a Combat Operations Center (COC) exercise in order to validate Command and Control (C2) SOP aboard MCBH
4-6	Aug	H&S Company conducted annual swim qualifications aboard MCBH
5	Aug	H&S Company conducted a three-mile conditioning hike aboard MCBH
6	Aug	3/3 participated in the 3d Marine Regimental Run aboard MCBH
9-13	Aug	India Company conducted Vehicle Check Point (VCP) and Entry Control Point (ECP) training aboard Dillingham Air Field
9-13	Aug	Kilo Company elements conducted rifle/pistol qualification at Puuloa, Dari language classes at MCBH, and field exercises at MCTAB
10-11	Aug	Lima Company conducted patrolling exercises at Kahukus Training Area
10-12	Aug	Weapons Company conducted Fire Support Team FiST training at the Combined Arms Staff Trainer (CAST) and ISMT and conducted live-fire exercises at Schofield Barracks
12	Aug	H&S Company conducted ECP and VCP training aboard MCBH
13	Aug	3/3 conducted a three mile Battalion run
13	Aug	Officer and SNCO PME on Judge Advocate Group Manual investigations, Fitness Reports, Officer of the Day procedures, and Live-Fire Operational Risk Management
13	Aug	Lima Company conducted a fire and movement live fire at R-5

13	Aug	Weapons Company conducted a Mk19 live fire exercise at MCBH
16-17	Aug	Kilo Company conducted platoon patrolling practical application at MCBH
16-17	Aug	Lima Company completed the Assault Breaching Course aboard MCBH
17	Aug	H&S Company conducted land navigation training at MCTAB
17-18	Aug	India and H&S Company conducted machine gun live-fire training at Schofield Barracks
18	Aug	Kilo Company conducted a live fire exercise at MCBH
18-19	Aug	Lima Company conducted land navigation, convoy and ECP operations at MCTAB
18-20	Aug	Weapons Company rehearsed Immediate Action (IA) drills at Kahukus Training Area
19	Aug	Weapons Company conducted Fire Support Team (FiST) training at the MCBH ISMT
20	Aug	3/3 conducted a six-mile Conditioning Hike aboard MCBH
20-22	Aug	3/3 Advanced Echelon (ADVON) departed for California in preparation for PTP
23-26	Aug	3/3 conducted simultaneous embarkation of equipment to California and Afghanistan in preparation for Predeployment Training Program (PTP) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) respectively
25-29	Aug	3/3 Main Body arrived in California to commence PTP in preparation for OEF deployment

28	Aug	Sergeant's Major Post and Relief at Camp Wilson in 29 Palms
30	Aug	3/3 received Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC) indoctrination classes from the Tactical Training Exercise Control Group
31	Aug	Kilo Company conducted live fire on Range 106 (mortar range) and R107 (infantry squad assault range)
31	Aug	Lima Company conducted live fire on R104 (anti-mechanized grenade range) and R113A (machine-gun BZO range)
31	Aug	Weapons Company conducted live on R108 (infantry squad battle course) and R109 (anti-armor live fire tracking range)
31 Aug - 1 Sep		India Company conducted platoon live fire on R410A (platoon hasty attack and maneuver range)
1	Sep	Kilo Company conducted live fire on R103 (squad defensive fire range)
1	Sep	Lima Company conducted live fire on R106 and R107
1	Sep	Weapons Company conducted live fire on R104
2	Sep	India Company conducted live fire on R107 and R113A
2	Sep	Kilo Company conducted live fire on R410A
2	Sep	Lima Company conducted live fire on R101A (Small Arms BZO Range) and R106
2	Sep	Weapons Company conducts live fire on R113 (multi-purpose machine gun range)

3	Sep	Kilo Company conducted live fire on R103
3	Sep	Lima Company conducted live fire on R410A
3-4	Sep	Battalion FiST Teams participated in Fire Support Classes
4	Sep	India Company conducted live fire on R400 (company fire and maneuver range)
4	Sep	Lima Company conducted live fire on R106, R108, and R113
4-5	Sep	FiST conducted Fire Support Coordination Exercise in the Quackenbush Training Area
5	Sep	Kilo Company conducted live fire on R400
5	Sep	Weapons Company conducted live fire on R104
6	Sep	Lima Company conducted live fire on R400
6	Sep	H&S Company conducted live fire on the Convoy Assault Course (CAC)
7	Sep	India Company conducted live fire on the CAC
7	Sep	Lima Company conducted live fire on R400 (MOUT assault course)
7-9	Sep	Weapons Company conducts live fire on R106, R109, and R110 (MK-19 range)
8	Sep	Kilo Company conducted live fire on the CAC
8-9	Sep	India Company conducted live fire on R111 and R113

9	Sep	Lima Company conducted live fire on the CAC
10	Sep	H&S Company conducted BZO on R103
11-13	Sep	India Company (with H&S and Weapons attachments) conducted SASO training at MCAS Miramar and Segall Studios
11-13	Sep	Kilo Company (with H&S and Weapons attachments) conducted SASO training at the Marine Palms Housing complex in 29 Palms, California
11-13	Sep	Lima Company (with H&S and Weapons attachments) attended Mountain Warfare Training Center (MWTC) Pre-Environmental training at Camp Wilson
12-17	Sep	Weapons Company Headquarters attended Information Operations (IO) training conducted by Expeditionary Warfare Training Group Pacific (EWTG PAC) in 29 Palms
14-16	Sep	India Company (with H&S and Weapons attachments) attended MWTC Pre-Environmental Training at Camp Wilson
14-16	Sep	Kilo Company (with H&S and Weapons attachments) conducted SASO training at MCAS Miramar and Segall Studios
14-16	Sep	Lima Company (with H&S and Weapons attachments) conducted SASO training at the Marine Palms Housing complex in 29 Palms, California
17-19	Sep	India Company (with H&S and Weapons attachments) conducted SASO training at the Marine Palms Housing complex in 29 Palms, California
17-19	Sep	Kilo Company (with H&S and Weapons attachments) attended MWTC Pre-environmental Training at Camp Wilson

17-19	Sep	Lima Company (with H&S and Weapons attachments) conducted SASO training at MCAS Miramar and Segall Studios
20	Sep	3/3 redeployed to MWTC in Bridgeport, CA
21	Sep	3/3 attended cold weather classes instructed by the MWTC staff
22-23	Sep	3/3 conducted mountain survival training at the Levitt Training Area
22	Sep	ADVON for OEF redeployed to Hawaii for the family readiness stand down and leave block
24-25	Sep	3/3 Battalion conducted mountain patrolling exercises aboard MWTC
26-27	Sep	3d Battalion conducted high-altitude operations in Bridgeport, California
26	Sep	ADVON commenced family readiness leave block
28-30	Sep	3/3 conducted a Final Field Exercise consisting of a 14 kilometer movement to an objective area, that culminated in a cordon and search of the Lower Base Camp
1-3	Oct	3/3 redeployed from MWTC to MCBH
4-8	Oct	Battalion Maintenance Stand-down Companies rotated through the following briefs: OEF Intelligence update, Force Protection, Improvised Explosive Device (IED), and Public Affairs (PA) then drew cold weather gear from Consolidated Issue Facility (CIF)
6	Oct	Battalion Family Day
7-8	Oct	3/3 conducted BZO aboard MCBH

11	Oct	ADVON returned from family readiness leave block
11-12	Oct	3d conducted annual NBC training
12	Oct	SNCO and Officer Golf Tournament aboard MCBH
13-26	Oct	3/3 Main Body commenced family readiness leave block
29	Oct	3/3 received attachments for OEF deployment
1	Nov	ADVON departed for OEF
6	Nov	Marines attended the Regimental Birthday Ball
8-11	Nov	Main Body Departed for OEF
10-15	Nov	Main Body arrived at BAF
13-16	Nov	H&S and Weapons Company arrived at FOB Salerno
16-17	Nov	Lima Company arrived at FOB Jalal Abad
16-25	Nov	Weapons Company 3/3 conducted RIP with Lima Company 3/6
16-25	Nov	H&S Company 3/3 conducted RIP with H&S Company 3/6
17-23	Nov	Lima Company 3/3 conducted RIP with India Company 3/6
19	Nov	Kilo Company arrived at FOB Gardez
19-26	Nov	Kilo Company 3/3 conducted RIP with Kilo Company 3/6
21-23	Nov	India Company 3/3 arrived at FOBs Asad Abad and Camp Blessing
22	Nov	H&S assumed responsibility of FOB Salerno Guard Force

25	Nov	3/6 transferred authority of AO Tuefelhunden to 3/3 and the AO was re-designated "AO Trinity"
1	Dec	Alpha Command departed on an assessment tour of AO Trinity
1-8	Dec	India Company conducted Operation FAIRBANKS in the Korangal Valley, Kunar Province
4	Dec	Lima Company conducted security for the Grain Distribution ceremony at the Jalal Abad Governor's Mansion
5-7	Dec	Lima Company conducted VCP operations in the vicinity of Jalal Abad in support
		of the Afghanistan Presidential Inauguration
5-8	Dec	Kilo Company conducted VCP operations in the Paktia Province in support of the Afghanistan Presidential Inauguration
6	Dec	H&S and Weapons Company provided security for the Mullah Conference in the city of Khowst, Khowst Province
7-12	Dec	Weapons Company provided security for Fox Battery's gun displacement in support of Border Control Point (BCP)-6 artillery show of force
8-10	Dec	Weapons Company provided security for the Khowst PRT's MEDCAP in the Spera District, Khowst Province
9	Dec	Fox Battery discovered 3 - 82mm mortar rounds, two Russian bunkers, and 3 recoilless rifle rounds

9	Dec	Lima Company discovered 19 tank rounds, 1 14.5mm machine gun barrel, 2 RPG boosters, 2 grenades, 2 tank parascopes, 1 mortar site, 30 PKM rounds
10-14	Dec	Kilo Company conducted duration operations in the town of Kolalgu (Zormat District), Paktya Province
11-14	Dec	Lima Company conducted duration operation in the Khowgiani District, Nangarhar Province
12	Dec	Weapons Company recovered 9 AT-7s using the Small Rewards Program
12	Dec	India Company received 3 - 82mm mortar rounds and detonation cord from the Bar Kanday Police Chief
14	Dec	Deputy Commanding General for Marine Forces Pacific, Brigadier General McAbee, visited FOBs Jalal Abad and Asad Abad
14-23	Dec	Lima Company conducted a presence patrol in the Methar Lam District, Laghman Province
15	Dec	Kilo Company conducted security for a MEDCAP in Kharwar, Logar Province
15-20	Dec	Weapons Company conducted security operations in Khowst Province (Seway, Wum Kalay, Wurzi, Khwaja Rahim)
16	Dec	The Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Hagee, visited Camp Blessing
16	Dec	Lima Company discovered 40 - 120mm mortars, 150 box mines, 12 - 14.5mm machine gun barrels, 100 tank round fuses, 200 - 107mm rockets

17	Dec	India Company recovers 80-90 107mm rockets and various machine gun munitions
17	Dec	Weapons Company detained two individuals and discovers 1 - 107mm rocket, 3 - AK-47s, 200 - 7.62 rounds, cell phone, wires, and a circuit board.
17-31	Dec	Kilo Company conducted security operation in support of Operation SARATOGA in Chamkani, Paktia Province
18-23	Dec	India Company conducted Operation CORNHUSKERS in the Korangal Valley, Kunar Province
19	Dec	India Company detained one individual and discovered 2 - AK-47s, 171 - 7.62 rounds, 1 bag of explosive material.
19-24	Dec	Kilo Company conducted presence operation in Zurmat, Paktya Province
20	Dec	Lima Company discovers 1 - ZSU, 2 - 23mm anti-air guns, 1 120mm mortar, 30 - 107mm rockets, 15 - 82mm mortar rounds, 40 boxes of 14.5mm/12.7mm rounds, 5 14.5mm machine gun barrels
21	Dec	Commanding General Marine Forces Pacific, LtGen Gregson, visited FOB Jalal Abad
21-23	Dec	Lima Company conducted security operations in the City of Kan, Rodat District, Nangarhar Province
22-24	Dec	Weapons Company conducted Operations BEAVERS and GOLDEN GOPHERS in the Khowst Province
23	Dec	Fox Battery recovers 3 - RPGs from Local National

24	Dec	Local National turns in 150 lbs of single and double based propellant from artillery rounds at North Gate, FOB Salerno
25-30	Dec	Lima Company conducted presence patrols in the Khogiani District, Nangarhar Province
27	Dec	Lima Company discovers 1 - 82mm mortar round, 1 - 82mm recoilless rifle round, 27 artillery fuses, 24 disassembled artillery shells, 12 recoilless rifle primers
27-31	Dec	Weapons Company conducted Operation BADGERS in the Khowst Province
28-31	Dec	Lima Company conducted presence patrols in the Methar Lam District, Laghman Province
31	Dec	Lima Company discovers 25 - tank rounds, 5 - 82mm mortar rounds, 18 boxes (20 per box) fuses

SECTION IV: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

ITEM	DESCRIPTION
A	"Joint forces 'at home on the rang'" From: July 2, 2004 <i>Hawaii Marine</i>
B	"From the land down under" From: July 2, 2004 <i>Hawaii Marine</i>
C	"RIMPAC hits the islands" From: July 9, 2204 <i>Hawaii Marine</i>
D	"Word on the street" From: July 9, 2004 <i>Hawaii Marine</i>
E	"Possible assignment to actual war zone 'very, very real'" From: July 21, 2004, <i>The Honolulu Advertiser</i>
F	"Assault at Bellows" From: July 30, 2004 <i>Hawaii Marine</i>
G	"Letting the dirt settle" From: July 30, 2004 <i>Hawaii Marine</i>
H	"Best of the best yards honored" From: July 30, 2004 <i>Hawaii Marine</i>
I	Untitled Picture From: July 30, 2004 <i>Hawaii Marine</i>
J	"Intramural soccer standings" From: July 30, 2004 <i>Hawaii Marine</i>
K	"Kane'ohe Marines standby to deploy" From: August 13, 2004 <i>The Honolulu Adviser</i>
L	"Brass Knuckles" From: August 20, 2004 <i>Hawaii Marine</i>
M	"Tag-team gives call for supporting fire" From August 20, 2004 <i>Hawaii Marine</i>
N	"3/3 trains for all conditions at CAX" From: September 3, 2004 <i>Hawaii Marine</i>
O	"Under the desert sun" From: September 24, 2004 <i>Hawaii Marine</i>
P	"Lights, camera, action" From: September 24, 2004 <i>Hawaii Marine</i>
Q	"Through the woods" From: October 1, 2004 <i>Hawaii Marine</i>
R	"3/3 braves the cold, altitude" From: October 1, 2004 <i>Hawaii Marine</i>
S	"'America's Battalion' returns" From: October 8, 2004 <i>Hawaii Marine</i>
T	"Out of the frying pan, into the firefight" From: October 8, 2004 <i>Hawaii Marine</i>
U	"'America's Battalion' celebrates" From: October 15, 2004 <i>Hawaii Marine</i>

V	Untitled Photo From: October 22, 2004 <i>Hawaii Marine</i>
W	"Word on the Street" From: October 22, 2004 <i>Hawaii Marine</i>
X	"Heading to the desert" From: November 5, 2004 <i>Hawaii Marine</i>
Y	"3/3 Devil Dogs arrive in Mid East" From: November 12, 2004 <i>Hawaii Marine</i>
Z	"Deaths, deployments spur memories" From: November 12, 2004 <i>Hawaii Marine</i>
AA	"Daddy's off to war, baby" From: November 12, 2004 <i>The Honolulu Star Bulletin</i>
BB	"3/3 Devil Dogs re-up in desert" From: November 19, 2004 <i>Hawaii Marine</i>
CC	"Pace welcomes 3/3 to Afghanistan" From: November 26, 2004 <i>Hawaii Marine</i>
DD	Posted on USMC website From: December 4, 2004 <i>www.usmc.mil</i>
EE	"Marines conduct transfer of authority" From: December 12, 2004 <i>Freedom Watch</i>

Joint forces 'at home on the range'



Pfc. Rien Mattingly

A Marine from 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, field fires an F88 Austeyr rifle, the Royal Australian Army's issued weapon, at the R-5 range aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, during joint training exercises as part of Operation Golden Eagle, June 24. The Australians will join 3/3's Battalion Landing team during Rim of the Pacific exercises in July. See page A-3 for the whole story.

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM A, PICTURE 1

From the land Down Under

'Operation Golden Eagle' brings Marines together with the Royal Australian Army

Story and Photos by
Pfc. Rich Mattingly
Combat Correspondent

Marines and Sailors may have noticed some soldiers in an unusual cammie pattern alongside them in line at the chow hall, asking for "vegemite." Some may have seen these soldiers marching along Mokuapu Road with a precision usually only seen in a Marine Corps unit. And still others may perhaps have been called "mate," as they were generously offered a pint at the club.

If any of these instances sound familiar, then you've probably already discovered that the Aussies have landed.

Recently, as Marines from 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, were deploying to Australia, a company from the Royal Australian Army was arriving here to undergo Marine Corps training.

The Kaneohe Bay side of "Operation Golden Eagle" will culminate during the Rim of the Pacific training exercise this month. Beginning with a two-week training package, Marines and Aussies will swap some paroling techniques and ideas.

Charlie Co., 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, will act as a fully integrated company in 3/3's Battalion Landing Team during the exercise.

After the Australian soldiers arrived, they conducted weapons drills, worked out on the Obstacle Course at Landing Zone Boondocker, fast-rope and rappelled, trained at the Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer, participated in a battalion change of command ceremony, and even attended a barbecue with Marines at Ft. Hase Beach aboard K-Boys. Both Marines and the Australians have been extremely excited about training together.

"It's outstanding," said 1st Lt.

Whitney Foley, assistant operations officer with 3/3. "We've put together a helicopter-training package for the Australians, so they can integrate seamlessly into what we'll be doing. They'll be just like another company of Marines, just with their own style."

Sgt. Maj. Niv Warwick, company sergeant major of Charlie Co., said, "On our side, we're looking at how the Marines' amphibious operation works. We get a better idea of what will help us if we jointly deploy and how Marines do business. We can go back to Australia and write up amphibious doctrine based on what we see and experience here."

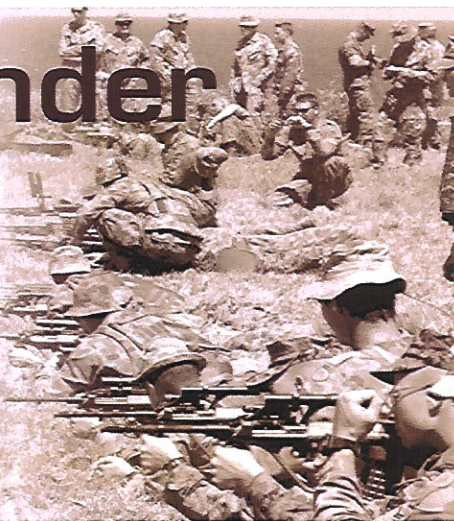
Training in new ways, in a different environment, as well as accomplishing training they can't do at home, is exactly why the Aussies came to train here.

"We don't get to fast rope or do much helo training in Australia. This is good for us, and the lights of Waikiki are keeping the morale of the men up," explained Warwick.

The cooperative training allowed Marines and Australians to exchange weapons and send more than 30,000 rounds downrange at the R-5 range on K-Boys, June 24. The Australian Army regulars got their hands on the M16A2 service rifle and the M249 squad automatic weapon, while Marines from 3/3 got to take their turn with the F89 Austeyr rifle, or "steyr," and the MiniM light support weapon.

The weapons systems all use the same NATO 5.56mm round, with the M249 SAW and MiniM being, in essence, the same weapon.

"Getting Marines to fire other weapons, especially ones as different as the Steyr, will make them more comfortable firing their own weapons," said 1st Lt. Jonathan Frangakis, officer in charge of the R-5 range, who was there to over-



Marines from 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, field fire F89 Austeyr rifles — the Royal Australian Army's issued weapon, at the R5 range here during joint training exercises as part of Operation Golden Eagle June 24.

see the field fire.

Beyond the training occurring here on the local level, 3/3's commanding officer pointed out the importance of the training on an international level.

"Right now, the Australians are our allies in the Global War on Terrorism. There are so few opportunities to train with allies because the preponderance of troops is currently in theater. That makes this an outstanding opportunity

... there are no language barriers, and they are an extremely proficient force," said Lt. Col. Norman L. Cooling, commanding officer, 3/3.

Camaraderie is high, said leaders, and the units are learning more about how one another operates and how they might function in tandem.

Upcoming joint training includes Military Operations in Urban Terrain exercises next week.



Members of the Royal Australian Regiment instructed 3/3 Marines on procedures for firing the F89 Austeyr rifle during training at the R5 range June 24.



Marine Corps Base Hawaii water safety instructors teach soldiers from Charlie Co., 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment how to escape a submerged helicopter during training at the base pool June 25.

Word on the Street

If you could have a super hero power, what would it be and why?



"I'd be Professor Xavier from the 'X-Men,' because if I could control minds, oh, boy."

Sgt. Clinton Schwarz
NBC specialist,
Headquarters Battalion



"I'd be the Hulk because he's INDESTRUCTIBLE!"

Sgt. Nicholas Hasenfratz
Battalion combat instructor,
Headquarters Battalion



"I would have the power to fly so I wouldn't have to go on humps."

Pfc. Dallas Tyler
Rifleman, Kilo Co., 3/3



"I would fly because I always thought it would be cool."

Lance Cpl. Aaron Schroeder
Musician, MarForPac Band



"I'd want to be invisible, so I could be a super-efficient combat weapon."

Sgt. Luke Harvey
Accounting NCOIC,
Headquarters Battalion

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM B, PICTURE 1

RIMPAC hits the islands

3/3 Marines head out for Rim of the Pacific

Lance Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson
Combat Correspondent

Marines from 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, departed Monday for the Rim of the Pacific training exercise around the Hawaiian islands. The companies of India, Lima, Weapons, Headquarters and Service, Combat Assault, and Bravo Battery and Charlie (the latter two part of the Royal Australian Army) are taking part in the training, said 1st Lt. Whitney Foley, S-3 training officer for 3/3.

"The Marines prepared for about two months prior to RIMPAC," said Foley. "Each company focused on different areas of training because each company will have their own responsibilities during the evolution."

The Royal Australian Army completed a RIMPAC training package after arriving at Kaneohe Bay, trading places with Kilo Co., 3/3, as part of exercise Golden Eagle, said Foley. This package included everything from AAV familiarization, helos, fast roping and live-fire to prepare them.

The majority of the Battalion Landing Team will be aboard the USS Tarawa during the exercise, but Lima Co., as well as others, will be aboard the USS Rushmore.

"Our main focus during the exercise will be amphibious raids and assaults," said 1st Lt. Mike D. Berentson, executive officer for Lima Co, 3/3. "Since returning from Thailand, we haven't had a great deal

See RIMPAC, A-4

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM C, PICTURE 1

RIMPAC: Final raid will go July 20

From A-1

of time to train, but many of the Marines are familiar with these types of exercises due to their experience with last year's Marine Expeditionary Unit."

The Burlington, Wash., native said Marines received classes in the past few weeks to prepare them for upcoming events and to refresh their knowledge.

"Classes were given to the Marines on amphibious assault vehicles, and loading and offloading," said Berentson. "It was familiar already to a majority of the Marines here, due to their experience."

A few new Marines are in the company, and RIMPAC is the first real exercise for them out in the fleet, added Berentson.

"I expect the newer guys to

do really well during this training," Berentson continued. "They are motivated, but they have a lot to learn. The Marines here are willing to teach them everything they need to know."

Marines will be expected to successfully complete AAV loading and off-loading, amphibious landings and the final raid, which will take place July 20.

"We'll have a rehearsal for the raid at Pyramid Rock [Beach] before the twentieth," said Berentson. "The final raid will take place at Bellows."

Upon the completion of RIMPAC, 3/3 companies will prepare for their turn within the 31st MEU, said Foley.

"We will press on with the plan, and get the job done," Foley added.



Lance Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson

Lance Cpl. Jody Hoopes, supply clerk with Combat Service Support Group 3, directs a forklift onto the USS Tarawa before RIMPAC.

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM C, PICTURE 2

Word on the Street

What was your favorite part of BayFest?



"I just went to see Jo Dee Messina, and she put on a great show."

Lance Cpl. Everett
Bishop
Artillery cannoneer
1/3



"The beer was tasty!"

Cpl. Abe
Mousavizadegan
TOW gunner
3/3



"How they took the time to bring everything on base instead of having to go off base for an event like that."

Lance Cpl. Patrick
Moser
Artillery cannoneer
1/12



"Train' put on a good show this year."

Effie Prior
Sales associate
MCCS



"The bands were the best part. It was my first time at BayFest."

Lance Cpl. Joseph Jiles
Engineer
Combat Assault
Company

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM D, PICTURE 1

The Honolulu Advertiser July 21, 2004

Possible assignment to actual war zone 'very, very real'

By William Cole

Advertiser Military Writer

MARINE CORPS TRAINING AREA BELLOWS — The 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines hit the beach yesterday with the subtlety of a sledgehammer.

Big troop-carrying CH-53 Super Stallion helicopters roared overhead, swaying Ironwoods below.

Amphibious assault vehicles surged out of the sea with Marines in camouflage face paint, followed by 87-foot fan-driven hovercraft that disgorged Humvee after Humvee.

It was part of Rim of the Pacific 2004 war games, but the possibility of going to war in Iraq or Afghanistan for Hawai'i Marines is all too real.

"What is the possibility? I think if you're asking me (about 3rd Marines) going to the Middle East or another theater that's active in the global war on terror — very, very real," said Lt. Col. Norm Cooling, the battalion's commanding officer.

"There is obviously a portion to play for everyone in that fight, and 3rd Marines is certainly expecting and preparing to go into that campaign area," he said.

Cooling said he has been given a general warning "that we should prepare to deploy on short notice to relieve

forces that are currently there," but a specific deployment date hasn't been given.

The battalion commander said he's prepared for three potential missions: Afghanistan, Iraq or with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), in the Pacific theater.

As part of the regular deployment rotation for nearly 7,000 Kane'ohe Bay Marines, the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines recently deployed to Okinawa for six to seven months.

The 3/3 Marines, known as "America's Battalion," are expected to make that trip in the winter, but that is subject to changing mission needs.

Staff Sgt. Jason Jerome, 30, said he'll go wherever Cooling tells him to go, including Iraq or Afghanistan.

Asked if he wants to go, Jerome, who is married and has a 10-year-old son, said: "It all depends on how you look at it. I like being with my family. But also, it's my job, and whatever my country calls for, I'll gladly do it."

While Schofield Barracks' 25th Infantry Division (Light) is distributed between Iraq and Afghanistan, Hawai'i's Marines remain ready at Kane'ohe Bay.

Nearly 2,000 Hawai'i-based soldiers with the Army National Guard's 29th Separate Infantry Brigade were told they need to report Aug. 16 for active duty and a yearlong mission to Iraq beginning in February.

John Pike, director of the military think tank GlobalSecurity.org, last month said he doubted the Hawai'i Marines will remain out of the war zones.

"At the rate we're going, everyone's going to get an opportunity to get a campaign medal," he said.

During Operation Desert Storm, about 7,600 Kane'ohe Marines were deployed. Hawai'i Marines with Task Force Taro were the first to cross the mined Iraqi-Kuwait border.

Cooling said yesterday's beach assault at Bellows was good practice – regardless of the fact such a landing wouldn't be used for Iraq or Afghanistan duty.

"Anytime we can participate in an exercise – get them out of garrison, get them into the field – it's great preparation," Cooling said.

He added the effectiveness of amphibious landings can't be discounted. Marines pushed several hundred miles into Afghanistan in the opening of the war in 2001.

"Certainly we can do that over long distances as we demonstrated when we opened the campaign in Afghanistan, so the legs, the traditional legs of amphibious reach, if you will, is quite a bit longer than we used to think they were," he said.

More than 40 ships, seven submarines, 100 aircraft and almost 18,000 service members from seven nations are participating in RIMPAC, which runs through July 27 in Hawai'i.

Yesterday's beach landing was preceded by antisubmarine warfare and mine-clearing exercises. About a dozen Marine amphibious assault vehicles and the Landing Craft Air-Cushioned hovercraft were launched from the amphibious ships Rushmore and Tarawa several miles off the coast.

The ongoing exercise included attacks on mock terrorist camps at Pohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island with close-air support from a B-52 bomber out of Guam, and about 50 "opposing force" Marines in the forests of Bellows resisting the 3/3 Marines with blank gunfire.

An Australian diesel submarine was among the participants in the exercise, and a company of Australian soldiers made the helicopter assault on Bellows with Kane'ohe Marines.

There were some hiccups. The morning beach assault was delayed several hours when the stern ramp of the Tarawa would not lower. It had to be cranked down by hand. And the Marine amphibious assault vehicles landed on the beach at about the same location as the hovercraft — instead of separated as planned.

"It is part of the training because believe me, there were a lot of people scrambling to figure out how to manually raise that stern gate — not a common thing we do — but something that is great training," Cooling said.

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Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM E

Assault at Bellows



MARINE CORPS TRAINING AREA BELLOWS, Hawaii — Amphibious assault vehicles, manned by Marines from 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, raided the beach during Rim of the Pacific 2004 exercises July 20. RIMPAC, which combined efforts from Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, the Republic of South Korea, the United Kingdom and the U.S., wrapped up Tuesday.

Pic. Rich Meekingly

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM F, PICTURE 1

Letting the DIRT SETTLE

Australian soldiers 'came to learn from the best' during exercise RIMPAC 2004

Lance Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson
Combat Correspondent

Australian soldiers exchanged places with Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, for seven weeks of training, which ended with Rim of the Pacific exercises aboard the USS Tarawa from July 5 - 21.

"We are proud to be a part of America's Battalion," said Maj. Tony Kaine, the commanding officer of Charlie Co., 2nd Bn., Royal Australian Regiment, during a farewell cookout with 3/3, July 23, aboard Kaneohe Bay.

The Aussies and U.S. Marines had participated in diverse training throughout most of July, which included becoming familiar with Marine Corps weaponry and qualifying during fast rope training. They also completed nuclear, biological, and chemical training; Egges dunker training; helicopter raids; and amphibious assaults, as part of a Battalion Landing Team during RIMPAC.

"We really emphasized training on the amphibious assaults during our stay here," said Kaine. "We know the Marines are experts at this training, so we came to learn from the best. RIMPAC and several of the U.S. Marine Corps exercises were a first for many of the Aussies."

"This was the first time I've been to Hawaii, and the experience has been really great," said Pvt. Simon Bridge, Charlie Co., 2nd Bn., Royal Australian Regiment. "Third Battalion, Third Marine Regiment, is a very professional unit to work with, and it was such a good experience to see how the Marines train and operate."

"I had never done fast-rope before, so that was really different for me," added the Townsville, Australia, native. "It was a new experience, and I hope to get a chance to do it back at home in the future."

During festivities July 23, Marines and Aussies competed during volleyball, soccer, football, softball and tug-of-war contests. A S1 dunk tank competition allowed service members the opportunity to sink — if they could hit the target — individuals who were selected by vote.

Charlie Co. will commence readiness training to support its Ready Battalion Group when the unit returns to Australia. Then, next year, Australian armored units will trade places with units from Twentynine Palms, Calif., and another regiment will return to Hawaii to continue the exchange of military training in 2006.

Although optimistic about returning home, the Australian soldiers are a bit sad to leave, according to Kaine, who praised the level of support provided by 3/3 as "first class."

"We were fully welcomed as the Australian Company of America's Battalion, and we are extremely proud of that," he said.

A CH-53D helicopter provides support during a RIMPAC amphibious raid aboard Marine Corps Training Area Bellows.



Left — Having finished RIMPAC exercises, officers struggle to come out victorious in a game of tug-of-war July 23, at the Aussies farewell barbecue.

Right — Lance Cpl. Siuenn Cheung (left) and Mildred Valentin, both with CSSG-3, monitor and communicate enemy troop movement during a RIMPAC amphibious assault scenario.



Petty Officer 2nd Class Erniey, J. Gage

Word on the Street

What was your last good deed?



"I gave some Marines stuck in Waikiki a ride home."

Lance Cpl. Jerome Lindsey
Rifleman
India Co., 3/3



"I donated blood."

Lance Cpl. Joseph Hoffmeister
Radio technician
Maintenance Co.,
CSSG-3



"I bought a balloon for a little kid."

Cpl. Matthew Doyal
Radio technician
Maintenance Co.,
CSSG-3



"I saw someone drop twenty dollars, and I picked it up and gave it back to them."

Lance Cpl. Derek Norris
Scout sniper
Headquarters and
Service Company, 3/3



"I was the designated driver for some friends this weekend."

Pfc. Andrew Kopacek
Ammunition technician
Alpha Co., 1/12

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM G, PICTURE 1

'Best of the best' yards honored

Cpl. Jessica M. Mills
Sports Editor

The commanding general of Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, recognized nine yard of the Quarter awardees for the fourth fiscal quarter of 2004 at his home overlooking Pyramid Rock Beach, Tuesday.

The Command Barracks of the Quarter (Barracks 7059, belonging to

Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment) and the Command Area of the Quarter (belonging to 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment) were also recognized during the ceremony.

The Yard of the Quarter program is hosted by the Family Housing Office here, and encompasses all nine of the Family Housing areas throughout MCB Hawaii,

including Camp H. M. Smith and Manana Housing areas.

"Basically, we are looking for the 'Better Homes and Gardens' ideal," said Glen Lambert, the Yard of the Quarter program manager here. "The yard should be aesthetically pleasing; it should be the most premiere home in all the quarters."



The base inspector and Lambert scan and select winners. Criteria include the best edging, mowing and trimming jobs in each section. Other landscaping features add to the appeal of selected yards.

"These award winners are the best of the best," said Lambert. "These homes stood out above all the rest for this quarter, which lasts from July 1st until September 30th," he explained. "Each new quarter, we wipe the slate clean, so whoever puts in the most effort will win."

All Yard of the Quarter award winners received a Certificate of Achievement signed by McAbee, as well as one of his coveted "one-star flag coins."

The Marine Forces Pacific Band also attended the ceremony, and performed in honor of the recipients.



Winners of the Yard of the Quarter contest receive a Certificate of Achievement signed by the base commanding general (kneeling at center), Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, in addition to his one-star flag coin.

Cpl. Jessica M. Mills

4th Quarter 2004 Yard of the Quarter Award Winners

Petty Officer 2nd Class Elton and Dawn Garner
Rainbow Housing Area

Sgt. Daniel and Jolynn Kemp
Hana Like Housing Area

Sgt. Tessa and John Rice
PaHonua Housing Area

Petty Officer 1st Class Michael and Suzanne Choplin
Ulupau/Nani Ulupau Housing Area

Petty Officer 1st Class Ernest and Vicki Lyons
Hawaii Loa Housing Area

Gunnery Sgt. Dan and Dana Barrett
Capehart Housing Area

Chief Petty Officer Lisa and Byron Oliver
Manana/Camp Smith Housing Area

1st Sgt. David and Amanda Cadd
FY97 Housing Area

Lt. Col. Jeffrey and Tammy Zeller
Hilltop/Hillside/Pond Road Housing Area

Barracks 7059, Kilo Co., 3rd Bn., 3rd Marines
Command Barracks of the Quarter

1st Bn., 12th Marine Regiment
Command Area of the Quarter

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM H, PICTURE 1



Pfc. Rich Mattingly

Marine Corps Base Hawaii water safety instructors teach soldiers from Charlie Co., 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, how to escape a submerged helicopter during training at the base pool. The pool can also be used for recreational purposes.

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM I, PICTURE 1

Intramural Soccer Standings		
	Wins	Losses
3rd Radio Bn.	7	0
1/12	6	1
Headquarters Bn.	6	3
3/3	3	4
VP-4	2	5
CSSG-3	2	7
MAG-24	1	6
<i>Intramural Soccer standings are current as of Monday.</i>		

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM J, PICTURE 1

The Honolulu Advertiser

Posted on: Friday, August 13, 2004

Kane'ohe Marines stand by to deploy

By William Cole

Advertiser Military Writer

Nearly 1,000 Hawai'i Marines are heading to the California desert this month for live-fire exercises ahead of a possible deployment to Afghanistan or Iraq.

The 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, has been under a general warning that it should be ready to deploy on short notice, and Marines have been hitting the gym at the Kane'ohe Bay base in large numbers with the expectation they will be called upon for Middle East duty.

But there are no firm orders for the region, officials say.

The battalion's members do "in fact have their warning order to stand by but, as of right now, they have no orders to go anywhere," base spokesman Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Middleton said yesterday.

The possible Marine deployment comes as about 10,000 Schofield Barracks soldiers are on yearlong deployments in

Iraq and Afghanistan, and about 2,000 Hawai'i Army National Guard soldiers prepare to report Monday for an Iraq assignment beginning in February.

State Sen. Bob Hogue, R-24th (Kane'ohe, Kailua), said yesterday that he had not heard anything about a Marine deployment, but that the possibility brought back memories of 1991, when about 7,600 Kane'ohe Marines were deployed during Operation Desert Storm. Hawai'i Marines with Task Force Taro were the first to cross the mined Kuwait-Iraqi border.

"When they went - man, oh, man - it was like, wow, what happened to Kailua?" said Hogue, who likened the community in those days to a ghost town.

Hogue said: "Anytime you decrease the amount of the community, so to speak in the economy, yes, it's going to make a difference."

Most members of the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines - known as "America's Battalion" - are heading to Twentynine Palms in California for combined-arms exercises that integrate air and ground elements and live fire.

The exercises will be at the Marines' Air Ground Task Force Training Command and will run for 22 days and include a series of live-fire exercises.

The Kane'ohe Bay Marines usually train each year in Hawai'i under a similar scenario, but don't normally participate in the desert-condition Twentynine Palms exercises, Middleton said. The training is the most realistic in the Marine Corps.

Additionally, about 100 Marines from Company I of the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines, are set to conduct live-fire training from Monday to next Friday at Makua Military Reservation.

The 3rd Battalion has three rifle companies - I, K and L - and weapons and headquarters/supply companies.

As part of regular seven-month deployment rotations for Kane'ohe Marines, the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines, recently returned from Okinawa and the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines, left for the island. The 3rd Battalion Marines were expected to make the trip this winter but the battalion commander, Lt. Col. Norm Cooling, said that was subject to changing mission needs.

Reach William Cole at wcole@honoluluadvertiser.com or 525-5459.

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM K



India Company sharpens fire skills for Combined Arms Exercise

Lance Cpl. Megan L. Stiner
Combat Correspondent

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii — Accelerated field training here, unites both new and experienced Marines of India Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment just weeks before their deployment to the Combined Arms Exercise at the Marine Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

"We wanted to go back to the basics and work our way up, in order to ensure all our [new and veteran] Marines are proficient in everything from shooting the rifle to close air support tactics," said 2nd Lt. G. Roy Bechtold, platoon commander.

The Marines of India Co. participated in familiar training.

The only difference was the speed at which they performed.

Capt. Jim G. Sweeney, company commander explained, the training's rate of speed was increased due to the number of new Marines and the future deployment to California.

"Although the training was quicker and more demanding," said Sweeney. "The Marines were excited, because they knew they might have the opportunity to go somewhere and apply what they have been training for."

"The training they will receive in California," he continued, "is located at the very best possible training areas in the country."

The change of scenery from training areas in Hawaii, to training areas in California, is a welcomed one for the Marines.

"Not only are we going to the

best training areas the Marine Corps offers," said Bechtold, "we get a chance to experience the same terrain and weather we would be in if we would happen to get deployed to a combat zone in the future."

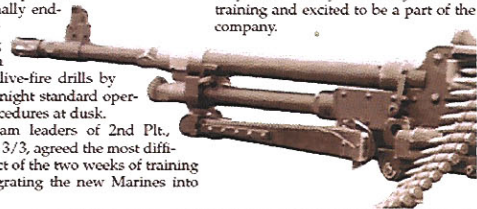
To prepare for CAX, the Marines of India Co. set out to begin a long two-week training exercise, which began Aug. 9. They commenced with patrols and squad level drills before moving on to convoy operations and vehicle checkpoint procedures, finally ending the training with a week of live-fire drills by day, and night standard operating procedures at dusk.

The team leaders of 2nd Plt., India Co. 3/3, agreed the most difficult aspect of the two weeks of training was integrating the new Marines into

the company during such an accelerated period of instruction.

"Our company is now made up of nearly 75 percent new Marines," said Lance Cpl. Tim M. Davis, team leader. "They arrived about one month ago and since then we have been bringing them up to speed with the way we do things here, and having a good time doing it."

Cpl. Mike D. Boiser, team leader, added the newer Marines are doing very well. They are really into the training and excited to be a part of the company.



A Marine with 2nd Platoon fires an M-16A2 service rifle downrange during a live-fire exercise designed to teach Marines how to shoot while on the move.



Marines from Headquarters and Service Company join their 3rd Marine Regiment comrades on the firing line. Although they were not directly involved in the training, they took advantage of the range to get in some trigger time.

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM L, PICTURE 1

3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment

Tag-team gives call for supporting fire

Lance Cpl. Megan L. Stinger
Combat Correspondent

Marines from 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment teamed up with various other units on base, Aug. 10-11, for a training exercise designed to teach Marines how to call for supporting fire (artillery, mortars, Naval surface fires and air fire).

The units formed a fire support team (FIST), a fire direction center (FDC) and a gun line that all worked together to complete the mission of the commanding officer.

Teamwork defined by Webster's Dictionary is: work done by several associates with each doing a part, but all subordinating personal prominence to the efficiency of the whole.

Although many of the Marines had never gone through this training, let alone worked with this many other units, the evolution went smoothly due to a great deal of teamwork, patience and persistence.

"They did very well," said 2nd Lt. Chris J. Mellon, weapons platoon commander for Kilo Company, 3/3. "They picked it up extremely quickly and the team work is great."

The process of locating the enemy to then firing and destroying the enemy is a lot more difficult than it sounds.

The first component that comes into action is the FIST team, which is composed of an overall FIST leader, a forward air controller, an artillery forward observer and two mortar forward



Pfc. Jovan Mena (right), a gunner, and Lance Cpl. Jeremy McNear, an assistant gunner, both with Weapons Company, 3/3, check the sights on an 81mm mortar while participating as members of the gun-line during a Fire Support Team exercise.

observers (one 60mm observer and one 81mm observer). Its objective is to locate the enemy, figure the enemy's direction and distance and relay the information to the appropriate FDC. The FDC, composed of a 81mm control man and a 60mm control man, as well as the air element control man, takes the information and puts it into a hand held computer, which computes the deflection, elevation and charge (sets the coordinates for

fire) and sends information to the gun line. The gun line then sets the sights and sends the rounds down range.

Basically, the commanding officer gives a command to the FIST team who finds the enemy and contacts the FDC, the FDC gets the coordinates and sends them to the gun line, and the gun line blows up

the enemy.

The process became easier throughout the training procedure. The time it took from start to finish dropped from nearly half an hour at the beginning of the day to less than 10 minutes.

"A lot of these Marines are new and this training can be difficult," said Pfc. Carl E. Barney, mortar-man with Lima Company 3/3. "This exercise required a lot of teamwork. Although it was hectic, everyone caught on to what they needed to do really quickly."

This training took place inside an indoor simulated marksman training facility because the available equipment can easily give the teams different scenarios to train on.

"We begin the training using static targets," explained Mellon, "then we progress to moving targets and night scenarios, and eventually reaching a scenario involving moving targets under hazardous conditions."

The process lets the Marines correct mistakes they possibly made while also keeping them on their toes.

"Basically we are training them to be able to locate an enemy and destroy it using as many different types of fire power as possible, as quickly as possible, without causing our units any injuries," said 2nd Lt. John-Paul Sienicki, Rifle Platoon commander, Lima Co., 3/3.

DUIs are career killers

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM M, PICTURE 1

Hawaii MARINE

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SEPTEMBER 3, 2004

3/3 trains for all conditions at CAX

'America's Battalion' get training in more realistic conditions

Lance Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson
Marine Corps

As preparation for a possible future deployment to Afghanistan, Marines from 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, traveled to Twentynine Palms, Calif., for a Combined Arms Training Exercise during the month of September.

During their stay, the Marines

from "America's Battalion" will train using the integration of air and ground elements along with live-fire exercises.

Although the Marines train numerous times every year with similar exercises at the Pohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island of Hawaii, Twentynine Palms will be more realistic as the weather there is similar to what they could potentially experience in the future, said Cpl. Carlos R. Johnson, operations noncommissioned officer for 3rd Marine

Regiment.

"It gets so hot out there during the day," said Johnson. "It can be 115 degrees during the day,

but then drop quickly to freezing temperatures at night. It's the same way over in the desert."



Upon finishing their training in Twentynine Palms, the Marines will move on to the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, Calif. This post is one

See 3/3, A-4



Sgt. Jerome Edwards

Lance Cpl. Darnain Young (left), Jackson, Miss. native and messman with 3/3, takes a few moments to relax and listen to some music as Sgt. Shelvin Jackson (far right), messman with 3/3 and native of Port Arthur, Texas, passes out Meals Ready to Eat.

3/3, From A-1

of the most isolated in the Marine Corps and the training emphasizes the development of both individual and unit mountain skills with the primary emphasis on enhancing the overall combat capability of the unit.

"It's basically the same sort of training that we do when we go to PTA," said Johnson. "The main thing for the Marines to get used to and be forced to deal with is the harsh weather conditions."

Once training wraps up, Marines will return to MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, sometime in early October and will await any future deployments.

"The Marines are excited about this opportunity," said Johnson. "They've waited a long time for this chance."

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM N, PICTURE 1

Hawaii MARINE

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VOLUME 34, NUMBER 38

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SEPTEMBER 24, 2004

Under the desert sun



Marines from Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, patrol into the Marine Palms abandoned housing complex aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif. The Marines from "America's Battalion" used the housing complex to polish their urban warfighting skills as well as increase their understanding of interacting with a local populace. Role-players from Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment assisted the training. See full story on A-3.

FAPS learn range basics

Cpl. Megan L. Stiner
Combat Correspondent

(Part two of a four-part series.)

During their first week of training in the preservice military training program, support Marines trained for a new job and a new weapon — the 9mm pistol.

The Marines spent two-and-a-half hours snapping in and a total of 19-and-a-half hours on the range dry-firing, pasting targets, perfecting techniques, and in the end, qualifying with the 9mm Berreta.

For some of the gate sentry trainees, this was their first experience shooting the pistol. For others, it was just a refresher course and a little extra trigger time.

"I shot the pistol twice prior to this time," said Cpl. Matthew Ryba, squad leader with Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment. "I was pretty confident going onto the range, and I shot sharpshooter, just like I did the other two times."

As with any other group on the range, Primary Marksmanship Instructors were there every day to ensure the Marines knew how to handle their weapon, react to a weapon malfunction and improve their overall shooting ability.

See FAP, A-6

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM O, PICTURE 1

Lights, camera, action

3/3 hits the sands at Twentynine Palms, the lights of San Diego and the hills of Bridgeport

Story and Photos By
Pfc. Rich Martingaly
Combat Correspondent

CAMP WILSON, TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. — As the fiery sun makes its descent over the desert expanses of Southern California, weary warriors trudge back to their hooches, exhausted from another day of some of the most intense training the Corps has to offer.

The Marines may be tired, but they are bold and determined. From across the ranges of the Marine Corps' infamously grueling Twentynine Palms Air Ground Combat Center, to a mock Middle Eastern village on a movie set in San Diego, the leatherbacks of 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, "America's Battalion," are midway through a whirlwind pre-deployment package.

Now moving on to the snow-covered hills of the Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, Calif., this unique training program was designed to get them prepared, both mentally and physically for an upcoming contingency deployment.

The purpose of the training exercise is to build "strategic cohesiveness," to put our Marines in the middle of the three block war and ensure they know how to properly tailor their force so as to protect themselves and their fellow Marines and destroy anti-coalition forces without alienating the local populace," said 3/3 commanding officer, Lt. Col. Norman Gooding.

America's Battalion has been moving like a well-oiled machine through live-fire exercises at the platoon and company levels on the grueling ranges at Twentynine Palms. The battalion is also rotating one company at a time through the Strategic Operations training facility located at Segall Studios in San Diego. Here, the Marines will get to experience up close and personal interaction with "locals," played by Hollywood actors, while on patrol in a town realistically tailored to reflect the "real thing."

"Strategic Operations is a training facility that poses itself for being different than any other facility," said Stu Segall, owner of Segall Studios. In a recent interview with the Twentynine Palms base public affairs office, "We use the magic of Hollywood to simulate a real-world training environment for tomorrow's threat. We combine movie-making techniques with the experience of desert warfare veterans to create realism for training needs." At the studio, America's Battalion experienced a mock town, complete with costumed



Marines from Second Platoon, Kilo Company, 3rd Marine Regiment, take cover and send a wall of simulated lead at a house from which they received rocket-propelled grenade fire. The hyper-realistic training, which took place at a movie studio in San Diego, afforded Marines an opportunity to go on military operations in urban terrain missions similar to those they may face during an upcoming contingency deployment.

"insurgents" and improvised explosive devices. At an alternate site aboard Marine Corps Air Station, Miramar, the Marines also conducted convoy ops and more Entry Control Point and Vehicle Control Point training. The Marines conducted these operations while receiving fire from Segall Studios' professional actors and actresses — some of whom are former service members with combat experience.

"I believe in what we're doing here. If I could still suit up and be next to them I would," said Screen Actor's Guild member and former Navy Seabee Richard Blake, who is currently working for Segall Studios. "We try to make the Marines be as aware of what's going on around them as we can, trying to put them in situations they may well face over there."

The realism of the village was astonishing for Marines during their patrol operations. "It was as close to the fight as I think could be simulated," said Lance Cpl. Zach Zeld, tactical data network specialist, Headquarters and Service Company, 3/3.

"I had to guard a PUC [person under control] and I had everything we'd trained for running through my head, all of the rules of

engagement and everything. I definitely had some adrenaline going through me," added Zeld.

While the companies were rotating through Segall studios and MCAS Miramar, others were involved in Small Wars training in the abandoned Marine Palms Housing Area aboard Twentynine Palms. There they participated in cordoning and searching, and learned the fine details of vehicle and entry control points with veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom I and II. Kilo Company, 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment.

"It's important to us to try and pass on the things we learned while over there," said Cpl. Joshua Lips, squad leader, Kilo Company, 4th. "We're teaching them things that we didn't know before we went, so they can be as prepared for what they will face as possible," added the Carbondale, Ill. native.

Watching the Marines from Thundering Third with a little extra guide was a 3/3 squad leader, who previously served as a School of Infantry instructor. Many of the Marines from 3/4 were his former students, and they were now training him and his Marines.

"I knew I'd get my chance," said Sgt. Charles Bennett, a squad leader with 2nd Platoon, Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine who was serving as SOI during the attacks of September 11. "It makes me feel proud. I'm glad I could do them that service so now they can teach me something. This shows what a brotherhood we are as Marines," continued Bennett.

The Kilo Company squad leader said his former pupils now had a confidence and fire he hadn't seen in them before, and that the words and advice on tactics and techniques they passed couldn't have come at a better time.

"This training is bringing it all together for us to go out on our deployment and get the job done right," finished Bennett.

Other Marines have wholeheartedly agreed. And while the days are long and only look to get longer during the pre-deployment package, everyone in America's Battalion knows that what they learn here will ultimately improve their skills once it's time to deploy.

From the point men in the fire team, to the highest echelons of command, the Marines of 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, "America's Battalion," are gritty, determined and ready to roll.



A member of America's Battalion, 3/3, provides security for his fellow Marines during urban terrain training as part of the unit's pre-deployment package.



With role-players acting the part of Iraqi villagers shouting threats and anti-American slogans, devil dogs from America's Battalion, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, rush to cordon and search a building during simulated street fighting at Segall Studios in San Diego. The Marines were afforded the opportunity to test their training in a "real life" environment complete with improvised explosive devices, rocket-propelled grenades and a redneck popbebe.



Above — Sgt. Jairo Freedonis, squad leader with Kilo Company, 3/3, speaks with the owner of a home he and his Marines have been given orders to search. The house was no ordinary home; however, and the Marines had swapped their regular rifle barrels with ones lining "ammunition," or paintball rounds.



Left — Marines from Kilo Company, 3/3, practice immediate actions drills during convoy operations training at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms.



Below — 2nd Lt. Michael Peliquin, platoon commander with Kilo Company, 3/3, speaks with Marines from Kilo Company, 3/4, roleplaying as the police chief and elder of an Afghan town.

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENT, ITEM P, PICTURE 1

Hawaii MARINE

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VOLUME 34, NUMBER 39

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OCTOBER 1, 2004

3rd Radio Battalion returns

Home from the desert

Story and Photos By
Cpl. Jessica M. Mills
Sports Editor

As Operation Iraqi Freedom II continues on its path in the Persian Gulf, 95 Marines and Sailors from 3rd Radio Battalion returned home to MCB Hawaii Sept. 23, after completing a seven-month deployment to Iraq.

These Marines and Sailors are the last large group from 3rd Radio Battalion to return to MCB Hawaii after being replaced by 2nd Radio Battalion, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

According to 1st Lt. Joseph O'Connor,

assistant operations officer, 3rd Radio Battalion, the final rear party will return in a few weeks, after verifying that all gear will return safely.

"These Marines and Sailors deployed in support of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, and provided special communications for the general, his staff and subordinate commands," said O'Connor. "We are all extremely proud of our men and women. We know how fortunate we are that we brought back every Marine and Sailor we deployed, safely, and how much we owe to our leadership for that accomplishment." The unit's personnel began preparing for

their return more than two weeks ago. Various stages had to be completed before they were able to gratefully step foot back onto their home soil.

According to O'Connor, their final stage was completing the lengthy flight back to the states on a civilian-contracted flight, but they were comfortable all the way home. "The entire command offers its heartfelt condolences to those units who were not so fortunate [to bring all their men home safe]," said O'Connor.

More than 100 family members and friends waited at the common area by 3rd Radio Battalion headquarters that evening.

See 3rd RADIO, A-5



Cpl. Jessica M. Mills

Petty Officer 3rd Class Jennifer Haseman (right), a corpsman for 3rd Radio Battalion, hugs her former roommate, Petty Officer 3rd Class Katie Clifford, after returning from a seven-month deployment to Iraq Sept. 23.

31st MEU hits land

1st Lt.
Tryokasus W. Brown
31st MEU

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait — Four weeks after the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit loaded onto amphibious ships at White Beach Naval Facility, the Marine Corps' only permanently forward-deployed MEU arrived at Kuwait Naval Base for desert sustainment training.

The MEU departed from its home base in Okinawa, Japan, stopping in Kuwait to start a series of training exercises designed to sharpen unit level skills and get personnel acclimated to operating conditions in the desert.

"I am extremely proud of the focus shown by the Marines down to the last Pfc. and Seaman," said Col. Walter L. Miller, 31st MEU, commanding officer. "Our focus is on being prepared, being hard and fighting smart."

Operating within the U.S. Central Command's area of operations, the MEU is part of the security cooperation with neighboring countries in the Northern Arabian Gulf, guarding against pirates, smuggling and possible terrorist attacks.

"The Marines are preparing for potential operations within U.S. Central Command's area of operations," Capt. Michael D. Butler, 31st MEU training officer, said. "We will concentrate on [Marine Air Ground Task Force] training, small unit training to include convoy operations, patrolling and live-firing."

After completion of its training, the MEU will remain in the gulf for possible contingency operations related to the Global War on Terrorism.

Through the woods



Pfc. Rich Madingley

Pfc. Daniel Chandler, a Hawthorne, N.J. native and rifleman with 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, torques on his rope while constructing a rope bridge with his fellow leathernecks at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, Calif. "America's Battalion" is wrapping up training at Bridgeport in preparation for an upcoming deployment to the Middle East. See full story on A-6.

Pearl Harbor survivor laid to rest

Sgt. Jerome L. Edwards
Combat Correspondent

FORD ISLAND, Honolulu — Richard McCoy laid his father, Marine Tech. Sgt. Charles A. McCoy, a Pearl Harbor survivor, in his final resting place here at the USS Utah memorial Tuesday.

Tech. Sgt. McCoy enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1940, and attended Marine recruit training at Parris Island recruit depot in South Carolina. He was sent to Pearl Harbor in August of 1941 where he was assigned with the Third Defense Battalion, housed in the Marine barracks.

On the morning of Dec. 7, 1941 he had just arrived at Hickam Field for flight lessons. The attack changed all those plans and upset the future, as it did for nearly everyone that day. Thirty years went by before he was licensed to fly.

McCoy was commended for his actions during the attack on Pearl Harbor by Brig. Gen. Harry K. Pickett, for "a cool and orderly procedure of getting anti-aircraft weapons into effective action by immediately taking steps to set up and man anti-aircraft guns and performing numerous other duties incident to active operations against the enemy."

The noncommissioned officer-in-charge had

See MCCOY, A-4



Sgt. Jerome L. Edwards

Marines with the ceremonial detail prepare to present the flag and remains during a military honors ceremony for the late Marine Tech. Sgt. Charles A. McCoy Tuesday at the USS Utah memorial.

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM Q, PICTURE 1

3/3 braves cold, altitude

Story and Photos By
Pfc. Rich Mattingly
Combat Correspondent

MARINE CORPS MOUNTAIN WARFARE TRAINING CENTER, Calif. — Ascending to a lung-straining elevation of more than 10,000 feet to Landing Zone Penguin, "America's Battalion" set up camp and set in defense as part of a six-day training scenario last week.

With the entire 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment setting up for business in a single scenario, none of the Marines seemed to mind the extra breaths the thin air required.

"I'm pretty amped to be out here," said Pfc. Justin Bennett, a Weapons Company 81mm mortarman. "It's good to be able to put what we've been doing into practice," said the dark-haired Panama



Horses proudly display tack emblazoned with "USMC."

City Beach, Fla. native, never taking eyes off his field of fire.

In this particular scenario, the Marines were watching five mountain trails into an area representing the Pakistan-Afghani border. Intelligence reports had suggested anti-coalition forces might be smuggling weapons across the border, setting up caches where hostile forces might later retrieve them.

But it wasn't only the ever-watchful Marines on patrol who got to put some new skills to the test. "I'm out here monitoring the water supply and making sure my Marines are okay," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Daniel Bookwalter, 3/3 hospital corpsman, hopping from rock to rock over a frigid mountain stream. "It's helping keep me busy, and I can keep good track of everyone in the cold weather if I keep moving."

In the early morning light on the second day of the FE, a page directly from the Small Wars Manual, a sixty-year-old Marine Corps Publication that retains a sincere devotion for its timeless insights into military operations other than war, was brought to life.

The Marines braved the frosted morning to load a team of four mules with enough meals ready to eat and water to resupply an entire infantry line company.

"We're actually using a lot of pack animals over in Afghanistan right now," said Staff Sgt. Gal Sandoval, head wrangler, Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, Calif. The former sniper explained Marines will have to learn how to purchase and handle local animals once they get in country.

"Part of learning about animal packing is learning how to improvise," said Sandoval. "You never know exactly what you might run into — you might have to pack a camel or other animal you weren't expecting to use."

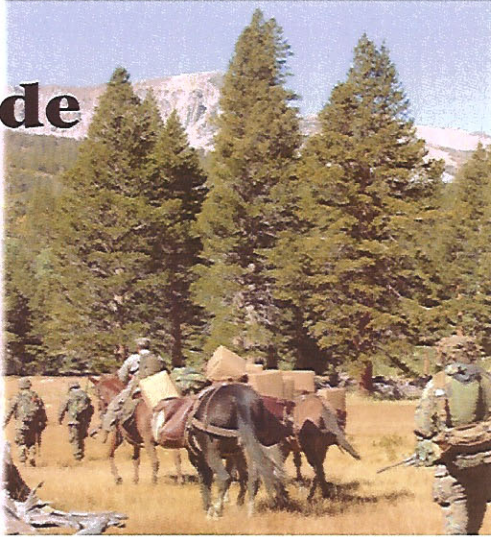
The mules, amenable enough to being loaded with up to one-third of their own body weight (often

upward of 300 pounds a load), didn't always go just where they were supposed to, giving the Marines a difficult time maneuvering.

Commenting on the mules' tenacity, Gunnery Sgt. O. Russell Lucas, motor-transport chief, 3/3, compared his equine charges with some of his two-legged workers.

"It's just like working with Marines. They're difficult and stubborn, but they get the job done every time," said Lucas.

America's Battalion plans to end its deployment package with a battalion-level movement, simulating another real-world scenario.



3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment Marines learn how to handle animals they may have to use to transport beans and bullets in a combat zone during a field exercise at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center.



Lance Cpl. Armando Perla, wireman with 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, keeps a steadfast watch from behind his M249 Squad Automatic Weapon while manning a defensive position during field operations at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, Calif. Marines from "America's Battalion" braved frigid temperatures and the thin air of high altitudes at Landing Zone Penguin last week during field training exercises.

'America's Battalion' learns the ropes

Story and Photos By
Pfc. Rich Mattingly
Combat Correspondent

MARINE CORPS MOUNTAIN WARFARE TRAINING CENTER, Calif. — Moving from hot to cold, Marines from "America's Battalion" train in the frigid climbs of Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, Calif.

The first exercise of a three-part training package at MWTTC was designed to give Marines from 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment another set of valuable tools for locating and destroying the enemy in mountainous terrain.

Prepared with their "snivel" gear, and they quickly acclimated to some of the colder weather they may soon experience, all while learning the "ropes" of mountain warfare.

"What we're doing right now is putting all of our Marines through mountain skills training," said Capt. Andrew Priddy, battalion operations officer with 3/3. "This first part of training has them learning rappelling, rope bridge building, and steep slope traversing and movement," he continued.

The mountain warfare training itself was a standard package by MWTTC standards. However, 3/3 put a twist on things by training on the ice team, rather than on the squad or platoon level.

"We've pulled a fire team from each squad in each company to attend certain elements of the training," said Priddy. "We might find ourselves in a position where we need to use squads to complete a mission, and we have to give ourselves the best chance of success by task-organizing to the lowest levels. We have to have that flexibility."

After some knot-tying and cold-weather survival skills classes,

America's Battalion "rucked" up and humped out through the Sierra Nevada Mountains to its first training site. Among the tall pines and towering rock faces, it was three days and two nights of serious training.

The Marines learned how to climb and rappel while carrying their weapons and assault load, how to traverse a river or gorge using only ropes and how to assess slope terrain features.

"This is great training for where they're going," said Sgt. Daniel Blackwell, unit operations instructor at MWTTC and former 3rd

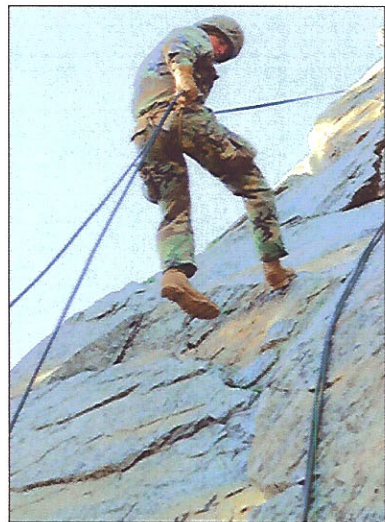
Marine Regiment grunt. "Most of them haven't been exposed to anything like this, and they'll be able to see the real-world applications of this training very soon."

The Marines took to the training well, running through drill after drill, perfecting their clove hitches and "swiss" scots.

"It's pretty cool," said Lance Cpl. Steven Mullins, rifleman with Kilo Co., who was being trained in traversing obstacles with ropes. "Normally, we'd have to shoot a red-dye or go around a river or canyon. Now we go straight across."



Above — Sgt. Christopher Bloom, squad leader, 1st Platoon, Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, hauls in a .50 caliber machine gun his "mule" team had just finished pulling up the side of a mountain at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center. Right — Marines learned various techniques for traversing mountainous terrain using readily available ropes and knot-tying techniques.



Lance Cpl. Mark Skrupp, rifleman with 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, rappels down a rock face during training at Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, Calif. The Marines of "America's Battalion" learned the ups and downs of mountain warfare while preparing for a possible upcoming deployment.

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM R, PICTURE 1

'America's Battalion' returns

3/3 Warriors cheered by former members

Story and Photos By
Pfc. Rich Mattinzly
Combat Correspondent

The end of the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment's training at Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, Calif., was marked by a visit from a well-written alumni, retired Lt. Col. Otto Lehrack and several other veterans of the Vietnam conflict who served with America's Battalion.

The veterans greeted the Marines at MWTC's hangar, the morning after they returned from their final, battalion field exercise that had the leathernecks moving from the high altitude of Landing Zone Albatross through rugged, mountain terrain and bitterly cold temperatures into an "Afghani" village for a cordon and search operation.

"I know it sounds cliché," said Bruce Devert, a former rifleman with 3/3 during Vietnam, speaking to the assembly, "but it really is a deep honor to be able to be here with you today."

Many of the veterans were full of emotion, recounting memories and describing what it felt like to be part of "the greatest battalion in the World's Greatest Fighting Force."

"What you will be doing will be the most important thing you will ever do," said Lehrack, alluding to America's current Global War on Terrorism. "This war is the most important conflict since the Second World War."

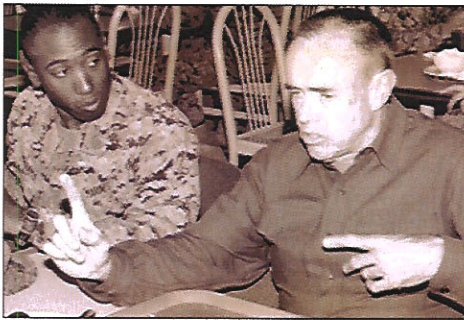
The former leathernecks all shared with the gathered Marines lessons they learned on the battlefield and what they should remember when they deploy later this year.

Michael Harrington told the Marines they should certainly remember to write home and keep tabs on their family.

After the formation, several of the Marines of 3/3's past shared more stories and advice over a "Warrior's Dinner," that had been prepared for them by the food service Marines of MWTC and 3/3. Steak and shrimp and the subtle relief of another exercise ending safely and productively mixed with the stories of Dan Ryan, Harrington and Ron Cislo.

Lehrack, who has written two books about 3/3 and the Marine Corps' involvement in Vietnam will publish a third book titled simply "America's Battalion," early next year. The text will cover 3/3's participation in Operation Desert Storm. The author also hopes to record the experiences of the battalion in Afghanistan and compile them into another text.

America's Battalion completed training and returned to Hawaii over the weekend.



Above — Staff Sgt. Joshua Wruble, Operations Chief, 3/3, surveys the way ahead for the combat operations center during the battalion's Field Training Exercise at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, Calif.

Far left — Dan Ryan, former 3/3 Marine, regales Marines with tales of the unit's action in Vietnam.

Left — Cpl. Paul Edwards, field radio operator with 3/3, monitors the net during a field exercise.



Marines from 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment gather at Hickam AFB in Honolulu after returning from pre-deployment training exercises in California. "America's Battalion" spent the last month "sharpening the tip of the spear" with combined arms exercises and maneuvers in mountainous terrain in preparation for a deployment to Afghanistan.

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM S, PICTURE 1

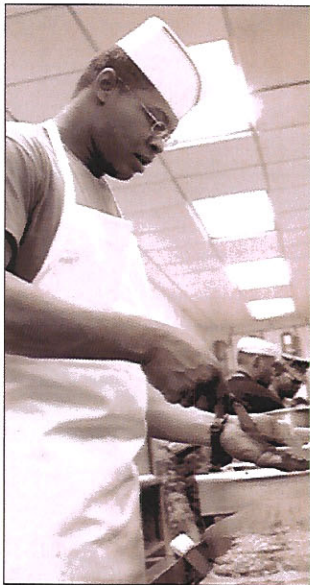


Photo: Rich Mattingly

Even when deployed as a rifleman, Sgt. Shelvin Jackson finds time to take care of his Marines. Jackson has been spending more and more time in the field and less in the mess hall as he prepares to be an infantryman during 3/3's upcoming deployment to the Middle East.

Out of the frying pan, into the firefight

Pfc. Rich Mattingly
Combat Correspondent

CAMP WILSON, TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. — The old vernacular phrase, "too many chefs in the kitchen," must have been on his mind when he first examined the situation.

Third Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment's Battalion Mess Chief, Gunnery Sgt. Joseph Yantosca, had just met with a site survey team from an area for which "America's Battalion" might soon be responsible. Whatever his first thoughts, he certainly knew another phrase would soon apply directly to his Marines: "Every Marine a rifleman."

Due to the Department of Defense's moves toward outsourcing jobs to civilian contractors in the United States Central Command's Area of Responsibility, Marines in occupational specialties, such as food services, are frequently finding themselves cross-training into the infantry.

Yantosca said he knew his own mission would have to drastically change to maximize the benefits his battalion could get from his Marines.

As America's Battalion continued to train in California for an upcoming contingency deployment, food service specialists left the routine of Anderson Mess Hall aboard MCB Hawaii far behind. This time, their training involved more bullets than beans and more fighting holes than frying pans.

Yantosca has sent three of his Marines to each of 3/3's line companies, one noncommissioned officer and two junior Marines to

function as a fire team within a squad. If the Marines have no specific food service mission while in the field, they will function as riflemen.

"It's happened before. Food Services is a battlefield occupational specialty, and cooks have always been attached to fighting units," said Yantosca.

Rather than be rattled by the changes in their place of work and tools of the trade, the food service Marines of America's Battalion are excited about their new role. They've been training long and hard, both with their new units and with each other.

"I was excited — I wanted to play this role as soon as we started training," said Lance Cpl. Manuel Tinajero Jr., food service specialist, America's Battalion.

"I think it's a great thing," added Cpl. William Mitchell, food service specialist. "The Battalion has been training all of us just the same. After going through this training, I feel much more prepared. As a corporal with an '03' squad, I've got to learn things that much faster. There's no time to play around."

Mitchell also said he thought the transition really wouldn't be too difficult for the food service Marines whom he said are already used to getting to work hours before daybreak and putting in long, difficult hours.

Behind Camp Wilson's field mess, the Marines patrolled and practiced immediate action drills long after their regular kitchen

duties had ended.

When asked, the food service specialists aren't at all worried about their occupational specialty disappearing.

"It doesn't threaten our MOS at all," explained Yantosca. "The Marine Corps will always need food service Marines to go out to the field and feed the troops."

Napoleon once said, "An army fights on its stomach," referring to a fighting force's need for good chow to stay fully in the fight. Food service specialists with 3/3 may understand another side to that quote now that they are joining the line companies.

Perhaps only the Marine Corps, of any fighting force in the world, could ask troops to make these changes and be confident they were sending properly trained and competent Marines into battle.



Photo: Rich Mattingly

Sgt. Kirk Pusey provides security for his squad during immediate actions drills behind the field mess at Camp Wilson, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif. Pusey is preparing to transition from food service specialist to rifleman.

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM T, PICTURE 1

'America's Battalion' celebrates



Above — Local clown, Jolly Holly, makes balloon animals for 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment kids during Family Day Oct. 6, here. Clowns, games, sports and good food were all part of the celebration.



Right — The 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment Family Day kicked off Oct. 6 with all the grilled meat America's Battalion families could eat.

Story and Photos By
Pfc. Rich Mattingly
Combat Correspondent

The Marines and Sailors of 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment gathered at Roseley Field Oct. 6 to celebrate both the safe return of the battalion and the support of the families during their pre-deployment training.

Family Day was designed to give "America's Battalion" a much-needed break from their fast-paced tempo, preparing to depart for the Middle East. The event was a chance to say "thank you" for all of the hard work both to the families at home and the Marines and Sailors just returning from the field.

"This is our first big family event in a long time," said Lori Abrego, battalion key volunteer and 3/3 spouse. "Being able to come out and see the people their husbands and friends work with really helps the families understand the Marine Corps a little better," continued Abrego, who, along with other volunteers, helped to welcome new spouses to the battalion and gave them a pre-deployment brief.

Abrego said she hoped to give spouses ways to get out of possible ruts while their Marine or Sailor is gone, and to know they're not alone.

Nearby, local clown "Jolly Holly" entertained 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment keiki with balloon animals while other kids played on a giant inflatable water slide. But the day was all about fun for the adults, too, as they were treated to music, sports and more grilled food than some of the Marines had ever seen.

"For me, this is a way for the battalion to say, 'good job,'" said Cpl. Harry Good of King, N.C., training noncommissioned officer, headquarters platoon, India Company.

"It also lets us show our families the people we work with and lets the Marines know what each



First Sgt. Vincent Santiago, Kilo Company 1st Sgt., 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, goes swimming as he is unceremoniously "dunked" during the "America's Battalion" family day.

other is like off the job," continued Good, who has been married for 13 years. "My family sees this and knows that I'm not the only one who appreciates them."

Over at the dunk tank, the battalion's higher command got good and wet as Marine after Marine lined up to get a chance to drench their first sergeants and officers. Even Battalion Chaplain Paul Evers got in on the action, egging on would-be hurlers to knock him into the water.

Later, the chaplain discussed the importance of the Marine and Navy family.

"You can't send Marines and Sailors on deployment without the support of their families," said Evers. "The holiday season is coming up, and it's going to be hard for everyone. We all have to help support one another during this deployment."

America's Battalion will deploy in support of Operation Enduring Freedom later this year.

FLU, From A-2

authorities are awaiting further guidance on prioritizing the administration of limited vaccine supplies. Personnel deploying overseas, however, may still receive their flu shots through their military units.

Information about the Tripler Army Medical Center flu program will be announced when plans are

established.

For more information, call your primary care clinic or the TAMC immunization clinic at 433-6334. Visit the TAMC Web site at www.tamc.amcd.army.mil. Other information may be found at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Web site, www.hhs.gov, and the Center for Disease Control Web site, www.cdc.gov/flu.

MMOA, From A-1

ing orders for the potential movers in the upcoming summer.

"MMOA feels it is very important to demystify the orders process for the officers who are subject to these orders. We really want to get across the point that the only difference between an officer in Quantico, where we are home stationed, and the officer in the fleet is a set of orders," said Maney.

"We were here once ourselves and now we're officers who are doing a tour outside our MOS that happens to be officer assignments. That is why we like to come out and talk to the Marines in person, to let them know we have families and needs just like they do and to help them realize how important their families and needs are to us. We then take their needs and match them against the driving factor — the needs of the Marine Corps."

The assignment section began its tour of the Corps early last month and is just about to wrap it up.

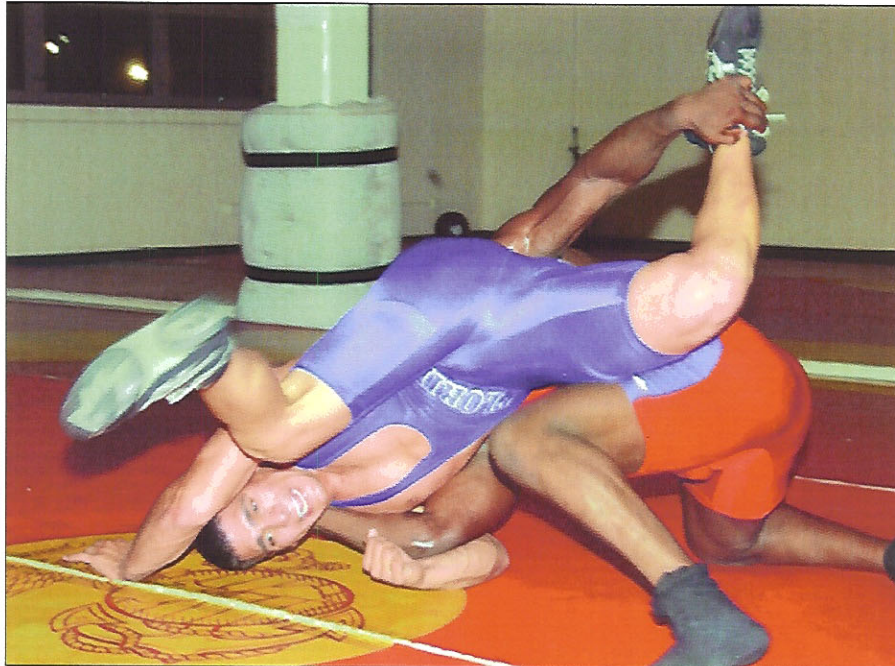
"We started the road show in early September out in Marine Forces Atlantic and worked our way all the way out to the West Pacific and now here, in Marine Forces Pacific," said Maney. "Here at MCB Hawaii we have had an exceptional turnout and they have been a very professional group to work with."

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM U, PICTURE 1

Hawai MARINE SPORTS

HAWAII MARINE C SECTION

OCTOBER 22, 2004



Cpl. Jessica M. Mills

Oscar SolaVega, a team leader with 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, performs a grapple while trying to escape a half-nelson that is held by Michael Brightmon, an electrical engineer with Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, during the All-Marine Wrestling Clinic held Tuesday evening.

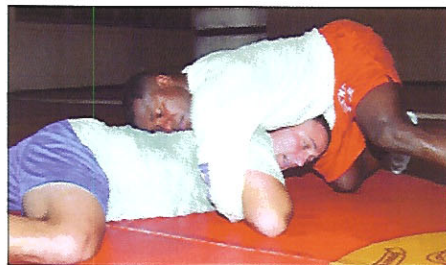
All-Marine wrestling is here

Cpl. Jessica M. Mills
Sports Editor

All-Marine sports — what other job in the Marine Corps allows its members to earn a paycheck while traveling around the world, and playing a sport they love? But, to earn this privilege, you have to work hard all the time, and never give up. This is the stern belief of Dan Hicks, the All-Marine Wrestling Team coach, who came here this week to find the best wrestlers, male and female, in the Marine Corps and bring them to MCB Quantico, Va., for the All-Marine Wrestling Camp tryouts in February.

"We are looking for Marines that have wrestled before and are willing to work hard," said Hicks. "I think we have been missing a lot of Marine wrestlers over the last few years, so now I am trying to find them during this road show."

Hicks explained no one should be afraid to try out for the team; the



Cpl. Jessica M. Mills

Dan Hicks (bottom), All-Marine Wrestling Team coach, demonstrates a number of different escapes during freestyle wrestling, with the help of James Shilow, a wrestler on the All-Marine team.

worst that could happen is they have to try again next year.

"These wrestlers do not need to be state champions or anything like

that, they just need to have athletic ability, high goals in wrestling, a strong work ethic, and be willing to do whatever I say," said Hicks. "You

don't even need to have a ton of experience, we just want Marines who will work hard. If they are willing to do that, we can mold them."

According to Hicks, the wrestling clinic was not the official tryouts for the team; it was more like an introduction to generate interest.

In December, Headquarters Marine Corps will release a message for interested wrestlers to submit a package for the team. Those interested must fill out a package and turn it into the Varsity Sports Coordinator Steve Kalnasy, at the Semper Fit Center.

"At the camp those Marines eat, sleep, and live wrestling," said Kalnasy. "Not to mention, they are representing our base and the Corps, so they have to be top notch Marines."

Once the packages arrive in Quantico, Hicks will choose who will try out in February at the camp.

See **WRESTLING, C-5**

Marine cross country runners place 4th

Third trial for MCB Hawaii running team scheduled on Nov. 4

Cpl. Megan L. Stiner
Combat Correspondent

Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay hosted the University of Hawaii Coed-Sprint Invitational Saturday at the Kaneohe Klipper Golf Course which displayed the talents of college athletes as well as Marines involved in the base cross country team.

The Hawaii Rainbow Wahine women's team dominated the 4-kilometer race, placing five runners among the top seven finishers. The men's 5k race was captured by Brigham Young University, which also had the top male and female finisher from both races; Chelsea Smith with a time of 14:24, and Jacob Rushton with a time of 16:17.

The Marines had enough runners to house a men's Marine team, which placed fourth overall in the men's competition.

"This was a really good experience," said Marine team competitor Andrew Atterberry. "This was my first cross country race ever and to compete against college athletes was a lot of fun."

Three female Marines also ran in the race. The Marine runners competed for a place on the base cross-country running team, which is comprised of five male and three female runners.

Those who make the final team will compete as members of the MCBH Kaneohe Bay team and travel to other bases on the mainland to represent MCB Hawaii.

"Our team did well, I feel really good about how [the meet] turned out," said Atterberry, who joined the team because fellow teammate, Brandon Hammell told him about it. "We seem to get more participants on the team everyday too, so it is a really good program and we have a good time."

This was the second of three trials to be held on base to determine the team members. The final trial is scheduled for Nov. 4.

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM V, PICTURE 1

Word on the street

What is your favorite
Native American movie of
all time and why?



**Petty Officer 2nd Class
Amanda Goit**
Aircraft Electrician
Patrol Squadron 47

"Windtalkers' because of how patriotic the Native Americans are portrayed in the film."



Sgt. Arturo Vigil
Auditor
Headquarters Battalion,
MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay

"Dances with Wolves' because it portrays both sides to the viewer equally."



Lance Cpl. Kyle Guppy
Adjutant Clerk
G-1, Headquarters Battalion,
MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay

"Dances with Wolves' because it shows what it was really like for the Native Americans."



**Petty Officer 2nd Class
Sidney Jenkins**
Aircraft Electrician
Patrol Squadron 47

"Last of the Mohicans' because it had such a good story to it. It was really sad."



Cpl. Samuel J. Biles
Machinegunner
India Company, 3rd Battalion,
3rd Marine Regiment

"Dances with Wolves' because I really liked how it showed the extreme change of the main character."

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM W, PICTURE 1

Headin' to the desert

Petty Officer 2nd Class James Lambert, corpsman with Headquarters and Service Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, takes a little time with his wife Rebecca and two children, Alex and Jolina, before heading off to Afghanistan. October marked three years since the start of the War on Terrorism and the bombing began in Afghanistan.

Now, the Marines and Sailors from 3/3 will soon get their chance to support Operation Enduring Freedom.

A small advanced party left a little over a week ago and the main body completed its departure Thursday to execute its mission to conduct stability and security operations.

The service members from "America's Battalion" were apprehensive, but ready to get into the fight. "I just want to hurry up and get there, get the job done and get back as soon as possible," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Mike Subee.

The family members were on hand during the departures to say farewell to their loved ones.



Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM X, PICTURE 1

Operation Enduring Freedom

3/3 Devil Dogs arrive in MidEast

Hawaii-based
Marines relieve
3/6 in Afghanistan

III MEF Public Affairs Office
Press Release

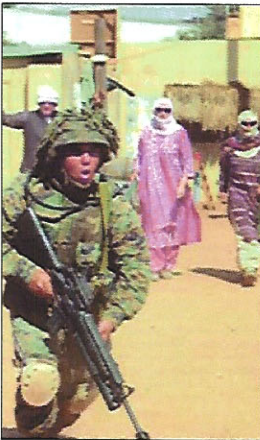
Headquarters, 3rd Marine Division, Okinawa, Japan — The Marines and Sailors of 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, "America's Battalion," arrived earlier this week in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The Hawaii-based leathernecks of the 3rd Marine Division will participate in the continuing stabilization, security, and counter-terror efforts already underway.

This deployment follows a rugged series of training exercises the battalion conducted in the deserts of Twenty Nine Palms, Calif., in the mountains of the High Sierras of Bridgeport, Calif., and in an innovative scenario-based training facility in San Diego.

"We've trained hard for this deployment," said Lt. Col. Norm Cooling, commanding officer for 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines. "I'm very proud of my Marines and Sailors here on the far reaches of the world and am confident in their abilities to help the local population and destroy the anti-coalition forces that seek to enslave the Afghani people. We're here to further freedom and democracy."

Third Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment relieved 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment who will return to Camp Lejeune, N.C.



Lower Cpl. Rich Mattingly

Before heading to Afghanistan, 3/3 Marines trained aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., in a "real life" environment, complete with improvised explosive devices and a restless populace.

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM Y, PICTURE 1

Deaths, deployments spur memories

Aloha,
I have been meaning to write since I picked up a copy of *Hawaii Marine* at the Windward City Shopping Center. The Oct. 8 issue contained a story regarding 3/3's return to MCBH after training in Bridgeport, Calif.

I have been slow on the draw in communicating, but recent events, including the

death of the 1/3 Marines killed by a suicide bomber and the present deployment of 3/3 prompts me to do so.

I served with Kilo 3/3 in Vietnam in 1968-69 as an 0311 on point. I have a friend who lives in Honolulu who served with Delta 1/3 during the same period.

Growing up in Kailua and having friends whose fathers were Marines, it was inevitable that when the time came, I too

would join the Corps.

I would just like to say God's speed and a safe return to the Officers and Marines of 3/3.

Semper Fi,
Former Sgt. W. K. Richards Jr. (1967-70)
P.S.
Hauoli La Hanau
Na Ilio Kiapolo
(Happy Birthday, Devil Dogs)

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM Z



Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM AA, PICTURE 1



ing proved hard yesterday as Katie White and her husband, Lance Cpl. Paul White, left, and Carisa Kraft and her husband, Army Sgt. Roger Kraft, shared farewell hugs and kisses as the latest group of Kaneohe Marines gathered to leave for missions from Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM AA, PICTURE 2



Lance Cpl. James L. Yarboro

Capt. James Sweeney, India Company commander swears in Sgt. Claude Watson and Cpls. Samuel Biles and Rosell Floresmartinez, all with India Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, at their re-enlistment ceremony at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, Nov. 13, 2004.

3/3 Devil Dogs re-up in desert

Lance Cpl. Rich Mattingly

3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan — Just a few days after arriving in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, three noncommissioned officers from India Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, re-enlisted here.

Sgt. Claude Watson of Jamaica, a machinegunner, and Cpls. Samuel Biles of Yorktown, Va., and Rosell Floresmartinez of Opalacka, Fla., both riflemen, “re-upped” for four more years Nov. 13 in the shadows of the Hindu Kush Mountains.

“It’s motivating,” said Watson succinctly. “Someone’s got to do it, and I hope it motivates the junior Marines to stay in.”

It was the first re-enlistment for all three Marines, who were treated to the unexpected surprise of a higher bonus than many of their counterparts who re-enlisted in garrison. The Marines received anywhere from \$18,000 to \$22,000 as a bonus, according to the battalion’s career planner. All three Marines also earned their duty station preference and 14 days of free leave when they return from the battalion’s current deploy-

See RE-ENLIST, A-5

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM BB, PICTURE 1

RE-ENLIST, From A-1

ment to Afghanistan.

"This is awesome," said Staff Sgt. Jack Johnson, career planner for 3/3. "These three were the first to initiate their re-enlistment here, and it's just the best thing for the unit."

For the Marines of India Co., seeing their NCOs re-enlist in the face of what will be the first combat-mission deployment for many of them seemed to raise morale significantly.

"I think it says a lot about the leadership here," added 1st Sgt. John Krumholz, India Co., 3/3 first sergeant. "They initiated this process long before they knew

how well they would be financially rewarded," he added. "These Marines are all strong leaders, and it says a lot about them that they want to continue being there for their Marines."

After an address from the India company commander, Capt. James Sweeney, in which he encouraged the Marines to follow the lead of their NCOs, the newly re-enlisted Marines were congratulated by the company.

In another re-enlistment ceremony no less significant for it not being his first, Staff Sgt. Derrick Hancock, warehouse chief with 3/3, re-enlisted "for another 20 years," as one fellow Staff NCO joked.

Hancock, who was instrumental in equipping the battalion with

the best gear possible prior to this deployment, accepted his honorable discharge and his re-enlistment certificate in front of his Marines.

"This is why I held off re-enlisting until we got here," said Hancock proudly, "I joined the Marine Corps to get to do things like fight for my country overseas, and getting to re-enlist in Afghanistan is just another part of that."

The four Marines proudly displayed their re-enlistment certificates in bright-red folders for all to see, as if to say, "If we stay Marine, so can you."

Floresmartinez, who is known by his Marines only to speak when his words carry weight, said it best for all of the re-enlistees:

"I can't wait to do it again in four years."

DUIs are career killers

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM BB, PICTURE 2

Pace welcomes 3/3 to Afghanistan

Lance Cpl. Rich Mattingly
Combat Correspondent

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SALERNO, Afghanistan — Amid the whirlwind first weeks in the United States' Central Command Area of Responsibility in Afghanistan, the Marines and Sailors of 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment were welcomed to Salerno Sunday.

On hand to greet the Marines was Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Peter Pace, who flew into Salerno on a regularly scheduled tour of the area.

During a command and staff meeting, Pace was briefed on the specifics of 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment's activity over the last seven months in Afghanistan.

While operating in Afghanistan, 3/6 logged over two thousand combat patrols and count-



PACE

less humanitarian assistance projects exceeding \$600,000. With the help of the Army's Provincial Reconstruction Teams and their dedication to security and support operations, 3/6 was able to continue the Coalition Force's effective campaign to stabilize Afghanistan and promote the first presidential election in the nation's history.

"You should be leaving here with a feeling of enormous pride," said the general to 3/6's command. Pace expressed his firm belief that 3/3 would continue the positive trend and be

instrumental in the success of the upcoming Afghan parliamentary elections.

Pace continued, saying he was envious of the Marines on the ground during this war. He expressed how pleased he was by their effectiveness in dealing with a difficult enemy in Afghanistan's tactically challenging environment and how much better he could understand their situation after seeing it firsthand.

"I really appreciate the opportunity to get out here and see what you're doing," said Pace, while meeting with the command and staff of 3/6 and America's Battalion 3/3. "I wish I could be a platoon or company commander during this fight, but it makes a world of difference to be able to sit in front of Congress and say, 'I was there last week.'"

See PACE, A-8

PACE, From A-1

Joking near the end of the brief, Pace mentioned that America's Battalion was former Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Charles Krulak's old battalion command, but that he was sure that it was currently "in much better hands." Krulak is credited with first giving the Battalion its proud moniker.

Pace spent the afternoon visiting with Marines, Sailors and soldiers around the base,

praising their hard work and dedication to the Global War on Terrorism. Meanwhile, the Marines of America's Battalion were already standing post with their 3/6 counterparts in a "left seat, right seat" routine designed to familiarize 3/3 Marines with the new area of responsibility.

Sergeant of the Guard, Kirk Pusey of Kingston, Jamaica, expressed how imperative it was for him that America's Battalion starts off on a positive note.

"It's important to be prepared and ready for this transfer of authority," explained Pusey from his vantage point on the back of an up-armored vehicle during a tour of Salerno's guard posts. "We're the first people [Afghans] see when they come to this base, and we have to properly represent who we are and why we're here."

Pusey, usually a food service specialist at MCB Hawaii, talked excitedly of getting the opportunity to make a difference for his family

and for his country.

"I'm happy to be here and to be doing this," he said, breaking into an easy smile. "We're going to give the people of Afghanistan the opportunities they deserve, and we're going to destroy our enemies."

After months of training and years of preparation, America's Battalion plans on continuing its proud traditions, leaving its own distinct mark on the United States' War on Terrorism and Afghanistan's progress.

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM CC, PICTURE 1

Force Lima Family and Friends,
I know you have been waiting anxiously to hear news of you Marines and Sailors so without further fanfare...
After stopping near the Arctic Circle, Europe, and a former Soviet Republic, Force Lima finally made it to Afghanistan. It was a long movement and good to finally get in country. There were several days of waiting at an airfield before we moved to our area of operation (AOR).

Upon arriving, the Marines settled into their plywood huts and prepared to conduct operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. We are working together with a Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) who is made up of many different agencies and organizations. Most of them are part of the Army, such as the Embedded Training Team (ETT) who is responsible for training the Afghan National Army (ANA). There is also an army Civil Affairs Team (CAT) who works to improve living conditions amongst the Afghan people. Other groups present are USAID and the State Department. We also work with various local nationals, such as the ANA, Afghan National Police (ANP), government officials, village elders, and warlords. The experience is new to Force Lima and it will be a challenge, especially when there is a language barrier, but we will excel in any mission we are assigned.

Since our arrival in our AOR, the platoons of Force Lima have been sending out patrols and making contacts with the goal of creating a more stable and secure Afghanistan. So far everything has been going well and Force Lima is proud to be an important part in the Global War on Terrorism. Your Marines and Sailors are doing well; we enjoyed a hardy meal and gave thanks that our families and Marines remain safe. The mail has finally started trickling in, and as in all deployments, mail call remains the high point of the day, so please keep it coming! On behalf of the men of Force Lima I would like to extend a special thanks to Bruce Devert and the key wives network. Mister Devert is a former 3/3 Marine who sent the company a care package and the key wives were kind enough to send some home made cookies! All of your Marines are grateful for the packages; let me say Mahalo on their behalf. Until the next time...Aloha.

Mahalo for your Support,
Capt Kelly

Congrats to the Following:

Reenlistments: Cpl Boone and Cpl Sparkman.

Anniversaries: The Krafts.

Births: LCpl Adams

Expecting: The Russos

November Birthdays: LCpl Patterson, LCpl Tamborino III, Cpl Romanstine, Sn Monteil, Cpl Johnson, PFC Taylor, LCpl Finley, Lt Berentson, Cpl Sparkman, Lt Lazzo, PFC Skinner, LCpl Vargas, LCpl Willett, LCpl Welsh, Cpl Wendorff, Melchorche Richmond, LCpl Clanahan, Cpl Bossom, Brandon Titus, LCpl Wofford, Cpl Ruiz, LCpl Baker, HN2 Jackson, and SSgt Russo.

December Birthdays: Sgt Messerschmidt, Sgt Valente, Kimberly Hall, LCpl Castillo, LCpl Rooney, Kristi Minton, LCpl Wargo, LCpl Zahrndt, Aimee Lentz, Sn Brodie, PFC Barney, Marie Romanstine, PFC Cortez, PFC Escobedorguerra, Melissa Foss, PFC Imes, PFC Tesh, Brenda Cooklin, PFC Vinson, PFC Barney, Angelina Gonzales, Sgt Arzola, Shania Hall, Preston Romanstine, Sgt Fredonis, Jeremy Bridges, Kerri Wilson, Cpl Singh, and Alyssa Cooklin.

December Promotions: PFC Nunes, LCpl Torres, LCpl Ellwood, LCpl Skorup, LCpl Lueken, Cpl Ruiz, LCpl Kellipaakauha, LCpl Barrows (meritoriously), LCpl Tomko, Cpl Scaife (meritoriously), LCpl Christman, and LCpl Flores.

Subj: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ITEM DD

Marines conduct transfer of authority

Outgoing N C battalion provides seamless transition for replacements

Story by Sgt. Dawn Rubin
The Public Affairs Department

THE ALLIED FORCE'S (AF) RECONSTRUCTION TEAM (ART) is a Marine-based unit based at the Marine Base, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. The unit is currently conducting operations in Afghanistan and is currently in the process of preparing to take place their post-deployment activities. The unit is currently in the process of preparing to take place their post-deployment activities.

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Marine Lt. Col. Norm Croling, 3rd Bn., 3rd Marines, commander, uncocks the battalion's colors during a transfer of authority ceremony Nov. 25 at FOB Salerno.



Marine 1st Lt. Luke Harrison, Co. K, 3rd Bn., 8th Marines, platoon commander, talks with an Afghan man via an interpreter about possible enemy activity near Khowsi while his radio operator, Marine Pfc. Jeremy Keller, Co. K, 3rd Bn., 8th Marines, calls back to their operations center at FOB Salerno. The 3rd Bn., 8th Marines, were instrumental in providing security and intelligence gathering during their deployment.

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