

Hawaii Marine

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS



Photo courtesy of Toby Keathley

Cpl. Caleb Martin from 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment and his family hug at Marine Corps Base Hawaii after returning from his deployment, Dec. 12. The unit deployed to Okinawa for six months participating in the Unit Deployment Program, as well as training alongside Republic of Korea Marines.

Swim to survive: Marines tackle MCIWS training

Christine Cabalo
Hawaii Marine

Marines dived in to the face the challenges of Marine Combat Instructor of Water Survival course, which concluded today at Marine Corps Base Hawaii's pool.

Those who passed the 15-day course earned both Marine Corps and civilian certifications for water rescues. A total of 18 Marines trained with visiting instructors from the Marine Corps Water Survival School in Camp Johnson, N.C. and Expeditionary Warfare Training Group, Pacific in Coronado, Calif. The Marine Corps especially needs people trained to handle emergency situations in the



Christine Cabalo | Hawaii Marine

Marines training in the Marine Combat Instructor of Water Survival course drill rescues with their classmates at the Marine Corps Base Hawaii pool, Dec. 12. A total of 18 Marines were tested this week.

water, said Master Sgt. Joshua Adkins, the course's chief instructor and an operations chief at EWTG Pacific.

"We're training them to give it everything (they've got), even when they are tired, to help their overall

confidence in the water," said Adkins, of Lake Wales, Fla. "If you aren't confident in the water alone, you can't convey that confidence to someone else in the water."

During the course the Marines advanced their aquatic skills with endurance tests, speed drills, underwater swims and strength training. Marines practiced rescuing their classmates who simulated being both active and passive drowning victims. For some portions of the class, the Marines wore their full utilities uniform while carrying their weighted rifle replicas and water-logged protective gear. The group also practiced

SWIM, A-6

CLB-3 keeping busy with projects

Kristen Wong
Hawaii Marine

The holidays may be approaching, but that is not slowing down Combat Logistics Battalion 3 Marines, who are still wrapping up projects this year, and will soon be taking on more.

Approximately 30 Marines from combat engineer and heavy equipment platoons of Combat Logistics Battalion 3, are currently finishing six new concrete slabs at Puuloa Range Training Facility. Construction started Nov. 6 and was slated for completion Jan. 11. However, the Marines plan to be finished by today.

The six slabs, installed at the 200, 300 and 500-foot lines, are filled with rubberized matting. The matting helps Marines avoid severe red dirt stains normally sustained on their cammies and boots when training on the range.

This is the fifth project the battalion has undergone during Fiscal Year 2014 for Marine Corps Base Hawaii. This fiscal year, heavy equipment platoon also built a convoy live-fire course at Pohakuloa Training Area. Combat engineer platoon built an entry control point at Forward Operating Base Bellows and trenches enabling amphibious assault vehicle training aids to cross a ditch. The unit has also expanded K-Bay's Range 5 by adding more targets, for a total of 57.

Ralph Scott, the range safety officer for the Operations and Training Directorate at MCB Hawaii said the base saved more than \$1 million during the fiscal year by employing Marines for projects.

"In the grand scheme of things, we saved the Marine Corps a lot of money because of the man hours we can work," said Sgt. Cody Walker, the shop foreman for combat engineer platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, CLB-3, and one of the Marines in charge of planning the work.

While civilians are limited to their own

PROJECTS, A-6

HQBN WELCOMES NEW SERGEANT MAJOR

Sgt. Maj. Mitchell J. Green (right), incoming sergeant major, receives a noncommissioned officer sword from Lt. Col. Robert K. Maldonado, commanding officer, Headquarters Battalion, during a relief and appointment ceremony at Dewey Square, Dec. 11. Green took over duties as battalion sergeant major from Sgt. Maj. Ernest W. Rose. During the ceremony, Rose received the Meritorious Service Medal for his accomplishments while serving Headquarters Bn.



Kristen Wong | Hawaii Marine



'Tis Santa's Village
Santa hosts carnival at
Kulia Youth Center, **B-1**



A cheery holiday
Dallas Cowboys
Cheerleaders pep up
K-Bay, **B-3**



Since 1777, the American flag has gone through several design changes, but has kept its original colors: red, white and blue. Red represents hardiness and valor; white stands for purity and innocence; blue represents vigilance, perseverance, and justice. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, there are special guidelines citizens must follow before flying Old Glory.

Guidelines for flag display

Public Law 94-344, known as the Federal Flag Code, contains rules for handling and displaying the U.S. flag. While the federal code contains no penalties for misusing the flag, states have their own flag codes and may impose penalties. The language of the federal code makes clear that the flag is a living symbol.

In response to a Supreme Court decision which held that a state law prohibiting flag burning was unconstitutional, Congress enacted the Flag Protection Act in 1989. It provides that anyone who knowingly desecrates the flag may be fined and may also be imprisoned for up to one year. However, this law was challenged by the Supreme Court in a 1990 decision that the Flag Protection Act violates the First Amendment’s freedom of speech.

Traditional guidelines call for displaying the flag in public only from sunrise to sunset. However, the flag may be displayed at all times if it’s illuminated during darkness. The flag should not be subject to weather

damage, so it should not be displayed during rain, snow and wind storms unless it is an all-weather flag.

It should be displayed often, but especially on national and state holidays and special occasions.

The flag should be displayed on or near the main building of public institutions, schools during school days, and polling places on election days. It should be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously.

Flying the American flag at half-staff

An easy way to remember when to fly the United States flag at half-staff is to consider when the whole nation is in mourning. These periods of mourning are proclaimed either by the president of the United States, for national remembrance, or the governor of a state or territory, for local remembrance, in the event of a death of a member or former member of the federal, state or territorial government or judiciary. The heads of departments and agencies of the federal government may also order that the flag be flown at half-staff on buildings, grounds and naval vessels under their jurisdiction.

On Memorial Day, the flag should be flown at half-staff from sunrise until noon only, then raised briskly to the top of the staff until sunset, in honor of the nation’s battle heroes.

In the early days of the country, no regulations existed for flying the flag at half-staff and, as a result, there were many conflicting policies. But on March 1, 1954, President Dwight Eisenhower issued a proclamation on the proper times. The flag should

fly at half-staff for 30 days at all federal buildings, grounds, and naval vessels throughout the United States, its territories and possessions after the death of the president or a former president. It is to fly 10 days at half-staff after the death of the vice president, the chief justice or a retired chief justice of the United States Supreme Court or the speaker of the House of Representatives.

The flag is to be flown at half-staff at all federal buildings, grounds and naval vessels in the Washington, D.C., area on the day and day after the death of a U.S. senator, representative, territorial delegate, or the resident commissioner from the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. It should also be flown at half-staff on all federal facilities in the state, congressional district, territory, or commonwealth of these officials. Upon the death of the governor, the flag should be flown at half-staff on all federal facilities in that governor’s state, territory or possession from the day of death until interment.


The president may order the flag to be flown at half-staff to mark the death of other officials, former officials, or foreign dignitaries. In addition to these occasions, the president may order half-staff display of the flag after other tragic events. The flag should be briskly run up to the top of the staff before being lowered slowly to the half-staff position.

For more information about flying the American flag at half-staff, visit www.va.gov/opa/publications/celebrate/halfstaff.pdf.

This week in Corps history

On this day 42 years ago, the Marine detachment provided security for three U.S. astronauts aboard the USS Ticonderoga. The astronauts were Eugene Cernan, Ronald Evans, Harrison Schmitt and their Apollo-17 space capsule. These astronauts had successfully completed a (then) record lunar stay of more than 75 hours.

-U.S. Marine Corps History Division



Hawaii Marine

www.mcbhawaii.marines.mil
www.hawaiimarine.com

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ICE COMMENTS

Why did the base force a resident to close their home baking business, while other home businesses are permitted to operate?

Base Order P5532, paragraph 2003, describes the process and restrictions for operating a commercial activity within government quarters. Specifically, active-duty military personnel and family members must request permission from the base commander, via the base inspector, to conduct a business within their quarters, except for family day care home services, which are regulated by Secretary of the Navy Instruction 1740.2E.

Those wishing to conduct a home business will submit a letter of request to the Marine Corps Base Hawaii commanding officer (Attn: MCB Hawaii Base Inspector). Details of the proposed business should be included in the request. The base inspector will then forward the request to the director of the MCB Hawaii Family Housing Office and the director of Marine Corps Community Services for concurrence. The base inspector is the sole authorizing agent. All home businesses aboard MCB Hawaii are approved and renewed on an annual basis. Home businesses that deal with hazardous substances, boarding or breeding animals for profit, noise or odors detectable outside the quarters, generation of excessive trash that causes a neighborhood nuisance, sexually explicit or adult materials, public health to include tattoos and body piercings or creation of traffic or parking problems are prohibited.

All home-based businesses must abide by state and federal laws, including taxes and food safety code. Selling food produced in a private home is prohibited by Hawaii Administrative Rules Title 11 Department of Health Chapter 50 Food Safety Code, which describes applicable fire and safety regulations, environmental laws, local, state, and federal tax codes, and other applicable statutes and regulations for Food Establishments. A “food establishment” is defined as any place or portion thereof, maintained, used, or operated for the purpose of storing, preparing, serving, manufacturing, and packaging, transporting, or otherwise handling food at the retail or wholesale level. 11-50-86(f) specifically states, “A private home kitchen shall not be used as an approved food establishment.”

Semper Fidelis,

Lt. Col. David H. Bohn
Base Inspector
Marine Corps Base Hawaii
479-7074

Interactive Customer Evaluation is:

- A web-based tool for collecting feedback about the services provided by various organizations throughout the Department of Defense.*
- Allows customers to submit online comment cards to rate the service providers that they have encountered at military bases and related facilities around the world.*
- Allows service providers to collect customer satisfaction data in a standardized format which is stored in the ICE database.*
- Provides customers with a convenient and efficient method to express their opinions to service providers and receive feedback.*

ICE is NOT:

- To be used as a sole source to report safety concerns. **Base Safety should be contacted directly at 257-1830.*
- Intended for use to submit complaints regarding fellow employees or management, to spread rumors, to threaten or to make public announcements.*

Visit the ICE site at <http://ice.disa.mil>. For ICE FAQs, visit mcbhawaii.marines.mil, then click Departments, Business Performance, then ICE FAQs.

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII EVENTS

To get your base event listed, email all details to hawaiimarineeditor@gmail.com

Today

Base patrons can save time spent in line at the Military Post Office, and up to 16 percent in costs by printing their postage for letters and packages at home at www.usps.com. Patrons can also order stamps and free mailing supplies, mail to APO/FPO military and international addresses, as well as complete a Change of Address request from home or work. Packages with pre-paid postage can be dropped off at the large parcel drop boxes located at the Harris Avenue entrance of the Mokapu Mall food court aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii Kaneohe Bay and at the base post office, building 1, entrance aboard Camp H.M. Smith 24 hours a day, seven days a week without waiting in line. For more information, visit usps.com or www.mcbhawaii.marines.mil/Departments/Manpower,Pers onnelAdministration/PostOffice.aspx.

Due to the threat of the coconut rhinoceros beetle spreading across Oahu, the Hawaii Department of Agriculture in coordination with the Oahu Invasive Species Council are deploying about 3,000 monitoring bait stations islandwide. Bait traps will be placed aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii at Kaneohe Bay and Camp H.M. Smith. The bait stations are about three-foot long, black, and constructed of heavy cardboard. The bait stations will be checked weekly by HDOA’s field crew. For more information, call Lance Bookless at 257-7000 or Todd Russell at 216-7135.

Education Track is a two-day seminar, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., that prepares Marines and their spouses to be successful as college students at building 220. The seminar is open to all active-duty service members and their spouses. For more information, visit www.mccshawaii.com/trpworkshops to reserve a seat.

Saturday

A test of adult basic education is scheduled for 9 a.m. at building 220, classroom A. This test is designed to measure basic academic skills commonly required for adult education programs. The test is 90 minutes long and tests reading comprehension, language, spelling and math skills.

The Marine Corps Base Hawaii Military Post Office, located in building 6644, will be open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call Chief Warrant Officer 3 Joseph Banks at 257-2008.

Saturday/Sunday

Archery hunting for feral pigs aboard Marine Corps Training Area Bellows is now open for authorized personnel who meet the requirements Saturday and Sunday. Per Base Order 1711, all applicants must have a valid State of Hawaii hunting license and a Base Hunting Permit to sign up for hunting.

State licenses may be obtained online or in-person at the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, 1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325, Honolulu, HI 96813. To receive a Base Hunting Permit, applicants must successfully pass a written exam on the base order (open book) and an archery shooting proficiency exam administered by Range Control. Exam sessions will be held at Ulupau Crater Range Training Facility. This will also be the opportunity to sign up for the Saturday and Sunday hunting dates. For more information, call Range Control at 257-3180.

Monday

The KidFit Program classes start and will be held Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:30 to 11 a.m. at the Semper Fit Center gym. The course teaches children 6 to 12 years old different aspects of their physical well being. Register your child at 254-7597.

Tuesday

Attend the Exceptional Family Member Program for coffee hour from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. at the tables front of Starbucks at Mokapu Mall. The program offers the opportunity to network with other EFMP families, and receive information pertaining to EFMP. Contact the EFMP at 257-0290.

Marines capable of speaking a foreign language may take the Defense Language Proficiency Test at 9 a.m. in classroom A of building 220. Marines qualified to receive foreign language proficiency pay are required to take the test annually. The Lower Range Constructed Response DLPT5 in Dari is currently available. Six hours of testing are required and you must register in advance. The test is open to all active-duty personnel. Call 257-2158.

Wednesday

Chaplain Joseph W. Estabrook Chapel services

- 6 p.m. - Christian Contemporary Christmas Eve
- 11 p.m. - Catholic Solemnity of the Nativity of our Lord

Thursday

Chaplain Joseph W. Estabrook Chapel services

- 9:30 a.m. - Catholic Solemnity of the Nativity of our Lord

AROUND THE CORPS

US Marines, Moldovan Army strengthen partnerships through advanced weapons workshop

Master Sgt. Chad McMeen
U.S. Marine Corps Forces Europe and Africa

BALTI, Moldova — One week after the Nov. 30 Moldovan elections, where pro-European parties maintained their majority in parliament, a military unit here hosted an anti-armor workshop with U.S. Marines.

“We had about 50 (Moldovan) soldiers from three or four different units around the country. We brought 15 Marines here; some assaultmen and anti-tank misslemen,” said 1st Lt. Ben Skarzynski, executive officer for Weapons Company, Black Sea Rotational Force 14.

The Marines from the Black Sea Rotational Force, located in Mihail Kogalniceanu, Romania, arrived Dec. 8 and began classroom instruction. The two groups studied advanced weapon systems to build a mutual understanding of both firing procedures and characteristics.

The military-to-military engagement was planned prior to the elections. The timing of the event in relation to the elections was coincidental however, the importance of the training can’t be denied.

The country was annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940 and became an independent country in 1991. Moldova continues to work toward integrating into the European Union.

“We’re here to work on anti-armor tactics and procedures, an exchange of how they do things and how we do things,” Skarzynski said.

He said events like this show they are willing to build military capacity by working with the United States and other nations to increase their



Master Sgt. Chad McMeen | U.S. Marine Corps Forces Europe and Africa

U.S. Marines and Moldovan soldiers integrated to conduct an Anti-Armor Workshop in Balti, Moldova, Dec. 8 through 12. The Marines and Moldovan soldiers built a mutual understanding of firing procedures and characteristics on advanced anti-armor weapons systems, including: Moldova’s rocket propelled grenade system and 70mm recoilless rifle, the SPG-9 Kopye, and America’s FGM-148 Javelin man-portable anti-tank missile, AT-4 anti-tank weapon, and the Shoulder-launched Multipurpose Assault Weapon.

knowledge of tactics and procedures.

“With our current mission set, (these events) greatly enables our capability to respond to contingencies in the region, which promotes greater stability,” he said.

By Dec. 11, the 50 Moldovan soldiers, who mostly have an artillery background, were on the range live-firing shoulder-mounted weapons with deadly accuracy at distances up to 1,000 meters.

The Moldovan military ensured

the week was mutually beneficial by providing instruction on their rocket propelled grenade system and the 70mm recoilless gun known as the SPG-9 Kopye, with the opportunity for several to fire each one.

“We get the opportunity to work with a lot of (partner) nations and build relationships with units and nations around the region and with that comes capacity,” Skarzynski said.

The workshop culminated on Friday as the entire group conducted a full-

on combined attack as distinguished visitors from both countries observed. The Moldovan Minister of Defense, BSRF leadership as well as military members from the USEUCOM Bilateral Affairs Office and the US Embassy Defense Attaché’s office were all present.

“‘Interoperability’ is our ability to work with and function with another nation, in thought and as well as in practical situations,” he said. “We’ve culminated that here with a live-fire event with our Moldovan partners.”

Fired up: Follow regulations for enjoying fireworks

Christine Cabalo

Hawaii Marine

Celebrating the new year with fireworks can be a blast, as long as revelers do it legally and safely.

Be sure to follow the laws for fireworks while aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii and around Oahu. Those living aboard MCB Hawaii are not allowed to possess or discharge fireworks, according to Chapter 10 of Base Order 5500.15.

“Fireworks are prohibited on Marine Corps Base Hawaii,” said Angela Sanders, a fire inspector for the MCB Hawaii Federal Fire Department and the department’s public information officer. “The public fireworks displays that occur during special events are conducted by experts and pre-approved by base officials.”

The base order states that the only fireworks allowed are part of officially sanctioned special events coordinated by the MCB Hawaii explosive safety officer.

“Fireworks include toy cannons, firecrackers, torpedoes, skyrockets, roman candles, sparklers or similar items capable of producing a visual or audible effect by combustion or detonation,” said Capt. David Hendrickson, the operations officer at the base’s Provost Marshal’s Office.



Courtesy photo

Personal use of fireworks are not allowed at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, according to Chapter 10 of Base Order 5500.15. Fireworks use off base is also regulated.

The Provost Marshal’s Office monitors and reports anyone found with fireworks on base and has previously confiscated all restricted items they have discovered.

“Any personnel in violation of the base regulations will be detained and processed through PMO,” Hendrickson said. “Military members will be released to a unit representative for appropriate action. Civilian members will be reported to the Base Inspector’s office and could result in a debarment from the installation.”

For personnel who live outside of MCB Hawaii, there are city and

county regulations for fireworks to follow.

Only fireworks purchased with an official City and County of Honolulu permit are legal on Oahu, according to the Honolulu Police Department website. Permits for New Year’s, Chinese New Year and Independence Day are available at every Satellite City Hall. A fireworks permit for other times in the year may be obtained at the Honolulu Fire Department’s main office in Honolulu at 636 South Street.

A single permit costs \$25 and covers up to 5,000 individual consumer fireworks or firecrackers, according the

Honolulu Fire Department’s website about fireworks regulations. Consumers seeking permits must be 18 years or older, but may purchase an unlimited number of permits. For aerial devices or display fireworks, a \$110 display permit is required. Permits are non-transferable and must be used for the event it was issued for.

Holiday firecrackers may be purchased or sold within five calendar days before the event. For New Year’s fireworks, permit holders can buy from a licensed retailer starting Dec. 26 until midnight, Dec. 31. The fireworks may be set off between 9 p.m. on New Year’s Eve to 1 a.m. on New Year’s Day.

Those who sell, possess or use illegal fireworks face a punishment of up to five years in jail or a fine as much as \$2,000.

The Honolulu Fire Department reported 10,922 firecracker permits were issued for New Year’s Eve in 2013. On average, Honolulu city officials reported issuing more than 8,000 permits for New Year’s Eve celebrations since 2009.

For more information about permits, see the fireworks FAQ link at www.honolulu.gov/hfd/firecode.html or call the Honolulu Fire Department fireworks inspector at 723-7174.

VP-4 brings holiday help to orphanage

News Release

Patrol Squadron 4

NAVAL AIR STATION SIGONELLA, Sicily — The “Skinny Dragons” of Patrol Squadron Four recently visited La Casa Familia Orphanage in Belpasso, Sicily with the spirit of giving.

They painted two rooms then held a cookout and game day with the children whose ages ranged from 6 to 17 years old, Dec. 5.

Chief Petty Officer Traci Cole, an aviation maintenance administrationman, for VP-4, coordinated. The “Skinny Dragons” contributed \$1,600 toward purchasing cooking supplies, paint and gifts for the 20 children in the orphanage.

Several members of the “Skinny

Dragons” said they enjoyed having a family-oriented experience even when they couldn’t be at home for the holiday season during their deployment in Sicily.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Briana Torres, naval aircrewmn operator with the unit, said she and other members of VP-4 felt a great sense of pride giving back to the local community.

“This whole experience has brought joy to my heart and allowed me to give back to those less fortunate,” she said.

Several who participated said they felt holiday joy at seeing each child opened their gift.

“It truly was an experience made to tear at your heart strings,” Cole said.



Petty Officer 3rd Class Devin Menhardt | U.S. Navy

Children of La Casa Familia Orphanage wait to receive their presents from sailors assigned to Patrol Squadron 4, during a community service project, Dec. 5. The unit is conducting naval operations in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations.

Mokapu bids farewell to principal

News Release

Mokapu Elementary School

Today marks the last day of class for outgoing principal Keoni Wilhelm.

He leaves Marine Corps Base Hawaii and his position at Mokapu Elementary School to return to his hometown in Maui.

For Wilhelm, the feeling is bittersweet. He said although he is excited to be closer to his parents, he will also be “leaving behind a wonderful school with awesome people.”

He said he has enjoyed his time working with the students, faculty, parents and staff, and plans to maintain the relationships he has developed at Mokapu.

Wilhelm was born and raised in Kahului, Hawaii, on the island of Maui. He is a graduate of Lihikai Elementary and Baldwin High School in Wailuku, Hawaii.

Wilhelm graduated from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, in 1992 with a bachelor’s degree in education. In 1999, he earned his master’s degree in elementary education.

Wilhelm has taught pre-kindergarten through seventh and ninth grades with experience in both public and private schools.

In 2009, he earned his second master’s degree in educational



Wilhelm

administration. Following his degree, Principal Wilhelm served as the vice principal at Kailua High School and at Waimanalo Elementary and Intermediate Schools.

In June 2012, Wilhelm was Mokapu’s temporarily assigned principal. He was officially appointed as the school’s principal in 2013. Wilhelm said he believes that lifelong learning is paramount. His philosophy of education is his philosophy of life: All children can make their dreams a reality with hard work and perseverance.

The outgoing principal enjoys spending his free time dancing hula and performing with Halau Kawaiianuhealehua. The hula group allows him to remain connected to his culture, perpetuate it by leading and teaching. He enjoys supporting his alma mater, UH, by attending football and volleyball games.

Wilhelm and Sarah-Beth Alvarez, the acting president of the Mokapu Parent Teacher Association, present certificates and prizes to the winners of the “The Magic of a Moment” Reflections Award Presentation in the Fairways Ballroom at the Kaneohe Klipper Golf Course, Jan. 25, 2013.



Kristen Wong | Hawaii Marine



Kristen Wong | Hawaii Marine

Col. Timothy E. Winand, the commanding officer of 3rd Marine Regiment, signs a contract with Keoni Wilhelm, the principal of Mokapu Elementary School during an informal ceremony at the school cafeteria, April 23.



Courtesy of Mokapu Elementary School

Wilhelm, who dances hula in his spare time, performs for the school’s May Day program in 2013.

PROJECTS, from A-1

work hours, Walker, of Dinuba, Calif., said the Marines have a little more flexibility, whether they work earlier in the morning or later in the evening. During this project, he said the platoon faced challenges like setting goals for completion and trying to meet those goals. The Marines also had to be cautious and precise when pouring the concrete.

“(One of the challenges) was making the rotation of the concrete trucks match our pour plan so that we had enough time to work the concrete,” said Sgt. Jeremy Boerner, the construction chief for Combat Engineer Platoon.

“The nature of the project had to be exact,” said 1st Lt. Christopher Hawley, combat engineer platoon commander, CLB-3. “There’s no room for error.”

Because this project required such precision, Hawley, of Kingsville, Mo., said it was a good training opportunity for the Marines.

Hawley and Walker added that timeliness was crucial to the project because the range needs to be operational again for Marines in January. Time, it seems, was in their favor as Walker said the forms, or lumber put together to create the mold for the concrete, was completed a week ahead of schedule.

“This project was significant because it will be used by Marines for annual rifle (qualification) for years to come,” said Boerner, of Canton, Ohio.

The unit is scheduled to take on 10 more upcoming projects, such as building a stairway to allow shooters access to K-Bay’s Range 11. The Marines will



Kristen Wong | Hawaii Marine

EWA BEACH, Hawaii — Lance Cpl. Tyler Channey, a combat engineer with Combat Logistics Battalion 3, pulls out rebar from the concrete slabs at Puuloa Range Training Facility, Monday.

also be adding courtyard walls, gates and window and door shutters to the shipping containers that were modified into makeshift mud-huts at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows. The battalion also plans to build new entry control points at three forward operating bases at PTA and a new footbridge over a stream at Bellows.

The rise in future projects may be attributed to the new initiative by the 130th Engineer Brigade, based on Schofield Barracks. The brigade is one of the few, if not only, active-duty military organization on island certified in survey and design.

Scott said the brigade initiated monthly meetings with key civilian and

military personnel to plan future construction projects on the island. He said government agencies can start looking at projects that can be useful for the future instead of waiting till the need arises.

“It’s a large engineering effort,” Scott said. “(Through monthly meetings with 130th Brigade we’re able to) design efficiently and economically.”

SWIM, from A-1

carrying bricks and other dead weight. Adkins said succeeding in the rescue portion of the course is one of the most difficult areas of training.

The instructors pushed the class endurance level out of the water as well. The group pumped out multiple push-ups and other stationary exercises, tiring themselves on land before hopping back into the pool for more aquatic rescue drills and strengthening exercises.

“This is simulating operating under stress,” said Gunnery Sgt. Brian C. Stanley, the operations chief at MCWSS. “Sometimes that can be self-inflicted stress. A lot of hesitation comes from a fear of failure. But we want to get them through this with so much training they are confident in whatever they do because they’ve been through arduous events in the water.”

The Marines also trained outdoors in Kaneohe Bay, carrying out rescue drills in the open sea. However the majority of the course featured aerobic and anaerobic exercises in the pool designed to increase strength and condition the Marines even when they felt exhausted, said Stanley, of San Antonio.

Although Adkins and Stanley said many in the course have good swimming skills, but mental toughness is also required to do well.

Cpl. Daniel Nappier, a Chinese linguist with 3rd Radio Battalion, said although his unit regularly does physical training in the water, he wasn’t fully prepared for how grueling the training would be.

“You feel like it could be so much easier to quit,” he said. “But you stay in the water to suffer it, and you (can) tell everyone later you did it.”

After facing these challenges, the Marines who do pass will earn American Red Cross certifications for lifeguarding and first aid. They will also carry a secondary military occupational specialty for water safety.

“After getting trained in this water survival course,



Christine Cabalo | Hawaii Marine

Master Sgt. Joshua Adkins, an operations chief at the Expeditionary Warfare Training Group, Pacific, (right) directs Marines in push-ups before they head back into the pool at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Dec. 12.

the Marines can go back to serve in their unit trained to run swim qualifications,” Adkins said. “They can work with the service members in their unit who are not strong swimmers.”

Nappier said one of most challenging aspects of the MCIWS course is the mental difficulty of trying to stick with it, but good training can make all the difference.

“This is easily the most difficult course I’ve ever done before,” he said. “They’re teaching you to be physically

and mentally strong, so that nothing in this course is impossible.”

Federal Fire Department encourages fire safety this holiday season

Chief of Fire Prevention Jeffrey Fernaays

Federal Fire Department

‘Tis the season to be jolly, as the holiday standard goes. In many homes, this means seasonal smelling candles, a trimmed tree or a lighted home displaying holiday colors. All these signs of the season bring comfort and joy to families, but what you may not realize is that they also bring an increased risk of fire in the home. In the U.S., fire departments respond to 230 home structure fires caused by Christmas trees every year.

The United States Fire Administration and the National Fire Protection Association have gathered these statistics on holiday fires. Home Christmas tree fires caused an average of six civilian deaths, 22 civilian injuries, and \$18.3 million indirect property damage per year. On average, one of every 40 reported home structure Christmas tree fires resulted in a death, 43 percent of home fires in December and 39 percent of home fires in January were associated with Christmas trees. Electrical failures or malfunctions were involved with 32 percent of home fires during the holidays. A total of 17 percent occurred when a heat source was too close to the tree, 12 percent of these fires were due to a voltage issue with the tree lights and 7 percent of the Christmas tree fires were caused by candles in or around the trees.

Navy Region Hawaii’s Federal Fire Department encourages you to follow some maintenance and decorating tips to prevent a Christmas tree fire:

- Choose a tree with fresh green needles that don’t fall off when you touch them.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from a heat source.
- Make sure the tree isn’t blocking an exit and daily add water to the tree stand.
- Never use lit candles to decorate a tree.
- Make sure the tree lights are listed by independent science safety company, UL, and used for the purpose they were designed for indoors or outdoors.

- Replace any worn lights when bare wires are visible or have been taped back together.
 - Always turn off tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.
 - Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it becomes dry. Dried out trees are high-fire dangers and should not be left in the home, garage or even placed outside along the house.
- This is the time of year that we all should take

the fire safety procedures we have been taught and be extra vigilant. Do it for your family so you all can enjoy all the Christmas decorations and trees that come with this time of year.

The Federal Fire Department would like to wish everyone a wonderful and happy holiday season and advises to practice good holiday fire safety by having a working fire extinguisher and smoke detectors.

For more information about Holiday Fire Safety contact the Federal Fire Department at 471-3303.



USPS Parcel Drop Box on MCBH

Have a package to be mailed with postage applied from USPS Click-N-Ship but the post office is closed? Drop it at our parcel drop box located at the Harris Avenue entrance of Mokapu Mall.



PMO Corner

PMO corner is a recurring series provided by the Provost Marshal's Office, providing crime prevention and safety information to Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

PMO contacts

To report suspicious activity/behavior or non-emergency calls, contact the desk sergeant:
257-1018/2123 (building 1096)

Incoming/outgoing vehicle, weapon registration, fingerprinting:
257-6994 (building 1095)

Pet registration, fishing regulations or lost/found animals, contact the PMO game warden:
257-1821 (building 3099)

Vehicle decals, base passes and vehicle registration:
257-2047/0183 (building 1637/1095)

**for MCB Hawaii)
477-8734/8735 (building 601 for
Camp H.M. Smith)**

Traffic regulations, citations or traffic court,
contact the Traffic Court bailiff:
257-6991/6992 (building 1095)

For all other numbers not listed, contact base information: **449-7110**

For more information, visit the PMO website at:
<http://www.mcbhawaii.marines.mil/Departments/ProvostMarshalsOffice.aspx>

In an emergency, call 911

PMO House Check Program

Are you worried about your home while you are away on vacation? There is no need to worry. Come sign up for the Provost Marshal's Office House Check Program.

PMO offers a House Check Program for personnel residing in houses aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Camp H.M. Smith, and Manana Housing. Residents that will be leaving their homes unoccupied for more than five consecutive days can utilize the MCB Hawaii PMO House Check Program. House checks help with

protecting property and the early detection of burglary, vandalism, and other crimes. While your house is unoccupied a uniformed police officer or military police officer will conduct exterior checks of your house daily.

One week prior to your house being unoccupied, visit the Crime Prevention Office located in building 1095, second floor, room 205. The office staff will meet with you, give you education crime prevention material regarding home security and register your house for the program. For more information, contact the PMO Crime Prevention Office at 257-8312.

Sports & Lifestyle



Photos by Lance Cpl. Khalil Ross | Marine Corps Base Hawaii

Santa Claus beckons a child forward to him for a picture at Santa’s Village at Kulia Youth Center, Saturday. More than 700 people came to see Santa.

Santa came to town

Lance Cpl. Khalil Ross
Marine Corps Base Hawaii

Two weekends before Christmas and all the families were excited; full of holiday joy, the children were delighted. The parents were

exhausted and their youth needed a place — a fun wintry village that could keep up with their pace. “Santa’s Village” they thought, would be worth all the while; so off went the family, each member wearing a smile.

On Saturday, par-



Santa enters Santa’s Village greeting children at Kulia Youth Center. The carnival went from 9 a.m. to noon.



A child hangs on tightly to the hand rail of a carnival ride. There were two different rides and an inflatable obstacle course.

ents of Marine Corps Base Hawaii brought their children to Santa’s Village, a carnival funded by Marine and Family Programs.

Santa’s Village is designed to support the families, said Patricia Barrera, the family care branch head. She said it is something that offers qualified families an alternative during the holidays.

“The holiday season is a costly event in itself,” Barrera said. “We want to give families the option to come out and (participate in) fun activities at no cost.”

Barrera said having pictures with Santa was a good alternative to going off base.

“If you go off base to get pictures with Santa, it’s quite expensive,” she said.

Barrera said the line for pictures with ol’ Saint Nick himself were very long as it’s one of the largest events the Marine and Family Programs hosts.

“Families always wait for this event,” said Andrea Souza, the event coordinator. “The carnival has been around

since 2003.”

In the first hour that the village was open, there were more than 700 people in attendance.

“I think the numbers were going very good,” Souza said.

Souza said Marine and Family Programs covers everyone from infants to 17 year olds, said Souza. They also support children with exceptional needs, Barrera added.

“We order carnival rides, inflatable games, balloons and a magic show,” said Souza. “It’s different each (year).”

There was also face painting, movie time and a performance from some of the classes the program offers, such as gymnastics and dance.

The carnival workers were all volunteers, most of them being active-duty service members, Barrera said. They dressed up as snowmen and elves, interacting with the kids and spreading holiday merriment.

“For this being my first year, I think (Santa’s Village) is dynamic,” Barrera said. “It’s a great opportunity for the community to come together and celebrate the holidays.”

With the child tucked out and without losing a cent, the fun came to an end and the day was well spent.

PASS

IN

REVIEW

Your weekly guide to the best aspects of entertainment

Welcome to the Pass In Review, your No. 1 source for cinema, music, video game, book and product reviews. The Pass In Review crew consists of more than 10 critics, each with their own idea of what makes a movie, album, game, product or book great. Be sure to take advantage of the Better Know A Critic section, which spotlights this week’s critics to better help you choose the critic with opinions most like your own. Using our breakthrough four-point scale system, you can quickly decipher what is worth your time and what isn’t, or read the full review for an in-depth analysis and explanation of the rating. The rating system uses ammunition and range terminology, so if you’re not familiar, here’s a quick breakdown of the ratings ...

- 1/4 — No Impact, No Idea

Horrendous. Among the worst of the worst in its genre. Dedicating time to this is not only wasteful, but unforgivable. Avoid at all costs.
- 2/4 — High And To The Right

Mediocrity at its best. Lacks a few things that might have made it really good. A decent time waster, partake only if there’s nothing better to do.
- 3/4 — On Target

Praiseworthy. A great endeavor, not quite an instant classic but still very entertaining. This is a sound investment of your time.
- 4/4 — Confirmed Kill

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



Better Know A Critic

Lance Cpl. Brittney Vella

describes herself as a self-diagnosed narcoleptic film watcher. She spends copius amounts of money on movie tickets, just to fall asleep minutes after the movie starts. It's hard for her to appreciate movies because she rarely gets through the whole film.

THIS WEEK’S RATING:

4/4

‘Interstellar’ blasts out of this world

Lance Cpl. Brittney Vella
Marine Corps Base Hawaii

What would be more powerful if the survival of Earth was at stake, the power of gravity or love?

“Interstellar,” directed by Christopher Nolan, attempts to answer that question. The new science fiction movie everyone seems to be talking about stars Matthew McConaughey and Anne Hathaway as Cooper and Amelia Brand, Nolan really impressed me with this one. The movie takes place sometime in the near-future, which made me more interested because ... what if this is the future of our Earth?

Cooper is a pilot-turned-farmer tasked with growing one of the planet’s only remaining sustainable crops: corn. The Earth has become one big dust bowl, with nothing but failing crops and lung-clogging air. And it seems the only hope for the human race is to start over on a different planet. With all the hearsay about the end of the world, this blew my mind and made me think that this could actually happen to mankind. Does Nolan know something that we all don’t? No, I’m just over thinking this movie, I hope.

Cooper lives with his son, daughter, and his father-in-law, Donald, on their family farm. Donald, the grandfather, is believed to have grown up in the 21st century, although dates are never clearly stated. The information stuck out to me because if this really happened I would be around his age.

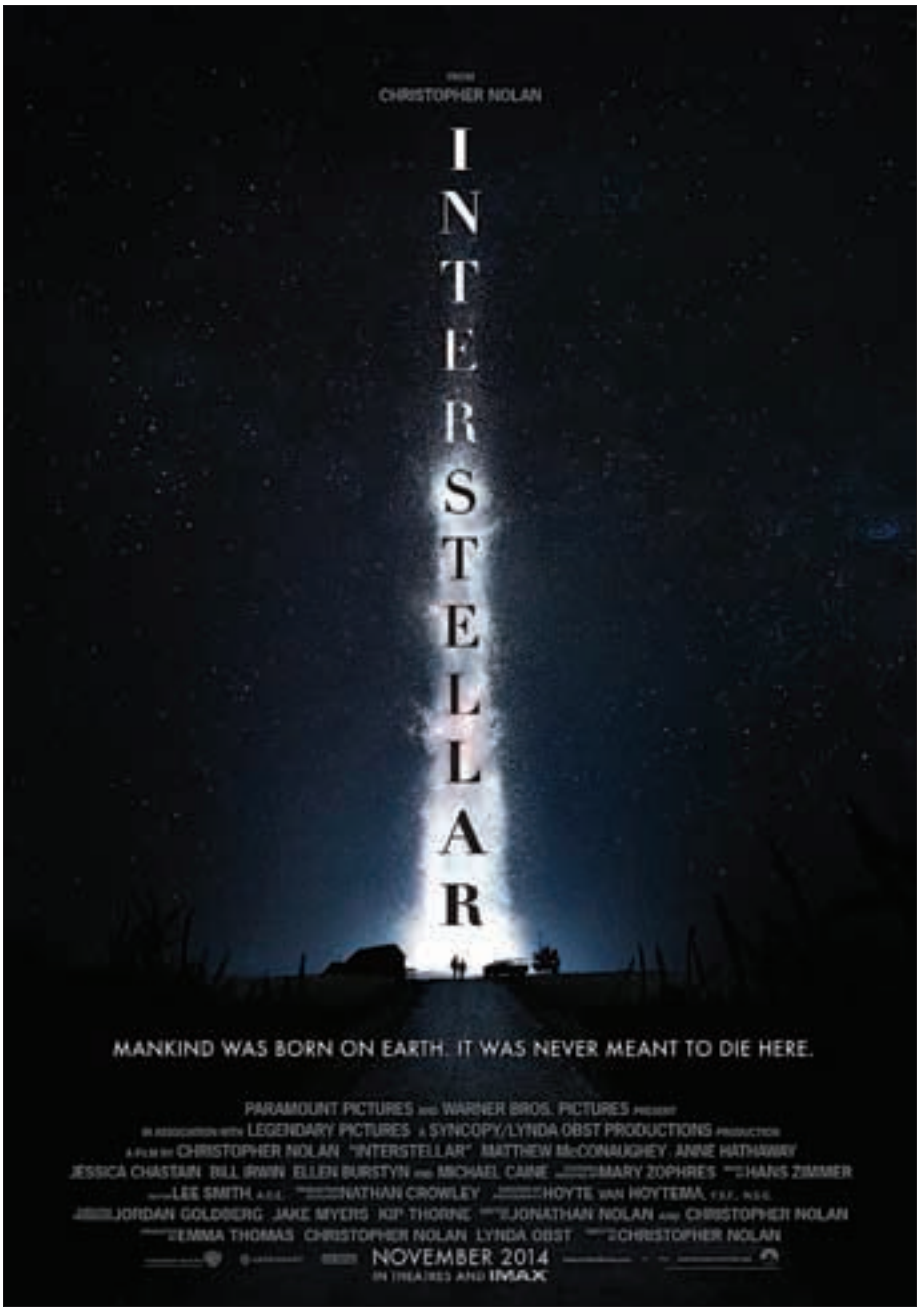
The movie revolves around what Murph, Cooper’s daughter, (Mackenzie Foy,) thinks are “supernatural” signals from ghosts. Murph is determined

to figure out what is causing the mysterious occurrences in her bedroom. The obscure signals she finds turn out to be coordinates that lead Murph and her father to a NASA research lab where Cooper is reunited with past colleagues. The unexpected encounter left Cooper with a life-changing decision that left the fate of mankind in his hands. He is given an ultimatum to potentially save the world, or live the rest of his life knowing he did nothing about it.

He agrees to help and leaves his family behind in search of a new planet to call home. Although he left Earth on bad terms with Murph, I think their father-daughter connection is the root of the story.

I personally couldn’t pinpoint a climax. It’s truly in the eyes of the beholder as one could view the movie from many different perspectives. The 169-minute movie was picked as one of the best movies of the year by the American Film Institute.

The movie was well filmed and I highly suggest seeing it. However, it is not for people with short attention spans or small bladders. Nolan gets a confirmed kill on this one. He went outside of the box and added a good twist on the average end of the world theme. He brought fear into the viewer’s mind showing how our resources here on Earth are becoming scarce. The movie fires up the imagination and sparks the viewers’ curiosity about what else is outside of our solar system.



- “Big Hero 6” PG Today | 6:30 p.m.
- “Interstellar” PG-13 Today | 9:15 p.m.
- “The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1” PG-13 Saturday | 6:30 p.m.
- “Birdman” R Saturday | 9:15 p.m.
- “The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1” PG-13 Sunday | 2 p.m.
- “Dumb and Dumber To” PG-13 Sunday | 6:30 p.m.
- “Birdman” R Wednesday | 6:30 p.m.

Prices: All shows are \$4.25 for adults and \$3.25 for children. All 3-D shows are \$8 for adults and \$6 for children. For ticket pricing, the base theater box office defines an adult as a patron 12 and older and defines a child as a patron from 6 to 11. Children 5 and younger are admitted free of charge. Parents must purchase tickets for R-rated movies in person at the box office for children 16 and younger. Patrons must present their military identification card when purchasing tickets.

MAKING MERRY MEMORIES



Christine Cabalo | Hawaii Marine

Sgt. Michael Kephart, the substance abuse control officer for 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, and his son wave at Santa during his unit’s holiday party held at Hangar 101, Dec. 12. Members of Combat Assault Company, 3rd Marine Regiment helped distribute toys to the dozens of children who attended.

DALLAS COWBOYS CHEERLEADERS VISIT K-BAY



Lance Cpl. Khalil Ross | Marine Corps Base Hawaii

The Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders visited Marine Corps Base Hawaii on a USO tour of Hawaii on Sunday. The cheerleaders are traveling around Hawaii as part of their USO tour which the group said they are very excited to be a part of. The squad first went to Kahuna’s Sports Bar and Grill for breakfast with the Marines. They then went to the Semper Fit Center and held a cheerleading clinic and meet and greet with anyone interested in seeing them. As the evening came the cheerleaders took a tour of the base, visiting Kansas Tower Hill, Kaneohe Bay Range Training Facility and Pyramid Rock Beach.



Start your financial year off right now

Press Release

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society

Whatever your financial situation, a new year presents an opportunity to improve it. Whether you’re living paycheck to paycheck or already keeping your finances in tip-top shape, take some time to think about where you are headed.

While the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society’s main goal is to help each person seeking support for their immediate needs, their long-term mission is to help sailors and Marines become financially self-sufficient by learning how to better manage their personal finances and prepare for unplanned expenses.

Here are a few financial New Year’s resolutions to get the year started right:

- **Save for retirement:** Whether you are 21 or 51, it is never too early, or too late, to think about financially supporting yourself when you stop working either as a result of retirement or an unexpected circumstance. If you already contribute to the Thrift Savings Plan, consider increasing the amount for 2015. If not, use MyPay to enroll and start contributing. Just 1 percent of your income makes a difference in your future. For more information, visit tsp.gov.

- **Pay off debt:** The money you are spending on interest is lost, so commit to becoming debt-free in 2015. First, break the habit of paying only the

minimum required each month. Paying the minimum — usually 2 to 3 percent of the outstanding balance — only prolongs your debt. Make a few sacrifices, and you will find the extra dollars needed to increase your debt repayments dramatically. Those increased payments will save you hundreds, if not thousands, in additional interest payments.

- **Have the conversation:** If you are in a relationship that involves sharing money or property, set aside a monthly date and time to talk about your finances. Regular discussions lead to greater financial confidence and transparency. While it is common for one partner to manage the day-to-day finances, both parties need to be aware of how their money is being spent and saved. If something unexpected comes up, it will be easier to come to a decision that both of you are comfortable with. Talking finances might be uncomfortable at first, but it will get easier if you are intentional about meeting regularly.

- **Make a plan:** Tackling financial issues isn’t always easy, but it is worth it. If you don’t know where to start or would like assistance learning how to meet your goals, make an appointment with a caseworker at NMCRS. Caseworkers can help service members create a monthly budget and get 2015 started off on the right foot. Call 257-1972 for an appointment.

Oahu takes measures against invasive beetle

Pfc. Harley Thomas

Marine Corps Base Hawaii

Since the discovery of a coconut rhinoceros beetle infestation aboard Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Dec. 23, 2013, federal and local organizations have been working to eradicate the CRB from the island.

The CRB, typically native to Southeast Asia, pose a threat to Hawaii’s flora — having destroyed an estimated 50 percent of the palm trees on the island of Guam in 2007. They bore into the center of the crown of the palm, where they injure young, growing tissue and feed on the sap. This damage may significantly reduce coconut production and kill the palms.

Lance Bookless, the senior natural resources manager with the Environmental Compliance and Protection Department aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, said organizations such as the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, Oahu Invasive Species Council and University of Hawaii are working together with service members to eradicate the CRB and develop a treatment for the palms already infested by the beetle.

“(Today), the HDOA will be deploying 15 bait-monitoring traps around Mokapu Peninsula (and Camp H.M. Smith area),” Bookless said. “The traps will be hung from trees and most will be visible from the road.”

According to Bookless, the bait stations are about 3 feet long and black with a white catch container at its base, and is constructed of heavy wax-coated cardboard. He said the traps utilize small pheromone lures and tiny lights that act as attractants.

“HDOA’s field crew will check the bait stations once a week,” Bookless said. “The crews will be operating out of state-rented personally owned vehicles and will be wearing state identification badges. The bait stations will remain deployed until such a time as the HDOA determines the threat has (been) eradicated or it is no longer possible to contain or control the CRB.”

Robert Curtiss, an entomologist and the CRB incident commander with the HDOA, said the beetles are located in three main methods: Pheromone trapping, ground surveys for breeding sites and damaged tree surveys.

“Once we locate the beetles, we locating breeding sites and destroy them,” Curtiss said. “Often(times), destruction means incinerating or ‘in-vessel composting,’ a method that raises the temperature to lethal levels.”

Bookless said there are a few ways for service members and civilians around Oahu to help prevent the spread of beetles.

“If you train at Pu’uloa, which is currently infested with the CRB, shake out your equipment before transporting it back to K-Bay or Camp Smith,” Bookless said. “CRBs are most active at night, so be extra vigilant that the beetle doesn’t hitch a ride on your equipment or vehicles.”

It’s also best to enclose home composters and not stockpile green waste or mulch, both of which are good breeding sites for the CRB, Bookless added.

“All mulched material and green waste must be removed off base within a day or two of its creation,” Bookless said. “As a homeowner or (employee) at the base garden shop, do not leave bags of plant food outside at night. The CRB can burrow through the plastic so these types of products need to be taken indoors or stored in a sealed container at the end of the day.”

He also said that because the CRB damage may cause a V-notched look to the palm fronds, it helps to monitor the palm leaves or look for any holes bored into the trunk or base of the fronds.

The point of contact for the traps deployed on base are Bookless at 257-7000 or Todd Russell at 216-7135; the POC for traps deployed at Camp Smith is Charlene Richardson at 257-7136.

The base community is asked to report CRB panel traps that may be blown down due to strong winds. Dislodged traps should be reported by either calling the CRB hotline at 832-0585 or by email at stoprhino@gmail.com.

Members of the surrounding communities are also asked to contact the base Environmental Dept. natural resources managers, should they find any sign of the beetle. For an off-base contact, call the CRB hotline at 643-7378.



Courtesy of Hawaii State Department of Agriculture

The adult coconut rhinoceros beetle is large, shiny and either black or brown, and has a horn on the top of its head. The beetles are stout, measuring about 2 inches long and 3 quarters of an inch to 1 inch wide. The CRB’s favorite habitats for breeding sites are dead, standing coconut trees and fallen coconut logs. However, it can survive on many different types of decaying vegetation.

Book club invites readers to join discussion

Pfc. Harley Thomas
Marine Corps Base Hawaii

Readers gathered for the monthly book club meeting Dec. 10 at the base library to discuss this month’s book. The book club is free to those with library access and typically meets on the second Wednesday of every month

The books selected by the book club are available through the base library and are available for purchase online or on electronic devices.

The readers each said they enjoyed the book club because it gave them the chance to discuss books they may not have read otherwise. One of the members, Kristen Lindell, a physician at Tripler Army Medical Center, said because the books that are chosen are ones someone might not typically read, it exposes you to different genres and authors.

“(Most of the time), it may surprise you and make you say, ‘I really liked that book, but I would have never chosen it if I didn’t have to read it for the book club,’” Lindell said. “You don’t even have to read the whole book, there’s no pressure. However, if you really get into the book, you like it and you want to talk about it or you’re excited about it, (the book club) is a good outlet for that. Even if you didn’t read it, you can come and listen in.”

Aimee Hardy, a book club member, said it’s a good community to discuss books and what each member likes about them.

“It holds me accountable to make sure I’m reading and (discussing it) helps me make sense of what I’ve read,” Hardy said. “There’s good socialization, not just reading the book itself, but to talk with people in the community that you normally wouldn’t see. It’s a nice diverse group, I think, even though we’re a smaller bunch. It’s a very relaxed and welcoming, and it’s nice to just be able to chat. I’ve even turned up having not read some of the books and it’s still nice to hear the feedback.”

Crystal Brookover, a club member and information and referral specialist with Marine Corps Community Services’ Marine and Family Programs, said being a part of the book club encourages her to read more.



Pfc. Harley Thomas | Marine Corps Base Hawaii

Members of the book club gather at the base library the second Wednesday of each month. For January, the book club is reading “A Tale for the Time Being” by Ruth Ozeki. The book club is free to those with library access and typically meets on the second Wednesday of every month.

“I was always a reader as a kid,” Brookover said. “I was always that bookworm who could just escape in a book but now that I’m in my daily grind with work and everything, I don’t. It’s something I really enjoy and it kind of goes by the wayside. Now that I have a goal and a reason to read, it pushes me to focus and get that back in my routine.”

Brookover said attending the meetings provides members with insightful, mature conversation. She added that it also brings forth new ideas one might never have thought before.

“The book club is for people who love books,” Brookover said. “You can always enjoy a book by yourself, sure,

but most of the time, you can’t go into work and be like, ‘Oh man, I just read this book!’ because not everybody is dialed in or interested. It’s nice to be able to (talk) and (share thoughts) with people who also enjoy reading. It’s exciting and I always come away thinking ‘I want to look that up’ or ‘I want to check that book out,’ outside of the books we’ve selected. It opens up a lot of new, exciting things.”

Each of the members said they enjoy reading because it’s a way to explore parts of the world, people and situations.

“I like reading because it gets you out of your everyday world,” Hardy said. “You get so wrapped up in the things you have to do and it’s nice to just stop

and be transported somewhere else or look at things in a way you never would have.”

Brookover said she’s hoping more people attend the following meetings because it’s always nice to see new faces.

“We have a nice, intimate group, but it would always be nice to have a few more people,” Brookover said. “We’re a relaxed group so we welcome whoever – it’s nice to have diversity and hear different points of view.”

The next book club meeting will take place on Jan. 14 at the base library and the group will be discussing “A Tale for the Time Being” by Ruth Ozeki. For more information regarding the book club, contact Meri Healey, the supervisory librarian, at 257-1314.

MCCS HOSTS STARS AT MOKAPU MALL



Kristen Wong | Hawaii Marine

Jennifer Russo, a personal and professional development advisor at the Education Center, gives a presentation during the Spouse Transition and Readiness Seminar at Mokapu Mall, Dec. 12. The purpose of STARS is to help spouses find the information and resources their family needs when their active-duty spouse separates from the military.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

HOSC offering scholarship to spouses

The Hickam Officers’ Spouses’ Club will begin accepting applications on Jan. 5, 2015 for scholarships. All college bound military dependents are eligible, including high school seniors, current students and spouses. Applications and eligibility information are available at www.hickamosc.com. Applications must be postmarked and mailed by March 9, 2015. For more information, email hosc scholarship2015@gmail.com.

Hawaiian Humane Society to host Canine Game Day

Enjoy Canine Game Day with the whole family at Neal S. Blaisdell Park in Aiea, Hawaii, Jan. 10 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. This free event offers pet contests, an agility course and more. Canine Game Day will include exhibitor booths and activities such as a Wagging Contest, Best Trick Contest, Musical “Chairs” Contest and Dog Derby. Visit hawaiianhumane.org/CanineGameDay for more information or call 356-2222.

Kuhio Beach Hula Show scheduled in Waikiki

The Kuhio Beach Hula Show, featuring Lilinoe Lindsey and Ka Pa Nani o Lilinoe, is scheduled Saturday from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Kuhio Beach Hula Mound, near the Duke Kahanamoku statue, beachside at Uluniu and Kalakaua Avenues in Waikiki. Seating is available on the grass in a casual setting outdoors. Beach chairs, mats and cameras are welcome. Shows will be held if weather permits. Call Hula Shows at 843-8002 with questions.

Volunteer with AccessSurf Hawaii

AccessSurf Hawaii helps people with disabilities enjoy a day at the beach. The organization meets at White Plains Beach Park from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. every first Saturday of the month. Come by 11:30 a.m. to ensure time to surf. Participation is free. AccessSurf Hawaii is also looking for trained volunteers. Setup begins at 7:15 a.m. and trained volunteers will meet for orientation at 8:30 a.m. For details, visit accessurf.org.

Marine Corps Heritage Foundation taking award nominations

The Marine Corps Heritage Foundation awards program is accepting nominations through Jan. 9, 2015. The awards recognize individuals who showcase prominent aspects of Marine Corps history or culture in various creative works. The annual awards program includes 15 categories, including writing, journalism, photography, poetry and combat art. Submissions will be reviewed by a distinguished and diverse panel of judges. Entering is free. Visit marineheritage.org/Awards.asp for details.

STARS 2015 Seminar Schedule

Feb. 25 9 to noon
April 7 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
June 13 9 to noon
Aug. 28 9 to noon
Sept. 19 9 to noon
Dec. 1 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Call 257-7097 or visit www.mccshawaii.com/trpworkshops