

# ConMar

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The Continental Marine Magazine

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Remember those who died fighting to protect the dignity and the freedom of humanity.

Let our spirits be proud of them.

Let our hearts be compassionate and our minds be clear and determined in giving them honor and respect.

Let us be dependent on the loving kindness of the Lord our God.

As we remember the departed, let us be true Marines in war and in peace.

Let us be courageous protectors and true guardians of freedom.

Let us be the true masters of selfless love.

O Lord, guide us in the way of moral responsibility; enlighten us true believers in ethics and justice.

Let this day be a day of commemoration and honor to those who sacrificed their lives in order to give us liberty and national security.

Remember them, O Lord, in your mercy and have compassion on us.

Make us a generation of wisdom, discipline, and good faith.

AMEN

# Remembering those Marines who gave the ultimate sacrifice for freedom...

Lance Cpl. Andrew Aviles of Tampa, Fla., 4th MARDIV

Lance Cpl. Cedric Bruns of Vancouver, Wash., 4th FSSG

Staff Sgt. James Cawley of Roy, Utah, 4th MARDIV

Capt. David C. Cross of Centre, Pa., 4th MAW

Cpl. Evan James of Hancock, Ill., 4th FSSG

Sgt. Bradley Korthaus of Scott, Iowa, 4th FSSG

Lance Cpl. Joseph Maglione of Landsdale, Pa., 4th FSSG

Cpl. Douglas Marengo-Reyes of Chino, Calif., 4th MARDIV

Lance Cpl. Eric Orłowski of Buffalo, N.Y., 4th MARDIV

Maj. Steven G. Palombo of Sterling Heights, Mich., 4th MAW

Lance Cpl. Matthew Smith of Bloomington, Ind., 4th MARDIV

Lt. Col. Robert Theilman of Suffolk, N.Y., 4th MAW

Maj. John Walsh of Oakland, Mich., 4th MAW

# OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM



## Rebuilding Iraq through its people

Cpl. Jeff Hawk

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

**UMM HIDAR, Iraq** — A picture may be worth a thousand words, but a smile speaks volumes more. Marines and sailors who visited here recently were met with plenty of grins and goodwill. Villagers from this tiny Iraqi village of 2,000 people happily swarmed the service members as they handed out food and medical supplies outside a local Iraqi clinic.

"They looked so happy," says Lt. Cmdr. Ben Orchard, 48, battalion chaplain, Headquarters and Services Company, 6th Engineer Support Battalion, about the cheerful reception American forces received from Iraqi villagers.

Orchard and a small group of 6th ESB Marines and sailors joined Navy medical and Marine Corps civil affairs personnel for the humanitarian and medical assistance mission.

6th ESB received so many care packages from home that it felt it had enough to share with its Iraqi neighbors. So much accumulated, in fact, that stockpiles of the free goodies were beginning to crowd work areas.

"It helped us by helping them," said Orchard, who lives in

Idaho Falls, Idaho.

Orchard contacted 1st Marine Expeditionary Forces' 3rd Civil Affairs Group looking for a place to donate the excess "geedunk." Already planning for a medical assistance mission with the Navy's Fleet Hospital 3, also based here, civil affairs officials merged the two missions. The gesture did not go unnoticed.

"They were very grateful and thanked us," says Maj. George Deborde, 36, civil affairs liaison officer, 3rd CAG, from Orange, Calif.

Deborde's unit visited the village's clinic in early April during the war to assess the local facility's medical inventory and equipment. The unit later returned to re-assess the clinic and decided to "do a good gesture and provide medical supplies that they immediately need," said Deborde.

Navy doctors visited with the local physician and his staff before collecting surplus medical supplies and equipment to donate to the sparse, six-room clinic. "They have a stocked pharmacy, but not well stocked," says Deborde.

The unit brought bandages, pharmaceutical items and even a surplus field hospital bed to fill in the gaps.

"We knew that they were short of supplies so we wanted to help out until the country gets back on its feet," said Navy Capt. John Gibson, 52, Fleet Hospital 3's executive officer from Pensacola, Fla., the unit's home station.

But, said Deborde, "This is not meant as a long-term fix. We're taking baby steps. [The Iraqis] understand that their living conditions are not going to change overnight."

Military officials plan to report the clinic's needs to incoming non-governmental organizations who can provide more comprehensive assistance, he added.

The exchange between the two groups was not one-sided. Marines and Sailors said they walked away from the visit with something as well.

"The thing that sticks in my head is the young kid who was so excited to go to America," said Lance Cpl. Brian Eagleheart, 26, an intelligence analyst with Headquarters and Services Co., 6th ESB, from Portland, Ore. "I'll never forget it."

It's still too early to see a "serious impact" from the Iraqi's recent liberation, added Eagleheart, but "they are beginning to realize that they have an opportunity to control their lives."

Iraq's future generation, which may have the most to gain from the ousting of Saddam Hussein, made a strong and energetic appearance. Gaggles of children darted from one Marine to another in search of candy, pens or "anything American," said Eagleheart.

Many of the Marines and Sailors took time to play with Iraqi children and pose for photos with them. Showing Iraqis the instantaneous images from a digital camera was "a big hit," said Orchard. "I don't think some of them had ever seen anything like that."

The visit brought some closer to home, like 25-year-old chaplain's assistant Cpl. John McGill.

"There was a little girl that reminded me of my little girl," said the Elkton, Md., father of a 3-year-old daughter. "Seeing the smile on her face [helped me] envision the smile on my daughter's face," he said.

# From the ground up

Sgt. Zachary A. Bathon

24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Public Affairs Office

**HASHAM, Iraq** — After establishing peace in their sector of operations, the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) began shifting its focus of operations from combat to peace support operations and humanitarian assistance.

To initiate the process, Marines from the 24th MEU went to the local village of Hasham, which translates into “First of June,” and helped the residents clean up and make minor repairs to the school there.

“In operations like this one, we are helping the local people try and get back to a normal life,” said Gunnery Sgt. Wayne M. Osbourne, team staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge, 4th Civil Affairs Group from Washington D.C. “This school here was in a fire zone and was pretty badly damaged. We came in and helped them clean it up so the children can get back in school.”

“We basically came in here with what we can offer them now,” said Capt. Eric Post, Engineer Officer, MEU Service Support Group 24. “It was not a lot, so we conducted a general cleanup, fixed some door frames, removed some of the broken glass and straightened up the classrooms.”

The Marines also brought 400 gallons of water from the MEU’s Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Unit site in a water bull and placed it in the center of town for the local women to come and draw clean water.

As the project began, it was only the Marines doing the work, but after about an hour, many of the men and boys from the village came in to lend a helping hand. Together they finished the project in a little over three hours.

“By having the men and children come in here, we are teaching the people to help themselves,” said Post. “That way, after we leave they will still be able to take care of the school.”



As the project wound down, the atmosphere was very jovial. Several of the children and Marines began to pose together for pictures.

“I think we had a very positive reception here,” said Post. “We came in yesterday with the Civil Affairs Marines and spoke to some of the village elders about their concerns. They were asking for things like medical care and security at night, but by working on the school I hope it will tide them over until further peacekeeping operations begin. I think they realized we are here to help them, not harm them.

“I think being here today is a good thing,” said Cpl. Daniel Stevens, Operations Section, MSSG-24. “It shows the other side of the Marine Corps. Yes we are a lethal fighting force, but we are also here to help. It is sort of like a double edged sword.”

Along with cleaning up the school, the 24th MEU has other projects planned for more villages in the area.

“I was pretty shocked at how receptive the MEU is about Civil Affairs,” said Osbourne. “The (Commanding Officer) is very willing to provide materials, vehicles and security teams. They just want to do as much as they can with what they have.”

# Keep on truckin'

Sgt. Rob Henderson

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

**CAMP RYAN, Kuwait** — The combat operations are over in Iraq, but an important mission still remains. In keeping with President George W. Bush's promise to help rebuild Iraq after the war, a reserve company from Erie, Penn., took up residence here to support Phase 4 operations in Iraq.

The final group of Marines from Truck Company, Headquarters Battalion, 4th Marine Division arrived in Kuwait to join two other groups from their unit who had been operating in country since mid-March.

"A truck company directly supports the infantry battalions by providing troop movement capabilities and transporting fresh supplies between the rear and the forward deployed units," said Glassport, Penn., native Staff Sgt. Thomas E. Haney, motor transportation operations chief.

For this unit, that means supporting two reserve units who remain in Iraq to ensure stability: 2nd Battalion, 25th Marines, from Garden City, N.Y., and 3rd Battalion, 23rd Marines from New Orleans.

"We will be moving food, water and mail forward to the battalions in Iraq. We can also move an entire battalion at one time to reposition them if necessary," said Haney.

Half of the company arrived in country in mid-February and were attached to First Marine Division. The second group, consisting of 62 Marines from the company, arrived here mid-March and has been supporting 2nd Transportation Support Battalion.

"From what I hear, our Marines who arrived before us have done an outstanding job," said Ebensburg, Pa., native Major Paul D. Straka, commanding officer. "We've received praise on the superb job both groups of Marines have done supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom."

A truck company's assets normally consist of several seven-ton trucks, five-ton trucks, humvees, trailers and water bowls. Being in a desert environment poses unique challenges for the operators and maintainers of the vehicles.

"Our biggest operational hurdle will be keeping the trucks up and running with all the heat and sand of this area," said Agoura Hills, Calif., native First Sgt. John W. Keyes, company first sergeant. "Maintenance is a big issue for us."

"This deployment really hits home for the guys from Pennsylvania," said Keyes. "When that airplane crashed on September 11th, it brought the threat of terrorism to the front of everyone's minds in that area. Our Marines have wanted to be involved in the war on terrorism ever since. Now, we are."





*Now boarding...*

## Reserves give recovered POWs a lift

Gunnery Sgt. Shannon Arledge

Marine Forces Central Command

**THREE-RIVERS AIRFIELD, Iraq** — The Yankees of Marine Aerial Refueler Squadron (VMGR) 452 have been flying missions throughout the Persian Gulf and into Iraq since February. April 13 started like any other day; with a mission to transport six pallets of cargo to an airstrip outside Baghdad.

The crew was airborne no longer than 15 minutes when their mission had changed.

Instead of dropping off equipment near Baghdad, the Yankees were now tasked to pick up a much more precious cargo: the seven American prisoners of war taken by the Iraqis on March 23 and 24 in Sammara.

After turning back to Kuwait, the

crew gained the proper access codes to cross the border, and gathered medical personnel to board the aircraft. The excitement of the mission filled the KC-130 transport plane.

“I was first and foremost glad that they had been rescued,” said VMGR-452 pilot Maj. Bill Holmes, 34, from Atlanta, Ga. “I was amazed that our crew would have the opportunity to fly them to freedom. There was not much time to think about it; Iraq is still a dangerous place and we had to concentrate on the flight into the country.”

Marines from 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion rescued the seven soldiers earlier that morning. The Marines received a tip that

Americans may be detained in one of the homes in the town of Sammara. After house-to-house searches, the seven POW(s) were found in the home of an Iraqi police officer.

“I was extremely happy for them,” said co-pilot Maj. Charlie Miles, 33, from Eugene, Ore. “They were so excited to be getting out of Iraq and very grateful to our crew. It actually brought tears to my eyes to imagine what they had been through and for it all to be over. I was very proud to have a role in helping them.”

The Marines of VMGR-452 include active duty and Reserve Marines. They are based out of Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh, N.Y., and were mobilized

to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. There, they transported necessary supplies, cargo, and mail into hostile areas to Marines conducting combat missions.

“It was a very rewarding flight, the biggest flight of my career in fact,” said Miles. “I didn’t do anything special, but I was part of something special. I’m glad I was able to bring them one step closer to home and their loved ones.”

Holmes, a pilot for 11 years said he was relieved they were safe. “Several of them kept saying, ‘We love the Marines.’ One Apache pilot, with tears streaming down his face, said he had given up and thought he would never see his family again. He hugged the entire crew. Before the flight, I walked through the back of the aircraft and told them it would be about a 45-minute flight and it might be a bit bumpy. They did not seem to care. They all just smiled and said, ‘Thank you.’”

There are 64 reserve and 96 active duty Marines with VMGR-452. When this story was written, the KC-130 Hercules squadron had flown 1,672 flight hours in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



The flight crew or Yankees, of Marine Aerial Refueler Squadron 452 from Newburgh, N.Y., stand before the American flag on an airstrip in Kuwait April 13. These Marines flew seven American POW(s) from Iraq on the KC-130 transport plane pictured here. Bottom row (left to right): Gunnery Sgt. Eric Sanborn, Sgt. Jacob Cobb, Maj. Bill Holmes and Staff Sgt. Paul Morgado. Top row (left to right): Cpl. Richard Austin, Chief Warrant Officer David Rice and Maj. Charlie Miles.

## Did you know...

- More than 20,000 Reserve Marines were mobilized in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.
- Of the 466,985 total military personnel deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, 74,405 were U.S. Marines - 13 percent (9,501) of which were Reserve Marines.
- 1,801 aircraft were deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Twenty-one percent (372) were U.S. Marine aircraft.
- U.S. Marines flew 19 percent of the total fighter missions (3,794) during Operation Iraqi Freedom.
- U.S. Marines offloaded 12,545,786 pounds of fuel - enough fuel to keep a Boeing 737-300 airborne for almost 19 weeks.
- It took U.S. Forces just 20 days (20 March to 9 April 2003) to advance over 270 miles and take Baghdad.
- 31,800,000 Psychological Operations leaflets were dropped during Operation Iraqi Freedom. If you lined up the leaflets end-to-end, they would stretch from Fort Worth, Texas, to Anchorage, Alaska; or make 120,454 rolls of toilet paper.
- The temperature during the summer in Iraq ranges from 75 - 122 degrees.
- Of the eight recovered prisoners of war, Marines were involved in each operation.



# Reserves educate America's future

Cpl. Moses Martinez  
Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

SLIDELL, La. — Ninety North Shore High School juniors from Lynn Walter's American History class recently received a hands-on lesson in current affairs.

Three Marines from Marine Forces Reserve, G-6, in New Orleans brought along field gear and a slide presentation for the class on military operations in Iraq.

The Students were introduced to "MOPP gear" (Mission Oriented Protective Posture) -- protective garments worn in case of a chemical or biological attack. They also passed around helmets, meals-ready-to-eat (MREs), a Load Bearing Vest, rifle magazines and cleaning gear, a gas mask and other equipment Marines would normally carry around in Iraq.

Master Sgt. Steven J. Rauenhorst, ground electronic chief, began the presentation by answering some questions.

When asked what Marines eat, Rauenhorst opened up an MRE and showed the students what was inside. He demonstrated the process of heating a meal and allowed the students to sample the contents.

"I always wondered if Marines ate whatever or were on a specific diet to stay in shape," said student Kadrina Jones.

While Rauenhorst answered questions and students passed around an MRE, Gunnery Sgt. Garritt Duncan, system operations chief, found a motivated volunteer to try on the MOPP suit.

As Duncan and Rauenhorst assisted 16-year-old, Stefan Pichon into the MOPP suit, Maj. Kenneth J. Hoag, information systems maintenance officer, reminded students how crucial timing was in the event of a chemical attack - it could literally mean the difference between life and death.

"You have nine seconds to don and clear a gas mask if the call is made to wear it," said Hoag.

Many students stared in awe at Pichon, as the Marines added a flak jacket, pack and helmet.

"Remember, you're still missing your ammunition, meals, water, a weapon and any extra uniforms to change," said Hoag, after the students commented that the equipment looked heavy as it was.

Brandi English said she didn't realize how much gear Marines carry during combat.

"It's overwhelming! I didn't know that Marines had to carry so much stuff with them. I see things differently now," said English.

As the slide presentation began, the tone became more somber as students began viewing photos of Marines in Iraq.

"Someone asked me where Marines sleep," said Duncan, as he pointed to a slide of Marines lying inside a three-foot deep hole.

The pictures and answers provoked more than a few puzzled looks and wrinkled eyebrows.

"I don't keep up with news a lot, and this presentation gave me a better understanding of what is going on," said Brittany Lagrange.

The teachers were grateful for the visit as well.

"I'm pleased to see the military talking to the students. The military provides a viable option for students because it teaches life skills that help in the long run," said principal Michael R. Peterson. "I wish everybody would put time in the military because it helps them and us as a nation."

For the Marines it was another opportunity to tell the Marine Corps story.

"It was refreshing to know that the youth of America have an interest," said Rauenhorst. "We are happy to go and to share our knowledge with them and to give a better understanding of the military."

### **NAS JRB, Belle Chasse, La. —**

The UH-1N “Huey” helicopter flew quickly through the early morning sky as the pilots tried to evaporate some of the chemical contamination on the aircraft before landing.

The contamination may have been simulated, but the actions of the Reserves from Marine Aircraft Group-42, Det. C, were very real as they conducted an exercise here, April 25.

The Huey landed in an area equipped with pressure plates which wash the aircraft upon landing. It also has a special drainage system separating oil and water, properly disposing of contaminants.

The base fire department immediately sprayed down the aircraft with water, using a decontamination technique known as Detailed Aircraft Decontamination. This was the first of five stations designed to reduce hazards to an insignificant level, allowing Marines to operate the aircraft without protective measures.

“My job was decontaminating the pilots. The process of stripping pilots down was difficult. They had three layers of clothing on them. In the future, I think it would be easier to cut off the pilots flight suits than risk contamination,” said Cpl. Raul A. Fuster, an avionics technician.

During the middle three stations, the helicopters were scrubbed, mopped down with a neutralizing solution, and given a high powered rinse.

At the fifth and final station, the helicopter was checked for any residual contaminants. If contaminants are found, the aircraft is sent back to station two to repeat the process.

While the Marines did not have all the gear they would have preferred to complete the mission, they did what Marines so often do...overcome.

“We knew we weren’t going to have all the equipment,” said Cpl. Erik C. Andres, ordnance technician. “So we adapted, and in the end, we learned from the experience.”



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*"The Reserves play a critical role and are an integral part of the Marine Corps. We have Marines throughout the world doing what their country asked of them. You cannot tell the difference between a Marine who bares USMC or one who has USMCR."*

Gen. Michael W. Hagee  
Commandant of the Marine Corps

Photo by Cpl. Ryan J. Skaggs

# Leading Leatherneck motivates MarForRes

Cpl. Ryan J. Skaggs  
Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

## MARINE FORCES RESERVE, New Orleans —

The Commandant of the Marine Corps shared his appreciation and words of motivation to the Marines of Mardi Gras town here May 16, as part of his nationwide tour.

“I am here to talk with Marines, and see Marines,” said Gen. Michael W. Hagee, Commandant of the Marine Corps. “I thank you very much for what you’ve done yesterday, today and what you will do tomorrow for the Corps and the nation.”

More than 21,000 Reserve Marines were mobilized in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Approximately 70 percent of those activated were within the Iraqi borders at the peak of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Although the War on Terror is not over and the operations in Iraq remain a continuous effort, Hagee is pleased with the actions of the active-duty and Reserve Marines thus far.

“The Reserves play a critical role and are an integral part of the Marine Corps,” said the 33rd Commandant. “We have Marines throughout the world doing what their country asked of them. You cannot tell the difference between a Marine who bares USMC or one who has USMCR. There are Marines in the Corps performing magnificently.”

General Hagee continued to address his Marines about issues of the past, present and future. Besides touting the Marines’ accomplishments in Iraq, he discussed his plans of instituting a greater awareness of education throughout the Corps in continuing with a Marine’s birthright of excellence in war fighting.

“We have a tremendous responsibility,” said Hagee. “U.S. Marines resonate with the American public. We must uphold the legacy of the Marines before us. We project combat power ashore from the sea and we sustain it. Everyone knows we do that better than anyone else in the world.”

“In order to do that, you have to be



Gen. Michael W. Hagee, Commandant of the Marine Corps, shares his appreciation with the Marines of Marine Forces Reserve for their contributions made in support of the War on Terror.

educated. Today’s battlefield is too complex. The tactics changed and the Marines had to adapt,” he further explained.

Hagee proposed a program wherein an enlisted Marine would earn a bachelor’s degree upon completion of at least the minimum of a full career in the Marine Corps, while officers would concurrently receive a master’s degree.

“Education in today’s world and in today’s military is not an option,” said Hagee. “It’s an absolute must and we are going to provide you that opportunity.”

Before the Commandant departed, he opened the floor to discussions regarding the new camouflaged uniforms, the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program, and the continued developments in war-fighting technology.

He also made time to re-enlist Sgt. Larry A. Whatley, administrative clerk, Det. C, Marine Aircraft Group 42, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, Naval Air Station Belle Chase, La.

“Whether it be a re-enlistment, promotion or an award ceremony, I feel quite fortunate to have the opportunity to participate in honoring a Marine who represents the Corps with pride here or on the battlefield,” said Hagee.

“The most important thing a Marine can do is be the very best Marine he or she can be,” said Hagee. “Do the very best you can in whatever job you hold or whatever grade you might be in. I am just trying to be the best commandant I can be.”



The Commandant re-enlists Sgt. Larry A. Whatley, administrative clerk, Det. C, MAG - 42, during his visit to NAS Belle Chase, La.

# Arctic Care '03

*Joint-humanitarian exercise  
puts training to good use*

Sgt. Jennifer M. Antoine

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

**FAIRBANKS, Alaska** — As members of America's military continue to deploy to foreign lands for various missions, many remain behind to take care of business here at home.

Arctic Care '03, a humanitarian exercise held April 20 - May 3 in isolated villages of Alaska, was one such example. More than 150 servicemembers, including 44 sailors from 4th Dental Battalion, 4th Force Service Support Group, packed up their gear and participated in the annual exercise.

"Many of our assets were assigned to support Operation Iraqi Freedom, however, this is a real-world mission also, and we completed it with much success," said Navy Capt.

Bruce A. Doll, commanding officer, Arctic Care '03.

Arctic Care is a multi-service medical readiness, logistics and training exercise which emphasizes military training in cold weather environments and is intended to simulate military and civilian humanitarian operations directed in times of crisis, conflict or disaster.

Each component of the United States military participated in Arctic Care '03 and provided medical, dental, optometric and veterinary services to 26 villages.

This year, the teams went further west to villages in the Bering Straits, just two miles off the coast of Russia.

The Navy provided dental care while the Army provided

medical and veterinary care and the Air Force supported with optometrists.

To ensure that the military focused its efforts where it was needed most, the command coordinated with two major civilian partners who directed them to the villages in most need of assistance.

The Tanana Chiefs Conference, a non-profit tribal corporation that provides health and social services, and natural resource programs to tribes of interior Alaska, along with Norton Sound Health Corporation, teamed up with the units to bring much-needed services to the underserved villages.

The tribal organizations are responsible for the health care needs of these villages but are not always able to provide the services necessary.

“These corporations have limited funds to be able to send out health professionals as often as needed,” said Capt. Michael Keiffer, United States Public Health Service, Anchorage, Alaska. “Arctic Care helps the USPHS and



**Cmdr. Bowersox examines the mouth of 22-year-old, Crystal Pungowiya, who has a toothache.**

tribal organizations catch up on patient load.”

Before Arctic Care '03, the TCC dentists were about 900 patient visits behind but are now only 300 behind thanks to the efforts of 4th Dental Battalion.

“It is a great help having the navy dentists with us,” said Marlo Saenz, a TCC dentist. “They are so organized and help us get through patients much quicker.”

While the dental teams stayed busy performing 1,607 procedures on 536 patients, the veterinary teams were busy with 2,331 procedures such as spaying, neutering, and administering annual vaccines to “mushers,” or dogs used to pull sleds.

In addition to veterinary services, the vets also gave classes on dog bite prevention, which is a major problem in villages of Alaska.

Optometrists visited 11 villages and saw 152 patients who needed ocular health care and eye exams. In addition, they aided patients with paperwork needed to order new glasses.

Most village residents had not seen an optometrist for many years and are just now getting the opportunity to see a doctor.

“This trip is very beneficial to members of this village,” said Jeanette Iya, a native of Savoonga, located on St. Lawrence Island. “In order to get new glasses, you need to have a prescription less than two years old. We just don't get that out here.”

“I volunteered to come out and do this,” said Air Force Captain Mia Jennings, Eglin AFB, Fla. “I think this is a great opportunity to help Native Alaskans and the exercise was a huge success.”

The military members were not the only ones who thought that Arctic Care '03 was a successful exercise. The health care providers for the villages were especially appreciative.

“This visit was very beneficial to us, we haven't had an eye doctor here for over a year,” said Mille Kingeekuk, certified health practitioner, Savoonga Medical Clinic. “Many patients have been waiting to see a dentist and were eager to see them. We hope to have them back again soon.”

Arctic Care '04 is already heavily involved in the planning process and will be headquartered in Kotzebue, Alaska next year. The exercise is scheduled to take place in the spring of 2004.



**Kenneth Kingeekuk, Savoonga native, receives an eye exam from Air Force Capt. Mia Jennings.**

# Surviving Cobra Gold '03



Cpl. Damian McGee  
Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

**LOTOWIN BASE, Thailand** — For many Marines, subsisting on nothing but Meals-Ready-To-Eat (MREs) three times a day for nearly two weeks would seem like a survival challenge in and of itself. Now imagine being in the middle of the Thailand Jungle and the only things to eat are plants, fruits, and the occasional bug or snake.

For the Marines of Echo Company, 4th Reconnaissance Battalion, 4th Marine Division, Anchorage, Alaska, wildlife became their diet and survival their ultimate mission.

"Most survival training is very similar," said Capt. "Wild" Bill Donaldson, platoon commander, special skills platoon, Echo Co. "Though the parameters are a little different, most of it comes down to what you can and can't eat, and how and where to gather water."

The unit took part in Cobra Gold '03, an annual training exercise between U.S. and Thai forces. Besides adjusting to the drastic climate change from their home base in Alaska, the Marines had to quickly familiarize themselves with the strange, new environment and endure hardships

they had never previously encountered.

With the expert guidance of Thai Reconnaissance Marines, however, the Marines learned how to survive in some of the most inhospitable terrain known to man. They pointed out the different leaves that could be used for food, medical purposes, and even several that were poisonous.

As the training progressed, the Thais showed how these same poisonous leaves could be used as tranquilizers to kill small animals. The Marines were taught additional ways to prepare animals that were commonly eaten by the locals.

"I think they had everything from cockroaches to crickets and ants out there," said Private First Class Shane Jurgensen, field radio operator, Echo Co. "I think we all tried at least one bug, and I can honestly say it wasn't as bad as I thought it would be, but I don't see my self rushing out to my backyard to gather ants for my next meal."

The training concluded with an elaborate meal featuring platters of fruit, grilled stingray, steamed rice, eggs, roasted chicken, and snake soup for dessert.

Photo by Cpl. Damian McGee

# Worth a Thousand Words...



1. Master Sgt. Brian Noble prepares to enjoy a fried cricket.

2. Marines have a little fun with C-4.

3. A Thai Buffet

4. 3rd Recon catches dinner for the Reserve and active duty Marines.



7



3

5. Cpl. William Wilson takes in the Thai culture.

6. Thai Marines instruct on how to lay the "smack-down."

7. Buddhism, the country's primary religion, is explained by a Thai Marine.



8



4

8. Sgt. Robert Delarosa tries some rice cooked in a bamboo shoot.

9. Lance Cpl. Jacob Leask recovers his parachute after a successful jump.



9



## 4th FSSG first to put STFs to the test

Cpl. Lana D. Waters

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

**TRONDHEIM, Norway** — Reserve Marines from Ammunition Company, 4th Supply Battalion, 4th Force Service Support Group, Greenville, S.C., had the unique opportunity to be the first in the Corps to use the new ammunition storage and transport frames (STFs) while on their

two-week annual training here May 19 - June 2.

The STFs, which were designed specifically for the military for faster loading and more efficient storage, recently arrived in Norway. The Marines landed just in time to jump in and get their feet wet in the loading

process.

"We are here to assist in building the STFs, load ammo into them and do whatever else the Norwegian government wants us to do," said Cpl. David L. Kemp II, a 22-year-old ammunition technician from Ft. Mill, S.C.

In the past, the Marines spent up to a half a day packing ammunition. It took so long because the wood used for packing material sometimes needed to be cut down to a specific size to prevent movement during transport. With the STFs, the ammunition can be prepackaged with little blocking and bracing and, when needed, loaded into industry standard containers in about 10 minutes.

"The new system looks like a more efficient way to store ammo," said Kemp. "I think it will help cut out additional blocking and bracing and be more efficient when it comes time to load."

Since they are the first Marines to try out the STFs, there is no set way currently in place to employ the new devices.

"Traditionally we like to see ammunition very securely packed with no movement," said Master Sgt. Tim R. Walkden, operations chief and first time Norway visitor. "We have to figure out how much play is acceptable when loading the STFs."

The Marines are working directly with Norwegian military members and civilians to design a standardized ammunition packaging system.

"We hope to get knowledge to send back to the test facility so they can make a nationwide guidebook on how to pack frames in the future," said Norwegian Army Capt. Chris Worsoe, officer-in-charge of the ammunition section of the Norway Air-Landed Marine Expeditionary Brigade (NALMEB), here.

Worsoe, who has been working with the Reserve Marines for three years now and with the NALMEB program since 1987, appreciates the work the

Marines are doing.

"I think it's good they train here because my guys get to work with the Marines and get to practice their English. It's good for all of the NALMEB program," said Worsoe.

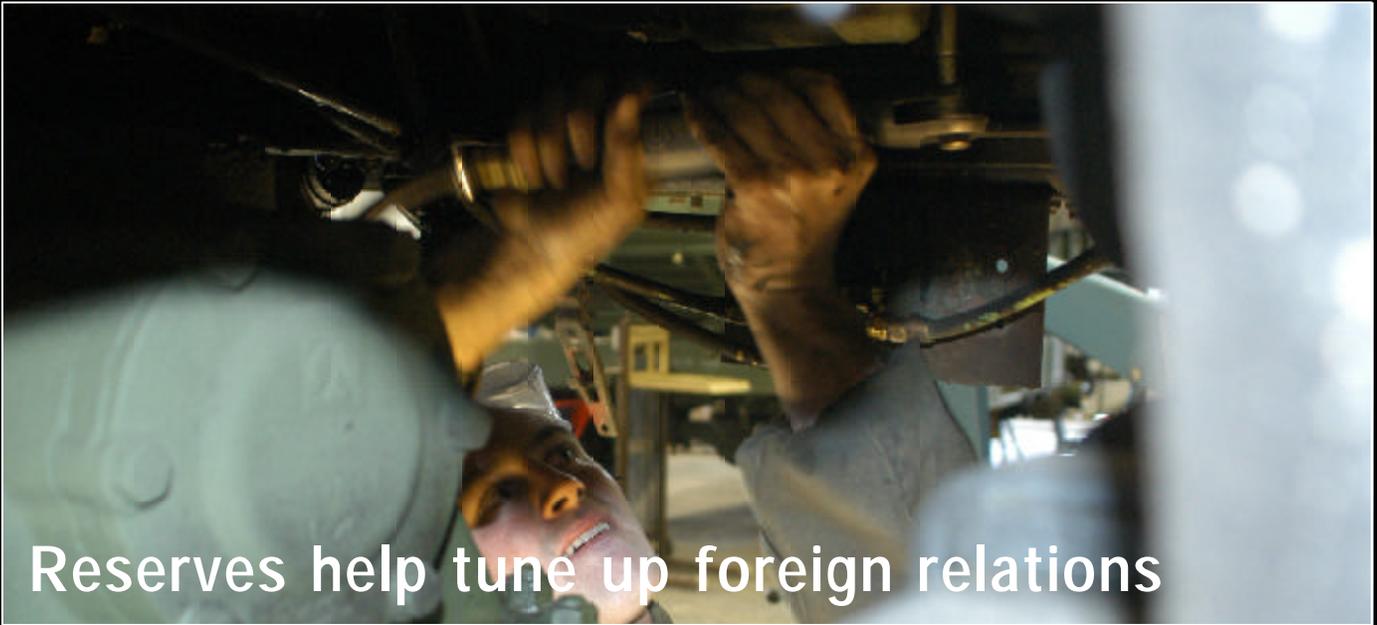
"I think it is an interesting

experience and a great opportunity to see another country," Walkden said. "I hope the Marines' input on the STFs can be used and improved upon."

Although the Marine Corps may not see the effects of what the Marines

did here for some time, their work may someday become policy.

"If what we do proves to be a more efficient way of storing ammo, perhaps it will lead to a policy change and will become a more effective way of storing ammo," said Kemp.



## Reserves help tune up foreign relations

**Cpl. Lana D. Waters**

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

**TRONDHEIM, Norway** — Whether stationed in Japan, or visiting exotic destinations aboard a Navy ship, Marines span the furthest reaches of the globe. Many Marines join the Marine Corps for travel and adventure. Few, however, get the unique opportunity to train in Norway.

50 Reserve Marines and two corpsmen from reserve units throughout the United States had the opportunity to travel to this beautiful Scandinavian country and participate in the Norway Personnel Tempo Augmentation Program/ Reserve Augmentation Group exercise 1-03 exercise May 6-19.

The Marines' primary job during this annual exercise was to perform corrective maintenance on various military vehicles, which have been stored in caves here since the late 80's. In doing so, they had the chance to work alongside the 75 Norwegian military and civilian personnel who do preventative maintenance on the vehicles year round.

"This is a very unique experience," said Lance Cpl. Sean W. Martin, motor transport mechanic, Detachment 3, Motor Transport Maintenance Co., 4th Force Service

Support Group. "It's neat to interact with people from a different country. It makes the work somewhat challenging though."

Although there was much work to be done, the biggest challenge was the language barrier between the Marines and the Norwegians.

"They say something and it's kind of hard to understand what they are saying," said Martin, a Sellersville, Pa. native.

The Marines, however, were not the only ones who struggled with the communication differences.

"The first few times the Marines were here it was hard to understand what they want and they didn't understand what I wanted them to do," said Norwegian Andre` Fredriksen, mechanic, Frigaard Cave.

Despite the difficulties, the Norwegians and the Marines found a way to work together and make the most of their experience.

"Working with the Norwegians shows how adaptable the Marines are to work with NATO allies," said Warrant Officer Scott D. Drechsler, maintenance officer and officer-in-charge for the exercise.

# DESEX '03

*CAX replacement casts its shadow over the sandbox*

Cpl. Damian McGee

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

**CAMP WILSON, Calif.** — Due to the large force of Marines still mobilized and deployed overseas, the normal elements of a Marine Air Ground Task Force were not available to conduct the annual Combined Arms Exercise (CAX) many Reserve Marines attend for their annual training.

Even so, Marines from 5th Battalion, 14th Marines and 3rd Battalion, 25th Marines stepped up to conduct Desert Live Fire Exercise (DESEX) '03.

The exercise took place here June 8 – June 28, after an uncertain beginning.

“During the planning process we weren’t really sure what the participating force was going to be,” said Col. John Sevold, commanding officer of the exercise.

With a few minor adjustments, the Marines were able to conduct many of the missions normally conducted during a

CAX, only on a smaller scale.

“We’ve done what Marines have always been known for doing,” said Sevold. “We do more with less and still succeed. We used the capabilities we had to complete a combined arms exercise.”

To some Marines, DESEX turned out to be even more beneficial than the normal, larger-scaled CAX.

“I didn’t know if I’d like the idea of everything being conducted with such a small group,” said Lance Cpl. David Brantner, Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 25th Marines. “But, now that we’ve been here for a few days and I see how this operation is going, I think I prefer it this way. With things being on such a small scale, Marines are able to see every aspect of the MAGTF and how it works.”

While the training experienced some bumps due to the new format, there was nothing that hindered the overall

## German Observation

Cpl. Damian McGee

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

**CAMP WILSON, Calif.** — For most Marines who participated in Desert Live Fire Exercise '03, the training area known as “Twenty-nine Stumps” was nothing new. However, for two German Army officers who were part of an officer exchange program, the seemingly endless boundaries of the unique desert environment were a real eye opener.

“The heat was something we had to adjust to like everyone else,” said Capt. Michael Salzmann, executive officer, Home Defense Battalion, 3/642 Trier Baumholder, Germany. “Also, it was amazing for us to see training conducted in this type of area. We don’t have areas with this terrain, or of this size in Germany. So despite similar tactics, it all seems new to us.”

The officers were part of a group of 20 who were selected this year to participate in an exchange that has been a tradition for nearly 20 years. In the past, the Army, Air Force, Navy, or Coast Guard hosted most of the officers involved in the exchange. This year, the Germans insisted on getting an opportunity to train with the U.S. Marines.

They were not disappointed.

“Every Marine out here, despite the heat or uncomfortable conditions, has maintained a high level of discipline as well as motivation,” said Lt. Col. Andreas Epple, reconnaissance officer, Luftlandebrigade 31, Oldenburg, Germany. “This is exactly what we expected to see, and something we hope we can take back to instill in our soldiers.”



mission.

“Regardless of what happens, these Marines are training,” said Capt. Phillip Ash, an exercise observer with the Tactical Training Exercise Control Group. “Once they get out here, it’s not about who performs or trains better. It’s about walking away from this experience with the tactical and technical training involved in participating in a combined arms atmosphere.”

With only two weeks to pack in such extensive training, there is only so much that can be accomplished. For most Marines, however, there are a couple of things that decide whether or not the training was successful.

“If I know these Marines have a valuable and meaningful two weeks, in addition to me being able to report that all Marines have returned home safely, then I consider that mission complete,” said Sevold.



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# *As you return home from your mobilization, find out what your rights are, and how the ESGR protects them.*

## **After a period of military training or service, how quickly am I required to return to work?**

That depends upon the duration of the period of service from which you are returning. If the period of service is less than 31 days, you are required to report for work “not later than the beginning of the first regularly scheduled work period on the first full calendar day following the completion of the period of service and the expiration of eight hours after a period allowing for the safe transportation of the person from the place of that service to the person’s residence.” 38 U.S.C. 4312(e)(1)(A)(i). If reporting at that time is impossible or unreasonable through no fault of yours (e.g., automobile accident on return trip), you are required to report for work as soon as possible thereafter. 38 U.S.C. 4312(e)(1)(A)(ii). [Law Review 5](#).

If the period of service was 31-180 days, you are required to submit an application for reemployment within 14 days after the end of the period of service. 38 U.S.C. 4312(e)(1)(C). If the period of service was 181 days or more, you must submit the application for reemployment within 90 days. 38 U.S.C. 4312(e)(1)(D). These deadlines can be extended by up to two years if you are hospitalized for or convalescing from a service-connected injury or illness. 38 U.S.C. 4312(e)(2)(A). [Law Review 5](#).

## **Does that mean that I must wait 90 days to get my job back?**

No. The 90 days belong to you, not the employer. If you are anxious to get back on the payroll as quickly as possible, you should submit your application for reemployment right away. If you need time to readjust to civilian life, you should wait to submit your application. Once you apply, you are in effect saying that you are ready, willing, and able to return to work. Do not submit the application until that is the case. [Law Review 77](#).

## **If I am one day late in reporting for work or submitting my application for reemployment, do I lose the right to the job?**

Not necessarily. “A person who fails to report or apply for employment or reemployment within the appropriate period specified in this subsection shall not automatically forfeit such person’s entitlement to the rights and benefits provided in subsection (a) but shall be subject to the conduct rules, established policy, and general practices of the employer pertaining to explanations and discipline with respect to absence from scheduled work.” 38 U.S.C. 4312(e)(3). If you were one day late in reporting back to work, and if your employer’s usual sanction for one day of unexcused absence is a two-week suspension without pay, you would be entitled to the job but would be subject to the two-week suspension.

## **What does it mean to “submit an application for reemployment?”**

No particular form is required. The message is: “I used to work here. I left for service. Now, I am back from service, and I want my job back.” Your employer must not treat you as if you were applying for a new job.

We (ESGR) recommend that you make an explicit written application for reemployment, and we have included a sample application letter on our web site. [Law Review 77](#). However, the application for reemployment can also be made orally, or even by implication.

# CJTF Horn of Africa

# Africa

## Djibouti





## 4th MarDiv CG visits CJTF-HOA

CJTF-HOA Public Affairs Office

**CAMP LEMONIER, Djibouti** — Maj. Gen. John J. McCarthy, commander, 4th Marine Division, Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans, La., visited the Marines from 4th MarDiv assigned to Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa here April 17-20.

During his visit at the camp, McCarthy toured the camp's facilities and one of the numerous humanitarian projects that were underway, a renovation of a medical clinic in Damerdjog. He also visited CJTF-HOA Commander Maj. Gen. John F. Sattler aboard the CJTF-HOA flagship, USS Mount Whitney (LCC/JCC 20), one of the U.S. Navy's most sophisticated command and control ships home ported at Norfolk, Va. The two attended a luncheon and afterwards, McCarthy took a tour of the ship with CJTF-HOA staff members.

The CJTF-HOA headquarters was formed specifically to oversee operations in the Horn of Africa for U.S. Central Command in support of the Global War on Terror. It's mission is to detect, disrupt and defeat transnational terrorist groups in the region and support Coalition partner efforts to

deny the opportunity for terrorist networks to operate in the Horn of Africa.

Command Logistics Element, Marine Central Command includes 4th MarDiv forces from Company A, 1st Battalion, 24th Marines, Grand Rapids, Mich., as well as members from Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 24th Marines, Perrysburg, Ohio and Tube Launched, Optically Tracked, Wire Guided Weapon System (TOW), Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 24th Marines, Broken Arrow, Okla.

"The impact of their mission here goes way beyond their immediate time and surroundings - they started a solid foundation in the region for others to follow for years to come," McCarthy said.

CJTF-HOA has more than 1,300 personnel stationed ashore at Camp Lemonier in Djibouti and a small number of liaison personnel working in other parts of the region.

"It's amazing how far along the base has come since they took control of the camp," McCarthy said. "A true testament to the amount of effort put out by each individual Marine here."

## Education is key in Djibouti

Cpl. Matthew J. Apprendi

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

**CAMP LEMONIER, Djibouti** — The Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa Civil Affairs Section launched a new program here coined "Adopt a School."

Marines with Command Logistics Element, Marine Central Command kicked off the program April 7 when they painted a food storage facility behind the Nadag Schoolhouse.

Previously, the Civil Affairs Section erected the storage facility to hold supplies that were being kept in the schoolhouse.

"It's (the program) all about building a strong relationship with the local community," said Army Sgt. 1st Class Steven P. Ruscitto, Civil Affairs chief, of Sylvan Beach, N.Y. "Soldiers, Marines and sailors should get a chance to experience the country (Djibouti) and its people while they're deployed here."

The Civil Affairs Section helped service members adopt one of seven schools or orphanages in the area. The troops were given the opportunity to provide humanitarian assistance as well as spend time with the children.

"We are just the overseers of the program. They (service members) coordinate how they want to interact with the school," said Ruscitto.

"I want to make it a weekly visit," said Marine Capt. Kevin Crooms, section leader for the Nadag School that he and others adopted. "It promotes good diplomatic relations, plus we all enjoy ourselves."

## Djiboutians cross train with CJTF-HOA

Cpl. Matthew J. Apprendi

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

**ARTA, Djibouti** — Sixteen Djiboutian soldiers received their initial, first-level Marine Corps Martial Arts Program certification here May 3 after concluding training conducted by Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa martial arts instructors.

CJTF-HOA Commander Maj. Gen. John F. Sattler attended the graduation ceremony for the Djiboutian forces to congratulate them for their successful completion of the week-long program.

The martial arts program is one of many training evolutions involving Djiboutian and American forces and contributes to the solid working relationship shared by the two countries in the Global War on Terrorism, according to Chief Warrant Officer Terry Walker, CJTF-HOA force protection officer.

The goal is to continue to build and fortify a strong bond between one another, said Walker, who coordinated the training between the two militaries.

"I originally thought the language barrier would be the toughest to overcome, but it wasn't," said Sgt. Robert H. Lehner, a green belt instructor and activated Reserve Marine with Command Logistics Element, Marine Central Command, Camp Lemonier. "Basically, once we showed them a move, they were able to mimic our movements."

According to Sgt. Michael Metzger, also a green belt instructor and squad leader with CJTF-HOA security detachment, the training has given the Djiboutian military unit a solid foundation in advanced close-combat tactics.

Instruction included proper stretches and body hardening each day, the basic warrior stance, punches, kicks, throws, arm manipulations and counters to



numerous moves an opponent may use in a close-combat, hand-to-hand scenario.

The instructors were very "hands-on" throughout the training to ensure their students were executing the moves properly, and the students spent several hours each day practicing techniques to develop muscle memory.

Farah said the training taught numerous combat skills, but also included many lessons that can be applied to a variety of daily activities. He also said he enjoyed the cross training.

"I've always wanted to train with the Americans," said Farah. "It has been a very rewarding experience for me personally and for all of my friends taking the course."

During the training, the American MCMAP instructors lived here with the Djiboutian soldiers and were exposed to a different way of life.

"It's just been an all around great experience to see a side of a culture most people will never see," said Sgt. Sefk Alexander, a green belt instructor with CJTF-HOA, from Augusta, Ga.

# Marines learn the ABCs OF NBC

Cpl. Paul a M. Fitzgerald

Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune

## CAMP LEMONIER, Djibouti —

Two Marine Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) specialists arrived here recently to train other Marines assigned to the camp's Provisional Rifle Platoon, which will eventually serve as the camp's decontamination (decon) team.

Sgt. Jason B. Wells and Sgt. Zachary O. Spicer were supporting the Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa, whose mission is to detect, disrupt and defeat terrorism in the Horn of Africa region.

The ultimate goal, according to Spicer, of White Bluff, Tenn., is to have a decon team that can quickly assemble and decontaminate troops or equipment in a short period of time, returning everything to a mission-capable status as quickly as possible.

During a course of three weeks, the



During Nuclear, Biological, Chemical (NBC) training here recently, a Marine dons his Mission Oriented Protective Posture (MOPP) equipment.



Marines attempt to don their Mission Oriented Protective Posture (MOPP) gear in the allotted eight minutes during Nuclear, Biological, Chemical (NBC) training here recently. The Marines are here supporting Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa.

Marines, whose primary mission with PRP is to increase camp security in case of a hostile situation, learned about troop and vehicle/equipment decontamination. At the end of the evolution, the newly trained group will respond to an NBC-driven scenario, where it will put all of its skill to the test.

"NBC is something every Marine should know, no matter his MOS," stated Wells, a Jasper, Ala., native.

According to Spicer, the specialized instruction is essential to troops if they want to recover from an NBC attack without fatalities.

"You need to know it to survive," said Spicer.

During the first phase of training, the Marines learned how to properly don their Mission Oriented Protective Posture (MOPP) gear within the allotted eight minutes of time. The MOPP suit includes gloves, boots, a jacket, pants and a gas mask.

"Eight minutes is just a rule of thumb we go by, just like we give nine seconds to don and clear the gas mask. It's plenty of time to prepare for whatever is about to hit," added Spicer.

Because afternoon temperatures here reach nearly 100 degrees, dehydration was a serious concern, according to Wells.

"In my experience, the temperature inside the MOPP suit is almost 20 degrees hotter than the surrounding temperature, so we make sure the Marines have plenty of time to cool down and drink water," he said.

The remaining training focused on the most effective ways to decontaminate vehicles and equipment.

"I'm on the team because I want to do my part as a responsible NCO," said Sgt. Jonathan Farbe, a member of the decon team. "When we get done with the classes, I will use my knowledge to instruct others, but I hope to never have to use the training for anything real."

According to Spicer, even though the risk of an NBC attack here is slim, it's always better to be safe than sorry.

"We have to be prepared for anything," said Spicer. "You never know who has this stuff and will use it against us. We have to be ready; there's no other option."

# Corps' citizenship

Lance Cpl. John Ciesiensky

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

**MARINE FORCES RESERVE, New Orleans** — For more than a decade, Marine Sgt. Jairo J. Larrea has wanted to become a U.S. citizen. On April 10, his dream came true. His family, friends, and co-workers from the 4th Marine Aircraft Wing were there to support him during the naturalization ceremony at the New Orleans District Courthouse.

“This was my dream,” said the Ecuador native. “Thanks to the U.S.— for all of you guys.”

Larrea was born one of seven children to Gloria Cajamarca and Ivan Larrea in 1978. Larreacajamarca was his given last name, but it was shortened at his request upon naturalization. He moved to Queens, N.Y., to be with his father in 1993, and enlisted in the Marine Corps after graduating from high school in 1996.

“Boot Camp was crazy. I was confused,” recalled Larrea. “I could barely speak English. It’s funny now, but at the time, it was hell.”

During his first tour in Iwakuni, Japan in 1999, Larrea completed three years of military service, a requirement for naturalization. However, because of mail service difficulties, the time difference between Japan and the U.S., and a general lack of available time, Larrea was unable to complete his package while he was there. It wasn’t until moving to New Orleans and joining the 4th MAW in 2001 that he found the support he needed.

“It’s impressive, and I’m real proud of him,” CWO-3 Robert W. Smith, 4th MAW aviation supply officer, said. “I think it’s honorable to set a goal and accomplish it. He’s overcome every barrier along the way.”



CWO-3 Robert W. Smith, a 4th MAW aviation supply officer, presents Sgt. Jairo J. Larrea, 4th MAW aviation supply clerk, with a certificate of naturalization after a cake-cutting ceremony April 11, 2003.

# Band of Blood-Brothers

Capt. Jenny Potter

Peacetime Wartime Support Team

**FORT KNOX, Ky.** — Some opportunities come just once in lifetime. One opportunity, however, comes every eight weeks and can be the chance of someone else's lifetime: donating blood. So, when Fort Knox's Camp Memorial Blood Center set up a special blood drive site at the Post Exchange shortly after Operation Iraqi Freedom commenced, Marines from the Inspector-Instructor staff for Company A, 8th Tank Battalion here weren't about to let the opportunity to assist others pass them by.

For Sgt. Dale L. Banfield, I-I personnel clerk, giving blood was nothing new. He has been donating blood regularly since he enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1998. "I feel it is a great contribution to our society to be able to donate blood," he said. "If there are people who need blood, then I will do my part as a healthy human being to offer my blood to that person. Also, in our current situation with the war in Iraq, you never know when a service member may need blood to save his or her life."

Camp Memorial Blood Center is part of the Armed Services Blood Program, which is a separate entity from the American Red Cross. Although they work together to fill in whenever one or the other has a supply shortfall, donations to ASBP are initially made available to support the blood requirements for military treatment facilities. ASBP provides blood to support overseas units, and it also supports contingencies within the U.S. and OCONUS. Many of the medical personnel staffing the blood drive were activated Army Reservists — including Sgt. Daphian V. Crenshaw, the brother of Lance Cpl. Harrison Crenshaw, who is an active-duty Marine tanker who served in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"With all the emergencies that are going on in the world, there are people out there that are going to need blood," said 1stSgt. Robert J. Provencher, I-I First Sergeant. "It's an honor for me to give blood to support the cause. Throughout the whole process, you find that giving blood is not a right but an honor — it's like reenlisting. Not everyone can reenlist, not everyone can give blood," he added, referring to the screening process prospective donors must complete prior to giving blood.

Although the basic guidelines for blood donation to ASBP are minimal (donors must be at least 17 years old, weigh 110 pounds or more, in good health/feeling well, and be either a military beneficiary or federal government employee), there are also other specific restrictions that may exclude a prospective donor from the pool. Personnel who have lived or traveled extensively in Europe and the Near East may not be eligible to donate blood.

For a Marine who has spent almost 24 years going to many of the climes and places the Corps goes, 1stSgt. Provencher's travel portion of the screening was more involved than most.



**1st Sgt. Robert J. Provencher, SSgt. Eric B. Arthur and Sgt. Dale L. Banfield, all of the Inspector Instructor staff of Company A, 8th Tank Battalion, Fort Knox, Ky., participated in a special blood drive shortly after the commencement of Operation Iraqi Freedom.**

"The Army techs told me that I beat out everybody ... the tech said, 'I shouldn't ask you what countries you've been to, I should ask you what countries you haven't been to!'", said Provencher.

Additionally, some of the immunizations that military personnel receive, prescription medications, tattoos and/or body piercings within the past year are also reason for deferral, according to Sgt. Crenshaw, Medical Lab NCO for the Medical Support Unit at Fort Knox. Sgt. Crenshaw's Army Reserve unit was activated Jan. 21, a little over one week after the Marines of Company A, 8th Tank Battalion departed Fort Knox for Camp Lejeune en route to duty in Southwest Asia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

For Sgt. Banfield, the needles and questionnaire were not the worst part of the donor process. "The drawing of the blood is the easiest," he stated, but the worst part is "knowing that there is an entire base of healthy human beings and only a handful of them donate blood. While we were giving blood, the person drawing our blood said that it was the first time since he has been there that they had all three beds filled with donors. It pains me to hear that and shows little support to a great cause."

According to information from the ASBP, fewer than six percent of the DoD population provides the blood needed by the entire population. Many of those who have willingly contributed in the past are no longer eligible.

Command emphasis and support, at every level, is needed to allow the ASBP to support service members and their families in peace and in war. To find out more about how you can support ASBP, contact the Donor Recruiter at your local Blood Donor Center. Additional information is also available at the ASBP website at: <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/asbpo/>.

# The Fine Print



*A dissection of MARADMINs and ALMARs in order for Marines to understand their purpose and how they affect the reserve community.*

## **MARADMIN 246/03**

*The Marine Corps has upped the total possible points for composite scores to 100 points from the original 75. Now Lance Corporals and Corporals will be able to use more self education courses for points in the calculation of composite scores. In addition, Privates and Privates First Class will be allowed to use MCIs finished while in those ranks for their cutting score from Lance Corporal to Corporal.*

## **MARADMIN 257/03**

*The Marine Corps has instituted guidance on the demobilization of Marines. The MARADMIN offers guidance on demobilization of a large percentage of a unit's total force, as well as options for keeping on active-duty Marines who are not readily able to return to civilian jobs or schools due to personal reasons.*

## **ALMAR 023/03**

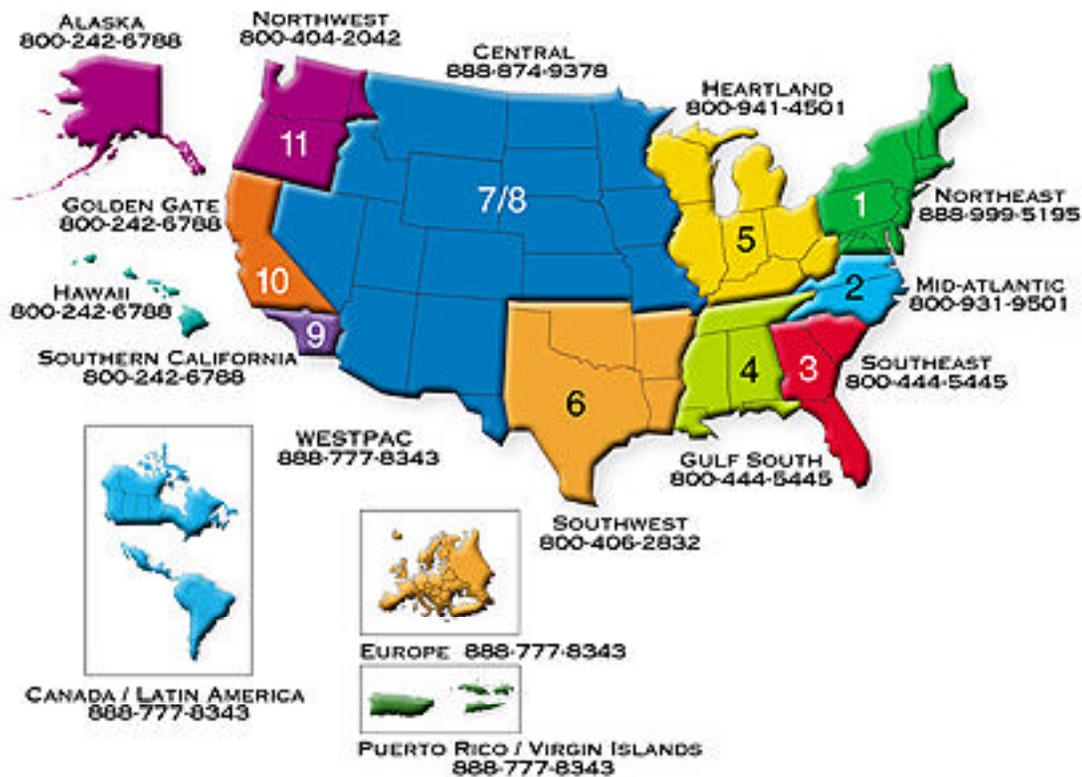
*The new General James L. Jones award has been implemented and will award \$1,000 (tax free) to a Marine Corps civilian, active or reserve military member, unit, or team that makes the most substantial contribution to the safety of Marines.*

## **MARADMIN 312/03**

*The new combat utilities are now available for order for active and reserve Marines and sailors serving on a Fleet Marine Force tour. To order call the Navy Exchange Service Command at 1-800-368-4088, 24 hours daily.*



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