

NEWS BRIEFS

BOOTS ON THE GROUND BEFORE MORNING LIGHT

3/3 Marines conduct 12 mile hike to prepare for Mojave Viper



Cpl. Reece E. Lodder | Hawaii Marine

Mortarmen with Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, trek down the Kaneohe Bay Range Training Facility road during a 12-mile conditioning hike here Aug. 11. Following pre-deployment training here and on the Island of Hawaii, the battalion is preparing for the Mojave Viper exercise at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., at the end of August. The month long training event will be their final evaluation before deploying to Afghanistan's Helmand province in support of Operation Enduring Freedom this fall.

Dry ice blasting, repainting readies MCAS for new helicopters

Maj. Dean T. Stouffer

Base Facilities Department

After nearly 40 years of honorable service, the CH-53D Sea Stallion helicopters are scheduled for retirement by 2013. This fall, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463 will begin its transition to the CH-53E version of the helicopters. Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363 and HMH-362 will retire their CH-53Ds within the next 18 months.

Additionally, Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay will begin receiving Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 367's AH-1W Super Cobra and UH-1Y Venom helicopters next summer. The differences in dimensions between the AH-1W, UH-1N Huey Helicopter, CH-53E, and the CH-53D call for the removal and restriping of our taxiways and aircraft parking spots.

Over the course of the last five months, the base Facilities Department has been busy at work preparing for the change and addition of these new aircraft frames.

Phil Lum of the Public Works Division and Jeff Telling of MCAS began working in February on the restriping plan. Lum then worked with Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Hawaii, to design the plan and obtain

the appropriate aviation-related permits for the arrival of the CH-53Es.

From there, Belt-Collins, the architectural firm hired to produce the design, finalized the plan and permits which called for the removal of 17 CH-53D parking spots, and the addition of eight CH-53E parking spots.

In order to meet the expected September arrival of the first CH-53Es, the supervisor for the Specific Work Shop, Wayne Chun, had to create a plan to eradicate the existing striping and get the new stripes in place.

To safely eradicate the lines, Wayne found a local Hawaiian company named Dry Ice Blasting Service. DIBS, as they are better known, used compressed air to accelerate solid carbon dioxide dry ice pellets to literally strip away the existing paint with no damage to the concrete, and leave no residue for an environmentally-friendly process. This precision was necessary because the regulations state there should be no sign of previous markings on a taxiway.

The dry ice blasting provided a clean and residue-free surface for the base Facilities paint shop staff, Gima Genesis, Stephen Sode, Gerry Castelo, Carl Aweau, Arnel

Castelo, Charles Keama and Gary Kazanuga, to start the striping process right away.

The CH-53Es are expected to arrive at MCAS in coming weeks.



Courtesy photo

Gerry Castelo of the base Facilities Department's paint shop, uses compressed air to accelerate solid dry ice pellets to literally strip away the existing paint with no damage to the concrete, and no residue in an environmentally-friendly process.

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Never forget: NYFD chiefs visit Wounded Warrior Det Hawaii



Christine Cabalo | Hawaii Marine

Capt. Daniel Donnerstag with Wounded Warrior Battalion West — Detachment Hawaii talks with 9/11 first-responders Battalion Chief John LaBarbera (center) and retired Battalion Chief John Carroll, New York City Fire Department, Aug. 11. The two chiefs were visiting Oahu to encourage all races to participate in an upcoming race at Pearl Harbor honoring a fallen colleague, Stephen Siller. Donnerstag, from Union, N.J., planned to join the New Jersey Fire Department before being wounded in action in April while deployed in Afghanistan.