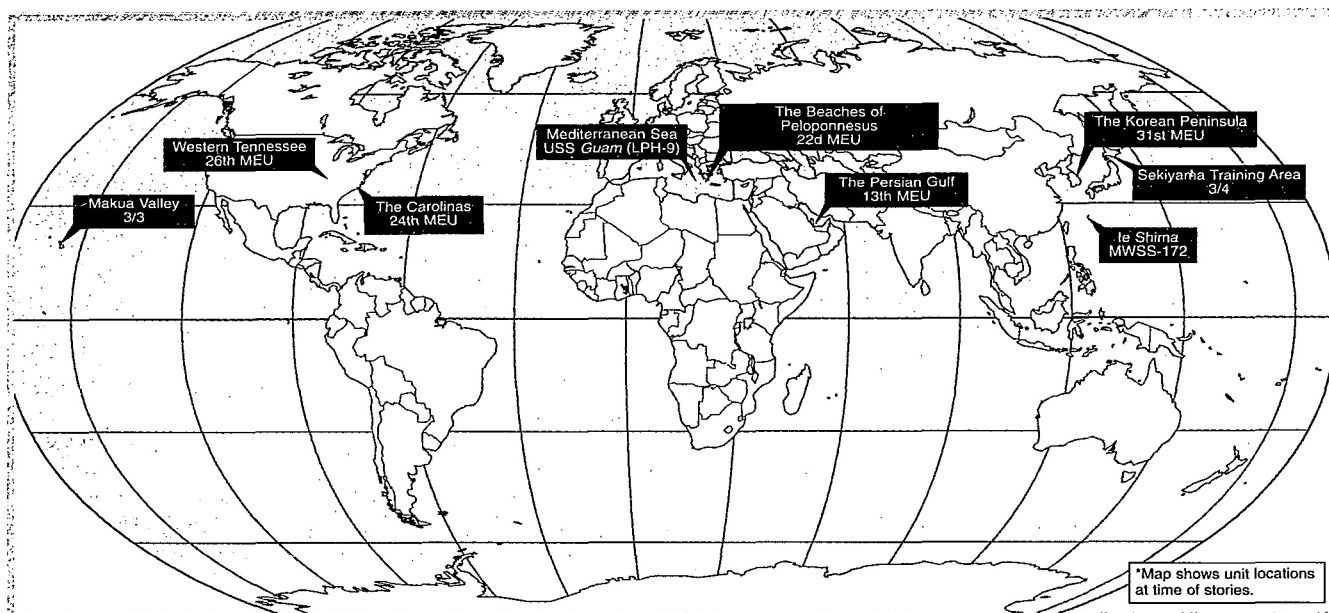


# IN EVERY CLIME AND PLACE



## MAKUA VALLEY

### Pounding Hawaiian Ranges

Story by Sgt Michael Wiener  
CPAO, MCB, Hawaii

**M**akua Valley trembled as leather-necks from 3d Battalion, Third Marine Regiment pounded the earth with mortars, machine guns and small-arms fire during training last November.

It was a refresher course in squad attacks on the best range on Oahu, according to First Lieutenant Kurt Martin, the executive officer for Company I, 3/3.

"It's been a while since we've incorporated indirect fires with our attacks," Martin said. "With mortars impacting just before Marines assault through the objective, the range is more realistic."

Lance Corporal Vincent Contreras said, "Usually, we do fire shoots with other mortar sections on line. This is more like what we'll do in combat."

Fire and maneuver wasn't the only lesson taught at Makua. Squad leaders were issued five-paragraph orders, terrain models were built, and rehearsals were conducted before anyone locked and loaded with live rounds.

"The reason was to make sure every

last man knew what was going on," Martin explained. "In combat, somebody is going to have to step up and take the place of the squad or team leader if they go down."

"Live-fire training builds confidence as a team—knowing we can work together as a team and cover each other's backs," said squad leader Corporal Felipe Delgado.

When the dust cleared and the Marines pulled out of the valley, they had reinforced skills previously learned and had tightened their teamwork.

## WESTERN TENNESSEE

### Aircrews Train For Urban Operations

Story by Cpl Jon Wilke  
Correspondent, 26th MEU

**A**viation combat element members of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit practiced urban operations in Memphis, Tenn., last November.

"The reason the ACE comes here is to develop the tactics and techniques to operate in an urban environment with troops on the ground," said Captain

Todd Holder, a Super Cobra pilot.

The first step for the pilots was to become familiar with Memphis from the air. They did this by familiarization flights during day, low light and at night.

According to Holder, urban navigation is an important skill much different than navigating over eastern North Carolina, where the MEU is based. "When we navigate over open terrain, we use lakes, rivers, hills and other natural things. But here we have to fly along our routes more cautiously. We have to count the streets and establish mental checkpoints. We look for certain things, such as multi-level buildings, towers, bridges and railroad tracks to help us along the way.

"In the city, the field of view is very narrow," Holder added. "You have to look down long, narrow streets which limit your ability to engage targets." He described a city as a 3-D environment and said that complicates a pilot's ability to recognize a target.

First Lieutenant Bryan Simmons, a CH-46E Sea Knight pilot, agreed, saying, "In the city or urban environment, there are so many places the enemy could be hiding because you can't see what's on the other side of a building. But a majority of the time, you can rely on the Cobra pilots with their forward looking, infrared radar to help build up situational awareness."