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## COLA Survey

All military personnel in Hawaii are reminded to complete the military Cost of Living Allowance survey sponsored by U.S. Pacific Command and available through Sept. 30 via the Internet.

Log onto <http://www.pe.rdiem.osd.mil/oscola/lps/hawaii>.

Accuracy in completing the survey is critical to the COLA determination process, and it's in everyone's best interest to participate to ensure accurate results.



## LASIK Surgery

Military members can proceed to the front of the line for LASIK surgery. A-11



## All-Army Boxer

Christopher Downs, a Soldier with 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, earns a bronze at this year's World Military Boxing Championships. B-7

## Panel mulls enlisted performance pay

Gerry J. Gilmore  
*American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON — Hard-charging service members who are promoted ahead of their peers may one day also be rewarded with performance pay, the chief of a defense panel studying military compensation issues said here Aug. 3.

Military pay tables are currently

constructed so "you get paid based on your length of service," retired Adm. Donald L. Pilling, chairman of the Defense Advisory Committee on Military Compensation, explained at an interview with the Pentagon Channel and American Forces Press Service.

After talking over pay issues with the services' senior enlisted advisers, Pilling said, the committee concluded it might be a good idea to someday

"change the pay tables so that you get paid for your length of service in a pay grade."

In this way, exceptional enlisted service members who are promoted ahead of their peers could be more fairly compensated for their efforts, Pilling noted. Today's enlisted pay system doesn't really reward high

See "Pay," page A-3

## Army starts virtual FRG

Margaret McKenzie  
*Army News Service*

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — The Army will start a program on the World Wide Web, Oct. 1, to support and improve how information is passed to families when Soldiers are deployed.

"The virtual Family Readiness Group is designed to replicate the major components of FRGs, but in a virtual context," said Jay M. Burcham, chief of Deployment and Mobilization Readiness Division for the Family Programs Directorate at the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center (CFSC) here.

"This Web System is not just a Web site. Soldiers downrange in Iraq, Korea, or wherever they are deployed, will be able to communicate with families around the world by logging into this system," Burcham continued. "The virtual Family Readiness Group Web system will use technology to move today's FRGs into the 21st century to meet the demands of the Army's expeditionary force."

The initiative began in June 2004 when CFSC, in support of the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea, created a virtual FRG to reach out to families of Soldiers who would be deployed.

Most Soldiers deploy as individual replacements to Korea, which basically is a stable environment, and communication with family members is routine, Burcham said. Prior to the vFRG, the families' need for support was addressed by the "waiting families" program that Army Community Service operates. Families also received support from their previous unit's physical FRG.

The War on Terrorism changed things. Soldiers were being

See "Virtual," page A-3

## Aerial assault



Bob McElroy

POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA — An OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopter from 1st Battalion (attack), 25th Aviation Regiment swoops in for a target run during an aerial gunnery live-fire exercise here, last week. The battalion recently completed the first training rotation at PTA by a 25th Infantry Division battalion since division units returned from deployments to Iraq and

Afghanistan. In addition to qualifying all of its flight crews in 2.75-inch rockets, Hellfire missiles and .50 caliber machine gun, the battalion conducted company-level situational training exercise live fires, convoy live-fire training, and individual and crew-served weapons qualification. See next week's *Hawaii Army Weekly* for the full story.

## CG selects new Division CSM

Master Sgt. Terry Anderson  
*Public Affairs Office, 25th ID (L) & USARHAW*

From Grenada, to Africa, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Iraq, and countless Special Operations missions, Command Sgt. Maj. Jerry Taylor has had a busy 27-year Army career.

It's about to get busier.

Maj. Gen. Benjamin R. Mixon, 25th Infantry Division (Light) and U.S. Army, Hawaii commanding general, selected Taylor as his senior enlisted adviser Monday.

"He is a Soldier's Soldier and a proven combat leader," Mixon said. "He has my full faith and confidence. He will always have direct access to me, and I encourage all commanders to use his experience to assist you in your commands."

"Soldiers don't work for me at this



Taylor

level," Taylor said. "I work for the Soldiers, and I help make their lives better."

Taylor deployed to Iraq with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team "Warriors" in 2004 and said technology gives the American Soldier an advantage over our enemies, but that it's basic battlefield skills that make the difference.

"I will tell you that field craft, Soldier skills and battle drills makes us successful on the battlefield," Taylor said. "It's up to our noncommissioned officers to keep our Soldiers physically fit, weapons proficient, and combat lifesaver qualified. One of my main goals as the Division CSM is to make sure our Soldiers are trained and

ready to go downrange."

Taylor was the battalion command sergeant major for 1st Bn., 187th Inf. Rgt., 101st Airborne Division during Operation Anaconda, one of the most famous battles of Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan in 2002.

He says his wife, Jayne, and 21-year-old daughter, Jenny, get him through the tough times.

"You can't overemphasize taking care of your family," Taylor said. "How you take care of your family now is how it's going to be when you hang up your BDUs."

The 25th Infantry Division (Light) is currently going through a transformation to more modular units, and Taylor says it's going to take flexible, adaptive leaders to guide Soldiers and their families through this challenging time.

"Hard times don't last, but hard

people do," he said. "Because of what's going on in the Global War on Terror, our country has been reminded how much it needs Soldiers. Things will get better as long as we take care of each other."

While he's honored to have been chosen to succeed his friend, Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Ashe, as the top enlisted Soldier in the division, Taylor says he has mixed feelings.

"This job takes you further away from Soldiers," he said. "But you can influence things more in this position."

"I plan on spending half my day in the office, taking care of administrative duties, and half my day outside the office, listening to what Soldiers have to say, attending promotions and presenting awards," Taylor continued. "That's how I can hear what the issues are from the Soldier's point of view."

## DISCOM out-cooks competition at Philip A. Connelly contest

Sgt. 1st Class  
 Randy A. Hill  
*Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Division Support Command*

Lightning Support chefs mixed and blended recipes to palate-pleasing perfection during field food service contests at East Range, Schofield Barracks, in July.

The Division Support Command (DISCOM) Field Feeding Team has triumphed and will next represent the Division and U.S. Army, Pacific (USARPAC) in the 37th Annual Philip A. Connelly Field Competition, Dec. 12-16.

The team, consisting of food service personnel who work in the F-Quad dining facility, began training

and preparing back in April, following their redeployment to Schofield Barracks from Operation Enduring Freedom V.

Team DISCOM immediately went into action, deploying to east range to begin training for the competition.

The Division food service sergeant major, Sgt. Maj. Raymond Arnold, provided assistance to the team in preparation for the USARPAC and active Army field category. Team DISCOM used a containerized kitchen, called a CK, a new field kitchen that the Army just recently added to its inventory.

The CK features running water, refrigeration, air conditioning and heated serving lines. Soldiers who



Cpl. Randy Agno, a food service specialist with 2nd Bn., 35th Inf. Rgt., prepares a meal at the F-Quad dining facility. Agno was part of the DISCOM team that won the USARPAC Philip A. Connelly Field Competition.

Pvt. 2 Kyndal Hernandez

See "DISCOM," page A-5

# Why must we celebrate with special ethnic occasions?

Master Sgt. Chris Keese  
2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team

Some have questioned the practice of recognizing special or ethnic groups in the military. They ask, "Don't these observances show favoritism toward a particular group?" or "Why are there two observances for Black Americans and women?"

Observances are held annually in support of a Joint Congressional Resolution and a Presidential Proclamation. Since 1968, the Department of Defense has mandated specific equal opportunity special and ethnic observances be conducted. The purpose of the observances is to enhance cross-cultural awareness among all Soldiers, civilian employees and their families.

Observances are designed to recognize the achievements and contributions made by members of specific racial, ethnic or gender groups within our society, while promoting understanding, teamwork, harmony, pride and esprit among all personnel.

For example, the Martin Luther King Jr. observance is a celebration of a great American who preached peaceful resolution to the civil rights issues of the 1960s. Though he was

African-American, this observance is not about Black history or heritage, but rather the equal rights of all people.

Similarly, Women's Equality Day (observed on Aug. 26) is also not about women's history as much as it is about the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which granted women the right to vote.

Army Regulation 600-20 directs eight observances be celebrated; however, the regulation goes on to state "a consolidated annual observance recognizing members of all racial, ethnic, and gender groups may be conducted in addition to (but will not be used in place of) the DoD directed observance."

Any unit may sponsor "multicultural events" to promote awareness of and emphasize the unique contributions from all members of our diverse nation. Here in the 25th Infantry Division (Light), different brigades host the eight mandated observances. Individual units are encouraged to participate in the post-wide events, as well as organize their own.

Further, individual Soldiers wanting to assist with the planning and execution of any observance can contact their brigade equal opportunity advisor.

## Mandated Observances

Jan. 15,  
Martin Luther King Jr.  
Birthday

Feb. 1-28,  
African-American/Black  
History Month

March 1-31,  
Women's History Month

April / May  
(one week incorporating  
Ha'Shoah), Days of  
Remembrance

May 1-31,  
Asian-Pacific Heritage  
Month

Aug. 26,  
Women's Equality Day

Sept. 15 - Oct. 15,  
Hispanic Heritage Month

Nov. 1-30,  
Native-American  
Heritage Month

# SBP season opens

Military Officers Association of America  
News Release

August 1, the Defense Department signed out guidance to the services to implement the open enrollment period for the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP), which will start on Oct. 1, 2005, and last one year.

During this one-year period, non-enrolled retirees can elect to begin coverage, and those now enrolled at less than maximum coverage can elect to increase their coverage.

Congress approved the open enrollment authority last October, in conjunction with a significant improvement in SBP benefits. Under the new law change, the SBP survivor annuity will rise from the current 35 percent of SBP-covered retired pay to 40 percent (as of Oct. 1, 2005); to 45 percent next April 1; to 50 percent on April 1, 2007; and to 55 percent of covered retired pay on April 1, 2008.

The open season is intended to allow non-enrollees an opportunity to cover their spouses under this very substantially upgraded program.

# What's the story behind the playing of 'Taps'?

Ashley Innes  
Army Flier Staff Writer

For generations it has been the tradition of America to honor its fallen Soldiers with a simple bugle call that has the ability to bring even the most unfeeling of people to tears.

The 24-note melody known as "Taps" resonates from a bugler's trumpet as a haunting reminder of those Soldiers who died preserving the nation's freedom through their sacrifice and service.

For a piece of music that barely takes a minute to perform, its effect brings a lifetime of memories and reflection to the widow who listens, the friend who cries and the child who feels left behind.

Its tune can be heard most often at memorial services, military funerals, during moments of silence and on holidays such as Veterans' Day and Memorial Day, in addition to serving as the call of "lights out" on military installations.

Yet, as Americans listen to those peaceful notes with open ears, absorbing the stories of the Soldiers for which it is played, many of them wonder how the piece was concocted in the first place.

How did such a short and simple tune come to grab the hearts of millions of people whether they are mourning a loved one or merely saying a prayer for a stranger who has been lost?

## The myth about "Taps"

Many myths have surfaced claiming to present the true story of the history and evolution of "Taps."

Among the most popular is a legend explaining that the music for "Taps" was found in the pocket of a Civil War Confederate soldier who died in a field near Harrison's Landing, Va.

According to <http://www.tapsbugler.com>, the tale unfolds in 1862 when a Union Army captain hears the moans of an injured soldier late into the night. Not knowing whether the man is a Union or a Confederate fighter, the captain decides to take his chances and rescue the mortally wounded man in the field.

Upon his arrival at the soldier's side, the captain finds he has died and notices he is a Confederate, fighting for the enemy side.

He lights his lantern to get a more accurate look at the dead soldier's face

and is shocked to realize he is his own son. As the story goes, the boy was studying music in the South and enlisted in the Confederate Army without telling his father.

The following morning, the heartbroken captain asks his superiors for permission to give his son a full military burial despite his enemy status.

The request is partially granted; instead of allowing the entire band to perform, the captain's superiors permit him to choose only one musician. He chooses a bugler.

The captain asks the bugler to play a series of musical notes found on a piece of paper in his deceased son's pocket. As the legend ends, his wish is granted, and the music played is the melody of "Taps."

Though heartfelt and saddening, the myth of the Union captain and the Confederate soldier is untrue.

## The real story

According to the Tapsbugler Web site, the real story is less dramatic. However, even without a family legacy attached to it, the true account continues to succeed in pinpointing the meaning and message behind the music of "Taps."

It began as a revision to the call for "lights out" at the end of the day in the summer of 1862.

The original signal for "lights out" was borrowed from the French in the form of a tune titled "Tactics" by Silas Casey.

Mourning the loss of 600 of his men in the Seven Days battles of the Civil War, Union Gen. Daniel Butterfield called the brigade bugler, Oliver Wilcox Norton, into his tent and instructed him to play some notes on his bugle.

Butterfield felt the French bugle call was too formal to signal the day's end and wanted to rewrite the piece to honor his fallen soldiers.

The account is documented in letters written by Norton in 1898 after the publication of an article in Century Magazine addressing the origin of bugle calls.

At the time, "Taps" was the only bugle call with an origin that couldn't correctly be identified.

Norton wrote of the night in 1862 that Butterfield showed him some musical notes on the back of an envelope and

See "Taps," page A-10

## Lightning Spirit

# 'Following through' cannot be overemphasized to anyone

Chaplain (Capt.)  
Andrew Riggs  
Deputy Community Chaplain,  
Schofield Barracks

Recently, while struggling through a rather difficult day, I read a devotion by Edward

Archibald Thompson of the First (Park) Congregational Church of Grand Rapids,

Mich. His story was based on 2 Timothy 4:7, where Timothy writes, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."

Pastor Thompson's story is based on a ram and a young boy. To paraphrase Thompson: A farmer had a flock of sheep; however, the male member of the sheep family was none too friendly.

One day the boy at that farm wanted to show his

country schoolmates some fun. He had them all climb up on the rail fence to watch the event. The sheep were in the barnyard through which ran a ditch, which was then half full of mud and water.

The boy approached the flock, and the ram came out to meet him. Soon the boy was running with the ram in full pursuit. He jumped the ditch while the ram went in headfirst. The ram sulkily climbed out over the bank with his wet wool and took his place again in the flock.

The boy recrossed the ditch, and the same event was repeated. It happened four times.

That old ram didn't seem to learn his lesson. However,

by the time of the fifth trial, the bank had become so slippery from the ram's wet wool that when the boy began to jump his feet went back from under him — and on his knees he was exactly right for the ram.

This time it was the boy who went headfirst into the ditch, instead of the ram, and the ram seemed to be satisfied.

That old ram taught a good lesson: Do not quit when you get your wool wet, or at the first rebuff. Keep right after your worthy goal until you get it.

We have a big job to do now, but by all working together we can win and help establish a just and lasting peace. Let us keep the faith and finish the course.

# Voices of Lightning: Have ethnic days and months outlived their usefulness?



"... I don't think so. Especially in the military, people seem more proud of where they come from."

Sgt. Dustin Harkness  
HHC, 2nd Bn., 27th Inf. Rgt.  
Squad Leader



"... No, because it has helped Soldiers understand the values of their cultures, and others as well."

Spc. Manolo Rodriguez  
84th Eng. Bn.  
Truck Driver



"... Yes, because we don't see a lot of open celebrations like we're used to."

Sgt. Nicole Royal  
HHC, 125th Bn.  
Operations Intelligence Chief



"... No, because people of those ethnic backgrounds should pass on their cultural history."

Pvt. Jeffery Morgan  
Replacement Detachment  
Food Service Specialist



"... No, because it's very important that we keep them in the Army, and it keeps traditions going."

1st Sgt. Stephen Young  
Co. C., 1st, Bn., 14th Inf. Rgt.  
Company First Sergeant

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Land Navigation

# Infantrymen cross country the old-fashioned way

Story and Photos by  
Spc. Cheryl Ransford  
17th Public Affairs Detachment

One of the main skills an infantryman must master is land navigation.

The leadership of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, is ensuring its Soldiers are masters in this skill by conducting land navigation training at East Range.

"Infantrymen need to be able to shoot, move and communicate," said Sgt. 1st Class John Cervenka, the company's platoon sergeant. "This training gives them the skills they need to effectively move without the use of electronics."

Aug. 2 and 3, the Soldiers conducted several exercises that encompassed both squad and individual movement.

The first day, Soldiers were separated into teams of five or less. Their first mission consisted of locating five points throughout the land navigation course in three hours.

"Before the teams began their training, everyone was issued a compass and a map of East Range," said Cervenka. "They then verified their pace count and started their lanes."

Knowing each person's pace count is important to know how far each has walked in one direction. In order to keep count, each Soldier needs to know how many steps he takes to walk 100 meters.

For instance, if a team has to go 200 meters north to get to a designated location, it can double its pace count to know how many steps all will have to take to get to where they need to be, said Cervenka.

Once the squad and individual training was complete, the Soldiers ate meals-ready-to-eat and prepared for the night training.

Each team received four hours to locate three points, navigating under the cover of darkness. Though global positioning systems are available on today's battlefields, the land navigation course gives Soldiers important hands-on experience with a compass and map.

"Many times during our recent deployment, we had the use of electronic devices to help us navigate," said Sgt. Ron Garnett, the company squad leader. "But knowing how to navigate without them is also important. If for some reason the equipment isn't operating properly, we have to know how to get to our next location without it."

Land navigation training is critical to getting everyone trained to standards and ready for his or her next deployment.

"If the Soldiers deploy and don't know how to get to the right place, they could end up in someone else's sector," said Garnett. "Getting the job done is our business. If we don't know how to navigate we can't get the job done."



**Above — Soldiers from Co. A, 2nd Bn., 27th Inf. Rgt., plot their points on their maps before heading out into the Land Navigation Course on East Range, Aug. 2.**



**Right — Soldiers verify their points and develop a plan before they head out.**

**Platoon leader Sgt. 1st Class John Cervenka (holding the red folder), Company A, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, gives his Soldiers a safety brief before they head out into the woods at East Range's Land Navigation Course.**



## Pay

From A-1

performers of the same rank, he said.

Pilling emphasized that any committee proposals are "looking forward" and would not affect service members on duty today.

Recent discussions with Guard and Reserve leaders indicate that reserve component members want to be paid under the same financial system that active duty troops have, Pilling noted.

And, the military's current retirement system "is certainly an area we have to look at," Pilling said, noting most service members today who retire at 20 years of service begin second careers. One retirement-related idea involves providing matching funds to service members' thrift savings contributions, he said.

Other forms of compensation in the future could include providing

low-interest rates for home mortgage loans and enhanced military spouse employment programs, Pilling said.

Defense leaders strive to ensure service members are adequately compensated "so we can recruit and retain high-quality people," Pilling explained. He acknowledged that the military couldn't compete with the private sector to provide the highest pay.

Yet, people don't join the military "for a paycheck," Pilling asserted, but "come in to serve their country." And, in that regard, Pilling said, the armed services offer an opportunity unavailable elsewhere.

The committee's work "is still in its preliminary stages," Pilling said. The next two months will be "intense," he noted, as the committee's interim report is due in October.

The committee's final report is due to Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld in April, Pilling said.

## Virtual

From A-1

deployed from Korea to Iraq making communication with families difficult. Adding to that, families were reading and seeing stories on the news of bombs going off in areas where their Soldiers were located.

"To ease the added stress placed on Soldiers' families, the 2nd Infantry Division provided up-to-date command information as well as the capability to download photos, send newsletters and organize families by location and unit," Burcham said. "This was a new concept to take the physical FRGs and turn them into a virtual context."

The development and fielding of the vFRG for Korea and Iraq was completed in five weeks by DefenseWeb Technologies, Inc., San Diego, Calif.

"The overall purpose of the vFRG supporting Soldiers deploy-

ing to Korea and Iraq was to provide a Web portal for official and unofficial information between the brigade, Soldiers and families," said Tonya Bowers, Army program manager at DefenseWeb Technologies.

Capabilities included instant messaging, forums and discussion groups, post cards, and file and document sharing.

The final phase of the program broadens what was developed for the 2nd Infantry Division and provides training, outreach and support across all three components of the Army, Active, Guard and Reserve.

When released for use by units it will feature a unit vFRG locator, a kid's and teen's area, a phone tree organization chart, (in case of emergency family plans), blogs, a training tracker and metrics for the unit commander to determine the state of family readiness, FRG leader forums content, and more.

The site will also provide a single location for users to obtain news and updates relating to FRGs and their unit. Users will be able to make updates to the phone tree and e-mail distribution lists for rear detachment commanders and FRG leaders to use for mass communication to Soldiers and families.

Users of the site must first register at [www.armyfrg.org](http://www.armyfrg.org) and be authenticated by command-level administrators. This feature is very important to unit commanders concerned with maintaining Operational Security of the information that they provide to families, Burcham said.

"It is not designed to replace the existing physical FRG, but to enhance them," Burcham said.

To support the upcoming start of the system, a waiting list area where units can sign up to establish a virtual FRG has been added to [www.armyfrg.org](http://www.armyfrg.org).



Courtesy Photo

The Warrior UAV demo was built by General Atomics Aeronautical Systems.

## Army awards UAV contract

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. — The Army has awarded a \$214-million contract for development of an Extended-Range Multi-Purpose unmanned aerial vehicle named the “Warrior.”

The ERMP Warrior will have the longest range of any UAV system in the Army, and its diesel-powered air vehicle will eliminate the need for a special fuel on the battlefield, officials said. The air vehicle will have multiple on-board weapons and be capable of loitering over enemy territories for 36 hours at altitudes up to 25,000 feet.

The Warrior contract went to General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc., of San Diego, Calif., for system development and demonstration. The contract was facilitated by the reinvestment of Comanche helicopter dollars, said Bob Hunt, a spokesman for the Army Aviation and Missile Command. He said the new UAV directly supports the Army’s Aviation Modernization Plan.

The Army intends to procure 11 Warrior systems, each with 12 aerial vehicles, five ground control sta-

tions and other support equipment such as ground data terminals, spares, and Interactive Electronic Technical Manuals that are required to test and field a complete system.

The new UAV will be capable of executing missions such as reconnaissance, communications relay, and attack with its multiple weapons, Hunt said. He said Warrior’s network connectivity will reduce the sensor-to-shooter time to better suppress enemy threats. Warrior also will include an automatic takeoff and landing system and control via satellite communication and the Tactical Common Data Link.

The Warrior is intended to eventually replace the Hunter UAV, Hunt said.

The Warrior’s system development and demonstration phase is expected to last about 48 months. Initial Operational Capability is expected in fiscal year 2009. Total program cost is expected to be about \$1 billion.

*(Editor’s note: Information provided by an Army Aviation and Missile Command release.)*

## Tropic Lightning prepares for transformation

Spc. Cheryl Ransford  
17th Public Affairs Detachment

Beginning in October, many units throughout the 25th Infantry Division (Light) will be conducting new equipment training as the division makes its first steps toward transformation.

“The training will include classes on more than one hundred different systems,” said Ronald L. Hale, Army Transformation Team-Hawaii scheduler. “The types of equipment the Soldiers will be trained on include Tube-launched Optically-tracked Wire-guided missile, communications, electronic and situational awareness systems, the Stryker vehicle and a tactical unmanned aerial vehicle.”

By providing Soldiers the training needed to properly use new equipment, they will be better prepared for their next deployment, he added.

In order for units to receive training, more than 1,200 classes will be taught, with an excess of 40 classes being taught at one time starting in January.

“The majority of classes will be focused on signal units, military intelligence and staff personnel,” said Hale. “Although there will be a lot of tactical training, there will be classroom training as well, using simulated versions of the equipment.”

Even though it is important for all Soldiers to know how to use all the equipment, one of the most important pieces of equipment will be the situational awareness equipment, he explained.

“The situational awareness equipment gives the troops a better view of where friendly forces are on the ground,” said Hale. “If

you know where friendly forces are you can call for help, if needed, and friendly fire will be less likely during deployments.”

As the division moves forward toward transformation, the equipment it will be learning how to use will be essential for mission accomplishment.

“The Army is giving the division the latest and greatest in equipment,” he said. “Some of the Soldiers have had a chance to use some of this equipment before — during the recent deployments — but now it will be part of each unit’s regular equipment.”

Although much of the new equipment will be common across the division, some items will be specific to certain types of personnel.

One new piece of equipment for specific personnel will be the new Personal Digital Assistant (an electronic, handheld information device).

“The PDAs will be used mainly by medics and intelligence personnel,” said Hale. “They will be able to input notes into the system, and the information will be sent directly to their computers from wherever they are.”

But the biggest advantages of NET will be the enhanced warfighting capabilities that will be brought to the division.

“The new equipment will bring upgraded software that will improve the division’s capabilities on the battlefield,” said Hale.

Once training is complete next year, he added, Soldiers will have many new skills that will enhance mission accomplishment across the division and the Army.

# DISCOM

From A-1

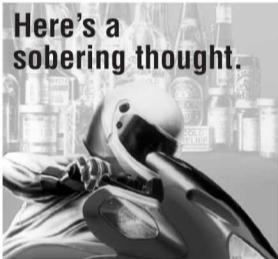
work on the CK call it the "Cadillac of field feeding," said Sgt. Angela Jennings, a shift leader on the DISCOM team.

Dealing with redeployment and transformation, plus acquiring land made the competition more challenging, said team noncommissioned officer in charge Sgt. 1st Class Stephan Dolic. Still, his Soldiers welcomed the challenge and said "bring it on," he explained.

Throughout the year, the DISCOM field feeding team flawlessly supported Soldiers through predeployment and while deployed — despite personnel shortages. As well, the DISCOM team did not let challenges slow them down during redeployment.

Many 25th Infantry Division (Light) Soldiers commented they look forward to eating well whenever the DISCOM food service team is in the field. Not a day passes during field training exercises without several Tropic Lightning Soldiers complimenting the team on its good food and exceptional service.

The DISCOM Field Feeding Team recognizes the tremendous impact it has on the morale of Soldiers. Taking responsibility for providing exceptional food service to Soldiers is one of the reasons the team was recognized as the best within USARPAC.



The 27th Infantry Regiment welcomed four visiting orphans — from left to right, Yukiko Matsuda, Junna Atsusaka, Mitsuo Yamamoto and Kidai Shibata — from the Holy Family Home orphanage in Osaka, Japan, with a cake cutting ceremony after their arrival July 24 at the Honolulu International Airport. Subsequently, various Wolfhound families hosted the children at their homes, to share the American way of life and Oahu recreational activities with the distinguished visitors.

## Wolfhounds bid farewell to orphans



Soldiers from 1st and 2nd Bn., 27th Inf. Rgt. families enjoy a tug of war at the regimental picnic Aug. 5 at Stoneman Field.

### Holy Family Home orphans end their two-week visit with Wolfhound Regiment

Story and Photos by  
Spc. Cheryl Ransford  
17th Public Affairs Detachment

The 27th Infantry Regiment held a picnic to farewell and honor the four orphans — two girls and two boys — who had visited them at Schofield Barracks from Holy Family Home Orphanage in Osaka, Japan, July 24 to Aug. 5. The orphans lived with host families and participated in various events around the island for two weeks.

In "a special relationship that has continued for fifty-six years," said commander, 2nd Battalion, 27th Inf. Rgt., Lt. Col. Drew R.

Meyerowich, regiment families have opened their homes so that orphans could experience American culture with American families.

"This is just one step to spread decency throughout the world," said retired Sgt. Maj. Hugh O'Reilly, the honorary sergeant major for 27th Inf. Rgt., who started the relationship with the orphanage in 1949. Meyerowich describes the sergeant major as the "soul" of the relationship.

Throughout the farewell picnic, Soldiers competed in events such as tug-o-war, a litter carry, a bench press competition, an obstacle course and a water can relay.

With host families and friends present, the day capped two weeks of discovery and immersion — to include a hot dog and hamburger barbeque with all the fixings — in the American way of life for the orphans.

# Senior leaders meet to foster cooperation

Royal Thai and U.S. Army host multinational Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean discussions

Public Affairs Office  
U.S. Army, Pacific

FORT SHAFTER — Army chief of staff equivalents from approximately 20 countries in the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions met in Bangkok for the Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference (PACC IV) and the Pacific Armies Management Seminar (PAMS XXIX) the first week of August.

The PACC is a biennial, multinational, executive defense forum, and it was co-hosted by the commander in chief of the Royal Thai Army and the chief of staff of the U.S. Army. The conference fosters military-to-military cooperation, develops interpersonal relationships and contributes to regional dialogue and stability.

Also co-hosted by the Royal Thai Army, and U.S. Army, Pacific (USARPAC), PAMS is a multinational military seminar that provides a forum for senior-level (lieutenant colonel to major general, or national equivalent) officers from the Asia-Pacific's regional ground

forces to exchange views and ideas.

PAMS not only enhances understanding of the subjects studied, but also provides an opportunity for future leaders of the region's armies to establish and cultivate a set of strong interpersonal relationships.

The theme for both the PACC and PAMS was "Impacts of Transformation on the Asia-Pacific Security Environment," and principal speakers for both were Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker, chief of staff, U.S. Army; Gen. Prawit Wongsuwon, commander in chief, Royal Thai Army; Lt. Gen. John M. Brown III, commander, USARPAC; and Lt. Gen. John M. Curran, deputy commanding general, Futures, U.S. Training and Doctrine Command.

During PAMS, seminar participants discussed diverse topics related to the theme: "The Extent and Nature of Transformation in the Asia-Pacific Region," "Effects of Transformation on Current and Future Operations," "Advancements and Applications to Counter Emerging Threats" and "Interoperability Challenges and Cooperation Opportunities in Current and Future Operations."

The long-term objective of both PACC and PAMS is to promote peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions through mutual understanding, dialogue and friendship.

Mainland government officials tour Oahu and military installations on a collaborative mission to "build bridges" within their own cities

Joel Godfrey  
Directorate of Public Works

HONOLULU — More than 40 government officials from states that included Arizona, Montana, Minnesota and Georgia recently toured Oahu military installations with the chief of the Environmental Division, Directorate of Public Works, Joel Godfrey, as part of a mobile workshop titled "Building Bridges with Military Bases," part of the National Association of Counties' (NACo) Annual Conference being held this year in Honolulu.

NACo, created in 1935, works to ensure that the nation's 3,066 counties are heard and understood in the White House and in the halls of Congress.

Participants experienced firsthand how counties and military installations can be good neighbors.

Across the United States, counties and DoD have engaged in productive partnerships and work collaboratively to reach mutual and compatible goals through a cooperative arrangement called Army Compatible Use Buffers (ACUBs).

On Oahu, the City and County of Honolulu, several military installations and many community groups engage in a similar cooperative venture called the Oahu Conservation Partnership (OCP).

The partnership is working to address concerns about conservation and land use on the island, as well as concerns about the military's



Blake McElheny

Government officials from mainland states receive a briefing on the DPW Natural Resources Program.

continued ability to train young men and women in uniform.

NACo's mobile workshop highlighted efforts in Hawaii as an example of the partnerships being formed across the country. As well, participants saw unique behind-the-scenes views of Oahu's successful partnership, including the scenic conservation project called "Pupukea-Paumalu" on the North Shore of Oahu.

Delegates also toured the Environmental Division's plant nursery near Wheeler Army Air Field and other environmental areas at Naval Base Pearl Harbor;

Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay; Hickam Air Force Base; and several other U.S. Army-used areas on Oahu.

By the end of the tour, participants reported they were grateful to see the work of the armed services throughout the island, and the opportunity to learn about how ACUBs and other cooperative partnerships may produce positive results in their respective states and counties.

NACo's membership totals more than 2,000 counties, representing more than 80 percent of the nation's population.

## News Briefs

**Annual Antiterrorism Exercise** — U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii, and the 25th Infantry Division (Light) are conducting their annual antiterrorism exercise through Aug. 19. The Antiterrorism Office and USARHAW are endeavoring to create an exercise that will have minimal impact on local communities. Address concerns or questions with Robert Marsh at 655-5212.

**Law School** — The Office of the Judge Advocate General is now accepting applications for the Army's Funded Legal Education Program. Under this initiative, the Army plans sending up to 15

active duty commissioned officers to law school at government expense.

This program is open to commissioned officers in the rank of second lieutenant through captain, and applicants must send their request through command channels. Interested officers should contact Lt. Col. Jim Robinette at 655-4884 for more information and/or to schedule an interview with the staff judge advocate.

**Strong Marriages** — Do you want to strengthen your marriage? Take a day off work? Spend some time alone without the kids? Stay overnight at a hotel at no cost to you?

If your answers are yes, see your unit chaplain about the "Building Strong and Ready Families" program, or contact the division chaplain's office at 655-9303.

**EFMP Workshops** — The Army Community Service Exceptional Family Member Program is sponsoring "A Parent's Guide to Special Education in Hawaii Schools," an important workshop series for all parents of special needs children in local schools. Participants can learn how to become an advocate for their special needs children.

The Fort Shafter ACS, Building S330, will host the series Monday through Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and in the evenings on Sept. 6, 7 and 8 from 6 to 9 p.m.

The series will be held at the Schofield Barracks ACS, Building 2091, on Aug. 22, 23 and 25 from 8 a.m. until noon, and on Sept. 26, 27 and 28 from 6 to 9 p.m.

All workshops are free, but registration is required. Call ACS at 655-2400 or 655-

2303, or LDAH at 536-9684, extension 26, to register.

**SGLI Changes** — Beginning Sept. 1, all members eligible for SGLI will become insured for the maximum coverage of \$400,000. Due to this increased coverage, maximum monthly premiums will rise to \$26.

SGLI will be available in increments of \$50,000 instead of the current \$10,000 amount for increments.

Members who submit a new SGLV 8286 form, which declines or reduces SGLI coverage by Sept. 30 will not be required to pay the full \$26 premium in September. Election changes made after Sept. 30 will result in a pay deduction of \$26 for September coverage.

**IDEA Workshops** — The North and South Military

Community Children's Councils (CCC) will be sponsoring workshops on the 2004 amendments to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) 2004 — the applicable law for special education — that went into effect July 1.

Join the North CCC on Wednesday at Leilehua High School Library from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and/or the South CCC on Aug. 23 from 6 to 8 p.m. Reservations are requested; call 586-5363 at least three days prior to the workshop.

**Product Fair** — Customers are invited to the 3M Product Fair sponsored by GSA Global Supply Store Schofield on Wednesday from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Many new products will be on display to improve work efficiency.

Flyers are available in the Distribution Center or at the

GSA Store. Call Mike or Monique at 655-0280 for more details.

**Department of Human Resources** — DHR will be closed Thursday for training. This closure includes the Fort Shafter Aloha Center's ID cards and in-processing sections.

No in or out-processing assistance nor appointments for ID cards, levy, reassignments, transition and the like will be available that day. For more details, call Master Sgt. Caesar at 655-6932.

**Combined Federal Campaign** — The 2005 Hawaii-Pacific CFC will run from Sept. 19 through Oct. 28, and this year's theme is "Heroes of the Pacific — Be One!" For more details, call Capt. Andrew Thompson at 655-3984.

# Army Chief of Staff discusses transformation at APCSS

**Brigadier General Francis J. Wiercinski, assistant division commander (support), 25th Infantry Division (Light), addresses Fellows at the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies who are attending Executive Course 2005-2 during the general's visit to the Center, Aug. 5.**



William R. Goodwin

Mary Markovinovic  
Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies

HONOLULU — Fellows attending the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies received a surprise visit by the U.S. Army's senior officer Aug. 4.

Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker, chief of staff of the U.S. Army, visited the Center during a stopover in Hawaii. While here, he spoke with Fellows attending the Executive Course about the Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference and the Pacific Armies Management Conference recently held in Bangkok, Thailand.

Both conferences, hosted by U.S. Army, Pacific, focused on transformation. Several nations shared their experiences and plans for transforming their forces.

According to Schoomaker, his visit to the APCSS was an excellent opportunity for Army leaders to dis-



Schoomaker

cuss interoperability and implementation of transformation at the strategic, operational and tactical levels.

Schoomaker also made himself available for a question and answer session.

He spent nearly an hour responding on a variety of issues including transformation, military and civilian coordination, humanitarian operations and disaster relief.

Approximately 104 military and civilian representatives from 40 countries are attending the 12-week APCSS Executive Course. The Center serves the U.S. Pacific Command's objective of developing professional and personal ties with the militaries and national security establishments in the region.

## U.S. Pacific commander address

William R. Goodwin  
Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies

HONOLULU — The commander of the U. S. Pacific Command (USPACOM), Adm. William J. Fallon, emphasized the importance of present and future cooperation between countries in the Asia-Pacific region when he addressed the Fellows of Executive Course 2005-2 here Aug. 3.

Fallon discussed his experience as a Naval aviator and likened the importance of teamwork

### ON THE WEB

Get more details about the APCSS at [www.apcss.org](http://www.apcss.org).

aboard an aircraft carrier with teamwork among countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The admiral also answered several questions including USPACOM's role in the Dec. 26, 2004, tsunami disaster relief efforts.

Fallon is the senior commander of U.S. military forces in the Pacific and Indian Ocean areas.

He is responsible for more than 50 percent of earth's surface — approximately 105 million square miles, from the west coast of the U.S. mainland to the east coast of Africa.

The current Executive Course, made up of 104 military officers and civilians from 40 countries throughout the region, builds relationships among future leaders and decision-makers in the region by examining non-warfighting aspects of security and international relations, among other criteria.

The Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies enhances cooperation and builds relationships through the study of security issues among military and civilian representatives of the United States and 45 Asia-Pacific nations. The Center serves USPACOM's objective of developing professional and personal ties with the militaries and national security establishments in the region.

As well, the Center focuses on a multilateral approach to regional security issues and concerns.



William R. Goodwin

**Adm. William J. Fallon, commander of the U.S. Pacific Command, addresses members of the Executive Course on teamwork among the Asia-Pacific regions in Honolulu, Aug 3.**

# Operation Uplift to support Hawaii Army National Guard

1st Lt. Lindsey Dane  
Contributing Writer

Operation Uplift is a program designed to boost the morale of the 29th Brigade Combat Team (BCT) and other Hawaii-based units currently serving overseas in the war against terror.

The Operation Uplift program consists of a call to the community to send out letters, e-mails, postcards and packages to troops, letting them know that they are remembered and cared for back home.

"The troops are setting an example and showing aloha to the Iraqi citizens," said the adjutant general of Hawaii, Maj. Gen. Robert G.F. Lee. "They could use a little aloha themselves to help them stay focused and boost their morale during this long deployment."

The announcement of the program comes as the 29th BCT Soldiers are approximately halfway through their yearlong deployment in Iraq. The more than 2,200 Hawaii service members have been gone from their homes in the Hawaiian islands, as well as Guam and American Samoa, for an additional four months while conducting training at Fort Bliss, Texas, and a JRTC rotation at Fort Polk, La., preparing with continental U.S. units in the



Sgt. 1st Class Stephen M. Lum

**KANDAHAR, Afganistan— Sgt. Christopher R. Ocret, a 298th Engineer Detachment carpenter from Mililani, Hawaii, saws a sheet of plywood for a shower being assembled at a forward operating base, here.**

brigade from areas such as California and Oregon before even beginning their tour serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In addition to motivational mail for Soldiers, organizers hope the packages are contain items like small toys or stuffed animals, school supplies and candies that Hawaii Soldiers can give out to Iraqi children.

"Things like small toys or

hard candies, these [are] to help assist more so with the humanitarian efforts in Iraq than for the Soldiers themselves," said James Young, a spokesman for the Hawaii Army National Guard. "These are items the Soldiers can pass out while on their patrols."

Addresses are available at [www.dod.state.hi.us](http://www.dod.state.hi.us); call Public Affairs at 733-4258 for additional details.



Maj. Jeffrey Church

## 'Hands up!'

Master Sgt. John Rowe gives a safety brief to Soldiers from the 205th Military Intelligence Battalion June 18 before the start of an Urban Operations Situational Training Exercise, or STX. Afterwards, Soldiers from the 1/196th Infantry Brigade assisted Rowe in providing the urban operations training for the 205th MI Bn., in preparation for their deployment to Iraq.

## Operation Uplift

The public may send letters and postcards to the following points of contact for specific deployed units. Also, e-mail may be addressed to [uplift@dod.state.hi.us](mailto:uplift@dod.state.hi.us).

**For 2-299th Infantry**  
(Kona Soldiers)  
Craig Yniguez  
B Co., 2-299th Inf.  
APO, AE 09342

(Oahu Soldiers)  
Phillip Umali  
D Co., 2-299th Inf.  
APO, AE 09342

(Maui Soldiers)  
Brandon Cabanilla  
B Co., 2-299th Inf.  
APO, AE 09342

(Molokai Soldiers)  
Lester Delos Reyes  
HHC, 2-299th Inf.  
APO, AE 09342

(Alaska Soldiers)  
Daniel Randall  
A/3 297, 2-299TH Inf.  
APO, AE 09342

For 227 Engineer Co.  
Charles Christian  
227th Engineer Co. CBT  
MRCS 29th BCT  
APO, AE 09391

Patrick Martin  
227th Engineer Co. CBT  
MRCS 29th BCT  
APO, AE 09366

**For 100/442 IN**  
CPT Dave Keleti  
ATTN: 100 BN 442nd IN  
9 Regional Readiness Command  
1557 Pass St.  
Ft. Shafter Flats  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819-2135

487 Field Artillery  
Loren Penney  
A-Btry, 1-487 FA  
APO, AE 09337  
David Hatcher

B-Btry, 1-487 FA  
APO, AE 09337

James Kanoholani  
C-Btry, 1-487 FA  
APO, AE 09337

Roy Macaraeg  
HHSB, 1-487 FA  
APO, AE 09337

James Faleafine  
HHC 29 BCT  
APO, AE 09391

Grant Maeshiro  
2/299 INF BN  
APO, AE 09342

**For 117 Mobile Public**  
Affairs Detachment  
Brianna Young-Navarro  
117th MPAD  
APO, AE 09356

**For 298 Engineer Detachment**  
Sonny Patoc  
298 Eng. Det.  
APO, AE 09355

## War Memorial project slowly inches upward

The 25th Infantry Division Association, a 56-year-old nonprofit veterans organization, is the prime sponsor of the 25th Infantry Division War Memorial, adjacent Fernandez Hall at Schofield Barracks.

To date, the Association

has raised more than \$80,000 of \$450,000 toward the cost of the memorial.

Contributions are accepted from the community at large at 25th Infantry Division Association, P.O. Box 7, Flourtown, PA 19031-0007.





Spc. Jean Bourassa and Staff Sgt. Walter Kotrys switch out the rear tires of a five-ton truck as part of its quarterly vehicle servicing.

## Maintenance keeps brigade moving by fixing what's broke

Story and Photo by Sgt. Lauran Robinson  
29th BCT Public Affairs Office

LOGISTIC SUPPORT AREA ANACONDA, Iraq — The Maintenance Companies A and B of 29th Support Battalion use their mechanical skills to keep vehicles and equipment running to support the 29th Brigade Combat Team's security mission.

Company A provides routine inspections on both vehicles and generators with quarterly check-ups and annual services. From oil changes, to brake replacements, Co. A mechanics work on eight to 20 vehicles a day. The company also provides unscheduled services, and 24-hour emergency repairs. Three Soldiers of Co. A repair generators that are used throughout the post.

Trading the comforts of community for the convenience of being close to work, the Soldiers of Company B live "in the country,"

located away from the rest of the base's residents. Co. B provides direct support maintenance for the brigade. Repairs include fixing parts such as engines and transmissions.

The company supports the brigade with Class IX supplies: itemized parts from light bulbs to engine parts, to nuts and bolts.

Soldiers of Co. B also repair weapons, radios, refrigerators, air conditioners and water pumps. A team of welders cut metal to armor the undercarriages of vehicles.

Though the companies have an important role keeping the brigade moving, they are working with a minimal number of Soldiers. More than half of the companies' personnel have been reassigned to support the brigade's security operations.

The 29th Support Bn. maintenance companies are working hard to support the brigade by keeping vehicles and generators running, and supplying repair parts.

## Engineers aid security

### Combat engineers work projects at a hectic pace to impede insurgents

Story and Photo by Sgt. Lauran Robinson  
29th BCT Public Affairs Office

LOGISTIC SUPPORT AREA ANACONDA, Iraq — The Soldiers of the Support Maintenance Platoon, 227th Combat Engineer Company, use their heavy equipment and construction skills to improve security here.

The engineers recently redesigned one of the roadways leading into LSA Anaconda, in an effort to stop attackers who turned near the camp and fired at the base entry control point, then drove away.

The two squads of the platoon rolled out the gate with their dump trucks, bulldozers and forklifts to redesign the roadway. As they had planned the event extensively beforehand, every Soldier was tasked with a specific job.

Working with hired Iraqis, they placed

concrete barriers, sand barrels and concertina wire to create a road block, preventing vehicles turning into the roadway from being able to turn around quickly.

This was one of many missions the Soldiers of 227th Combat Eng. Co. successfully completed to assist with base security. As combat engineers, they use various means to limit the mobility of insurgents to provide force protection for the base.

Other missions the engineers have completed include upgrading security at every entry control point on post; installing anti-vehicular barriers; widening a road used by military convoys, allowing them to quickly move in and out of the post; building a ramp for gravel trucks coming into LSA Anaconda; and repairing a water canal that leads to a nearby village, providing irrigation water for farmers.

The Soldiers of 227th Combat Eng., led by detachment commander Maj. Mark Ogburn, have been working at a hectic pace, making LSA Anaconda a safer place to live and work.

"They are always trying their best and they take pride in what they do," said Maj. Neal Mitsuyoshi, the 29th Brigade Combat Team, engineer officer.



Maj. Mark Ogburn directs Sgt. Cory Ragragola in placing a concrete block with his forklift. The barrier will create a roadblock, improving security.

# Taps

From A-2

asked him to play them.

After making a few changes and securing a melody, he ordered Norton to sound the call from then on in place of the regulation call.

The next day Norton was visited by buglers of neighboring brigades, who eagerly asked for copies of the "beautiful" piece they had heard in the night.

Some controversy persists over who composed the music of "Taps." Whether Butterfield revised an earlier bugle call or created the piece in his mind is unknown; yet, the message to honor his fallen heroes remains the same.

"Taps" was officially recognized by the Army in 1874. It became the standard bugle call at military funerals in 1891, complementing the traditional flag-folding procedure and flag presentation.

At Arlington National Cemetery, "Taps" is played nearly 20 times per day and is sounded a total of 2,500 times per year during the wreath-laying ceremonies at the Tomb of the Unknown.

For musicians who have the honor of playing "Taps," the task can come with a great deal of pressure.

Sgt. Ryan Pringle, a trumpet player with the 98th Army "Silver Wings" Band estimates that he has played the solitary tune more than 5,000 times in the near 13 years he has been a bugler in the Army.

Throughout his wealth of experience, the skilled musician says he has come to develop "nerves of steel" to help combat his worries of missing a note and realizing one of a bugler's worst fears — messing up a musical piece that is always meant to be played with perfection.

"It's intense because it's the song that breaks everyone down and makes everyone remember, even if you haven't lost a loved one," he said.

Pringle explained that performing the piece is always nerve-racking, whether he is playing it for 20 people at a funeral or almost 200,000 people on national television, as he did one year at the Charlotte Speedway in North Carolina.

"This is the song you don't want to mess up," he said, adding that a bugler can play "Taps" perfectly 200 times in a row, but the one time a note is missed, the musician never forgets it.

Pringle has found that the more nervous he is, the

better he performs.

When asked by friends about how he handles playing such a solemn piece day in and day out, he replies it is simply his job.

"The thing is, as a bugler, you have to be strong," he said. "It's a prideful thing."

Pringle added that there is a definite difference between playing the call for a stranger and playing it for a loved one.

Having to sound "Taps" at the funeral of his best friend, who was killed in a motorcycle accident, was one of the toughest jobs he has encountered.

Pringle said he has been fortunate in never missing a note of "Taps" in his entire career.

Other past buglers haven't been as lucky.

One of the largest audiences ever to hear a rendition of "Taps" occurred Nov. 25, 1963, the day of President John F. Kennedy's funeral.

The bugler, Sgt. Keith Clark, had practiced the call endlessly for what would be one of the most notable "Taps" performances of his career.

He began sounding the call through the ears of some 800,000 listeners, and when he embarked on the sixth note, Clark cracked. A witness compared it to a "swiftly stifled sob" that was like "a catch in someone's voice," conveying the same sorrow and tears Americans felt for their fallen President.

Later, Clark explained that he missed the note under pressure. The "broken note," as it quickly came to be called, turned into an epidemic when handfuls of other buglers began missing the same note in the weeks after Clark's misfortune.

Clark retired from the Army in 1966 and died in 2002. His "Kennedy bugle" is on display at the Arlington National Cemetery Visitors' Center.

Despite the nerves and misfortune associated with the playing of "Taps," buglers often jump at the chance to play the tune in large venues.

"Some people like all the glory," Pringle said, confirming that he considers himself one of those people.

Still, regardless of how many listeners "Taps" is played for, the mood of the message will always be consistent.

In celebrating and recognizing the fallen Soldiers of the past, "Taps" will forever be a vital component in memorial ceremonies and an integral part of military history.

## We want to hear from you



The Hawaii Army Weekly welcomes letters and commentaries. To submit, call 655-4816 or e-mail [editor@hawaiiarmyweekly.com](mailto:editor@hawaiiarmyweekly.com). The editorial deadline for news articles is the Friday prior to the week of publication. Please send all articles in Microsoft Word or text format.

## PRK or LASIK?

Leslie Ozawa  
Public Affairs Office,  
Tripler Army Medical Center

HONOLULU- Is photorefractive keratectomy (PRK) or laser in situ keratomileusis (LASIK) surgery better?

Both procedures are explained and compared, regarding advantages and disadvantages, during the Warfighters Refractive Eye Surgery Program (WRESP) briefing.

Basically, PRK uses laser technology to sculpt the cornea to become flatter and obtain clearer vision. LASIK involves an extra step for patients with cornea of sufficient thickness.

During LASIK, a suction ring stabilizes the cornea, and the surgeon then cuts a thin flap from the surface of the cornea and flips it over, which allows the underlying corneal tissue to be sculpted by laser, as in the PRK procedure. The permanent flap is then pulled back over the cornea; however, the surgeon may accidentally displace the flap, one of the disadvantages of LASIK.

If further vision enhancement surgery is required, the surgeon can uncover the flap to work on the cornea again.

More information is available about each procedure on three Web sites: [www.wramc.army.mil/departments/ophthalmology/refractive/surgery/surgeryv2/index.htm](http://www.wramc.army.mil/departments/ophthalmology/refractive/surgery/surgeryv2/index.htm), <http://www.lasikinstitute.com> and <http://www.aao.org>. The first, a Walter Reed Army Medical Center site, explains the Army program. Health organizations provide details in the other two Web sites.

The latter site, the American Academy of Ophthalmology Web site, is designed for medical professionals, so it provides in-depth information.

# Are you seeing clearly?

## The Army offers free PRK and LASIK at TAMC

Leslie Ozawa  
Public Affairs Office,  
Tripler Army Medical Center

HONOLULU — Boxers do it; NFL football players do it; and since 1998, courtesy of the Army, thousands of Soldiers have undergone refractive eye surgery to improve their vision.

Only a few years ago, local television and newspapers advertised photorefractive keratectomy (PRK) and laser in situ keratomileusis (LASIK) surgery for \$2,000 per eye. Today, improved surgical techniques have made the operation safer and less expensive, and even if not covered by medical insurance, both surgeries are more affordable.

For active duty Soldiers, however, especially those in combat arms, the surgery is free.

### Why does the Army offer this surgery?

The reason why the Army, as well as the other armed services, provide this service is simple: the surgery increases personnel safety and mission success. Being able to see clearly — through mud, dirt and damp, and between explosions and concussions — can mean the difference between life and death.

Ballistic eye protection from dust and debris is still needed in combat situations, but for the Soldier, 20/20 vision means no more cleaning or replacing contact lenses and glasses, and no longer handling prescription inserts for gas masks and night vision goggles while under fire.

Today, the Warfighters Refractive Eye Surgery Program (WRESP) makes PRK and LASIK available at eight Army hospitals around the world, including Tripler Army Medical Center. Surgery candidates don't need to be referred by their primary health care managers, but they do need their command's approval, as part of the application process.

All the armed services have agreements with Tripler to provide this surgery for their active duty members, said Maj. (Dr.) Ronald Allen, who heads the program here.

The Air Force allows 30 airmen a month to receive this operation, and the Coast Guard recently signed on to send 10 Coast Guardsmen a month.

The Navy previously allowed a monthly quota of 30 of its sailors and Marines, but because of anticipated deployments, the branch recently increased its budget for this program next year.

The Army itself has no actual number limitation, said Allen.

### What's been the trend at Tripler?

Over the past three years, Tripler's refractive eye surgery center performed PRK or LASIK surgery on more than 3,000 patients.

"We did a lot of 25th Infantry Division Soldiers before they left for Iraq," said Allen. The center aims to treat 2,000 patients in 2005.

Tripler's four ophthalmologists, all certified to perform this delicate surgery, take their turn in the operating room near Tripler's second-floor eye clinic. Operations are usually performed three days a week, with about

15 patients scheduled per day.

This year is the first that the program has emplaced Ladarvision custom cornea technology to its operations. The ladarvision technology maps the cornea's information that is fed directly into the computer of the laser, which enables it to provide better treatment, Allen said.

The surgery itself is quick: usually about five minutes per eye for PRK and eight to 10 minutes per eye for LASIK, all done with local anesthesia. Allen cautioned, however, that patients do have to allow time for pre- and post-surgery procedures.

Patients also must make about five appointments before and another six to eight visits after the surgery, spaced over several months.

Like any optional medical procedure, PRK and LASIK are not for everyone. Service members should also note that this surgery is not covered by TRICARE health insurance.



Getting in focus, TAMC's Maj. (Dr.) Ronald Allen, director of TAMC's Warfighters Refractive Eye Surgery Program, adjusts lenses on the excimer laser machine used to sculpt a patient's cornea.

See "Vision," page A-12

# When moving, TRICARE relocates too

TriWest Healthcare Alliance  
News Release

Changing duty stations can be hard, with packing and saying goodbye to friends, but TRICARE makes changing doctors and regions easy for the entire family, even TRICARE-eligible students leaving home for college.

TRICARE Prime benefits are portable. In other words, the TRICARE benefit is the same no matter where a beneficiary lives or travels within the Prime service area. When families transfer, travel or send a child off to college, TRICARE benefits are always available with no gaps in coverage.

This feature, which TRICARE calls "portability," eases the transfer for military families who are moving within the TRICARE West Region, administered by TriWest Healthcare Alliance, or to another TRICARE region.

Those moving outside their current TRICARE region should remain enrolled in that region until they arrive at their destination. Upon arrival at the new duty station, all they need to do is contact the local TRICARE Service

## ON THE WEB

Get more details at  
[www.triwest.com](http://www.triwest.com) or  
[www.tricare.osd.mil](http://www.tricare.osd.mil).

Center to enroll in the new region and select a new primary care manager.

Regional TRICARE contractors will coordinate the transfer, so enrollment will be effective as soon as the new contractor receives the application. In this way, Prime enrollment will be uninterrupted.

If TRICARE Prime is not available at the new location, beneficiaries may disenroll before moving and use the TRICARE Standard option (or TRICARE Extra by using only network providers). When they return to a Prime service area, they may re-enroll in Prime at any time.

Prime portability is more limited for retirees than for active duty family members. Retirees and their eligible family members pay TRICARE Prime enrollment fees and may transfer their enrollment from one TRICARE region to another without paying additional enroll-

ment fees.

Although retired service members and their eligible family members are allowed unlimited moves within their own TRICARE region, they are limited to two moves between regions per year — as long as the second move brings them back to their original TRICARE region.



When a TRICARE-eligible son or daughter leaves home to attend college as a full-time student, TRICARE Prime's "split-enrollment" feature will enable students to stay enrolled in Prime. Split enrollment allows TRICARE Prime non-active duty families to live and enroll in different Prime service areas or TRICARE regions and to pay only one family fee per enrollment period.

For college students to take advantage of TRICARE Prime

split enrollment, they must be

- enrolled in DEERS,
- under the age of 23,
- enrolled full-time in a program of higher learning as approved by the Secretary of Defense, the Department of Education or a state agency, and
- at least 50-percent financially dependent on a TRICARE-eligible sponsor.

TRICARE-eligible college students may use military treatment facilities on a space-available basis, use civilian providers under TRICARE Standard or Extra, or be allowed to remain enrolled in TRICARE Prime. They may remain in Prime if the college or university they attend is located in a Prime service area.

To learn more about TRICARE Prime portability and split enrollment, visit the TriWest Healthcare Alliance Web site at [www.triwest.com](http://www.triwest.com) or the TRICARE Management Activity (TMA) site at [www.tricare.osd.mil](http://www.tricare.osd.mil). TMA's Web site also shows which TRICARE contractor provides services in the area where your PCS will take you or where your student goes to college.

## Vision

From A-11

Active duty service members interested in this surgery, who have at least 18 months of active duty service remaining, should pick up a WRESP information packet at their command's personnel center or at the Tripler eye clinic. The packet explains the procedure and includes a form letter (to obtain the commander's approval) and an application form.

Applicants must present all documents, as well as a prescription for glasses or contact lenses less than a year old, to attend a WRESP briefing, usually held about midday on the first and third Friday of every month.

Briefings are held at various locations, including at Tripler, Hickam Air Force Base, Schofield Barracks and Fort Shafter. About 100 people attend each briefing, so those interested should allow enough time to have their applications screened before the briefing begins. The Tripler eye clinic can provide additional information at 433-3089 or 433-1564.



# COMMUNITY & SPORTS



## Experiencing POLYNESIA

The Polynesian Cultural Center is Hawaii's No. 1 paid tourist attraction

**ON THE WEB**

Get more details at [www.PolynesianCulturalCenter.com](http://www.PolynesianCulturalCenter.com).

allows guests to view seven Pacific Islands all in one location. Visitors can learn of and admire the many aspects of island life before American colonization.

"Walking through the villages feels as if I have gone back in time," said Adriana Vasquez, a visitor at the park.

From Samoa to Tonga, to Marquesas to Tahiti, Fiji, New Zealand and Hawaii, many subtle, yet unique, differences distinguish every island from the others. Language, arts, craft, songs and dance show variations among the Pacific islands.

"This is really neat that anyone could come here and see all the Polynesian islands in one place," said Casey Yang, a tour guide at the center.

The Polynesian Cultural Center is a nonprofit institution founded by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. The center is dedicated to helping further the educational opportunities of students at Brigham Young University, Hawaii. Its main mission is to preserve the culture of Polynesia.

The Polynesian Cultural Center offers a wide variety of ticket prices for military personnel ranging from \$150 for the Super Ambassador package to \$28 for general admission. Children, 3 to 11, pay \$19, and the general admission package includes tours of the seven villages, the long canoe pageant and the show only.

The Ambassador packages provide visitors with their personal tour guide to enhance their experience with additional history and information about the different villages.

"To fully enjoy the Polynesian Cultural Center experience, we suggest you select one of our five main packages that include admission to the islands' daytime activities, various dining options, and reserved seating choices for the evening show," said Yang.

Guides are trained to meet the special needs of visitors such as language preference, the most common being Japanese, Korean, Spanish, French and English.

Morale, Welfare and Recreation's ITR offices also give discounted tickets to other cultural shows such as the Paradise Cove and Germaines luaus, and many others.

"This is the place for fun and adventures and to really enjoy the Polynesian Islands," emphasized Yang.

Story and Photos by Spc. Juan Jimenez Staff Writer

LAIE — Surrounded by the beautiful beaches of the North Shore, the town of Laie illustrates the real meaning of island life in the 42-acre Polynesian Cultural Center.

The center has been open for more than 42 years, preserving Polynesian culture and attracting over a million visitors a year. The popular, attraction

A Tongan village performer shows his audience how to use a sea shell to make music and send a warning sound when danger nears.



Above — A Samoan drummer dazzles crowds as he plays and moves to his beat.



A performer at the Polynesian Cultural Center shows how they would perform for their soldier before they went off to battle.



Left — A Samoan villager (right) shows a visitor at the center how to crack open a coconut with just a rock.

# MWR Briefs

Serving America's Army in Hawaii

## AUGUST

### 12 / Today

**Hip-Hop/R&B Night** — Cinnamon Red presents Hip-Hop/R&B Night at the Tropics, a night filled with the sounds of old school rhythm and blues, hip-hop, reggaeton and Latin music. This event will be held tonight from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. and again on Aug. 19.

Cost is \$8 and patrons 18 and older are welcome to attend. Call 655-0002 for more information.

### 13 / Saturday

**Yu-Gi-Oh** — Get ready to duel at the Tropics. Registration will get underway at 1 p.m. for this tournament, and the duel will start at 2 p.m. Cost is \$6 and includes Yu-Gi-Oh merchandise.

Prizes will be awarded, and all ages are welcome. Call 655-8522 for more details.

**Teen Karaoke** — Teens are invited to participate in this singing contest and win prizes at the Tropics beginning at 6:30 p.m. Register at the facility or call 655-8522 for more information.

**Latin Night** — Relax and dance the night away to the rhythm of Latin music at the Tropics. DJ Richie Sanchez will be spinning the tunes tonight and again on Aug. 27. Doors will open at 8 p.m.

Admission is free and open to individuals 18 and older. Call 655-8522 for more details.

### 15 / Monday

**Commissary Dash N' Grab** — The deadline is Aug. 15 to enter for a chance to win the next Commissary Dash N' Grab scheduled for Aug. 25 at 7:30 a.m. Entry boxes are located at the Schofield Barracks Commissary, Army Community Service and the Tropics. Three finalists will be selected and notified.

MWR Blue Star Card Members are automatically entered to win. This event is open to active duty Soldiers and family members and is sponsored by Army Hawaii Family-Housing, DECA and MWR.



**Monthly Steak Night** — Enjoy a sizzling steak cooked on the grill and served with garlic mashed potatoes, rolls and vegetables. Dinner will be served from 5 to 8 p.m. on Aug. 15.

Cost is only \$11.95 for adults and children's pricing is available.



Joy Boisselle

## 'Slow down!'

**Junior police officers at Hale Kula Elementary School assist with pedestrian and traffic safety. Schools have been back in session in most areas since July 25. That means, on military facilities across Oahu as well as when out and about in neighborhoods off post, drivers need to be aware of the increase in pedestrian traffic as children and parents make their way to and from schools.**

Call 655-4466 for more information.

Cost is \$9.95 per person.

Call Hale Ikena at 438-1947 or the Nehelani at 655-4466 for lunch buffet reservations or information.

### 18 / Thursday

**Military Idol** — Performances continue at the Tropics tonight at 7 p.m. Be part of the audience to select your favorite idol. Cast your vote and have an impact on who wins and advances to the national Army-wide competition.

Performances will be held every Thursday until the grand finale on Sept. 15. Call 655-8522 for more information.

### 20 / Saturday

**Parent's Night Out** — Leave your kids in the competent hands of Child and Youth Services on Aug. 20, and enjoy a nice night out on the town. Children enrolled in Parent's Night Out must be registered with the office no later than noon today.

Reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis at the Resource and Referral Office. Call 655-8313 for more information.

### 24 / Wednesday

**Wine and Dine** — Enjoy a gourmet four-course dinner including soup and salad, appetizer, entrée and dessert. Each course will feature Pacific Rim cuisine and a selected wine.

This special occasion will take place Aug. 24 with reservations accepted through Aug. 19. Adult pricing is \$29. For more information or to reserve your space, call 655-0660.

### 26 / Friday

**Hawaiian Luau** — Taste a traditional Hawaii style feast today from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Hale Ikena on Fort Shafter, or 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Nehelani on Schofield Barracks.

### 27 / Saturday

**Youth Welcome Party** — Children and teens, new to Hawaii, are invited to attend this party and participate in a walking tour and team-building games. Participants will enjoy snacks, meet new friends and win prizes.

This event will be held at the Tropics, Schofield Barracks, on Aug. 27. Ages 5 to 11 are welcome from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and ages 12 to 18 from 1:15 to 2:45 p.m.

Registration deadline is Aug. 15; call 655-2263 to reserve your space today.

## ONGOING

**Family Child Care** — Individuals interested in caring for children in their home should inquire with the Child and Youth Service's Family Child Care program. Benefits include free training, additional income and flexible hours.

For more information, call either



the Aliamanu Military Reservation FCC office at 837-0236 or the Schofield Barracks FCC at 655-8373.

**RecTrac Registration** — The Department of the Army has instituted a tracking system for Morale, Welfare and Recreation to better serve its customers, monitor usage and assist in obtaining funding to support programs.

To participate in MWR programs, you will be required to complete a simple registration process. No fees are charged, and the process takes less than five minutes.

In lieu of using sign-in sheets, customers will only need to scan their ID cards each time they visit a facility or program. Scanners are designed to read the bar codes located on the back of the ID card of eligible patrons.

Programs affected include physical fitness centers; swimming pools; craft shops; recreation centers; outdoor recreation equipment checkout; Information, Ticketing and Registration; and access theater productions.

Support your MWR programs by registering today. For more information, call 656-0086.

**Army Community Theater** — Tickets are now available for Richardson Theater's 63rd season featuring "Guys & Dolls," "Kismet," "Cats," and "Damn Yankees."

Ticket prices range from \$12 to \$20, and season subscriptions and individual tickets can be purchased from the box office open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. or at the ACT Web site at <http://www.squareone.org/ACT/tickets.html>.

Call 438-4480 for more information.

See "MWR Briefs," page B-8

## HACN TV Schedule

### Morning

- 6:00 Sign On
- 6:30 Welcome Home Redeployment Montage 6
- 6:35 Coqui Frog Invasion in Hawaii
- 6:55 Welcome Home Redeployment Montage 3
- 7:00 Bulletin Board
- 7:30 What's Down the Drain
- 7:38 White Face
- 7:53 Welcome Home Redeployment Montage 3
- 8:00 Hawaii Army Report
- 8:36 Army News Watch
- 9:00 Pentagon Channel
- 10:00 White Face
- 10:20 Welcome Home Redeployment Montage 6
- 10:26 Bulletin Board
- 11:00 Coqui Frog Invasion in Hawaii
- 11:21 Jake Shimabukuro
- 11:34 Maui
- 12:00 Hawaii Army Report
- 12:33 Pentagon Channel

### Afternoon

- 2:00 After the Storm
- 2:23 Bulletin Board
- 2:53 Welcome Home Redeployment Montage 6
- 3:00 Shamu: The Sea Turtle Story
- 3:33 Coqui Frog Invasion in Hawaii
- 3:57 Welcome Home Redeployment Montage 2
- 4:00 Pentagon Channel

### Evening

- 6:00 Hawaii Army Report
- 6:30 What's Down the Drain
- 6:38 Community Focus
- 6:53 Welcome Home Redeployment Montage 6
- 7:00 NFL: Turf Talk
- 7:53 Welcome Home Redeployment Montage 6
- 8:00 What's Down the Drain
- 8:09 Welcome Home Redeployment Montage 4
- 8:14 Welcome Home Redeployment Montage 5
- 8:24 Coqui Frog Invasion in Hawaii
- 8:50 Welcome Home Redeployment Montage 6
- 8:56 Welcome Home Redeployment Montage 1
- 9:03 White Face
- 9:32 Bulletin Board
- 10:03 Welcome Home Redeployment Montage 5
- 10:11 NFL: Throwbacks
- 11:01 Welcome Home Redeployment Montage 6
- 11:06 White Face
- 11:20 Welcome Home Redeployment Montage 5
- 11:27 Welcome Home Redeployment Montage 4
- 11:32 Coqui Frog Invasion in Hawaii
- 11:52 Welcome Home Redeployment Montage 3

### Overnight

- Pentagon Channel

## Community Calendar

### AUGUST

### 13 / Saturday

**Post-Wide Yard Sale** — Clean out your closets and sheds and get ready to make a little extra cash as Army Hawaii Family Housing sponsors a post-wide yard sale Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Participants are reminded that yard sale items must be placed on driveways, carports or front lawns and should not impede traffic. Contact your community center for details.



**Dancers Wanted** — Dancers are needed for Hula on the Beach and asked to register by sending name, birth date, age, address, telephone number and e-mail address to [ikaika-comm@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:ikaika-comm@hawaii.rr.com) by Wednesday.

A workshop for military dancers will be held tomorrow, at 10 a.m. at Bloch Arena Gym, Naval Station Pearl Harbor.

Other workshops are available at the following dates and locations:

- Saturday at Kapiolani Bandstand and
- Aug. 17, 7 p.m., Kapolei Hale. Contact Mona Woods at 218-5546 or [ikaikacomm@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:ikaikacomm@hawaii.rr.com) for more details.

### 15 / Monday

**Joint Spouses Conference Registration** — The 11th Annual Joint Spouses' Conference, a forum for military spouses from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard, will be held Friday, Sept. 30, and Saturday, Oct. 1, at the Nehelani, Schofield Barracks.

Registrants may choose from more than 65 workshops with an array of interests including cultural arts, cooking, health and fitness, parenting, career enhancement, military benefits and more.

Keynote speakers include Brig. Gen. Coral Pietsch and "Anyway: The Paradoxical Commandments" author Dr. Kent Keith.

The cost is \$25 for both days or \$15 Friday or Saturday only, and the fee includes workshops, two continental breakfasts, two lunches and a conference tote bag.

Seating is limited to 400, so get your registration forms in early. All forms must be postmarked by Friday, Sept. 16. Children are not permitted to attend and child care is not available.

Registration begins today through Sept. 16. Forms may be picked up at military exchanges, commissaries, support centers, thrift shops and chapels. Or, register online or download the registration form at [www.jointspousesconference.com](http://www.jointspousesconference.com).

For more information, contact the Army liaison Beverly Tate at 778-8696.

### 19 / Friday

**The American Legion National Job Fair** — The American Legion will sponsor a national job fair for active duty, reservists, National Guard, military spouses and America's veterans during their 87th National Convention. This event runs from Aug. 19 to 25 at the Hawaii Convention Center, Hall III, 1801 Kalakaua Ave., Honolulu, Hawaii.

Many employers from the region and mainland will attend, and many have current job openings or expect to have openings in the near future.

Come prepared by dressing appropriately for a job interview, by bringing copies of your updated resume, and by allowing time for completing applications.

The registration desk will be located in the main lobby of the convention center and registration is free to job seekers who have a valid military ID card or DD 214, report of separation.

This event is cosponsored with the U.S. Department of Labor in cooperation with the Department of Defense Transition Assistance Program.

Dates and times to attend the fair are as follows:

- Aug. 19, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.;
- Aug. 20, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.;
- Aug. 21, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.;
- Aug. 22, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; and
- Aug. 23, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

For more information, job seekers can contact Jennifer Zellers at 792-8371.

### 20 / Saturday

**Hula on the Beach** — Military volunteers and hula dancers (no experience necessary) are needed in an attempt to create the longest, continuous hula line in history to celebrate Honolulu's Centennial on Aug. 20, at Waikiki Beach. Event sponsors are hoping to have the event recognized as a world's record in the "Guinness Book of World Records." Dancing starts at 4:30 p.m. This event takes place on Waikiki Beach, from Kuhio Beach stretching ewa down the entire continuous shoreline crest of Waikiki Beach. Dancers must be in place by 4 p.m.

### 29 / Monday

**Hui O Na Wahine Super Sign-Up** — The Hui O Na Wahine, an all-ranks spouses club, will host an annual sign-up on Aug. 29 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Nehelani on Schofield Barracks. Local vendors and community organizations will attend.

If you are interested in joining the club, annual membership is \$20 for spouses of staff sergeants and below, and \$25 for sergeants first class and above.

Call Steffanie at 624-5491 for vendor requirements or general information.



## Sgt. Smith Theater

**Today**  
The War of the Worlds  
7 p.m. (PG-13)

**Saturday**  
Herbie: Fully Loaded  
2 p.m. (PG)

**Saturday**  
Bewitched  
7 p.m. (PG-13)

**Sunday**  
The War of the Worlds  
7 p.m. (PG-13)

**Wednesday**  
Bewitched  
7 p.m. (PG-13)

**Thursday**  
Herbie: Fully Loaded  
7 p.m. (PG)

# Military youth look to future after graduation

Spc. Cheryl Ransford  
17th Public Affairs Detachment

Throughout the military, thousands of families are uprooted and moved around the country every year, but what affect does all of this moving have on military children?

For some, the experience is positive and shows in the honors they receive upon high school graduation and in the goals they set for their futures.

"By being a military child, I have had the opportunity to meet a lot of different people," said Kharel Thompson, son of Master Sgt. Gregory Thompson, 411th Engineer Battalion, 9th Regional Support Command, U.S. Army Reserve, Pacific. "Because we move around, I have learned to communicate with lots of people and adapt to being in different areas pretty fast."

In addition, military children are often more focused because of the structure built into their everyday life.

"My husband and I were both military while he [Kharel] was growing up, so Kharel developed a strong sense of discipline very early on," said Tracy Thompson,



Thompson

Kharel's mother. "He didn't have the luxury of a stay-at-home parent; many times he had to motivate himself to do what needed to be done."

## Going the extra mile

While moving around and leaving friends behind can be a challenge for anyone, it is especially hard on children — particularly those in high school preparing for college.

"The military was the basis for growing up," said Emily King, daughter of Col. Charles King, chief of staff, Special Operations Pacific Command. "You learn to



King

meet new people all the time. Now, I couldn't imagine living in one place all the time. I enjoy moving and making new friends."

But for some moving adds challenges.

Admiral Arthur W. Radford High School was the eighth school Thompson attended before graduating in June.

"Before we moved here two years ago, Kharel had a four-point-four [grade point average]," said Tracy. "But when we came to Hawaii, because of the difference in curriculum, it was changed to a three-point-five. To make up for the difference, he was



Westphal

taking four [advanced placement] classes at a time."

## Looking to the future

Scholarships are offered to students who graduate at the top of their class every year. But who would think that a military child, who has changed schools more times than they can count, would be one of them.

In fact, there are many military children who put a lot of hard work into earning scholarships, so they can go to the college of their choice.

One graduate who did just that was Jyssica Westphal, daughter of Sgt. 1st Class Douglas Westphal, 249th Eng. Bn., who graduated as valedictorian from Lutheran High School of Hawaii in June.

During high school, Jyssica played softball and tennis, and became active in the orchestra and the National

Honor Society and a class representative.

"After graduation, Jyssica accepted a four-year Reserve Officer Training Corps scholarship at Northern Michigan University," said Cherie Westphal, Jyssica's mother. "Because of the leadership and communication skills that she gained throughout high school, she will be better prepared for her future as an officer in the military."

Another student who was very active in high school was Thompson.

During high school, he played football, handled duties as president of the chess club, and juggled active participation with Interact (a volunteer club), the National Honor Society, the debate team, the math club, and as treasurer of the African-American Club.

"I did a lot of work to prepare myself for college," he said. "I take work seriously and do my best at everything I do."

Part of Thompson's preparation for college was applying for scholarships and taking the Standardized Aptitude Test (SAT). Because of the dedication he put into his schoolwork,

Thompson received honors as summa cum laude graduate, an Advanced Placement scholar with distinction and as a National Merit Scholar, in the top 10 percent of students who took the SAT.

"In the fall, I will be attending Washington Uni-

versity in Saint Louis," he said. "I want to major in chemical engineering. Within five years, I plan to have a degree and be in [graduate] school working toward my master's."

## Seeing the world

Moving around the world can be hard for children, but there are advantages that can sometimes be overlooked though friends are left behind.

"When most children grow up, they live in the same place their whole life," said Westphal. "In doing so, they are usually only exposed to the type of work their parents and those around them do. But military children get a chance to see many different career choices."

"Going back to the first duty station a military member is stationed at, their children are able to meet people who do everything from administrative work to engineers," she said. "This exposure gives them more options ... once they go to college."

"With moving around all the time, I am able to share my experiences with others," said King. "I love to help others. By sharing my experiences and learning from my mistakes, I am able to show others that things aren't as bad as they may seem at the time," she continued. "Everything looks worse while you're going through it, than when you come out on the other side."



Spc. Cheryl Ransford

## Welcome to Hawaii

WAHIAWA — Maj. Gen. Benjamin R. Mixon, 25th Inf. Div. (L) commander, addresses school officials during a welcome ceremony held Aug. 1 at Leilehua High School here. The ceremony was held to introduce the new division commander to the leaders of the local schools that have partnerships with units within the division.

**We want to hear from you.** The Hawaii Army Weekly welcomes letters and commentaries. To submit, call 655-4816 or e-mail [editor@hawaiiarmyweekly.com](mailto:editor@hawaiiarmyweekly.com). The editorial deadline for news articles is the Friday prior to the week of publication. Please send all articles in Microsoft Word or text format.

Many dreams many paths

# Army spouses offer some skills to help manage the military lifestyle

Story and Photo by  
Dawn Torres-Gale  
Contributing Writer

Arranging the details of a household move, enrolling children in a new school, interviewing for a new job — these are just a few of the practical responsibilities that spouses of military service members face while their loved ones serve the nation.

Ask any military spouse and he or she will tell you that managing family, home and work while being mindful of the flexibility that a military career requires can be daunting. The inherently transitory nature of the military lifestyle presents challenges that can sometimes be incompatible with spouses pursuing long-term goals and dreams.

According to authors Kathie Hightower and Holly Scherer, military spouses can create their own niche, within the context of military culture, if they are willing to be creative, open minded and occasionally compromise. Hightower and Scherer, both married to Army Soldiers, proclaim in their new book, *Help! I'm a Military Spouse-I Want a Life Too!*, that military spouses have the tools to create the life they want for themselves while coping with the intricacies of military culture.

Bonded together by their mutual interest in empow-



Authors Kathie Hightower and Holly Scherer listen to a military spouse at a book signing inside the Hickam Air Force Base commissary.

ering military spouses, Hightower and Scherer began sharing their message with the military community by creating "Joyful Living," a workshop they presented at various military installations. From its genesis in 1994, the workshop has evolved into what

is now "Follow Your Dreams While You Follow the Military." The feedback and comments they received from military spouses attending the workshops inspired them to write their book.

A constant theme throughout their first-ever

collaboration is to realize your dreams. They say that planning, though important, isn't enough. Hightower and Scherer strongly emphasize that taking action, even in small increments, is the key to success.

Whether your efforts are made alone or with the encouragement of a dream support team (as the authors suggest), making actual movement toward achieving your dream is the most important first step, according to Hightower and Scherer. To demonstrate that they practice what they preach, their book is laced with "journal pages" that offer readers experiences from the authors' own lives.

According to Hightower and Scherer, their book is designed for military spouses who are unsure of whether they really can pursue their dreams while living with the demands of a military lifestyle. Throughout the book, Hightower and Scherer present a very motivational and persuasive argument for not putting off creating a life for yourself while your service member spouse pursues his or her military career.

In times of uncertainty, Hightower and Scherer offer spouses a lifeline as they cope with the day-to-day challenges of military life. Perhaps, a better gift for our often-forgotten spouses cannot be found.



Courtesy Photo

The new spouse employment Web site can be found at [www.militaryspousejobsearch.org](http://www.militaryspousejobsearch.org).

## Army launches spouse employment Web site

Margaret McKenzie  
Army News Service

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — The Army has announced a new spouse employment Web site containing more than 26,000 job vacancies.

The site, [www.militaryspousejobsearch.org](http://www.militaryspousejobsearch.org), is designed to provide spouses employment opportunities while fulfilling corporate America's demand for skilled workers.

Military Spouse Job Search is a database where spouses can build their resumes and research valuable information. Spouses can also access career tools, labor market information, career assessment, and training and education opportunities, as well as information on colleges and technical schools.

The site also provides a financial aid center for spouses considering going back to school and a relocation center for families considering a permanent move or temporary change of location.

The new Web site is a joint

venture between Army Spouse Employment Partnership, U.S. Community and Family Support Center, and the Department of Labor.

"It was easy to create an account," said Christine Jumper, an Army spouse who lives near Fort Lee, Va. "I had immediate access to the skills profiler, which was great."

As a pre-requisite for access to Military Spouse Job Search, employers must be an inducted partner or accepted new partner in the Army Spouse Employment Partnership.

Current inducted partners include Adecco USA, Army and Air Force Exchange Service, Army Career Alumni Program, Army Civilian Personnel, BellSouth, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, Computer Systems Corporation, CVS/Pharmacy, Defense Commissary Agency, Dell, EURPAC Service Inc., Hospital Corporation of America, Home Depot, Lockheed Martin, Manpower Inc., Merck & Company, Sears Holdings Corporation, and Sprint.

## Olympic-sized signatures

Kristi Yamaguchi visited commissaries in Hawaii to sign autographs and meet fans. She was at Schofield Barracks on Tuesday signing autographs and promoting Aloha Gold Soy Sauce to sponsor the "Always Dream Foundation" which supports the dreams of children.



Pvt 2 Kyndal Hernandez

## 'Dollar Days' make their return to commissaries

Defense Commissary Agency  
News Release

Commissary customers said they loved the inaugural "Dollar Days" event last spring, and they took advantage of the millions of dollars in commissary savings. The deals are back in most commissaries worldwide, just in time for "back to school."

Dollar Days will run through Aug. 24, and hundreds of items throughout the store will feature dollar pricing.

"Customers might see two-for-a-dollar deals or perhaps three-for-two-dollars," said Patrick B. Nixon, chief executive officer and acting director of the Defense Com-

missary Agency. "Customers should look for the 'Extra Savings' signs throughout commissaries to find the deals."

### Case Lot Sales

Worldwide in September, commissary case lot sales will feature "bargains by the case" and savings of up to 50 percent off regular prices on popular items such as paper goods, beverages and cleaning supplies — and even chilled or meat items in some locations.

Nearly all commissaries will be participating sometime during the month of September, but dates and times will vary from location to location. The Schofield Barracks commissary will

hold its case lot sale Sept. 24 and 25 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Additional information, including case lot sale schedules for other commissaries on Oahu, is available at <http://www.commissaries.com>.

The Defense Commissary Agency's customer newsletter, "Commissary Connection," also delivers general commissary news via e-mail. Customers can sign up to receive this newsletter on the front page of <http://www.commissaries.com>.

Case lot sales events are typically held in May and September. Commissary patrons purchased more than 1.4 million cases of product in the May "worldwide" case lot sale.

## Idol contest begins

Tim Higgs  
Army News Service

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — The first round of Military Idol competition began this week on U.S. Army installations around the world.

The program, a takeoff of FOX Television's "American Idol," will determine which Soldier is the inaugural Military Idol after a final week of singing competition Oct. 17 through 23 at Fort Gordon, Ga.

To reach the finals, Soldier-vocalists must first win a competition on one of 36 installations. Depending on the number of local competitors, that process could take from one to eight weeks.

The Military Idol program is the brainchild of Coleen Amstein, who works in business programs for the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center (USACFSC), and Victor Hurtado, artistic director for the U.S. Army Soldier Show, one of several programs offered by the Army Entertainment Division.

"I had been working with the Idol folks for a while, and in the back of my mind I had wondered how we could put something together for our Soldiers," Hurtado said. "I received an e-mail from Coleen Amstein asking what I thought about doing an Idol promotion and asking if I could help. She had no idea about my connections with Idol."

While visions of Soldier Idols were forming in Hurtado's head, Amstein and the CFSC business programs team were brainstorming events for MWR facilities.

"We thought: 'Wouldn't it be great if we could bring

something like American Idol into our clubs?' Amstein said. "But we didn't really have the talent or the connections to do something like that."

Hurtado contacted officials at FremantleMedia, which holds the rights to "American Idol."

"The concept of what we could do was the easy part," Amstein said. "The reality of the execution was certainly much more difficult than what we had expected."

A licensing agreement was contracted with FremantleMedia, and the idea evolved into a program within a year.

"It was a matter of working with legal and business affairs, making sure that Idol leadership and the legal arm agreed that we could go forward and do Military Idol," Hurtado said. "My role in this has been to make sure that the Soldiers and the Army got the most out of this project."

During the first round of the Military Idol's installation-level competition, all contestants must sing without musical accompaniment. Three judges, who may include garrison commanders, command sergeants major and local celebrities, narrow the field of talent.

In the second round of local competition, judges and audiences determine who advances. The spectators' votes will be submitted by written ballots after the performers are finished and judges have completed critiques. The audience vote and judges' vote each counts 50 percent in determining who advances.

During the local semifinals and final rounds, judges will critique each perform-

ance but will not vote, leaving determination of the installation winners to the audiences.

When entering the venue, attendees will receive a ballot to cast one vote. An additional ballot can be obtained with each purchase of an appetizer or meal during the event. The number of local rounds of competition — not to exceed eight weeks — will be determined by the installation's MWR director based on the number of contestants.

Installation-level prizes for the winner at each participating location include \$500 and temporary duty costs covered by USACFSC to compete in the Army-wide finals. The winning Soldier's unit also will receive \$500. Second-place contestants will receive \$250, and third-place performers will receive \$100.

Army-wide finals prizes include \$1,000 to the winner, who Hurtado hopes will become an ambassador for Army entertainment.

"If they can represent the Army in a positive way with something that's exceptional, it just reflects on the Army as a whole," he said.

During the finals, which are scheduled for a live, 90-minute telecast on the Pentagon Channel, the runner-up will receive \$500 and the third-place performer will receive \$250. Complete rules of the contest are available at [militaryidol.com](http://militaryidol.com).

"Ultimately, I would like mainstream America to embrace our Soldiers and to embrace our programs," Hurtado said. "That's really always my measure of success. It's not just: 'Did we pull off the final telecast.'"



AUGUST

## 14 / Sunday

**USO-Hawaii** — USO-Hawaii will host its annual 5K/10K base race fund-raiser Sunday at 7 a.m. near Hangar 101 on Wheeler Army Air Field. The entry fees are \$20 per runner, \$15 for military formation runners and \$10 for children under 14.

To obtain an application, go to <http://www.uso.org/hawaii/>.

**Hawaii TV Bowling**—

Join the finest local bowlers in this two-day tournament. Bowlers can compete in the Singlers Event being held today or the Doubles Event being held on Sunday, Aug. 21. (The latter event is a Modified Doubles Event, which requires teams of either a regular bowler and a senior bowler or a regular bowler and a female bowler.) Both events will be televised with a one-week delay on KWHE TV-14.

Cost is \$65 for advance registration or \$75 on the day of event. Individuals interested in participating can pick-up an application at Schofield Bowl or call 655-0573 for more information.

## 21 / Sunday

**"5 Game, No Tap"**—

Individuals are invited to participate in the "5 Game, No Tap" Tournament at the Schofield Bowling Center.

Check-in will be at 1 p.m. and the cost is \$20. Call 655-0573 for more information.

**23 / Tuesday Youth Mini-Sports Basketball**— Youth can learn about basketball and basic skills in the Youth Mini-Sports Basketball program. All youth born in 2000 to 2001 are invited to participate in the program, which runs from Sept. 20 to Nov. 10.

Registration begins today and will run through Sept. 13. Cost is \$10 and includes a T-shirt for the participant. For more details, call your nearest Army Youth Sports Center.



## 26 / Friday

**Company Level Flag Football** — Applications are now being accepted for this intramural sports program. Deadline to register is Friday, Aug. 26.

The season will run from Sept. 6 to Dec. 2. Visit your nearest fitness center for more details or call 655-0856/0101.

## 27 / Saturday

**Hawaii Championship Wrestling** — The action is back at the Tropics. Pro wrestlers will face-off live from 7 to 10 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m.

Cost is \$5 for general admission, \$3 for 11 years and under, and free for age 5 and under. Call 655-

8522/0002 for more information.

## 30 / Tuesday

**Basketball Shootout** — Parents and children can team up in this unique basketball shootout event. The event format positions parents as rebounding and then passing the basketball to children. The shootout is open to children in ages 5 to 14 and will be held at both the Fort Shafter Youth Gym and the Schofield Barracks Bennett Youth Center Gym.

The shootout for youth, ages 9 to 14, will go Friday, Sept. 30, while youth ages 5 to 8 will shoot it out on Friday, Oct. 7.

Registration begins Aug. 30 and will continue through Sept. 21. Cost is \$10 and includes a T-shirt for the youth participant. For more information, call 438-9336.

## SEPTEMBER

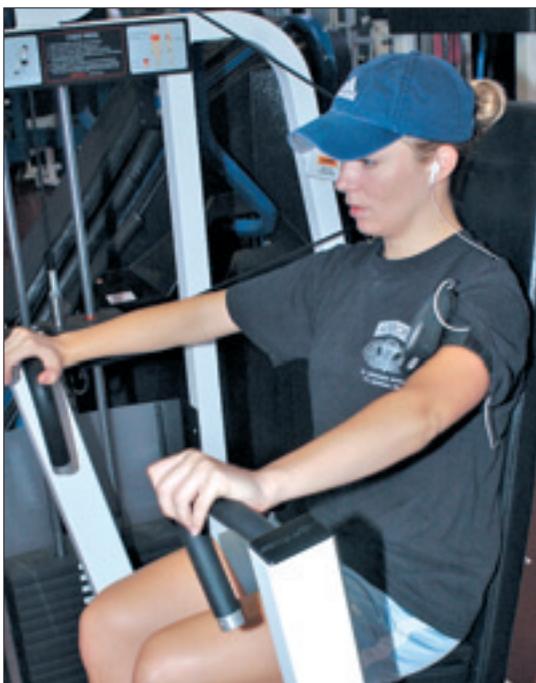
## 4 / Sunday

**Ladies Golf Clinic** — A free golf clinic will be held today at the Leilehua Golf Course located right outside the gate of Wheeler Army Air Field. The clinic will last for one hour and will begin promptly at 3:30 p.m.

All required equipment will be provided to participants and advance reservations are recommended. For more details or to reserve your space, call 655-4653.

## 7 / Wednesday

**Fantasy Football** — Individuals are invited to put on their coaching hat and draft their team of players for the first game of the NFL season being held on Sept. 8

**'Yeah, I can do this...'**

Spc. Juan Jimenez

**Heather Stader works out on a chest press machine at the Schofield Barracks Health and Fitness Center, open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., Saturday and Sundays. On holidays the center is closed.**

at Reggie's. An all-you-can-eat taco bar will be available to enjoy for only \$9.95 and it comes with a pitcher of a selected beverage.

Participants who draft a winning team have an opportunity to win great prizes. Visit Reggie's today from 4 to 7 p.m. to partake in the fun.

Fantasy Football Draft Night starts this week and

continues every Wednesday throughout the NFL season. For more information, call 655-0660.

**Army Youth** — Army youth, ages 10 to 18, can be active in sports without league rules or practices. Various activities such as volleyball, basketball, badminton and kickball will be

conducted weekly at both the Bennett Youth Center on Schofield Barracks and at Aliamanu Military Reservation Youth Center every Wednesday from 3 to 6 p.m. beginning Sept. 7.

This program is free and no registration is required. For more information, contact your local area Youth Sports director.

## 8 / Thursday

**2005 NFL Season** — Visit Reggie's today to watch the first NFL game of the season and cheer your favorite team on. Individuals participating in the Fantasy Football Draft Night promotion held on Wednesdays have an opportunity to receive a prize if their team wins. Stop by and enjoy contests, games, prizes and food specials beginning at 5 p.m. Call 655-0660 for more details.

## ONGOING

**Personal Trainers** — Personal trainers are available to help individuals develop a specialized program to improve their fitness level. These experts can assist with building muscle, losing body fat, and increasing flexibility and nutrition.

Cost is \$30 per hour. Call 655-8007 for more information.

**Muscle Moves** — Tone your muscles using a variety of equipment, including bands, dumbbells, exercise balls and more. Classes are offered every Friday at the Schofield Barracks Health and Fitness Center at 11:45 a.m. Call 655-8007 for more details.



AUGUST

## 13 / Saturday

**Honolulu Dragon Boat Ceremony** — The Honolulu Centennial Dragon Boat Races will hold a special ceremony and blessing tomorrow at 10 a.m. at The Rise, #28, at Ala Moana Beach Park. The celebrity race features Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann's Dragon Boat Team, which will race to the finish against the Honolulu City Council Dragon Boat Team, following the ceremony at 11:30 a.m.

ny at 11:30 a.m.

A racing schedule and list of teams is available online at <http://www.dragonboat.hawaii.org/>.

## 14 / Sunday

**USO Run** — USO-Hawaii will host its annual 5K/10K base race fund-raiser Sunday at Wheeler Army Air Field. Participants may enter either the 10K or 5K. Both timed races begin at 7 a.m., and teams of five to 10 runners may enter the 10K in one of six categories: military, police/fire, corporate, male, female or mixed.

Registration is \$20 for individuals and team members, \$10 for children under 14. Entry forms are in running stores, military base fitness centers and at

[www.uso.org/hawaii](http://www.uso.org/hawaii) and [www.active.com](http://www.active.com).

In addition to operating centers at Honolulu International Airport, and at Hickam Air Force Base for military personnel and their family members, USO-Hawaii frequently provides refreshments to military units as they deploy from Hawaii to overseas locations or transit through the state.

## 20 / Saturday

**Schofield Junior Bowling League** — The fall season begins Aug. 20 at the Schofield Bowling Center. The league will last 30 weeks and cost \$7 each session.

This league is open to bowlers under 22 years of age. All skill levels are welcome.

Costs include coaching for all levels, trophies and Young American Bowling Alliance membership. Contact Phil Weyl at 623-3009 for registration information.



## 27 / Saturday

**Women's Equality Day Run** — This event will be held on Aug. 27 at Stoneman Field on Schofield Barracks. Events include a 5K run, a one-mile children's run, a vendor fair and children's activities including the ever-popular bouncy castle, face painting, and coloring bubbles.

Participants may preregister with Sgt. 1st Class Finholm at 655-3631, or register the day of the race from 6 to 7 a.m. For more information, contact Sgt. 1st Class Vickers at 655-6111.

## 1 / Thursday

**Sergeant Audie Murphy Club Run** — The Sergeant Audie Murphy Club is sponsoring a 5K Charity run on Sept. 1 at Sills Field, Schofield Barracks. Its purpose is to give back to the local community for all the help and support provided to the club over the years.

Registration will run from Wednesday to Aug. 19. and Aug. 24 to 26 at the Tropics, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Register with your unit Sgt. Audie

Murphy brigade representative or brigade command sergeant major, no later than Aug. 15.

The check-in time for this run is 5 to 6 a.m. Each team can have a minimum of five runners, and all runners in the group must complete the run to place. First through third place teams will receive a trophy, and trophies will be awarded to the top four individual finishers in male and female categories.

Runners can designate which charity they would like their proceeds to go to from the names listed on the registration or flyer. The registration fee is \$12 and includes a T-shirt. For more information, call 782-9535 or 655-2879.

# Wolfhound represents Army with 'iron fists'

## Christopher Downs earns bronze in World Military Boxing Championships

Story by Sgt. Sean Kimmons  
Editor

This year has no doubt been productive for Army boxer Christopher Downs.

Downs, a Soldier with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, captured gold at the Armed Forces Boxing Championships last February and snatched a bronze medal at the U.S. Amateur Boxing Nationals in March.

He was on the destructive path again in early July when he earned a bronze in the 81-kilo category at the World Military Boxing Championships in Pretoria, South Africa.

"I was using it as building block," Downs said about the world military boxing championships. "It was a good experience seeing those types of fighters from around the world."

About 280 boxers from 33 countries participated in the military championships. Eight boxers represented the U.S. military services against other — more experienced — international boxers, Downs said.

"Other competitors had hundreds of bouts, [but] if you looked at our pass book, we might have had one or two. So, it was clearly about experience," Downs said about the range of competition.

"With the experience newly gained, I'm standing next year to be a lot more competitive," Downs added.

The 30-year-old Downs, who stands at six feet and four inches and weighs 178 pounds, began his career at a 27th Infantry Regiment "Wolfhound" boxing smoker on

Schofield Barracks in 2003.

"I was always curious about boxing, but I didn't know if I had the courage to get in there and box," Downs said about his first boxing experience. "After the first bout, I was hooked."

Command Sgt. Maj. Karl K. Morgan, command sergeant major of 1st Battalion, 27th Inf. Rgt., remembers Down's performance.

"I don't think anybody [that faced Downs] lasted a full round," Morgan said.

"We had another brigade smoker and the same thing happened. We [then] had a Division smoker, and during the championship fight, the guy who he was boxing threw his hands in the air and took a knee," Morgan said.

Because of his stellar moves in the Division smoker, Downs earned the recognition he deserved for the skills he possessed, and ultimately, made the All-Army team.

In 2004, Downs and thousands others with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Downs made quite the impression on the Army boxing circuit, as one of his previous boxing coaches asked his command in Iraq if he could be redeployed to tryout for the 2005 All-Army team in January.

"My battalion command sergeant major put me on a plane in December, so I could make the All-Army. You can't ask for any more support than that," Downs said.

A few months later, Downs represented the Army in the Armed Forces Boxing Championships and eventually earned berths in the U.S. Boxing Nationals and World Military Boxing Championships.

Downs said that all of these competitions provided him with valuable experience he will use to reach



Above — Christopher Downs (left) scores with a left jab on Brandon Gonzalez, in the men's 178-pound division of the 2005 U.S. Amateur Boxing Nationals held in Colorado Springs, Colo., March 24. Downs earned honors as the bronze medalist in the competition.



Left — Downs defeats the Navy's Deano Jenkins at the Armed Forces Boxing Championship at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., Feb. 18. Downs won his weight class during the event.

Elizabeth Davie

his goal — to qualify for the 2008 Olympics.

His military experience has also strengthened his boxing techniques, he said.

"[I've learned] discipline and [to] pay attention to detail," Downs said

that he has learned from the Army. "You have to have discipline and to pay attention to detail so you make sure you can implement your game plan."

In the near future, Downs leaves Schofield Barracks to be attached

to the World Class Athlete Program at Fort Carson, Colo. There, he will train for upcoming boxing events, so he can represent the Army at his best.

"One day you'll be watching him on HBO," Morgan said.



Courtesy Photo

**'Congrats!'**

The Tripler Army Medical Center men's softball team, the "Wrecking Crew," destroyed this year's competition to capture the 2005 Amateur Softball Association's Hawaii Slow-Pitch Softball Championship at Central Oahu State Park, last month.

**Intramural Softball Standings**

UNIT	WIN	LOSS	PCT.	UNIT	WIN	LOSS	PCT.
<b>East Division</b>				<b>South Division</b>			
407th MI	9	1	0.900	Co. A, 125th Sig.	8	2	0.800
HHC, 25th ID (L)	8	2	0.800	Trp. A, 3/4th Cav.	8	2	0.800
JAG	5	5	0.500	Co. C, 25th Avn.	7	3	0.700
40th QM	4	6	0.400	Co. D, 1st Bn., 25th Avn.	4	6	0.400
58th MP	3	9	0.250	Btry. C, 2nd Bn., 11th FA	2	8	0.200
HHC, 2nd Bde.	1	9	0.100	HHC, 125th Sig.	1	9	0.100
<b>West Division</b>				<b>Women's Division</b>			
Co. B, 65th Eng.	9	1	0.900	58th MP	10	0	1.000
Co. C, 725th MSB	8	2	0.800	3rd Bn., 7th FA	8	2	0.800
Co. B, 225th FSB	6	4	0.600	71st Chem.	4	6	0.400
HQ & A, 725th MSB	3	7	0.300	TAMC	6	4	0.400
556th PSB	4	6	0.400	225th FSB	1	9	0.100
HHC, 84th Eng.	0	10	0.000	205th MI	1	9	0.100
<b>North Division</b>				<b>Fort Shafter Division</b>			
HHC, 1st Bn., 14th Inf.	10	0	1.000	Med. Co. A, Tripler	12	0	1.000
Co. B, 1st Bn., 27th Inf.	7	3	0.700	HHI, 30th Sig.	9	2	0.818
Co. A, 1st Bn., 27th Inf.	4	6	0.400	39th MP	8	3	0.727
Btry. B, 3rd Bn., 7th FA	4	6	0.400	29th Eng. Bn.	6	6	0.500
Co. C, 1st Bn., 27th Inf.	3	7	0.300	196th Inf.	3	6	0.333
Co. A, 1st Bn., 14th Inf.	2	8	0.200	9th RRC	4	8	0.333
				USARPAC	2	10	0.167
				205th MI	1	10	0.091

(Standings are current as of Aug. 5.)

**MWR Briefs**

From B-2

**Sunday Brunch** — Experience a delightful meal featuring brunch favorites along with numerous other choices at Reggie's on Schofield Barracks from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., or at Fort Shafter's Hale Ikena from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost varies by location and children's pricing is available. Call Hale Ikena at 438-1947 or the Nehelani at 655-4466 for reservations or information.

**Pau Hana Friday** — Enjoy cool refreshments and

the chef's choice, a \$2 pupu platter, this afternoon and every Friday, beginning at 4:30 p.m. at Mulligans and Hale Ikena on Fort Shafter. Call 438-1974 for more information.

**Karaoke at Waianae Beach** — Sing along to popular music at this activity held Mondays through Thursdays from 7 to 11:30 p.m., and Fridays from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Call 696-4778 for more information.

**Tropic Lightning** — Enjoy a fast and hot lunch buffet, Monday through Friday, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at

Reggie's. Cost is \$8.95 per person. Call 655-4466 for more details.

**Tropics and Starbucks** — Visit the Ono Isle at the Tropics and enjoy hot and cold Starbucks specialties such as lattes, cappuccinos, mochas, hot chocolate and much more. The Ono Isle serves delicious pastries, desserts and smoothies.

Visit the Tropics in Building 589 on Schofield Barracks. Call 655-0002 for more information.

**Basic Wheel Throwing** — Learn the techniques of managing a pottery wheel.

This course consists of four sessions at a cost of \$35.

Sessions are held at the Fort Shafter Arts and Crafts



Center at 6 p.m. and continue each Thursday. Call 438-1315/1071 for more information.

**Homeschool Support** — Homeschool students are invited to join biweekly group meetings where activities include arts and crafts, field trips, science experiments, computer classes and more.

Call 655-2263 to obtain a copy of the current calendar or learn more about registration.

**Youth Sponsorship** — If you are new to Hawaii and between the ages of 5 and 18, CYS has a welcome gift for you, and a youth sponsor who wants to be your friend. Call 655-2263 for more information.

**SKIES Unlimited** — Your one-stop program for child and youth instructional classes is SKIES Unlimited.

Current offerings include music, martial arts, gymnastics and driver education classes.

Also, register for babysitting certification, which includes CPR and first aid courses.

Hula, "Introduction to Dance" for 3 to 9 year olds (tap, ballet, movement and tumbling) and street dancing, plus, coming soon, modeling and tiny tot opportunities round out offerings. For more information, call 655-5525.