

# HAWAII ARMY WEEKLY

## What's Inside

- Lightning Six ..... A-2
- Training ..... A-3
- Soldiers ..... A-6
- Health ..... A-11
- MWR ..... B-2
- Community ..... B-3

## Soldiers get the Combat Action Badge

Staff Sgt. Manuel Torres-Cortes  
17th Public Affairs Detachment

WHEELER ARMY AIR FIELD — Soldiers stood proudly as they received one of the Army's newest medals for recognizing those who personally engage the enemy, or who have been engaged by the enemy during combat operations.

Nearly 70 Soldiers from the Combat Aviation Brigade received the

Combat Action Badge at a ceremony here Dec. 7.

The badge was approved May 2 of this year by the Chief of Staff of the Army. Both male and female Soldiers in combat military occupational specialty and support roles have earned the badge.

"It truly is an honor to stand before you on this solemn yet infamous occasion, as we remember together the sacrifices of our dead, pay homage to



our veterans old and young alike here in the Pacific, and to recognize the accomplishments of these present-day warriors in the Combat Aviation

Brigade," said Col. Thomas A. Ball, commander of the Combat Avn. Bde..

The badge symbolizes the hard work and heroism of each recipient and reflects upon many other Soldiers who helped make the award possible.

"The award represents a lot more than the guy getting it pinned on his chest," said Capt. Chad A. Roe, platoon leader, 2nd Battalion, 25th Avn.

See "CAB," page A-4



## Marathon

Soldiers of the 25th Special Troops Battalion assisted crews setting up for the Honolulu Marathon. A-6



## Connelly Award

45th Sustainment Brigade food specialists cooked up some delicacies for evaluators judging the Active Army Field Kitchen category of the Philip A. Connelly contest. A-7



## Community Pride

Military children expressed why they take pride in their communities during a recent essay and art contest sponsored by Morale, Welfare and Recreation. B-3

# 25 DAYS

since last fatal accident

As your daily reminder to be safe, place a "red dot" on your wristwatch.

Remember, a division training holiday will be awarded for the first 100 consecutive days with no accidental fatalities.

A four day holiday/long weekend will be awarded for 200 consecutive days with no accidental fatalities.



As of 12/14/05



Spc. Stephen Proctor

## 'Tis the season...

Christmas is almost here! The lighting of this season's tree at the Fort Shafter Community Christmas Tree Lighting and Holiday Concert was celebrated Dec. 8 at historic Palm Circle.

## Cell phone policy refined

Pfc. Durwood Blackmont  
Staff Writer

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — The cell phone ban that has been instituted was issued due to safety concerns when operating a motor vehicle on Hawaii Army installations. These policies have recently been clarified to address any confusion about how and when to operate a cellular phone.

There are two policies that need to be addressed. a

Prior to the publication of the Cell Phone policy there was no definitive guidance on use of cell phones while driving on Hawaii Army Installations. Therefore on 7 November, SJA-4 was published by this command which prohibited driving or being in physical control of a motor vehicle on post while operating a cellular phone or like device.

In late November 2005, The Code of Federal Regulation (32 CFR 634.25) published

See "Cell Phone," page A-10

## CFC donations double in 2005

Sgt. Crista Yazzie  
U.S. Pacific Command Public Affairs

HONOLULU — Hundreds of Department of Defense personnel received recognition for their contributions to the Hawaii-Pacific Combined Federal Campaign 2005, Dec. 6.

"We will give more awards out today than we have given in the 44-year history of our Combined Federal Campaign," said Rear Adm. Van Alford, chief of staff, U. S. Pacific Command, and keynote speaker at the awards ceremony.

A staff that initially expected a slower contribution year instead found an overly benevolent population — so much so, awardees almost doubled.

"It was different this year because of the hurricane," said Chief Petty Officer Deborah Ambuski, member of the CFC planning committee. "We thought donations would be down, but we exceeded our goal, and we actually doubled it," she said.

See "CFC," page A-4

## New homes begin taking shape in Kalakaua area

Ann Wharton  
Army Hawaii Family Housing

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — If you are wondering what's happening behind the black-veiled construction fences surrounding the former Kalakaua Golf Course, wonder no more.

Construction of Schofield's first new residential community is well underway behind those fences.

Tree-lined streets, inviting walking and jogging paths, and — most importantly — new homes will combine to offer Soldiers and their families safe, secure and modern neighborhoods where duffers once chased golf balls.

Homes in the new Kalakaua Community are designated for junior noncommissioned officers, who will begin moving in with their families in June 2006.

"Seeing our new neighborhoods being built is very exciting," said Col. Howard J. Killian, commander, U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii. "The new homes and communities are proof the Army is truly committed to improving the quality of life for our Soldiers and their families."

Killian and the Residential Communities Initiative (RCI) team have provided important leadership in the partnership with Actus Lend



Courtesy Photo

Housing development begins in the new Kalakaua Community. Families will be moving in June 2006

See "Construction," page A-10

Subscribers will receive the *Military Times*, Dec. 23 & 30, when the Hawaii Army Weekly goes on hiatus.

**We want to hear from you...**

The Hawaii Army Weekly welcomes articles from Army organizations, announcements from the general public about community events of interest to the military community, and letters and commentaries.

If you have newsworthy ideas or stories you'd like to write, coordinate with the managing editor at 655-4816, or e-mail editor@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

The editorial deadline for articles and announcements is the Friday prior to Friday publications. Prior coordination is mandatory.

Articles must be text or Word files with complete information, no abbreviations; accompanying photographs must be digital, high resolution, jpeg files with captions and bylines.

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# Lightning Six talks frankly on cell phones

The "Hawaii Army Report" the Army community's television broadcast of news and feature stories on posts and installations in Hawaii, sat down with the commanding general of the 25th Infantry Division, Maj. Gen. Benjamin R. Mixon, to discuss the new cell phone policy and other high-interest issues. Excerpts from the interview, conducted by Cpl. Mary Simms, anchor of the newscast, follow.

**HAR:** Sir, the cell phone policy has been in place for a few weeks now. Can you describe the policy and speak about your intent with regards to the policy?

**Mixon:** My intent focuses on vehicle safety. Actually, the policy itself is being adjusted based on guidance that we have received from the Department of Defense.

This new guidance, which applies to all of the Department of Defense, is that you should not operate a vehicle while talking on your cell phone, unless you're using a hands-free device.

That said, I would encourage all of our Soldiers and family members to not talk on their cell phones and to operate vehicles in a safe manner.

**HAR:** Sir, can you talk to me about some of the results you've seen since the ban has been in place?

**Mixon:** I believe I've seen drivers talking less on their cell phones. We are still finding some who are not complying.

The military policy are stopping those people and taking appropriate actions.

**HAR:** Sir, what type of punishments can people who ignore this new rule expect to face?

**Mixon:** They could be ticketed by military police, they can undergo additional training at a unit level, and in a worse case scenario, maybe nonjudicial or other administrative action.

**HAR:** Sir, I know you advocate riding bicycles to work to be environmentally conscious and that you often ride your own bike to work. While on your bike, have you seen any Soldiers engaged in cell phone conversations and been able to make on-the-spot corrections?

**Mixon:** Well, unfortunately for them, I have found some Soldiers talking on their cell phones while driving. But, they do recognize me, and when I approach their vehicle, they are somewhat embarrassed.

I give them a stern warning and advise them that what I am interested in, as their commander, is their safety and the safety of others on the installation.

**HAR:** Sir, I think almost everyone

has had an experience behind the wheel when they've had to deal with the inattentiveness of another driver due to chatting on a cell phone. Have you gotten any feedback from people on this topic?

**Mixon:** I've had a number of family members and Soldiers approach me thanking me for the policy. They recognize how difficult it is to drive on Schofield with the size of our streets and the continuing construction.

Now they would like for us to take more aggressive action with regard to speeding and other traffic violations. We fully intend to do that throughout the holiday period and beyond.

**HAR:** Sir, what message do you have for the Soldiers, civilians and family members of Schofield Barracks?

**Mixon:** Mainly what I want to encourage all of our family members, Soldiers and Department of Defense employees to do is to be safe.

Watch what you're doing when you're driving. Don't speed. Always wear your seatbelt. Don't drink and



Mixon

drive. And, be courteous to your fellow drivers.

If we can do that on Schofield Barracks and in the greater community, then we'll have a safe holiday season, and we will prevent accidents.

*(Editor's Note: The commanding general concluded his remarks extending holiday greetings.)*



Spc. Tyrone C. Marshall Jr.

## Soldier's Medal

Cpl. Dean J. Rudolph, 25, of Hilo, Hawaii, and a human resource specialist with the 3-7th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, received the Soldier's Medal — the Army's highest peacetime award — for assisting another service member in rescuing a woman from a burning vehicle on Kamehameha Highway in May of 2005.

The six-year Army veteran was presented the Soldier's

Medal, Tuesday, by the commanding general of 25th Infantry Division, Maj. Gen. Benjamin R. Mixon.

The ceremony took place in front of the 25th ID War Memorial while Soldiers from Rudolph's unit looked on.

Rudolph's sons, Keokalani, 3, and Keanu, 2, watched as their father was presented the award. Afterwards, father and sons posed for a keepsake photo with the commanding general.

## Lightning Spirit

# Do tales of Narnia relate to Advent, Christmas?

Chaplain (Capt.) James Lester  
29th Engineer Battalion Chaplain

Journey with me into a land that has been frozen for years, a land where there is no Christmas and all who oppose the authority of the White Witch are turned to stone!

Yes it's a land called Narnia. C.S. Lewis wrote the book *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe* as an allegory, to help explain the belief that someone had died for him;

That person would be Jesus.

As we celebrate the Advent season, we have four candles that are lit each Sunday to describe the emotions that we have as we look to the birth of the Messiah.

In *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*, we encounter four children who journey from World War II England through a wardrobe, and then to a place that is completely frozen and ruled by an evil witch.

As these children journey to a final confrontation with the White Witch, we can draw parallels with Advent.

The first candle of Advent is hope; it's the hope of a return of the Savior.

Narnia is hoping for the return of Aslan the lion who created Narnia. He has been gone ever so long, and the creatures are hoping for his return and the fulfillment of the prophecy of two sons of Adam and two daughters of Eve, who will sit on the thrones at paraval.

When this happens the rule of the White Witch will be overthrown.

The second candle is peace. We know that we are far from a world of perfect peace, but we can find peace in trusting in God.

Narnia also has no peace; in fact, Edmund the youngest boy has fallen under the witch's spell of Turkish delight. This represents temptation. Temptation looks good, but eventually will lead you down the wrong path.

By giving into the temptation, Edmund is willing to betray his brother and sisters for more Turkish delight.

The third candle is joy. The angels cried "Joy to

the World, "and we have joy at the return of the King.

Narnia rejoices at the return of Aslan; the spell of endless winter is broken and Father Christmas can return. Aslan is on the move.

The fourth candle is love. Jesus came not only to be born on Christmas day, but also to lay down his life for all of us.

Edmund's life belonged to the White Witch because of his betrayal, but Aslan commits a selfless act and offers his own life for Edmunds. This was truly an example of unconditional love.

When you see the movie and read the book, try to look beyond a simple story and see true meanings.

We in the Army can relate to this story. Our Soldiers daily put their life on the line for others.

I encourage you to take time to pray for our Soldiers and for their families ... to lend a helping hand this Christmas to those who might be in need.

God bless you, and Merry Christmas!



# Voices of Lightning: What has been the best thing for you in 2005?



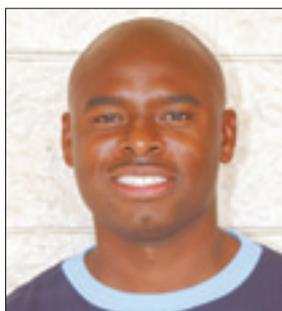
"...Joining the Army."

Pvt. Eric Gansel  
Co. C, 2nd Bn., 27th Inf. Rgt.  
Infantryman



"...Troops coming back."

Spc. Latoya Cambell  
Special Troops Bn.  
Signal Section



"...Going to North Korea and coming back to Hawaii to my family."

Staff Sgt. Cordell Childs  
HHC, 125th Signal Bn.  
Motor NCO



"...Coming to Hawaii."

Staff Sgt. Tracy McCree  
Aviation Bde.  
Brigade Safety NCO



"...That I got married."

Jessica Miller  
Family Member

# 3rd Brigade STB intensifies lane training

Story and Photos by  
Sgt. Maurice Smith  
3rd Brigade Public Affairs Office

**SCHOFIELD BARRACKS** — While Santa is loading up his sleigh for a worldwide odyssey, many Soldiers here are stuffing their ruck sacks in preparation for missions ahead.

The 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion spent all of last week conducting its Squad Lane Training, which began with a ruck march from Schofield Barracks to East Range, Monday morning.

“We are conducting our squad lanes, which are individual and squad-based exercises testing each of the different MOSs [military occupational specialties] within our unit, on their specific warrior skills and MOS-specific skills,” said Capt. Fred Schwarz, S-4 officer in charge, 3rd BSTB.

The 3rd BSTB is a unique battalion that consists of more than one type of MOS, including engineers, military police, signal and military intelligence.

After marching to the training site, the battalion’s Soldiers split up into 15 squads of specific job skills, and then they trained to master each of their crafts.

The engineers’ training involved bridge demolition, breaching, mine clearing, route recon and obstacles. Military intelligence training included detainee operations and prophet operations.

The battalion’s MPs completed route recon, detainee operations and mounted patrols, while the Signal Company ran all 15 squads through a battalion-directed lane where squads reacted at night to both far and near ambushes and indirect fire.



**Sgt. Raymond Isner rappels under a bridge to set charges for the bridge demolition.**

The 3rd BSTB continues to train like this in support of the 25th Infantry Division’s orders to deploy in the near future. Operation Iraqi Freedom is the most important mission on the radar for the 3rd BSTB, and every training exercise the battalion accomplishes in the meantime is to increase combat readiness for this mission.

According to the Soldiers, the lane training was very effective for combat and combat support.

“This is a pretty good learning experience. You are certifying yourself to be able to do your job in the field,” said Spc. Sophia Martinez, 3rd BSTB. “It’s to familiarize yourself with what’s probably going to happen when you go out to deploy for each different MOS,” she added.”

Not only does training increase job and combat skill, but it also increases morale and confidence in

one another, according to Schwarz.

“The Soldiers will have a good esprit de core once they finish all of this training as a squad, and they’ll have a better sense of what we expect of them out of their MOS, if and when we do go back to Iraq or Afghanistan,” Schwarz said.

“I feel real comfortable with being deployed with my unit, and my command that I have,” said Pvt. 2 Lydia Russell, 3rd BSTB.

Aside from its combat readiness, the unit also showed it is equipped and ready to handle unexpected events. Two public affairs officers popped up on the scene and surprised the Soldiers by testing them on operational security (OPSEC).

“OPSEC consists of all the actions a unit takes to protect its personnel and equipment. This in turn, leads

See “3rd BSTB,” page A-6



**1st Lt. Jonathan Martinez gets a tough OPSEC interview during his lane training at East Range.**

# Soldiers earn coveted Expert Infantry Badge

Story and Photo by  
Spc. Leslie Alberts  
3rd Brigade Public Affairs Office

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Once a year, a select group of infantrymen test their knowledge and skill to earn the coveted Expert Infantry Badge. Come Dec. 16, a minority of those that accept the challenge will accomplish their goal of wearing this "mark of infantry excellence" on their chest.

Approximately 290 Soldiers were invited to 3rd Brigade's two-week Expert Infantry Badge (EIB) qualification course that commenced Dec. 5 and culminates in an award ceremony today at Area X here. The EIB candidates included 3rd Brigade Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment; 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment; 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry; 2nd Brigade Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment; and seven Soldiers from the California National Guard.

"The EIB is awarded to infantrymen who have demonstrated their mastery over all of an infantry Soldier's basic, necessary skills," said Command Sgt. Maj. Frank M. Leota, command sergeant major, 3rd Brigade. "The EIB is the best tool available to ensure that an infantry Soldier has a comprehensive command over basic infantry skills."

In addition, the EIB plays a key role in distinguishing infantrymen looking to make the Army a career.

"The impact is that at some point in time it becomes the reason one may get selected for promotion or not," Leota continued.

Traditionally, EIB qualification



Sgt. Edgar Salas, of the 2-27th Inf. Rgt., demonstrates grenade tosses during EIB training.

is offered once a year. However, due to the operational tempo of Division deployments, Leota explained that the last time the 3rd Brigade conducted testing was approximately two years ago.

To wear the badge, a Soldier must pass a grueling series of standardized and timed hands-on tests covering all basic infantry skills. The EIB course consists of 32 skill stations broken down into three lanes — red, white and blue.

Each lane contains 10-to-11 stations. The skills that are tested range from demonstrating expertise over various infantry weapons systems: the 50-caliber, 240B machineguns and the squad automatic weapon (SAW) to first aid and radio communications.

"Before you can even get to the course, a Soldier must qualify expert on his weapon, successfully perform day and night land navigation, complete a twelve-mile foot

march with a minimum of thirty-five pounds in three hours or less, and pass an Army Physical Fitness test," Leota explained. "In addition, each Soldier must receive the recommendation from their respective battalion commanders before they can even become a candidate for EIB."

Soldiers stayed in the field spending the first eight days familiarizing themselves with each station and practicing those that were

most challenging. During the final three-day qualification period, Soldiers must get a "go" at all 32 stations to earn the EIB, according to Sgt. 1st Class Clint MacMiller, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry, "blue lane" noncommissioned officer in charge.

"At a particular station you can 'no-go' once. If that scenario occurs, then that Soldier must return within one hour and retest at that station," said MacMiller. "If he then passes, he continues qualifying. A Soldier can earn the EIB despite receiving two 'first-time no-gos.' However, either a third first time no-go, or two no-goes at any one station, disqualifies a candidate," he said.

"This is a big deal for roughly thirty percent of the guys that will pass," said MacMiller. "The fact that we are doing this will also make us a more combat-ready brigade. Now we will have that many more infantry Soldiers prepared to do the tasks that are expected of them in theater."

Among those candidates who agreed was Sgt. Daniel Sigmon, Company C, 1-14th, 2nd Brigade.

"Earning the EIB is a significant step in your career," said Sigmon. "Sergeant majors that I have come across in my career have all said, 'Get your EIB and Range Tab and nothing will stop you.'"

"Even if it doesn't prove anything to anyone else, it proves to you that you're doing your job. Also, your Soldiers will have more confidence in you as a noncommissioned officer, knowing that you went out their and mastered all necessary infantry tasks," emphasized Sigmon.

## CFC: Campaign ends in a big way

From A-1

"Last year, there were 250 award recipients ... this year, 426."

The Combined Federal Campaign, created by President John F. Kennedy in 1961, is the annual fundraising drive conducted by federal employees in their workplace each fall. This year's campaign, hosted by the U.S. Pacific Command, embraced the theme "Heroes of the Pacific, Be One!"

"Let's recognize our heroes because almost every pledge this year was almost [\$180] dollars, and over [29,000] people pledged," Alford emphasized.

The six-week campaign was truly a remarkable achievement in a time of difficulty, according to Alford.

"It shows once again the great heart and the great spirit of the employees of our federal government, and my hats off to every one of

you for all your hard-working efforts," he said.

CFC is one campaign, once a year, yet all-inclusive. All Department of Defense employees, both civilian and military, may contribute. The CFC brochure lists thousands of nonprofit charities individuals may contribute to, with an option to do so through payroll deductions. Each year federal employees raise millions of dollars through the CFC.

"Doing this is extremely fulfilling because you help out all the nonprofit organizations," Ambuski said. "We're a big voice for them."

More than \$5 million were pledged in 2005.

"We are here today to recognize all the people in the units that have stepped forward," Alford said. "I am amazed at the optimism and the level of energy of everyone involved in the campaign. We had a super team from the Combined Federal Campaign headquarters."

The ceremony closed with Alford passing the torch from PACOM to U.S. Army Pacific, represented by Lt. Gen. John M. Brown III, commanding general of USARPAC. "The tradition, I believe, is to pass because you help out all the nonprofit organizations," Ambuski said. "We're a big voice for them." More than \$5 million were pledged in 2005.



## CAB: Combat Avn. awards 70

From A-1

Regt. "You represent the whole unit when you receive an award like this, but there are so many people behind the scenes."

The Dec. 7 ceremony recognized the Soldiers of the brigade, and remembered aviation Soldiers who gave their lives fighting and defending 1941 Wheeler.

"Twenty-five dive bombers came through Kolekole Pass, dropped approximately 35 bombs on these same hangars and headquarters at Wheeler Field, where we work everyday and house our helicopters," explained Ball, "where my family and some of your families reside," he continued. "So today we recognize the group of Soldiers standing before you, for putting their lives at risk for the same ideals which that young aviator serving here on WAAF in December of 1941 fought and died for."

Speakers told stories of former aviator pilots to accentuate the importance of the Soldiers' role in aviation and the military. Speakers emphasized those receiving the Combat Action Badge are part of the rich history of the Combat Avn. Bde.

"I am firmly convinced that 60 years from now young people will regard them as the world's next 'Greatest Generation,'" said Ball. "The changes that our Army is currently bringing to parts of the world are certain-



1st Lt. Erin E. Heupel

Command Sgt. Maj. Jerry L. Taylor (right) pins 1st Lt. Ethan Olberding, 3-4th Cavalry, Dec. 7.

ly no less dramatic than those which occurred as a result of [World War] II."

A silver badge, the Combat Action Badge is two inches in width, consisting of an oak wreath supporting a rectangle, bearing a bayonet surmounting a grenade. Stars are added at the top to indicate subsequent awards. The bayonet and grenade are associated with active combat, and the oak wreath symbolizes strength and loyalty.

# Spouses stay strong as 84th Engineers deploy

Pfc. Durwood Blackmon  
Staff Writer

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Meaghan Long bid her husband Sgt. Raymond D. Long of Company A, 84th Engineers, farewell as he and other members of the 84th Engineer Battalion deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom early Dec. 9.

Meaghan is one of many family members who had the daunting task of watching loved ones in uniform deploy. Despite the fact her husband is a 16-year veteran of the Army, and is on his second deployment, she still finds it difficult to watch him leave.

"You would think that maybe things would get a little easier, but it's harder. It was an emotional night last night with all the spouses. It was a little overwhelming for everybody," Long said.

Enormous pressure and tension goes with a deployment not only for the Soldier but also for the spouse left behind. Where two once shared household responsibilities, one must now carry the burden of both roles.

"You just try to get everything that you can, in order, and have a good support system. People that you can call on, if you need something, are available and knowing who your Family Readiness Group leaders are important," said Long.

Long, in particular, has taken the responsibility with co-leader and longtime friend Katharine Emberson to head the 84th FRG that provides support to those family members whose spouse has been deployed.

"We want to keep a very relaxed atmosphere and organize things like a potluck; put out any



**Left- Sgt. Raymond Long enjoys family time with wife Meaghan and their two children Abbey, 11 and Aiden 5 before his deployment.**

him reading a book, but we just ran out of time. That's so bad to say, but things are just so hectic before a deployment," Long explained. "We can do video teleconferencing, e-mail and hopefully phone calls," she continued.

In 2004, Sgt. Raymond D. Long was critically injured in a mortar attack during a deployment to Iraq. Long dedicated himself to rehabilitation and made a valiant recovery.

Only a few months after his attack, he re-enlisted. His recent deployment comes a little less than a year since he was wounded.

The Long's experiences as a family have made them stronger and more appreciative.

information we have, make sure everyone is OK and see if they need anything," Long explained. "Also, just keeping involved and talking to each other. It's a lot easier for me to be around others that are going through the same thing."

Even with the best support, preparing for deployment is a difficult family affair. Soldiers may be tough, but often their backbone lies in their belief in duty, dedication to their jobs and support from their family. As Soldiers mentally and physically organize themselves, their families must remain positive to cope with the upcoming changes.

"Fortunately, I'm able to stay home with my kids, because it is hard enough on them when my spouse leaves ... I'm just trying to keep the family together and as

stable as possible to make things

easier for my husband. If your family is taken care of here then it's not a worry over there," Long said.

This year the Longs celebrated Christmas during the Thanksgiving holiday. Although the holidays can add stress to an already delicate situation, simple communication alternatives can be beneficial. With a little imagination and compromise, a Soldier's presence can be felt no matter where he or she is at, or no matter what time of year it might be.

"We have pictures ... we were going to do a video of

Meaghan Long still recalls the injury and said, "Last year was probably the roughest year that we have ever been through. My husband got injured in a mortar attack. I don't know how you can prepare for that, but it was very tough."

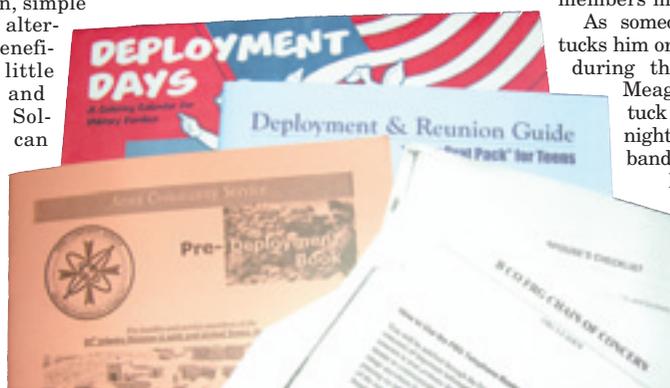
"I went to be with him at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington D.C., when he was doing his recovery. That is the most humbling experience I've ever had in my life. ... Seeing how much worse things can be. When you think you have it bad, there's always somebody else who has got it worse," she emphasized.

Long continued, "We feel very fortunate for what we have and made a pact that we were going to try to make a difference and make things more positive for everyone around us. That's my goal. If I can help spouses through this deployment and they can help me, I'll be doing good."

Deployment is certainly a trying time for Soldiers and their families, especially during the holidays. Support and preparation are detrimental to making a smooth transition when service members must leave.

As someone's mother or father tucks him or her into bed each night during this holiday season, so Meaghan Long will tuck her children in for a night's sleep without her husband.

Physically, he may be distanced by many miles, but as she reads letters to her children from their dad, his presence and the pride they have for him is felt close in their hearts.





Digital Collage by Sueann Carter

## 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command settles in

Story and Photos by  
Staff Sgt. Kymberly Green  
94th Army Air and Missile Defense  
Command

FORT SHAFTER — Although the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command may have only

been here on the island for a few months, many say Oahu already feels like a mainland home.

"I am adjusting well; Hawaii is a great place to be," said Spc. Earle D. Hudson, executive administration assistant to the deputy G-3. "Our section is pretty

close, and because we are top heavy, they have taught me in order to be the best you must train harder than the rest."

Since the 94th AAMDC activated in October, the Soldiers here have participated in two major command-level exercises.

"Our main focus is the Soldier," said Command Sgt. Maj. Robert S. Rodgers, 94th AAMDC command sergeant major. "I take a personal interest in all that they [94th AAMDC Soldiers] do. We here at the 94th plan to deliver quality training, equipment

and leadership to all Soldiers.

"To me, they are the heroes for answering the 'Call to Duty,'" the sergeant major continued. "Therefore, when on duty or off duty, on my watch, I want them to feel like this is their home away from home."

## 3rd BSTB: Squads get OPSEC test

From A-3

to mission accomplishment, making it extremely important," said Maj. Blace Albert, training OIC.

During OPSEC training, Soldiers were asked a series of tough questions relating to information that shouldn't be released to the media such as deployment dates, combat strength, equipment and numbers of Soldiers in the battalion.

From enlisted to officer, Soldiers were put in front of a camera and then manipulated a little by the PAOs, who were trying to get them to let their guards down — all before asking any questions dealing with OPSEC.

The two answers of the day were, "I don't know" and "I can't release that information." More than 90 percent of the tested Soldiers withheld important information and passed with flying colors.

All in all, it was a good training experience within the current training exercise, according to Albert.

"Soldiers benefited because 95 percent of them have never felt the anxiety of being in front of a camera," he explained. "Even those Soldiers who answered the questions well may not have come across as confident," Albert added. "Allowing them to view their nonverbal language is a very important part of the training."

## Soldiers assist crews at Honolulu Marathon

Story and Photos by  
Pfc. Kyndal Brewer  
Staff Writer

HONOLULU — With more than 27,000 people at the starting line from all throughout the world, Hawaii's annual Honolulu Marathon commenced here Sunday.

Runners pounded the streets as they ran past ocean beaches, mountains, historic monuments, Waikiki and the mansions of Kahala.

Everyone from children to the elderly, military to civilians, top athletes to disabled runners participated to support charities ... or just for the personal challenge of completing a 26-mile run.

The Honolulu Marathon is the third largest race in the country and the sixth largest in the world. However, although finishing the marathon is the biggest challenge by far, much preparation is required to set up the course.

Ken MacDowell, the co-race director, said crews start preparing for the race many, many months in advance to make sure everything goes smoothly.

Safety is the biggest issue, and MacDowell explained that most on-duty police officers are assigned to traffic control on race day.

"The big challenge is getting the course set up for race day, making arrangements for all the logistics, police and everything that goes into the race day," MacDowell said.

Twelve Soldiers with Company A, 25th Special Troops Battalion, lent



Soldiers with Company A, 25th Special Troops Battalion work hard unloading supplies and setting up rest areas at the finish line Fri. Dec. 9 for participants of the Honolulu Marathon who completed the 26-mile long run in Waikiki.

support two days before the race. They set up cots and other equipment at the finish line, so runners could rest and "take a load off" after they completed the marathon.

"I think what we're doing here is a really good thing," said Pvt. 2 Shane Flores, a Soldier with Co. A, 25th STB. "It's a great opportunity to show our support to the community."



Pvt. 2 Shane Flores with Co. A, 25th STB, struggles with one of the cots as he puts it together for the race on Sun.

# 'Restaurant in a box' competes for Army honors

Story and Photo by  
Spc. David House  
17th Public Affairs Detachment

**SCHOFIELD BARRACKS** — Cloaked in camouflage netting and guarded by armed Soldiers, the cooks of Headquarters, Special Troops Battalion, 45th Sustainment Brigade, could not hide the aroma of food emanating during the Philip A. Connelly Active Army Field Kitchen competition, Dec. 8.

The Phillip A. Connelly Award is co-sponsored by the Department of the Army and the International Food Service Executives Association (IFSEA). The program aims to improve the quality of food service.

"Following the traditional garrison competition held earlier this year, the field kitchen category is still judged by the same basic criteria," said Art Ritt, an event evaluator from IFSEA. "Although the taste test is most important, we also look for items such as site setup, menu selection, preparation, creativeness, safety measures and sanitation."

Seventeen Soldiers have been working diligently since Aug. 25 in anticipation of the final evaluation.

"Working as a team also brings an educational opportunity for everyone to learn something new," said Sgt. Aiesha Simmons, also of Headquarters and Headquarters Co., STB, 45th Sust. Bde.

"We have performed well so far, and I know that we are going to win."

Other Soldiers were just as proud of the equipment made available to them in today's Army.

"What we have here is a restaurant in a box," said Sgt 1st Class Stephan Dolic, assistant dining facility manager, 725th Sust. Bde.. "It is a step up from what was being used in the past. Previous kitchen trailers were smaller and barely had enough electricity to get the job done."

"The one we are using now is the latest innovation of the CK [containerized kitchen], complete with 10,000 watt generators, running water, a hood venting system and the

comforts of heating and air conditioning," Dolic continued. "Also, equipment like this is the best training one can have in anticipation for a deployment."

The Soldiers of the 45th Sust. Bde. are now on pins and needles. They are awaiting the announcement of the Connelly award winners at the end of this month.

**Event judge Art Ritt reviews procedures for garnishing vegetable with Sgt. Aiesha Simmons during the Army field kitchen category of the Philip A. Connelly competition at Schofield Barracks, Dec. 8.**



## News Briefs

**Shoebbox Gifts for Homeless** — Saturday, the One By One Foundation will walk the beaches of the Waianae Coast — part of their monthly service project — to aid the homeless. Normally, the foundation provides funds and supplies for homeless to wash clothes in local laundromats; however, Saturday, the group wants to provide shoeboxes filled with gifts for children of homeless adults.



Contact [www.onebyone-hawaii.org](http://www.onebyone-hawaii.org), immediately, to contribute a shoebox gift. Simply place a notecard outside the box stating gender and age information for the intended recipient, for example, "girl, age 10."

For more details, see [www.onebyonehawaii.org](http://www.onebyonehawaii.org)

**CAO Closures** — The Oahu North Community Director's office will be closing both of its Community Action Officer satellite offices. The satellite offices at Wheeler Army Air Field and Helemano Military Reservation will close and relocate to Schofield Barracks, Building 690, Room 3C. The last day of operation will be Sunday.

Hours of operation at Schofield will be 9 a.m. till 4:30 p.m. on Mondays through Wednesdays and Fridays, and from 8:15 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Thursdays. For more information, call 655-4473 or 655-0497.

**Wednesday Dinner** — A committee of local families wants to thank service members for their sacrifices and serving the country in the time of war.

All military who are recovering from injuries and those who have been discharged due to their injuries fighting the global war on terrorism in Iraq and Afganistan are invited to a full Christmas dinner, along with their immediate family, at Sam Seeds, the Navy/Marine Corps Golf Course, 943 Valkenburgh St. (off Nimitz Highway and near the Navy Exchange), Dec. 21 at 6 p.m.

Call 988-2733 to RSVP. Dinner features live music, a famous piano soloist, hula dancing, a raffle and the Christmas dinner.

This invitation is open to the first 130 service members who respond.

**Troops To Teachers** — Gain valuable information about the the Troops to Teachers program and the teaching profession. Participate in sessions with a local representative any first Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Education

# Oahu remembers Dec. 7, 1941

JO2 Ryan C. McGinley  
Staff Writer, Hawaii Navy News

On the morning of Dec. 7, 1941, approximately one hour before the Japanese air attack on the island of Oahu, sailors stationed aboard the destroyer USS Ward (DD 139) intercepted and sank a Japanese submarine at the entrance to Pearl Harbor, thereby firing the first shots of the War in the Pacific.

Five surviving Ward Sailors along with all those who served on that fateful day were honored Dec. 7 on the USS Arizona Memorial Visitor's Center waterfront lawn in a ceremony commemorating the 64th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

"It is a distinct honor and a humbling privilege to be here," said Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Mullen, keynote speaker for the ceremony. "I say 'humbling' because I know we stand in the company of men and women who remember this place not only as the beautiful paradise it is, but also as a bloody, unforgiving scene it once was.

"As we remember the 1,177 that rest beneath the Arizona, and we pay tribute to the almost 2,400 who fell that day, the most important questions are: Did their sacrifice count? Did it matter?"

"Maybe one reason that each of you survived was to answer that question. To bear witness that none, not one of your comrades died in vain..."

More than 1,500 people attended the solemn ceremony, which featured a 21-gun salute by the U.S. Marine Corps' 3rd Marine Regiment, an F-15 Eagle missing man flyover by the Hawaii Air National Guard, morning colors and the "National Anthem" performed by a Naval Station ceremonial guard and the U.S. Pacific Fleet Band.

During the ceremony, Daniel Martinez, National Park Service historian, gave an abbreviated account of USS Ward's historic encounter with the Japanese submarine, emphasizing its role in setting the tone for every service member's resilience and dedication during the war.

The Pearl Harbor-based guided missile destroyer USS Chafee (DDG 90) passed through the Adm. Bernard Clarey Bridge and rendered honors to the memorial during the ceremony as Sailors stationed aboard the ship "manned the rails."

"It is a privilege for USS Chafee and its sailors to be a part of this ceremony, to com-



Photos by JO2 Ryan C. McGinley/Digital Montage by Sueann Carter

Survivors, military and distinguished guests all gathered to commemorate the 64th anniversary of the fateful Dec. 7, 1941.

memorate the anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor," said Cmdr. John M. Clausen, commanding officer of Chafee. "Today's ceremony reminds each of us what an honor it is to serve. We must never forget to honor the service and sacrifice of those who answered our nation's call that day and throughout World War II."

Representatives of each of the five branches of the military, the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association, the state of Hawaii, and various other veteran and patriotic organizations, made more than 30 wreath presentations at the visitor's center and on the USS Arizona Memorial.

Hawaii's senior senator and Medal of Honor recipient Sen. Daniel Inouye, honorary guest speaker for the ceremony, spoke of the steadfast determination of the armed forces and

American people after the attack, and its effect on the outcome of the war.

"[Dec. 7, 1941] was a day when weaker souls would have surrendered," he said. "But out of ashes ... came our resilience, a resolute determination and an unwavering spirit of the American people. This spirit of America united and galvanized people; it gave us the strength in the face of adversity and made us unwilling to accept defeat.

"As Adm. Isoroku Yamamoto, commander of the Japanese fleet, said after the attack," Inouye continued, "We have just awakened the dragon."

Mullen emphasized that although the Pearl Harbor attacks happened 64 years ago, the lessons, spirit and determination still ring true today in the ongoing fight against terrorism.

"It is difficult to stand here 64 years later on

Dec. 7th, and not think of another infamous day, of a surprise attack of terrible horrors, and of a nation stirring to defend itself," Mullen said. "The memories of December 7th and September 11th are etched in our souls.

"The images of smoke and twisted steel and human suffering often overpower us. But, perhaps, what is most common about the two days is the uncommon courage of those who were there, and their will to turn tragedy into triumph, defeat into victory, war into lasting peace.

"On September 11th, it was as if the spirit of one generation instinctively passed to another. Perhaps that is why this place still draws us ... because here America first became a target, and here America first fought back."

## News Briefs

From A-7

Center, Room 223.

All military and spouses are welcome. Call 587-5580, extension, 409, or e-mail hawaiiittt@notes.k12.hi.us for more information.

**"The Wave"** — This Fort Shafter worship service meets each Sunday at 9 a.m. in the Fort Shafter dining facility. You are invited to worship and attend the breakfast potluck. For more details, call Chaplain (Capt.) James Lester at 438-1816.

### 2006 FBI Recruitment

Are you interested in a career with the FBI as a Special Agent? Learn about the FBI by attending the monthly FBI career presentation on Jan. 5, 2006, at the Aloha Center, Building 690, third floor conference room, from 10 to 11 a.m.

For confirmation, call 655-1028. For information on future monthly presentations, call Special Agent Kal Wong at 566-4488.

Entry-level salary is \$49,347 (GS-10) during academy training; salary ranges from \$59,418 to \$67,220 upon graduation.

### GSA Annual Inventory

The Hickam GSA Customer Supply Center will be closed for inventory Jan. 9 - 13, 2006, and will reopen Jan. 17, 2006. The GSA store located at Schofield Barracks will be open for supply needs during the Hickam Air Force Base closure. For more information, contact Teresa DeMello at 448-8937.

**IO Specialists** — Functional Area 30, Information Operations, is seeking highly motivated year group 1997-2002 officers for expanding IO opportunities in brigade combat

teams, divisions, corps and joint positions. Interested officers in year groups 1998-2001 can request career field designation by completing the online preference form at [www.hrc.army.mil/site/active/opfa/mdd/cfd\\_Upcoming\\_boards.htm](http://www.hrc.army.mil/site/active/opfa/mdd/cfd_Upcoming_boards.htm) or contact Maj. Mogavero, Information Operations career management officer, at [gregory.mogavero@us.army.mil](mailto:gregory.mogavero@us.army.mil) or 703-325-5791 for more details.

All other interested officers can request redesignation to Information Operations through the HRC Information Operations career management officer. Fort Leavenworth

points of contact at the U.S. Army Information Operations Proponent are Lt. Col. Ken Krumm at 913-684-5318 or David Pendleton at 913-684-5320.

**Purple Heart** — The president of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Hawaii chapter, Thomas Tanaka, is extending a one-year free enrollment in the local MOPH chapter to all MOPH recipients from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Interested recipients of the Purple Heart should contact Tanaka at 988-2820 for more details.

# Mere seconds can destroy festivities

Spc. Juan F. Jimenez  
Staff Writer

**SCHOFIELD BARRACKS** — The holiday season is a time when families come together to celebrate and lift spirits, and decorating the home and office are key parts of these celebrations.

Unfortunately, it only takes a split second for all the fun and magic of the season to turn into a nightmare. A fire, caused by holiday lights and tree, can consume everything that a family has worked hard to attain.

Each year in the state of Hawaii, one to two fires sparked by holiday decorations lead to thousands of dollars in damages, and sometimes even the loss of life.

"It takes about forty-two seconds for an entire living room to become engulfed in flames," said Captain Bob Chandler of the Honolulu Fire Department here on Schofield Barracks.

"Typically shorts in electrical lights or open flames from candles, lighters or matches start tree fires," according to the U.S. Fire Administration.

Using a real Christmas tree can increase the risk of fires in homes

because it requires maintenance that people may not have time to provide. Artificial trees, on the other hand, tend to be safer because they are cleaner and less maintenance is required for them.

HFD suggests you take the following simple, life-saving steps to ensure a safe and happy holiday season:



- A real tree should not lose green needles when tapped on the ground.
- A real tree stand should hold at least one gallon of water when

placed in a properly sized tree base.

- The water level of a real tree stand must be checked daily.
- Carefully inspect each light decoration for cracked sockets, frayed, loose or bare wires.
- Always unplug a light string or an electrical decoration before replacing a light bulb or fuse.
- Don't overload extension cords.
- Turn off holiday lights and decorations before leaving home or going to sleep.
- Make sure all fire detectors work properly.
- Plan an escape route from the home and know at least two exits from each room.
- After holiday parties, check around and under furniture and the tree for smoldering cigarettes.
- Have an operable fire extinguisher readily available.

"We urge everybody to know and follow these safety tips, so they can enjoy their holidays to the max," said Capt. Chandler.

For additional information, visit [www.honolulufire.org/christmas99](http://www.honolulufire.org/christmas99) or [www.usfa.fema.gov/safety/tips/treefire.shtm](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/safety/tips/treefire.shtm).

## Chapel Worship Holiday Schedules

**At Schofield Barracks & Wheeler Army Air Field**

### DECEMBER

- 18th, Fourth Sunday of Advent, regularly scheduled times
- 21st, Soup, sandwiches and evening prayer and study
- 24th, Christmas Eve 7 p.m., Protestant Service at MPC
- 7 p.m., Lessons/Carols/Candle Light Service at Soldier's Chapel
- 7 p.m., Protestant Candlelight Service — "Service of the Nativity" at Wheeler Chapel
- 10 p.m., Christmas Vigil Mass at MPC
- 25th, Christmas Day 9 a.m., Protestant Service at MPC
- 10:30 a.m., Christmas Mass at MPC
- 10:30 a.m., Protestant Service at Wheeler Chapel
- 12 p.m., Gospel Ser-

vice at MPC

- 28th, Soup, sandwiches and evening prayer and study
- 31st New Year's Eve 5 p.m., Vigil Mass at MPC a 9 a.m., Protestant Service at Fort Shafter 9:45 a.m., Protestant and Gospel Joint Christmas Service at AMR
- 9 a.m., Protestant Service at Fort DeRussy
- 31st, New Year's Eve 5 p.m., Vigil Mass for Solemnity of Mary at Fort DeRussy
- 5 p.m., Vigil Mass for Solemnity of Mary at AMR Chapel

### JANUARY

- 1st, New Year's Day 9 a.m., Protestant Service at Fort Shafter 9:45 a.m., Protestant and Gospel Joint New Year's Service at AMR 9 a.m., Protestant Service at Fort DeRussy

# Wheeler Aviators restore bygone era P40

Staff Sgt. Manuel Torres-Cortes  
17th Public Affairs Detachment

WHEELER ARMY AIR FIELD — Soldiers and contractors took part in a project to bring history back to life for the Soldiers, families and community of Oahu.

Sgt. Ricardo Thongs and Sgt. Adolfo T. Mistica, Jr., both of Company C, 25th Aviation Regiment's "Black-sheep," along with contractor Clarence Mariano and his team, began restoring the P-40B, a World War II Curtis Tomahawk airplane, in June 2004. They completed the project in November.

In 1974, 20th Century Fox donated the aircraft to the Air Force for a static display, after it took part in the World War II movie "Tora! Tora! Tora!" The plane symbolizes the sacrifices of service members who fought and died during the attacks on Oahu, Dec. 7, 1941.

"After sitting on the airfield for over 30 years, the airplane had fallen into a state of complete disrepair," said 1st Sgt. Greg W. Binford of Company E, 3rd Battalion, 25th Aviation Brigade.

Soldiers and contractors ensured structural integrity of the aircraft by completely rebuilding the internal frame while they repaired the aircraft with sheet metal and manufacturing panels to replace panels damaged beyond repair.

About 90 percent of the aircraft was salvaged from its original structural components. All involved in the project demonstrated their ingenuity to link Army aviation of today with that of World War II forerunners. Teams used helicopter wheels,

both Black Hawk and Chinook, to replace the landing gear, according to Binford.

Not only did teams bring back a visual representation of that fateful day of Dec. 7, 1941, they also brought back the memories and stories of Soldiers and aviators like Lt. George A. Whiteman, a P-40 pilot.

Whiteman had driven 25 miles to Wheeler Field and found the undamaged P40. While bombs continued to fall around the air-



Photoby-

Sgt. Ricardo Thongs and Sgt. Adolfo T. Mistica, Jr., C. Co., 25th Aviation Regiment, the "Black-sheep" along with contractor Clarence Mariano and their team began restoring the P-40B, WWII Curtis Tomahawk airplane, in June 2004 and completed the project in Nov. 2005.

Col. Thomas A. Ball Jr. aviation brigade commander.

Ball also explained that 83 aircraft were destroyed, 38 enlisted men were killed and 59 men were wounded on the flight line.

After the P40 was restored and teams placed the last touches of glimmering paint, the Black-sheep Soldiers of today returned the P40 to its rightful place on Warhawk Field. The project serves as a reminder of the sacrifices Soldiers have made from old to new, to keep the memories alive.

*(Editor's Note: Capt. Shoshannah Jenni, production control officer, Company C., 25th Aviation Regiment, contributed significant background for this article.)*

field, he prepared the plane to battle some of the Japanese bombers.

While he was still on the runway, Zero fighters spotted Whiteman. As he lifted off, they shot him down.

"During the first wave of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, twenty-five dive-bombers came through Kolekole Pass and dropped approximately 35 bombs on these same hangars and headquarters at Wheeler Field," said

# Construction: Jr. NCOs will benefit

From A-1

Lease that will provide development, construction and asset management to the Army Hawaii Family Housing (AHFH) project for the next 50 years.

Home design was a key task for the planning team.

"It took one year to research and design model homes for the junior and senior NCOs," said Jeff Cangemi, senior development manager for Actus.

"The entire Actus team, from design and construction to the Army Hawaii Family Housing asset and property management staff, contributed to the research and design process, offering input based on our respective areas of expertise," Cangemi said.

A great deal of input also was provided by RCI and local companies such as Group 70, Ltd.

Working directly with the Army families who will eventually occupy the homes also proved of tremendous value to the team.

Army families toured homes and communities in the private sector on Oahu to help determine what they liked and what worked or did not work for their Army lifestyle.

The end result will be communities that any family, military or non-military, would be excited to live in.

# Cell Phone: Command provides more guidance on policy

From A-1

new guidelines for cell phone usage on Army Installations worldwide. Department of Defense policy has now somewhat preempted the 25th ID policy.

According to DoD policy vehicle operators on a DoD Installation and operators of Government owned vehicles should not use cell phones unless the vehicle is safely parked or unless they are using a hands-free device. The wearing of

any other portable headphones, earphones, or other listening devices (except for hand-free cellular phones) while operating a motor vehicle is prohibited.

According to policy, individuals dialing their telephones while attempting to drive would still be in violation of the policy. If a driver is lawfully parked and using a cell phone, they would not be in violation. Drivers at a traffic light or

stop sign would not be in accordance with the policy. The key is whether they are driving or in physical control of the vehicle.

According to policy currently in place any Soldier who is found in violation of cell phone restrictions may face administrative action and/or punishment under the UCMJ. Civilian employees, family members, or any other non-affiliated civilian who violates this policy

are subject to administrative action such as loss of driving privileges.

The initial decision to not allow hands free devices was based on guidance in Army Regulation 385-55, Prevention of Motor Vehicle Accidents, which prohibits the use of headphones or earphones while driving Army motor vehicles. DoD policy has now been implemented which does allow for hands free devices.

Neither the 25th ID policy nor DoD guidance directly address the issue of speakerphones.

The policies that have been put in place are ultimately to protect and preserve the safety of everyone on Hawaii Army installations. Any action taken to reduce an accident is one that everyone can appreciate even if a person is slightly inconvenienced.

# Oncology picnics help patients, children cope with cancer

Pfc. Teirney M. Humberson  
17th Public Affairs Detachment

HONOLULU — Imagine that you are a young mother or father, and you have been diagnosed with cancer. How do you tell a 3-year-old child you're sick?

Tripler Army Medical Center's Medical Oncology Clinic has a way for young parents to answer questions such as these. Starting in 2004, the staff began having picnics for young parents with busy schedules, to give them a chance to talk to a nurse, ask questions and interact with each other.

Nursing research shows that patients who attend support groups tend to respond better with chemical therapy. They have fewer side effects and don't quit, but getting young parents to therapy is difficult, said Dr. Pat Nishimoto, an advanced practice nurse in the Oncology Clinic.

"Young parents with young children already have to get babysitters to go to appointments for chemo therapy or even to get blood drawn. So I thought, what's one way to get these patients together? And it hit me. Food. People love food," said Nishimoto.

The idea of support group picnics was born.

"The parents can talk to other parents about things like what it's like to be too tired to play with their children. When you're going through chemotherapy, you're so exhausted. If your nose itches, it's like, do I want to pick my hand up to scratch it?" explained Nishimoto.

Another issue is children, to catch problems before they become big ones. How should parents react? A child climbs onto her mother's lap and



Volunteers help children make bubbles during a recent clinic outing.

Courtesy of Tripler Army Medical Center

asks a simple question. Are you going to die, mommy?

Chances are the parent may be stunned and feel the urge to comfort the child by saying no. But is this response good for the child? Will it affect and damage trust later?

"One thing we discuss is how to talk to the children. Part of nursing is learning developmental stages, and there are right things to say for the right age groups," explained Nishimoto. "You're not going to address a two-year-old the same way you would a fourteen-year-old. They wouldn't understand."

Staff and volunteers are assigned to a child. Not only does a volunteer play with the child, escort him or her to the restroom and just keep an eye on a child, also the volunteer cares how the child feels.

"The staff will listen, as the children play, for myths and misperceptions. Children believe things about cancer such as you can catch it from hand-to-hand contact, or they

may even feel they have caused it," said Nishimoto.

"It's nice because the kids get a chance to experience similar situations. They know they're not alone and that there are other kids with parents who have cancer," said 1st Lt. Adam Purcell, a volunteer and staff member at the Medical Oncology Clinic.

Picnics help with the hard stuff, and they give parents a chance to socialize with each other and the staff. While children play games, the adults find support and friends in the families that attend picnics.

"We have water balloon fights, slip-n-slide, crafts, volleyball and bubbles," said Spc. Tiffany Gerdes, a volunteer and another staff member in the clinic who participates in the picnic events.

Picnics have been so successful, they continued in 2005. Plans are already in motion for the summer of 2006.

"It's more than medicine, surgery and therapy," said



**Cancer cells go through four stages, ranging in localized cancer to cancer that has spread through the body.**

Nishimoto. "It's also heart and soul," she explained, suggesting that, sometimes, the best way to get through some things is to laugh, to enjoy the company of good friends and, of course, to eat.

# 3D Month extends call for designated drivers

Dr. David N. Tornberg, MPH  
Acting Deputy Director,  
TRICARE Management Activity

Between Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve, families and friends gather to celebrate the holiday season. But, sadly, this time frame is the most dangerous times of year to drive, with the increase in alcohol-related traffic crashes and highway deaths.

December is National Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Prevention Month, and as chief medical officer of TRICARE Management Activity, I want to remind you to always designate a sober driver before each holiday party or event that involves alcohol.

Although improved public awareness, stronger laws and stricter enforcement have led to a decline in alcohol-related traffic deaths in the last 20 years, alcohol use is still the single greatest factor in motor vehicle deaths.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), drivers or motorcycle operators with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) level of 0.01 or higher killed 1,210 people across America during the month of December 2004 alone. Of those drivers, 1,054 had an illegal BAC level of 0.08 or above.

NHTSA reports that alcohol use is involved in approximately five percent of all crashes and 38 percent of fatal crashes. Alcohol-related crashes injure approximately one million people every year, and many of these incidents are a



direct result of alcohol abuse.

Simple steps for a safe holiday season

If you are planning to drink at a party this holiday season, plan not to drive. If someone suggests you should not drive, listen! Trust them, and be grateful.

•Before you go to a party where alcohol is served, designate a driver who will not drink any alcoholic beverages.

•Don't drive if you've been drinking.

•If you drink too much, call a taxi, use mass transit, call a sober friend to pick you up or plan to stay the night.

•If you are hosting a party, provide alcohol-free beverages and serve food to slow the absorption of alcohol. You may also stop serving alcoholic drinks a couple of hours before the party ends, find rides home for anyone who seems drunk or let people spend the night.

•Always buckle-up. This legal necessity is your best defense against an impaired driver.

Stay safe this holiday season: Drunk driving or driving with someone who has been drinking is simply not worth the risk. Make a responsible choice.

## Fort Shafter alights

Spc. Stephen Proctor  
U.S. Army, Pacific, Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER — The ground may not be coated in fluffy white snow, but the tree is lit and the halls are decked. The holiday season has officially arrived at U.S. Army, Pacific.

A crowd of military, civilian and community members gathered at historic Palm Circle, Dec. 8, for the annual community Christmas tree lighting and holiday concert.

The Farrington High School Band played Christmas songs as civilians, children and service members of all ranks and branches gathered to celebrate.

Spc. Nick Tuilosega of Company C, 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry Regiment, 9th Regional Readiness Command — who lives in American Samoa and recently received a Purple Heart for injuries sustained in support of the Global War on Terrorism — flipped a candy cane switch. Then, a Christmas tree came to life with ropes of light climbing from the ground to the twinkling star atop.

In colder climates, where vegetation dies in the winter months, the pine tree endures. That is what the tree lighting celebrates, said Maj. Gen. Ronald G. Crowder, deputy commander of USARPAC and guest speaker for the event.

It reminds people of the coming spring and the eventual rebirth of the earth, Crowder added.



## Hale Kula hosts Jingle Bell Run

Story and Photos by  
Pfc. Nicole R. Montoya  
17th Public Affairs Detachment

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — A bright red Christmas gift bag encasing a selfless gift was one of many presents Hale Kula Elementary School students offered during the Toys for Tots Jingle Bell Run here Dec. 13.

Toys for Tots is a national program that helps underprivileged children have a happy holiday season during rough times. The program offers these children presents that are donated by anonymous patrons to make sure no child is left without a special gift to open Christmas Day.

Students from Hale Kula Elementary School, starting from kindergarten all the way up to the fifth grade,



A fourth grader from Hale Kula Elementary School donated a game board during the Toys for Tots Jingle Bell Run Dec. 13.

donated toys of their own to help the less fortunate children in Hawaii.

In the morning, children lined up and turned their gifts in at the collection table on the physical education field. Shortly after, they formed up on the field to exercise for 15 minutes. Some ran, while others just walked or danced around a small, cone-lined track.

“What we’re trying to do is combine the usage of all education standards such as physical education and health along with the values of giving selflessly,” said Jerry Bevacqua, physical education teacher at Hale Kula. “Activities like this combine a lot of good things.”

Donating gives the students a sense of giving to other people, he said. It makes them feel good when they’re making someone else happy.

“The students love it,” said Ellen Petry, Parent Community Networking Center facilitator. “There are a lot of great toys coming in, and I’m sure the less fortunate children receiving the gifts will be thrilled.”

Madison Bartlett, fourth grader at Hale Kula, donated a few books and a used portable handheld system complete with a game. She said, with a shy smile on her face, that having picked the gifts herself from her own toy collection made her feel good about helping someone in need.



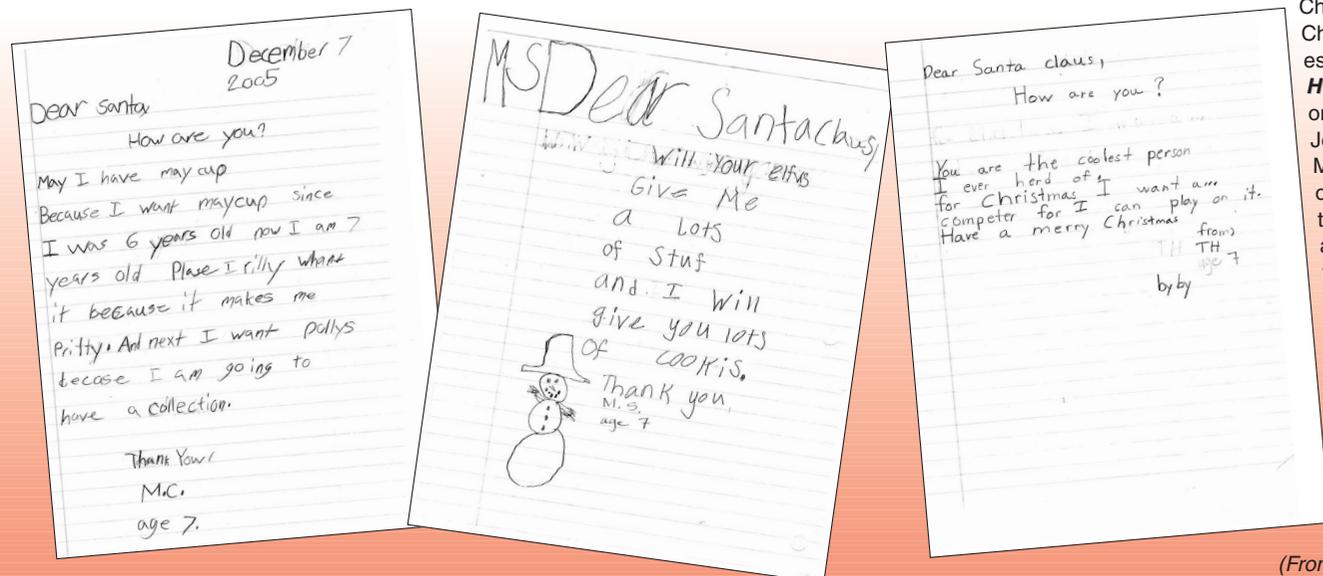
## ‘Dear Santa, All I want for Christmas...

’ **Christmas** — A mid-winter festival observed as the birth date of Jesus Christ. This holiday has evolved into a gift-giving celebration. This year Christmas is on Sunday, Dec. 25 in the Western Church. The Greek and Russia orthodox churches will celebrate Saturday, Jan. 7, 2006.

**Hanukkah** — An eight-day festival that begins on the twenty-fifth day of the third month of the Jewish calendar. It celebrates the victory of the Maccabees over the Syrians, the rededication of the temple at Jerusalem, and the miracle of the lamp. This year Hanukkah begins Dec. 25, at sundown, and ends Jan. 2, 2006, at night-fall.

**Kwanzaa** — Swahili, the word kwanzaa means “first fruits of the harvest.” The celebration is an African-American holiday that was created in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga. This seven-day celebration begins Dec. 26 and ends Jan. 1. It pays tribute to Americans of African descent across the nation, but doesn’t replace Christmas. It is a reminder of the seven principles on each of the seven days.

(From www.ask.com.)



## Kolekole Girl Scouts help feed local families holiday meals

Pfc. Durwood Blackmon  
Staff Writer

Girl Scouts of the Kolekole Service Unit helped to bring holiday cheer and joy to families in need this Christmas season. The unit participated in the 12th Annual Child and Family Service and Girl Scouts of Hawaii Holiday Food Basket Service Project.

The scouts helped Child and Family Service needy families by donating or collecting complete meals. Ten troops from Schofield Barracks participated in the project.

A basket or decorated box was filled with enough food to feed six-to-eight person families. Troops gathered nonperishable items such as candy yams, cranberry sauce and turkey dressing to fill the baskets.

“It’s actually creating a whole meal out of nonperishables so that when the family receives the basket they should have a whole holiday meal,” said Veronica Lile, troop leader for Brownie Troop #66.

“Then, we normally add a ten-dollar gift certificate for a food store so that they may buy their ham or turkey, the perishable stuff,” she said.

Girl Scouts collected a total of 300 holi-

day food baskets from all the islands combined. Scouts from Oahu assembled 233 of the total.

Troops took their meals to the Honolulu Girl Scouts Council and from there meals were delivered to Child and Family Service for needy families.

Girl Scouts continuously stay involved in community activities, Lile explained. The lessons they learn are not only beneficial to building character but also rewarding. For example, the girls were overjoyed to know families will enjoy a wholesome meal. Additionally, the girls will earn patches.

Patches will depict Holiday Food Baskets 2005, the Child and Family Service insignia and a picture of cornucopia. Girl Scouts will receive their patches in January.

The troops have participated in many other projects.

“We’re currently working on collecting Christmas gifts for the Fisher House ... toys for children and gifts for the whole family such as clothes,” Lile said.

Thanks to the Kolekole Girl Scouts, as well as other scouts throughout Hawaii, the annual service project helps make Christmas merrier for selected families.



**MWR Briefs**  
Serving America's Army in Hawaii

**DECEMBER**

**16 / Today**

**Hip Hop/R&B Night** — Come to the Tropics for an evening of fun and dancing from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. An \$8 cover charge applies at the door. Call 655-5697 for more information.

**17 / Saturday**

**Parents Night Out** — Leave your kids in the competent hands of Child and Youth Services on Parents Night Out, Dec. 17 and enjoy a nice night out on the town.

Children enrolled in Parent's Night Out must be registered with the Resource and Referral Office no later than noon Dec. 14.

**21 / Wednesday**

**Army Soldier Show** — Performer and technician nominations are now being accepted for the Army Soldier Show. Entries will be accepted through 4 p.m., Dec. 21. If you are interested in participating or want more information, call the Leisure Activities Office at 655-0112 or 655-0111.

**SKIES Christmas Gift** — Parents, do you want to give a special Christmas gift this year? Let SKIES Unlimited help. Enroll your child in karate, driver's education or dance classes between now and Dec. 21, and receive a free karate uniform, a 10-percent discount on driver's education or a silver dance shoes charm (while supplies last).

You will also receive a gift card with each Christmas gift class registration. For more information, call 655-5525.

**Kids Club Holiday Party** — Kids, come to the Tropics for holiday crafts, games, contests, refreshments and more, Dec. 21 at 2 p.m. Cost is \$3



Sgt. Maurice Smith

**'Wow, look at that!'**

**Shontell Chamang (right) of Wahiawa's Kaala Elementary School is overwhelmed with joy as Sgt. 1st Class Richard Lovelace helps her bring a gingerbread house to completion, Dec. 9. Lovelace was one of five Soldiers from the 3-4th Cavalry who donated time to help at the school, in the place of parents who could not attend the event with their children.**

for refreshments. For registration or additional information, call 655-8522.

**23 / Friday**

**Holiday Hours and Closures** — Many MWR Facilities will be observing closures or adjusted holiday hours Dec. 23 through Jan. 2. Call your favorite facilities to confirm closures and adjusted hours.

**Teen Social** — Join friends for an evening of fun at the Schofield Barracks Teen Center from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Listen to music and dance, play games or participate in contests. Admission is \$3 for members and \$4 for nonmembers.

**24 / Thursday**

**Single Soldier Christmas Dinner** — Single Soldiers are invited to enjoy a free turkey dinner with all the trimmings, Dec. 24, from 4 to 8 p.m., at the Tropics. The evening includes presents for every Soldier, door prizes and entertainment.

**18 / Sunday**

**Spike TV** — The Bodog's celebrity "thank you to the troops" charity event which was held for the 110,000 men and women of the U.S. military in Hawaii will be telecast on Spike TV Sunday, Dec. 18 from 12:30 to 1:30 a.m. ET/PT; 11:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. CT. The two-day charity event has been distilled in a one-hour program, "Bodog Salutes the Troops: A Tribute to American Heroes."

**19 / Monday**

**Toys for Tots Program** — Army Hawaii Family Housing (AHFH) is supporting the Toys for Tots program. Today is the last day to donate at all AHFH community centers. Contributions will benefit military families in Hawaii.

Toys for Tots is a Marine Corps program founded more than 50 years ago, which provides holiday gifts to children in need. For more information, contact Bonnie Griffith at 275-3178.



**21/Wednesday**

**Army Emergency Relief (AER) Workshop** — Army Community Service will be holding a class at the ACS building, bldg 2091 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. to provide information to Soldiers and family members on authorized and unauthorized assistance and review of application procedures. Call 655-4ACS for more information or to register.

**28/Wednesday**

**Checkbook Maintenance** — This informational class will discuss opening and maintaining a checking account. Class will be held from 9:00 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. at the Schofield Barracks Army Community Service building 2091

**31 / Saturday**

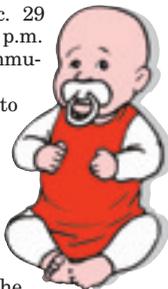
**Hui O' Na Wahine Scholarships** — The Hui O' Na Wahine, Schofield Barracks all-ranks spouses club, offers merit based scholarships every spring, but you need to be a member of the club by Dec. 31 to be eligible. Applicants must attend an accredited college, business or trade school within the next academic year, have

Activities will include a volleyball tournament, free throw tournament, dominos and spades, and the final table of the Texas Hold'Em table. For more information or to register, call 655-5697.

**29 / Thursday**

**SKIES Babysitting Class** — Registration begins today for a free babysitting class, open to teens ages 13 and above. The class will be held Dec. 29 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Kaala Community Center.

Teens need to wear comfortable clothing and bring a sack lunch. Registration is required and CYS members can register by calling the Schofield CYS registration office at 655-5314.



Teens who are not registered with CYS must do so prior to registering for the babysitting class. For more information, call SKIES Unlimited at 655-5525.

**Christmas Coloring Contest**

— Kids ages 12 and under can show off their creativity in the Tropics Christmas Coloring Contest. All participants will be entered for a prize drawing and entries will be displayed at the Tropics through Dec. 31. Deadline to enter is Dec. 29. For more information, call 655-8522.

**30 / Friday**

**Hawaiian Luau Lunch Buffet** — Taste a traditional Hawaiian style feast today from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Nehelani on Schofield Barracks. Cost is \$9.95 per person. For lunch buffet reservations or more information, call the Nehelani at 655-4466

No luau lunch buffets will be held at the Hale Ikena in December.

a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher and must not have accepted any four-year scholarship.

Applications will be available in January. For more information, contact Robertta Cole via email at bertstoner@yahoo.com.

**5 / Thursday**

**Military Spouse 101** — Army Family Team Building (AFTB) will present Military Spouse 101, Thursday and Friday, Jan. 5 and 6, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 pm at the Schofield Barracks Army Community Service Center. This two half-day course is designed to introduce spouses to the military lifestyle and serve as a refresher course for spouses who have been around for a while. Attendees will receive a certificate of completion and a special gift from Army Family Team Building.

Free childcare is provided with advance notice to Child Development Center; however, children must be registered with Child and Youth Services. To register, call 655-4ACS.

For more information, contact Robin Sherrod, AFTB program manager at 655-4368.

**12/Thursday**

**Ten Steps to Federal Employment** — Interested in obtaining Federal employment? Learn about understanding job vacancy announcements, writing your Federal and electronic resumes, tracking your applications, and more. This workshop will be held at Army Community Service building 2091, Schofield Barracks and on Wednesday Jan. 18 at Army Community Service, Ft. Shafter. Both workshops will begin at 9:30 a.m. and end at 11:30 a.m. To register call ACS, Ft. Shafter at 438-9285 or ACS Schofield Barracks at 655-4227.

**ONGOING**

**Community Calendar Briefs** — Do you have announcements of upcoming events or activities you'd like to post in the Hawaii Army Weekly? If so, e-mail your information to editor@hawaiiarmyweekly.com at least two weeks in advance of your event or activity.

**Schofield Barracks Thrift Store** — The Hui O' Na Wahine Thrift Shop will be open Friday, Dec. 16 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The

shop will close from Dec. 20 thru Dec. 29 and will reopen on Tuesday Jan. 3 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Native American Club** — All who are interested in learning about various Native American cultures or who would like to share their pride in their tribal affiliation with others, contact Sgt. Quiocho, an enrolled member of the Oglala Lakota, the Sioux Tribe of the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, at 656-5698.

**New Work and Careers Web Site** — Need help in your job search process? Are you wondering how to market your skills and abilities? Explore the Web site <http://www.myarmylifetoo.com> to learn about the Army Spouse Employment Partnership.

The site includes job search techniques and resume writing tips. Also, check out partnerships with public and private sector companies that create career and training opportunities for military spouses.

For additional help, contact your Army Community Service Employment Readiness Program Manager at 655-2390.

**Waikiki Aquarium** — The Waikiki Aquarium is open daily from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except Christmas Day. Admission is \$9 for visitors; \$6 for local residents, active duty military with ID, students with ID and seniors; \$4 for youths ages 13-17 and persons with disabilities; \$2 for juniors ages 5 to 12; and free for children 4 and under and Friends of Waikiki Aquarium (FOWA) members.

For more information, call 923-9741 or visit online at [www.waquarium.org](http://www.waquarium.org).

**University of Phoenix** — UOP opened its doors at the Town Center of Mililani. Known for providing educational opportunities for working adults, classroom space has increased by 50 percent to meet your demand for a college education.

Undergraduate and graduate degree programs are offered at the Mililani campus, as well as in Kapolei, Honolulu and Kaneohe.

Degree programs are offered in teacher education, criminal justice, human services, nursing or health care, business and technology. For more information about programs or to enroll, contact a counselor at 536-2686.

**HACN TV2 Schedule**

Morning	
6:00	Sign On
6:26	Coqui Frog Invasion in Hawaii
6:47	Welcome Home Redeployment Guam
7:00	Bulletin Board
7:30	What's Down the Drain
7:41	White Face
7:55	Water Safety
8:00	Hawaii Army Report
8:30	Army News Watch
9:00	Pentagon Channel
10:00	White Face
10:15	Change of Command Ceremony 251D (L) & USARHAW
10:20	Bulletin Board
10:50	Welcome Home Redeployment Guam
11:04	Coqui Frog Invasion in Hawaii
11:26	VATV #2
11:52	Inside Afghanistan 8/31/05
12:00	Hawaii Army Report
12:35	Pentagon Channel
Afternoon	
2:00	Inside Afghanistan 9/08/05
2:12	Bulletin Board
2:42	Welcome Home Redeployment Guam
2:55	Shamu: The Rhino Story
3:30	Coqui Frog Invasion in Hawaii
3:50	Hurricane Safety
4:00	Pentagon Channel
Evening	
6:00	Hawaii Army Report
6:30	Community Focus
6:47	What's Down the Drain
6:56	Change of Command Ceremony 251D (L) & USARHAW
7:00	NFL: Football Follies
8:00	Bulletin Board
8:30	Inside Afghanistan 8/31/05
8:42	What's Down the Drain
8:50	White Face
9:06	Volunteers
9:21	Welcome Home Redeployment Guam
9:34	Inside Afghanistan 8/22/05
9:45	Safety Video
9:49	Coqui Frog Invasion in Hawaii
10:10	NFL: Ice Bowl
11:25	Bulletin Board
Overnight	
	Pentagon Channel

**Community Calendar**  
**DECEMBER**

**16 / Today**

**Ballet Hawaii** — International Stars, Ballet Hawaii's large corps de ballet, and live Tchaikovsky music by the Honolulu Symphony, combine as Ballet Hawaii presents "Nutmacker," a longtime Christmas favorite.

The production will run Dec. 16 to 18 at the Blaisdell Concert Hall. The show will start Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets range from \$25 to \$60 and are available at the Blaisdell Box Office and all Ticketmaster outlets.

Call toll free 1-877-750-4400 or go online to [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) to purchase tickets.

**The Military Channel** — The Military Channel will air "Anatomy of a Stryker" on Friday, Dec. 16, at 8 p.m. Learn about the Army's latest weapon, including its characteristics, its impressive technology and capabilities, and how the Stryker meets the needs of brigade units.

**17 / Saturday**

**Cirque Hawaii** — The new Cirque Hawaii show opens its doors to the public on Saturday, Dec. 17 for a series of nightly preview shows leading up to its grand opening on Jan. 5. Cirque Hawaii will take audiences on a magical journey following the lead character, Josephine, as she searches the globe for the best talent for her exotic circus based on aerial, dance and acrobatic artistry. The acts include aerial silks, straps and bungee as well as hand balancing, Russian bar, multi-participant skip rope and human juggling with bodies serving as catapult and catcher in an acrobatic display of extraordinary strength and grace.

The Cirque Hawaii Theatre (formerly IMAX) is located at 325 Seaside Avenue in Waikiki. Cirque Hawaii will offer two performances nightly at 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. Ticket prices start at \$55, with discounts offered to kama'aina, military and children under 12. For reservations or more information, call 922-0017 or visit [www.cirquehawaii.com](http://www.cirquehawaii.com).

**This Week at the MOVIES**  
**Sgt. Smith Theater**

<i>Today</i>	The Fog 7 p.m. (PG-13)
<i>Saturday</i>	Doom 7 p.m. (R)
<i>Sunday</i>	North Country 7 p.m. (R)
<i>Wednesday</i>	The Fog 7 p.m. (PG-13)
<i>Thursday</i>	North Country 7 p.m. (R)

The theater is closed Monday, and Tuesday

# Military keiki show pride in community

Ann Wharton

Army Hawaii Family Housing

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — During the month of November, Army Hawaii Family Housing (AHFH) sponsored an essay and coloring contest for children. The focus of the contest was for the contestants to explain or illustrate why they are proud of their community. Winners of that contest received a special treat at a recognition luncheon held on Dec. 8 at the Nehelani.

The commanding general of the 25th Infantry Division, Maj. Gen. Benjamin R. Mixon, the event's guest speaker, lauded the children's efforts and emphasized the importance of demonstrating pride in Army housing neighborhoods.

He also read excerpts from the winning essays and artwork, and presented the winners with a \$50 gift certificate from AHFH.

*(Editor's Note: More winning essays and artwork will be published in the next edition of the Hawaii Army Weekly, Jan. 6, 2006.)*

## What pride in my community means by Victoria Frew, 12

“Taking pride in your community means feeling good about where you live and wanting people to move in because it's a fun, safe and clean place. For example, picking up your yard and surrounding areas of loose trash, and putting them in trashcans.

When you have an area that is dirty, with trash on the sides of the fences and in the bushes, it does not look inviting. It makes our community look like we don't care.

People should take pride in their yards. Watering your grass makes the yard green, you are able to plant new trees and flow-

ers, and smaller children can lay in their yards. When the grass is brown and hard, it's difficult to plant anything or have anyone to play in it.

Green grass really makes the house and surrounding areas look like we really care for the environment. This is essential.

In a good living environment, neighbors should communicate and be friendly. If there were ever an emergency, you can always count on your neighbors and close friends to help. Having good neighbors and an organized and neat yard will make people want to move in.

If there was a park or somewhere the children and kids can play, it would make people living there want to go outside and have fun with their kids. If the playground was dirty, old rusty and not safe, less people that would want to take their kids out to play

on the weekend.

Also, having basketball courts and a field or track around where you live would keep people more active and less lazy. It would make them want to join teams and get fit.

Keeping the area clean would make people feel secure. Even taking out your dogs and picking up their waste shows that you care what the yard looks like. If there was a dog park specifically for dogs, then the owners would take their dogs there and not let them put waste in other people's yards.

Having yards look nice will have the owners want to plant trees and plants for a healthy environment. I take pride in my community by helping my dad mow the yard, picking up litter along fences and planting flowers and trees for clean place to live.”

1st  
Place

## Good Grades

Students who earn a B average or better on their quarterly report cards (or above satisfactory in the new report card system) can participate in a drawing at the Tropics Community Center that recognizes honor students.

Each quarter, the Tropics will provide three lucky students a complimentary meal when staff members randomly pull names from the “Top Grade of the Quarter” box.

First quarter winners, for the period of August through November, are Luke Eckstein, a third grader at St. Michaels; Deborah Smoots, a sixth grader at Wheeler Middle School; and Stacy Onumbu, a fifth grader at Wheeler Elementary School.

The next drawing is Jan. 30.

*(Editor's Note: Information was provided by Margaret Millett of Morale, Welfare and Recreation's Community Recreation Division.)*

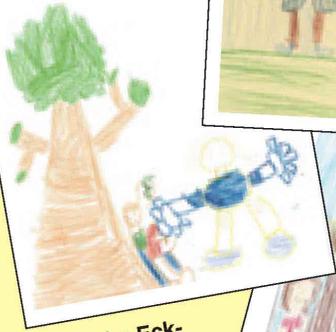
# Coloring Contest Winners

“What pride in my community means”

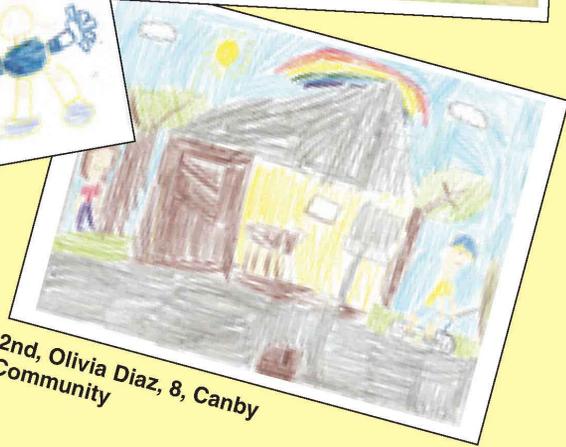
Right — 1st, Kaitlan Belocura, 7, Leader Field Community



Helping people need



3rd, Luke Eckstein, 7, Canby Community



2nd, Olivia Diaz, 8, Canby Community