

## INSIDE

# Mixon addresses Iraqi operations

**GERRY J. GILMORE**  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Iraqi officers will soon command all four Iraqi army divisions operating in northern Iraq, a senior U.S. officer said today.

"By February, all four Iraqi divisions in Multinational Division North will be under Iraqi ground-force command," U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Benjamin R. Mixon told Pentagon reporters during a satellite briefing.

Mixon is the commander of Multinational Division North as well as commander of the 25th Infantry Division. The two-star

general's area of responsibility covers six Iraqi provinces in northern Iraq that include the cities of Kirkuk, Balad, Tikrit, Mosul and Samarra.

The general said his organization's primary focus is to train and partner with Iraqi soldiers and police to provide security for the 11 million Iraqi people residing within his area. That population, he said, includes an ethnic mix of Sunnis, Shiites, Kurds, Turkmen and Assyrians.

"We have one mission: that is security for Iraq's people," Mixon said.

As Iraqi security forces become more capable, U.S. and coalition forces will take a

more indirect security role, while focusing on putting al Qaeda in Iraq out of business, Mixon said.

"We have a goal for this transition, and we are making advances every day," he said.

One Iraqi army division in the area was already under Iraqi government control, while a second division was transferred to the government today.

"A third division will transfer by the end of January, and by February, all four Iraqi divisions in Multinational Division North will be under Iraqi ground-force command," Mixon said.

Mixon said thousands of courageous Iraqis

have joined their country's security forces or participate in public service to build a strong and unified Iraq.

That effort faces challenges, Mixon said, noting terrorists and criminals are doing their utmost to derail the fledgling Iraqi government.

"In their efforts to expel coalition forces and prevent the establishment of a credible government in Iraq, anti-Iraqi forces continue to fight coalition forces, kill Iraqi policemen and Soldiers, along with innocent Iraqi civilians, to include the brutal murders

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## One good turn

Mechanics from the 2-6th Cavalry conduct maintenance that affects more than helicopters

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## Stop the presses

Subscribers will receive "The Military Times," Dec. 22 & 29 when the Hawaii Army Weekly takes its two-week hiatus.



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Sgt. 1st Class Robert C. Brogan | U.S. Army Photo

Sgt. Christopher Calloway adjusts his helmet visor as he mans his weapon in a CH-47 Chinook helicopter during a flight over Salah Ad Din Province, Iraq, in November. Calloway is a flight engineer from the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, 25th Infantry Division.

# 'Lightning Strike' swoops upon insurgents

**MONTE MORIN**  
Stars and Stripes MidEast Edition

TIKRIT, Iraq — When it comes to getting the drop on insurgents in northern Iraq, there's no better place to swoop in on fleeing gunmen or roadside bomb planters than from hundreds of feet overhead.

At least that's the concept behind Task Force Diamondhead's "Lightning Strike" method of hunting the enemy in an area of operation that's about as large as Pennsylvania.

The tactic, which the 2nd Battalion, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, pioneered in Afghanistan to great success, involves a unique mix of air assault and surveillance

aircraft, Army infantrymen and Navy bomb disposal technicians.

The main purpose is to interdict roadside bomb planters, and track and capture suspicious vehicles or gunmen.

Commanders and ground troops have long complained that efforts to capture insurgents on the ground are often stymied by the noise and visibility of their vehicles. Helicopter pilots have also complained that they have observed suspicious activities from the air, but have been unable to summon ground troops quickly enough to investigate.

The Lightning Strike missions are aimed at solving both those problems.

The 25th Infantry Division's Combat Avia-

tion Brigade staged its first such mission in Iraq recently when it launched a team of Kiowa and Black Hawk helicopters containing a number of foot Soldiers, ordnance technicians and a bomb disposal robot.

"This is history in the making right here," said Sgt. 1st Class Shawn Zawistowski, of the 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, before climbing aboard a roaring Black Hawk Saturday. "I think this is a lot better than what we've been doing."

The missions differ from traditional air assaults or raids in that they are not flying to a specific target. Instead, the aircraft go out in

SEE STRIKE, A-3

# Tripler takes lead role aiding injured sailors

Joint effort plays key role, Sailors receive some top-notch care

**MINDY ANDERSON**  
Tripler Army Medical Center Public Affairs

HONOLULU — At 2:45 a.m., Dec. 1, Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC) received a call reporting a steam leak onboard the USS Frank Cable in Guam. Six sailors with serious burns (five ventilator-dependent) had been sent to the U.S. Naval Hospital in Guam for initial stabilization.

The sailors arrived at TAMC at 6 a.m., Saturday, and were met by the Burn Special Medical Augmentation Response Team (B-SMART), which had deployed from Brooke Medical Army Center (BAMC), Fort Sam Houston, Texas, the night before. The nine-member team was comprised of the military's leading ex-

perts in the field of burn trauma.

"Before arriving it was proposed that we go to a civilian burn unit in Hawaii, but we stressed we wanted to be in a military setting since we were dealing with military personnel and the Department of the Army Logistics System," said Col. David Barillo, officer in charge, B-SMART. "We knew it would run smoother.

"Personnel at both Tripler and Hickam Air Force Base gave one thousand percent care toward the patients when they arrived," he added, explaining anyone who could remotely help was offering to help.

"We brought enough equipment for the six burn victims, but we were able to set-up a six-bed burn trauma area in the Tripler Patient Acute Care Unit [PACU] because Tripler staff had everything set-up — IV fluids, narcotics,

SEE SAILORS, A-11

# Employees prep for changes in 2007

**INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT  
COMMAND-PACIFIC PUBLIC AFFAIRS**  
News Release

FORT SHAFTER — If civilian employees are not familiar with and ready to convert to the National Security Personnel System, called NSPS, now is the time to get started.

The Installation Management Command-Pacific is expected to be part of the Spiral 1.3 implementation of NSPS. Although the final approval is still pending, the anticipated implementation date is April 2007.

NSPS is a major change to the current civilian personnel system, and it affects all appropriated fund General Schedule (GS) employees in non-bargaining unit positions. NSPS will streamline position classification, create more flexibility in hiring and placement, revise the performance appraisal system, and change how employees are paid and rewarded.

To get ready for NSPS, affected employees need to take and complete NSPS training, which is being presented in a phased approach. Town hall briefings, executive training and NSPS 101 have been used to introduce NSPS to the workforce. In addition, mandatory classes for supervisors and employees affected by Spiral 1.3 are being conducted throughout the region.

SEE NSPS, A-3

# IED kills Soldier in Iraq

**U.S. ARMY GARRISON,  
HAWAII, PUBLIC AFFAIRS**  
News Release

The Department of Defense has announced the death of a Soldier who were supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Soldier was from the 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.

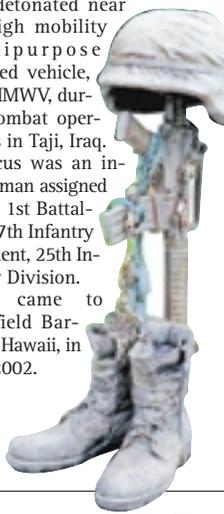


Fiscus

Sgt. Keith E. Fiscus, 26, of Townsend, Del., died Dec. 2 in Baghdad, Iraq, of injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle, or HMMWV, during combat operations in Taji, Iraq.

Fiscus was an infantryman assigned to the 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division.

He came to Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, in July 2002.



## On The WEB

Get more NSPS information at these sites:

- 1) ICOM intranet, <https://ima.hic.pac.army.mil/>.
- 2) Army Web site, <http://cpol.army.mil/library/general/nsps/>.
- 3) DoD Web site, <http://www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps/>.

**Mandatory Training**  
(Must be completed before April 2007.)

- Employees (GS in non-bargaining units)
  - Complete NSPS 101 online, one hour.
  - Complete NSPS classroom training for employees, eight hours.
- Supervisors (military and civilian)
  - Complete NSPS 101 online, one hour.
  - Complete NSPS classroom training for supervisors, 16 hours.

**What will not change under NSPS?**

- Merit system principles
- Rules against prohibited personnel practices
- Whistleblower protection
- Veterans' preference rights protected

## 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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## 24 days since last fatal accident

Soldiers, 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.

Current as of 12/6/06.

# Chief of Guard says relief on way for equipment shortages

DONNA MILES

American Forces Press Service

DEMING, N.M. — The National Guard Bureau chief assured members of the Army and Air National Guard during a visit here last week that relief is on the way for the Guard's chronic equipment shortages.

The Army National Guard alone will receive almost \$29 billion during the next five years to re-equip its units, and the Air National Guard will receive a similar sum, Army Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum told National Guard troops serving here along the southwestern U.S. border in Operation Jump Start during his Nov. 29 visit.

That's "almost 29 billion with a 'b,'" Blum said for emphasis.

It also could be "b" for "bravo" for Blum, who's been on something of a crusade, drawing top-level focus on National Guard equipment shortfalls. He's called the issue one of his biggest challenges, particularly in light of the Guard's vital role in both combat and domestic response missions.

During the National Guard Association's general conference in September, Blum reported that Guard troops "want for nothing in combat," but return home to a "dangerously low resourcing level" for their stateside missions.

This week, Blum told troops serving here of the challenges the Guard faced when Bush announced in mid-May that 6,000 National Guard troops would support the U.S. Border Patrol as it recruits and trains more agents. The operation, expected to last two years, uses National Guard members for support missions, freeing up more Border Patrol agents for frontline law enforcement missions.

"Look, half the problem with this mission was getting equipment, because most of it was overseas ... and we didn't have that much back here to move around to you," Blum told the group, made up of volunteers from throughout the country.

The good news, he reported, is that there's now "a very real recognition" among Pentagon and congressional leaders of the need to re-equip the Guard's worn-out equipment, and it's being backed up with desperately needed funding.

Congress is "absolutely adamant that the Guard has to get re-equipped" and is watching the issue "like a hawk," Blum said.

"They know how important you are, day to day," he told the troops, pointing to the wide range of missions the National Guard is carrying out throughout the United States and overseas. "The Guard is busy," he continued. "We have 55,000 of us in Iraq, Afghanistan, the Balkans, Sinai [and] the Horn of Africa; a couple of hundred of us down at Guantanamo [Bay, Cuba]; 6,000 of us on the southwest border this morning."

In addition, some 8,000 to 10,000 Guard members are serving throughout the U.S., providing critical infrastructure protection and responding to disasters ranging from floods to forest fires, he said. In addition, just as hurricane season has come to an end, the National Guard already is geared up to respond to winter-weather emergencies, he said.

"It is unbelievable what the Guard is doing today," Blum told the group. "And you are part of the best Guard that this country has ever put on the ground



Spc. Joanna N. Amberge | 117th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Sgt. 1st Class Fredrick Cheban, B Troop, 1-299 Cavalry, radios the tactical operations center while Sgt. Norman Bartley of B Troop secures the area during Hawaii's National Guard participation in field training exercise Rising Warrior, last month.

in its 368 year history."

But all that activity has taken its toll on the National Guard's equipment, he quickly acknowledged. Gear, vehicles and other equipment is wearing out far faster than normal — as much as five times faster, by some Pentagon estimates.

In addition, many Guard units return from Iraq and Afghanistan without their equipment, leaving it behind for replacement troops. Blum supports that measure, noting that it saves time, money and strain on the logistics system. But the flip side of the coin, he said, is that returning units often lack the equipment they need for training or to respond to a domestic crisis.

States across the country have entered into an agreement to share their National Guard resources to fill in gaps, as needed. The Emergency Management Assistance Compact proved its value during the multistate response in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, when several states mobilized their Guard assets and sent them to help the Gulf states.

But Blum has long emphasized that this kind of cooperation is not a long-term solution to the Guard's chronic equipment shortages. His big concern, he said, is that when the president or one of the 53 U.S. governors calls on their Guard troops, they won't have the equipment they need to provide the "Minuteman" response that's expected of them.

"It is a problem, and we are working it very hard," Blum told the Operation Jump Start troops. Blum counseled patience.

"We didn't get here overnight," he said. "It took us three to five years ... and it will probably take us that long to get out of the hole we are in."

## Courts-Martial

# Fleeing apprehension fetches 40 months

During the past month, eight Soldiers were tried, found guilty and sentenced for various offenses occurring on and off Schofield Barracks.

A staff sergeant from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 8th Special Troops Battalion, pled guilty and was sentenced by a military judge at a special court-martial to reduction to the grade of E-3 and confinement for 30 days for wrongful use of cocaine and marijuana.

A specialist from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, pled guilty and was sentenced by a military judge at a general court-martial to reduction to E-1; confinement for 13 months; and to be discharged with a bad-conduct discharge for conspiracy, larceny, and making, drawing, or uttering check, draft, or order without sufficient funds.

A specialist from B Company, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, pled guilty and was sentenced by a military judge at a general court-martial to reduction to the grade of E-1, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, to be confined for 13 months, and to be discharged from the service with a bad conduct discharge for disobeying a commissioned officer, violation of post regulation, and wrongful use and distribution of a controlled substance.

A specialist from D Company, 325th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, pled guilty and was sentenced by a military judge at a general court-martial to reduction to the grade of E-1, to be confined for 20 months, and to be discharged from the service with a bad conduct discharge for wrongful distribution of a controlled substance. This sentence was pursuant to a plea agreement between the government and defense.

A specialist from 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment Rear Detachment, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team Rear Detachment, pled guilty and was sentenced by a military judge at a general court-martial to reduction to E-1, to be confined for six months, and to be discharged from the service with a bad conduct discharge for desertion and willful disobedience of a commissioned officer. This sentence was pursuant to a plea agree-

ment between the government and defense.

A specialist from 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Rear Detachment), pled guilty and was sentenced by a military judge at a special court-martial to reduction to E-1, and to be confined for four

**Q:** Why does the Hawaii Army Weekly publish court-martial findings?  
**The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate releases the results of recent courts-martial for publication to inform the community of military justice trends and to deter future misconduct by Soldiers.**

months for desertion. This sentence was pursuant to a plea agreement between the government and defense.

A private first class from 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, pled guilty and was sentenced by a military judge at a special court-martial to reduction to the grade of E-2, and to be confined for 25 days for absence without leave and missing movement.

A private first class from 13th Military Police Detachment, 728th Military Police Battalion, pled guilty at a general court-martial, and was sentenced to be reduced to the grade of E-1, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, to be confined for 40 months, and to be discharged from the service with a bad conduct discharge for absence without leave, failure to obey a lawful general regulation, fleeing apprehension, wrongful distribution, use, and possession of a controlled substance. This sentence was pursuant to a plea agreement between the government and defense.

In addition to forfeitures of pay (either adjudged or by operation of law), confinement, and a punitive discharge, each Soldier will have a federal conviction that he or she must report when filling out a job application. Also, the federal conviction may strip the Soldier of some civil rights, such as the right to purchase and maintain firearms and the right to vote.

## LIGHTNING SPIRIT

# I fondly remember David Bloom during this season of yuletide

CHAPLAIN (CAPT.) STEPHEN M. HOMMEL  
29th Engineer Battalion

It has been a long three-and-a-half years since the capture of Baghdad and the fall of Saddam Hussein and his twisted regime. Those of us who were there during the first weeks of the war will probably never forget the sights, sounds, smells, sadness and elation of those days.

Now, after all that has happened, I often think of a quote by Jay Leno: "The good news is that Iraq is ours, and the bad news is that Iraq is ours."

Like many Soldiers, I am frustrated with the Iraqis, and my Operation Iraqi Freedom feelings and memories are mixed. Yet, I will always remember with pride the brave Americans I served with, and will hold in my heart those that did not make it home — one of whom was not a Soldier. He was a reporter.

The day before the assault on Baghdad, David Bloom of NBC News died suddenly from a pulmonary embolism. During the long march to Baghdad, cramped for weeks into the back of an armored vehicle, Bloom developed a blood clot in his knee, caused

by a condition called "deep vein thrombosis."

On the morning of April 6, 2003, the clot broke loose, went to his lungs, and killed him. When David Bloom and his NBC News crew joined us a few weeks before the start of the war, I had no idea of who David Bloom actually was. At a time when there was no shortage of correspondents eager to report on the invasion, he was just another.



Bloom

I guess my ignorance of news media personalities was due to the fact that as the father of two small children, the extent of my television viewing was pretty much limited to Cartoon Network, Nickelodeon and the Disney Channel.

One of things that surprised the battalion about Bloom, endearing him to us, was his humility, kindness, appreciation and respect for Soldiers. Of course, the fact that he and his crew were generous with their satellite

phones did not hurt their popularity either.

What endeared me personally to Bloom was his sincere desire to know God. Every evening at sundown, in the open desert of our assembly area, I taught a Bible study. Bloom came at least a dozen times, and we became good friends.

I remember one conversation in particular. It was during the first week of the war; we were talking about God's grace versus man's works for salvation. I think he had been confused by false doctrine in the past, but when I pointed out Ephesians 2:8-10 to him, in as much as one man can read another, he smiled and seemed at peace.

Ephesians 2:8-9 reads: "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast."

During the final month of his life, it all came together spiritually for Bloom. In one of his last e-mails to his wife, Melanie, which she released to the media shortly after his death, David wrote to her:

"...You can't begin to fathom, cannot begin to even glimpse the enormity of the changes I have and am continuing to un-

dergo. God takes you to the depths of your being, until you're at rock bottom, and then, if you turn to him with utter and blind faith and resolve in your heart and mind to walk only with him and towards him, he picks you up with your boot straps and leads you home.

"I hope and pray that all my guys get out of this in one piece, but I tell you, Mel, I am at peace. Deeply saddened by the glimpses of death and destruction that I have seen, but at peace with my God and with you.

"Save this note. Look at it a month from now, a year from now, 10 years from now. You cannot know now, nor do I, whether you will look back at it with tears, heart-break and a sense of anguish, and regret over what might have been, or whether you will say he was and is a changed man.

"God has worked a miracle in our lives. And not to be trite, but that will set me free..."

During this Christmas season, I pray that God will do a miracle in your life, and that you may know His peace, too. Count your blessings!

Merry Christmas!

# Voices of Lightning: "What is your all-time favorite holiday song or holiday movie?"



"A Christmas Story."

Pfc. Adam Clark  
82nd Engineer Bn.  
Heavy Equipment Operator



"A Christmas Story."

Sgt. Austin Durham  
25th Trans. Co.  
Vehicle Driver



"The Passion of the Christ."

Pfc. Javier Estrada  
71st Chemical Co.  
Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic



"Jingle Bell Rock."

Spc. Sherry Lawrence  
25th Trans. Co.  
Admin Clerk



"A Christmas Story."

Pfc. Timothy Vecchione  
82nd Engineer Bn.  
Heavy Equipment Operator



Staff Sgt. Eric Pahon | 5th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Firefighters from the Kirkuk Fire Department Headquarters talk to a C Co. 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment Soldier, recently.

## 2-35th aids Iraqi firefighters battling traffic, insurgents

**SGT. MICHAEL TUTTLE**

5th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

KIRKUK, Iraq – Soldiers from the 25th Infantry Division visited the Kirkuk Fire Department Headquarters recently to assess their capabilities and find out how their service can be improved.

The visit was part of C Company, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment's daily goal to work with city organizations.

The fire department was found to be well equipped, including at least four operational fire engines, manned around the clock. How-

ever, the firefighters often struggle through traffic jams and the risk of enemy contact when responding to emergencies.

"Our roads are very, very busy, and when there are fires, it gets very difficult to get there," said Lt. Jazi Samir, department operations lieutenant. "Security is the bigger problem. Sometimes when we are called to a fire at night, there is no Iraqi police or army, so we are trying to get to the fire, and we get shot by the bad guys."

The firefighters need more barriers, more concertina wire, and

body armor for their guards, said 2nd Lt. Vincent Kuchar, C Co., platoon leader. Charlie Company plans to work with local police to focus on protecting the firefighters, Kuchar added.

"Every time that we stop it lets the people of Kirkuk know that we care, and that we're looking to improve ... their fire or police department," said Kuchar. "It's a trying process, and it takes a lot of time, so, 'ashway ashway,' as it's said in Arabic – 'slowly and step by step' – but we'll get these guys on the right foot."

## Strike: Technique curtails combatants

CONTINUED FROM A-1

search of suspicious activity in an area that hasn't seen a heavy coalition presence.

At the same time, the team is essentially on call to respond to situations observed by other units in other areas. Commanders give the example of tracking down and stopping a vehicle that was seen fleeing a bombing or an attack.

"This is something we're real excited about employing," said Lt. Col. Frank Tate, commander of the 2-25th. "This worked very well for us in Afghanistan. If there's something that looks suspicious we can immediately check out the vehicle or compound or house. If everything checks out we can say, 'Have a nice evening' and give a kid a beanie baby, and it's not hurting anybody."

The mission was part of a larger, ongoing operation in northern Iraq dubbed Snake Hunter. The operation involves the creative use of military aircraft in the fight against roadside bombs, and is aimed at intercepting insurgents before they fully arm and conceal the explosives.

"If an [improvised explosive device] has already blown up, then the initiative is already with the enemy," Tate said. "We're trying to work 'left of the

boom.' We want to interdict before the [bomb] blows up."

Recently, Tate took the controls of a Black Hawk to oversee the unit's first Lightning Strike mission, which roamed above the bright blue waters and fishing villages of Lake Tharthar and into the deserts southwest of Tikrit.

As dusk turned to darkness, the team stumbled upon what appeared to be a fuel smuggling operation. A long line of roughly two-dozen vehicles carrying 50-gallon drums and tanker trucks were driving down a dirt road when the sound of the helicopters appeared to strike panic in the drivers. Some vehicles halted, others shut off their headlights, while other vehicles peeled off the road in opposite directions.

While it was a curious sight, Tate said it wasn't the type of activity they were hunting for that day, so the helicopters did not land.

Tate said that was the nature of such missions – sometimes, when you're prepared to take action, nothing happens.

"That's why they call it fishing instead of catching," Tate said.

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## Mixon: Iraqis stand up

CONTINUED FROM A-1

of women and children," Mixon said.

Two of the six provinces within his area of operations are relatively peaceful, Mixon said. However, the other four provinces continue to experience enemy suicide attacks, kidnappings, hijackings and other terrorist violence, including murder.

The enemy also has attacked health clinics, oil pipelines and power stations, actions that negatively affect Iraqis' quality of life, Mixon said.

Diyala province is the most volatile region within his area, Mixon said, noting al Qaeda activities there are centered on inciting sectarian violence between Sunni and Shiites. Tit-for-tat reprisals between the two groups have locked Diyala province into a cycle of violence, Mixon said.

"This set of challenges is varied and broad, and we clearly face a devious and heartless enemy," Mixon said.

Yet, the U.S. Soldiers, sailors, Airmen and Marines serving in northern Iraq "are equally committed to our mission, as well as those majority Iraqi security forces in the day-to-day fight against this enemy," the general said.

He said the campaign to defeat the enemy in northern Iraq "is achieving positive gains," Mixon said, noting his Task Force Lightning troops continue to train up Iraqi security forces, as well confronting al Qaeda terrorists and criminals in the region.

"Our aim is to stand up professional Iraqi security forces that defend and respect the rights of all Iraqi people, regardless of their sect," Mixon said.

Additionally, U.S. and coalition mentors embedded



Staff Sgt. Russell Klika | 133rd Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Maj. Gen. Benjamin R. Mixon, commanding general of the 25th Infantry Division, greets Iraqi Army Division commanders. Mixon took charge of Multi-National Division North at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, this past summer.

in Iraqi security units, are providing valuable coaching that's helping Iraqi soldiers and police to become more effective and capable. "These efforts have yielded great progress," Mixon said.

In May, 20 of the 40 Iraqi Army battalions operating in Multinational Division North were conducting antiterrorist operations with minimal support from coalition forces. "Today," the general said, "that number is 35 battalions."

## NSPS: Program changes rating rubric

CONTINUED FROM A-1

Employees can prepare for NSPS by becoming familiar with how the new personnel system will affect them. The best starting point is completing the NSPS 101 course (online) located at <http://cpol.army.mil/library/general/nsps/>.

The course includes a conversion tool to estimate where employees will fall within the system and to get an estimate of within-grade pay buy-in. After completing NSPS 101, employees should print a copy of the completion certificate and provide it to their supervisor or organization NSPS point of contact.

Employees who are wage grade or in bargaining unit positions will not be part of Spiral 1.3 implementation and should not attend the NSPS classroom training at this time.

### What will not change under NSPS?

- Benefits (retirement, health, life, and other benefits)
- Antidiscrimination laws
- Fundamental due process
- Overseas entitlements
- Training
- Leave and work schedules
- Lab demo organizations (until fiscal year 2008)
- Fair Labor Standards Act

### What's different about performance management?

- Performance management under NSPS will be very different from the current performance appraisals under the Total Army Performance Evaluation System, or TAPES.

### Under the old TAPES

- Ratings based on perform-

ance objectives

- Many performance cycles
- Rating scale 1 (top) to 5 (bottom)
- Most employee ratings are level 1 (Army: 81 percent were level 1 in fiscal year 2005)
- 120-day minimum rating period
- Senior rater approves ratings

### Under new NSPS

- Ratings based on job objectives
- One cycle (Oct. 1 – Sept. 30)
- Rating scale 5 (top) to 1 (bottom)
- Most employee ratings are anticipated to be level 3 (valued performer)
- 90-day minimum rating period
- Pay pool manager approves ratings

# Mechanics ensure aircraft are ready for battle in Iraq

Maintaining helicopters is an around-the-clock job

**PFC. DURWOOD BLACKMON**  
25th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs

KIRKUK, Iraq — The OH-58 Kiowa Warrior is one of the smallest attack aircraft in the Army's inventory, and what the two-seated aircraft lacks in cabin space, it compensates with firepower.

Carrying four different weapons systems and aerial surveillance capabilities, the aircraft is invaluable assisting ground forces engaged in combat.

To ensure that every Warrior is ready for battle, the mechanics and maintenance test pilots (MTP) of the 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, work around the clock guaranteeing these machines are ready for any challenge.

"Today, I did a limited test flight checking flight controls and making sure they work correctly," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Angel Alejandro, MTP, Charlie

Troop, 2-6th Cav. "The purpose of the Kiowa is reconnaissance and close combat attacks. We are typically supporting convoys and infantry Soldiers providing them close air support and extra eyes on the road ahead of them.

"Maintaining this aircraft is what keeps guys in the air doing those type missions," he said.

Failure to keep the aircraft maintained can cost Soldiers and pilots their lives. Mechanics of the 2-6th Cavalry pride themselves on workmanship and trust their lives with the repairs they perform.

"You have to be confident in the work you do," said Sgt. Michael A. Rivera, aviation mechanic, C Troop, 2-6th. "Most of the MTPs will take us up to fly with them. If you're confident in your work you won't hesitate to fly in the aircraft."

Although smaller than its Blackhawk and Chinook counterparts, the Kiowa packs the biggest punch. The small aircraft carries a .50 caliber machine gun, 2.75 Hydra rockets, Hellfire missiles and air-to-air Stingers (ATAS). Without the



Pfc. Durwood Blackmon | 25th Infantry Division Public Affairs

Sgt. Michael A. Rivera, Aviation Mechanic, C Troop, 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment greases the bearings on a OH-58 Kiowa Warrior at FOB Warrior.

mechanics who maintain its systems, the Kiowa wouldn't be as effective in de-

fending enemy attacks or as helpful to troops on the ground.

"Whenever the pilots come back from flying, I check with them and see if there is any maintenance needed. I maintain the weapons systems, electronics and any avionics involved with the bird," said Spc. Brian Stevens, armament maintainer, C Troop, 2-6th. "The most important thing is to make sure the armament system is working so the pilots have the ability to protect themselves."

Outside of their work area, mechanics and test pilots may not be readily seen. However, every time an aircraft leaves base the lives and safety of Soldiers depend upon the work they perform.

"I've got friends at other bases and they really appreciate our pilots helping them. As long as we keep these aircraft up and running, I'm happy with the job I do. It's a joint effort between all groups," said Rivera. "Without maintenance, avionics, power plant and power train mechanics, you can't function as an effective unit. Everybody is important and needs to do their job to keep the mission going."

## News Briefs

Send calendar announcements to [community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com](mailto:community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com).

### 8 / Today

**OPSEC Briefings** — Mandatory Operational Security (OPSEC) and Emergency Preparedness Awareness briefings will be held at the Sgt. Smith Theater, Schofield Barracks, for all garrison personnel.

Briefings are scheduled for Dec. 8 at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Call 655-4621.

### 11 / Monday

**Health Plan Open Season** — Open season for the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) program, the Federal Flexible Spending Account (FSA) program, and the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance program (FEDVIP) begins Dec. 11.

Find topical information and previous newsletter editions at [www.abc.army.mil](http://www.abc.army.mil).

**FBI Recruiting** — The Federal Bureau of

Investigation (FBI) will host a career briefing Dec. 14, 10-11 a.m. The monthly briefing will be held in the Schofield Barracks Aloha Center, Building 690, in the third floor conference room. For dates of upcoming briefings, call 656-4488.

### USAREC Health Profession Briefing

— U.S. Army Recruiting Command will sponsor briefings on the Interservice Physician Assistant Program (IPAP), the Army Medical Department (AMEDD) enlisted commissioning program, and other AMEDD training opportunities at the following locations:

- IPAP, Schofield Barracks Main Post Conference Room (PCR), Dec. 11, 9 a.m.
- Army Enlisted Commissioning Program (AECP), Schofield Barracks Main PCR, Dec. 11, 10 a.m.
- IPAP, Tripler's Kaiser Auditorium, Dec. 12, 9 a.m.
- AECP, Tripler's Kaiser Auditorium, Dec. 12, 10 a.m.
- Health Profession Scholarship Program, Tripler's Kaiser Auditorium, Dec. 12, 11 a.m.

Call 502-626-0386 or e-mail [ipap@usarec.army.mil](mailto:ipap@usarec.army.mil) for unit briefings.

For Soldiers who can't attend the brief-

ings, visit [www.usarec.army.mil](http://www.usarec.army.mil) or [www.goarmyhealthcare.com](http://www.goarmyhealthcare.com) for detailed information.

## Ongoing

**CLEP** — College-level preparatory exams are now available free to active duty, Reserve and National Guard, and for only \$75 for others. Family members of Reserve, National Guard, and Coast Guard may take the tests free, but they must pay a \$20 administrative fee.

Tests are scheduled three times a day on the following schedule:

- Hickam Air Force Base (AFB), Mondays and Wednesdays;
- Pearl Harbor, Tuesdays and Thursdays;
- Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH), Fridays.

For more information, call Hickam AFB, 422-1032; Pearl Harbor, 422-0079; or MCBH, 254-4133.

**Recovered Property** — The Provost Marshal's office has recovered several lost or stolen bicycles. Owners cannot be identified because these bicycles were not previously registered with the post or any

other agency.

Other recovered items include cellular phones, keys, jewelry, sporting goods and more.

To make arrangements to identify bicycles or any other items that may have been recovered, call 655-8255.

**Special Forces** — The U.S. Army Special Forces is now seeking male officer volunteers from year group 2004.

Officer packets will be accepted until Feb. 15, 2007, but early submission is strongly encouraged. For more information, visit [www.bragg.army.mil/special-forces](http://www.bragg.army.mil/special-forces).

**Army Reserve Opportunities** — Are you an active, Guard, or Reserve Soldier who wants to continue your Army career but job/school/schedule conflicts keep you from attending weekend drill? Or are you leaving active duty and want to continue earning points towards retirement?

Consider joining a points-only reserve unit to continue your military career while maintaining your benefits. Drills are three evenings a month at Fort Shafter Flats. All ranks are eligible. Contact Maj. Pepper 438-6242 or Sgt. Maj. James Kahalehoe 228-3323.

**Financial Health** — Want to find the road to healthy finances? Contact Army Community Service, located in Building 2091 across the street from the Richardson swimming pool.

November classes include checkbook maintenance, money management, credit management, the Thrift Savings Plan, car buying, mutual fund investing, college funding, and Army Emergency Relief/Command Referral. Instructors can also assist with zero percent interest, Army Emergency Relief loans.

To attend a class or schedule a one-on-one appointment with a financial counselor, call 655-4ACS (4227). All services are free and help is only a phone call away.

**Free USPS Packaging** — The U.S. Postal Service provides military family members and friends with packaging materials to send packages to service members. Call (toll free) 1-800-610-8734, select option #1, then #1 again, then #2 and ask for the "Military Pack."

Eight boxes, tape, packaging materials and labels will be mailed to those who call. The postal service will also provide an ID number to reorder supplies, but allow four to 10 days to receive materials.

# BOSS bakes for OIF-deployed troops in 25th Infantry

Story and Photos by  
**AIKO BRUM**  
Managing Editor

Coming home after a long day of work and then sniffing fresh-baked cookies when entering the door ... ahhh! It's just downright comforting.

That's just the feeling single Soldiers wanted to bundle up and ship off to their deployed comrades who are serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom when they assembled for a holiday bake-off at the Tropics, Schofield Barracks, Dec. 1.

"We know how lonely it is being away from home for the holidays," explained Spc. Brandy Crawford of A Company, 225 Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade.

Pfc. Kenneth Laycock of 540th Quartermaster piped in, "The least we can do is to support them [the 25th Infantry Division] by boosting their morale with some cookies."

Sgt. Bryan Jones, physical therapist with C Company, Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC), recalled his past deployment, too.

"I used to get cards from packets and that was my favorite thing [when I was deployed]," he said, explaining that his sister's first-grade class sent letters from their hometown. "It shows that people took the time to sit down and make you something. They are really going to enjoy these."

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers, or BOSS, often seeks out projects to bring holiday cheer to others in their community. Enlisted Soldiers of varying ranks, ethnicities, cultures and faiths combine their talents, or simply lend their time, to help others.

Since Thanksgiving Day, BOSS has helped the Special Olympics at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, said Sgt. Danielle Colson, BOSS president. She was referring to the 2006 Holiday Classic when hundreds of Special Olympians throughout the state, and their families, converged at K-Bay and Hickam Air Force Base to participate in the annual games.

BOSS volunteers helped set up and tear down tables and booths at the event, as well as cheered on and supported the Olympians, as needed, particular-



Above — Sgt. Bryan Jones, physical therapist, C Company, Tripler Army Medical Center, admires his cookie creativity.



Left — Pfc. XuXa Monsalve (left) of 540th Quartermaster and Pfc. Yana Anzelm of 1-25th Finance decorate zipper sandwich bags with yuletide greetings.

In assembly line fashion, they rolled dough, placed rounded balls atop baking sheets, and then sent the trays into the kitchen where Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) assistants baked them until light-

ly during their bowling competition.

Similarly, the yuletide holiday bake-off combined the time and talents of a couple dozen BOSS volunteers.

ly golden brown.

Once transferred and cooled on platters, BOSS representatives added a special touch to the cookies.

"We are making masterpieces," said C Co., TAMC, medic Spc. Suzanne Kumaraswamy, jokingly, as she squeezed decorator icing on her creation.

BOSS participants went the extra mile as well. They packaged two festive goodies per personalized Ziploc bag and then complemented each with a personal greeting card that summed up their individual sentiments: "Merry Christmas," "Peace, joy, noel," "Happy Chanukah," "Happy Kwanza," and the like.

The cookies are being shipped 80 per box to the 45th Sustainment Brigade, the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, and the 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, this week, courtesy of MWR.

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers, an MWR program, "is the voice of the single Soldier," said Colson. "We help solve their well-being [or quality of life] issues that can't be solved through the chain of command."

For example, she explained, BOSS was directly responsible for getting about 600 peepholes installed in barracks at Schofield when funding was not immediately available through Army channels. With dollars provided by the Department of Public Works, drills loaned from various units, and labor from BOSS reps, its enlisted Soldiers installed the seemingly insignificant peep holes — considerably important to barracks residents.

"BOSS also helps create quality leisure activities such as surf trips, dinner cruises, and movies on the lawn," Colson added.

The next BOSS event takes place Christmas Eve at the Schofield Tropics. Reps will help serve turkey and all its trimmings, free of charge, to all single Soldiers wanting to be a part of the merriment, Dec. 24. Colson said more details are forthcoming.

# Medic takes road less traveled

Professional chef turned medic finds ways to assist others

**BOB MCELROY**

Pohakuloa Training Area Public Affairs

POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA — About a dozen years ago, Sgt. Ryan Schmidt's future spread before him clearly. He would attend American International College in Springfield, Mass., on an ice hockey scholarship, earn a degree in physical therapy, and go to work helping people.

But, as the saying goes, "life turns on a dime."

Life turned for Schmidt when he tore up his knee playing defenseman for his college's ice hockey team. Schmidt said he lost the scholarship due to the injury and — unable to afford the tuition, room and board — left college to work.

Schmidt's first job was cooking at the Kennebunkport Inn in his native state of Maine. He'd done some cooking while in high school and was interested in learning more about the culinary arts.

"The Kennebunkport Inn is where it all started," he said.

Schmidt spoke with the Inn's executive sous chef, Gordon Cameron, and told him he was interested in cooking. (A sous chef is one step below an executive chef and is charged with the supervision of the kitchen as well as its production.) Cameron, who was a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, as well as Johnson and Wales College (both renowned in the culinary industry), agreed to teach Schmidt and became his teacher and mentor.

Cameron taught Schmidt the essential skills he would need to become a chef as opposed to someone who could cook: sauce making, roasting styles, cutting techniques for vegetables, techniques to reduce a large piece of meat or fish to smaller portions.



Schmidt

Schmidt worked and learned for two seasons at the Kennebunkport Inn — spring to autumn. In the off season, he worked at Olive's American Restaurant, in Boston, under executive chef Todd English, a well-known chef in the culinary field.

"He's written about ten cookbooks," Schmidt said.

While he was cooking and learning at the Kennebunkport Inn, in 1995, Schmidt had the honor and privilege of cooking for some distinguished local residents, including the Bush family: former President George H.W. Bush; his wife Barbara; and sons, Florida Governor Jeb Bush and his wife Columba, and then Texas Governor George W. Bush and his wife Laura.

"They ate in the back lounge, away from everybody," Schmidt said. "The Secret Service checked the kitchen. We sent them [Secret Service agents] appetizers, but they didn't eat them."

After his two seasons working in Kennebunkport, Schmidt moved to Portland, Maine, with his teacher and friend Cameron, and worked with him as a sous chef at a wine

bar called Una.

Schmidt said he lived and breathed cooking, not just on the job, but at home, too.

Cameron would obtain menus from top restaurants and highlight the items he did not know how to prepare. Then, he and Schmidt would do some research and then quiz each other about what they learned.

"We were a couple of cooking geeks," Schmidt said, smiling.

A highlight of his time in Portland was when Schmidt entered a cooking competition against Mario Batali, star of the Food Network program "Molto Mario."

"He came in with a blonde on each arm; he prepped for 45 minutes and won," Schmidt said, laughing.

Around Thanksgiving 1998, Schmidt decided a change was in order. He sold his car, packed his belongings into four duffel bags, and jumped onto a train for Portland, Ore. He found an apartment after a week in town, and then began searching for a job.

I toured the Western Culinary Institute and then checked their job board, he said. I copied the phone numbers of restaurants that were looking for help. That's when I got the job cooking for the Portland Trailblazers.

**SEE MEDIC, A-10**



Jeremy S. Buddemeier | U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii Public Affairs

**'Tie a yellow ribbon ...'**

Family readiness group member Kerry Autry irons Soldiers' names onto yellow ribbons to honor more than 900 deployed Soldiers of 25th Special Troops Battalion in the 25th STB building at Schofield Barracks, Tuesday.

The ribbons will be added to the group's tree poster on the wall near the entrance to the 'Yellow Ribbon Room.'

In addition, the group is sending Christmas cards with free phone cards donated by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, to every 25th STB Soldier.

"Everything we do, we do for the entire battalion," said Emily Harrison, 25th STB family readiness support assistant.

Autry and Henderson said deployed Soldiers have asked specifically for magazines and their favorite toiletries, which do not seem to last long on post exchange shelves in Iraq.

# Medic: Soldier relights passion

CONTINUED FROM A-1

Schmidt actually worked for the Levy Corporation, a caterer for large venues around America such as the Superdome in New Orleans, the Anaheim Angels baseball stadium, facilities in Las Vegas, and the Trailblazers professional basketball team.

"I interviewed with them, and when they saw my resume they picked me up right away because I had experience and wasn't a student," he said.

Schmidt's time with the Trailblazers provided him with the opportunity to see and, in some cases, meet celebrities and athletes because he cooked all of the food on-site at the Rose Garden.

"I met Kobe Bryant, Shaquille O'Neal and Dennis Rodman," he said. "Rodman had yellow and purple hair [the official colors of the Los Angeles Lakers basketball team]. It was his last game."

Schmidt also got to watch rock concerts when he wasn't cooking. "My second day there I cooked for Black Sabbath," he said. "I even met Ozzie Osbourne."

After stints at two upscale restaurants, Schmidt was getting burned out on cooking.

"I wanted to get back into medicine. It was after 9-11, and I wanted to do something to serve," he said.

"I'd lost my passion for cooking; it became a job. I worked nights, weekends, holidays. My whole life was restaurants."

Schmidt was 26 years old and knew that if he didn't enlist then, he never would.

In December 2002, he enlisted for four years and began his second career, as a Soldier and combat medic.

After basic and medic training, and tours at a couple medical centers, Schmidt was assigned to Fort Polk, La., for a job with the 565th Ground Ambulance Company.

"The 565th was in Iraq when the war started," he said. "When I got to Polk, they said they needed ten medics over there, so I volunteered. I wanted to do the job."

Schmidt said he saw lots of action while he was in Iraq. He spent time in downtown Baghdad, Sadr City and Fallujah. Ironically, most of his patients were Iraqi citizens who were wounded in mortar attacks, from improvised explosive devices or by gunfire.

When asked if he wanted to share his other wartime experiences in Iraq, Schmidt paused, looked down, and quietly said, "No."

After completing his yearlong deployment and returning to Fort Polk, Schmidt re-enlisted for Hawaii. But, before he departed, he was once again sent into a scene of death and destruction: New Orleans, just after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita had hit.

Eventually, Schmidt found himself working at the tiny aide station at Pohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island. Instead of working at Tripler Army Medical Center or Schofield Barracks, his duties at PTA would entail managing the aide station with another medic, responding to traffic accidents on Saddle Road, and assisting Soldiers and Marines on training deployments to PTA.

Soon, the other medic left and Schmidt became the sole medic on post, and then he learned that Tripler would be terminating its support of the PTA aide station, so he'd have to move to Oahu.

In mid-September, Schmidt completed his work at PTA and departed for duty at the Family Practice Clinic at Schofield Barracks, Oahu, where he continues to do what he set out to do as a young man: help people.

And, Schmidt still cooks. "I've still got my knives and I bought a



Pvt.2 Nicole R. Goodrich | U.S. Army Pacific

Sgt. Ryan Schmidt, medic at the Family Practice Clinic at Schofield Barracks, prepares his chicken and broccoli fettuccini, lemon basil alfredo for dinner. Schmidt has been cooking for years with some of the most renowned chefs in the culinary industry.

restaurant-quality Kitchen Aid mixer with my re-enlistment bonus," he said.

Cooking now is a source of pleasure for him. Gone is the pressure to perform and produce.

"When I was cooking, all I had in the 'fridge was hot dogs and beer," he said, joking.

Now Schmidt cooks for himself and for his friends. True to his nature, even as a cook, he's helping people.

# Tricare now on Web under one just roof

## AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

News Release

WASHINGTON — Tricare beneficiaries will get a pleasant surprise the next time they visit Tricare Online. The Web site has a new name, a new look and a new home. It's now part of Tricare.mil, the official Web site for all Tricare information.

"We reorganized the Web site with our beneficiaries in mind," said Maj. Gen. Elder Granger, deputy director, Tricare Management Activity.

"Now they can go to one site to look up benefit information, schedule an appointment or track claims. Everything's in one place, making the site easier to use."

Tricare.mil comprises five main

content areas:

- My Health (Tricare Online) -- personal health information and online appointment scheduling for Tricare Prime enrollees.
- My Benefit -- Tricare benefit information.
- MHS staff -- resources for Military Health System staff members.
- Tricare providers -- information for Tricare network providers.
- Pressroom -- the latest news about Tricare and the military health system.

In the next phase of Web site improvements, beneficiaries will be able to enter their profile and receive benefit information tailored to them. Tricare expects this feature to be available in winter of 2007.

# Expanded dental care opens for kids, others

## TRICARE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY

News Release

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — The National Defense Authorization Act of 2007 legislated a change to the Tricare dental benefit to cover anesthesia services and institutional costs for dental treatment for beneficiaries with developmental, mental or physical disabilities, and children age 5 or under.

For Tricare to reimburse claims, beneficiaries must save their bills for medical care occurring after Oct. 17, 2006. The change in statute does not include the actual dental care services coverage through the Tricare Dental Program and the Tricare Retiree Dental Program.

Once program officers finalize implementation requirements, Tricare will announce when beneficiaries may submit their bills for reimbursement. Implementation re-

quires changes to Tricare Manuals and dental care services contracts.

To avoid costly and extensive dental procedures requiring anesthesia, children should start seeing a dentist by the time their first tooth appears or by their first birthday; this helps to prevent tooth decay and other oral diseases.

Decay is the single most common chronic childhood dental disease—and it's completely preventable.

## About TRICARE Management Activity

TRICARE Management Activity, the Defense Department agency that administers the health care plan for the uniformed services, retirees and their families, serves more than 9.2 million eligible beneficiaries worldwide.

# Tripler receives Hawaiian Electric energy efficiency award

## TRIPLER ARMY MEDICAL CENTER

News Release

HONOLULU – Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC) received the 2006 Institutional Project Award at the 7th Biennial Efficient Electro-Technology Exposition and Conference, presented by Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO) at the Hawaii Convention Center, Nov. 29.

The Tripler Logistics Team's efforts resulted in a projected, annual savings greater than \$231,000 and earned the hospital a HECO rebate of \$121,000.

Col. Derick B. Ziegler, chief of staff, TAMC, accepted the award on behalf of Tripler.

"I know the event meant a lot to all of our attendees, especially our logistics and facilities staff," Ziegler said. "They are the ones who did the work for the award. A \$231,000 energy-costs savings per year is big dollars, so this was a big time award," he said.

Peter Kwong, facility systems technology integration manager for Tripler, mentioned that the Energy Savings Performance Contract (ESPC) Phase 2 projects are part of management's goals to meet the energy needs of the hospital as efficiently as possible.

"Winning this award provides us with such a sense of satisfaction. Not only are we saving the government money, but we're also helping the community



Courtesy of Tripler Army Medical Center Public Affairs

Tripler employees are all smiles after receiving their energy award at the 7th Biennial Efficient Electro-Technology Exposition and Conference, presented by HECO, at the Hawaii Convention Center, Nov. 29. Among Tripler recipients were (left to right) Peter Kwong, facility systems technology integration manager; Glenn Engle, project manager; Tommy Soder, contractor (Johnson Controls); Walter Michel, electrical engineer; Myron Oh, chief, Facility Management; Michael Chang, contractor (Johnson Controls); and Bobby Vinluan, chief, Utilities and Maintenance.

by using less of its natural resources," he said.

Kwong said Tripler received the award because the Phase 2 energy projects provided the following:

- Increased chiller efficiency - The chilled water loop combination and condenser water set-point optimization projects allowed the central plant chillers to operate at higher efficiencies by consolidating smaller night cooling loads and automating the process of providing the chillers with the coolest condensed water achievable.

- High Efficiency Water Heating System - The new heat pumps provide high efficiencies by both pre-cooling the used chilled water returning to the central plant, and then transferring all the recovered heat into the domestic hot water and HVAC terminal re-heat water loops.

- Improved staff and patient comfort - The new air side devices and Energy Management Control System work together to help make a safe and comfortable environment for hospital patients and staff.

The systems save energy by adapting outputs to match cooling loads, automatically changing the environmental conditions at night to lower system requirements, and by providing diagnostic capabilities to quickly identify and correct system operations.

# Sailors: TAMC inter-service teamwork eases transition for six burn victims

CONTINUED FROM A-1

bandages, every thing we needed."

Health care professionals at TAMC worked closely with the burn trauma experts to ensure the Sailors received the best care available as quickly as possible.

"TAMC and [B-SMART] staff worked as a team with each patient, true support partnership in every sense," said Col. Arthur Wallace, deputy commander for nursing, TAMC. "Command Sergeant Major [Joel Jenkins, TAMC] provided runner support. Nutrition Division ... breakfast, water, and break room snacks for all.

"Radiology staff was on stand-by for portables," he continued. "Residents, nursing staff, and support staff provided extra arms for lifting, assistance with IV pumps, shaving, wrapping with silver wrap dressings, etcetera," Wallace said.

TAMC's Chaplain (Navy Lt. Cmdr.) Robert Fuehrer supported the injured Sailors and the two families who accompanied them to Hawaii. He spoke with the one patient who was ambulatory, and said the patient seemed pleasantly sur-

prised when he walked through the door.

"I think it brightened his spirits that a naval chaplain walked through the door in an Army medical facility," Fuehrer said. "Being available to the Navy personnel provided a sense of comfort and familiarity that further bridged a gap between the service."

Col. Richard Stack, surgeon, TAMC, credited everyone involved with phenomenal professionalism and teamwork.

"When the Sailors first arrived in the PACU, we had people from the Army burn team, our Tripler team, the team from the Navy hospital in Guam, the Air Force Critical Care Air Transport Team, and GS civilians all working together with only one mission in mind – to save the lives of these Sailors. It didn't matter who you were," Stack said.

According to Stack, Straub Clinic and Hospital loaned Tripler some Silverlon bandages that enhanced the treatment of the burn wounds. In addition, he said, Straub called twice during the day to see if Tripler needed any additional items or assistance.



Col. Richard Stack | Tripler Army Medical Center

**Superior support.** Tripler's Patient Acute Care Unit, or PACU, filled to capacity as joint service and joint agency collaboration sought to save the lives of Guam's injured sailors. The medical support pace remained extremely high for many hours.

"The pharmacy was hopping," Stack said. "Normally closed on weekends, they set-up and staffed the nearby satellite pharmacy with dedicated assets for this mission. Up to three pharmacy personnel were required at one time due to the high

demand," he said.

Tripler's Anueue Café delivered food to the adjacent break area for the team. Water, juice and Red Bull were consumed in large amounts because the body temperatures of the burn patients were a

significant issue.

Still other supporting factors played a role in mission success like Tripler Facilities Management, which controlled room temperatures, and IMD, which configured phones in the PACU to enable contact with Guam and the mainland, Stack said.

Naturally, planning and coordination played significant roles.

As soon as TAMC was aware of what happened, the planning and coordination began. Key players twice met to ensure all coordination had been made, Stack said, key among them, preparation of TAMC's Electronic Intensive Care Unit.

Tripler used the telemedicine, video, and a monitor, which comprise the Electronic Intensive Care Unit to review the Guam ICU at TAMC.

"We could view these patients until they left for transport from Guam to Hawaii," Stack explained.

Stack said the integrated, multiservice, multidisciplinary teams worked so well together that outsiders would have concluded they had been working together for years.

# PAU HANA

## Fates allow fortunate to have an isle holiday

Holidays on 'the rock' have candy canes, silver bells, everything but mainland's snow

CHRISTA B. THOMAS  
Pau Hana Editor

Elvis Presley's 1964 holiday ditty, "Blue Christmas," evoked feelings of melancholy and loneliness. Had he celebrated his holiday in Hawaii, where the bright December skies reflect off the warm sapphire waters of the Pacific, his lyrics may have been markedly different.

Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Ramadan, Festivus or just the fact that you are alive and well, this time of year is special for millions of people around the world. And in Hawaii, it's a completely different feeling from what you may be used to experiencing.

Holiday seasons cause some people to scurry – to the post office, to the mall, to the grocery, and such. With all the "necessary" preparations, it's astonishing how much activity we can pack into four weeks.

But on the islands, there is a prevailing attitude of "hurry up, but take your time ..."

Some mainlanders may find it a pleasant change to spend their days boogie boarding instead of snowboarding; salting a margarita, instead of salting the sidewalks; or strapping a surfboard to the car, instead of strapping snow chains to the tires. After all, the average winter temperature in Hawaii is seventy-four degrees, and the water is a balmy seventy-six.

Family gatherings have a different flavor in the islands, too. On the mainland, your tradition might include an intimate, formal gathering using the holiday table accoutrement and the "good china." Local style calls for a jamboree of "cousins" seated in folding chairs on the carport or the lanai, eating from poinsettia-adorned paper plates.

Most military members who are far away from families on the mainland – or separated from a loved one who may be deployed – will gather with their adopted families for a big potluck, reminisce about home, or position themselves out of earshot to enjoy the requisite holiday cell phone chat with distant friends and relatives.

It is all good. No matter where or how you celebrate, the season is about fellowship, laughter, hope and giving.

Many of us may fondly remember only one or two special childhood Christmas gifts, but we'll never forget the annual traditions that truly made the season special.

In this era of "excess equals success," remember to give your children the gift of traditions, pleasant memories of holidays in Hawaii, and undivided attention.

As the curtain closes on the comedies and dramas of 2006, be kind to yourself and look beyond the challenge that being away from home may present. Realize how many of your family members would trade places with you in an instant.

Before this season ends, pray for peace on Earth and continue to give thanks for all your blessings.



## Holiday cards show spirit build unity

LANDY STEWART MIYAKE  
Staff Writer

The holidays are a time for friends, family and fun, and at this time of the year, military units participate in a unique tradition to show their holiday spirit.

Every year, Soldiers at Fort Shafter, Schofield Barracks and Tripler Army Medical Center get into the holiday spirit by coming together to create huge Christmas cards for their installation's Holiday Card Lane.

"The process builds cohesion and unity for Soldiers," said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Robinson, operations noncommissioned officer in charge, Oahu Base Support Battalion-South. "It's a chance for all of them to get together for other than just work."

In addition to bringing holiday spirit, the cards bring out some friendly competition among units. The contestants will be judged on originality, creativity and professional appearance. An Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) manager will judge each post, separately. The top three at each will receive AAFES gift certificates.

At Fort Shafter, themes were chosen by the participants who designed and constructed two 8-by-4-foot plywood sheets attached in a way that opens like a greeting card.

Unit Soldiers were not required to participate in the project; it was strictly voluntary. "It's not an order, so Soldiers only participate if they really want to," explained Robinson. "Once they participate, they usually find that it's a lot of fun."

"[The effort] comes from the heart of each Soldier," he added.

The project, how-

ever, is not limited to Soldiers. Other military agencies may also join in on the fun.

Competing for the first time was Kilauea Military Camp (KMC), which designed its plywood card with a Big Island theme.

Arlene Bali, KMC marketing manager, delivered the sign to Fort Shafter.

"We'd like to start a tradition, to bring a little bit of the Big Island to Oahu," she said.

Last year's first place winner, Fort Shafter Elementary School, will be competing again this year.

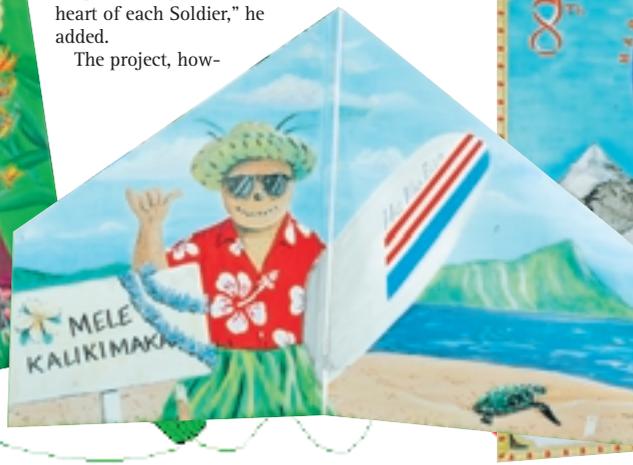
Lori Nakata, primary school adjustment program coordinator, has been involved with the project for the last three years.

"We wanted to represent [Fort] Shafter Elementary for the children and to show our patriotism. It's something fun that the children enjoy doing," Nakata said.

Commenting on the family-focused theme this year, Nakata added, "We wanted to focus on the family because ours is a transient school. We have children whose parents are deployed."

"Focusing on family is important for what [the children] are going through right now," she said.

Cards at Fort Shafter were judged Dec. 1. Winners will be announced on Dec. 14 at the Fort Shafter Christmas Tree Lighting on Palm Circle at 6 p.m.



## Season made brighter by concerts, parades, family events

COMPILED BY CHRISTA B. THOMAS  
Pau Hana Editor

Put some mele in your Kalikimaka. Get out into the local community and participate in any number of community activities to celebrate the season.

Families, kids and music buffs will be sure to find something to enjoy.

### Best things in life are freebies

•**The Christmas Gift of Aloha** – This holiday musical will be based on a children's book that explores the meaning of Christmas and the spirit of aloha. This free show will be performed at center stage in the Ala Moana Shopping Center, at 6 p.m., daily, except Mondays.

Following the show, a Santa parade will travel the mall, starting at 7 p.m.

•**Honolulu City Lights** – This sparkling holiday celebration is being held at Honolulu Hale through Jan. 1. Glitz is stretched from the Honolulu Hale on King Street to Alapai, from Beretania Street to along Bishop Street.

The array of outdoor displays can be enjoyed via car, trolley or a walk-through.

•**Honolulu's 21st Annual Holiday Wreath Exhibit** – Decorative wreaths will be on display in the Lane Gallery of Hon-



Photo courtesy Robert Rock | City and County of Honolulu

Thousands of parade-goers line the sidewalks along King Street to catch a glimpse of Shaka Santa at the annual Honolulu City Lights Parade. The parade kicks off of each year with the lighting of the city's 50-foot-tall Christmas tree at Honolulu Hale.

olulu Hale through Jan. 1. The wreaths were created by Oahu residents who entered the Holiday Wreath Contest in one of three categories: adult, youth and themed.

This year's theme is "Plantation Holiday,"

in remembrance of the plantation communities in Hawaii.

•**Kapolei Hale City Lights** – Oahu's "second city" will host a flashy holiday event, too, which kicks off Dec. 9 at 5

p.m. with music, an electric light parade, and a tree-lighting ceremony at 7:30 p.m. Decorations and exhibits will be displayed through Jan. 4.

•**Ahoy Mateys** – Kick off your holidays with an island-style parade Dec. 9 on Honolulu's harbor front. Go to the Aloha Tower Marketplace from 6–9 p.m. for live entertainment and door prizes on the Pier 9 stage and free photos with Santa in the center atrium.

The evening will culminate with a festive "see-worthy" boat parade along the waterfront. The Aloha Tower Marketplace is located at 1 Aloha Tower Dr.

### Ballet High

•**"The Nutcracker,"** a colorful holiday romp through a fantasy world of fairies, toy soldiers and an army of mice, will grace local stages with three productions of various adaptations.

John Landovsky will direct the company of Hawaii State Ballet students as they perform their lavish rendition of "The Nutcracker." Shows will be held as follows: The Mamiya Theatre, Saint Louis School, Dec. 8, at 7 p.m.; Dec. 9 and 16, at 2:30 p.m. and



**10 / Sunday**

**Holiday Rubber Stamping** — Stamp-out boring holiday decorations. Adults, come stamp a card, treat bag, or gift tag at holiday rubber-stamping classes in Fort Shafter Library, from 1-2:30 p.m.  
Advance registration is required and all supplies will be provided. Call 438-9521.

**11 / Monday**

**Keiki Christmas Crafts** — Today is the last day to register for the Keiki Christmas Craft Extravaganza. Enjoy fun, crafts and refreshments at the Schofield Arts and Crafts Center, Dec. 13, 2-4 p.m.  
Children can make dough ornaments, candy cane reindeer, and a sock puppet to use in a puppet show. Cost is \$3 per child. Call 655-0111 or e-mail Elizabeth.thunstedt@schofield.army.mil to register.

**12 / Tuesday**

**Christmas Tree Lighting** — Celebrate the holidays at Piliu Army Recreation Center's 13th annual tree lighting ceremony. Come Dec. 12 from 6-9 p.m. for train rides, bouncers, entertainment, pictures with Santa and hot dogs and refreshments. Call 696-6783.

**15 / Friday**

**Christmas Coloring Contest** — Youth, through age 10 are invited to showcase their artistic talent in the Christmas coloring contest. Illustrate favorite things about the holiday season and be eligible to win a \$10 Morale, Welfare and Recreation gift certificate.  
Submit drawings to the Leisure Activities office, Building 556, by Dec. 15. Drawings will be displayed at the Schofield Bowling Center and Tropics through Dec. 23. Call 655-0111 or 655-0112.

**Teen Social** — Teens are invited to come have fun with friends at the Schofield Barracks Teen Center Social. The fun will last from 7-9:30 p.m.  
Cost is \$3 for members and \$4 for non-members. Call 655-0445.

**16 / Saturday**

**Yu-Gi-Oh** — Get ready to duel at the



Photo by Peter Yee

**Visions of sugar plums**

Megan Fairchild, a principle dancer with the New York City Ballet, stars as the Sugar Plum Fairy in Ballet Hawaii's presentation of "The Nutcracker."

This lavish version of Peter Tchaikovsky's perennial holiday favorite will feature accompaniment by the Honolulu Symphony.

Shows will be held in the Blaisdell Concert Hall Dec. 15, at 8 p.m.; Dec. 16, at 7:30 p.m.; and Dec. 17, at 2 p.m. Ticket prices start at \$25 each. Call 877-750-4400.

**Tropics.** Registration for the Yu-Gi-Oh tournament starts at noon, and matches will start at 1 p.m. Cost is \$6 and includes a pack of the latest Yu-Gi-Oh cards.  
Prizes will be awarded, and all ages are welcome. Call 655-8522.

**Parents Night Out** — Leave the children with Child and Youth Services (CYS) at Peterson Center, Schofield Barracks, on Parents Night Out, and then enjoy a nice night out on the town.

Children enrolled in Parents Night Out must be registered with CYS no later than noon, Dec. 15. Reservations are first-come, first-served. Call 655-8313.

**21 / Thursday**

**Ante Up!** — Put on your best poker face and participate in a free Texas Hold 'em tournament at the Tropics, Schofield Barracks, Dec. 21 at 6 p.m.  
All ID card holders are welcome to play, but should get there early because room is

prices are \$14.95 for adults and \$11.95 for youth, ages 4-12, and seniors.

Special rates are available for kamaaina, military patrons, and children age 3 and under. Call 847-3511 or visit www.bishopmuseum.org.

**11 / Monday**

**HPU Holiday Express Courses** — Hawaii Pacific University will offer a five-week online term Dec. 11 - Jan. 12, to help service members and their families maximize accelerated educational opportunities.

Registration is open now for the classroom-based interim, Dec. 16 - Jan. 6, and the online holiday interims.  
H P U also offers a scholarship program to assist spouses of military personnel.

Call HPU Tripler campus, 687-7036; e-mail tripler@hpu.edu; call the Schofield Barracks campus, 624-9881; or e-mail schofield@hpu.edu.  
Visit www.hpu.edu/military for more information on specific course offerings and spouse scholarship eligibility requirements.

**13 / Wednesday**

**Concert in the Park** — The military community is invited to a free outdoor concert featuring the Pacific Fleet Band and other guest ensembles Dec. 13 at 6:30 p.m.  
This monthly event is usually held the fourth Friday of each month on the grassy knoll behind The Banyans Conference Cen-

only available for 120 people to play. Call 655-5697.

**24 / Sunday**

**Single Soldier Christmas Party** — All Single Soldiers are invited to enjoy a free turkey dinner with all the trimmings at the Tropics, Dec. 24, 4-9 p.m.  
Also, enjoy great food, door prizes, a volleyball-serve contest, an indoor surf contest, and a Texas Hold'em poker tournament. Live music will be provided by Taylor Made Jazz. Call 655-5697 or 655-0968.

**25 / Monday**

**Holiday Dinner with Santa** — Spend the holidays with your Army family at the Nehelani and Hale Ikena. Come for a special holiday dinner, Dec. 25, and enjoy a turkey dinner with all the trimmings.  
Cost is \$25 for adults, \$15 for Blue Star card holders and \$10 for children, who can also enjoy a visit and a surprise from Santa. For reservations, seating times, and additional information, call 655-4466 (Nehelani) or 438-1974 (Hale Ikena).

**Ongoing**

**Army Soldier Show** — Performer and technician nominations are being accepted for the Army Soldier Show.  
For more information on participating, or for show details, call the Leisure Activities Office at 655-0112 or 655-0111.

**Outdoor Recreation Rentals** — Outdoor recreation can supply all your party needs to include tables, chairs, canopies, inflatables and even a dunk tank for the kids.  
Not having a party? Going camping instead? Outdoor Recreation can supply all necessary gear, from tents and coolers to stoves. Outdoor Recreation is open everyday, except Tuesday. Call 655-0143.

**Hawaii MusicWorks Studio Classes** — Schools of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills (SKIES) Unlimited is partnering with Hawaii MusicWorks Studio to offer a military discount program for music and voice lessons. Hawaii MusicWorks offers both classical study and pop study.  
Classes include "Intro to Piano and Composition," "Intro to Guitar and Ukulele," "Intro to Voice," "Intro to Percussion," and "Rock School." Discount cards can be picked up at the Child and Youth Services registration offices. Call 655-9818.

ter on Naval Station Pearl Harbor.  
Order a meal for \$5.50 per person in advance from "A Catered Experience" by calling 473-1706.

**Army Community Theatre** — Army Community Theatre presents "Annie," featuring Channing Weir in the title role, at the Richardson Theatre, Fort Shafter.  
The show will run Fridays and Saturdays, 7:30 p.m. through December.  
Tickets are \$15 and \$20 for adults, and \$12 and \$15 for children, at the ACT Box Office. Season tickets are priced at \$60 and \$75 for adults, and \$45 and \$50 for children, for a four-show musical series.  
The season will run through May 2007. Call 438-4480 or view details at www.squareone.org/ACT.

**Holiday Parades**

- Dec. 8 — Haleiwa, starting at 6 p.m. Route begins at Weed Circle, to Kamehameha Highway, through Haleiwa, ending at the beach park.
- Dec. 9 — North Shore, starting at 11 a.m. Route begins Pupukea Road, along Kamehameha Highway, ending at Swanzy Park. Kapolei, starting at 6 p.m. Route begins at Kapolei Fairgrounds, along Farrington Highway to Kamokila Boulevard, ending at Kapolei Parkway.
- Dec. 14 — Kapaehulu-Moiliili, starting at 6:30 p.m. Route begins at Kuhio Elementary School, to South King Street, along University Avenue to Beretania ending at the Old Stadium Park.
- Dec. 16 — Waimanalo, starting at 10 a.m. Route begins at the district park to Hihimanu Street, along Kumuhau Street, to Kalanianoale Highway, ending at the beach park.
- Ewa Beach, starting at 5:45 p.m. Route begins at Illima Intermediate School, to Fort weaver Road to Kuhina Street, ending at the starting point.

**Ongoing**

**Gift of Groceries** — Consider giving a gift of groceries to a special friend or neighbor? Commissary gift certificates, gift baskets and various bakery goods are a good fit for any occasion.  
Anyone can donate or purchase gift certificates, but they can only be redeemed by authorized patrons.  
Also, the commissary gift certificates can be purchased at any commissary worldwide, or purchased for delivery anywhere in the world through the link at the commissary Web site, www.commissaries.com.



**Aliamanu (AMR) Chapel**

- Catholic Sunday, 8:30 a.m. — Mass Sunday, 9:45 a.m. — Religious education (Sept. — May only)
- Gospel Sunday, 11 a.m. — Sunday school (Sept. — June only)
- Protestant Sundays, 9:45 a.m. — Worship service Sunday, 12:30 p.m. — Worship service
- Protestant Sundays, 9:45 a.m. — Worship service Sunday, 11 a.m. — Sunday school (Sept. — June only)

**Fort DeRussy Chapel 836-4599**

- Catholic Saturday, 5 p.m. — Mass in chapel (May — Aug.) Saturday, 6 p.m. — Mass on the beach
- Protestant Sunday, 9 a.m. — Worship service

**Fort Shafter Chapel 836-4599**

- Contemporary Protestant Sunday, 9 a.m. — "The Wave" worship service

**Helemano (HMR) Chapel**

- Contemporary Protestant Sunday, 10 a.m. — Worship service and children's church

**Main Post Chapel 655-9307**

- Catholic Sunday, 9 a.m. — CCD & RCIA Sunday, 10:30 a.m. — Mass
- Collective Protestant Sunday, 9 a.m. — Worship service Sunday, 10:30 a.m. — Sunday school
- Gospel Sunday, 10:30 a.m. — Sunday school Sunday, 12 p.m. — Worship service

**MPC Annex, building 791**

- Chalice circle Tuesday, 7 p.m.
- Islamic prayers and study Friday, 1 p.m.
- Buddhist 4th Sunday, 1 p.m.

**Soldiers Chapel**

- Catholic Friday — Saturday, 12 p.m. — Adoration (24 hours)
- Protestant Sunday, 9:30 a.m. — Worship service

**Tripler AMC Chapel 433-5727**

- Catholic Sunday, 11 a.m. — Mass Monday — Friday, 12 p.m. — Mass Saturday, 5 p.m. — Mass
- Protestant Sunday, 9 a.m. — Worship service

**Wheeler Chapel**

- Catholic Saturday, 5 p.m. — Mass
- Collective Protestant Sunday, 10:30 a.m. — Worship service and children's church



Send calendar announcements to community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

**8 / Today**

**New Clinic Hours** — The Schofield Barracks Veterinary Treatment Facility's new walk-in appointment hours are now 8 a.m.-4 p.m. every other Tuesday.  
MWR health certificates will be issued daily on a walk-in basis.  
The veterinary clinics offer a variety of services, including vaccinations, health certificates for flights and boarding, senior pet physicals, owner education and many other services.  
The clinic is open Monday-Friday, from 8 a.m.-4 p.m., and is located on Duck Road, Building 936.  
Call Schofield Barracks, 433-8531; Fort Shafter, 433-3371; or Hickam, 449-6481.

**Family Employment Readiness Programs** — Family Employment Readiness at Army Community Service (ACS) offices will host monthly training workshops, including interviewing techniques, effective job-hunting skills, resume writing, dressing for success, and many more — designed to assist you in your transition into the workplace.  
Upcoming employment-centered workshops are scheduled at Fort Shafter (FS) and Schofield Barracks (SB):  
•Employment Orientation — Friday, Dec. 8 and 15, from 9-10:30 a.m. (SB);  
•Creating a Winning Resume — Wednesday, Dec. 13, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. (SB)  
Fort Shafter workshops will be held in the Outreach Center, Building S330, and Schofield Barracks workshops at ACS offices, Building 291.  
Call the Schofield Barracks ACS at 655-4227, or call the Fort Shafter ACS at 438-9285 to schedule an appointment or register for the workshops.

**HPU International Holiday Bazaar** — Hawaii Pacific University will celebrate its second International Holiday Bazaar from 4-8 p.m. in downtown Honolulu.  
This event is free and will transform Upper Fort Street Mall into a marketplace of booths exhibiting cultural and ethnic holiday traditions from around the world.  
HPU's International Chorale, and International Vocal Ensemble will perform its Winter Concert, "A Star of Joy," at 7 p.m., at Central Union Church, located at Bereta-

nia and Punahou streets in Honolulu. HPU's Chamber Orchestra will make its debut performance at the concert.  
Call 543-8071 or e-mail international@hpu.edu.

**9 / Saturday**

**Abandoned Vehicle Auction** — A closed-bid vehicle auction will be held Dec. 9, from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at the abandoned car lot on Naval Station Pearl Harbor. The auction lot may be accessed by anyone over age 16.

The minimum bid will \$50.  
For a listing of vehicles to be auctioned, visit www.greatlife-hawaii.com or call 422-2975.

**Missouri Tours**

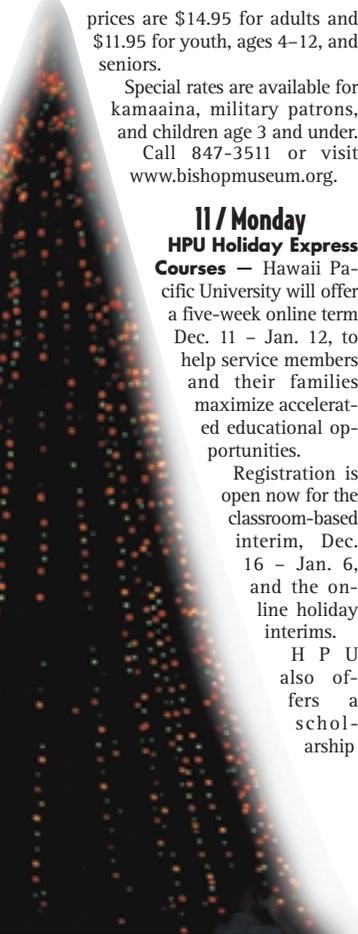
— In honor of the National Guards' 370th birthday, Dec. 13, the Battleship Missouri Memorial will offer complimentary admission to all active and retired U.S. National Guard personnel, Dec. 9-17. In addition, their immediate family members will receive a 50

**"O Christmas Tree."** The Oahu North community celebrates the annual Christmas tree lighting at General's Loop, Schofield Barracks, Wednesday. At the event, the Wheeler Elementary School choir sang holiday songs, and Santa and Mrs. Claus rode in to visit them.

percent discount on admission.  
Visitors must present their Guard identification at the Missouri's ticket window.

**Dino-mite Exhibit** — Take a walk on the wild side, Dec. 9 - Jan. 28, at Bishop Museum's latest traveling exhibit, Dinosaurs Alive!

Meet some of the residents of the land that time forgot by joining a safari through prehistoric surroundings.  
Moving, roaring dinosaurs, including tyrannosaurus rex, apatosaurus, dilophosaurus, velociraptor and more will be supplemented with interactive, hands-on activities and educational displays.  
The museum is open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily and is located at 1525 Bernice St. Admission



Landy Miyake | Pacific Media Publishing



**The Grudge 2**

(R)  
Friday, 7 p.m.  
Wednesday, 7 p.m.



**The Prestige**

(PG-13)  
Saturday, 7 p.m.  
Thursday, 7 p.m.



**Texas Chainsaw Massacre: The Beginning**

(R)  
Sunday, 7 p.m.

# Fellows sought for local ACS financial readiness positions

Awardees help clients avoid debt pitfalls

Financial Readiness Program Release

Three of six military spouses who received a Military Spouse Fellowship from the NASD Investor Education Foundation in April of 2006 are volunteering at Army Community Service on Schofield Barracks, Building 2091.

NASD has announced a recent fellowship will award 200 military spouses nationwide the opportunity to also take part in an Accredited Financial Counselor program. In conjunction with two financial courses of study and two exams, recipients who get the fellowships must volunteer between 400 and 2,000 hours to receive accredited financial counselor status.

The fellowship will enhance the ability of military spouses to serve the military community in the critical areas of saving and investing.

"The fellowship candidates have greatly improved the ability of our financial readiness program to meet and exceed Soldier and family remedial, preventative and proactive financial needs," said Georgianna McAnany, Financial Readiness Program manager. "They have also allowed for more one-on-one counseling sessions with Soldiers."

An accredited financial counselor is defined as one who has certified skills to assist individuals and families in the process of financial decision making; who agrees to maintain the highest ethical standards as written in the AFC Code of Ethics; and who maintains up-to-date knowledge in the fields of personal finance and financial counseling.

"I consider myself an educator. I provide Soldiers with the information necessary to empower themselves to make the best possible financial decisions," said Laura Wittig, fellowship recipient. "Our training allows [Army Community Services] to expand their current financial assistance offerings."

The capabilities of an accredited financial counselor are numerous.

Among them he or she has certified skills to assist individuals and families in the complex process of financial decision making:

- To educate clients in sound financial principles.
- To assist clients in the process of overcoming their financial indebtedness.
- To help clients identify and modify ineffective money management behaviors.
- To guide clients in developing successful strategies for achieving their financial goals.
- To support clients as they work through their financial challenges and opportunities.
- To help clients develop new perspective on the dynamics of money in relation to family, friends and individual self-esteem.

Information collected from the MSAFCPE.org Web site.

## Financial readiness

The financial readiness team at Army Community Service offers a wide range of services to assist Soldiers and their families with financial affairs. Emphasis is placed upon training, to educate Soldiers and spouses in money management, proper use of credit, financial planning, deployment, transition and relocation, and check writing principles.

The goal is to help families prevent financial difficulties before they arise, so skilled counselors are available to help Soldiers and their spouses establish budgets, work with creditors, consider retirement planning and thrift savings plans, and more.

Counselors with ACS, however, do not sell securities. They are non-biased financial counselors that offer a wide variety of services and education tools to empower military families in financial decision making.

With the additional fellowship volunteers, services will be extended in the units for one-on-one counseling by appointment. Commanders and Soldiers who wish this type of service in their unit can call 655-4227.



**Teens banner.** Youth from the Aliamanu Military Reservation's (AMR) Teen Center play the part of elves during a Christmas parade on Bougainville Loop in AMR, Saturday. Holiday-themed activities and games took place at the youth and fitness centers throughout the day, too.

# 'Fun Fest' captures holiday spirit in AMR

Story and Photos by  
**LANDY STEWART MIYAKE**  
Staff Writer

ALIAMANU MILITARY RESERVATION — With the holiday season in full swing, it's easy to be carried away with all the shopping and "to-do" lists.

But, at this time of year, it is also important to enhance calm by bringing family and friends together to do something fun.

Aliamanu Military Reservation (AMR) residents and other military community members came together Dec. 2 to ring in the holiday season for the 10th annual Christmas Parade and Holiday Fun Fest at the AMR Youth Center.

"It brings camaraderie to the community and to the residents of AMR. It's like a social gathering to bring the community together. That's especially important now, during the deployment," Nelson Acosta, Holiday Fun Fest coordinator, explained.

The event began with a Christmas Parade on Bougainville Loop. Pearl Harbor and other area Girl Scout troops, Hula Haleau Palena, Santa and Kelly Bear marched to the tunes of popular Christmas carols such as "The Twelve Days of Christmas."

AMR teens dressed up as Christmas elves and distributed candy canes to parade onlookers.

At the Holiday Fun Fest, several holiday-themed activities and games such as create your own gingerbread house, holiday cards, and gift wrap, as well as pictures with Santa, and inflatable bouncers were available for children of all ages.

Parents were invited to bring their Christmas gifts to be wrapped by teens from Hickam Air Force Base. Blue Star Card holders were eligible for free gift wrapping.



Above — Anna Tredway, 4, showcases her artistic abilities during the create-your-own-gingerbread house session, at the annual fun fest. The festival was sponsored by AMR's Child and Youth Services.

Right — Cameron Ferguson, 5, glues, stamps and colors his way into the holiday season by making greeting cards.

In its tenth year, Acosta said the goal of the festival was to help bring a strong sense of community during the holidays.

For Leslie Ferguson, that goal was accomplished for her and son Cameron who have attended the Holiday Fun Fest for the past three years.

"Since we're so far from home, it's nice to get out into the community and do something fun for the holidays," she said.

In addition to being a community event, the Fun Fest was an annual fundraiser for the Teen Center at AMR. It helped to raise money for various teen center activities such as dances and Operation Christmas Child, a donor program for stuffed dolls, clothing, toys, toiletry items and shoe boxes, according to Angela Herring, middle school/teen program assistant.

Once items are collected, the teen center

sorts and places them in shoeboxes to be wrapped, then shipped to foreign countries.

The teen center works in conjunction with the First Assembly of God Church, Moanalua, to determine which countries will receive boxes.

"I thought it was really enriching to have a Christmas when not only I benefited, but I also got to help others," said Chris Fletcher, 14, a teen center member and Holiday Fun Fest volunteer, reflecting on his experience last year with Operation Christmas Child.

"It's not just about volunteering," he continued; it's also about having friends and peers with you. It gets everyone in the Christmas spirit."

To add to the holiday cheer, Hawaii Military Idol winner Angelo Johnson and the JC Dancers provided entertainment.

# Events: Honolulu offers citizens an abundance of spirited holiday happenings

CONTINUED FROM B-1

7 p.m.; Dec. 10, at 2:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.; Dec. 15, at 7 p.m.; Dec. 17, at 2:30 p.m. Ticket prices start at \$16 each. Call 947-2755 or 783-2747.

•**The Hawaii Ballet Theatre**, directed by Charlys Ing, will host its 26th anniversary production in the Leeward Community Theatre. Shows are Dec. 9 and 16, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; and Dec. 10 and 17, at 4 p.m.

Some special discounted tickets are available. Tickets will be two-for-one during the Dec. 9 and 16 evening shows. Military may also purchase discounted tickets to matinee shows for \$5 off the regular ticket price of \$20.

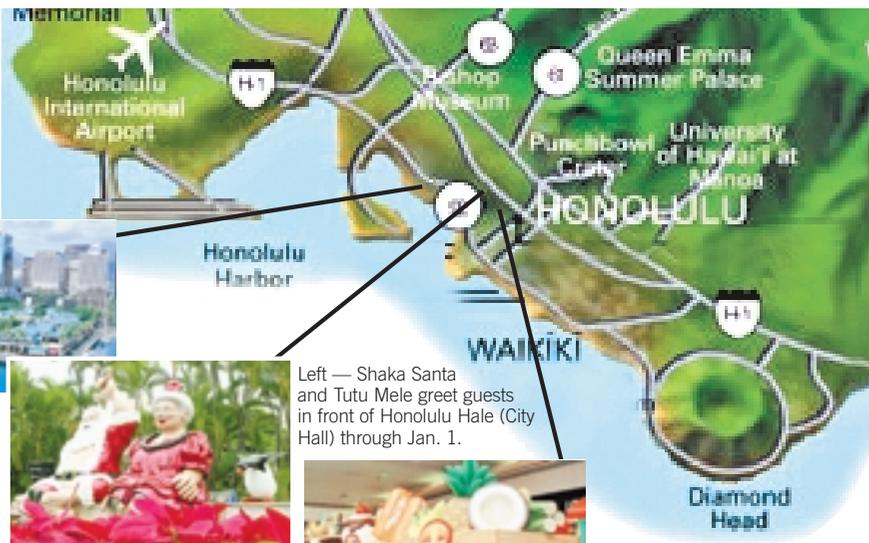
All seating is reserved. Tickets may be purchased by phone or at the Theatre box office the day of performance. Sugarplum Tea" follows matinees; coffee and hot chocolate will be served after evening shows. Call 456-8100 or e-mail hbtntut@hawaii.rr.com.

•**The Ballet Hawaii** presentation of "The Nutcracker," boasts live accompaniment by the Honolulu Symphony and features Megan Fairchild and Joaquin de Luz of the New York City Ballet, Stella Abrera and Sascha Radefsky from the American Ballet Theatre, and a large corps de ballet of local dancers.

Shows will be held in the Blaisdell Concert Hall and are scheduled for Dec. 15, at 8 p.m.; Dec. 16, at 7:30 p.m.; and Dec. 17, at 2 p.m. Ticket prices start at \$25 each. Call 877-750-4400.

## That's kids stuff

•**Keiki Holiday Workshop** – This event will fea-



Left — Shaka Santa and Tutu Mele greet guests in front of Honolulu Hale (City Hall) through Jan. 1.



Left — The Ala Moana Center's Candy Cane Train choo-choos children through the mall each day, beginning at 10 a.m.

ture all sorts of arts, crafts and face painting, designed to delight kids ages 5-10. As well, a workshop will be held Dec. 9, from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Ala Moana Center Macy's. Guests will then parade the mall adorned in holiday hats and helium balloons.

•**Signing Santa** – Pearlridge Mall welcomes the state's lone deaf and signing Santa at the 15th Annual Deaf Santa Celebration. In the only yuletide celebration of its kind, more than 100 deaf and hard-of-hearing children from around the state will share their wishes with Santa, Thursday, Dec. 14, 9 a.m.-noon at Pearlridge Uptown, second level.

## Holiday Concerts

•**Ho'okena Christmas Concert** – Local singing/composing sensation Keali'i Reichel guest-stars with the harmonious Ho'okena in the group's annual Christmas concert. The audience will be serenaded – punctuated by hula accents – with Reichel's

"Maluhia" and Ho'okena's "Home for the Holidays."

The concert is Sunday, Dec. 10, at 7 p.m. in the Ala Moana Hotel Hibiscus Room. Tickets are \$65 for general admission and include a lavish buffet dinner. Call 955-4811.

•**Friends and Nabors** – Celebrate the holidays with inspirational songs, marionettes, hula and tap dancing at "A Merry Christmas with Friends & Nabors," starring Jim Nabors.

Joining in the festivities will be Jimmy Borges, Emma Veary, Karen Keawehawai'i, the Diamond Head Theatre Shooting Stars, The Hawai'i Theatre Orchestra and more. The event will be held Dec. 15-16, at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 17, at 2 p.m. in the Hawai'i Theatre. Tickets are \$25-\$75, plus \$2 restoration fee. Discounts are available for military and children. Call 528-0506 or visit [www.hawaiitheatre.com](http://www.hawaiitheatre.com)

## Show Bits

•**Christmas Talk Story** – This montage of locally written holiday remembrances from a child's perspective, is a landmark Honolulu Theatre for Youth tradition. The shows will be 1:30 and 4:30 p.m. each Saturday through Dec. 23 at the Tenney Theatre, St. Andrew's Cathedral. Tickets are \$16 per person. Call 839-9885 or visit [www.htyweb.org](http://www.htyweb.org).

•**The Santaland Diaries** – Guests will laugh out loud at David Sedaris' tale, that features Andrew Meader as a Macy's SantaLand Christmas elf in a non-politically correct take on ferocious moms, screaming kids and holiday humbugs.

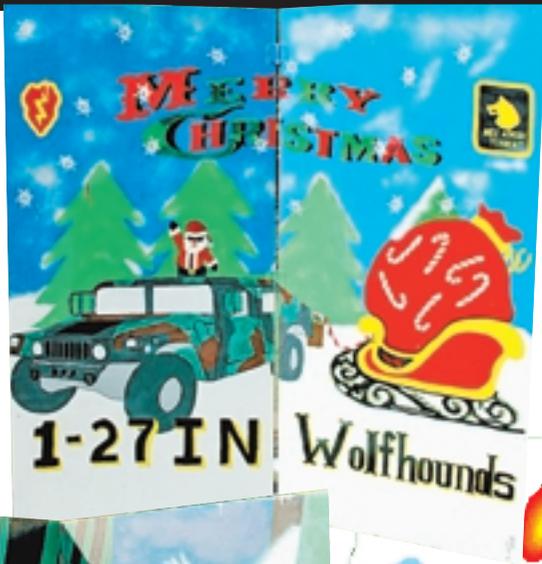
This show has an adult them and is not recommended for children under age 16. Shows are Dec. 8-9, at 8 p.m.; and Dec. 10, at 4 p.m. at Manoa Valley Theatre. Tickets are \$20 each. Call 988-6131 or visit [www.manoavalleytheatre.com](http://www.manoavalleytheatre.com).

# Holiday Lane

Soldiers get crafty with huge holiday cards to greet those who come onto Schofield Barracks.

The cards are fashioned from two 8-by-4-foot plywood sheets that are manipulated to look like a greeting card.

The cards will be on display throughout the holiday season.





Send community announcements to community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

### 9/Saturday

**Scavenger Hunt** — Nationally known Ravenchase Adventures will host "The Great Honolulu Hunt: Quest for the Queen's Gold" adventure from 1-3:30 p.m., starting at Aloha Tower Marketplace. This spirited treasure hunt through downtown Honolulu will include many cultural treasures and some hidden gems for locals who think they've seen it all.

Actors planted along the route will raise the stakes, along with secret gemstones that, if found, can take minutes off finishing time. Winners receive fabulously tacky prizes and bragging rights.

Call 203-8963 or e-mail [tiff@ravenchase.com](mailto:tiff@ravenchase.com) for more information, or visit [www.ravenchase.com/public\\_events/hi.php](http://www.ravenchase.com/public_events/hi.php) to register.

### 10/Sunday

**Honolulu Marathon 2006** — The 34th annual Honolulu Marathon and Race Day Walk will be held Dec. 10 and is expected to attract more than 33,000 participants.

The race will start at Ala Moana Beach Park and finish at Kapiolani Park near the bandstand.

Registered runners are required to pick up race packets at the Honolulu Marathon Expo, which will be held at the Hawaii Convention Center, 1801 Kalakaua Ave., Waikiki, Dec 6-8.

Packets will include race number, timing chip and final instructions. They will be available Dec. 6, from noon-5 p.m.; and Dec. 7-9, from 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

For expo details, visit [www.roadraceventures.com](http://www.roadraceventures.com). For race route, registration information and fees and statistics visit [www.honolulumarathon.org](http://www.honolulumarathon.org).

### 15/Friday

**Hunter Education Courses** —



Daniel Kawasaki | Tripler Army Medical Center Video Information

## Making seasons bright

HONOLULU — The effervescent tree atop Tripler Army Medical Center brightens up the sky above Moanalua Ridge. The tree's lights can be seen from 25 miles away.

The Hawaii Department of Land & Natural Resources is offering Hunter Education classes. Subjects to be covered include wildlife identification and conservation, firearms and archery safety, survival, game care and more.

The free classes are Dec. 15, from 5:45-10 p.m., and Dec. 16, 7:45 a.m.-4 p.m. Classes are family-friendly and open to anyone age 10 years and older. Register by calling 587-0200.

### 16/Saturday

**Honouliuli Hike** — The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii will host an interpretive hike along the Kaluaa Loop Trail Dec. 16, from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

This three-mile hike is considered a moderate trek and begins gradually uphill. A steep downhill section will complete the loop.

Call 587-6220 to make the required reservations or for more information. Cost is \$10 per person.

### 20/Wednesday

**Motocross Track** — Get your speed on at the RPM Motocross Track. The track is located in the Campbell Industrial Park and will be open Wednesday and Saturday nights, from 5-10 p.m., and Sundays, noon until sundown.

Mini and full-size classes will be held. The cost is \$15 for open practice. For class and schedule information, call 597-9020.

### 21/Thursday

**Batter Up!** — The University of Hawaii baseball program will be hosting a winter baseball camp, led by UH head baseball Coach Mike Trapasso, Dec. 21-23 and Dec. 28-30. The camp is available for children ages 7-18. Pitcher/catcher camp is 9 a.m.-noon and hitting camp is 1-4 p.m.

Cost per camp is \$120 or \$200 for both camps. Call 956-6247.

## Ongoing

**Fleet Feet** — Faerber's Flyers women's running club invites women of all ages and skill levels to join them at the University of Hawaii track at Cooke Field. The club meets Wednesdays from 5:15-7 p.m.

Cost is \$50 per year. Call 277-3609.

### Prenatal Exercise Program

— Exercise during pregnancy has been shown to positively impact fitness during labor and childbirth.

Learn and practice safe exercising during pregnancy. Classes are each Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the offices of Pacific Health & Fitness Consultants, through Dec. 30.

A physician's referral is required. Call 599-5918.

### Masters Swim Program

— Team Move hosts a master's swimming program Wednesdays, from 7:30-8:30 a.m., and Saturdays from 7-8:15 a.m., in the Pearl City district park swimming pool.

The innovative group workouts are designed for beginning and advanced swimmers. Expert coaching will be provided to improve upon form and technique.

All ages are welcome. Cost is \$15 per month for Team Move members and \$25 per month for nonmembers. The pool is located at 785 Hoomaemae St., Pearl City.

### Cricket in the Park

— The Honolulu Cricket Club invites players of all levels of experience to get into the game. Join the club at Kapiolani Park, at the base of Diamond Head, for exciting rounds of cricket.

Call 256-8236 or visit [www.home.hawaii.rr.com/cricket/hcc.htm](http://www.home.hawaii.rr.com/cricket/hcc.htm).



### 9/Saturday

**Golf Sale** — Don't miss the holiday sale at Leilehua Pro Shop, Dec. 9 and 16. Enjoy great savings from various golf vendors. Patrons will receive free holiday gift wrapping with every purchase. Call 655-2266.

**BMX Racing** — Come to the BMX track at Wheeler Army Air Field for BMX racing. First, second and third place ribbons will be awarded, along with participation ribbons.

Registration will be held from 4-5 p.m., and cost is \$4 per rider. BMX races will begin at 5 p.m., and refreshments will be provided.

Races are held every second and fourth Saturdays.

Volunteers are needed to help make this event a success. Visit [www.mwrarmyhawaii.com](http://www.mwrarmyhawaii.com), [www.armybm.org](http://www.armybm.org) or call 656-1601.

### 19/Tuesday

**Football Bash Clinic** — Registration will begin for the 2nd annual Football Bash Clinic. This one-day clinic will be conducted by current and former National Football League players, University of Hawaii football players, and other college and high school players and coaches.

Clinic will be held Jan. 27 at 9 a.m. for ages 8-12, and 1 p.m. for ages 13-17. Cost is \$40 and includes a T-shirt, refreshments and a gift bag.

Register at the Schofield Barracks, Aliamanu Military Reservation or Fort Shafter youth centers. Call 836-1923.

### Intramural Basketball

— Applications for Morale, Welfare and Recreation's (MWR) upcoming 2006-2007 Intramural Basketball season can be picked up at any Army fitness center. Eligible participants are limited to

Hawaii-based, company-level, active duty Soldiers.

Call the Sports Office at 655-0856/0101 or visit [www.mwrarmyhawaii.com/honolulu](http://www.mwrarmyhawaii.com/honolulu) for an application.

### 17/Sunday

**Bowling Tournament** — A "5 Game, No Tap" tournament will be held at the Schofield Bowling Center, Dec. 17. Check-in will be at 1 p.m., and the cost is \$20 per bowler. Call 655-0573.

## Ongoing

**Aerobic Classes** — Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC) and Fort Shafter gyms are offering \$1 per class per person aerobics classes.

At TAMC, classes offered are step aerobics and beginning to intermediate cardio-kickboxing. Classes will be held Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 4:30 p.m.

At Fort Shafter, cardio-kickboxing will be offered on Tuesday and Thursday from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Call 433-2031.

**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.

### Wheeler Lanes Parties

— Score a strike with your friends by planning a party at Wheeler Lanes. Rent the entire six-lane bowling center on Saturdays or Sundays for birthday parties, reunions, hail and farewell gatherings, and other special occasions. Call 656-1745.

### Run/Walk/Swim Club

— Record each mile you run, walk or swim and win incentive prizes in the 100-mile run/walk and 50-mile swim clubs. Runners receive a pair of Thorlo running socks, and swimmers receive goggles.

Stop by any Army Physical Fitness Center or swimming pool to pick up a log sheet. Call 655-9914.