

HAWAII ARMY WEEKLY

What's Inside



Live Fire in Theater

Exercises net many benefits for deployed Soldiers.
A-7

AAFES Main Gas Station Lanes to Close on Schofield Barracks

Due to surface seal coating at the gas station near Foote Gate, three lanes will close Dec. 9-23 during the weekdays. On weekends, all lanes will remain open. For more information contact Terry Lopez at 656-2914, ext. 3037.



Native American Pow Wow

Where tradition and culture come alive.
B-1

Enter to run the 21st Great Aloha Run

Enter by Dec. 10 and receive a free T-shirt. A sign-up table will be in front of Schofield Barracks Post Exchange Dec. 10 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. The run will start Feb. 21, 2005. Entry fee \$20 until Jan. 21. Late fee \$30 until Feb. 4 and \$40 at the race. Entry forms are available at all military fitness centers, or online at www.active.com. Select the military form, save \$5, and \$1 from each entry will return to the selected branch of service. Military forms are for all active duty, family members and DoD civilians. Call 655-8789.



Mini Sports

Kids learn teamwork and fundamentals through CYS.
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New Secretary of the Army

DoD Public Affairs Release

Dr. Francis J. Harvey was sworn in Nov. 19 at the Pentagon as the 19th Secretary of the Army.

"This is a great honor for me. My top priority will be to serve our Soldiers, civilian employees and family members of the active component, Army Reserve and Army National Guard.

"I look forward to working with the Secretary of Defense, the Army Chief of Staff, General Pete Schoomaker, and the Army senior leadership as we fight the Global War on Terrorism while continuing to transform the force," Harvey said. The Senate confirmed President Bush's nomination Nov. 16.

"It's great to have Doctor Harvey on board as our Secretary. Doctor Harvey has a wealth of experience leading large organizations with diverse work forces, managing major programs and leading technology development.



Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld looks on while Raymond DuBois, director of administration and management, swears in Dr. Francis J. Harvey as the next secretary of the Army Nov. 19.

His education and industry experience will serve us well as he leads our Army in this window of strategic opportunity," said Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker, the Army chief of staff.

As Secretary of the Army, Harvey has statutory responsibility for all matters relating to Army manpower, personnel, reserve affairs, installations, environmental issues, weapons systems and equipment acquisition, communications, and financial management. Harvey is responsible for the department's annual budget of \$98.5 billion.

He leads a work force of over one million active duty, Army National Guard, and Army Reserve Soldiers, 220,000 civilian employees, thousands of contractors, and has stewardship over 15 million acres of land.

Before his appointment, Harvey was a business executive with broad experience centered on the defense

See "Sworn in" Page A3

25th ID Soldier remembered in Iraq

Sgt. Sean Kimmons
25th ID (L) Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE GAINES MILLS, Iraq - Spc. Daniel McConnell was not an outspoken Soldier nor undisciplined.

"He never complained ... always did what he was told," said Staff Sgt. Andrew Stephens, McConnell's squad leader.

On Nov. 16, McConnell and his squad were on a convoy performing a combat patrol to counter an ambush that was set up against Multi-National Forces. The High Mobility Multi-Wheeled Vehicle McConnell was riding in, slipped into the side of a steep culvert and rolled over.

McConnell, a rifleman with Company C, Task Force 1-27 Infantry, sustained serious injuries in the accident and later died.

A memorial ceremony was held to honor the 27-year-old Duluth, Minn. resident in front of Co. C, TF 1-27 Inf's command post here on Nov. 19.

"I remember him for what he was - a very good Soldier and a very good man,"

Stephens said during the ceremony. "He cared a lot about his brothers-in-arms and would do anything for any of them."

Stephens also mentioned his trademark quietness.

"Spc. McConnell was a silent professional," he said. "He never bothered anyone. He had a unique smile and a stare that would go on for miles."

Pfc. Levi Clark, a rifleman with Co. C, TF 1-27 Inf., was in the same squad as McConnell and spoke at the ceremony as well.

"We remember him today as a man of few words, no matter how hard or easy the situation," Clark said.

Clark then talked about a quiet McConnell could brighten up his day without saying a word.

"I remember McConnell would come into the room with the platoon and sit down for 20 or 30 minutes, then say nothing and leave," Clark said. "It was odd at first but as it continued to happen, we would just laugh knowing he just wanted to hang out."

"Remembering the good times and his unique person-



The grief-stricken face of McConnell's former platoon leader, 1st Lt. J.R. Taylor, peers over the shoulder of a Soldier embracing him after the memorial ceremony at FOB Gaines Mills Nov. 19.

ality always put a smile on my face," Clark said.

Capt. David W. Parkes, McConnell's company commander, revealed McConnell's commitment to his unit's overall mission during the ceremony.

"He always followed orders and never questioned the mission," Parkes said.

Parkes continued, "it is through the dedication and perseverance of Soldiers like Spc. McConnell that make our country great and the country of Iraq a better place. Thank you, Spc. McConnell."

Spc. McConnell lived a rough life and came through a lot of adversity, said Sgt. Rick Walters, McConnell's former team leader with Co. C, TF 1-27 Inf.

"He was definitely a self-made man and an incredible Soldier," Walters said.

Walters also remembered McConnell said that he enjoyed being in Iraq.

"He was probably someone who would volunteer to come back," Walters said.

McConnell is survived by his daughters, Riley and Cierra McConnell and sister, Rebecca McConnell.

Nine Schofield Soldiers awarded Purple Heart

Story and photo by Rafi Grant
Contributing Writer

Nine Tropic Lightning Soldiers were awarded the Purple Heart medal during a ceremony at Sills Field, Schofield Barracks Nov. 19.

Although the sun shone brightly and family members, military personnel and friends were in attendance, it was an award and ceremony none of the Soldiers necessarily wanted to receive.

The history of the Purple Heart medal goes back to the 18th century and today the medal is awarded to members of the armed forces that have been wounded or killed in action against enemies of the United States.

"It is a medal of recognition and a symbol of sacrifice, and dedication and investment in



Lt. Gen. John M. Brown pins the Purple Heart medal on Pfc. Rosalio Loera Nov. 9.

the nation that Sgt. Israel Burkes, Sgt. André Wesley, Sgt. Kenneth O'delo, Pfc. Rosalio Loera, Spc. Eric Perez, 1st Lt. Matthew Nethers ...

"Sgt. Christopher Roe, Sgt. 1st Class Herbert Izquierdo and Staff Sgt. Claudino

See "Purple heart" Page A3

JTACs command sky

Story and photo by Sgt. Frank Ragni
17th Public Affairs Det.

FORWARD OPERATING BASE ORGUN-E, Afghanistan - They are a unique breed of service members on the frontline - Air Force by service, but Army by trade.

Air Force joint tactical air controllers can be found throughout Afghanistan, planning, communicating and facilitating the execution of close-air support for ground forces.

For the "Wolfhounds" of 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, operating in Paktika province, JTAC support comes from the 25th Air Support Operations Squadron, Wheeler Army Airfield, Hawaii.

Located everywhere from tactical headquarters to operations with company-sized elements, JTAC per-

sonnel act as the liaison for all air support that comes from not only every service, but all coalition partners.

"Because what we do can be applied to any air support element, we have no problems working with anybody," said Air Force Staff Sgt. Mark Hiler, 25th ASOS JTAC.

From helicopters to bombers, JTAC personnel and their leaders have a variety of weapons capabilities to perform a variety of tasks.

But choosing the right weapon for the task is just one part of the job of the JTAC on the ground. In order to be successful at calling in air support, they must master two vital skills - communication and planning, said Hiler.

In the stages leading up to operations, JTACs are

See "JTAC" Page A3

OPINION & COMMENTARY

No excuse for needless loss of life

Commentary

By Lt. Gen. John M. Brown III
Commander, U.S. Army Pacific

Too many Soldiers are getting hurt or dying in accidents. Losing a Soldier on the battlefield is tragic; losing one to a needless accident is inexcusable. Our losses to accidents are increasing, we must make some changes in order to

save lives. Let me share with you the sad details of a recent accident here in U.S. Army, Pacific.

A few months ago, a group of four Soldiers went out to celebrate the 25th birthday of one in the group – Greg. The party started at a friend's house and then moved to a popular dance club where they had "at least" two beers.

After Greg declined to allow the designated driver to drive, the group started

the trip home. While on Ala Moana Boulevard, Greg sped up to about 55-65 mph (in a 35 mph zone) in order to pass another vehicle.

Unfortunately, another car swerved toward their car. Greg overreacted, plowing his vehicle into a tree in the median of the highway. He was pronounced dead at the scene of the accident; his friends survived with minor injuries.

The cost: You can't quantify a loss as tragic as this, but it is enormous. Greg left

behind a wife and two kids who have to rebuild their lives without a husband and father. He was a well-respected Soldier with a bright future in the Army.

He died a week before his unit deployed – they were left without his leadership just when they needed him most.

Lessons learned: Don't drink and drive! Stick to your plan. These soldiers had a designated driver, but didn't follow their plan. Regardless of whether you've had one drink or ten,

allow the designated driver to do the driving.

Speed kills, so SLOW DOWN.

All four were wearing their seatbelts and both air bags deployed successfully, but it wasn't enough to save Greg's life.

Take care of each other. This sad situation might have turned out differently if Greg's friends had kept him from getting behind the wheel.

Would Greg still be alive if his friends had kept him

from getting behind the wheel? Did a leader know about the party and attempt to influence smart decisions? What can you do to keep this from happening in your unit?

We can, in fact we must, learn from our mistakes. Perhaps that is the only good that can come from Greg's death.

Take care of yourself. Take care of each other. Thanks for all you do for the USARPAC team. Have a great holiday season.

Most importantly, be safe.

A Soldier's story: A week in the life of the infantry

Commentary

1st Sgt. Robert Jennings
Co. A, 1-21st Inf.

From last week to this, it's like night and day again. The enemy activity picked up in our Area of Operation as expected. Once U.S. and Iraqi Forces entered Fallujah, Iraq the bad guys came out at night like cockroaches. This week ranks up with the top three or four since we arrived back in January.

Nov. 8, 9:20 p.m. – Local police have discovered and disarmed a roadside bomb.

Nov. 9 – We added a twist to this week's school activity. Through my interpreter, I sat down with all the 6-year-old students at the boy's school, and told the story of "Little Red Riding Hood." They seemed fascinated by all the different voices I would make trying to bring the characters live. Then they would giggle as my interpreter mimicked the story in Arabic.

Nov. 9, 9:30 a.m. – We received an update on an earlier explosion. Capt. John Hallett left with half the Soldiers present to conduct an investigation. A taxi filled with explosives stopped well short of one



Courtesy photo

The remains of a taxi that exploded Nov. 9. There was minimal property damage and no casualties

of our checkpoints that was conducting vehicle searches. The driver exited, got into another vehicle that fled the scene, and the taxi then exploded. There were no casualties.

This seems to be a new type of weapon employed throughout the country. First there was the improvised explosive device, or roadside bomb. These are still employed, but we have been able to detect or deter by saturating the areas of operation. Our enemy is finding it difficult to effectively emplace these.

Then there is the suicide car bomb. We are seeing less of these lately. I would imagine this is a

hard job to recruit for, and there has to be a limited supply of volunteers.

Now we are seeing cars full of explosives that are being command detonated from a nearby location. These are difficult to detect because there are so many cars parked on the roads. We are already developing ways to counter this, and have employed those methods. But like always, we will have to continue to adapt to our cunning enemy.

Nov. 10, 8:09 p.m. – One of our interpreters relayed a message from the police. A mortar was fired at the airbase, but landed short in a neighborhood. We had a patrol in

the vicinity that did an on scene investigation. The round struck the roof of a cement house and caused no damages.

This is the disturbing part of this whole business over here. We try to make sure who we engage is actually enemy. These guys we battle on a daily basis don't care who they hurt in the process.

Nov. 11, 8:40 a.m. – A large explosion has just been heard around the city. Our observation posts are reporting smoke over a mile away from the patrol base, so I know this one's big.

After piecing all the reports together, we found that the city mayor was the target of a car explosion. Witnesses on the scene say that a parked car just exploded as his car drove by in his armed convoy. There was extensive damage to his car, but he was located in another vehicle in the convoy. Four of his security personnel and four innocent bystanders were taken to the hospital for treatment.

With the Muslim holiday Ramadan ending, we were hoping to see a decrease in attacks. But with Fallujah and other nearby Sunni Muslim Villages fighting for control with coalition and Iraqi Security Forces, we are preparing for yet another increase this week.

I ask everyone back home to say a prayer for all of the service men

and women deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

This week's interview will be a little different. I received an email from a Soldier that didn't deploy with us because of a permanent injury. His name is Sgt. Wes Cleland from Oklahoma.

Cleland earned the respect of all the company leadership because of his work ethic and "can do" attitude. He is now attending advanced training for his new job in Maryland.

This week he spent Veterans Day with Spc. Charles Woolwine. Those of you who are regular readers remember he lost his leg below the knee May 2 in a roadside bomb ambush, and is now at Walter Reed Medical Center on the long road to recovery. I'll close this week with his email.

"1st Sgt., I spent the better part of today with Woolwine. He is the same ole' Machine.... He told me he went running yesterday for the second time since his prosthetic has been on. His Physical Evaluation Board is January 10, 2005 and asked me if I would help him out with it since I am so close and know him on both a professional and a personal level. He wants to return to Company A and his anticipations are to be back fully operational by May..."

"It was almost as though nothing was wrong with him..."

Voices of Lightning

What are you thankful for?



"I'm thankful that time has flown by here in Afghanistan and that we'll be home soon."

Sgt. Dwight Copeland
CJTF-76 Mailroom NCO
Afghanistan



"I'm thankful that I'll be able to celebrate the holiday with my friends here in Afghanistan, since I can't be home with my family."

Spc. Ray Fischenich
CJTF-76 Plans
Afghanistan



"I'm thankful to be able to look back on things that have happened during the past year, it's a time for reflection."

Spc. Bradley Smith
HHC, CJTF-76
Afghanistan



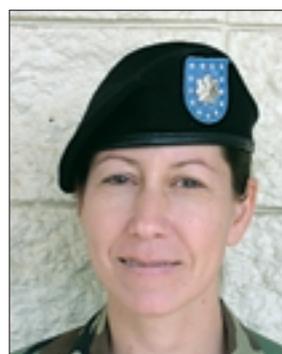
"I am thankful for being blessed to live in a country that allows equal rights for women and men. Based on my experiences in Afghanistan, women don't have the same freedoms and rights that men do."

1st Lt. Linda M. North
HHC, 25th Inf. Div. (Light)



"I am thankful because we live in a free society that believes in democracy."

Master Sgt. Theodore A. Trahan
MP BDE



"I am thankful because my husband (deployed to Afghanistan) is safe. I am also thankful because of my family and the professional Soldiers I work with and for every day."

Lt. Col. Sabrina SanFillipo-Webb
MP BDE

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TF 1-27 Inf. Soldiers storm villages, leave as guests

Story and photos by
Sgt. Sean Kimmons
25th ID (L) Public Affairs

NORTH OF RASHAD, Iraq – When Task Force 1-27 Infantry Soldiers and Iraqi Security Forces conducted Operation Wolfhound Jab, no one was detained and no weapon caches were found within two small Arab villages north of Rashad on Nov. 15.

But this was good news. Because it meant there were no signs of insurgent activity within these villages, which has plagued the surrounding area in the past week.

As fighting continued in Fallujah to the south, insurgency moved north near these two villages located in the northern tip of the Sunni Triangle. Many improvised explosive devices were emplaced, and Iraqi Security Force checkpoints were over-run and destroyed in the area.

There were reports that the



Co. B, TF 1-27 Inf. Soldiers unearthen a pile of rocks in search of weapon caches as part of Operation Wolfhound Jab in Rubaydhah. (See similar story on page A-8)

two villages, Tall Suseus and Rubaydhah, were insurgent sanctuaries. As a result, TF 1-27 Inf. carried out Operation Wolfhound Jab to raid all structures in the villages and eliminate suspicions.

Nothing incriminating was found during the searches, except some extra AK-47 magazines and ammunition.

Acting in response to their raid operations, TF 1-27 Inf. leaders sat down and talked to

village men about the reason Multi-National Forces and Iraqi Security Forces were searching their homes.

“We were able to open a line of communication and speak with all the males from both villages and explain that our goal in Iraq is to help them as much as we can until their government is able to do so,” said Lt. Col. Scott Leith, TF 1-27 Inf. commander. “They were very receptive.”

The villagers were also able to voice concerns and issues that were frustrating them, Leith added.

Leith talked to the males of the Rubaydhah village, while Chaplain (Capt.) Abdullah Hulwe, TF 1-27 Inf. chaplain, interacted with the Tall Suseus village men.

“At first they were, of course, scared,” Hulwe explains of the villager’s first impression when they saw Soldiers and ISF roll into their villages.

Hulwe, a Muslim, who speaks the Arabic language, along with some ISF officers, ensured the villagers of why they were there.

“We opened a channel of communication [and told them] you don’t have to be scared, together we can make a difference,” Hulwe said.

After getting his point across, villagers invited Hulwe to Muslim prayer at the village’s mosque.

“It was a very good experience,” he said.

Because of his religion, Hulwe was even able to break a stereotype of one villager.

“There was a guy whose father passed away a couple of nights ago,” Hulwe explained. “So, I prayed with him in Arabic and read the Holy Koran.”

“The guy was freaked out. He must have thought ‘what kind of infidels are these people,’” Hulwe said laughing.

Hulwe then explained to

the man that he was also a Muslim. The man then became very grateful afterward, he said.

Leith believes the villages will help defend Iraq against insurgency, as a result of the interaction that occurred in there.

“Now there are a few more people who know why we are here and who are more likely to give us information on who’s fighting against us,” Leith said.

Spc. Ramy Elmery, a translator and cultural advisor to the TF 1-27 Inf. commander, thought the sit downs helped ease tension from the raid operations.

“It’s a big difference, instead of raiding a home and leaving without saying why we raided their home,” Elmery said. But “we sat down, talked to them and listened to their problems.”

For that “we didn’t leave the villages as warriors, but as guests,” Elmery said.

Sworn in

From A-1

industry. He held various professional, management and executive positions within the Westinghouse Corporation from 1969 to 1997, including president of the Electronics Systems Group, president of the Government and Environmental Services Company, and chief operating officer of the \$6 billion Industries and Technology Group.

Most recently Harvey was a director and vice chairman of Duratek, a company specializing in treating radioactive, hazardous, and other wastes. In his career he has been involved in one or more phases of over 20 major Department of Defense programs.

Harvey earned his doctorate in Metallurgy and Material Sciences from the University of Pennsylvania and his Bachelor of Science at the University of Notre Dame in Metallurgy Engineering and Material Science. He was a White House Fellow in the U.S. Department of Defense in the late 1970s.

He succeeds Les Brownlee, who served as the acting Secretary of the Army for the past 18 months.

“I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Secretary Les Brownlee for his leadership and stewardship of the Army over the past 18 months,” Schoomaker said.

“I speak for the entire Army family when I say his tireless efforts to build a campaign-quality Army with joint and expeditionary capabilities, to equip our Soldiers with the best equipment and to improve their quality of life - will have an impact on the Army and ensure we remain relevant and ready for decades to come,” Schoomaker added.

JTAC

From A-1

very important to planning because they pay constant attention to how CAS will be used and even advise leaders on the best ways to use air assets, said Air Force Staff Sgt. Robert Pena, 25th ASOS JTAC.

Planning is also important so that CAS can always operate safely on the battlefield with other indirect fire assets, such as artillery and mortars.

While communication goes hand-in-hand with the planning process, it is also one of the most important things the JTACs do.

“If we can’t talk, we can’t do anything,” said Hiler. “Communications is such an

important aspect of our job.”

To assist in their communication needs, the JTACs employ not only a complete array of equipment, but also the knowledge to operate, maintain and fix the equipment.

“We have to know how to do everything with our (communication equipment),” said Pena.

“We are away from our support elements so often, it is many times up to us to make sure we can continue on with the mission.”

For the JTACs, being isolated away from not only support, but also other Airmen, is something they say is just a part of the job. An aspect they not only enjoy, but one that also sets them apart from everyone else in their service.

Purple Heart

From A-1

Morales have made by serving their country, and fighting a war on behalf of all the American people,” said Lt. Gen. Brown, commander, U.S. Army, Pacific.

Each Soldier had experiences that, all of them agreed, changed their lives.

“The deployment and everything I lived in Afghanistan from being in a war zone to feeling the appreciation of the Afghan children and people has been life changing,” said Roe.

“Not only am I proud of being part of these historical times, I also realized how much my family means to me.”

Roe’s wife, Corrina, added, “[His experiences] have brought our family a lot closer.”

O’delo also agreed that time in the war zone had a strong impact on his.

He was on the way back to the military base from one of the weekly city council meetings in Iraq, when a remote controlled improvised explosive device exploded near his vehicle.

“I don’t have any feelings about redeploying, it is my job. It would be hard to leave my family once again,” O’delo said.

A long line of well-wishers stood on the wet grass after the ceremony to show appreciation

to the nine Soldiers.

“Looking in the eyes of these brave Soldiers, the lyrics of a song ‘Freedom Doesn’t Come Free’ becomes a sudden reality,” said a Soldier waiting in the line.

“I wanted to thank them personally for what they doing for all of us,” he added.

While some of the Soldiers will stay in Hawaii and welcome their comrades when they come back from the deployment, others, like Nethers, will have to go back to the war zone.

Nethers fully recovered from the injuries he received after a roadside bomb exploded while on patrol in Northern Iraq and will redeploy at the end of November.

His parents worry about their son’s redeployment but, despite this, Nethers is eager to leave.

“Ever since I got better I wanted to go back and help the Iraqi people on their way into a better future,” Nethers said.

“Joining my buddies for the remaining weeks of the duty in Iraq means a lot to me.”

“The Soldiers over there are doing an incredible job that not only changes their lives, but the lives of the Iraqi people,” he said.

Brown also recognized the Soldiers’ families, for their sacrifices and endless support, as well as the nurses, doctors and medical specialists, who often make miracles possible.



An AH-1 Cobra helicopter supports 2nd Bn., 27th Inf. Rgt., Soldiers while they convoy through Paktika Province.

Briefs

Schofield Barracks Community Holiday Concert and Tree Lighting Ceremony – Dec. 2 at 5:45 p.m. on General Loop. Listen to holiday music from the Tropic Lightning Band and a performance by Hale Kula Elementary School. In the evening, watch the lighting of the tree and visit with Santa and eat holiday treats and goodies. For more information call 655-8985 or 655-0497.

The University of Oklahoma Offers a Master of Arts in Managerial Economics and a Master of Public Administration – Non-thesis programs can be completed in about 18 months. One week classes are very TDY friendly. Contact OU at 449-6364 or aphickam@ou.edu for more information or visit their Web site at www.gouou.edu

Final Scheduled Power Outage Postponed – The scheduled 8-hour power outages for this Saturday will be postponed. The outages were to allow tree trimming and electrical maintenance in those designated areas. Signs listing the dates and times have been posted in the affected areas. For more information, call Purdy Keohokapu at 864-1083.

Orphanage Needs Help – The Widows at the Women's Center and the children at the Charikar orphanage in Afghanistan need shoes, warm clothes for this winter, toys and school supplies. The children are between the ages of three and 16 years old, there are about 200 women and 300 children (95 percent boys and 5 percent girls).

The Charikar Orphanage needs the following items: Shoes for women 20 to 50 years old, shoes for boys ages three to 16 years old and girls ages three to 14 years old. Sweaters, jackets, pants, long-sleeve button up shirts. Notebooks, pens and pencils, crayons and markers, color books and backpacks. Toys (no stuffed animals), volleyballs, footballs, dolls, toy trucks, water guns and hair accessories for the girls.

Drop-off sites: Solomon Elementary School, Hale Kula Elementary School, 25ID (L) and USARHAW Headquarters, Wheeler Intermediate School, Schofield Barracks Commissary, and Schofield Barracks PX.

Last day for donating is Dec. 1, in order to get supplies to Afghanistan before winter.

For more information call Maj. Tony San Nicolas at 655-8725 or Sgt. Maj. James Baumgartner at 655-4700.

Muscular Dystrophy Association Needs Summer Camp Volunteers – A MDA summer camp volunteer is unique. Counselors are partners in the development of children and adults with neuromuscular diseases so that they can acquire skills necessary to become caring, self-confident and successful. We expect volunteer counselors to provide a safe and enjoyable experience at camp. The camp is a unique opportunity for youngsters with neuromuscular diseases to increase their self-confidence by experiencing an overnight camp program.

MDA summer camp provides many parents with a week-long break from their roles as caregivers. Volunteer counselors

Story time



1st Sgt. Robert Jennings, Co. A, 1st Bn. 21st Inf., with help from his interpreter, tells the story of "Little Red Riding Hood" to a group of enthusiastic 6-year-olds. (Read commentary on page A-2)

should be:

- At least 16 years of age;
- Of sufficient strength and size to assist with the needs of campers;
- Able to lift and care for a camper;
- In good health with no major medical problems, injury or illness that could hamper the ability to care for their camper;
- Temperamentally suited for the position;
- Residents in the state of Hawaii; and
- Able to follow guidelines and rules set by MDA's Staff Camp Coordinator.

Each volunteer applicant needs to understand that "Camp is for the Campers!" Attending to their camper is a 24-hour responsibility. There is, however, some time built into the schedule for volunteer staff to relax and interact with their peers.

For more details about volunteer responsibilities or to sign up call 548-0588. Camp applications will be mailed in January 2005.

SAEDA/OPSEC Briefs in November – The Hawaii Resident Office, 205th Military Intelligence Battalion will present community subversion and espionage directed against the Army and operations security briefs in November at Fort Shafter, Schofield Barracks and at Tripler. Soldiers and D.A. civilians are required to receive a SAEDA brief at least once a year. The final brief will be held Wednesday, 2 – 3 p.m. at Richardson Theatre, Fort Shafter.

Contact your unit security manager for more information or call the 205th MI Bn. at 438-1872 or e-mail 205mihro@shafter.army.mil.

Blood Donations Needed – The Tripler Army Medical Center Blood Donor Center is located on the hospital's second floor, Oceanside and is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call 433-6148.

Fort Shafter Tree Lighting and Concert – Dec. 9 at 5:45 p.m. on Palm Circle, Fort Shafter, Hawaii, the 25th Infantry Division

(Light) and U.S. Army, Hawaii commander will conduct a Christmas tree lighting ceremony and holiday concert, officially beginning the holiday season for the Fort Shafter community. The participants include the 25th ID(L) and USARHAW band, Farrington High School Band, Radford High School JROTC, and a visit from Santa. The conclusion of this event will include refreshments and picture taking at the gazebo. For more information call Master Sgt. Guess at 438-6145.

Free Money for College – The Maj. Gen. James Ursano Scholarship Fund helps Army families with the costs of undergraduate level education, vocational training, and preparation for acceptance by service academies for dependent children.

Funds can be used for tuition, fees, books, supplies, and on or off campus housing. Eligibility: Applicants must be dependent children of Army Soldiers on active duty, retired or deceased while on active duty or after retirement. The children of Gray Area Retirees are also eligible. Deadline is March 1.

For more specific information about deadlines and documentation visit Army Emergency Relief on the Web at www.aerhq.org. Call (703) 428-0035 or e-mail education@aerhq.org.

The Aloha Chapter of the Aloha Society of Military Comptrollers College Scholarships – Attention high school seniors planning to go to college. An Aloha Chapter American Society of Military Comptrollers scholarship is available for qualified applicants.

The Aloha Chapter of the ASMC is a professional organization established in 1977 dedicated to maintaining and improving the high standards of comptrollership.

Emphasis is placed on education, training and the exchange of ideas and techniques for resolving common problems of the Department of Defense and Coast Guard.

The Aloha Chapter will award one scholarship for \$1,000 and two for \$500 to

qualifying high school candidates. Students must be entering a field of study related to finance or resource management (i.e. Business administration, Economics, public administration, computer science, finance, accounting). For more information, e-mail Shelby.Shigaki@dfas.mil or Ernest.Vidinha@dfas.mil or call 472-7971 or 472-7909. The deadline to apply is Feb. 28, 2005.

Army Emergency Relief Services – AER is the Army's own emergency financial assistance organization and is dedicated to "Helping the Army Take Care of its Own."

AER provides two types of financial assistance: Emergency financial assistance for Army personnel active, retired and their family members as well as their widow (er) with a valid financial emergency.

Categories of assistance are provided for emergency travel, food, essential car repair or insurance, emergency medical or dental, rent to prevent eviction or funeral expenses. AER's scholarship program provides financial assistance to unmarried dependent children of active and retired Soldiers to pursue undergraduate study.

AER is located in building 2091, Schofield Barracks, at 655-2400. When an emergency occurs after hours or on the mainland, contact American Red Cross, at 1-877-272-7337.

AER at Schofield Barracks has provided more than \$435,000 in assistance to 536 Soldiers and families.

IAW Policy Memo USAG HI-11 Place of Duty for Soldiers is at Designated Tricare Special Pharmacy Bulletin – In the transition to a new retail contract beginning on June 1 some patients and providers may have been inconvenienced by the enforcement of Tricare's long-standing mandatory generic drug policy.

While the Department of Defense seeks documentation that may have been previously submitted to validate medical necessity, any beneficiary who has received a brand-name

product when a generic alternative exists within 180 days from the date of the extension, (from Dec. 21, 2003 through June 18, 2004), will be allowed to continue receiving the brand-name product for a grace period of 180 days from June 18. (This timeframe was extended on Oct. 13 for an additional 60 days, a total of 180 days, and now expires Dec. 12, 2004.)

For more information about the Tricare Pharmacy program, visit the Tricare pharmacy Web site at www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy/ or call (877) 363-6337.

The Schofield Barracks Military Police Found Property Office – has several items in its possession. You will need to provide valid identification, a detailed description of the property, and proof of ownership to retrieve lost or stolen items.

The Found Property office is located at the Provost Marshal Office, Bldg. #3010 Lyman Rd. Schofield Barracks. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. daily.

Contact Staff Sgt. Bundra or Mr. Roberts at 655-7114.

Commissary Now has Internet Coupons – The Defense Commissary Agency is helping customers increase their savings by making Internet coupon links available under a new section at the links page at www.commissaries.com.

"Although we sell groceries at cost, we are always seeking new resources to help our customers increase their savings," said Patrick B. Nixon, chief executive officer for DeCA.

"As the trend toward Internet coupons grows, this section of our Web site will continue to grow as well."

Along with top Web sites for military grocery coupons, the new section has a link to a new site that offers a choice of English or Spanish; and for customers who prefer more traditional coupons, another link offers commissary shoppers the opportunity to sign up for coupons by mail.

Free Packing Materials – spouses and families of military members who are

deployed overseas can get free packing materials from the postal service. To take advantage of this service call: 1-800-610-8734 and (press 1 for English and then 3 for an operator) and they will send free boxes, packing materials, tape and mailing labels.

These products are to be used to mail care packages to service members. Log on to supplies.usps.gov. Call the 1-800-610-8734 to receive priority mailing tape. Some of the items available online are: Box 7-12x12x8, Box 4-7x7x6, 106A - Labels, Form 2976A - Customs Form, Form 2976E - Envelope for Customs Form.

Honolulu Symphony All military personnel are invited to save 20 percent when they purchase tickets to Honolulu Symphony shows. For a complete listing of show times and more information on the military discount, go to www.ticketmaster.com/promo/7463.

Off-post Loaner Furniture Program Discontinued – The on-post loaner program has not changed. Those who have loaner furniture and live off-post can continue to use the borrowed furnishings until the 90-day period is up or household goods arrive.

All incoming military are encouraged to bring washers and dryers in household goods shipment. Contact the DPW Furnishings Section at 655-1131 or Kelli Wilson, at 275-3122.

Abuse Shelter Open – The Joint Military Family Abuse Shelter provides a safe place to stay, food, clothing and personal care items, transportation, child care, crisis counseling, information and referral, advocacy, education, safety planning, and a 24-hour shelter and crisis hotline. All services are free and open to all branches of the military. Call the 24-hour crisis line 533-7125 for information or to talk to a support counselor.

Military Council of Catholic Women – MCCW meets each Thursday at AMR Chapel from 9 to 11:30 a.m. It begins with Mass and continues with fellowship and Bible study. Child care is free for those attending. Call Elsa for a child care reservation at 833-8175. Children must be registered for the Chapel STACC Site which is free.

Thinking about leaving the Army? – The Army Career and Alumni Program can help with the decision.

What the Army offers, may be better than one thinks. Find a job that's a right match. Skills assessment, job search techniques, access to job openings are all part of the ACAP process. Counselors can help translate experiences and skills into job market language and determine one's fair market value. ACAP shows how to put the best foot forward with interview techniques, salary negotiation, dress for success, networking, and more. For more information, visit the Schofield Barracks Aloha Center, building 690, 3rd Floor, Room 3H or call 655-1028.

PWOC Meeting Location Change – Protestant Women of the Chapel meetings are now held each Tuesday morning at 9 a.m. in the sanctuary of the Schofield Barracks Main Post Chapel. Pre-arranged on-site child care is provided. For child care contact Sonya at 455-4011. For more information call Effie at 624-8251.

USAF engineers help build fire bases

By Staff Sgt. Jennifer Lindsey
American Forces Press Service

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan – From their desks miles away from the forward operating bases, Combined Task Force Coyote engineers are improving the lives of deployed Soldiers and Marines.

During their five-month deployment here, the 11-airman team deployed from the Missouri Air National Guard works alongside Army engineers designing airfields, water-delivery and wastewater disposal systems, and buildings.

"When I see Soldiers and Marines returning from the field, it feels good to know they're going to enjoy a hot shower, flushing toilets and have a comfortable bed to sleep in because of the work we do," said engineer Lt. Col. Paul Blanzly.

For their service in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Maj. Gen. Eric T. Olson, Combined Joint Task Force 76 commander, awarded Coyote Soldiers, airmen and coalition troops the wartime service patch in a ceremony Nov. 11. Australian, Korean, Polish, and Slovakian military engineers also augment the unit.

The Air Force engineers

wear the "combat patch" throughout their deployment. Soldiers awarded the patch have the option to continue wearing the shoulder-sleeve insignia throughout their Army careers. Regulations permitting the wear of the patch when the airmen return to their duty station are under review.

With or without the patch, improving the quality of life for deployed troops and Afghans is what keeps these engineers drawing up designs well into the end of the shift some nights, Blanzly said.

"These guys have never shirked from any job they've been given, because they know we're all working for a greater purpose," he said. "It's tough at times – they have careers at home that are on hold and family they miss being away from, but they continue giving 100 percent."

Some Air National Guard engineers, such as Maj. Scott Nall and Capt. Fabian Grabski, will continue designing airfields and water and sanitary systems after shedding their desert-camouflage uniforms for civilian attire at their tour's end in late January.

Others, such as Master Sgt. Korey Goldcynski and Maj. Darren Guttman, will trade their eight-point hats for a police officer's cap and a



Air Force Staff Sgt. Jennifer Lindsey

Master Sgt. Korey Golcynski, Combined Task Force Coyote engineer, shows off his newly acquired wartime service patch. Army leaders award the shoulder-sleeve insignia to Soldiers and to troops assigned to Army units serving in combat zones.

book on environmental regulations.

However, no matter how much the men look forward to sharing time with their fami-

lies, taking a leisurely Sunday drive, and visiting the toilet without having to walk a city block, the guardsmen said it's an honor to con-

tribute to making the world a safer place.

"Taking care of business overseas, rather than on American soil" is what

inspires engineering assistant Drake and his co-workers to create plans not only for today's Soldiers, but also for a better tomorrow.

"Look in every direction around you. ... Task Force Coyote is turning Bagram into what it is today – a power-projection platform from which all that is being done for the people of this country couldn't have been done without you," Olson said to the troops after handing each of the 100-plus members in formation his and her combat patch.

"Building up the infrastructure and transportation routes, Task Force Coyote is paving the way to a better future in Afghanistan."

It's that sense of accomplishment that sustains the Air Force engineers to continue designing with quality-of-life improvements foremost in mind.

"What we're doing here in support of the global war on terrorism is important," said engineer Maj. William Morales.

"Later in life, we'll tell our grandchildren stories about our service here with pride."

(Air Force Staff Sgt. Jennifer Lindsey is assigned to 455th Expeditionary Operations Group Public Affairs.)

Night patrols



Air Force Tech Sgt. Lee Harshman

Members of the Iraqi Police and the Company A, 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment detain a young man while they perform dismounted night patrols during training of the Iraqi Police to perform security requirements and provide force protection in the city of Amel Shabi, in Northeast Iraq. Nov. 9 .

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Engineers open Pacific Regional Visitor Center

By Dino W. Buchanan
and Joseph Bonfiglio
HED Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu Engineer District held the grand opening ceremony and open house in honor of its recently renovated Pacific Regional Visitor Center Nov. 19 at Fort DeRussy in Waikiki.

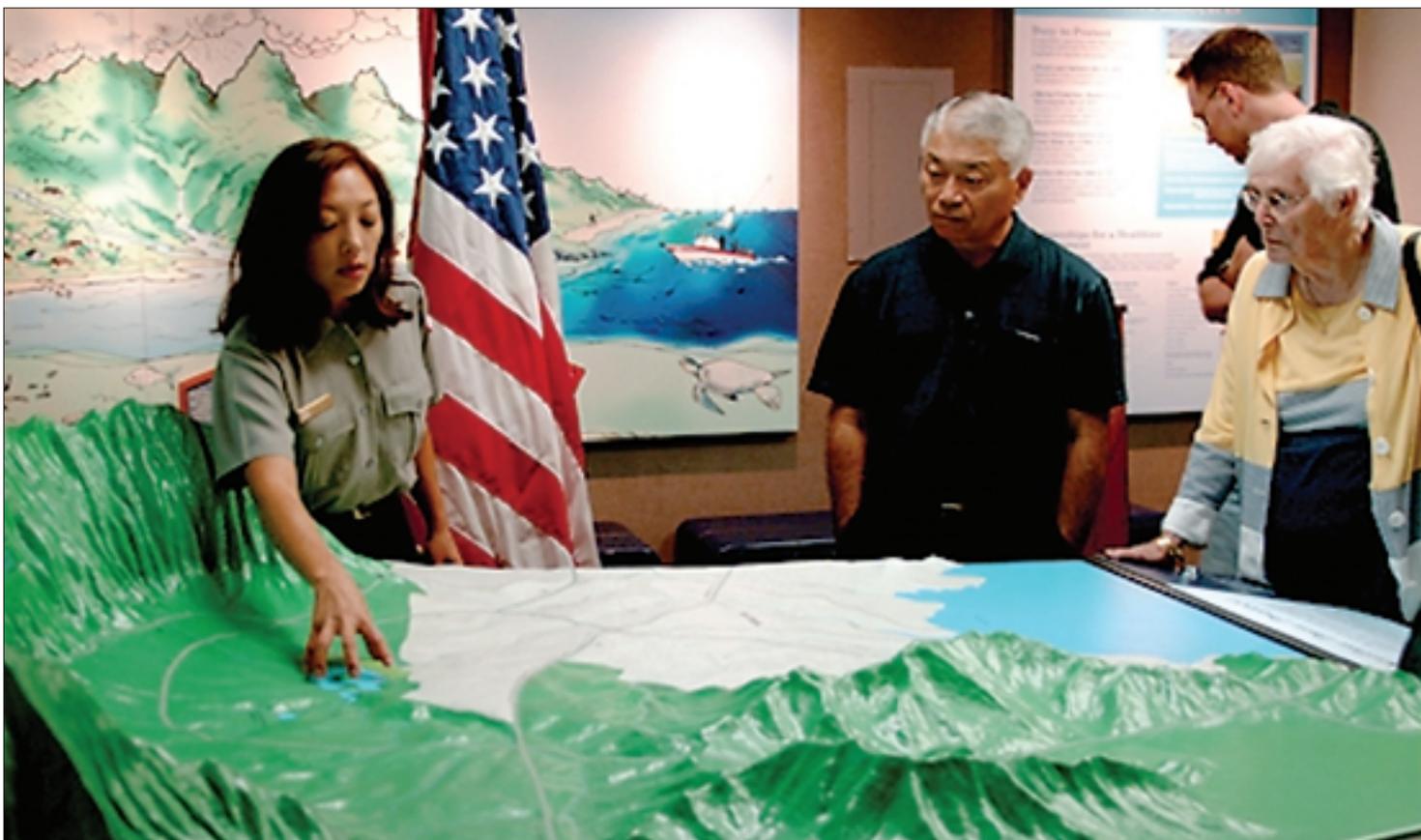
More than 30 city, state and local government officials, contractors, as well as a representative from U.S. Senator Daniel Akaka's office gathered at the facility to view the new interactive displays and the ceremonial ribbon-cutting.

The ceremony featured a Hawaiian blessing, remarks by Honolulu District Engineer and Commander, Lt. Col. David E. Anderson and tours of the renovated center.

"Our Regional Visitor Center shows in great detail our commitment to the nation, the Pacific Region and Hawaii and tells the story about its people — the people of the Corps and the people of the Pacific Region — all "Partners in the Pacific," said Lt. Col. Anderson.

The new theme of the RVC, which is located on the second floor above the U. S. Army Museum at Battery Randolph, is "Partners in the Pacific" and the Corps' story is told through the new state-of-the-art interactive exhibits, a seven-minute documentary narrated by Michael W. Perry and the visitor center staff.

"The new interactive displays and videos are an awesome addition to the visitor's center," said John McLaughlin, director of the U.S. Army Museum at Fort



Iwalani Sato, a Honolulu Engineer District Park Ranger, explains the details of a new interactive display to visitors during the grand opening of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Pacific Regional Visitor's Center in Waikiki.

DeRussy. "The new displays provide visitors a clear understanding of the Corps' accomplishments and commitment to Hawaii and the Pacific Region."

The new displays include documentary and educational videos for plasma screen TVs, audio-visual equipment and a backlit mural of the Kaneohe Flood Control Project.

The visitor center first

opened its doors at Battery Randolph in 1983. Battery Randolph is listed on the National Register of Historic Sites and is one of 16 coastal fortifications built by the Corps between 1906 and 1917 for the protection of Honolulu and Pearl Harbors.

The RVC's mission is to help visitors understand the Corps' water resources and environmental missions in Hawaii and in other Pacific

areas. The RVC places particular emphasis on civil works and water resources development and seeks to foster the spirit of personal stewardship of public lands throughout Hawaii and the Pacific region.

The center averages about 1,200 visitors per month, primarily from the U.S. mainland, Japan and Australia.

The RVC staff members plan and coordinate many

educational and outreach programs including: interpretive tours for school and community groups, the Young Engineers and Scientists Program, World Water Monitoring Day, National Public Lands Day, Earth Day and various volunteer programs.

Participating students come from several local middle and high schools and study: a watershed approach

to planning, environmental stewardship of water resources and sustainable development with a focus on comprehensive, collaborative, integrated projects that balance economic, environmental and social considerations.

The RVC is open to the public Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and closed on Mondays, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

DoD launches program for troops, family support

By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department launched a new program today to showcase America's support for the men and women of the armed forces and the myriad ways the country is expressing that support.

"America Supports You" is designed to gather information about the many activities and programs Americans have launched to show support for the troops — and most importantly, to ensure they and their families know about it, Charles Abell, principal deputy undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, told Pentagon reporters today.

Abell said communicating America's support for servicemembers and their families is a big morale booster for "those who are fighting to defend our freedom" and communicates America's "recognition and appreciation of the courage and commitment of those who serve."

Since the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, Americans have come together as never before, united in their resolve against their terrorist enemies, Abell said. "And in the three years since Sept. 11, 2001, throughout our operations in Afghanistan and Iraq and else-



where around the world, the American people have stood solidly behind our military personnel, both men and women, and their families," he said.

That support spans every segment of society — from individuals and families to schools to local communities to major, multinational corporations, Abell said, "all doing their part to show their appreciation for the dedication and sacrifice of America's fighting forces."

But despite the outpouring of support, said Allison Barber, deputy assistant secretary of defense for public affairs, servicemembers aren't always aware of it. "We've heard troops in the field asking if Americans are still supporting them," she said, "and we

were determined to be able to answer that question in a meaningful way."

The America Supports You program will ensure servicemembers know about their many acts of gratitude — including activities conducted at the local level, said Barber, who will run the program.

The program encourages people to visit a Web site and share details about their project or activity. By doing so, they can sign up to receive a military-style dog tag with the "America Supports You" logo that provides a tangible symbol of their support.

At today's kickoff event, Abell noted that the initiatives under way run the gamut. Brittany and

Robbie Bergquist, a brother-sister team in Massachusetts, have used their "Cell Phones for Soldiers" program to buy prepaid calling cards so deployed servicemembers can call home.

Another organization formed to build or renovate homes for disabled veterans returning home from Southwest Asia.

Other groups set up programs so children of deployed troops could listen to or watch their mom or dad read bedtime stories to them.

Home Depot donated tools and materials so families could repair and maintain their homes during their loved ones' deployment. Starbucks donated coffee to give troops in Southwest Asia a taste of home. The list goes on and on, Abell said.

James Mueller, senior vice commander in chief for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, knows personally how important it is for deployed servicemembers to know that their country is behind them. An Army veteran who served in Vietnam, he remembers how difficult it was to be thousands of miles from home, in harm's way, without the full support of many of his countrymen.

"We never want that to happen to our troops again," he said at today's America Support You kickoff.

To ensure it doesn't, VFW

posts nationwide are involved in sending care packages and supplies to troops overseas and helping families on the home front through a program that helps pay for things like groceries or emergency appliance repairs.

Edward Powell Jr., president and chief executive officer of the United Service Organizations, shares Mueller's memories of the Vietnam era and vows never to let it happen again.

"Our goal is to make sure the men and women who signed up to protect us know that they are appreciated and that we haven't forgotten them," he said.

To that end, Operation USO Care Package has sent more than 400,000 care packages to give deployed troops a taste of home, and the USO sponsors other programs and services for servicemembers and their families.

Powell said he hopes America Supports You gives Americans who want to support the troops, but don't know how, a way to show their appreciation.

"Sometimes the words 'thank you' just don't seem adequate when considering the tremendous sacrifices servicemembers are making for their country," he said. "But we're focused on the incredible power of 'thank you' — and we see this program as a way of expressing that to the men and women so deserving of it."

Artillery live-fire exercise nets multiple results

By Staff Sgt. Bradley Rhen
CTF Thunder Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SALERNO, Afghanistan – One exercise, three results.

To the Soldiers of Battery F, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, the live-fire exercise held here Nov. 20 was a chance for them to hone their skills as artillerymen.

For the Marines of 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, it was a chance to learn the ins and outs of calling for fire from Army artillery.

The battalion is currently conducting a relief-in-place with their predecessors from 3rd Bn., 6th Marine Rgt. as 3/6 prepares to redeploy to Camp Lejeune, N.C.

And for everyone in the immediate vicinity of the base, including any enemy forces, the exercise was a show of force not soon to be forgotten.

With six M198 155mm howitzers standing ready at all times, Btry. F, 7th FA Rgt. is capable of accurately firing on targets well over 10 kilometers away.

First Lt. David O'Leary, a platoon leader for Btry. F, said the exercise was an opportunity for the artillerymen to maintain their skills and keep from getting complacent.

Just by the nature of the exercise, he added, it is a show of force. Anyone who's ever been near a 155mm howitzer when it fires knows what O'Leary is talking about.

"It demonstrates to the local populace what we can provide and gives them a little bit of security, and I think for the enemy, it's going to make them think twice about attacking the base," O'Leary said.

For the Soldiers of Btry. F manning the guns, the mission was pretty cut and dried: wait for the coordinates to come in from the fire control center and rain steel down on the target.

"This is what these guys are trained to do. It's a pretty standard shoot, and nothing these guys haven't done before," O'Leary said.

The addition of the guns along with the trajectory-tracking radar have succeeded in reducing the number of rocket attacks on the base, according to Marine Gunnery Sgt. Daniel Jackson, an artillery liaison for 3rd Bn., 6th Marine Rgt.

Jackson said prior to July 25, the base averaged three or four rocket attacks a month. That was before Btry. F, with the help of the radar, started firing back at the origin of the rockets.

Since the battery started returning fire, the number of rocket attacks on the base has dwindled, and there hasn't been an attack since Oct. 9.

In addition, Jackson said several of the people who fired rockets at the base have been confirmed killed by the battery's fire.

"It's not a good situation for them (the enemy)," he said.

Jackson said this exercise

gave the fires section from 3rd Bn., 3rd Marines a chance to actually do a live fire shoot with Btry. F, while he and others from 3rd Bn., 6th Marines watched over their shoulders.

"Everybody's got to practice what they do so when they need it, it works," Jackson said.

Staff Sgt. Bradley Rhen

Spc. Chris Horn, a cannoneer for Btry. F, 7th Field Artillery Rgt., 25th ID (L), pulls the lanyard on a 155mm howitzer and sends a round downrange during a live-fire exercise Nov. 20 at Forward Operating Base Salerno, Afghanistan.



Firing ranges help maintain readiness

By Spc. Cheryl Ransford
Special to American Forces
Press Service

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SALERNO, Afghanistan – Soldiers deployed to Afghanistan are maintaining some basic Soldier skills on weapons qualification ranges such as the one set up at Forward Operating Base Salerno.

"Attending ranges is good for all Soldiers, no matter how long they have been in the military. Ranges are important for staying familiar and current with your weapon," said Army Command Sgt. Maj. Edmond Murrell, the top enlisted Soldier with Combined Task Force Thunder.

While the training here is slightly different from that at home stations, Soldiers are able to maintain their skills and confidence in firing a weapon, he said.

For most Soldiers, going to the range is a chance to re-familiarize themselves with their weapon. For others, it is a chance to get used to a weapon they haven't used before, said Army Pfc. Kenneth Golston, a medic with task force's Headquarters and Headquarters Battery.

"Some people who have deployed to Afghanistan were assigned a new weapon during the deployment," he said. "By having the ranges available during the deployment, they are able to receive the training they weren't able to receive before."

While many people conduct their daily mission without leaving the safety of the guarded base, many others perform their missions "outside the wire," where many dangers lie, said Pvt. Jonathon Carter, another HHB medic. "You



Spc. Cheryl Ransford

Pfc. Kenneth Golston, HHB, CTF Thunder, aims downrange during weapon qualification in Afghanistan.

never know when something is going to happen, so you have to stay up on your skills," he said. "(This way) when something does happen, you know you can hit the intended target."

Some Salerno ranges are designed to familiarize Soldiers with crew-served weapons, said Staff Sgt. John Wilgus, Base Operations range noncommissioned officer in charge. "There are ranges for everyone. Not everyone uses small arms during day-to-day missions."

While being trained and able to hit the intended target is the key to marksmanship, the pressure to qualify the first time is lower here than in the rear, said Murrell.

"Knowing how to hit the intended target can be what saves your life or the life of your buddy next to you."

(Army Spc. Cheryl Ransford is assigned to the 17th Public Affairs Detachment.)

Operations, humanitarian efforts continue in Fallujah

By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — U.S. and Iraqi forces continue to scour Fallujah, Iraq, for the last remaining resistance forces in the city while setting up mosques as distribution points for food, water, medicine and other humanitarian supplies, a senior defense official in Iraq told reporters today.

The Fallujah operation "has gone tactically well," the official said, noting that only "very small pockets" of enemy forces remain in the city. They "wish to fight to their death, and we are accommodating that desire of theirs," he said.

It's an operation that requires U.S. troops who have witnessed "ferocious" fighting to demonstrate extraordinary self-control, he said.

In some cases, insurgents have waved white flags in surrender, only to grab a hidden weapon while being apprehended and firing at their captors, he said. Adhering to the rules of engagement in those situations "takes discipline," he said.

Meanwhile, the hunt goes on for extremists who fled the city during the long buildup to the U.S.-Iraqi offensive, Operation Al Fajr. The search is focused on towns and villages directly outside Fallujah, where troops are conducting movement-to-contact operations, the official said, as well as other sections of the area known as the Sunni triangle.

"We anticipated that the enemy would move to outlying cities. ... He is out there, and we are still looking for him," the official said. "We are on alert around the country, especially in Baghdad, because a city of 5 million can harbor hundreds of people."

Intelligence indicates



Sgt. Sean Kimmons

Co. B, TF 1-27 Inf. Soldiers and an Iraqi National Guard trooper search a Rubaydhah home during Operation Wolfhound Jab Nov. 15. Similar stabilization searches are also happening in Fallujah, Iraq.

that these insurgents may plan to attack U.S. and coalition forces from the rear, the official said. "We are prepared for that," he added.

The official expressed optimism that the search will prove successful. "We know the country better than we did a year ago, and we have a better chance of finding where he may want to lick his wounds and try to regroup — and we will continue to press him," he said.

The Fallujah operation represented a major success in helping stabilize the city in preparation for the upcoming elections, the official said. U.S. and Iraqi forces found "well over 100 caches" of ammunition within the city, as well as stockpiles of mortars, anti-tank munitions, and improvised explosive devices and the tools needed to build them.

"The insurgents no longer have a safe haven" where they were able to manufacture hundreds of

improvised explosive devices to use against U.S. and Iraqi forces, the official said. The insurgents "were exporting terror from Fallujah. So now we have changed that dynamic of the insurgency."

The coalition recognizes that the insurgents will make every effort in Fallujah to re-establish their foothold there, he said. "We are not going to allow the city to go back (to the insurgents)," the official insisted. "They will challenge us, but we will be ready."

At the same time, the United States "has no intentions" of garrisoning the city and wants to return it to Iraqi control as quickly as possible, he said. "The Iraqis have got to do that," he said. "They recognize that. They want to do that. And we are working to give them the equipment and training" they require.

The city will require 1,200 to 1,600 trained

policemen, he estimated. But even with about 1,000 new police officers graduating from the police academies each week, reaching that goal "will take awhile," the official acknowledged.

He praised the contributions Iraqi security forces made during the Fallujah campaign and continue to make during clean-up operations. "These soldiers came and fought well and have been in the fight 24 hours a day since the start," he said. "It is quite a tribute to their leadership and their fortitude," he said.

In Fallujah, U.S. and Iraqi forces are working together to meet the residents' needs as they begin returning to their homes. "We do not have a humanitarian problem. I think we have that well under con-



Sgt. Sean Kimmons

Sgt. Nick Redroza, a team leader with Co. B, TF 1-27 Inf., counts U.S. currency found inside a Rubaydhah home during Operation Wolfhound Jab Nov. 15. The large amount of money was suspicious but checked out and was not confiscated. Similar searches are happening throughout Iraq.

trol," the official said. He said "ample" stocks of food, water and medicine are on hand, being distributed from local mosques.

Fallujah will also require

"significant work," he said, to get the electricity back on and repair broken water lines that could have serious sewage and sanitation implications.

Operation Colgate puts smiles on Afghan girls' faces

By Staff Sgt. Terry L. Welch
105th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – In the hard-scrabble, war-torn life of Afghanistan's past few decades, many things fell through the cracks. Afghanistan's level of education faltered for the poor, talking with it the daily personal hygiene rituals.

Since the war here ended, though, schools are springing up across the country and the literacy of Afghanistan's children is improving. Soldiers stationed at Bagram Air Field are working to get Afghan children back on the road to a healthier lifestyle as well.

Operation Colgate began when members of the Baptist General Convention of Texas asked Capt. Carron Nabor how she could help them dispense the many contributions of oral hygiene items they'd received from parishioners.

As the deputy base operations chaplain from the 25th

Infantry Division (Light), and a member of the denomination, Nabor agreed to help.

Soon after, mail clerks were inundated with boxes of toothbrushes and toothpaste. It was there in the mailrooms stacked high with boxes that the name Operation Colgate was first used and it stuck (with the approval of the Colgate-Palmolive company).

Nabor began distributing the products through civil affairs units and personal trips, with other units eager to assist. Recently, the 125th Signal Battalion offered to lead a convoy to a girls' school near Bagram Air Field where they not only handed out toothbrushes and toothpaste, but also taught the girls their proper use. It wasn't only the children who got something out of the visit, though.

"I think it helps to energize you," said Lt. Col. Margaret Sullivan, a nurse with the 325th Field Hospital.

Nabor agreed, adding that

it was good for Soldiers to learn more about the mission than just their jobs.

"Soldiers need to learn the human element," she said. "They need to see at least a glimpse of the process of nation-building."

Only female Soldiers were allowed to instruct the girls in the use of the toothbrushes because they were at a conservative, Muslim girls' school. Additionally, the girls had rarely seen women in professional positions.

"The teenage girls seemed fascinated to see us," said Sullivan.

Despite the peek into Western culture the girls had during the visit, Nabor said that the Soldiers were very careful about not being disrespectful of Afghan society.

"This isn't colonialism, where you come in and say this is how you should live. We need to respect each other's cultures, differences and religion," she said.

Sullivan said that she was

glad to be a part of Operation Colgate, having seen some of the worst effects of poor oral hygiene. A few days before the visit to the girls' school, an Afghan boy had been admitted to the field hospital, his eye swollen and infected so badly doctors thought he might lose it.

After further investigation, though, it doctors found that the infection had begun as an abscessed tooth.

A lack of dental care could lead to even worse problems, including death, Sullivan said. "I suspect if you got a bad enough infection it could lead to that," she said.

Nabor will continue to run Operation Colgate and said she appreciates what the donations say about the support of the American people.

"It demonstrates that they support the work of chaplains in the theater, tangibly and intangibly," she said. "We tend to forget that folks back home are praying for you through your deployment."



Staff Sgt. Terry L. Welch

Spc. Rachel Lauber, 125th Signal Battalion, demonstrates proper toothbrushing technique to Afghan girls.

Commentary:

Why am I thankful?

Master Sgt. Terry
Anderson
CJTF-76 Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – Now that the 25th Infantry Division (Light) is into the ninth month of a year-long deployment to Afghanistan, it's time for a little reflection. It's time to look back at what we've been through and how we've become accustomed to life in a combat zone. Most Americans couldn't imagine living the way we do. We deal with small inconveniences, like walking 5 minutes to shave and shower in the morning, and large inconveniences, like having rockets shot at your base. After spending the last nine months of my life at the largest base in Afghanistan, here is what I have to be thankful for:

– The same old, same old for breakfast, lunch, and dinner at the dining facility.

I'm thankful that I get three nutritious, hot meals every day.

– Some of the most intense heat and blinding dust storms I've ever experienced in my life.

I'm thankful when the sweat soaks through my uniform and the dust clogs up my nose and gets in my eyes because it means that I'm alive.

– Living in an eight foot by eight foot cubicle inside a wooden B-hut.

I'm thankful I have a climate controlled room, with a roof over my head.

– Having to put on my Kevlar, body armor and sitting on rocks in a concrete bunker with my weapon during rocket attacks until I hear the "all clear" from the giant voice system.

I'm thankful I have all this protection from terrorists who want to do us harm.

– Having to walk everywhere on Bagram Air Field.

I'm thankful that I have both legs and I'm healthy, after seeing many Afghan land mine

victims struggling to get around on one leg.

– Missing my gorgeous wife and three beautiful daughters back at Schofield Barracks.

I'm thankful that they fully support me during this deployment and they give me a strong motivation to keep going every day.

– Dealing with the long delays and getting disconnected while on the phone with loved ones.

I'm thankful that I can talk to my wife and kids, being 8,000 miles from home.

– Working with and seeing the same people, day in and day out, for an entire year.

I'm thankful that we are together, far from home, supporting each other, fighting this Global War on Terrorism as a team. We will be lifelong friends.

– Rolling out of bed in the morning, walking out in 30 degree weather, just to go to the bathroom and shower.

I'm thankful we have running water, toilets, and (sometimes) hot water for showers. Many Afghans walk miles, some without shoes, to draw water from a well.

– It takes 10 days to two weeks to get a letter or a box here.

I'm thankful that someone at home cares enough to send a letter or a box.

– That I'm here in Afghanistan fighting in the Global War on Terrorism.

I'm thankful that my kids, and future generations, won't have to worry about another attack on America, and Afghan children can grow up to live their dreams.

I'm thankful for the smiles on the faces of every Afghan citizen we see when we're out on missions. I'm thankful that I'm here in Afghanistan helping people in a newly democratic nation experience their first taste of freedom in more than 30 years. And believe me, by the looks on their faces, they like it.



Traditions, values still alive and well

Story and photos by Joy Boisselle
Staff Writer

Dressed in traditional Native American regalia, members of the Inter-Tribal Council of Hawaii performed for nearly 200 people in celebration of Native American Heritage month last Friday at Desiderio Field, Schofield Barracks.

A joint congressional resolution designated November as "National American Indian Heritage Month." Now, the month-long annual event focuses on the history, traditions, and culture of one of the nation's most diverse groups.

Sgt. 1st Class Lamont Christian, equal opportunity advisor, U.S. Army-Hawaii Military Police Brigade and coordinator of the event said, "The theme this year is honoring Native American heritage and with the Inter-Tribal Council's help, we decided to hold a traditional Pow Wow."

Previous celebrations took place at the Sgt. Smith Theater. This year, however, Christian decided the outdoor venue would lend a more authentic feel to the event.

The Pow Wow began with a drum blessing ceremony performed by members of the Red Mountain Drummers and Red Thunder Drummers, followed by several demonstrations of singing, drumming, and dancing. Nearby, attendees viewed Indian artifacts, animal skins, and tribe-specific information.

Bill Tiger, an Inter-Tribal Council Board member and Muscogee Creek Nation



Native American Heritage Month Celebrated with Pow Wow
Top: Members of the USARHAW community joined the Inter-Tribal Council dancers in a friendship dance at the Native American heritage Pow Wow Nov. 19. Top Left: A welcome dance, featuring Cherokee, John Martin, and two other dancers, began the Pow Wow. The intricate, hand-beaded vest alone is worth \$2,500 and it took many months to complete. Several members of the tribal council are retired military.

Indian, narrated the activities. Citing the spirituality of Native Americans, he began, "The drum is very special to Native Americans; we consider it the heartbeat of our nation."

"Our Pow Wows are a way to keep our traditions and culture alive," Tiger said.

"Our younger generation is losing their culture and when they grow up they don't know how to be an Indian."

According to the U.S. Census Bureau 2003 statistics, there are 3 million Native Americans comprising less than 2 percent of the total population. Tiger pointed out the diversity of that group explaining, "There are 560 recognized tribes and over 200 languages spoken."

During the event, many celebrants answered questions posed by the attendees. One question concerned the detail of the regalia worn by the dancers.

John Martin, a Cherokee dancer and artifact collector, answered, "The beadwork on my buckskin outfit is all hand-done and took many months to make. Just the beading is worth \$2,500." He added that a skilled bead worker works nearly four hours to produce one inch of beadwork.

One performance was a tribute to Soldiers entitled "Soldier Boy." Although a tribute to those serving today, the song and dance could easily honor the Native American's own long tradition of military service.

For more than 200 years, Native

Americans served with distinction in all American wars. Consider these facts: nearly 17,000 Indians registered for the military in World War I, 44,000 Native Americans served in World War II out of a population base of less than 350,000, and 41,500 Native Americans served in Vietnam.

Military honors and decorations are many. The 158th Regiment, a Mexican-American and Indian unit, was a highly decorated World War II unit, and during World War II alone, Native-Americans earned 71 Air Medals, 51 Silver Stars, 47 Bronze Stars, 34 Distinguished Flying Crosses, and two Medals of Honor. Five Medals of Honor belong to Native American Soldiers.

Today, there are more than 12,000 Native Americans serving in the military.

Tiger commented on the Native American tradition of serving in the military. "We have always been a free-living warrior society that honors our warriors," he said, "I think it comes from a need to serve, to be a warrior and brave, and not only for our men, but our women as well."

Perhaps, the highlight of the celebration was the Friendship Dance. Tribal dancers invited members of the audience to join them in the day's celebration. In Pow Wow tradition, a diverse group of people gathered, sang songs, danced dances, and beat drums in celebration of a unique group of Americans who in turn shared a small part of their heritage with the USARHAW community.



Hand-carved Kwagiult Tribe dancers received a lot of attention from attendees of the Native American Heritage Month celebration.

(Editor's Note: Contact Bill Tiger at 371-7159 for information on the Inter-Tribal Council of Hawaii. The group is open to anyone interested in learning about Native Americans and their culture.)

If you could tell people one thing about your Native American Culture, what would it be?



I would tell them that we [Native Americans] are still here. Many people are surprised that Indians are still around. As for my culture, I am most proud of the giving-ness and openness of our people.

Aleta Stevens
Cherokee Nation



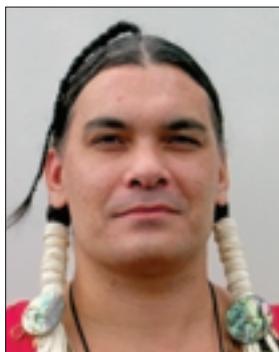
I want them to know that Cherokee is one of the largest tribes in the nation and one of the Five Civilized Tribes. Despite the Trail of Tears and government assimilation efforts, we have survived and held on to our traditions.

Alton Bennett
Cherokee Nation



I would tell them that I do this [heritage celebrations] to honor my parents and ancestors. Also, I am involved to help carry on the traditions and heritage of Native Americans.

John Martin
Cherokee Nation



I would want them to know about our songs. Everything in our culture revolves around our drums, our songs, and our music. Our drums are sacred and reflect the heartbeat of the earth."

Joe Hacker Ironshell
Rosebud Sioux



I would want them to know our culture is in our carvings, our dancing, and our drumming. When I drum, my spirit and those of the other drummers are in the drum.

Edward Kraan
No verified tribe affiliation



I would explain about our unity and ability to recognize other natives, not just in our own tribe, but also outside. We all get along and are able to relate to one another.

Damian Lujan
Isleta Pueblo

Tree Lighting Ceremony – Listen to live entertainment and enjoy fun activities at Piliiaau Army Recreation Center Dec. 7 at 5:30 p.m. Take a picture with Santa and receive a free gift and get your picture for a small fee. Call 696-6026 for information.

Mongolian BBQ – Select from a variety of meats and vegetables, and have them grilled to personal preferences at Reggie's on Schofield Barracks, Dec. 8, 5 – 8 p.m. Cost is \$4 for the first four ounces and 65 cents each ounce after. Reservations required by calling 655-0660.

Chinese Coffee Performance – Sunday and Dec. 5, watch the performance at the Army Community Theater on Fort Shafter beginning at 7:30 p.m. This intriguing character study follows two middle-aged best

friends as their volatile relationship comes to a head. Adult tickets: \$17 and \$14 and children (under 12): \$10 and \$8. Box office open 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Monday – Friday. Call 438-4480 for information.

Christy Lipps at Libraries – Participate in a Christmas sing-along with Christy Lipps at the following libraries at 3 p.m.: Fort Shafter, Dec. 7, Schofield Barracks Dec. 8 and Aliamanu on Dec. 9. Call nearest library for more information.

Quarter Mania Bowling – Two quarters per game and two quarters for shoes, Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. at the Wheeler Army Air Field Bowling Center. Call 656-1745 for information.

December Food Special at Tropics – Purchase subs on Schofield Barracks with your choice of soup for \$5.25. Call ahead to order two large one topping pizzas for \$16.99. Call 655-0002 for information.

Tropic's Upcoming Activities – Make a Holiday Ornament Dec. 7, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Cost is \$3 per participant. Watch "Anime" movies for teens Dec. 10, 6 p.m. with free popcorn. Yu-Gi-Oh Tournament Dec. 11, 4 p.m. Cost is \$5 and receive free merchandise. Registration on Schofield Barracks begins at 3 p.m. Call 655-0002 for information.

House Your Pet Over the Holidays – Are you returning to the mainland for the holidays? The MWR Boarding Kennel located at the Halawa State Quarantine site in Halawa can assist you in housing your pet while you're gone. Kennel is an outdoor facility and is open to cats and dogs only. The cost to board a dog is \$14, second family dog in same kennel, \$10. Cats are \$10 per day, second family cat in the same kennel are \$5. Limited spaces

are available for eligible patrons who include active duty, DoD civilian, retirees and Reserve personnel. Blue Star Card holders receive 10 percent off. Call 368-3456 for more information or reservations.

Spouse's Night Out – This free adults-only program at Army Community Service on Schofield Barracks is designed to get spouses out of the house every Thursday night from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. to have fun. On Dec. 2, participate in making a table top Christmas tree, Learn to Draw and Sketch, Create Your Own Family Web Page, and Quilting. Supplies will be needed for table top Christmas tree, call for details.

MWR Blue Star Card – Holders will receive free child care from 6 - 9 p.m. by reservation only at Peterson Child Care Center, Schofield Barracks. Call 655-3929 by noon of the Tuesday before each Thursday event to make child care reservations. Child care reservations can be made two weeks in advance. Pre-registration for classes required, call 655-2736.

Ready 4 Reunion Conference – Prepare yourself for reunion by participating in a conference with numerous seminars offered on Dec. 11, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Nehelani on Schofield Barracks. Interact during a panel discussion with the instructors and listen to featured speaker, Dr. John Covey. Spaces are limited. Registration available online at www.mwrarmyhawaii.com. There is a \$5 registration fee which is payable at the door. Fee includes cost of water and coffee in classrooms as well as lunch. Free child care is available to all Blue Star Card holders by calling 655-3929.

Holiday Fun Fest – Participate in an annual Holiday Fun Fest at Aliamanu Community Center

Dec. 4, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., all activities are free. Don't miss the entertainment, demonstrations, family games and relays, train rides, numerous arts and crafts activities, inflatables, karaoke and more. Get a picture with Santa for \$1. Enjoy free soda and chips, while supplies last. Papa John's Pizza, hamburgers, hotdogs and shave ice will be available for purchase. Bring an ornament during the event to help decorate the tree and receive a free shave ice ticket. Call 833-0920 for information.

Melveen Leed at Piliiaau – Celebrate Melveen Leed's CD release at Piliiaau Army Recreation Center in Waianae this Saturday from 5 – 10 p.m. Also enjoy entertainment by Bill Kai'iwa, Liberty Bell, Richard Wells and more. A video concert will be sent to areas where troops from Hawaii are located. Come early to record a message of aloha. Advanced tickets cost \$17 general admission and \$15 for Blue Star Card holders. Call 696-6783 for tickets or 696-4778 for more information.

Breakfast with Santa at Reggie's – Join Santa for a breakfast buffet at Schofield Barracks Reggie's this Saturday, 9 a.m. - noon. Cost is \$5.50 per person. Photo with Santa will be available for a small fee. Call 655-0660 for information.

Pro Bowl Tickets on Sale – Visit the nearest Information, Ticketing and Registration office to purchase Pro Bowl tickets. Tickets currently available in the following sections: Makai and Mauka Orange, Makai Yellow, and North Endzone Orange. Call 438-1985 or 655-9971 for more information.

Kid's Club at the Tropics – Beginning in December and held every Wednesday at 2:30 p.m., children can enjoy a variety of

activities. On Dec. 1, Holiday Crafts, Dec. 8, Make Simple Holiday Snacks, Dec. 15, Holiday games and contests, Dec. 22, Holiday movies. Register your child today at the Tropics, Schofield Barracks until Dec. 1. Cost is \$1 per day or \$3 for all four days. Call 655-8522 or 655-5697.

Schofield Barracks Teen Winter Camp – The Teen Center will be having a three week Winter Camp, registration begins Dec. 1. Camp times are 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. daily and cost is \$25 per week. Registration can be done at the nearest Resource and Referral Office. For more information call 655-0451.

Sing for a Free Supper – Come early on Fridays and win a free dinner. Starts at 6 p.m. Winner will be announced at 7:30 p.m. and regular karaoke begins at 8 p.m. Call Reggie's, Schofield Barracks at 655-0660 for more information.

Christmas Golf Sale – Beginning Friday find a "Par"fect gift at Nagorski Pro Shop. For more information call 438-9587.

"The King and I" – Showing at Fort Shafter's Army Community Theatre Friday, Saturday and Dec. 3, 4 beginning at 7:30 p.m. East versus West makes for a dramatic tale. Adult tickets: \$17 and \$14 and children (under 12): \$10 and \$8. Box Office is open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday - Friday. Tickets can also be purchased online at www.squareone.org/ACT/tickets.html or at Pentagon Federal Credit Union. Call 438-4480 for more information.

Aliamanu and Tripler Aerobic Classes – Cardio Kickboxing classes will be held at Aliamanu Physical Fitness Center on Tuesday and Thursday at 6 p.m. Step Aerobics with Cardio Kickboxing classes will be held at Tripler Physical Fitness Center every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 4:30 p.m. First class is free, classes thereafter are \$2 or purchase a coupon book for 12 classes for \$11. Call 433-2031 for information.

Music and Movie Room – The Schofield Barracks Library has a room where patrons can relax and listen to music or watch a movie. Room is available Monday – Thursday, 11 a.m. – 7:30 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Available on a first come first served basis. Call 655-0145 for information.

Lost in Paradise – Do

you want to lose some weight before your Soldier returns home from the deployment? Or maybe it's your New Year's resolution to lose those last couple of pounds?

Either way we have a motivational program that's open to all active duty Soldiers and family members that will not only benefit the individual, but the entire unit. Each battalion can enter one group with up to 10 individuals to participate in our Lost In Paradise program. As a team, these 10 individuals will weigh-in Dec. 1 at the Health and Fitness Center on Schofield Barracks.

The 10 individuals from one unit that can lose the most weight from Dec. 1 to Feb. 28 will receive a unit party at the Nehelani, Schofield Barracks worth \$1,000 and each group member will receive three months free membership (\$50 value) to the Health and Fitness Center. The final weigh in will be Feb. 28, also at the Health and Fitness Center. The winners will be announced March 5. Call 655-0112 or 655-0111 for more information and to set up a time to register 10 participants.

Pearl Ridge Shopping Trip – Receive free transportation and spend the day shopping at the mall Nov. 30. Bus will depart from the Schofield Barracks Commissary parking lot at 8:15 a.m. and return by 2 p.m. For information and to register call 655-0112 or 655-0111. Registration deadline is noon on Nov. 29.

Open Recreation Program School-Age Services – program is now offering free open recreation care on Saturdays for three hours at the following youth centers: Bennett, Helemano, Aliamanu, and Fort Shafter. Activities include computer lab, sports and crafts, and self-directed games.

Participants must be in grades K-5 and be a current member of Child and Youth Services. Space is very limited; reservations must be made 24-hours in advance. Call your nearest center for more information.

Donate a Stuffed Animal – Help fulfill a child's Christmas wish by donating a stuffed animal before Dec. 3. Donations will be accepted at Piliiaau Army Recreation Center, Fort Shafter Auto Craft Center and at the Directorate of Community Activities, building 350, on Wheeler Army Air Field. Call 696-6026.



Sgt. Smith Theater

Today
Friday Night Lights
7 p.m. (PG-13)

Saturday Nov. 27
Shark Tale
2 p.m. & 7 p.m. (PG)

Sunday Nov. 28
Shark Tale
2 p.m. (PG)
Taxi
7 p.m. (PG-13)

Monday - Thursday
Closed

Hickam AFB Movie Schedule

Today
Team America: World Police
7 p.m. (R)

Saturday Nov. 27
Team America: World Police
7 p.m. (R)

Sunday Nov. 29
Team America: World Police
7 p.m. (R)

Monday and Tuesday
Closed

Wednesday
Taxi
7 p.m. (PG-13)

Thursday
Closed

HACN TV Schedule		Nov. 26 - Dec. 2	
Morning			
6:00	Sign on	3:45	OIF Photo Montage 5
6:30	Fit for Life	3:51	Volunteers
7:00	Bulletin Board	4:00	Pentagon Channel
7:30	SHAMU-Wild Babies	Evening	
7:54	Dash and Grab	6:00	Community Focus
8:00	Pentagon Channel	6:15	Bulletin Board
9:00	Pentagon Channel	6:44	Army Values - Respect
10:00	ASAP-Drugs	6:50	OIF Photo Montage 3
10:30	OIF Photo Montage 7	6:54	Jake Shimabukuro
10:46	Bulletin Board	7:00	NFL-Tight on the Spiral
11:30	Hawaii Hidden Beauty, Danger	8:00	Bulletin Board
11:50	OIF Photo Montage 6	8:47	History of JAG
12:00	Pentagon Channel	9:00	Anti Terrorism FP
Afternoon			
2:02	Hurricane Safety	9:24	Oakland Army Base
2:25	OIF Photo Montage 2	10:00	Youth Protection
2:30	SHAMU-The Manatee Story	11:00	NFL-'58 Championship Game
3:00	SHAMU-The Sea Turtle Story	12:17	Bulletin Board
3:35	OAHU-Aloha Begins	Overnight	
		12:51	Pentagon Channel

Tip #1: Getting the car

When returning to the island, transportation is essential in everyday life. Here are some guidelines to follow when you want to get the car out of storage.

Removal of POV from Storage:

Note: Individual car pick-up information below is specific to families returning to Hawaii. Unit pickup will be addressed in the deployment operations order.

- Call 656-3078 to inform the Contract Officer Representative of your return. The COR will inform the POV storage contractor.

- An appointment to pick up your vehicle will be made within three working days of notification from the COR. Vehicles can not be picked up without an appointment.

- If the individual picking up the vehicle is someone other than the service member, a special power of attorney indicating "removal of vehicle from storage" is required.

All vehicles will be picked up at the storage sites either on Barbers Point or East Range.

What to expect when you're expecting your Soldier

By Nadja Gassert-Depape
Contributing Writer

So you've gone to workshops, marked Dec. 11 on your calendar (Ready 4 Reunion Seminar at the Nehelani) and browsed the Internet for reunion advice. You're ready, but you're still not sure what actually to expect when your Soldier returns?

Life will be something like this: One day or night the phone rings and you dash off to meet your Soldier. But you'll only have your loved one all to yourself for a few days. Then reintegration begins.

The Deployment Cycle Support program is an Army-wide mandated program made up of six half-days filled with briefings and meetings. Your Soldier must attend. There will be time to accept the delivery of household goods or to pick up a vehicle that had been stored. Then paperwork, medical files and other records will be updated. A medical team, including physicians and dentists, will be on hand to give your Soldier a check-up. Necessary referrals will be made. Unit activities and personal appointments round out the six days.

Day Three is of importance to you, the spouse. Day Three focuses on the family. Soldiers will attend briefings on reunion, suicide awareness, communication and marital enrichment. Spouses are welcome to join their Soldiers and participate. Children, however, need to remain at home.

After your Soldier has completed the DCS program, he or she might have to return to work for a few days. Then block leave begins. Block leave, depending on your Soldier's unit and circumstance, can be up to 30 days.

Redeploying Soldiers all over the US will return to work after the completion of block leave. Soldiers on Hawaii, however, have a second chance to focus their attention on reunion and reintegration.

The Tropic Lightning Academy (TLA) is a mandatory reintegration program exclusive to Hawaii. You can expect your Soldier to go to class anywhere from six to eight and a half hours over the course of two days.

The curriculum addresses topics of importance and interest to all Soldiers, as well as four specific target groups: single Soldiers, single

parents, married Soldiers and married Soldiers with children. Classes include Stress on and off the Battlefield, Anger Management, Money Management, Divorce Recovery, as well as workshops designed for the four target groups.

Spouses are highly encouraged to attend as well.

Then with all the workshops and seminars and briefings behind you, life for you and your Soldier will settle into a new routine of your making.

Remember, though, reunion is a process. No workshop or lecture will do the work for you.

Reunion's shark infested waters: Part one

Michele Adams-Thompson
Contributing Writer

The use of certain metaphors can be tricky stuff. I use the idea of shark infested waters in a shameless attempt to get your attention, but there's more than just that. We've been talking in this column about reunion. We all hear so much "Army talk" about every possible program or event coming down the pike that sometimes we're tempted to stop listening.

Don't stop listening to what is being talked about on reunion because if you do, you could pay big. How do we know this? Because there are lots of military families out there who've gone through the long deployments of the last few years and they are the ones telling us that we check out of the discussion at our own peril.

So far we've talked about the month of frenzy just

before your Soldier gets home and what that can look like. It's the big month of the big countdown and it can make you crazy on a big scale. Make sure you don't get so tired out preparing for your Soldier to get home that you can't enjoy him once he or she does.

We've looked at homecoming day and practical ways you plan ahead for making it happy instead of hazardous. Things like talking through realistic expectations about how it will happen and planning to keep your own immediate family needs for time and space ahead of even the extended family that may be pressuring you to share this intense time. It's tough to stand up against the forces that work against the best thing for your family, but it pays real-life dividends.

Then there's the "second honeymoon" phase that we can look forward to that



lasts the first weeks or months he or she is back. And even though a lot of military families talk about how the emotions might not catch up to the reunion as quickly as our bodies do, it's still a great time to look forward to. Our emotions take their own kind of time to catch up to it all and that's okay.

But now it's time to get into the weeds of this business. Denial can be easy but it can also be expensive. What we mean here is that you may be tempted to say that things will work out

fine without some planning and preparation but the military families that have done this already are on the record saying it isn't so.

Military families are so resilient and so good at adjusting; surely this repeating long-deployments stuff won't be too tough for us, right? We're the ones that are good at "getting good" at transitions. Surely no one in our own community needs to worry much over what others of us have already been through with reunion. If you are thinking this way, think again and

watch this column for more important discussion of the reality that we call reunion. These shark infested waters can be navigated but only if you know how to avoid the sharks.

Mark your calendar for Dec. 11. ACS is hosting an entire day of important information and great help for you as you plan and think ahead for reunion. Have you wondered how things look from your Soldier's perspective or how to help your kids adjust to having dad back? Maybe your focus in on money matters or what happens in families because of battlefield stress? These are some of the classes being offered that day. The \$5 cost covers lunch and coffee in the breaks and child care is free – you can't beat that. Register by December 9 online at mwrarmyhawaii.com or call ACS at 655-2400.

Spouse's Spotlight

Coach sees it, does it, color-codes it

Kirsten Tacker
Contributing Writer

Kim Rowland huddles, calls the plays for her three children while maneuvering, effortlessly, as coordinating coach for football and cheerleading. Every one of her days is packed full of activities between a full-time job and family.

Rowland keeps it all organized with a color coded system on the calendar. Each of her children has a color so she knows who has cheerleading, football, basketball, band, Girl Scouts and tutoring.

"If I can't see it I can't do it," Rowland explained. She heard somewhere on a talk show that if you have to color code your kids - they are over scheduled, she joked.

After Rowland finishes her day as lead assistant to Bill Baier, Schofield Barracks Sports and Fitness Manager she checks her calendar and is off and running.

Her son, Lee Rowland, III, 14, goes by Andrew and plays drums. He is also trying out for point guard at his high school basketball junior var-



Kim Rowland, a cheerleading and football coach, runs plays with David Selph (left) and Tyler Rood during football practice on Schofield Barracks Nov. 9.

Spc. Charles Hayes

sity team. Her daughters, Bri'ana and Ki'ana Rowland, 11-year-old twins, are involved in Girl Scouts and cheerleading.

"I'm proud of my kids and keeping them busy keeps them out of trouble and gives them balance. I have them do chores together as responsible well-mannered children and they have cell phones so I know where they are at all times," Rowland said.

Rowland's husband, Chief Warrant Officer Lee Rowland Jr., 536th Maintenance Company, deployed for a year to Iraq on Sept. 22. With her husband gone, she declared, "I find it even more crucial to keep a strong line of open communication with my children as my mother did for me growing up. Being raised by my single mom I feel I am blessed by her strength and I want to pass it on."

Rowland exclaimed, "I really love kids and just had a 12 girl sleepover where they made their own pizza, sundae, juice, popcorn, they were proud to make everything and they had a blast. No one wanted to go home

the next day."

Some made their pizza in the shape of a unicorn, lips and one girl missed her dad, so she made a flag pizza. The white cheese and red sauce arranged in straight lines formed the stripes. As in all great sleepovers, the first one to fall asleep, well, poor girl she was given extra special toothpaste treatment.

"As for when I have downtime I like getting my nails done and with football being over soon, I might start getting my hair done too. I'll take a moment to watch an occasional reality show on television," Rowland revealed.

"I am going to have gastric bypass surgery and a personal trainer beginning in January. I just never lost the weight after I had my kids and I've tried everything," she said with a delicate smile on her face.

Rowland has a unique ability to smile no matter what life serves up.

"If no matter what, you can smile and find humor in it, it is a good thing," she concluded.

Reunion is focus of Monthly Town Hall

By Joy Boisselle
Staff Writer

Perhaps the cold, rainy night accounted for the low turnout at the recent Town Hall meeting held Nov. 16 at the Sgt. Smith Theater on Schofield Barracks. Whatever the reason, the meeting again provided answers to resident questions in the form of formal briefings and a question and answer period.

Following a slide show tribute to Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom Soldiers, the 25th Infantry Division (Light) Dixie Band performed a medley of Dixieland favorites.

Maj. Jonathan Neumann, U.S. Army Hawaii deputy chief of staff for operations provided an overview of operations in Afghanistan and Iraq from November through January.

He said, "I wish I could say I have the dates, flight times, and schedules for redeployment. I can't, but I eventually will."

Key operations briefed included the ongoing plans for the division's transformation. In addition, Neumann provided dates for the holiday half-day schedule, which begins Dec. 20 to Jan. 2.

Neumann touched on the four key steps of the upcoming OIF redeployment: Welcome Home Ceremonies, 72-hour passes, a seven to 10 day administrative requirement, and finally, 30-day block leave.

He said, "This is tentative and as soon as more information [redemption schedules] is available, it will be published."

Jack Wiers, marketing chief, Directorate of Community Activities, continued the brief with information on "Ready 4 Reunion," a program designed to prepare families and Soldiers for reuniting. "Reunion is a happy time, but also a time with a lot of challenges for families," he said.

To that end, he informed the group about Army Community Service's Ready 4 Reunion DVD. Already mailed to OIF families, the DVD's focus is on general information about the reunion process. Copies are available at ACS for any family with a

deployed Soldier. OEF families should expect to receive their reunion DVD beginning in January.

Wiers added that a series of redeployment seminars begins Dec. 11 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Nehelani. The featured speaker is Dr. John Covey and the cost is \$5, lunch included. Call ACS at 655-2400 to register or register on-line at www.mwrarmyhawaii.com.

Concluding his remarks, Wiers said many reunion events are mandatory for the returning Soldier, and that spouses are highly encouraged to attend.

A short question and answer period followed the briefings.

Q. Who do we contact when a housing issue is unresolved at community center level?

A. Contact the Army Hawaii Family Housing regional office, located in the Aloha Center, at 275-3700.

Q. My lawn has only been mowed two times since Oct. 1 and the grass is very high, what can be done?

A. Weather-related issues have affected the mowing schedule. The contractor is working to catch up.

Q. I tried to use my Blue Star Card at the Schofield Bowling Alley and I was told that the discounts had changed, what is the discount?

A. We will clarify the Blue Star Card discounts with the bowling alley management. If there is a problem at a facility regarding the Blue Star card, speak with the manager first. If you are not satisfied with the answer, contact Candace Godfrey, DCA marketing information specialist at 438-0117.

Q. Since F Quad reopened, several teenagers walking home on Lewis Street have been harassed by Soldiers in the barracks, what can be done?

A. The chain of command will be notified. There is zero tolerance for this kind of behavior.

The next Town Hall meeting is Dec. 14 at 6:30 p.m. at Sgt. Smith Theater, Schofield Barracks. Included is a mini-Christmas concert followed by detailed redeployment information.

Blue Star Card holders treated royally

By Joy Boisselle
Staff Writer

"The King and I," Army Community Theatre's latest production, enthralled 160 Blue Star Card holders at a free preview Nov. 17 at Richardson Theatre, Fort Shafter.

The play is the third of four ACT musicals offered free to Blue Star Card spouses.

Opening the show, Vanita Smith, chief of Army Hawaii Entertainment and producer of Army Community Theatre, said, "I know you are here to have a wonderful evening. I am grateful you are here and grateful to your [deployed] spouses who are serving."

A wonderful evening is exactly what the cast and crew delivered. From overture to finale, the production featured lavish sets, dazzling costumes, and a strong-bodied orchestra. The solid cast was topnotch and believable in their portrayals of life in 19th century Bangkok, Siam, now Thailand.

Blue Star Card holder, Monica Mason has been to two of the three previews offered.

"I enjoy theatre and it's a good opportunity to get out. This is the best of the productions I've attended so far," she said.

In an East meets West tale, "The King and I" is the story of Anna Leonowens, a British tutor, and King Mongkut, Siam's ruler in 1862. Brought to the royal court to teach the King's numerous wives and children in western ways, a stubborn Anna faces an equally stubborn King.

Along the way, they painstakingly learn understanding, tolerance, and respect for one another's values and traditions. Ultimately, a platonic love evolves between the two.

A memorable Rodgers and Hammerstein score featuring "I Whistle a Happy Tune," "Hello Young Lovers," and "Shall We Dance?" added to the enjoyment of an already fascinating tale.

Lidia Fallis brought her two children to the kid-friendly production.

"I read about it in Discovery magazine and had seen "West Side Story." The



Courtesy photo Richardson Theatre

"King and I" - at left Ray Bumatai in the role as King of Siam about to dance with Anna, played by Tina Shelton, at the Fort Shafter Army Community Theatre production of the King and I, now showing through Dec. 4.

quality of the production is good and the scenery changes are very professional," she said.

Fallis's son, Alex, 7, said, "This is really good. My favorite character is the King because he makes me laugh."

King Mongkut, played by Ray Bumatai, proved to be a crowd favorite among children and adults. Bumatai is a professional actor, writer, and comedian, with credits in "Lilo and Stitch," "Baywatch," and "Magnum, P.I."

As the King, Bumatai brings just the right amount of comic relief to the role that serves to soften what could otherwise be a severe performance. His trademark phrase, "et cetera, et cetera, et cetera," uttered whenever words escape him, proved the source of many of the

evening's laughing moments.

Tina Shelton, as Anna, proved her acting and singing mettle in a role requiring equal amounts of seriousness and levity. The supporting cast, as well, displayed great depth and range particularly in the singing talents of Cheryl Toma Sanders, the King's first wife, and Sherry Chock Wong, as the ill-fated lover, Tup Tim.

Another Blue Star Card theatre-goer, Dina Williams said, "I can't believe the support the community has given to spouses of deployed Soldiers." For Williams, a favorite scene was the introduction of the King's many children to the awed Anna.

When asked about the best part of the production, Williams said, "It's free. There is free child care, free

pupus, and free transportation. It's a great deal."

Williams' 10-year-old daughter Reagan, who actually tried out for the production, said, "I would recommend this to others, it's educational and fun."

Blue Star Card holders enjoyed a show with many memorable scenes. "The King and I" was in parts entertaining, humorous, romantic, sad and heart-warming.

As the King might put it, "good show, you come, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera."

(Editor's Note: "The King and I" continues its run Friday, Saturday and Dec. 3 and 4, 7:30 p.m. curtain at Richardson Theatre, Fort Shafter. For box office information, call 438-4480 or order tickets online at www.squareone.org/ACT.)

Supporting deployed troops has never been easier

By Samantha L. Quigley
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – One often-repeated question from forward-deployed troops today is some form of: “Does America support what we’re doing over here?”

Judging by the number of Web sites devoted to that support, the answer is a resounding, “Yes!”

But as times have changed, so have the ways to support the troops. Just because the old way – no more “Any Service member” mail – doesn’t work anymore, that doesn’t mean that troops can’t receive mail and care packages from patriotic souls. It simply means finding an organization to help you get that morale-boosting mail to the troops.

Dozens of independent organizations are ready and willing to help those who want to support the troops. They generally fall into two basic categories. The first is the organizations that collect cash or goods to create care packages to be sent to troops who wish to receive them.

One such organization is Freedom Calls Foundation, which uses state-of-the-art communications technology to keep service members connected with their families. Because of Freedom Calls’ efforts, service members have “been there” for milestone events such as weddings (sometimes their own), births and graduations.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars offers a program

called “Operation Uplink” that connects service members with family and friends. The program, begun in 1996, provides pre-paid phone cards to active-duty service members and hospitalized veterans.

Again, Operation Uplink accepts cash donations that are used to purchase the pre-paid phone cards. Donations can be made online, via phone or through the mail.

Another supporter of deployed U.S. troops, the United Service Organizations, has a program called “Operation USO Care Package.” The program lets well-wishers sponsor a care package for a monetary donation. USO makes the donation part easy too. All it takes is a mouse click, a phone call or a stamp to mail a check.

The second-type organization pairs supporters with service members who have given permission to release their contact information to an individual. Most of the sites offering service member “adoptions” require a minimum commitment of one piece of mail a month.

AdoptaPlatoon, not only provides the means to “adopt” an individual service member, but an entire platoon. The requirements for each adoption are a little different. Supporters can also ask to be matched with a service member as a pen pal.

Operation Military Pride is another group that focuses on care packages. However, to obtain mailing information for a service member, supporters are

required to sign up through the site. Like many organizations, Operation Military Pride has several different campaigns in the works to support deployed troops.

There also are a smaller number of Web sites dedicated to allowing a supporter to send an electronic greeting to service members and some that have compiled a list of links to various support Websites.

Care packages are always nice, but letters are just as good. And sites like Operation Dear Abby and Letters From Home make that very easy to do. Operation Dear Abby provides the means to send an electronic greeting to a service member and Letters From Home works with the old-fashioned variety.

If the legitimacy of a site is a concern, check out the list on the Defend America Web site. While the Department of Defense does not endorse organizations, a DoD official said that the groups listed on Defend America are checked routinely to make sure they are doing what they say they are.

It’s also important to remember that some Web sites are easier to use than others. So don’t get discouraged, the links are there. It may just take a little looking to find them.

These are just a small sampling of organizations that offer Americans the means to remember and appreciate our troops. There are many, many groups offering many, many ways to show deployed troops that yes, America Supports You!



JO1 Kristin Fitzsimmons

Capt. Joe Katz, 25th Infantry Division (Light), shows a picture to an Afghan boy at the Charikar orphanage Nov. 16.



Sgt. Stephanie L. Carl

At an orphanage in Parwan province, Staff Sgt. Christopher Butler, HHC, CJTF-76, aid station noncommissioned officer in charge, distributed soccer balls to the children residing there.

Help for Afghan orphanage

By Journalist 1st Class
(SW/AW) Kristin
Fitzsimmons
CJTF 76 Public Affairs

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – In preparation for the coming season family and friends of the 25th Infantry Division (Light) are asked to help Soldiers with donations for a local orphanage in Charikar, Afghanistan.

At the end of the Afghanistan holiday Ramadan, 22 service members visited about 150 young children and brightened their day with school supplies, soccer balls, shoes, blankets and other items to help get them through the next several months.

“We appreciate everything that the Americans have provided,” said Mohammad Taher

Quimie, who helps run the orphanage. “We pretend like we are a family (to the children) and try to provide for them as best as possible ... but with the winter season coming things are only going to get harder.”

In an effort to help improve the quality of life for these children, service members are making plans to help with heating, plumbing and education issues. But still need help and support from family and friends back in the U.S.

“We wanted to help establish goodwill with the local Afghanistan citizens and show them we do care about them,” said Capt. Joel Newsom, company commander for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 25th Inf. Div. (Light)

“If we can help these people out who have absolutely nothing I believe that, as a positive, it will come back to us as an Army and a nation ten fold,” said Chief Warrant Officer Gary Wallin, assigned to Task Force Pirate.

The orphanage needs blankets, clothing, coats, shoes, school supplies and other donations that can be placed in boxes placed around Schofield Barracks, and will be collected through the holiday season.

For information about drop-off locations and more details about the orphanage’s needs, see the news brief titled “Orphanage Needs Help” on page A-4.

Any additional items that arrive after Dec. 31 will be sent to the orphanage before the division redeploys.

Commentary

Sportsmanship loses big in tournament win

By 1st Lt. Kevin McQueary
Contributing Writer

The 2004 Army Hawaii Intramural Flag Football Championship Tournament final was one to remember. It was a knockdown, drag-out struggle that went two games and into overtime, and spectators definitely got their money's worth.

It was a rematch of the opening bracket final in which Tripler Army Medical Center-Alpha squeaked by Bravo 725 Main Support Battalion by an extra point. The MSB soundly defeated the 406th Military Intelligence Battalion to advance from the single-loss bracket and earn the rematch.

TAMC-A quarterback Robert Frew loved to air it out long to his two most reliable targets, Thomas Blaine and Rob Maldonado. However, Frew's accuracy, or lack thereof, came to bear as several short-yardage passing situations resulted in interceptions because the receivers didn't have time to compensate.

The MSB's favorite weapon was the Barry Sanders-esque Paul Scriven, whose remarkable speed and agility had MSB up by 13 before TAMC-A figured out how to slow him down. TAMC-A countered by introducing a new face behind center, Diamond Hough. The switch to Hough was like switching from Vinny Testaverde to Michael Vick, but it was too little, too late to make a difference in game one as MSB beat TAMC-A soundly 20-7.

Emotions were running even higher in the second game, evident in the numerous



1st Lt. Kevin McQueary

Sports Director Bruce Irvine preps the trophies while 725th MSB waits to be crowned tournament champs.

unsportsmanlike conduct calls against both teams, but especially TAMC-A. It was a seesaw battle ending in a 13-13 tie.

The first half was highlighted by dump pass over the middle to Shareef Stokely, a short-yardage play that seemingly through sheer will he mustered up the speed on his braced knee to outrun the lone remaining MSB defender for a 40-plus yard score. The second half highlight was nearly a mirror of the aforementioned in which Aldon Kelly somehow wriggled his way out of a pack of defenders to set up a score from about three yards out.

Things continued to decline as the final went into overtime. TAMC-A protested from the get-go, claiming they did not understand the rules, despite the fact that they were published. The rules followed established national flag football rules, and had been explained extensively during the coaches' meetings.

As the session progressed, TAMC-A's demeanor continued

to decline. At the end of the prescribed downs, MSB had succeeded with an unanswered score clinching their victory and thus the championship.

TAMC-A players and fans alike made a distasteful exit, billowed with unkind and often inappropriate words for their opponents and the referee staff.

Despite having been made aware of the award ceremony scheduled immediately after the game, TAMC-A players spitefully refused to partake.

Program directors Bruce Irvine and Jim Perry's efforts to acknowledge both teams for their achievements were snubbed by the egocentric exodus.

The second place trophies remained unclaimed on the table as the MSB relished their hard-fought victory.

Chants of "whose house is it? Our house! Who pays rent? They do!" echoed off empty bleachers as the program directors loaded the second-place trophies back in their truck.

Mini-sports teach athletics, social skills to kids



Participants in the youth sports and fitness mini-sports program learned the fundamentals of soccer and teamwork Nov. 18 at the Bennett Youth Center on Schofield Barracks.

Story and photo by Rafi Grant
Contributing Writer

The mini-sport soccer team held its last practice and game at the Bennett Youth Center on Schofield Barracks Nov. 18.

Bill Baier and Scott Stenstorm, youth sports and fitness directors for Schofield Barracks and Helemano taught the young players new moves that they first practiced together with their parents and then immediately tried out in a 'real' game - yellows against the blues.

The mini-sports program was estab-

lished to give the youngest members in the Army community a chance to participate in team sports.

The children are introduced to the world of athletics and also learn important social skills as they are participating in a team sport.

Registration for the eight-week T-ball program is in December. Children will learn how to throw, catch and hit the ball. Children must be born in the years 2000 and 2001 to participate.

For more information about the program and other sports activities at the Bennet Youth Center call Bill Baier at 655-6465.