

INSIDE

Rumsfeld resigns, Bush picks Gates

Bush, Rumsfeld agree, 'Timing right for new leadership at Pentagon'

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE
News Release

WASHINGTON — Calling Donald H. Rumsfeld "a superb leader during a time of change," President Bush announced at a White House news conference Wednesday that he and Rumsfeld have agreed the time has come for a change in leadership at the Pentagon.

Bush said he will nominate Bob Gates, former director of central intelligence and current president of Texas A&M University, to succeed Rumsfeld as secretary of defense.

"Our military has experienced an enormous amount of change and reform during the last five years while fighting the war on terror, one of the most consequential wars

in our nation's history," Bush said. "Don Rumsfeld has been a superb leader during a time of change, yet he also appreciates the value of bringing in a fresh perspective during this time of war.

"Don Rumsfeld is a patriot and has served our country with honor and distinction," Bush continued. "He is a trusted advisor and a friend, and I'm deeply grateful for his service to our country."

Rumsfeld became the youngest person to hold the top Pentagon post under President Gerald R. Ford in 1975. He has served in the post under President Bush since the current administration took office in January 2001.

Right — Bush thanks Rumsfeld. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said during a news conference, Nov. 8, 2006, from the East Room of the White House, "It's been the highest honor of my life to serve with the talented men and women of the Department of Defense."



Department of Defense Photo



Military Idol

One Schofield Barracks Soldier takes it up an octave, sings his way to the top

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American Indians

Native American Heritage Month celebration kicks off today with a movie at the Tropics at 11:30 a.m.



Men of Valor

Salutes to Soldiers past and present like Capt. Humbert Versace and Sgt. Brandon Wooldridge

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'Fleas' in Waikiki

Virtuoso performances, luthiers and ukes galore storm the Ukulele Guild of Hawaii's annual exhibition

B-1



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Samuel Bendet | Department of Defense Photo

Kirkuk convoy call

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Shawn Smith watches his Blue Force Tracker while communicating with others within his convoy during a patrol in Kirkuk, Iraq, Nov. 4.

The Blue Force Tracker gives real-time location of friendly forces on the battlefield.

Smith is a patrol leader from Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division.

Residents want gate guards

JEREMY S. BUDDEMEIER
Assistant Editor

ALIAMANU MILITARY RESERVATION — Schresse Carter and Jeani Mertens don't know each other and will probably never meet. Carter will be leaving the island soon, and Mertens just arrived three weeks ago.

However, these women have something very much in common; both came to the Oahu South town hall meeting at the AMR chapel Wednesday night to learn about and discuss issues affecting their community.

"You are our eyes and ears out there," Lt. Col. Mark Boussey, Oahu Base Support Battalion commander, said as he opened the meeting. "We may not have all the answers, but the staff will continue to work to resolve the issues you bring up."

Although housing and gate guards were not on the agenda updates, both were atop a majority of residents' list of concerns.

Carter and many others in the more than 60-member audience expressed apprehension about the lack of gate guards during the morning hours.

"Nobody wants to see them there more than me," said Dennis Morris, Provost Marshal's Office. "But there are not enough police because of manpower constraints."

Morris explained that the 6 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. shift was chosen as the best shift to leave unmanned

because it is during the day and more people are out in the neighborhoods.

"What do we have to do to get more checking at the gates?" asked Cynthia Nicolson. Suddenly, more hands in the audience sprung up. "I just want to know how we can change it so I can feel safe," she said.

As more hands shot up, Boussey recommended discussing the issue after the meeting adjourned to allow other residents to voice their concerns.

Chaplain (Col.) Vincent Inghill Terra, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, reminded the audience to be sensitive to families around them and to reach out. "Soldiers are making sacrifices, we should be able to sacrifice too," he said.

Some attendees praised Army Hawaii Family Housing for continuing to follow up on community issues; others in the audience expressed dissatisfaction.

Grace Ma mentioned two abandoned cars taking up valuable parking space on her street.

"The cars have been there since January ... before I moved in," she said. The cars have been ticketed, but have not been towed. Additionally, two dumpsters occupy another two parking spots on the same street.

Boussey called the issue a "hard nut to crack."

SEE TOWN HALL, A-8

Army installations boast three top cops

Law enforcement coalition names three in Hawaii as best in unit at annual awards

AIKO BRUM
Managing Editor

A sergeant at Schofield Barracks and two Department of the Army (DA) police officers — one at Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC), the other at Fort Shafter, have distinguished themselves as Top Cops in Hawaii.

The annual honor goes to law enforcement and security police officers who distinguish themselves in the areas of drug enforcement and security of Army installations.

Chairman of the Board for the selection committee and security director of Outrigger Resorts Jerry Dolak awarded the trio and others in the civilian community during

an appreciation luncheon attended by more than 500 at the Ala Moana Hotel, Oct. 31.

Sgt. Michael Unruh, a member of the Military Police Corps since June 2001, was named Top Cop of the 728th Military Police (MP) Battalion, 8th MP Brigade. His award package

highlighted "his extensive expertise in police tactics, physical fitness, and a high level of maturity."

It also noted his record of achievement: a previous win at the MP Warfighter Challenge in Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.; his year-long contributions during Opera-

SEE TOP COP, A-5

Army takes proactive strides to manage combat stress battle

Unprecedented efforts are being made to prevent, reduce combat stressors

CHRISTA B. THOMAS
Pau Hana Editor

When Sgt. Dartagnan Baker returned to Oahu in 2005 from his first deployment to Iraq, he remembered the unforgiving traffic on H-1, but he now finds it to be overwhelming and startling.

"Nobody likes traffic. But now I hate it," said Baker, who was deployed with 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment. "Once, when my wife was driving on H-1, I had to roll the windows down because the congestion was making me nervous."

Baker's response, like many Soldiers who have experienced long, perhaps violent tours of duty, is a symptom of combat stress.

Combat stress is any type of mental stress or emotional strain from being in combat," explained Dr. (Capt.) Aika Gumboc, officer in charge of Schofield's Soldier Assistance Center.

"There may be depression, anxiety, or exhaustion from the high-tempo environment, yet such strain does not meet the parameters of a full-blown diagnosis of post-traumatic stress

disorder, which is a clinical diagnosis."

Stress is a natural, universal human experience. Combat stress, once known as battle fatigue or shell shock, is also natural. It is the result of the heavy mental and emotional work required to face danger in combat conditions.

Combat situations may be so severe or so prolonged that a person may continue to be on "high-alert" long after the event, creating a wide range of reactions that vary by Soldier.

"In combat, Soldiers must think and act quickly," Gumboc said. "Family or fellow Soldiers might notice extreme reactions to small stressors that, prior to deployment, would not have bothered them in the least."

The stress reactions may be physical (dif-

ficulty sleeping), mental (inability to concentrate, nightmares or flashbacks) or emotional (irritability, anger, depression).

Most Soldiers return home to grapple briefly with readjustment or experience mild stress symptoms, then move on. Some are plagued by subliminal reminders — sights, smells, sounds — that may trigger stress reactions for months, even years, after.

"Sometimes at night, the sounds of heavy trucks passing by my house would give me a sort of flashback," admitted Baker. "After being back home for a while, things don't bother me as much anymore."

"In combat, Soldiers are highly accountable for equipment and their fellow Sol-

SEE COMBAT STRESS, A-6



Gumboc

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We want to hear from you...

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

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

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

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

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44 days since last fatal accident

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

Remember, a division training holiday will be awarded for the first 100 consecutive days with no accidental fatalities. As of 11/8/06

President, Senate recognize National Veterans Awareness

DONNA MILES

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — President Bush issued a proclamation paying tribute to "America's men and women in uniform (who) have defeated tyrants, liberated continents and set a standard of courage and idealism for the entire world."

Military members have protected the United States through its history, he said, placing the country's security before their own lives in a way the country can never repay.

"Our veterans represent the best of America, and they deserve the best America can give them," he said.

The president urged Americans to pause this Veterans Day to honor the country's Soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen, and to remember that defending freedom involves "great loss and sacrifice."

"This Veterans Day, we give thanks to those who have served freedom's cause," he said. "We salute the members of our armed forces who are confronting our adversaries abroad."

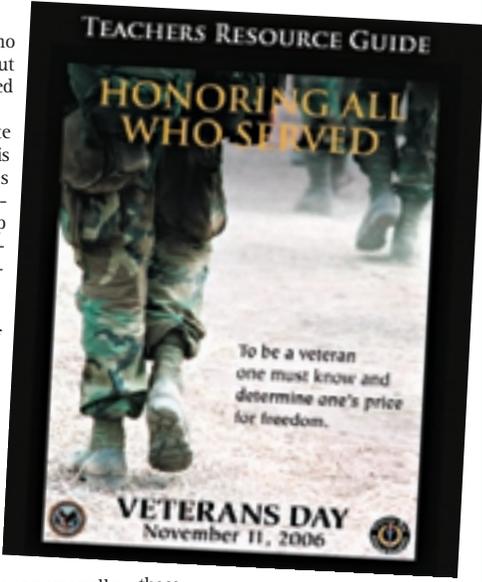
The president paid special tribute to

"the men and women who left America's shores but did not live to be thanked as veterans."

Meanwhile, a Senate resolution designating this week National Veterans Awareness Week emphasizes the need to develop educational programs regarding veterans' contributions to the country.

Senate Resolution 507 recognizes the tens of millions of Americans who have served in the armed forces during the past century and the hundreds of thousands who have given their lives in that service.

It notes that the all-volunteer force has resulted in "sharp decline" in the number of Americans personally connected to the military and, as a result, the decrease in young people's awareness about "the nature and importance of the accomplishments of



those who have served in the armed forces."

Veterans Day School Kits for teachers as well as students are posted on the VA Web site to support those programs.

November's Family Appreciation Month highlights service, sacrifice

DONNA MILES

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — November kicked off Military Families Appreciation Month, an annual tribute to the family members who, President Bush and other U.S. and military leaders frequently recognize, serve the country alongside their loved ones in uniform.

The monthlong observance, with events planned at Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps bases around the world, and in communities nationwide, highlights the contributions and sacrifices military family members make every day.

Bush thanked families for that service during an Oct. 28 visit to Charleston Air Force Base, S.C.

"As the president of the United States, I want to tell you plain and simple," he told military families, "[that] the American people respect you, they appreciate you, and I'll do everything in my power to make sure the families and those who wear the uniform have all the support necessary to win

this war on terror."

Bush emphasized the important role military families play in U.S. national defense when he introduced Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki to U.S. troops and their families at Fort Belvoir, Va., earlier this summer.

"Mr. Prime Minister, when I speak to our troops, I also talk to their loved ones, because you can't have a strong United States military without the support of the military families,"

Bush told Maliki during the July 26 session, "Our troops have sacrificed, and as they have done so, so have our military families. And so today we pay respect for the men and women who wear the uniform and their loved ones. We're proud of you."

While military families may pretend they have nothing to do with their loved ones' success during a deployment, "it is the love and support of our families that makes all the difference in the world," Vice President Richard B. Cheney said at an Oct. 4 event.

LIGHTNING SPIRIT

To wait, to have patience is indeed difficult

CHAPLAIN (CAPT.) CHRISTOPHER E. OFFEN
1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment

For all the people I have met in my travels and experiences as a minister, I have discovered that there is not a more frustrating feeling than simply not knowing.

People in hospital beds are troubled about not knowing a diagnosis. Soldiers waiting for orders get frustrated by not knowing where they are going.

We all know the uncertainty facing the families of both the 3rd and 2nd Brigades of the 25th Infantry Division. Even as a nation, we all have been stressed lately by a common anxiety of not knowing.

Where will the war, where will the elections, where will the future take us? When we don't know, it's easy to grow frustrated and become impatient.

If you're like me, you have spent a lot of time lately in front of the television, reading the papers and listening to the radio. We have been sitting there not for entertainment, but for a need to know what is going to happen.

There are wars and rumors of wars. We all just want to know what is happening or what might happen.

If you're like me, you also have been growing impatient from a lack of solid information. So, it would be very normal to have these feelings

"Patience is a virtue," so goes the popular proverb. The Biblical proverb echoes

the same sentiment: "Patience is better than pride."

In the current turbulent times I, like so many Americans, have grown impatient. We want to know how it is going to turn out. How will it all come to an end? How will our nation handle its calling?

Will freedom and the ideals of America continue to prosper? What sacrifices will we as individuals, Soldiers and as a nation have to make in order to ensure that they do?

It's so hard to wait. It's so hard to have patience.

For me, the ultimate story of patience can be discovered within scripture. The story I'm referring to can be found in Genesis, chapter 7, the familiar story of Noah.

God became frustrated with mankind to the point that he decided to start again and destroy most of humanity.

He had a plan for justice: a flood.

Noah was commanded to build an Ark. While he built, God waited.

Noah was patient. The ark wasn't built in a day or a week or a month. Noah finished his assignment in 120 years. Finally, when the day came, Noah, his family, and the animals went into the ark

and the door was shut.

But then God extended Noah's wait. Seven days passed before the rains and the flood came. I think God wanted to give humanity the longest possible time to see right from wrong, and to return to him.

As human beings, we can learn a lot from God and his word. While a lack of information can mean hardship, laziness or apathy on someone's part, delay and uncertainty are not necessarily bad things. Delay and uncertainty can be a sign that someone, somewhere who is in charge, is watching and patiently waiting.

Delay can also mean that there is hope and compassion and a willingness to wait for something good to happen.

Just like the past few weeks and months, the future weeks and months will be filled with uncertainty. Many of us will have our thoughts and feelings focused on other places and people we love in those places.

We — as Soldiers, Soldiers' spouses, and as a nation — need to remain patient in the face of that uncertainty.

Hurry up and wait is the old unofficial military slogan, but I say hurry up and hope. Let us hope for something good to happen, for our leaders to be patient, and to make wise, compassionate decisions.

But mostly let's wait for God to act. He is always waiting for us.



Offen

All must mail early to meet postal deadlines for the holidays

ASHLEY STETTER

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Military postal workers across the world are "making a list and checking it twice" to ensure that Soldiers serving far from home receive packages in time for the holiday season.

Mail is abundant November through December, and postal workers advise all those sending packages overseas to obey official holiday "mail-by" deadlines to guarantee timely delivery.

According to statistics by the Joint Military Terminal, Kuwait, postal workers in the terminal's 10-post-office region processed approximately 2.5 million pounds of incoming and 3 million pounds of outgoing mail in November 2005.

A similar workload is expected for 2006, with mail-by dates beginning Nov. 13 for parcel post and extending to Dec. 4-19 for priority and express mail services.

These deadlines are rapidly approaching, and military postal officials have issued suggestions and other helpful resources to make mailing fast and easy.

For the convenience of spouses, friends and family members sending mail overseas, pre-addressed, printable, postage paid APO/FPO address labels are available at the United States Postal Service's Click-N-Ship Web-site, and free packing materials are available by calling 1-800-610-8734.

Mailing guidelines require use of the service member's full name (without rank or rating), return address, military organization or unit, APO/FPO address and the nine-digit ZIP code, if one is assigned.

As for what to send, Command Sgt. Maj. James B. Roth, who served in Afghanistan with the XVI-II Airborne Corps, offers a simple suggestion.

"It's not the cost of the item that counts; it's the thought. New socks, underwear, toiletries, batteries, telephone cards, books and holiday items are always welcome and greatly appreciated," he said.

Holiday items are fine, but postal officials say packages going to Iraq and Afghanistan may not include pork or pork by-products, alcoholic beverages, pornographic or sexually related items or unauthorized political materials. If any of these items are found, postal officials say, none of the contents will be delivered.

In addition, programs that once allowed the general public to send mail addressed to "Any Service Member" no longer exist, and packages addressed as such will not reach their destination.

There are many organizations out there for those wishing to send to unspecified Soldiers. Visit www.AmericaSupportsYou.com to find organizations that help support all those serving.

Remember that mail-by dates vary by destination and mailing method and promise delivery by Christmas Day. Senders preferring delivery before Dec. 25 should mail 10 days earlier than the suggested deadlines.



Contact (800) ASK-USPS, the Military Postal Agency at 1-800-810-6098, for more details.

Recommended shipping dates for military mail:

APO AE Zip 093

Parcel Post: Nov. 13

Space Available Mail: Nov. 27

Parcel Airlift Mail: Dec. 2

Priority Mail/First-Class Mail,

Letter and Cards: Dec. 4

Express Mail Military Service:

Not Available

APO AE Zips 090-092, 094-098;

APO AA Zip 340; APO AP Zip 962-966

Parcel Post: Nov. 13

Space Available Mail: Nov. 27

Parcel Airlift Mail: Dec. 4

Priority Mail/First-Class Mail,

Letter and Cards: Dec. 11

Express Mail Military Service: Dec. 19

Voices of Lightning: "How will you support or honor veterans?"



"Say a special prayer, a special toast, go to post cemetery."

Sgt. Brian Henderson
A Co., 2-5 FA
Section Chief



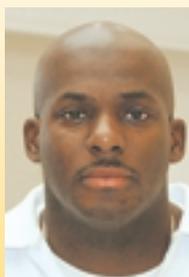
"Donate to a Veteran's organization."

Spc. Isaac Marquez
2-6 Cav.
Helicopter Mechanic



"Say a prayer."

Pvt.2 Ryan Todd
C Co., 1-14 Inf. Regt.
Infantryman



"Remember the guys that are out there fighting, who laid the foundation."

Kenya Price
Navy Info. Ops Center HI
Cryptologist



"Go to a Veterans' Day parade."

Maurice Mayfield
Family Member

Medics unsung heroes on battlefields of Kirkuk

OIF

Story and Photo by
SPC. MIKE ALBERTS
3rd Brigade Public Affairs

KIRKUK, Iraq – They're as important to mission success as good intelligence, a well-devised plan and flawless execution. But, ironically, if all goes well, they won't do a thing.

They're your field medic. Medics of 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (3IBCT), 25th Infantry Division, are the critical link between an injured Soldier and definitive medical care throughout the brigade's area of operation while in Iraq.

"The line medic's primary role is to treat traumatic injuries, identify those patients that need to be evacuated and ensure that those patients get to us," said Capt. Samuel Anaya, battalion surgeon, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 3IBCT. "When not in the field, the medics work here at our level one aid station assisting us to further treat and stabilize patients, so that we can get them to more definitive care," said Anaya. "They're truly our unsung heroes. They're out there with the infantry risking them-



Medics Sgt. Paul Willms (far left), Sgt. Visala Tui (center) and Staff Sgt. Ernesto Gonzales (far right), all with 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division treat a patient with a hand laceration at their aid station at Forward Operating Base McHenry, outside of Hawija, Iraq.

selves to help save lives. Without them, we'd be in a lot of hurt," he said.

According to Staff Sergeant Ernesto Gonzales, treatment noncommissioned officer

in charge, 2-27th, the battalion's medical care is basically organized into three sections: treatment, evacuation and line.

Treatment sections are in charge of aid

stations; evacuation sections are responsible for transporting patients from point of injury to treatment. Finally, line sections are comprised of field medics who are distributed to various infantry companies.

"Each company in the battalion has a set number of line medics for each platoon, and each platoon has a medic who is always with them," said Gonzales, who served as a line medic in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

As a result, Gonzales truly understands their value to the mission first hand.

"For a casualty that isn't [doing well] it's far less likely that he'll survive between the point of injury and the aid station without the line medic," he said. "Our line medics are in situations where they must react immediately. I respect what they do; they're limited in what they have out there, and need to provide quality medical care quickly to save lives."

Sgt. Paul Willms, emergency treatment noncommissioned officer, 2-27th, further elaborated on why having a field medic with each unit that "rolls outside the wire"

is critical to ensuring that they all come home.

"We talk about the 'platinum ten minutes,'" said Willms. "Basically, what that means is that if you don't have substantial care for that person within the first ten minutes of the point of injury, their chance of a positive of an outcome is decreased," he said. "Having field medics with each platoon ups the survival rate immensely."

One of those field medics is Spc. T.J. Vallejos, attached to Charlie Company, 3rd Platoon, 2-27th. Vallejos is one of those medics who has already responded to traumatic incidences while on patrol.

"I prepare myself for the worst and hope for the best," said Vallejos. "The first time I assisted Soldiers after an incident, the adrenaline was pumping, my training took over, and I knew what to do," he said.

"The biggest challenge is staying focused," he continued. "It is rare that an incident occurs, but when it does, I make sure that I'm the one that reacts perfectly."

Iraqi SWAT unit graduates elite fighting force, aided by 2-27th forces

Story and Photo by
SPC. MIKE ALBERTS
3rd Brigade Public Affairs

HAWIJA, Iraq – American cities hail them as the most well-equipped and well-trained officers in a police department. They bring special skills, knowledge and expertise to fighting crime.

Now, the city of Hawija, Iraq, has its own comparable unit of highly skilled and trained officers.

The first Hawija Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) police officers received graduation certificates during a recognition ceremony at Forward Operating Base McHenry, here, Oct 26. SWAT training was conducted by international police liaison officers (IPLOs) with the support and assistance of 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.

IPLOs are a collection of subject matter experts, all current or retired police officers, who volunteer to

come to Iraq to mentor and train Iraqi police.

According to IPLO Tom Yenchik, Hawija team leader, the eight graduates in the inaugural class were among 40 that qualified for the SWAT program. The course consisted of advanced officer training in the areas of weapons, mounted and dismounted tactical movement, room and building clearing procedures, first aid and vehicle maintenance, among other things.

The goal of establishing a SWAT team is to develop an elite fighting force and to set a standard within the Hawija ranks that other police officers can look to for motivation.

"These officers will serve as a model for the rest of their unit," said Yenchik. "We also hope it gives these individual officers increased confidence to take on the enemy, and will demonstrate that local police can defeat those terrorizing their towns," he said.

"I am grateful for the assistance and sacrifice of coalition forces and [the IPLO]," said Hawija police



Lt. Col. Drew Meyerowich (center), commander, 2nd Bn., 27th Inf. Regt., looks on as Col. Fatah, police chief, congratulates the newest member of his Hawija SWAT team at Forward Operating Base McHenry, Hawija, Iraq.

chief Col. Fatah, through an interpreter. "I am hopeful that these new officers continue to serve as models for the rest of the force and set an example for the people of Hawija," said Fatah.

Lt. Col. Drew Meyerowich, battalion commander of 2-27th said, "If you watch the news, one of the questions that always seems to be asked is, 'Is this war in Iraq worth it?' There is a simple answer to this question that involves two [elements]," Meyerowich stressed.

"As long as there is an enemy that is willing to blow up innocent children and families and there are men who are willing to stand up against these criminals, then what we are doing here is worth it.

"Sitting here today are a group of young men who want to take back their society from these terrorists. They understand that the future of their families, the future of their towns, and the future of the nation rests with them," Meyerowich emphasized. "I am honored to be here today congratulating you."

2-11th FA shows it's 'On Time,' on the cutting edge

BOB MCELROY

Pohakuloa Training Area Public Affairs

POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA, Hawaii — When the artillerymen of 2nd Battalion 11th Field Artillery Regiment, the "On Time" battalion, completed their training rotation here, and it was more than the successful conclusion of some tough training. It was the culmination of three years of planning to field the Army's newest towed artillery piece, the M777 lightweight 155mm howitzer.

At just under 10,000 pounds the M777 is about 6,000 pounds lighter than the nearly 16,000 pound howitzer it replaces, the M198.

Dubbed "Operation Phoenix" by members of the battalion Operations section, the training rotation provided the cannoners of 2-11th the opportunity to put the new lightweight 155mm howitzer through the paces, and some tough field training.

According to battalion commander Lt. Col. Stephen Myers, his Soldiers chose "Operation Phoenix" because the battalion, like the mythical Phoenix, was rising from the ashes of being a 105mm artillery battalion. It was being reborn "...bigger, better and with a lighter 155mm howitzer."

Before coming to PTA, the battalion laid out an ambitious plan to test the sensor to shooter link — forward observers calling fire missions back to the guns — fire as many rounds through the new guns as possible, and also work on those infantry-centric skills Soldiers are required to know at PTA's firing ranges.

Myers said he was extremely pleased with the training rotation.

"It was a great training opportunity, we've been planning this for about three years. It's nice to be able to take the guns to PTA," Myers said. "It's really exciting, it all came together, and the Soldiers really enjoyed it."

Myers said that his howitzer crews were especially happy to be able to fire rounds downrange after doing nothing but dry firing back on Oahu in August and September.



Spc. David Scott | Headquarters and Service Battery, 2-11th Field Artillery Regiment

Pfc. Robert Nobles, an cannoner with 2nd Battalion 11th Field Artillery Regiment, pulls the lanyard and sends another round downrange from the Army's newest artillery piece, the M777 lightweight 155mm howitzer.

"Morale in the howitzer sections is sky high; they're glad to have the new gun and excited to be artillerymen with the new howitzer," he said.

One of those excited Soldiers was Staff

Sgt. Obed Ofusu, the section chief on Gun Four in Charlie Battery. Ofusu said he'd previously worked with the M119A1 105mm howitzer.

The M777 is "...super. It shoots accurate

and fast and is easy to emplace. And, it shoots a big bullet, and I like that," Ofusu said.

Gun Four's Sgt. Alex Duncan said he'd worked on the older 155mm howitzer, the

M198, and preferred the M777.

"I like it better than the M198. It's way easier to emplace," Duncan said.

Duncan's fellow crewman, Spc. Evans Jerome, Gun Four's assistant gunner concurred, noting that the crew can emplace the M777 faster given its lighter weight and advanced hydraulic system.

Myers said that the M777 was designed to be lighter and more mobile, so that it would be faster to emplace and so it could keep up with the Army's newer-faster brigade combat teams.

Lightweight, ease of emplacement and increased mobility are not the only characteristics that put the M777 on the cutting edge of towed artillery technology. According to Myers all of 2-11's guns are now being retrofitted with the Digital Fire Control System (DFCS).

The DFCS gives each gun a Global Positioning System (GPS) as well as a gyroscopic device. The gun will then be called the M777A1.

"The GPS gives position control and the gyro directional control," Myers said. "The gun knows where it is and tells the fire direction center," Myers said.

"This will open up our ability to move around the battlefield and put steel on target."

Myers added that, with the new target acquisition systems the observers use, fire mission processing is much faster and missions can be "pushed digitally" from the observer — out front with maneuver forces — right down to the guns. The result is rounds on target faster and with increased accuracy.

By the end of 2-11th FA's training at PTA, the battalion had fired more than 1,000 rounds of 155mm ammunition. It had also exceeded its commander's expectations and produced some charged up artillerymen.

"It's great to complete NETT [New Equipment Testing and Training] and field the Army's newest howitzer in Hawaii," Myers said. "The energy [of the battalion] was high."

News Briefs

Send calendar announcements to community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

10 / Today

Flu Shot Schedule — Influenza immunizations will be available per the following schedule:

- Military Pediatrics Clinics will host a mass influenza immunization day for children Nov. 10, from 8 a.m. to noon.

- Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC) Preventive Medicine Department will hosts a "Pandemic Roadshow." TAMC immunizations will be available as follows:

- Fort Shafter Commissary, Nov. 17;
- Schofield Barracks Post

Exchange, Nov. 18;

- Hickam Air Force Base

Exchange, Dec. 1; and

- Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Marine Corps Exchange, Dec. 2.

- All service members, TAMC staff, adult family members, Department of Defense civilians and retirees may take shots Nov. 13, 17, 20, and 27 and Dec. 1 at the Tripler Immunization Clinic.

- "Shot Carts" will rove throughout TAMC Nov. 15. These carts are reserved for personnel who cannot attend the scheduled flu shot clinics. Affected personnel should call 1st Lt. Celinda Scott at 433-3099 to schedule an appointment.

- School Focus Groups** — Military parents of children in private school or home school are invited to share their experiences with Hawaii's education system with the Department of Defense.

Dr. Robert Blum of Johns Hopkins University will conduct these focus groups during the afternoon

on the following dates: Nov. 27 in Kaneohe, Nov. 28 for the Schofield area, and Nov. 29 for the Pearl Harbor and Hickam area.

Anyone interested in participating must contact Dr. Lori Sanchez at lorianns@hawaii.edu.

15 / Wednesday

Deployment Survival Night — Family members of deployed Soldiers are invited to the Survival Night Workshop, which focuses on families keeping composure in the midst of the holiday frenzy.

The workshop will run from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the Aliamanu Reservation Chapel.

Register in advance for child care, which will be available at the event. Call 836-4599 for child care requirements.

24 / Friday

Holiday Closure — The Vehicle Registration Office (Access Con-

trol Section) of the Directorate of Emergency Services, in Building 6508, will be closed Nov. 24.

Normal hours will resume Nov. 27. Call 655-8940.

29 / Wednesday

SAEDA / OPSEC Community Brief — The Hawaii Resident Office presents the annual, mandatory SAEDA (Subversion and Espionage Directed against the Army) briefing.

Army regulation 381-12 requires all Department of the Army personnel receive this training annually.

The next briefings are scheduled as follows:

- Nov. 29, 2 p.m. at Richardson Theater, Fort Shafter

- Nov. 30, 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. at Sgt. Smith Theater, Schofield Barracks.

Call 438-1872.

Johnson places runner-up at Military Idol finals

Story and Photo by
TIM HIPPS
Army News Service

FORT BELVOIR, Va. — Six Soldiers sang their way into the Military Idol semifinals at Wallace Theatre last week. Among them was Staff Sgt. Angelo Johnson of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

Along with the other finalists — Spc. Dave Boholst, Fort Polk, La.; Pfc. Randy Holmes, Schweinfurt, Germany; Spc. Vicki Golding, Fort Myer, Va.; Sgt. 1st Class Constance Campbell, Fort Hamilton, N.Y.; and Sgt. Quanda Brown, Fort Lee, Va., Johnson was vying to become the second Military Idol.

The field pared from six to three performers as selected by judges Oct. 30 at Fort Belvoir's Wallace Theater. The show became available for viewing on Army Knowledge Online Nov. 3.

Military Idol is a singing contest based on the premises of FOX Television's "American Idol." Soldiers could watch the competition on AKO and vote for their favorite performer at www.militaryidol.com.

The six semifinalists were selected by Military Idol judges Jack L. Tilley, the 12th Sergeant Major of the Army; Debra Byrd, vocal coach and arranger for "American Idol;" and Grammy award-winning country music artist Michael Peterson, best known for "I am a Soldier" and "From Here to Eternity."

Miss Virginia 2006, Adrianna Sgarlata, was the emcee for Military Idol finals week, which began with two closed-set shows taped for Web cast via streaming video on AKO. The field of contestants was trimmed from 13 to six Soldiers during those a cappella, first-round elimination performances.

Each of the finals week performers won a contest on one of 29 Army installations around the world, where competitions ranged from one night to eight weeks.

The finals took place Saturday. Audience voting on AKO for two hours following the finals determined the winner.

A 30-minute reveal show was scheduled Sunday, during which the 2006 Military Idol were announced — Schofield's Johnson took runner-up and Fort Meyer's Golding, 35, a native of Brisbane, Australia, won the Idol contest.

Johnson displayed a wide vocal range by



Staff Sgt. Angelo Johnson of Schofield Barracks sings "Hero" by Mariah Carey during the 2006 Military Idol finals, Saturday at Wallace Theater. Johnson finished as runner-up.

singing Oleta Adams' "Get Here" during the semifinals, followed by Mariah Carey's "Hero" and "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" in the finals.

"I love everything about music and I've just been waiting so patiently for the opportunity to actually be able to express what I can do," said Johnson, 28, a native of Miami. "I felt as though I did my best. I had to actually get in my zone because during rehearsals it was hard for me to grasp what I wanted to convey to the audience, but I feel like I hit it."

The 2006 Military Idol winner receives \$2,000, with \$1,000 going to the runner-up and \$500 for the third-place performer.

Military Idol is one of more than 50 programs provided to Soldiers and their families by the U.S. Army Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command, formerly known as the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center.

(Editor's Note: Tim Hipps writes for the U.S. Army Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command.)



Courtesy Photo

Extending Congratulations. MPs honor Top Cops Sgt. Michael Unruh (center) and Police Officer Mary Jean Bright-Kame'enui with a memento photograph.

(Left to right) Sgt. 1st Class Richard Brentson, MWD kennel master; Capt. Karla Owen, commander, 13th MP Co.; and 1st Sgt. Steven Mason, company first sergeant, share the moment.

Top Cop: Officers humbly accept win

CONTINUED FROM A-1

tion Iraqi Freedom in 2004-2005; and most recently, his first place win at the 2006 Hawaiian Islands Police K9 Competition, where he competed against other armed forces teams and Honolulu police.

To take the Warfighter Challenge, Unruh's three-Soldier team from 25th MP Company beat out more than 500 other MPs in their battalion. They then dominated 36 other MP teams, from around the world, as "most technically and tactically proficient" during the grueling three-day contest, which tested their mettle and unwavering determination to be named best in the MP Corps.

"Sergeant Unruh is one of my best military police NCOs and a top military working dog, or MWD handler," said Capt. Karla S. Owen, 13th MP Detachment commander. "Not only has he been recognized repeatedly within USARPAC [U.S. Army, Pacific], he is competing in the upcoming MP K9 competition hosted by TRADOC [the Training and Doctrine Command], at Fort Eustis, Virginia. The selection to compete against some of the best K9 teams in the Army is a testament to his outstanding performance."

Police Officer Mary Jean Bright-Kame'enui took Top Cop of DA Po-

lice with the Directorate of Emergency Services (DES), U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii, Installation Management Command. The three-year veteran works out of the Fort Shafter Detachment and her regular duties require she conduct access control and law enforcement operations while securing the installation.

"The execution of her duties help to make the Fort Shafter community a safer place to live and work," said Richard D. Thompson, chief, Access Control Division, DES.

Kame'enui's award package noted she "has distinguished herself as a superior police officer." It honored her as a "dedicated professional," "a motivated, self-starter [who] ... inspires her co-workers and can neutralize volatile situations." Additionally, the citation noted her volunteerism in the community and assisting her fellow officers.

"She has a positive effect on the general public, which is apparent from the feedback the organization receives from the public," her citation reads.

"Police Officer Bright-Kame'enui is a true professional who treats everyone with aloha," said Thompson.

Police Officer William Hallam took Top Cop of the Office of the Tripler Provost Marshal, which serves the Tripler Army Medical Center and

the Department of Veterans Affairs. He was distinguished as the Top Cop for the Matsunaga Veterans Affairs and TAMC's DA Police.

Hallam was recognized for skillfully handling several agitated and high-risk patients during disruptive and threatening situations.

A third-degree black belt holder, he is well known for his commanding presence and professional manner. He's been recognized as the consummate team player, dedicated to the law enforcement mission at TAMC.

Hallam, who regularly works with veterans, many of whom are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder or mental problems, was humbled by the recognition.

"I don't know," he said, when asked about the honor. "I just come here and do my job, and do the best I can. Sometimes [veterans afflicted with mental instability] get real upset, and dealing with them can be a challenge. I try to get to know them a little bit, because if I do know them, it helps a lot."

Don Devaney, TAMC provost marshal and VA director of security, said, "Teddy Roosevelt is known to have said 'speak softly and carry a big stick.' Officer Hallam speaks softly and wields special trust ... in a manner that makes the organization proud."

Courts-Martial

Punitive discharges end careers of five enlisted

(Editor's Note: The column lists results of proceedings from the Staff Judge Advocate for the month of October.)

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

- A sergeant from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 8th Special Troops Battalion, pled guilty and was sentenced by a military judge at a special court-martial to reduction to E-1, and to be discharged with a bad conduct discharge for wrongful use of a controlled substance.
- A specialist from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command, pled guilty and was sentenced by a military judge at a general court-martial to reduction to the grade of E-1, to be confined for 15 months, and to be discharged from the service with a dishonorable discharge for making a false official statement and larceny of basic allowance for housing.
- A specialist from A Company, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, pled guilty and was sentenced by a military judge at a general court-martial to reduction to the grade of E-1, to forfeit all pay and allowances, to be confined for 20 months, and to be discharged from the service with a bad conduct discharge for wrongful use and distribution of cocaine.
- A private first class from Rear Detachment, 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade (Rear Provisional), was found guilty at a special court-martial, and was sentenced by a military judge to reduction to the grade of E-1, forfeiture of \$849 pay per month for 12 months, and to be confined for 12 months, and to

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

be discharged from the service with a bad conduct discharge for absence without leave and missing movement to Iraq.

- A private from B Company, 52nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, pled guilty and was sentenced by a military judge at a special court-martial to be confined for six months for wrongful use of cocaine and marijuana, and drunk and disorderly conduct.
- A private from C Company, 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, pled guilty and was sentenced by a military judge at a general court-martial to forfeiture of all pay and allowances, to be confined for 10 months and to be discharged from the service with a bad conduct discharge for absence without leave, wrongful use and distribution of cocaine and marijuana, and assault.

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

Combat Stress: Reactions are human nature

CONTINUED FROM A-1

diers," Gumboc said. "When they get home, family members might find that their Soldier has become hyper-protective of their things."

However, every Soldier has a limit and is at risk of experiencing combat stress.

"Combat stress affects all Soldiers and in no way should be viewed as a negative or weakness," explained Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Kenneth W. Stice, 25th Infantry Division chaplain. "It is not weakness; it's human nature and that's okay. There is no shame in being human and having to sort through the emotions that we all share."

"We are not weak. U.S. Army Soldiers are very capable and resilient," Stice asserted, continuing, "We are also human and should expect to have normal emotional reactions to abnormal events."

Stice said he would be more concerned about the Soldier who claims to have not been affected at all.

"That's a sure sign that you were, and just don't recognize it," he said.

Though a Soldier may not serve on the front line, he or she is just as likely to have stress reactions.

The Army Medical Department (AMEDD) cautions family members that combat stress reactions can be caused by non-violent pressures like loneliness, boredom and discomfort during extended service in isolated, unpleasant places.

AMEDD also acknowledges that combat stress is better prevented than cured. Leaders are encouraged to correct controllable stressors "in the unit or on the home front," so the Soldier can "face the unavoidable pressures of battle without other issues on their minds."

"Soldiers need to have the comfort of knowing that their family is being taken care of, and they [need to] know whom they can turn to in times of need," Stice said.

Changing Attitudes

Soldiers may be reluctant to seek help with stress reactions for fear of shame or loss of credibility. However, attitudes within the Army about getting help have changed dramatically.

One of the Army's more proactive ap-

The SAFAC, Soldier and Family Assistance Center, is a one-stop shop for minor or severe mental health problems.

• Under the SAFAC umbrella is the Soldiers Assistance Center, Building 687, Schofield Barracks. Its sister clinic is the Adult Family Member Assistance Clinic (AFMAC), which treats all family members.

• All clinics accept walk-ins and referrals. Call 655-6600.

• The on-call chaplain can be reached at 655-8763.

• Army Community Services can be reached at 655-4ACS.



Baker

proaches to managing combat stress reactions downrange are critical event debriefings.

Stice said certain events occur that require leadership to seek out affected Soldiers.

"A traumatic event, for instance – loss of a service member, a serious injury, friendly-fire accidents or mass casualties – will trigger a critical event debriefing within 36 hours," Stice added. "This debriefing keeps the unit healthy."

Further, each unit, down to the battalion level, is assigned a chaplain and an assistant.

"As a chaplain, one of our tasks is to be a calming presence and deal with the Soldiers who are 'stunned,'" Stice said. "A Soldier may have to retrieve bodies from the fields, retrieve only body parts, or retrieve the bodies of children and women. We help guide them through the normal chain of emotions."

When asked what the relatively short time frame between 25th ID deployments, Gumboc said, "We've never operated at this [operational] tempo before, so there

is really no way to say what the quick turnaround may have on Soldiers and their families.

"Thanks to modern travel advances, one day a Soldier is in a combat zone, the next day they're not," Gumboc acknowledged. "There is no readjustment period."

Gumboc affirmed that now more than any other time in the Army's history, Soldiers and leaders are more in tune with the importance of mental health.

"We have more resources available at home and in the theater of operations than ever before," she said. "I am very proud of what we provide our Soldiers with."

"The emphasis is on getting Soldiers the health care they need and deserve, and eroding the stigma associated with getting help," she said. "The Soldier's chain of command is only notified if the safety of the Soldier or others is in jeopardy or laws have been violated. It's on a need-to-know basis," she stressed.

Mental health teams were deployed to the brigade level with 25th ID forces currently deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom. A 25th ID psychiatrist, two mental health techs and social workers also deployed to support Soldiers at OIF.

Since the last 25th ID deployment, additional mental health approaches include the following:

- routine pre- and post-deployment health screenings – to assess Soldiers' mental as well as physical health;

- a post-deployment health assessment administered three to six months after a Soldier returns home;

- behavioral health specialists, deployed in theater, who can provide education, support and treatment; and

- a mental health advisory team that will deploy regularly to assess the effectiveness of the behavioral health services and to see how the troops are doing.

Sadly, a Soldier who may think nothing of getting long-term treatment for a broken bone or other physical ailment might be hesitant to seek care for his or her most important and fragile organ – the brain.

"Of Soldiers who return home with visible wounds, it is clear to see what emotional impact their injuries may cause," Gumboc said. "With emotional wounds, it is not as obvious what – or easily understood what – the Soldier is going through."

Capt. Humbert Roque Versace is warrior to last breath

Story and Photo by
JEREMY S. BUDDEMEIER
Assistant Editor

Imagine being shackled in rusty irons, isolated in a small bamboo cell with bullet and shrapnel wounds paralyzing your lower back and legs.

Imagine having interrogators constantly trying to break you, and being smothered by a continuous barrage of mosquitoes, bugs and snakes, without the ability to deter them.

For the last 692 days of Capt. Humbert R. "Rocky" Versace's life, this scenario was reality.

Despite his situation, Versace refused to give up. He continued to uplift other prisoners, singing popular songs of the day, and leaving motivational messages near the latrine.

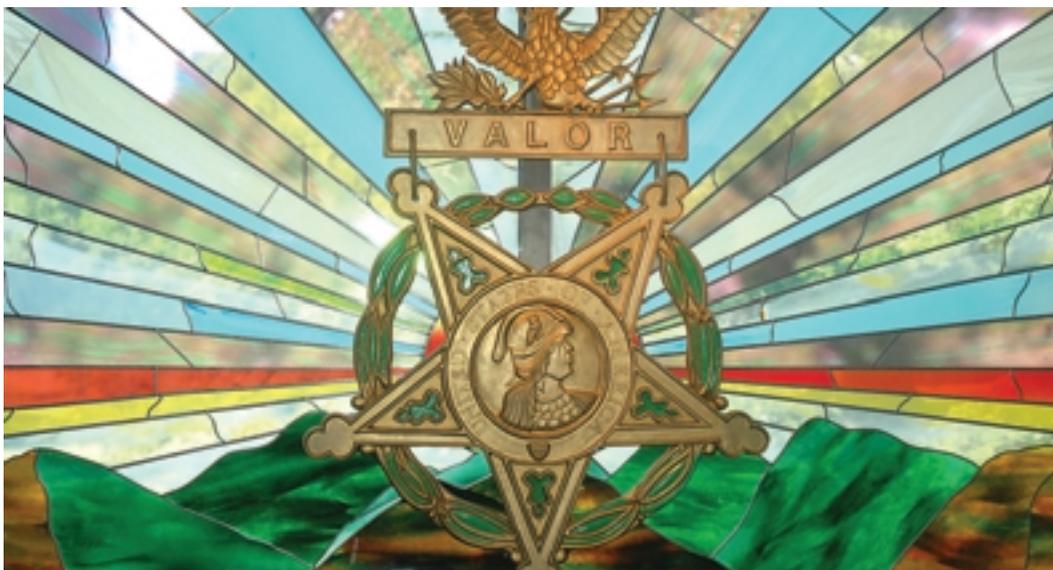
He also attempted to escape four times in his first three weeks as a prisoner — dragging his swollen, torpid limbs across swamp and thick jungle vegetation.

Although Versace spent just six years in the Army, his story continues to inspire veterans and civilians alike.

Born in Honolulu, July 2, 1937, Versace followed in his father, Col. Humbert Versace's footsteps and attended West Point.

He quickly impressed classmates, not with his athletic prowess, but his unflinching determination. For his family, this trait was no surprise.

"Rocky came back to Hawaii [after college] — the first day I'd seen him in four years — and he wanted to play basketball," said Versace's younger brother, Dr. Stephen Versace. "He couldn't beat me in basketball. I mean, it was embarrassing for him when we played," he continued.



An enlarged Medal of Honor adorns the stained glass wall at the U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii's Gallery of Heroes. The gallery houses 21 Medal of Honor winners and 47 recipients of the Distinguished Service Cross, which includes two Navy Cross recipients.

"We played for four hours until I couldn't move anymore. He finally beat me, and said, 'Let's go to dinner.' Anyone who knew Rocky knew he was like that."

Capt. Versace exuded this fighting spirit in everything he did.

After West Point, he completed Ranger and Airborne Schools, served in Korea for a year, and learned Vietnamese at an Army school in San Francisco.

After serving a yearlong tour in Vietnam as an intelligence advisor in 1963, Versace volunteered for an additional six-

month stint.

Then, Oct. 29, 1963, a Viet Cong force ambushed Versace and several companies of the South Vietnamese Civilian Irregular Defense in the U Minh Forest. Although wounded, Versace provided covering fire and allowed other members of his unit to withdraw.

The ambush occurred less than two weeks before the end of Versace's tour. He had been planning to attend seminary school and wanted to return to Vietnam as a missionary to assist orphans.

Suddenly, he, Lt. Nick Rowe and Sgt. Dan Pitzer were prisoners of war.

His captors were relentless, but Versace's will was unbroken.

He repeatedly quoted the Geneva Convention treaty during indoctrination sessions and shouted so loudly in Vietnamese and French that the Viet Cong had to gag him on numerous occasions.

One of Versace's West Point classmates, Don Reinhard, remembered his resolve.

"I've never run into another who was as physically tough as Rocky — he could take

so much pain," said Reinhard, who, along with 58 other classmates, celebrated Versace's induction into the U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii's Gallery of Heroes, Oct. 27.

"He used to run track and I never saw him come in anything but last," Reinhard continued. "But just about everyone waited to watch him finish, because no matter how much pain he was in, no matter what, his goal was to finish."

"That's why the Viet Cong couldn't indoctrinate that man," Reinhard said as his lips quivered and his eyes began to water.

Another classmate, George Kleb agreed.

"He had a very strong sense of what was right," Kleb said. "Once he decided, he didn't bend."

The last time fellow prisoners heard from Versace, he was singing "God Bless America" at the top of his lungs.

The Viet Cong executed him, Sept. 26, 1965.

Thirty-seven years after Versace's death, President George W. Bush awarded this Soldier of valor the Medal of Honor.

Versace was the first Soldier in the Army to receive the Medal of Honor for his actions in captivity.

In addition, he has been inducted into the Army Ranger, Special Forces and Military Intelligence halls of fame.

(Editor's Note: Wikipedia.org was a source for this article.)



Versace

Town hall: Housing issues, abandoned cars top residents' lists of concerns

CONTINUED FROM A-1

He reminded residents the established procedures are designed to remove truly abandoned cars, and to avoid towing a deployed Soldier's car that inadvertently didn't make it to a long-term storage lot.

We have to empty the abandoned car lot first, which is being done, to make room for other cars, Boussy said.

An assortment of other issues also surfaced in-

cluding the need for increased lawn maintenance during the rainy season, feral hogs in Ft. Shafter housing areas, and mixed officer and enlisted neighborhoods.

"We would have liked to have been informed [when enlisted personnel were moving into a traditionally officer-only community]," said Laura Hoffmann of the Hibiscus Loop community. "We're concerned about making them feel welcome without making them feel uncomfortable [with respect to fraternization policies]."

"A sergeant major gets a fruit cake just like the lieutenant colonel."

*Lt. Col. Mark C. Boussy
Oahu Base Support Battalion commander*

"I don't think Actus needs to inform you when someone new is moving in," Boussy replied. "That's a Soldier and a family, it doesn't matter if it's a ser-

geant major or a lieutenant colonel." Boussy's response drew applause from the audience.

"A sergeant major gets a fruit cake just like the lieutenant colonel," he said.

Vickie Domingo, Army Hawaii Family Housing operations director for south region, mentioned her company has an obligation to take care of the family they're displacing. "We would like to meld community and meld the neighborhood," she said.

More than half of the attendees stayed after to voice their concerns with a specific subject matter expert.

Amputee defeats naysayers, gets back to his future

Infantryman proves his fortitude is tougher than titanium and carbon

CHRISTA B. THOMAS
Pau Hana Editor

As a teen, Brandon Wooldrige could have become another statistic — a restless, unwieldy youth destined to settle for life in Garner, N. C., making a career of nothing in particular.

Like many Soldiers' stories begin, his destiny was changed after Sept. 11.

It wasn't the cloak of patriotism that impelled him to enlist; it was the downward-spiraling economy of his hometown and dwindling employment prospects.

"The Army was a 'fall-back' plan if I got laid off," Wooldrige admits. "Well, I got laid off."

Four years later, a combat-tested Sgt. Brandon Wooldrige is an infantryman who is the embodiment of the Warrior Ethos, "I will never quit."

In a voice that seemed to hover just above a whisper, the 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Wolfhound told how he beat the odds to regain his status of "fit for duty" as a frontline Soldier — after having his lower left leg amputated.

"I just want to do this job. Since joining the Army, I've been able to get up every day and know that I'm doing something good for my family and others," he said. "At the end of every month, my paycheck will come and my family [will be] supported by the work I do. I know I wouldn't have that comfort if I [accepted medical retirement and] went back home to North Carolina."

Wooldrige's sentiments echo those of many amputee service members who face the challenge of a complex recovery process that may take years, while wrestling with an untimely vocational decision.

These service members suddenly must weigh the gains of military and Veteran's Administration benefits and suitability for civilian employment against making a successful return to active duty.

In past conflicts, Wooldrige might have been forced out of the service, but today many service members who have lost limbs in Afghanistan and Iraq elect to leave the service.



BRUCE ASATO | The Honolulu Advertiser

Sgt. Brandon Wooldrige has been deemed fit for duty and faces the possibility of returning to Iraq. Because Wooldrige's gait is more a swagger than a limp, many other Soldiers don't realize he wears a prosthesis.

But amputation no longer means automatic medical retirement. Advances in prosthetic technology and rehabilitation methods have allowed many amputees the option of getting back on the active duty career path.

However, that path usually leads to administrative duty.

"I will always place the mission first"

In November 2004, the 25-year-old was in a three-humvee convoy in the Sunni Triangle, about 30 miles from Kirkuk, when the group came under heavy fire.

Continuing in a tone that attests the number of times he's recounted this story, Wooldrige explains, "I was in the back of a cargo humvee with my buddy, Spc. Toby Swanger. My

squad leader and team leader were in the front," he said.

"On the way, we were ambushed with heavy machinegun fire, RPGs [rocket propelled grenades], and possibly an IED [improvised explosive device]."

Wooldrige doesn't know what hit him, but he remembers taking cover and returning fire with an M249 Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW) light machinegun.

"My company holds me to the same standard that everyone else must meet ..."

Sgt. Brandon Wooldrige
Infantry Soldier

"We hit the vehicle in front of us and our truck was disabled.

The guys up front were trapped inside the cab. Swanger jumped out of the back to save them. He is the real hero."

"I think they were all heroes — no one any more than the other," Carla Wooldrige, Brandon's wife, interjected.

"Well, he was the one who jumped out of the truck to save the others when they were firing on us," Wooldrige retorted.

"I will never accept defeat"

Wooldrige fought his way back with hard work, support from Walter Reed Army Medical Center doctors and therapists, his family and his chain of command.

Carla agreed.

"I don't think he would have had the same outcome if he couldn't come back to the Wolfhounds," she said.

Wooldrige noted that he is back with the same squad, and they are very supportive.

"My company holds me to the same

standard that everyone else must meet," he said. Whatever they do, I do — road marches, field exercises and runs — and I manage to usually stay at least in the middle of the pack."

Wooldrige is rock steady during his five-mile physical training run each Monday. During P.T. (physical training) throughout the week, he sometimes has to change legs depending on the activity.

He has four titanium and carbon fiber prosthetic limbs: one for high-end activities, like basketball; a running limb; a limb for swimming; and one for walking.

Carla said their children, Kiyanna, 9, and Damian, 7, were never afraid for their dad. They were uncertain, but never afraid, she said.

"While Brandon was in surgery, the children didn't know what to expect, until they saw a man wearing a prosthetic," she said. "They thought it looked cool. Now they want him to come to their school so they can show their friends."

Wooldrige quickly admits that he would never do that.

"I don't know what other parents tell their kids about war or injuries," he said. "I don't want to scare them or offend their parents."

With a hesitant smile that spans the width of Wooldrige's face, it is obvious that his amputation and succeeding recovery is not a topic that he's completely comfortable speaking about.

After all, he wasn't trained to be in the spotlight. He was trained to be a good Soldier — an infantry Soldier.

"I will never quit"

"I needed to stay infantry. I am proud that I did it. I couldn't let this situation affect me," he said. "I had to get back to work doing what I was doing before."

Carla said that although her husband lost a part of his leg, he gained a new attitude. "He knows now that he can do anything," she said. "He has a real positive outlook, because he knows [his injury] could have been worse."

When asked his thoughts of being the focus of a "Soldier of valor" story, the affable father of two shrugged and said he was just doing his job.

"We're all Soldiers of valor. It would be easier for you to pick out a Soldier who isn't."



Carla Wooldrige

HAWAII **ARMY** WEEKLY

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"When work is finished."

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2006

DANCING FLEETS invade Waikiki

Story and Photos by
JEREMY S. BUDDEMEIER
Assistant Editor

WAIKIKI — More than 150 ukulele enthusiasts converged on the Marriott Waikiki Beach Hotel — black, cased instruments in tow — as the Ukulele Guild of Hawaii (UGH) hosted its fifth annual exhibition, Nov. 3–5.

The exhibition combined all things ukulele, including seminars on basic strumming, building techniques and upper-level music theory.

Inside the exhibition room, cob-webbed, corroded jigsaws sat next to vintage 1920's ukuleles on the silent auction table, while luthiers (instrument makers) displayed and sold their shimmering handiwork. Some instruments sold for more than \$2,000 apiece.

Owen Holt, a luthier from San Jose, Calif., brought three bass ukuleles, which all sold within the first hour of the exhibition.

Last year, Holt donated one of his pineapple soprano ukuleles to the 84th Engineer Battalion.

After touring the U.S. Army Hawaii Museum, Holt said, "I wanted to give a uke to a unit that had either just returned or was about to leave."

Unfortunately, the unit's equipment had already been shipped and the uke was left behind. However, the unit intends to use it at its first luau when it returns, Lt. Col. Mark Toy, 84th Eng. Bn. commander, said in an e-mail interview.

Holt mentioned his contribution was minor compared to the program, "Ukes for Troops," which is on track to send its 1,000th ukulele to troops in the Middle East by the end of the year.

On a whim, Shirley Orlando of Huntington Beach, Calif., started the program last April by sending six ukuleles to the 29th Brigade Combat Team, a Hawaii Army National Guard unit.

"It's comforting to know the aloha spirit is alive and well," said Orlando in a telephone interview, Wednesday, reading from one of numerous letters she has received from deployed troops.

Outside the exhibition in the open-air lobby, chlorinated, chattering waterfalls and light breezes composed the percussion for the array of performers, who played short sets throughout the day.

"We wanted to emphasize the youth this year, to show off the future," said Jason Young, UGH president.

Despite the guild's informal "under



Above — Not your grandmother's hula — Kalei Gamiao (right) plays the ukulele as his sister, Kaulani, dances the ballet during the Ukulele Guild of Hawaii Exhibition concert, Nov. 4.



Left — More than 30 custom ukuleles, many of which sold for \$2000 or more, line the table in the exhibition hall.

On The WEB www.ukuleleguild.org
www.ukesfortroops.com

Kaulani danced ballet as Kalei played ukulele.

"I just put a little bit of me in everything I play," a collected, 18-year old Kalei said. "It's the easiest way to express myself — through music."

Dr. Byron Yasui, professor of music theory at University of Hawaii, and ukulele jazz icon Benny Chong performed individually. Later as a duet, they seamlessly weaved licks from separate instruments into a single flawless composition. After his solo, Chong shook his picking hand as if it was on fire.

However, this concert ultimately belonged to the youth.

30" qualification for performers this year, veteran musicians contributed greatly to the entertainment.

Veterans and virtuosos

Saturday's concert was by far the highlight of the exhibition, which shuffled legends and rising stars. Performers routinely blurred the lines between musical genres.

Kalei Gamiao and his younger sister Kaulani's duet was anything but a traditional Hawaiian performance.

SEE UKES, B-4



A last-minute, surprise addition to Saturday's concert line-up, Jake Shimabukuro passionately strums George Harrison's "While My Guitar Gently Weeps," for a crowd of more than 200, Nov. 4.

DeCA scholarship forms available

BONNIE POWELL
Army News Service

FORT LEE, Va. — Gas prices are biting into the family budget, interest rates are rising and college tuition is outpacing inflation. But, relief is in sight for military families as the 2007 Scholarships for Military Children program opens.

Applications for the \$1,500 scholarships are available at 264 commissaries worldwide, or can be downloaded at www.commissaries.com, www.militaryscholar.org, or www.dodea.edu.

"Scholarships for Military Children is a wonderful military community program," said Patrick Nixon, Defense Commissary Agency director and chief executive officer. "Nearly 3,000 scholarships totaling over \$4 million have been awarded since the first awards were given in 2001."

The \$1,500 scholarships are available for children of military active duty, retired, and Guard and Reserve service members. Most of the funds are donated by manufacturers, brokers and suppliers selling groceries in commissaries, and every dollar donated to the program by industry or the general public goes to fund the scholarships.

The program is administered by the Fisher House Foundation.

A significant number of scholarships, about 10 percent every year, go to high school students at DoD schools overseas.

"Every cent that community organizations can mobilize to support college-bound students is an investment in the future," said Joseph Tafoya, director of the Department of Defense Education Activity.

"With college costs soaring, our DoD students and their parents appreciate every available scholarship to help defray the cost, and the scholarships enable many of our families to better afford the tuition and provide an incentive for students to work hard," said Tafoya. "They also demonstrate that military communities are committed to education and

increased opportunities for all students."

The scholarship program has also made inroads to increasing support from the "nonmilitary" community. California high school students sponsoring golf tournaments in 2006 raised thousands of dollars to donate to the program, and already for 2007, a private foundation has made a substantial donation.

"We're excited to see this worthwhile program gaining recognition and funding from the community at large," said Jim Weiskopf, vice president of communications at Fisher House Foundation. "Commissary industry support has been amazing and increased public support can only help ensure that the Scholarships for Military Children program continues to benefit the military community for many years to come."

Donations can be made through the link at militaryscholar.org, the official program Web site.

Applications for 2007, which include an essay on "how and why" the applicant would change an historical event, must be turned in at a commissary by close of business on Feb. 21, 2007. At least one \$1,500 scholarship will be awarded at every commissary location with qualified applicants.

The program is open to unmarried children under the age of 21 (23 if enrolled in school) of military active-duty, Reserve, Guard and retired personnel. Eligibility will be determined using the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System database.

Applicants should ensure that they, as well as their sponsor, are enrolled in the DEERS database and have a current ID card.

The applicant must be planning to attend, or already attending, an accredited college or university fulltime in the 2007 fall term, or enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year program.

(Editor's Note: Bonnie Powell writes for the Defense Commissary Agency.)

Exchange phone cards target deployed this Veterans' Day

ARMY NEWS SERVICE
News Release

DALLAS — Since President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed legislation to change "Armistice Day" to Veterans Day in 1954, Nov. 11 has been a day to honor those who served in all American wars.

As the nation plans to honor veterans with parades and speeches, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service is partnering with the American public to bolster the morale of tomorrow's veterans this Veteran's Day.

"While we salute the contributions of those who went before us, we should also acknowledge those serving on the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan today," said AAFES' senior enlisted advisor Chief Master Sgt. Bryan Eaton. "It's important every American knows that phone cards once only available to those in uniform can be ordered by anyone and sent to Soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines who find themselves far from home."

With rates as low as 19 cents per minute, AAFES' 550-Unit Military Exchange Global Prepaid phone card — available at www.aafes.org or toll free 800-527-2345 — can provide more than three hours of talk time from Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom to the United States.

Started in April 2004, the "Help Our Troops Call Home" phone card campaign allows anyone to leverage military-exclusive calling cards on behalf of deployed troops. To date, this effort has provided

more than \$4 million in free calls.

"There's never a shortage of eager troops waiting to sit down and connect with home through one of AAFES' 70 phone centers in the contingency theater," said Eaton.

"In fact, just last month, troops on the frontlines of the war on terrorism spent more than 10 million minutes on the phone with loved ones minding the home-front."

As of Oct. 1, the American public has sent 108,711 Military Exchange Global Prepaid phone cards since the inception of "Help Our Troops Call Home." More than 21,000 of these have been distributed to "any service member" via the American Red Cross, Air Force Aid Society, Fisher House Foundation, Navy-Marine Corps Relief, Soldier & Family Assistance Center and USO.

"Even if you don't know a particular service member, we can work with charitable partners to get the phone cards into the hands of someone who really needs them," said Eaton. "This military command has negotiated the best rates and coordinated the facilities to make the calls. Now all we need is to show these warriors we are thinking of them and sending the means to connect with loved ones back home."

Organizations, businesses and individuals can log on to www.aafes.org and click the "Help Our Troops Call Home" link, or call (800) 527-2345, for more information on Military Exchange Global Prepaid phone cards.



10 / Today

Cart Sale — Come to Nagorski Golf Course for a golf cart sale at Building 1598 on Fort Shafter Flats. All items will be sold "as is."

Payments by cash, personal checks or credit cards will be accepted. Call 438-3492.

15 / Wednesday

Children's Book Week — In celebration of Children's Book Week, each child who attends story time at Schofield's Sgt Yano Library, Nov. 15, will receive a book to take home.

Story time is held at 10 a.m. for children 3-5 years old, and at 3 p.m. for children 6-12 years old. Call 655-8002.

Pet Education 101 — Fort Shafter Veterinary Treatment Facility will host Pet Education 101, Education & Awareness, at the Aliamanu West Community Center, Nov. 15 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Guests will receive information on keeping pets healthy. Registration deadline is Nov. 12. Call 433-1972.

Discover Pizza Day — Calling all pizza lovers. Come to Schofield Barracks' Tropics, Nov. 15, 2:30 p.m. for all things pizza. Come play games, learn pizza facts and history, make crafts, watch a pizza being made, and help add the toppings.

Guests are invited to feast on their own creation. Cost is \$5 for two slices of pizza and a drink. Call 655-8522 to reserve a spot.

16 / Thursday

Ante Up! — Put on your best poker face and participate in a free Texas Hold'em tournament at the Tropics, Schofield Barracks, Nov. 16, beginning at 6 p.m.

All Department of Defense ID cardholders are welcome to play, but should get there early because room is only available for 120 people to play. Call 655-5697.

Holiday Craft Sale — The Fort Shafter Arts and Crafts Center will host its semiannual Holiday Sale, Nov. 16-18. Take advantage of quality craftsmanship at affordable prices on a wide variety of craft items.

Sale hours are 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Nov. 16 and 17, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 18. Call 655-4202 or 438-1071.

17 / Friday

NAF Property Sale — The NAF excess property sale will be held Nov. 17 on Fort Shafter Flats in Building 1598.

Sale items include office and home furniture, golf course equipment, golf carts, restaurant equipment and more. All



Christa B. Thomas | U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii Public Affairs

Two, four, six, eight

The Schofield Steelers cheerleaders tighten their routine during weekly practice, Tuesday.

This flag football cheering squad is for girls, ages 5 and 6. For more information on cheering and football, call 836-1923 (Aliamanu), 438-9336 (Fort Shafter), 655-0883 (Wheeler and Heleman) or 655-6464 (Schofield).

property will be sold "as is." Acceptable forms of payment will be cash, personal checks or credit cards. Call 438-3492.

Teen Social — Teens are invited to come have fun with friends Nov. 17 at the Schofield Barracks Teen Center Social. The fun will last from 7 to 9:30 p.m. and costs \$3 for members and \$4 for nonmembers. Call 655-0445.

18 / Saturday

Vet Clinic — Fort Shafter Veterinary Treatment Facility will be hosting a clinic from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Pets will be seen by appointment only, but walk-ins are welcome for product purchases. To schedule an appointment, call 433-1975 or 438-2271.

Rock Fest 2 — Teens, don't miss Rock Fest 2 at the Schofield Teen Center, Nov. 18. The party will last from noon to 5 p.m.

Come enjoy food, a skateboard competition, demonstrations from skate companies, and maybe win some prizes. Cost is \$3. Call 655-0443.

Yu-Gi-Oh — Get ready to duel at Tropics. Registration for the Yu-Gi-Oh tournament starts at noon and matches will start at 1 p.m.

Cost is \$6 and includes a pack of the latest Yu-Gi-Oh cards. Prizes will be awarded,

and all ages are welcome. Call 655-8522.

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

Children enrolled in Parents Night Out must be registered with CYS no later than noon, Nov. 17. Reservations are first-come, first-served. Call 655-8313.

22 / Wednesday

Thanksgiving Dinner — Join the Schofield Barracks Nehelani family for Thanksgiving dinner, Nov. 22. The holiday weekend will kick off with a dinner, complete with all the trimmings and served family style.

Cost is \$15 for adults, \$12.95 for Blue Star Card holders, and children's pricing is available. Seating will be 4 to 6 p.m. and tickets must be purchased in advance. Group reservations are available. To make a reservation, call 655-4466.

24 / Friday

Hawaiian Luau — Enjoy the "ono" taste of a traditional Hawaiian style feast, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Hale Ikena on Fort Shafter, or 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Schofield Nehelani.

Cost is \$9.95 per person. Call the Hale

Ikena at 438-1974 or the Nehelani at 655-4466 for lunch buffet reservations.

Thanksgiving Coloring Contest — Youth, grades kindergarten through 6th, are invited to show off their artistic side in the Tropics coloring contest.

Come to the Tropics to pick up a turkey to color. All entries must be submitted no later than Nov. 24. Prizes will be awarded to the top three winners. Call 655-5687.

1 / Friday

BOSS Holiday Cookies — Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers is now accepting donations of cookie dough for its Holiday Cookie program. The cookies will be baked Dec. 1.

Soldiers will be baking cookies and mailing them, along with cards, to Hawaii-based Soldiers deployed to Iraq. To volunteer or donate, call 655-1130.

2 / Saturday

Holiday Fun Fest — Get into the holiday spirit at the annual Aliamanu Holiday Fun Fest, which will kick off with a community parade at 9 a.m. on Bougainville Loop in Aliamanu Military Reservation (AMR).

Come to the Youth Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for holiday fun and entertainment. Guests will enjoy crafts, games, bouncers, refreshments, pictures with Santa and more. Bring an ornament to decorate the library Christmas tree.

A gift-wrapping station will also be available at \$1 per gift, or free for Blue Star Card holders. Call 6833-0920.

Ongoing

Kolekole Bar & Grill — Come check out the newest addition to the Schofield Nehelani, the Kolekole Bar and Grill, which features a fresh new menu of pupu and entrée selections. Come to Wahine Wednesdays and Tropic Lightning Thursdays.

Enjoy darts, pool, games, karaoke and more. Call 655-0664.

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

Current offerings include music, martial arts, gymnastics and driver education classes, as well as babysitting certification, which include CPR and first aid courses.

Hula, "Introduction to Dance" for 3- to 9-year-olds (tap, ballet, movement and tumbling) and street dancing are also available. Plus, coming soon are modeling and tiny tot opportunities to round out offerings. For more information, call 655-9818.

Family Child Care — FCC provides in-home child care by adult family members living in government housing. Flexible hours and a comfortable family-like setting are built right in.

In Hawaii, certified FCC homes are available on Schofield Barracks, Wheeler Army Air Field, Heleman, AMR and Fort Shafter.

To register a child or become a provider, call 655-8373 (Schofield Barracks) or 837-0236 (AMR).

18 / Saturday

Pearlridge Express — All aboard the Pearlridge Express! Hawaii's only scale-model, fully-functioning train will pull into the Uptown Center Court "station," Nov. 18 at 10 a.m.

The custom-built locomotive can take 15 kids at one time on a journey through a yuletide fantasy of sugary creations. Running daily through Jan. 1, the Pearlridge Express will be a sure memory-maker for the whole family.

22 / Wednesday

School Honors Namesake — Solomon Elementary School will host a rededication ceremony at the school to honor its namesake, 1st Sgt. Samuel K. Solomon, Nov. 22 from 8:30 to 10 a.m. Call 624-9500.

Thanksgiving Eve Worship — In the spirit of fellowship and gratitude, the community is invited to come to Schofield's Main Post Chapel, Building 790, for its Thanksgiving service at 6 p.m.

Refreshments will be served on the lanai following the service.

College Scholarship — The Army Engineer Officers' Wives' announces the availability of the Army Engineer Memorial Awards (AEMA) for graduating high school seniors.

Students must attend an accredited college, university, technical school or vocational school in any field of study.

The Geraldine K. Morris Award, another AEMA scholarship, will be available to high school seniors enrolling in an accredited nursing program.

Applicants may apply for both awards, but may only receive one. Eligible applicants must have a parent who is an active duty or retired Army engineer officer, or who died on active duty.

For an application, call 703-383-3970 or visit www.aeowc.com. Applications must be postmarked by Feb. 16, 2007.

vance notice to the servicing Child Development Center. Children must be registered with Child and Youth Services. Call 655-4227.

Butt Out — Tobacco users are invited to stop by the Army Public Health Nurse's booth in the Schofield Post Exchange Nov. 16, for the Great American Smoke Out.

Get details on how to stop burning big holes in your pocket and big holes in your lungs. Tokens of appreciation will be given to participants between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

17 / Friday

Cultural Observances — In honor of Native American Indian Heritage Month, the local community is invited to an event that celebrates the history and culture of Native Americans. This free event will be held Nov. 17, at 10 a.m. in the Sgt. Smith Theater, Schofield Barracks.

Featured guests include Leeta Wolfback, a Native American author; Troy De Roche, flautist and craftsman of Native American flutes; and his wife, Liz De Roche, an internationally known storyteller and beadwork artist. Call 655-0386.

Art From the Heart — The Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific will host an arts and crafts showcase, beginning Nov. 17, from 5 to 8 p.m. at 226 North Kuakini St.

"Art from the Heart" is a benefit for the Louis Vuitton Creative Arts Program, which provides therapy for people with physical and cognitive disabilities.

This event is free and will feature more than 500 original paintings by current and former Rehab patients, musical entertainment and refreshments.

The "Heart to Heart Holiday Faire" will be held on the Rehab lanai Nov. 18, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This event will feature art, crafts, gift items and food and will benefit three local nonprofit organizations: the Rehab Hospital, Kuakini Health System and Lanakila Rehabilitation Center. Call 531-3511.

purchase up to six pairs of discounted tickets to watch as the UH Warriors trounce the Louisiana Tech University at 6:05 p.m.

Advance purchases must be made at the Stan Sheriff Center Box Office, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Game day ticket purchases must be made the Aloha Stadium Box Office.

16 / Thursday

Hui Luncheon — The Hui O' Na Wahine, the all-ranks spouses' club, hosts its monthly luncheon at the Schofield Nehelani.

The event will open at 10:30 a.m. for vendor shopping, and lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. November's theme, "Make it, Bake it, Fake it (or just BUY IT!) Auction" is back by popular demand! Goods to be auctioned include items donated by Hui members that will be store bought or homemade.

For luncheon reservations, call 624-4989 or 624-0015 by 7 p.m., Nov. 12.

Army Community Theatre — Army Community Theatre presents "Annie," featuring Channing Weir in the title role, at the Richardson Theatre, Fort Shafter.

The show will open Nov. 16 and run subsequent Fridays and Saturdays, 7:30 p.m. through December.

Tickets are \$15 and \$20 for adults, and \$12 and \$15 for children, at the ACT Box Office, Season tickets are priced at \$60 and \$75 for adults, and \$45 and \$50 for children, for a four-show musical series.

The season will run through May 2007. Call 438-4480 or view details at www.squareone.org/ACT.

Military Spouse 101 — The Military Spouse 101 course is designed to introduce spouses to the military lifestyle and serve as a refresher course for those who have been around awhile. The class will be held Nov. 16 and 17, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Fort Shafter Outreach Center, and Nov. 20 and 21, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Schofield Barracks Army Community Services Office. Free child care will be provided with ad-



10 / Today

American Indian Heritage — As part of Native American Indian Heritage Month observances, the Tropics, Schofield Barracks, will show a movie featuring Native Americans today from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Native American Heritage Month is held to increase awareness, mutual respect, and understanding, while recognizing the continuous achievements to American culture by American Indians. Call the division Equal Opportunity Office at 655-0053.

War Diaries — The Military Channel's new series "My War Diary" returns Nov. 10 at 9 p.m., when "Diary" will go behind the lines with personal videos and exclusive interviews with Soldiers to offer a glimpse at military life in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Video submissions are being accepted at www.mywardiary.com.

11 / Saturday

Blue Star Special — Blue Star Card holders are invited to get a free maintenance check on their vehicles by qualified personnel at the Schofield Barracks Wash Rack, next to Firestone, from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

As an added bonus, card holders can also get their car washed.

U. of H. Discount Tickets — In honor of Veterans Day, the University of Hawaii will offer a buy one, get one ticket discount for members of the armed forces. Valid military identification is required to



Aliamanu (AMR) Chapel

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

Fort DeRussy Chapel 836-4599

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

Fort Shafter Chapel 836-4599

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

Helemano (HMR) Chapel

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

Main Post Chapel 655-9307

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

MPC Annex, building 791

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

Soldiers Chapel

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

Tripler AMC Chapel 433-5727

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

Wheeler Chapel

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



Jet Li's Fearless

(PG-13) Friday, 7 p.m. Wednesday, 7 p.m.



Jackass Number Two

(R) Saturday, 7 p.m.



Flyboys

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

Thrift shops support military families, scholarships

Story and Photo by
LANDY STEWART MIYAKE
Staff Writer

Imagine that you have just made a permanent change of station and some of your household necessities or personal items are missing or damaged. How can these items be replaced without breaking the bank account? Look no further than the post thrift shop.

Military thrift shops offer customers a wide variety of items at discounted prices. They also provide employment and volunteer opportunities.

Patrons can find clothing for all ages, movies, CDs, bed linens, purses, books and furniture at the thrift shop. Household and kitchen items, including glasses, plates, coffee pots, and cookware are available, too.

"We have such great deals and it's less expensive than the mall," said Jodie Marrero, store manager at the Schofield Barracks thrift shop. "Everything is priced to sell. Plus, it gives back to the military community."

"You can find anything here ... from Dooney and Bourke purses to Hawaiian shirts to furniture. I always leave with something," said Mary Cook, a nurse at the Deployment Health Clinic and a regular thrift shop customer.

The Hui O' Na Wahine Thrift Shop at Schofield Barracks — and its sister club, the Hui O' Wahine at Fort Shafter — contributes to the military community by offering pre-owned items at low prices and by providing class A and battle dress uniforms at no charge to Soldiers ranked E-4 and below.

The shop also works with the Family Advocacy Program, Army Community Services, to help families in need. For example, sometimes, single parents who are struggling financially are sent to the thrift shop to acquire items for their children or their home.

Customers can choose between consignment and donation. For consignment, people bring in their items and decide on a selling price. Once the item is sold, the



DeAnna Ferrick considers thrift store shopping "treasure hunting." On the donation side of the store, she hopes to discover a treasure every woman looks for: a great shoe at an affordable price.

consignor receives 70 percent of the selling price, and the store keeps 30 percent as profit.

When asked why people should consign, Karen Nichols, consignment supervisor replied, "It's like having a two-month long yard sale without all the work."

When placing items for consignment, customers sign a contract, which states that after 60 days, if the items are not sold, they can pay a 10 percent withdrawal fee to retrieve the items, or they can donate them to the store. The donated items then become thrift shop property (TSP).

At Schofield Barracks, consignments are accepted between 9 a.m. and noon on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and the third Friday of each month. Donated items that are considered TSP can be left at any time in a donation box located outside the thrift store, or dropped off during store hours.

For safety reasons, the Hui O' Na Wahine Thrift Shop chooses to accept for donation — but not resale — cribs, helmets, car seats, mattresses and pillows. These items go to the American Veterans Association, which then sells the items to earn

Fort Shafter Thrift Shop Bag Sale

How does it work?

- Customers pay \$5 for everything they can stuff in a brown paper bag.
- Items include only thrift shop Property, or TSP donated items —not consignment items.
- Bag is free for E-4 Soldiers and below.

Where does the money go?

•Proceeds go to Fort Shafter's Hui O' Na Wahine chapter. Profits are dispersed among scholarships and other organization such as Army Community Services, Boys and Girls Clubs, Fisher House, Boys Scouts and Girl Scouts, and the Fort Shafter Elementary School.

When is next sale?

- Check out the next bag sale at Fort Shafter, Dec. 15.

money for prescriptions, funding for the Veteran's Home and other U.S. veteran support programs.

One hundred percent of profits go to the Hui O' Na Wahine (or Hui O' Wahine) all-ranks spouses club. The profits are used for welfare grants and college scholarships. Only members of the club and military family members are eligible for the scholarships.

Last year, the Schofield thrift shop donated \$28,000 to its organization.

The military community benefits from the thrift shop in several ways. Not only do profits go back to the community in the form of educational scholarships, but also the thrift shop provides employment and volunteer opportunities for military spouses.

Shiloh Chapman, donation supervisor, enjoys working at the thrift shop. As a military spouse and mother of two young children, she said it provides an opportunity to get out of the house and interact with others.

Hui O' Na Wahine Thrift Shop

At Building 2107, Schofield Barracks
Open Tuesday & Thursday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Closed third Thursday of the month
Open third Friday of the month, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Phone 624-3254

Hui O' Wahine Thrift Shop

At Building 342, Fort Shafter
Open Tuesday & Friday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

1st Saturday of the month 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Phone 842-1074

Hui O' Na Wahine Consignment Restrictions

- Stuffed animals
- Mattresses
- Car seats
- Bike helmets
- Exercise equipment
- Underwear
- Socks
- Swimsuits
- Pajamas
- Lounge wear
- Personal care items
- Hats
- Winter Clothing
- Adult shoes

Volunteering at the thrift shop is simple and beneficial. All a person must do is stop in during store hours and fill out a contact form. If the manager thinks that person is a good fit, he or she can sign in and begin volunteering immediately.

Joan Kaminski has been a volunteer for three years, and said, "It feels good to know you're doing something good for the community."

As added benefits, volunteers receive a 50 percent discount off TSP purchases. Also, volunteers who work at least four hours in a single day are eligible to receive free child care during their shift, through Child and Youth Services, Schofield Barracks.

Ukes: Concert blurs thin line between generations

CONTINUED FROM A-1

Local favorites The Opihi Pickers played a Latin-style selection while lead vocalist and ukuleleist Imua Garza picked and strummed half the song behind his head.

For aspiring ukulele players, the concert was as inspiring as it was demoralizing.

Seventeen year-old virtuoso Taimane sparked the evening with an electrifying performance, building on an already talent-packed line up. Strumming around the stage barefoot and with a loud piano-key belt, she finished her three-song set with an eclectic selection.

"This last one is my favorites — a medley of Led Zeppelin and Beethoven," she said with a girlish charm, then nailed the song with the grit of a veteran rock star.

"After that, does anyone want to play da ukulele?" said kupuna Hinano Kaumeheiwa, master of ceremonies.

Each performer seemed to build on the burgeoning energy of the previous musician.

Rising star and four-year pro Brittini Paiva wowed the audience with a technical solo of Johann Pachelbel's "Canon in D major," (a favorite at many weddings) then looped the same song, and played it on three separate instruments — the ukulele, guitar and bass guitar.

The 18-year old, one-woman

symphony is currently pursuing her Master's degree in arrangement through the Berkeley School of Music.

"I never expected this much blessing," said the unassuming Paiva, who has toured the mainland and played at venues housing more than 7,000 people.

However, before the audience could chant "hana hou" (encore), the master of ceremonies announced a last-minute addition to the line-up — a soloist who just happened to be in the neighborhood — Jake Shimabukuro.

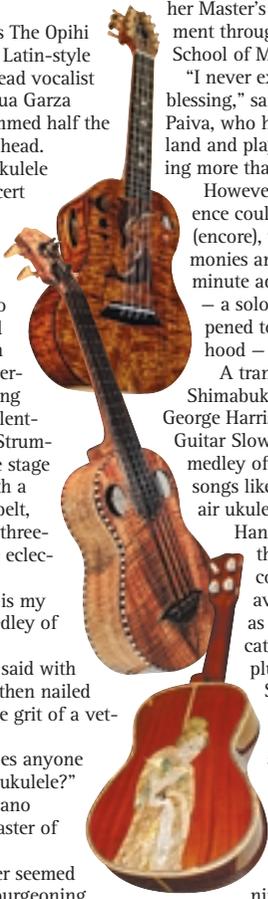
A trance-like Shimabukuro flowed through George Harrison's "While My Guitar Slowly Weeps," and a medley of traditional Japanese songs like he was playing the air ukulele.

Hanging on each string, the audience held its collective breath to avoid missing a note as Shimabukuro delicately but deliberately plucked his version of Schubert's "Ave Maria."

"The best thing about the ukulele is that it's not intimidating," Shimabukuro said. "Whether you're four years old or ninety, you can pick it up."

The concert also raised funds for the Ukes for Kids program, which donates ukuleles to disadvantaged children throughout the state.

So far this year, the program has provided ukes for all the schools on Molokai and 300 kids on Oahu, Norman Takeya, Ukes for Kids chairman, said.



Top to bottom — Instruments like Manuel Halican's eight-string koa ukulele with a mother-of-pearl dolphin inlay, Owen Holt's bass ukulele, a mother-of-pearl geisha ukulele attracted musicians and luthiers alike to the Ukulele Guild of Hawaii Exhibition, Nov. 3-5.

Army is stepping stone to music

Texas-born Soldier croons his way to place at mainland's Colgate Country Showdown

LANDY STEWART MIYAKE

Staff Writer

Sgt. Jesse Felder spent his childhood on ranches: working, roping and rodeo-ing.

As constant as the changing of seasons, Felder was always singing and, in fact, he joined the Army as a way to prepare for a career in country music.

Felder hails from Austin, Texas, but at age 14, he and his family moved to a small town, Boerne, Texas, where he graduated high school. Then at 19, Felder bought a fifth-wheel trailer, hooked it onto the back of his truck, and moved to Nashville to pursue his country music career.

In Nashville, he landed a regular gig at Lonnie's Bar, located on Printer's Alley. After about eight months, he shifted his focus to songwriting and playing guitar, but he wanted to make himself more marketable in the music industry, so he moved back to Boerne. He only landed a job as a "roughneck" on an oil rig. He worked it a year and half.

Unsured of the route he was going to take get into the music industry, Felder knew he needed a good, steady job and to get out of the confines of his small hometown. So, at age 21, he joined the Army.

"I really believe in serving my country. I come from a strong family who believes in that, and the Army was a great opportunity for me," he said, "...to get some new life experiences."

Now a training room noncommissioned officer for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Special Troops Battalion, 25th Infantry Division, in the past four years, Felder has teamed up with Sgt. Jonathan Shuskey of A Company, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment.

"Jesse is a great writer. He will write the lyrics, bring them to me, and tell me how he wants to sing it. I'll sit down and write something on the piano or the guitar, and we just piece it together. We've always meshed really well that way," said Shuskey about Felder.

In addition to his musical know-how, Felder has experienced the military in full throttle: fighting in a war. Felder deployed to Afghanistan in 2004-2005.

Once his guitar arrived in Afghanistan, Felder and Patrick Soler played music for the troops. Upon redeployment, in May 2005, Felder took weekly gigs with the "Five O'-



Courtesy of Robyn Ocep

Sgt. Jesse Felder began his journey to the Colgate at the club "Nashville" in Waikiki, where he won two rounds to qualify for finals in California and Nevada.



View photos and hear song clips on Felder's Web site at www.myspace.com/felderjesse.

clock Shadow" and started playing at Cabana's, a poolside bar in Waikiki.

The band comprised Felder, Shuskey, Soler and Charles Dunkin. They played acoustic sets for about three to four hours every Friday and Saturday night, but Waikiki noise ordinances eventually ended their stint.

Soon, band members received permanent change of stations. Felder and Shuskey were left to find new band members: guitar players and a drummer in the Tropic Lightning Band.

In November 2005, Felder and the Five o'clock Shadow started playing at "Nashville" in Waikiki, but the division's summer 2006 deployment had the pair scrambling again for more new members, and new gigs.

August 2006 proved a joy. Country stars Craig Morgan and Neal McCoy performed at the Waikiki Shell and invited Felder to sing at their sound check. Both artists were impressed with Felder's voice and asked him to join them on stage during their concerts.

Felder sang "Almost Home" with Morgan, then he and Shuskey performed "The River" by Garth Brooks with McCoy.

"Amazing. It was a once in a lifetime thing," said Felder, recalling the opportunity.

After his brush with stardom and with the helpful nudge of a local country musician, Dita Holifield, Felder was convinced to try out for the Colgate Country Showdown, the nation's largest country music talent search.

His journey began with auditions at Waikiki's Nashville. Blasting the competition, Felder advanced to rounds at the Hale Koa Hotel, and then sang an original and cover song there, which qualified him to compete in the California state finals in Pomona.

Felder eventually captured the California state title and walked away with \$1,000 in prize money.

"It was amazing. I was thrilled. I was ecstatic," he said. "[This] was really a good confirmation that this is definitely what I need to be doing," he said.

Felder also competed at regionals in Elko, Nev. where he placed second. Although it was a big disappointment to have lost, he said he was still grateful for the opportunity.

Felder said he now understands judging techniques and what the music industry is looking for in marketability, stage presence, vocal talent and originality. He knows what needs improving and what's strong.

Now that he has returned to work and things are getting back to normal, Felder is continuing to pursue his dream. He is writing a great deal of music and is working to get his band back together.



Send community announcements to community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

10 / Today

Love Games — The Hawaii Pacific Tennis Foundation is now accepting applications for the K-Swiss Thanksgiving Mixed Doubles Challenge that will be held at the Tripler Tennis Center Nov. 17 and 18.

Divisions will include combined mixed, 7.5 and below; and combined mixed, 8.0 and above.

The entry fee is \$25 per person and includes a T-shirt, raffle ticket, and a Saturday cookout. Additionally, special discounts will be offered on orders of K-Swiss merchandise.

Call 677-1334 or e-mail dav@hawaiiennis.org, or visit www.hawaiiennis.org.

PGA Grand Slam — Discounted tickets are now available for Hawaii residents for the Professional Golfers Association (PGA) Grand Slam of Golf Nov. 20-22 at Poipu Bay Golf Course on Kauai.

Scheduled to compete is Tiger Woods, Geoff Ogilvy, Jim Furyk, and Mike Weir among many others.

Purchase tickets by calling 1-800-PGA-GOLF (742-4653) or online at www.PGA.com.

11 / Saturday

U.H. B.O.G.O. — In honor of Veterans Day, members of the armed services will be offered a buy one, get one ticket discount to see the University of Hawaii Warriors trounce the Louisiana Tech University Bulldogs, Nov. 11 at 6:05 p.m.

Valid military identification is required to purchase up to 12 discounted tickets. Tickets may be purchased in advance at the Stan Sheriff Center Box Office, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Special ticket prices will also be available

at the Aloha Stadium Box Office in advance or on game day.

17 / Friday

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

The free classes are Nov. 17, from 5:45 to 10 p.m., and Nov. 18, 7:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. Classes are family-friendly and open to anyone age 10 years and older.

Upcoming class dates are Dec. 1 & 2, and Dec. 15 & 16. Register by calling 587-0200.

25 / Saturday

Paws on the Path — Join the Paws on the Path hiking club Nov. 25 for its monthly hike. This hike will cover Maunawili Ditch Trail in Waimanalo.

The detailed map to the trailhead can be found at www.hawaiianhumane.org/news. Hikers will meet between 8:30 and 8:45 a.m. This hike starts promptly at 9 a.m. Bring snacks and enough water for people and pets.

For more details, e-mail hhs@hawaiianhumane.org.

December

10 / Thursday

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

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

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

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

For expo details, visit www.roadraceventures.com. For

race route, statistics and registration information, visit www.honolulumarathon.org

21 / Thursday

Batter Up! — The University of Hawaii baseball program will be hosting a winter baseball camp, led by UH head baseball Coach Mike Trapasso, Dec. 21-23 and Dec. 28–30. The camp is available for children ages 7–18. Pitcher/catcher camp is 9 a.m.–noon and hitting camp is 1–4 p.m. Cost per camp is \$120 or \$200 for both camps. Call 956-6247.

Ongoing

Fleet Feet — Faerber's Flyers women's running club invites women of all ages and skill levels to join them at the University of Hawaii track at Cooke Field. The club meets Wednesdays from 5:15 to 7 p.m. Cost is \$50 per year. Call 277-3609.

Prenatal Exercise Program

— Exercise during pregnancy has been shown to positively impact fitness during labor and childbirth. Learn and practice safe exercising during pregnancy. Classes are each Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the offices of Pacific Health & Fitness Consultants, through Dec. 30.

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

Masters Swim Program

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

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

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

Cricket in the Park

— The Honolulu Cricket Club invites players of all levels of experience

to get into the game. Join the club at Kapiolani Park, at the base of Diamond Head, for exciting rounds of cricket.

Call Nevin at 256-8236 for match dates or visit <http://home.hawaii.rr.com/cricket/hcc.htm>.

Bike Hawaii — Join Bike Hawaii's professional nature guides and explore Oahu from the rainforest to the reef. Packages can include downhill biking, waterfall hiking and sailing off Waikiki with exclusive access to a remote Hawaiian rainforest.

Delicious meals are included. To schedule your adventure, call 734-4214, toll free 1-877-682-7433, or go online at www.bike-hawaii.com.

Golfers Wanted — Are you looking for a golf group? Military or civilian golfers interested in playing golf on Sunday mornings at Leilehua Golf Course should call 347-8038 or 375-3322. Tee time is usually before 8 a.m.

Honolulu Marathon Clinic

— Looking to get in shape and run a marathon? Join the free Honolulu Marathon Clinic, led by Dr. Jack Scaff and his trained staff. The clinic meets Sundays at 7:30 a.m. at Kapiolani Park at 3833 Paki Ave.

This clinic stresses slow, recreational running, for beginners and walkers. Its focus is training to finish the Honolulu Marathon in December. Call 655-4692.



10 / Today

Youth Sports Registration — Registration for youth basketball and cheerleading continues through Nov. 28.

The program is open to youth born between 1988 to 2001.

Cost is \$60 per person for basketball and cheerleading, and \$20 for cheerleaders who have a uniform from the previous season. The season will begin in February.

Call 836-1923 (Aliamanu), 438-9336 (Fort Shafter), 655-0883 (Wheeler and Heleman) or 655-6464 (Schofield).

11 / Saturday

Witness the Smackdown — Come watch Hawaii Championship Wrestling at the Schofield Tropics, Nov. 11. Doors open at 6 p.m. and matches start at 7 p.m.

The cost is \$5 for guests age 12 and up, \$3 for ages 11 and under, and free for children age 5 and under. Call 655-5697.

BMX Racing

— Come to the BMX track at Wheeler Army Air Field for BMX racing. First, second and third place ribbons will be

awarded, along with participation ribbons.

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

Races are held every second and fourth Saturdays. Volunteers are needed to help make this event a success. Visit www.mwrarmy-hawaii.com, www.armybmj.org or call 656-1601.

16 / Thursday

Professional Bull Riders — Come meet and greet some of the best bull riders in the nation as the Professional Bull Riders (PBR) storm into Tropics, Nov. 16 from noon to 1:30 p.m.

All ages are welcome. Call 655-5697.

19 / Sunday

Bowling Tournament — A "5 Game, No Tap" tournament will be held at the Schofield Bowling Center, Nov. 19. Check-in is at 1 p.m., and the cost is \$20 per bowler. Call 655-0573.

24 / Friday

Holiday Winter Blast Tournament — Soldiers are invited to participate in the Army Hawaii 3-on-3 basketball and extreme dodgeball competition. Teams will be comprised of company level active duty Soldiers.

Competitions will be held for the north and south regions. Only 20 teams can participate and the registration deadline is Nov. 27. To register, call 655-0856.