

INSIDE

## Wounded warriors maintain bonuses

J.D. LEIPOLD  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Soldiers who become ill, or who are wounded while on active duty, are entitled to keep all recruitment bonuses due them. The Army reiterated that policy Nov. 21, after a wounded Soldier inadvertently received a letter from the Army that stated he would be required to pay back any enlistment money he received.

"If you are ill or were injured while on duty, the Army will not ask you to repay any portion of your recruitment bonus," said Brig. Gen. Mike Tucker, assistant surgeon

general for Warrior Care and Transition. "This money will stay in the hands of our Soldiers."

Army policy prohibits what is described as "recoupment" when it would be contrary to equity and good conscience, or would be contrary to the nation's interests. Those circumstances include, for example, "an inability to complete a service agreement because of illness, injury, disability or other impairment that did not clearly result from misconduct."

The Army is looking into the specifics behind what happened to former Soldier

Jordan Fox, who was injured while serving in Iraq. Fox told news media he had received a letter from the Army stating he would be required to repay a \$3,000 enlistment bonus.

The general has said Soldiers who have received letters from the Army asking for repayment of a recruitment bonus should contact the Wounded Soldier and Family Hot Line to report the issue as soon as possible.

"If there's a problem, we are going to fix it," Tucker emphasized. "We are committed to honoring our warriors and families in transition."

The hot line is staffed by subject-matter experts, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to help speed the resolution of issues pertaining to wounded Soldiers and their families. Callers will receive responses within 24 hours.

For those who reside within the United States, the hot line can be reached toll free at 1-800-984-8523. Soldiers and families may also call from overseas assignments via the Defense Switch Network 312-328-0002 and within the U.S., 328-0002.

The hot line also receives messages via e-mail at wsfsupport@conus.army.mil.



### Traffic trouble

Heavy traffic, more motorists, not gate closures or security inspections, cause delays at the entrances to Schofield and Wheeler.

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### Flying V

Departing Command Sgt. Maj. Jerry Taylor, will be honored with a Flying V, at 1:30 p.m., Thursday, at Sills Field, Schofield Barracks. Get more News Briefs on page A-6.

### Holiday Lane

Units and organizations create 8-foot holiday greeting cards for annual competition.

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## USARPAC lights up the holidays

Story and Photos by  
STAFF SGT. CRISTA YAZZIE  
U.S. Army, Pacific, Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER — With a push of a giant candy cane lever, the annual Oahu South Concert and Tree-Lighting Ceremony officially opened the holiday season at Fort Shafter's historic Palm Circle, Wednesday evening.

"Tonight is all about trees and kids ... the spirit of youth," said event emcee Lt. Gen. John M. Brown III, commanding general, U.S. Army, Pacific.

Joining Brown in the task of illuminating Palm Circle and kicking off the holiday season was 11-year-old Michael Anthony Bender, son of Lt. Col. Michael Bender, division chemical officer with the 25th Infantry Division, and retired Lt. Col. Christine Bender. Under the light of the tree, hundreds of service members and families sang "God Bless America," "Jingle Bells," "Here Comes Santa Claus" and other carols.

Brown and Brig. Gen. Raymond V. Mason, commanding general, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, personally thanked the family of fallen warrior Sgt. Alexander Gagala, who was killed in action Sept. 9, 2007, and all families for their support.

SEE LIGHTS, A-4



Attendees at the USARPAC Tree-Lighting Ceremony sing carols while waiting for Santa Claus to arrive.

## Battle Flag returns to duty with brigade

A piece of history is passed on to the 2nd Stryker Brigade

Story and Photos by  
SGT. 1ST CLASS JASON SHEPHERD  
U.S. Army, Pacific, Public Affairs

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — It's a little piece of history passed on from unit to unit. A battle flag, bought from a small souvenir shop in Vietnam 40 years ago, has been carried by Soldiers during foot patrols, flown over numerous forward-deployed camps, and become a rallying point for units associated with it.

The Soldiers of the 2nd Squadron, 14th U.S. Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team (2SBCT), received this special battle flag in a ceremony Tuesday. Allen Hoe, a Vietnam veteran who purchased the flag in 1967, passed on the flag and the legacy that comes with it to the Strykehorse Squadron.

Hoe entrusted the flag to his son's battalion, the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, when the battalion returned to Hawaii in 2005. Hoe's son, 1st Lt. Nainoa Hoe, was killed while patrolling the streets of Mosul Jan. 22, 2005. Before Nainoa left, Allen Hoe passed on some words of advice learned from his years as a medic in Vietnam.

"Son, you're about to embark on a journey that will change your life forever," he said. "The men that go into combat with you for the first time will possess a part of your soul and a part of your life."

SEE FLAG, A-11

## 95th Sapper Co. brushes up on explosive skills

Story and Photo by  
SPC. KYNDAL HERNANDEZ  
8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Area X recently echoed with the sound of explosions and falling rock as Soldiers with the 95th Sapper Company, 65th Engineer Battalion, performed refresher training of shape and cratering charges.

Soldiers got a refresher course on the demolitions they learned in their initial job training. The event covered a broad range of squad-level training including explosives.

"We are conducting this training to help our Soldiers prepare for combat," said 1st Sgt. Adam Hurlocker of 95th Sapper Co. "These Soldiers are revisiting things that they learned from

Right — Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Brummel steps in a hole from the cratering charge explosion to give an idea of its depth. Soldiers with the 95th Sapper Company, 65th Engineer Battalion, conducted their explosives training at Area X on Schofield Barracks.

SEE SAPPERS, A-4



### HFC victory

Army staff sergeant earns mixed martial arts victory at Hawaii Fighting Championship "Stand your Ground VI"

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## Fort Shafter gathers to celebrate Native American Indian tribes

Story and Photo by  
STAFF SGT. VINCE OLIVER  
305th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

FORT SHAFTER — Members of the U.S. Army, Pacific (USARPAC), took time Tuesday to celebrate the accomplishments and rich cultural history of the North American Indian at Fort Shafter Flats.

Those in attendance were treated to dynamic displays of American Indian artifacts and art history, traditional music and tribal dance performances.

Americans have long recognized the contributions of American Indian tribes, but former President Bill Clinton made that recognition official in 1995 when he proclaimed the month of November as "National American Indian Heritage Month."

The term "American Indian" is used to describe the 504 recognized tribes, includ-



Lt. Col. Erik Nordberg, USARPAC STB commander, accepts a feather from Staff Sgt. Lori Coloma during the American Indian Heritage Month Observance, Tuesday.

See next week's paper for coverage of the Schofield Barracks American Indian Heritage Month celebration.

ing 197 Alaskan Eskimo groups, as well.

Tuesday's celebration recognized the fact that American Indians have served in America's military during every American conflict since World War I, despite the fact that the American Indian was not granted U.S. citizenship until 1924.

The guest speaker for the event was Dr. Susan C. Faircloth, assistant professor of Educational Leadership at Pennsylvania State University. Faircloth, a Penn State graduate, earned her master's degree in special education and a doctoral degree in Educational Administration.

Faircloth, of American Indian descent herself, gave an enlightening lecture on the contribution of the Native Americans in our

military's long history.

"There are approximately 4.3 million American Indians in the U.S. today," she said. "Throughout our history, nearly half of the American Indian tribal leaders have served in the American military."

Of the more than 12,000 American Indians who serve in the five branches of the military today, Faircloth named pride, devotion to country, warrior tradition and educational opportunity as just a few of the reasons they have chosen to serve.

Among the many members of Faircloth's family who have served and currently serve are her younger sister, Staff Sgt. Lori Coloma, who serves in the Army at USARPAC.

Following Faircloth's lecture, members of the Northwest Indian Dance Troupe performed traditional American Indian dances in authentic garb.

## 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 656-3155, 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 full captions and bylines.

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## 7 days since last fatal accident

Number represent fatal accidents as defined by Army Regulation 385-10, which is inclusive of all active component U.S. Army units and personnel.

Current as of 11/29/07.

# Why have a lock if you leave the door open?

### ARMY NEWS SERVICE News Release

WASHINGTON — We humans are very resourceful creatures. When faced with a threat we are able to create innovative, effective ways of protecting ourselves.

Back at the dawn of time, when humans were stalked by prowling predators, they learned to build a roaring fire at the mouth of the cave to keep the threat at bay. Yet, that fire needed to be strategically placed and well maintained to be useful. Let it die out and there was a good chance someone could become a midnight snack for a creature with very big teeth.

That's why it is always amazing when somebody decides that a proven security device is inconvenient and devises a way, sometimes a very resourceful way, of circumventing it.

Then and now, security devices and procedures are only effective if used — fully and correctly. In today's cyber world, we are still trying to protect the information cave and the resources inside. There are countless security procedures, such as system passwords, common access cards (CACs), that keep our information safe from the modern version of roving predators. But, some people find it too much trouble to have to re-enter a password or reinsert a

### ON CYBER PATROL



CAC when their computer has timed out.

One inventive fellow actually created a device that moved his mouse when he was away from his desk so that the screen wouldn't lock. It saved him precious seconds when he returned by not having to log back in. Now that took some creative thinking and solid engineering skills. Still, his misapplied resourcefulness opened the door to unauthorized access. The results of this kind of breach can be found on a regular basis on the local news and daily security briefings.

The use of CACs is designed to eliminate many security risks by reducing the need for multiple and ever-changing passwords.

However, they are only effective if used as designed. Left in a computer with a device that prevents the computer from locking is inviting trouble. Whether the computer is in a secure building, a forward base in the desert or in a local coffee shop, we need to keep our data secure. By making it possible for unauthorized and potentially dangerous people to access sensitive data, in the name of saving a few seconds of effort, puts personal identity, sensitive data and perhaps even the well-being of other Army personnel and their families at risk.

When somebody circumvented security devices designed to protect him or her in

prehistoric times, it usually only thinned out the gene pool. Now thwarting these devices for personal convenience creates more risk than simply being mauled by a cave bear. It opens the door to potentially catastrophic data loss and compromise that could put Soldiers' lives in danger.

Now, more than ever, we all must practice and consistently follow the rules of information security.

*(Editor's Note: The On Cyber Patrol cartoon and supporting articles are created and made available by the U.S. Army's Office of Information Assurance and Compliance, NETCOM, CIO/G6.)*

## Ribbons simply say 'thanks'

### ARMY NEWS SERVICE News Release

WASHINGTON — A new initiative to honor and say "thank you" to wounded U.S. service members began, recently, and the organizers are asking for your help.

"Yellow Ribbons for Wounded Troops" will enable anyone with access to the Internet to send a yellow ribbon, a personal "thank you" of sorts, to show wounded U.S. service members appreciation for their sacrifice and service.

The organizers, a partnership between CarePages, Inc., and the United Services Organization (USO), hope that one million yellow ribbons will be sent during the upcoming holiday season to service members convalescing in hospitals and their homes or who have recovered from their injuries.

To reach the goal of honoring these deserving men and women injured in the line of duty, the organizers need the help of military friends, family and the public. Here's what you can do:

- If you know a wounded service member, post his or her photo and their brief story at [www.carepages.com/yellow-ribbons](http://www.carepages.com/yellow-ribbons). The posting is free, easy to do, takes only minutes to complete, and appears immediately on a "Yellow Ribbon" tribute page honoring the service member.
- Click on a photo, read that person's story and

then send the person a yellow ribbon. Anyone can visit the site and send a yellow ribbon without charge.

"We have an ambitious goal, and with help from military families and the public, we believe can reach it," said Edward A. Powell, USO president and CEO. "If you know a wounded service member, post their photo and story on the Yellow Ribbons for Wounded Troops site so that everyone has the chance to read their story and thank them for their service and sacrifice.

"All those who have served and sacrificed for our country deserve our gratitude, and we would like to thank them personally," Powell said. "Yellow Ribbons for Wounded Troops" is just one element of "Operation: Show You Care," an online program by CarePages.com and the USO, available at [carepages.com/wounded-troops](http://carepages.com/wounded-troops).

"We have hundreds of thousands of service member heroes whose physical and emotional wounds can be eased or for whom an expression of gratitude would be welcomed if we would simply take a few moments to say thanks," said Eric Langshur, CEO, CarePages, Inc.

*(Editor's Note: Information from a news release contributed to this article.)*

### LIGHTNING SPIRIT

## We should make 'thank you' a spiritual habit

It should not be just a yearly observance

**CHAPLAIN (MAJ.) DAVE SHOFFNER**  
25th Infantry Division Deputy Chaplain

The holidays are my favorite time of the year. Being new to Hawaii, I am still in the adjustment phase of enjoying and marveling the constant beautiful weather. However, 80-degree weather does make it a little hard to believe Thanksgiving has passed, and the rest of the holidays are right around the corner.

Throughout the month of November, our congregation at Helemano Military Reservation (HMR) Community Chapel has looked at Thanksgiving from a variety of perspectives. Our theme for the month has been, "How does Thanksgiving help us in difficult times?"

The Apostle Paul shares his thoughts with us in his New Testament letter to the Philippians. In Chapter 4, Verses 4-7, he writes the following:

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! Let your kindness be known to all men. The Lord is near. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and petition with thanksgiving let your request be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

What struck me about this passage were the words Paul selected and then paired with the words "rejoice" and "thanksgiving." He admonishes us not to be anxious. But why would he encourage the Philippians not to be anxious? My assumption is because they were anxious.

He also reminds them to pray and make petition. On that subject, when do you pray? Sadly, most of us would confess that we pray primarily when we have a problem and are in need of God's help. "Oh God if you get me out of this mess ..." We all occasionally pray these kinds of prayers.

And what is the difference between prayers and petitions? The best I can tell, petitions are those lists of our needs that we bring to

God on a fairly regular basis. You know, "Lord, keep my kids safe, help us pay the bills and be with our Soldiers as they deploy" and the like.

As I pondered these verses, I began to see a picture of a group of people (the Philippians) who aren't that different from us. They have problems and needs, and they are anxious about the things that are going on around them. So why in the middle of this picture does Paul drop the word thanksgiving? It does not seem to fit. What does thanksgiving have to do with anxiety, problems and needs?

You see, giving thanks changes our perspective. It brings much-needed balance to our lives. It would seem that we humans tend to focus on the negative. Paul reminds us, however, that God is interested and wants to be intimately involved in our daily struggles.

It is good to stop and remember what God has done for us. Often, perspective is one of the most difficult things for us to find, for example, stopping in the midst of our worries and struggles to look at the big picture.

Sometimes, it's the little things that are precious to us that bring us back to reality. During times like these when we are faced with deployments, redeployments, permanent change of stations (PCS) moves — and a host of other changes — taking a day to stop and be thankful is a powerful tool. Thanksgiving becomes a powerful spiritual activity. It allows us to reset, to see things are not all bad, and to see that God is still at work in our world and in our lives.

It is interesting this verse opened with anxiety, problems and needs, but after Paul mentions thanksgiving, the verse closes with peace and the security that God will guard our hearts and minds. Thanksgiving is part of the process that leads us from where we are to where we want or need to be.

As we enter the holiday season, my prayer is that we will let thanksgiving be more than just a day, but rather a spiritual habit that brings a new perspective to our lives.



# Voices of Lightning: "What's one of your favorite Army sayings?"



"Freedom isn't free. Sacrifice."  
**Chief Warrant Officer Timothy Alger**  
HHC, 2nd Brigade Human Resource Technician



"Squat and hold."  
**1st Lt. Ryan Conley**  
1-21st Infantry Platoon Leader



"Break it off and make it even."  
**1st Sgt. Mark Frye**  
B Company, 307th Integration Theater Signal Battalion First Sergeant



"Lean forward in the foxhole."  
**Staff Sgt. Tracey Gates**  
A Company, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion Combat Engineer



"Cover down."  
**Spc. Jason Williams**  
325th Brigade Support Battalion Supply Specialist



Staff Sgt. Crista Yazzie | U.S. Army, Pacific, Public Affairs

## Achieving coveted SAMC membership

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — From left to right, Master Sgt. Jennifer Taylor, Staff Sgt. April Bradley, Staff Sgt. Torrey Childs and Staff Sgt. Bryan White pose for a keepsake photo after being inducted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy

Club (SAMC), Wednesday, here at the Nehelani.

The SAMC was established in 1986 in honor of the most decorated Soldier in U.S. history, Staff Sgt. Audie Leon Murphy, who is considered to be the

last great American war hero.

In general, induction and membership in the SAMC is a highly coveted honor reserved for those whose leadership achievements and performance merit special recognition.

# BCTC simulations help transform USARPAC

**MAJ. JOHN J. BAILER JR.**

U.S. Army, Pacific, Training and Exercises

The U.S. Army, Pacific, Operational Command Post (OCP) will begin training during the next month on combat operations at the Battle Command Training Center (BCTC), Schofield Barracks. The OCP will use lessons learned and tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) captured during the 25th Infantry Division's recent deployment to Iraq, to aid in the training.

"It's important to learn the right lessons," said Pat Chang, BCTC site manager. "The situation over there is always changing; we don't want to relive our past mistakes. This is why our 'reach back' capability is so important. We have the technology to directly communicate with units in Iraq and Afghanistan and exploit their successes; it is one of our greatest assets."

The state of the art, multimillion dollar Battle Command Training Center trains several thousand Soldiers yearly in preparation for combat operations. Despite the challenge of size and funding, the Schofield Barracks BCTC continues to train units with the latest technology available, aiding USARPAC in becoming an effective fighting force.

Technology, along with funding, is one of the main driving

factors allowing units to become more proficient at their military occupational specialty. One of the latest technological advances is the Engagement Skills Trainer 2000 Escalation of Force. Instead of using canned data, this virtual simulation tool forces Soldiers to think and adapt their fighting skills to a "free-thinking" computer that reacts to Soldiers' decisions.

Additionally, the BCTC is receiving the (High Mobility Multi-Purpose Wheeled Vehicle) Egress Assistance Trainer, expected at the end of November. HEAT is used as a live pre-deployment training requirement for units conducting rollover drills.

"With this new technology, I think we can prevent accidents from happening," said Manny Sharp, a BCTC simulation technician. "I think we can save lives by preparing our Soldiers with the latest TTPs from the field."

By applying the lessons learned through the "reach back" process, along with new technology, units can get ahead of the enemy's decision-making cycle.

"I think we're in the business of saving lives," said Don Bennett, director of the BCTC. "By applying previous experience learned in Iraq, with the current training aids hot off the shelves, we're getting ahead of the game."

# New PT regimen brings dual benefits to pregnant Soldiers in 180 days

**CHRIS RASMUSSEN**

Army News Service

FORT JACKSON, S.C. — Fort Jackson has implemented a new physical training program for pregnant Soldiers. The program is designed to bring them back to their mission as quickly as possible, as well as increase the health benefits for mother and child.

The Pregnancy/Postpartum Physical Training program, which began last month, uses specific exercises and weekly educational classes to prepare Soldiers to pass an Army Physical Fitness Test 180 days after giving birth.

"In the past, they would show up for PT with the rest of their unit and do it on their own," said Maj. David Price, Victory Support Battalion S-3, who was tasked with overseeing the program. "But many would end up not doing the exercises properly, or they would just go home."

The mandatory program was developed by the Army's U.S. Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine. Its goal is to improve force readiness by providing a safe, effective and standardized program led by

instructors in pregnancy and postpartum fitness.

"This program benefits not only the Soldier's health, before and after delivery, but it has also proven to reduce difficulties that can occur during the pregnancy," said Command Sgt. Maj. Brian Carlson, post command sergeant major.

"From a readiness viewpoint, the Pregnancy/Postpartum Physical Training Program assists leaders with returning our Soldiers back to work physically ready to accomplish their mission, in the shortest time possible without increasing risk to the Soldier or child," he said.

Several Fort Jackson Soldiers were certified in training pregnant and postpartum women and to act as exercise leaders. As exercise leaders, they lead and monitor the sessions and attendance. Participants are broken into two groups, prenatal and postpartum.

"They are evaluated by their doctor to make sure they are not a high-risk pregnancy," Price said. "Their doctor also lets them know what they are capable of doing."

Exercises during the pregnancy, which are conducted three to five times a week, concentrate on centering, strengthening, flexibility, cardiovascular and relaxation and stress management. Once the Soldier delivers her child, she is given four to six weeks of convalescent leave. Then, upon returning to duty, she is automatically enrolled in the postpartum program.

The Soldier is released from the program when she can pass a normal PT test, Price said.

*(Editor's Note: Chris Rasmussen writes for the Fort Jackson Leader, South Carolina.)*

# Sappers: Repeated training prepares troops for combat

CONTINUED FROM A-1

basic training and previous units, and now they are applying it to their teams and squads.

"They are getting to work with the people they are going to be with in combat, and they are learning each other," he added.

Training this day focused on counter-mobility tactics. These tactics are designed to deny the enemy use of the road. Soldiers do this by detonating road craters, which create roadblocks to prevent enemy movement or disrupt supply routes, among other uses.

To form craters, the Soldiers used shape charge and cratering charges with a net weight of 140 and 160 pounds.

Shape charges are explosives used to blow a hole in the ground about six to 12-feet deep, but generally less than two feet wide. The hole is then used for crater charges as it is packed with additional C-4 explosives. When the crater charge is detonated, it makes a large crater in the road to make the road impassable.

"It was important that these Soldiers brush up on the things they learned from basic and AIT [Advanced Individual Training]," Hurlocker said. "The more training they get, the more proficient they are at the task at hand. This particular task today is pretty easy, but when you throw in things that will make the task more difficult like indirect fire, night, confusion on the battlefield, and battlefield



Above — An explosion from a cratering charge provides a plume of smoke during explosives training at Area X, Schofield Barracks, recently.

Right — A Soldier with the 95th Sapper Company feeds a detonation cord through a shape charge.

stress, it becomes pretty difficult."

Not only were Soldiers getting a refresher course, they were also getting to know each other as coworkers and friends.

"Our company just stood up July tenth of this year, and out of all of these Soldiers, around forty percent haven't deployed, yet," Hurlocker said. "I think what makes the 95th Sapper Company so successful is

that these guys started out as a small unit. As a brand new unit, these Soldiers became a lot closer to each other and it [this training] has definitely improved the spirit and the morale of these Soldiers."

Hurlocker said the company plans to execute more training in the near future, such as close-quarter marksmanship, more advanced and more expedient dem-



olitions, and room breaching.

"I was really happy with today's training. I learned a lot," said Pvt. 2 Anthony Vaughan, 95th Sapper Co., combat engineer. "I think it really helps us prepare for what we are going to do when we deploy, and it was fun. I'm hoping that we get to do more training like this, especially with demolitions."

# Lights: Festivities get going

CONTINUED FROM A-1

"We certainly hold in our hearts and prayers the servicemen and women who are away from their families. They will miss [their families], but they want us to celebrate this holiday with gusto. It is part of our freedoms to do so," Brown said.

"Look behind you, it's Santa Claus!" rang a voice from overhead. Into the circle marched a parade of candy-tossing elves, the Farrington High School band, and a fire truck carrying the North Pole's most famous resident.

The parade circled to a lit gazebo, where children took the opportunity to tell Santa Claus if they were naughty or nice and maybe throw in a wish or two for a special gift.

Of course, no party would be complete without holiday cookies and cakes.

"The holiday season is officially opened," Brown said.

# News Briefs

Send news announcements for Soldiers and civilian employees to [community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com](mailto:community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com).

## 30 / Today

**BOSS Meeting** – The next installation Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS) meeting will be held at the Tropics, Schofield Barracks, Nov. 30, at 2 p.m. All primary representatives or alternates are required to attend.

BOSS meetings are open to all BOSS unit representatives, single Soldiers and all authorized Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) patrons. Call 655-8169.

## December

### 3 / Monday

**Garrison Town Hall** – Join Col. Matthew Margotta, commander, U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii, for a Workforce Town Hall meeting Dec. 3 or Dec. 4. Three sessions have been scheduled: two sessions will be held Dec. 3 at Sgt. Smith Theater, Schofield Barracks, 10:30-11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.-3 p.m.; and one session will be held Dec. 4 at Richardson Theater, Fort Shafter, 1-2 p.m.

All Garrison employees are encouraged to attend.

**Advisory Council Meeting** – The next Schofield Barracks PX/Commissary/Nehelani Advisory Council Meeting will be held Dec. 3, 10:15-11:15 a.m., at the Small Post Conference Room.

This bimonthly forum of representatives allows the council and patrons to exchange ideas and information. Call Melvin Wright at 655-0497.

**Manpower and Force Management** – A Manpower and Force Management course is scheduled for Dec. 3-14 at the CPAC Training Facility, Building T-127, Fort Shafter. To register, fax an approved DD Form 1556 to the course manager at 438-2378.

### 6 / Thursday

**2-25th Change of Command** – The change of command ceremony for 2-25th Aviation Regiment will be held at Sills Field, Schofield Barracks, Dec. 6, at 10 a.m. Lt. Col. Frank Tate will pass the colors to Lt. Col. David Francis.

## Ongoing

**Recovered Property** – The Provost Marshal Office has recovered a bicycle and a scooter. Owners cannot be identified because these bicycles were not previously registered on post or with any other agency.

Other recovered items include cellular phones, keys, jewelry, sporting goods and more. To make arrangements to identify any items that may have been recovered, call 655-8255.

**Law School for Officers** – The Office of the Judge Advocate General is accepting applications for the Army's Funded Legal Education Program. Under this program, the Army projects sending up to 25 active duty commissioned officers (second lieutenant through captain) to law school at government expense, if funding permits.

Selected officers will attend law school beginning the fall of 2008 and will remain on active duty while attending law school. Interested officers should review Chapter 14, AR 27-1 (Judge Advocate General's Funded Legal Education Program) to determine eligibility, and contact their local Staff Judge Advocate for more information.

**CIF Appointments** – All personnel are required to make an appointment for all initial issues and turn-ins. Partial turn-ins and direct exchanges can be conducted during normal turn-in hours, 7-10:30 a.m., daily, except for Thursdays from 7-11 a.m., when the Central Issue Facility is closed.

Partial issues, additional issues and direct exchanges can be conducted during normal issue hours, from noon-3:30 p.m. Call 655-9876.

**Passport Express** – If for any

# Extra vehicles require patience at gates

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

Drivers traveling around Schofield Barracks and Wheeler Army Air Field have noticed an increase in traffic and commute times this week. Contrary to public speculation about gate closures and increased security inspections, however, the garrison has not imposed any restrictions on gate access.

Instead, the garrison has been working during the past few months to ease traffic flow by setting up electronic displays that announce gate hours; positioning traffic control personnel at several gates to assist with vehicle flow; and communicating with local police and the Hawaii Department of Transportation.

Traffic during peak hours, rainy weather, traffic accidents and the increase in cars on post are several of the key factors in the extra drive time this week. During the past year, there have been fewer drivers on post due to the deployment of many of the 25th Infantry Division Soldiers. Now that these Soldiers have returned, the number of drivers is getting back to normal.

According to the Directorate of Emergency Services (DES), this is a normal chain of events, and there's always a transition period as drivers get reacquainted with gate hours and traffic patterns.

"We've opened up all of the main gates at Schofield, but drivers still need to take into account the increase in cars and the normal security procedures – such as the mandatory one hundred percent ID card check – when they decide what time to leave the house," said



Kyle Ford | U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii, Public Affairs

Motorists enter Wheeler Army Air Field through Kunia Gate, which like Macomb Gate at Schofield Barracks, is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Temporary passes are provided at Lyman Gate for motorists without proper vehicle decals and identification.

Fred Makinney, operations officer, DES.

"There are a lot of drivers on Hawaii's roads, and unfortunately most of us – civilian and military alike – are on the road during the same peak hours," Makinney added. "We're asking for people's patience during this adjustment period."

Soldiers and civilians are encouraged to carpool, take alternate routes, and/or change commute or work schedules whenever possible. Most of the heavy traffic occurs dur-

ing the morning hours, from 6 a.m. to around 9 a.m. Vehicles without military decals should enter Schofield through Lyman Gate (visitor's gate on Kunia Road) to avoid causing delays at other gates.

"No one likes to wait in traffic, and we understand that," Makinney said. "We've taken some proactive steps, such as opening McNair Gate in October, to help ease traffic congestion. We're going to continue to evaluate traffic pat-

terns and adjust them as needed.

"Additionally, we ask those drivers commuting from the North Shore to be aware that if they encounter long lines at McNair Gate they can move on to Macomb Gate. Drivers will be surprised to find a much shorter line there," Makinney said.

For more information on gate hours for any of the Army installations in Hawaii, visit: <http://www.25idl.army.mil/communityimpactupdates/index.asp>.

# Bronco Inn tops Thanksgiving Day dinners

Soldiers' efforts made holiday event a success

Story and Photo by  
**KYLE FORD**  
Staff Writer

The Bronco Inn, also known as the F-Quad dining facility, earned first place as the Installation Best Decorated Thanksgiving Day Dining Facility (DFAC), Nov. 22, with its "Winter Wonderland" theme.

Visitors to the Bronco Inn encountered a snow-covered forest upon arriving to the building. Inside they found ice sculptures, massive cornucopias, decorated cakes and a life-sized sculpture of ice skaters. Even a full-sized beverage bar made from ice captivated spectators.

Unit leaders in dress uniforms served turkey, roast beef, ham and lobster to Soldiers and family members, also dressed for the occasion, while a five-piece brass band played for the enjoyment of all.

"These events are important because they bring up morale for Soldiers, especially single Soldiers or those who don't have the time or resources to spend the holiday with their families," said Command Sgt. Maj. Brian Briggs, 3-4th Cavalry Regiment, who brought his family to the dining facility. "It gives them a little taste of home."

The dining facility manager was exceptionally proud of her troops.

"As a leader, I would truly like to thank my junior Soldiers, the true workers," said Sgt. 1st Class Nicole Smith, F-Quad DFAC manager, for their dedication and culinary skills, which shows they are the best



Sgt. 1st Class Derrick Thomas, F-Quad assistant dining facility manager, and Sgt. 1st Class Nicole Smith, F-Quad dining facility manager, touch up the cornucopia. The F-Quad Dining Facility won, the Thanksgiving Day dining facilities competition with their "Winter Wonderland" theme.

at what they do."

In addition to the Soldiers who work at the DFAC, members of the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program, from the 8th Theater Sustainment Command, helped with the set-up.

"It's amazing what they did here ... and to think what they did to set up this feast in such a professional manner," added Briggs.

## Overall Winners

- 1st Place (large garrison), F Quad DFAC, Schofield Barracks
- 1st Place (small garrison), Paradise Haven, Fort Shafter

## Best Centerpieces Display

- 1st Place, F Quad's "Ice Skaters"
- 2nd Place, "Statue of Liberty," Fort Shafter
- 3rd Place, K Quad's "Gingerbread House," Schofield
- Honorable Mention, Wheeler Army Air Field's "Indian Garden"

# 'Grill Sergeants' makes debut on Pentagon Channel

Story and Photo by  
**MIKE STRASSER**  
Army News Service

FORT LEE, Va. — Under the hot lights of the television studio, Sgt. 1st Class Brad Turner was the featured chef for the taping of a new Pentagon Channel lifestyle program called "The Grill Sergeants," which will debut later this fall.

In between shoots at the Army Center of Excellence, Subsistence (ACES), Turner said it was an honor to be chosen as the show's first host.

"I have been humbled by the amount of work from a lot of great people here and the camaraderie among everyone putting this show together," said Turner.

Brian Natwick, Pentagon Channel general manager, said the concept for the show originated to expand the channel's lifestyles programming. Having already filmed an exercise show called, "Fit for Duty," Natwick said a cooking show would fit well into the lineup.

"In lifestyle programming, the goal was to put an emphasis on readiness," said Natwick. "The first show focused on physical fitness, and the new show highlights healthy eating. The two shows meld well in providing information on how to stay fit and healthy so that our military members can continue on with their mission."

Thursday's taping was all about the family dining experience. Segments included "Saving Private Dining: Reviving the Art of Eating Together," and "For the Love of Family Favs ... Bringing the Family Closer."

"It's important to emphasize family cook-

**SEE GRILL, A-9**

## News Briefs

From A-6

reason, Soldiers or their family members need to acquire a passport quickly, they can download an application from [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov). After completing the form, individuals should make an appointment with the Passport Agency Office, by contacting Howard Josephs at 529-6565.

Normally, within three business days, the agency can rush/expedite passports if individuals bring along required documents.

Voter registration cards or Army discharge papers are not sufficient as proof of citizenship. For more details, contact Niles Haneshiro in G-8 (Directorate of Resource Management) at 656-3371.

**Vehicle Registration** — The Schofield Barracks Vehicle Registration office at the Leilehua Golf Course Road, Building 6508, will be issuing government ID cards to (1) family members of a current DA civilian employee (2) retired Department of the Army (DA) civilian employees and (3) family members of retired DA civilian employees.

Spouses will need to present their marriage certificate and be escorted by their sponsor with a Common Access Card. Additional family members and children will need to present their birth certificate.

DA civilian retirees will need to present their SF 50 or retiree ID card. Call Ron Vallente at 655-1620 for more information.

**Green to Gold** — The Army Green to Gold Program is seeking qualified enlisted Soldiers who are interested in attaining their commission while completing their baccalaureate or master's degree. A program briefing is held the last Wednesday of every month at the Schofield Barracks and Tripler Education Center.

The current application window will be open until April 1, 2008. For more information, visit the Green to Gold Web site at [www.goarmy.com/rotc/enlisted\\_soldiers.jsp](http://www.goarmy.com/rotc/enlisted_soldiers.jsp). Call the University of Hawaii Army ROTC Warrior Battalion at 956-7766, or e-mail [gbt@hawaii.edu](mailto:gbt@hawaii.edu).

**Military Channel** — This cable network channel features "Around the Services," a half-hour news program from the Department of Defense that takes viewers directly to news conferences and press briefings, and allows members of the armed forces, veterans, family members and loved ones to stay informed regarding current military affairs.

Shows air weekdays at 4 p.m.

## Grill

From A-8

ing, and just families, period," said Turner. "On this show, you'll hear me say, 'Share your love, share your food. And that's because the military family moves at such a high tempo. Mothers, fathers, even grandparents are working and deploying, and when you come back, you need that re-connection time. What better time to connect than what you do at least three times a day, and that's eat. Even if it's over bacon and eggs, it's important to emphasize family-building activities."

While the focus was on family fare that day, other episodes feature a variety of segments like a 20-minute pasta show and "Green Day," putting green vegetables on display.

Over the course of the five-day filming, other chefs got in the act, to include Sgt. Joshua Spiess, enlisted aide, and Staff Sgt. Martina Warren of ACES.

"What better time to connect than what you do at least three times a day, and that's eat."

*Sgt. 1st Class Brad Turner  
'Grill Sergeants' featured chef*

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Robert Sparks, ACES culinary division chief, made his screen debut as a guest taster and was impressed with the magnitude of the production.

Considering a week earlier, the production studio was simply a supply room, the small crew did

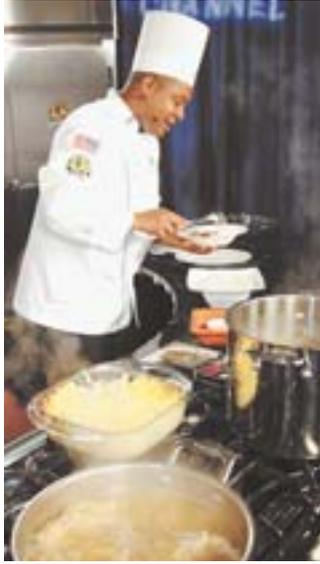
incredible work in a short time, Sparks said.

"It's amazing how they've transitioned all that into a studio worthy of any Food Network show," said Sparks. "All I can say is watch out Emeril and watch out Rachael Ray. Here comes 'The Grill Sergeants.'"

Shooting 12 episodes in less than a week, Turner was considerably fatigued. But as a military chef, he said that any opportunity to highlight the military culinarians is time well spent.

"It's groundbreaking for food service to be placed in this kind of spotlight," said Turner. "With the amount of chefs in the military, both active and retired, this really validates the excellence in the food service program."

*(Editor's Note: Mike Strasser writes for the Fort Lee Traveller.)*



Above — With the cameras rolling, Sgt. 1st Class Brad Turner provides entertaining commentary throughout the filming of "The Grill Sergeants," a Pentagon Channel cooking program taped at Fort Lee. The series will run later this year.

Left — With the cameras rolling, Sgt. 1st Class Brad Turner plates up his culinary creations during the taping of the Pentagon Channel lifestyle program called, "The Grill Sergeants."

# Blood donation always important

Tripler Army Medical Center hopes blood donors continue to give throughout holidays

Story and Photos by  
**MOLLY HAYDEN**  
Staff Writer

PEARL HARBOR — All branches of the military, civilian Department of Defense employees, and members of the military ohana recently stepped up to donate blood for a good cause since donating blood serves the same purpose, whatever the armed forces branch — to help support military personnel here in the United States and overseas.

Julia Michael, medical assistant, donated for the first time. Her eyes held a semi-worried look until the procedure was complete.

"That was a simple process," said Michael, smiling. "I expected it to be a lot harder than that."

Michael explained she had a great desire to help the men and women of the armed forces and that was the main reason she donated.

"Overall, in the U.S., the blood shortage is usually felt during the holiday season as potential donors take their vacations," said Lt. Col. Emmett Gourdine, chief, Blood Bank Services, Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC.)

"The military is significantly affected because we provide blood products to those serving in Iraq and Afghanistan," he explained.



Spc. Andrew Harris assists Hospital Corpsman 3 Nicole West, as she donates blood for members of the armed forces. Blood drives are taking place all over the island this holiday season to supply donations for the military personnel here and overseas.

The 22 Department of Defense (DoD) Blood Donor Centers do their part by teaming up and conducting large drives at various military installations. In January 2008, 11 DoD centers will participate in a week-long blood drive at the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, to recruit more than 4,000 potential donors.

Locally, TAMC stepped up its collection efforts at posts on Oahu to ensure it has sufficient blood on the island to help with the war effort.

"With so many Soldiers deploying and re-deploying, the blood shortage is quite prevalent," said Eric Kimura, Blood Donor Center technical supervisor. "It is in these times we rely on spouses and other members of the military ohana to donate."

Because blood can be needed at any time, it must be collected regularly from the four different blood groups: A, B, AB, and O. Nobody expects to need blood, but if it is not available when the need arises, the consequences can be deadly for patients of all ages, for many reasons, from cancer treatments to surgery to battlefield injuries.

Although those who donate can tell potential donors there is no better feeling than saving a life, only about five percent of eligible donors actually donate, according to Life Force, a team of men and women committed to saving lives by ensuring blood is available.

Kimura hopes local ohana continue to replenish supplies.

"Anyone who is able to donate would be doing a great service to the men and woman who constantly serve you," said Kimura.

# DoD continues efforts to enroll marrow donors

**TRICARE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY**  
News Release

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — Every 15 minutes someone in the United States is diagnosed with a medical condition that requires treatment with bone marrow or a blood stem cell transplant.

Every day more than 6,000 men, women and children around the world search the National Donor Program Registry for a life-saving donor. However, thousands of lives are lost because a match is never found.

"Each year more than 35,000 people in the United States are diagnosed with leukemia, lymphoma, aplastic anemia [marrow failure], and other life-threatening blood disorders. Seventy-five percent of patients in need of a marrow transplant cannot find a match within their own family," said Army Maj. Gen. Elder Granger, deputy director, Tricare Management Activity.

November is National Marrow Awareness Month, and the C.W. Bill Young/Department of Defense (DoD) Marrow Donor Program, named for Congressman C.W. Bill Young who initiated and supported its development, is working hard to provide hope and help to patients waiting to find a marrow donor. The C.W. Young Donor Program is only for military

On The  
**WEB**

Learn more about the C.W. Young Donor Program, walk-in locations or walk-in registration at [www.dodmarrow.org](http://www.dodmarrow.org).

donors.

The program works in conjunction with the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP), which brings donors together, within the U.S. and from across the world, in a confidential and secure data search system.

"Humanitarian support is a part of our commitment and uniformed service members can help save lives by enrolling in the National Donor Program Registry," said Granger.

In addition to the NMDP in the U.S., there are numerous organizations around the world that share this database, working together to find matches for any individual requiring a transplant.

To be eligible to join the registry through the DoD program you must meet the following criteria:

- Age 18 to 60 and in good health
- Active duty military, Coast Guard, National Guard or Reservist
- Immediate family member of an active duty service member
- A DoD civilian employee

# Flag: Battle flag carried to numerous forward deployed areas

CONTINUED FROM A-1

Hoe said he believed his son knew and understood his words.

Lt. Col. Thomas Mackey, commander, 2-14 Cav., asked Hoe for permission to bring the battle flag to Iraq so the Soldiers would always feel the warrior spirit attached to it.

"On behalf of the warriors of 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry, we accept the flag and the legacy that comes with it," Mackey said. "We will bring honor to this battle flag in Iraq."

The ceremony, held in the 1st Lt. Nainoa K. Hoe Battle Command Training Center, gave Hoe a chance to speak to the leadership of the 2-14th Cav. about the history of the battle flag and what it means to him that the unit will carry it to Iraq.

"At Nainoa's memorial in Mosul, a small, worn American flag was displayed next to his dog tags, boots, rifle, bayonet and helmet," he said. "Nainoa carried that flag with him on patrol in

the mean streets of eastern Mosul. Today you'll hear the story of that beloved flag, and we will become a part of its legacy.

"It is a flag that has taken on a life of its own in the jungles of Vietnam with the recon platoon of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, to Iraq this past Thanksgiving weekend," Allen Hoe continued, "and many stops in-between."

This special flag is more than just an assembly of cloth material put together with needle and thread, he added. The flag has been to Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan. It has also been carried by the Marine Corps, Air Force and Navy during its 40-year history.

After talking to the group, Hoe passed the battle flag around the room, allowing each Strykehorse to hold the flag before passing it on to the next Soldier.

"All the warriors who have had a connection to this legacy would be honored



Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Cook looks at the battleflag while listening to a little history from Allen Hoe, who purchased the flag 40 years ago in Vietnam. Soldiers of 2nd Squadron, 14th U.S. Cavalry Regiment, will take the flag to Iraq.

if you hold it for a moment and feel its spirit and pass on some of your own spirit," he said.

Admiral Timothy J. Keating, chief of the U.S. Pacific Command, was also on hand to witness the ceremony. He joined Maj. Gen. Benjamin R. Mixon, commanding general, 25th Infantry Division, and Col. Todd McCaffrey, commander, 2SBCT, as the official party.

On the three-year anniversary of 1st Lt. Nainoa's death, the squadron will display the flag in Iraq in a special ceremony to honor all Soldiers who died under its banner.

"At the end of the day, warriors fight for each other, and our nation benefits," Hoe said. "The last full measure is something that has to be cherished, something that is most sacred, trusted to each of you, so our family can continue to enjoy freedom and liberty, which has been the legacy of our warriors for many generations. I know his spirit is here with us in this sacred place that bears his name."

# PAU HANA

## 'Gifts from the Homefront' give deployed some due recognition

ARMY & AIR FORCE EXCHANGE SERVICE  
News Release

DALLAS – When issuing suggested holiday mailing deadlines for military care packages, the U.S. Postal Service made sure to highlight that "all packages and mail must be addressed to individual service members, as required by U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) regulations."

Since the DoD suspended mail addressed to "any service member" nearly six years ago, individuals and organizations back home, as well as troops deployed to theater, have devised a variety of cumbersome, and sometimes potentially dangerous, methods to circumvent security and transportation concerns that originally led to the cancellation of the program.

Noting the great lengths being taken, including posting the full name and rotation dates of Soldiers, Airmen, Marines and Sailors to the Internet, or sending enough feminine and oral hygiene products to meet the needs of an entire battalion to the attention of one person, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) began working to create a program that would allow any American to safely send support to "any service member."

The resulting "Gifts from the Homefront" program makes it possible for anyone to leverage services and products already "on the ground" and available at military exchanges throughout Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom through lightweight gift certificates that can be routed to "any service member," without compromising safety or creating additional demands on the military postal system.

Some four years after the launch of Gifts from the Homefront, in March 2003, the American public has sent 92,240 "BX/PX" gift certificates totaling nearly \$2 million.

"The outpouring of support has been very encouraging," said AAFES' Senior Enlisted Advisor Chief Master Sgt. Bryan Eaton. "It's understandable as the effort is a win/win for all involved; the sender saves money on postage and doesn't need a direct point of contact while the recipients can go into an exchange and redeem the gift certificate for exactly what they need."

Gifts from the Homefront can be sent to deployed troops by logging on to www.aafes.org or calling 1-877-770-4438 toll free. From there, the gift certificates are sent to individual service members (designated by the purchaser) or distributed to "any service member" through the American Red Cross, Coalition to Salute America's Heroes, Fisher House, Operation Homefront, Operation Interdependence, the USO, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society or Air Force Aid Society.

Gifts from the Homefront gift certificates can be redeemed at exchange facilities worldwide. Recent reports indicate troops shopping their contingency exchanges are reaching for movies, snacks, Military Exchange Global prepaid phone cards and more.

About AAFES. The Army & Air Force Exchange Service is a joint command of the Army and Air Force, directed by a board of directors who are responsible to the Secretaries of the Army and Air Force through service chiefs of staff. AAFES has a dual mission: 1) providing authorized patrons with articles of merchandise and services and 2) generating nonappropriated fund earnings as a supplemental source of funding for military Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) programs.



Counterclockwise, from top — USAG-HI leads the procession of Fort Shafter Holiday Lane cards with its "No Ka Oi" bulb. Five other USAG-Oahu South organizations participated: Special Troops Battalion, U.S. Army, Pacific; Headquarters Headquarters Detachment; the 94th AAMDC, which snagged first place; the 8th Theater Sustainment Command; and the 196th Infantry Brigade.

Cards are displayed along Chapel Field and will be on display through Jan. 4, 2008.



## Shafter, Schofield organizations deliver season's greetings to all who enter posts

Story and Photos by  
SPC. KYNDAL HERNANDEZ  
8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER – Army units and organizations kicked off the holiday season by creating 8-foot greeting cards for the annual Holiday Card Lane here at Fort Shafter and Schofield Barracks.

All units, staff offices and organizations within the Oahu North and South communities were encouraged to participate, and many responded.

At Fort Shafter, units placed completed artwork along roadways entering the main gate during the holiday season by creating 8-foot greeting cards for the annual Holiday Card Lane here at Fort Shafter and Schofield Barracks.

"We have a lot of fun with this," said Sgt. Edward Ramey, one of several judges at Fort Shafter. "It is a good thing for the Soldiers to get involved in ... to create some camaraderie and fun unit competition for the holidays."

Per the rules, cards consist of at least one, but no more than two, 4-by-8 foot sheets of plywood, prepared in such a manner that they open as a holiday card.

Fort Shafter's entries were judged Tuesday, and units received recognition Wednesday at the Oahu South Community Holiday Concert and Tree-Lighting Ceremony at historic Palm Circle. Winners received a certificate and a coin from Lt. Gen. John M. Brown III, commanding general, U.S. Army, Pacific (USARPAC).

Six units from Fort Shafter participated this year. Their cards were judged on creativity, appearance and detailed freehand artwork.

The 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command earned first place honors, while the 8th Theater Sustainment Command and USARPAC took second and third place honors, respectively.

The entries at Schofield Barracks will be judged Dec. 7, and winners there will be recognized at the Oahu North Community Tree-Lighting Ceremony scheduled Dec. 12.

"The units that did participate [at Fort Shafter] this year did a great job," said Sgt. 1st Class Donovan Lazarus,

operations noncommissioned officer with U.S. Army Garrison, Oahu. "Christmas is a major holiday, and this event helps the community spirit. This is how units on the installations send their good wishes and holiday greetings to the community, just like a greeting card you send to your family."

Installations will display the cards until Jan. 4.



## Santa's elves fill calendar with many to do's through December

Compiled by  
CHRISTINA DOUGLAS  
Staff Writer

It's official, Christmas music has taken over radio stations and shopping stores everywhere, filling the air with glee. Yes folks, the holiday season has arrived. Along with the holidays, come festivities galore. Don't miss out; join in on this season's fun at an event near you.

### Parading through town ...

**Wahiawa Parade** – The Wahiawa Community and Business Association's Santa Parade will kick off the holiday season, Nov. 30, starting from Ka'ala Elementary School at 6:30 p.m. This lighted parade down California Avenue concludes at the Wahiawa Shopping Center for a free holiday event. Activities begin at 4 p.m. with Xtreme Fun rides. Live entertainment starts

at 6 p.m. and Santa arrives at 7 p.m. Call 262-0687.

**Mililani Christmas Parade** – The Mililani Christmas Parade will be held Dec. 1, 9-10 a.m. The parade will begin at the Mililani Town Center near Taco Bell, proceed down to Lanikuhana Avenue and Meheula Parkway, and then move on to Kuahealani and Moenamanu streets. Call 737-4676, extension 26, for more information.

**Waipahu Christmas Parade** – Celebrate the holidays at the annual Waipahu Christmas Parade and Fair, Dec. 8. The parade will start at 3 p.m. from Waipahu District Park, and finish around 4 p.m. at the Waipahu Town Center.

From 4-7 p.m. there will be a Christmas carnival, a petting zoo and a visit with Santa. E-mail rosehugmebears@hawaii.rr.com for more

information.

**Haleiwa Christmas Parade** – Enjoy the Christmas lights and sounds of Historic Haleiwa Town at North Shore for the North Shore Chamber of Commerce's annual Christmas Parade, Dec. 14, 6 p.m. The parade begins at Weed Circle roundabout and travels through Haleiwa Town, ending at Haleiwa Beach Park. Call 637-4558.

### On base activities ...

**Holiday Fun Fest** – Get in the holiday spirit at the Aliamanu Military Reservation (AMR) Community Center, Nov. 30, 3-8 p.m. Enjoy food, fun, games, contests, holiday crafts, give-a-ways and a visit from Santa. Bring your camera for a memorable shot. A holiday movie will be shown to highlight

the evening, and hot dogs and popcorn will be provided to the first 250 entrants. Admission is free and open to the AMR, Tripler and Fort Shafter community residents. Call 655-0111/0112 to register.

### SEE HOLIDAY TO DO'S, B-7





**30 / Today**

**Fiddler on the Roof** – Army Community Theater presents “Fiddler on the Roof,” starring Shari Lynn and Shawna Masuds, at Richardson Theatre, Fort Shafter, Nov. 30 & Dec. 1, at 7:30 p.m.

Ticket prices are \$20 for adults, \$15 for children (under 12). Tickets are available online at [www.squareone.org/ACT/tickets.html](http://www.squareone.org/ACT/tickets.html) or at the box office. Call 438-4480.

**Hail and Farewell Fall Festival** – Join the Hail and Farewell Fall Festival, Nov. 30, 7-9:30 p.m., at the Schofield Teen Center. This social is in honor of teens arriving and leaving Hawaii.

Cost is \$3 for members, \$4 for non-members and \$5 for guests. The Schofield Teen Center is located at 556 Heard Ave. Call 655-0451.

**Army Digital Photography Contest** – Interested in competing against the best photographers in the Army? Categories include people, place, object and military life. Entry deadline is Nov. 30. Enter online with an Army Knowledge Online (AKO) account at [artscrafts.fmwr.army.mil](http://artscrafts.fmwr.army.mil). Call 655-4202.

**December**

**2 / Sunday**

**Military Child Education Coalition** – Join “Tell Me a Story,” featuring “Mercedes and the Chocolate Pilot” by Margot Theis Raven, Dec. 2, 3 p.m., at the Kalakaua Community Center, Schofield Barracks. Maj. Gen. Benjamin R. Mixon, commander, 25th Infantry Division, will be the guest reader.

For reservations, call 384-9183 or e-mail [schofieldparent2parent@yahoo.com](mailto:schofieldparent2parent@yahoo.com).

**4 / Tuesday**

**Thrift Shop \$5 Bag Sale** – The last \$5 Bag Sale for 2007 will be held Dec. 4, 9 a.m.–1 p.m., at the Fort Shafter Thrift Shop. Soldiers E-4 and below get one bag free. Browse the Thrift Shop for your holiday decor. Normal business hours are Tuesday and Friday, 9 a.m.–1 p.m., and consignment hours are 9–10:30 a.m.

Donations and volunteers are always welcome. The Thrift Shop is the main fundraising venue for the Fort Shafter Hui'o



Courtesy Hawaiian Waters Adventure Park

**Making a splash**

Patrons enjoy the rides at Hawaiian Waters Adventure Park. Hawaiian Waters features a variety of unique water rides and attractions for all ages. Weekday admission is \$35.99 for ages 12 and up and \$25.99 for children ages 11 and under, with discounts available for military, kamaaina, groups and seniors. Annual passes are available. Visit [www.hawaiianwaters.com](http://www.hawaiianwaters.com) or call 674-9283.

Wahine Spouses club. All profits are donated to charities and scholarships in the military and local community. Call 842-1074 or visit Building 342, Pierce St.

**6 / Thursday**

**AFE Comedy Show at the Tropics** – Armed Forces Entertainment (AFE) presents “Spontaneous Combustion” at the Tropics, Schofield Barracks, Dec. 6, at 7 p.m. This seasoned comedy troupe is bringing back the unrehearsed improv skits that keep audiences rolling.

From the producers of “Death for Dinner” comes a hilarious new show featuring six talented performers. Get ready to spontaneously combust. Admission is free. Call 655-0002/5697.

**Ongoing**

**Information, Ticketing and Registration** – Looking for tickets to area attractions? Information Ticketing and Registration

(ITR) has your tickets to paradise when you visit offices located on Schofield Barracks and Fort Shafter. A variety of tickets to luaus, cruises, whale watching adventures, Hawaiian Waters Adventure Park, Sea Life Park, movie tickets, interisland packages and much more are available for service members, Department of Defense (DoD) civilians and family members.

Fall specials include Sea Life Park Luau with admission discounts until Dec. 15 and Cirque Hawaii free upgrades on seats until Dec. 31.

Call the Schofield Barracks ITR (655-9971), the Fort Shafter ITR (438-1985), or log onto [www.mwrarmyhawaii.com](http://www.mwrarmyhawaii.com).

**SKIES Driver Education** – Learn to drive with School of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills (SKIES) at Valentine's Driving School, Schofield Barracks. This session is taught by qualified instructors and includes 32 hours of classroom instruction and six hours of behind-the-wheel instruction.

Wahiawa District Park Hale Koa meeting room. Rep. Oshiro will provide a summary of the Hawaii Superferry special session and cover other community concerns.

Refreshments will be provided. Call 586-6200.

**5 / Wednesday**

**“Hawaii During World War II”** – Steven Fredrick will host a screening of the film, “Hawaii During World War II,” at the VIP Screening Room, Hawaii Kai, Dec. 5 at 7 p.m. Cost is \$10. Call 395-0674 or e-mail [filmguy54@hotmail.com](mailto:filmguy54@hotmail.com).

**6 / Thursday**

**Plant Tour** – See, smell and feel firsthand the characteristics that can help you properly identify an array of plants during a free, guided tour of Wahiawa Botanical Garden, Dec. 6, 9–10 a.m.

Learn how to recognize telltale signs that your plant is feeling blue, Dec. 7, 9–10 a.m. Reservations required. Call Brian Koren at 621-5463.

**9 / Sunday**

**World War II Walking Tour** – Steven Fredrick will guide a historical WWII walking tour through downtown Honolulu and Chinatown, Dec. 9 at 2 p.m. Cost is \$20. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended. Call 395-0674 or e-mail [filmguy54@hotmail.com](mailto:filmguy54@hotmail.com) for more information.

**17 / Monday**

**25th ID, STB Welcome Home** – The 25th Infantry Division (ID), Special Troops Battalion (STB), is hosting a formal welcome home celebration at the Hilton Hawaiian, Dec. 17, 5:30 p.m.–midnight.

Evening festivities will include cocktail hour, dinner and dancing. Maj. Gen. Benjamin Mixon will be the guest speaker.

All 25th STB Soldiers and guests age 16 and older are invited to attend. Soldiers must be in Class Bs or higher, and civilians must wear appropriate formal attire.

Cost is \$28 for E-4 and below, \$35 for E-5 –through E-7, and \$45 for E-8 and above. Tickets are available at Office 185, Building 3004, Lyman Avenue, Schofield Barracks. Deadline is Dec. 10. Call 655-4262 for more information.

**Ongoing**

**Hula Classes** – Registration is now being accepted for keiki, teens and adults at

The fee is \$295 and must be paid at the time of registration. Call 655-9818.

**“Paint It & Take It”** – Ceramic parties offer a unique way to celebrate get-togethers, coffees, children's birthday parties, showers or any occasion. Your arts and crafts center provides a varied selection of ceramic bisqueware to paint and take home.

Call 655-6330 at Schofield Barracks or 438-1315 at Fort Shafter.

**Family Child Care** – Individuals interested in caring for children in their home should inquire with the Child and Youth Services (CYS) Family Child Care (FCC) Program. Benefits include free training, additional income and flexible hours.

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

**Auto Resale Lot** – The Auto Resale Lot has been relocated right next to the Schofield Barracks Commissary. When standing in front of the commissary, the lot is on the left-hand side. The lot is now operated by the MWR, Schofield Barracks Automotive Crafts Center.

You can place your vehicle in the Resale Lot for as little as \$7 for seven days. Items required to place vehicles in the lot are: a valid government ID card, state registration and license plate sticker, safety inspection papers and stickers, proof of Hawaii “No Fault” insurance, a base decal number and power of attorney if you are not the registered owner. Call 655-9368.

**Job Search** – Visit, browse and apply for federal jobs available in Hawaii at [www.nafjobs.com](http://www.nafjobs.com).

**Pacific Teen Panel** – Teens in grades 9–11 have the opportunity to learn leadership and public speaking while representing Fort Shafter, Tripler and AMR in monthly teleconference/video teleconference (VTC) calls with other teen panels in the Pacific such as Japan, Alaska and Kwajalein.

Teens are encouraged to volunteer at least eight hours to the program, prepare and conduct briefings, and maintain good grades in school.

Teens must be registered at CYS. Call 833-0920.

**4H & Boys and Girls Clubs** – The AMR Teen Center has a variety of social and leisure time recreation activities through local Boys & Girls Clubs and 4H (Health, Head, Hands, Heart) Clubs, including cooking, digital festivals, fine arts exhibits and photography contests.

The Teen Center also offers Torch (Middle School Teen Council) and Keystone Clubs (High School Teen Council). Call 833-0920 for more information.

amounts and various investment opportunities. Classes are held the fourth Wednesday of the month at ACS Schofield Barracks.

•Financial Counseling & Education: Do you want free financial education? ACS has accredited financial counselors available at no cost and provides confidential counseling in a one-on-one or couple setting.

**Pacific Aviation Museum Volunteers** – Pacific Aviation Museum–Pearl Harbor needs volunteers to share Hawaii's aviation and military history with visitors to historic Ford Island. Volunteer opportunities are available as tour docents, education program docents, and greeters and theater operations.

Volunteers are also needed to help with curatorial and exhibits, oral history documentation, special events and fundraising, administrative help, and aircraft preparation and maintenance.

Training and instructional manuals are provided. Orientation and continuing education for volunteers occurs every third Saturday of every month at 3 p.m. at the museum.

Call 441-1012, e-mail [kt@pacificaviationmuseum.org](mailto:kt@pacificaviationmuseum.org) or log on to [www.pacificaviationmuseum.org](http://www.pacificaviationmuseum.org).

**Torch Lighting and Hula Show** – Enjoy free nightly performances (weather permitting), 6:30–7:30 p.m. at the Kuhio Beach Hula Mound, near the Duke Kahanamoku statue in Waikiki.

This show features a torch lighting and conch shell ceremony, authentic local music and dancing by some of the island's finest halau (hula troupes). Call 843-8002.

**Waiting Children** – The Children's Waiting Room, sponsored by the Armed Services YMCA, provides on-site child care for healthy children while their parents or siblings have medical appointments in any of the Schofield Clinics or at the Tripler Medical Center.

The operating hours of the Schofield Children's Waiting Room are Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–noon. The service is located inside the Pediatrics Clinic in Building 680, Schofield Barracks. Call 624-5645 for appointments.

The Tripler Children's Waiting Room is open Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 a.m.–noon, and is located next to Pediatrics in the Well Baby Waiting Room on the fourth floor. Call 833-1185 for appointments.



**Aliamanu (AMR) Chapel, 836-4599**

- 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) Sunday, 12:30 p.m. – Worship service
- Protestant Sundays, 9:45 a.m. – Worship Service Sunday, 11 a.m. – Sunday School (Sept. – June only)

**Fort DeRussy Chapel, 836-4599**

- Catholic Saturday, 5 p.m.–Mass in Chapel (May–Aug.) Saturday, 6 p.m.–Mass on Beach
- Protestant Sunday, 9 a.m. – Worship Service

**Fort Shafter Chapel, 836-4599**

- Contemporary Protestant Sunday, 9 a.m.–“The Wave” Worship

**Helemano (HMR) Chapel**

- Contemporary Protestant Sunday, 10 a.m. – Worship Service & Children's Church

**Main Post Chapel, 655-9307**

- Catholic Sunday, 9 a.m.–CCD & RCIA Collective Protestant Sunday, 10:30 a.m. – Sunday School
- Gospel Sunday, 10:30 a.m. – Sunday School

**MPC Annex, Building 791**

- Challice 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 Sunday, 10:30 a.m.–Mass
- Collective Protestant Sunday, 9 a.m. – Worship Service
- Gospel Sunday, 12 p.m. – Worship Service



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

**30 / Today**

**Country Sisters Craft Fair** – The Country Sisters Craft Fair will be held at Kahuku Village Association Community Center, 55-576 Kamehameha Highway, Nov. 30, 6:30–9:30 p.m., and Dec. 1, 9 a.m.–2 p.m. Tole paintings, quilts, Hawaiian-themed items, Christmas ornaments and more will be available. Call 384-0298.

**Employment Orientation** – Prepare for the job you want. Attend an Army Community Service (ACS) Employment Orientation and get employment information on federal, state, private sector and staffing agencies.

Reference materials, job listings, computers, Web tours and more will be available for use. Orientation will be held at the Schofield Barracks ACS, Nov. 30, 9–10:30 a.m. Call ACS Schofield at 655-4227 or register online at [www.acsclasses.com](http://www.acsclasses.com).

**December**

**1 / Saturday**

**Father-Daughter Ball** – The Armed Services YMCA is presenting its first annual Father-Daughter Ball, Dec. 1, 5:30–9 p.m., at the Schofield Barracks Nehelani. Tickets are \$15 per person and include dinner and dancing. Call 624-5645.

**Plantation Cooking Festival** – Hawaii's Plantation Village (HPV) will host “Relive the Plantation Days, Plantation Cooking Festival,” Dec. 1, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. at the HPV park in Waipahu. Visitors will be able to taste Chinese, Portuguese, Puerto Rican, Japanese, Okinawan, Korean, Filipino and Hawaiian food all in one day.

Admission is free for this event. Call 221-2759.

**4 / Tuesday**

**Pre-Session Forum** – Meet your neighbors, socialize and voice your community concerns with Rep. Marcus Oshiro at a pre-sessions forum, Dec. 4, 6–8:30 p.m., at the

Kapolei High. Call 398-4461.

**Ballroom Dance** – The Mililani chapter of the Hawaii Ballroom Dance Association offers evening classes on Tuesdays in fox-trot, 7–7:40 p.m.; Viennese waltz, 7:40–8:20; and samba, 8:20–9 p.m. at the Mililani Uka Elementary School cafeteria. The new sessions runs through Dec. 17. Cost is \$8 per person for each dance set. Call 623-5202.

**Financial Planning Courses** – You are not alone when it comes to traversing the financial planning mystery. Attend a class now to learn more about managing debt, investing wisely, maintaining a good credit rating, and/or planning for retirement.

Classes are held at Army Community Service (ACS), Building 2091 (Schofield Barracks) or Building 330 (Fort Shafter). Call 655-4227 (Schofield) or 438-9286 (Fort Shafter) to register.

•Army Emergency Relief (AER) Commanders Referral Program: Commanders and first sergeants can approve up to \$1,000 for basic living expenses. Desk-side briefings are available by request. Sessions takes 20 minutes. Call Jackie Torres, AER officer, 655-7132.

•Credit Management: Learn how to use your credit wisely and improve your credit score. Classes are held second Wednesdays at ACS Schofield, 9–10:30 a.m., and first Thursdays of the month at ACS Fort Shafter, 2–3 p.m.

•Money Management Classes: Learn the basic tools of financial success to develop a spending plan, reduce expenses, and make your paycheck work for you. Classes are held every Wednesday at ACS Schofield, 10:30 a.m.–noon and the first Thursday of the month at ACS Fort Shafter, 2–3 p.m.

•Checkbook Maintenance: Discuss opening and maintaining a checking account. Class is held the first Wednesday of the month at ACS Schofield, 9–10:30 a.m.

•Car Buying: Learn to get the most vehicle for your money. Class is held the third Wednesday of the month at ACS Schofield, 9–10:30 a.m.

•Thrift Savings Plan & Retirement Briefing: Learn how a 403(b) plan like thrift savings works in terms of allowable



**Why Did We Get Married**

(PG-13)  
Friday, 6 p.m.  
Sunday, 2 p.m.  
Thursday, 7 p.m.

**Micheal Clayton**

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



**Rendition**

(R)  
Friday, 9 p.m.



**The Game Plan**

(PG)  
Saturday, 2 p.m.

# Veterans honored by the sound of the ukulele

Story and Photos by  
**MOLLY HAYDEN**  
Staff Writer

SALT LAKE — Have you ever heard the “The Army Goes Rolling Along” played on an ukulele? It may not be the traditional instrument used, but veterans stood on their feet and clapped along to the beat when more than 30 children strummed their ukuleles during Veterans Appreciation Day, Nov. 17.

The Roy Sakuma Ukulele Super Keiki group entertained the crowd by playing Hawaiian music. The show stopper combined military songs from every branch of service.

Get more details about Roy Sakuma Ukulele Studios at [www.roysakuma.net](http://www.roysakuma.net), or call 732-3739.

“It is an honor for us to play here today,” said Sakuma. “It is good to provide the children a chance to see how we support and salute our military for all they have done and continue to do.”

Sakuma has been Hawaii’s most prominent ukulele instructor for more than 30 years and celebrates the instrument as a tool used in bringing people together. He believes that the ukulele is becoming more recognized throughout the world.

“My mission from long ago was to perpetuate the power of the ukulele worldwide,” said Sakuma. “I feel it is coming to fruition as more and more countries are introducing it into their music.”

The ukulele, which translates into English as “jumping fleas,” dates back to the late 1800s and is most associated with Hawaiian music and the Polynesian cul-



Above — Roy Sakuma and his students are all smiles during a performance at Veterans' Appreciation Day. The children played traditional Hawaiian music as well as a tribute to all branches of service with a medley of military songs, including “The Army Goes Rolling Along.”

Right — Army veteran “Johnny D” strums the ukulele and performs rock and roll music for the crowd. “D” is a student of Sakuma, and he attributes his newfound joy of life to the ukulele and the music he plays.

ture. Today many different people, with an array of musical tastes from around the world, including Army Veteran “Johnny D,” play it.

“D’s” light brown ukulele made of koa wood seemed lost in his tattooed arms. His large stature and blue jean vest made the man and the instrument an unlikely pair. But for this student at Sakuma’s facility, a self-proclaimed “rock and roller,” the ukulele is more than the music it produces.

“I used to think the ukulele was for ‘Tiny Tim’ type of guys, but it’s not,” said “D.” “This instrument has changed my life.”

“D” explained that the ukulele is an instrument to promote happiness and fill a room with the aloha spirit. Its lightweight structure makes it easy to carry around, and the power of its music can soothe the most troubled of souls.

“I suggest anyone suffering from post-traumatic syndrome pick one up and

play,” said “D.” “For me, this has been the best therapy money can buy.”

“This instrument is easy to learn and easy to play,” said Sakuma. “It allows every member of the family to embrace musical talents — even if you think you have none.”

Sakuma offers lessons at four locations throughout the island, at any and every skill level. Group lessons provide a great start for children or adults to get the basics down, and individual lessons allow



beginners to polish their skills and learn a certain style to call their own.

A common misconception is the type of music that can be played on the ukulele. Though the uke is a traditional instrument used in Hawaiian music, a plethora of musical genres can escape from the four-stringed wonder.

For example, said “D,” “I amazed people when I pull out a tiny ukulele and start playing ‘Proud Mary;’” he said, laughing.



## December

### 1 / Saturday

**Power Basketball** – The entry deadline is noon, Dec. 1, for the 3-on-3 Power Basketball Tournament, slated for Dec. 17–21. Call 655-4808 or visit [www.mwrarmy-hawaii.com](http://www.mwrarmy-hawaii.com).

### 3 / Monday

**Slow Pitch Softball** – The entry deadline is 4 p.m., Dec. 3, for a Holiday Slow Pitch Softball Tournament, which will be held Dec. 7–9. Call 655-0856 or visit [www.mwrarmy-hawaii.com](http://www.mwrarmy-hawaii.com).

### 10 / Monday

**Extreme Dodgeball** – The entry deadline is 4 p.m., Dec. 10, for the Christmas Extreme Dodgeball

Tournament, which will be held Dec. 17–21. Call 653-0719 or visit [www.mwrarmy-hawaii.com](http://www.mwrarmy-hawaii.com).

### 28 / Friday

**Intramural Basketball** – The Sports Office at Schofield Barracks is now accepting applications for teams to compete in the 2008 Intramural Basketball League, Jan. 7–March 28. All active duty Army units (company, battery, troop and detachment levels) in Hawaii can each enter one team. Entries, which are due by 4 p.m., Dec. 28., can be sent to USAG-HI, Sports Office, 344 Heard Ave., Schofield Barracks, Building 556, Room 100, Stop 112. Call 655-0856/0101/9914 or visit [www.mwrarmy-hawaii.com](http://www.mwrarmy-hawaii.com).

## Ongoing

**Ladies Golf Clinic** – Ladies, looking to improve your golf game? Come to a free ladies golf clinic the first Saturday of every month, 2:20 p.m., at the Leilehua Golf Course. Call 655-4653.

### 100-Mile Run/Walk & 50-

**Mile Swim Clubs** – Record each mile you run, walk or swim and win incentive prizes. Stop by any Army physical fitness center or swimming pool to pick up a log sheet. Call 655-9914.

**Karate Classes** – Learn Do Shudokan karate at the Aliamanu Physical Fitness Center, Mondays and Wednesdays, 7–8:30 p.m. For adults 18 and older. Cost is \$40 per month. Call 488-6372.

**All Army Sports** – Soldiers interested in applying for Department of the Army level sports competitions must submit applications with their Army Knowledge Online (AKO) account at <https://armysports.cfsc.army.mil>.

Faxed copies are no longer accepted by the DA sports office. Call 655-9914 or 655-0856.

**Sharks Youth Swim Team** – Tryouts are held at the Richardson Pool, Schofield Barracks, Fridays at 3 p.m. Applicants must be level 4 or higher swimmers. Club fee is \$35 monthly. Call 655-9698.



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

### 30 / Today

**Women's Pro Surfing** – Check out some of the world's top female surfers competing in the Roxy Pro at Sunset Beach, now through Dec. 6. E-mail [oceanpromotion@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:oceanpromotion@hawaii.rr.com).

## December

### 1 / Saturday

**Hike Oahu** – Join the Hawaiian Trail & Mountain Club on its next hiking event to Ka'ena Point, Dec. 1. Enjoy the crashing surf, endangered plants and nesting birds, all protected in this natural reserve. Call 382-4709.

All hikers will be assessed \$2 to

cover the permit fee required for this hike, and a \$2 donation is requested of nonmembers 18 and older. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Hikers meet at Iolani Palace, mountain side, at 8 a.m. Bring lunch and water on all hikes; wear sturdy shoes as extra caution may be required on some trails.

Hikers must keep all trails and lunch sites clear of clutter, and treat trees and plants with care and respect. Firearms, pets, radios and other audio devices are prohibited on all hikes. Visit <http://htmclub.org> for more details.

### 7 / Friday

**Hunter Education Courses** – The Hawaii Department of Land & Natural Resources offers monthly Hunter Education classes. Subjects covered include wildlife identification and conservation, firearms and archery safety, survival and first aid, game care, and more.

The free, two-day classes run 5:45–10 p.m., Friday, and 7:45 a.m.–4 p.m., Saturday. Classes are open to anyone ages 10 years and older. All students are required to provide a picture ID.

Upcoming classes are Dec. 7–8 and Dec. 14–15 at the Nimitz Center, 1130 N. Nimitz Highway, Room A-212. Call 587-0200 or visit [www.state.hi.us/dlnr/IdxHunting.htm](http://www.state.hi.us/dlnr/IdxHunting.htm).

### 9 / Sunday

**Honolulu Marathon** – Sign up now for the 2007 Honolulu Marathon, which will take place Dec. 9 at 5 a.m., at the corner of Ala Moana Boulevard and Queen Street. This was the country's third largest marathon last year with 24,575 finishers.

Numbers and packets can be picked up Dec. 5–8 during the Honolulu Marathon Expo at the Hawaii Convention Center. Online registration closes Dec. 1. For more information and to register, go to [www.honolulumarathon.org](http://www.honolulumarathon.org).

# Luna Holo promotes esprit de corps, safety before holidays

‘Chief’s Run’ ends with thundering ‘Army Strong’

Story and Photo by  
**SGT. 1ST CLASS JASON SHEPHERD**  
U.S. Army, Pacific, Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER — Lt. Gen. John M. Brown III, U.S. Army, Pacific (USARPAC), commanding general, led more than 300 Soldiers from various units here on a run Nov. 21. Of course, this was no ordinary run. It was the quarterly “Luna Holo,” Hawaiian for “Chief’s Run.”

The Luna Holo is a tool commanders use to measure the physical strength and endurance of their Soldiers while promoting team building and esprit de corps.

The two-mile trek started with a loop around historic Palm Circle before snaking a trail through Fort Shafter and ending back where it started. After cooling down, Brown and Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Zettlemoyer, USARPAC, had a chance to talk to their Soldiers about safety during the upcoming holiday season.

“Command Sergeant Major and I want to ask you to take care of each other during the upcoming holidays,” Brown said. “Let’s go through the New Year keeping each other safe.”

He also gave thanks to the Soldiers for a job well done during the last year.

“When we’re called upon, we’re going to be ready,” Brown said. “We’re going to



Members of the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command participate in the Luna Holo run around Fort Shafter, Nov. 21. Luna Holo is a chance for commanders to assess Soldiers’ physical fitness while promoting team-building and esprit de corps.

be able to respond in theater, and we’ll be ready when it does. It’s because of what you’re doing to make this Army in the Pacific relevant.”

After talking with Soldiers, Brown gathered everyone around the flagpole for one last task.

“I’m going to ask you to fall in and put your hands on the staff of this great flag,” he said. “If you can’t touch the flagpole, then put your hands on the Soldier in front of you. On three, we’re going to sound off with a big, loud, ‘Army Strong.’”

If the people around Palm Circle weren’t awake before, they certainly were after that.

# Army staff sergeant 'stands ground' at HFC

Story and Photos by  
**KYLE FORD**  
Staff Writer

HONOLULU — You heard more than saw the kick that connected with Luis Parra's jaw and pushed him back into the ropes, accompanied by the crowd's simultaneous "Oh!"

"I felt the kick and I thought, it's over, like the first time," the 71st Chemical Squadron staff sergeant said, referring to his first fight with Hawaii Fighting Championship (HFC) when he got TKO'd by a knee to the chin.

"The first time I saw him fight, I think I fainted," said Carlene Kona, Parra's girlfriend. "I'm always worried [when he fights]. I know he knows what he's doing, but I think my stomach twists more than his."

This fight — the HFC's "Stand Your Ground VI," featuring kick boxing, MMA standup, and MMA fights — was the first Parra's mother, Rita, had come to.

"There are other things I'd rather see him doing, but we let him express himself," she said.

"This is what it's all about for this guy," said Bo Atchison, a staff sergeant with the 121st Infantry Battalion. "When you have a skill, you exploit it. This is his skill; he fights."

Parra, a former professional boxer, got into mixed martial arts (MMA)



Above — Larry Lado is on the receiving end of Luis Parra's finishing move at the Hawaii Fighting Championship "Stand Your Ground IV," Nov. 23. Parra won by submission with a rear naked choke.

Left — Staff Sgt. Luis Parra, 71st Chemical Company, poses for the cameras after weighing in for the Hawaii Fighting Championship.

because boxing is dying. He just couldn't find anyone to box. Then he met the HFC promoter who sponsored him on the fight card.

MMA is different than boxing. In boxing, fighters wear an 8-ounce glove and only have to worry about getting hit. In MMA, with its 4-ounce glove, fighters have to worry about knees, kicks, elbows, punches, chokes, submissions and all that, Parra explained.

After that kick, somehow Parra managed to keep everything together.

"Then I felt the choke coming, and I thought here we go again" Parra added. "I pulled him to me to give me

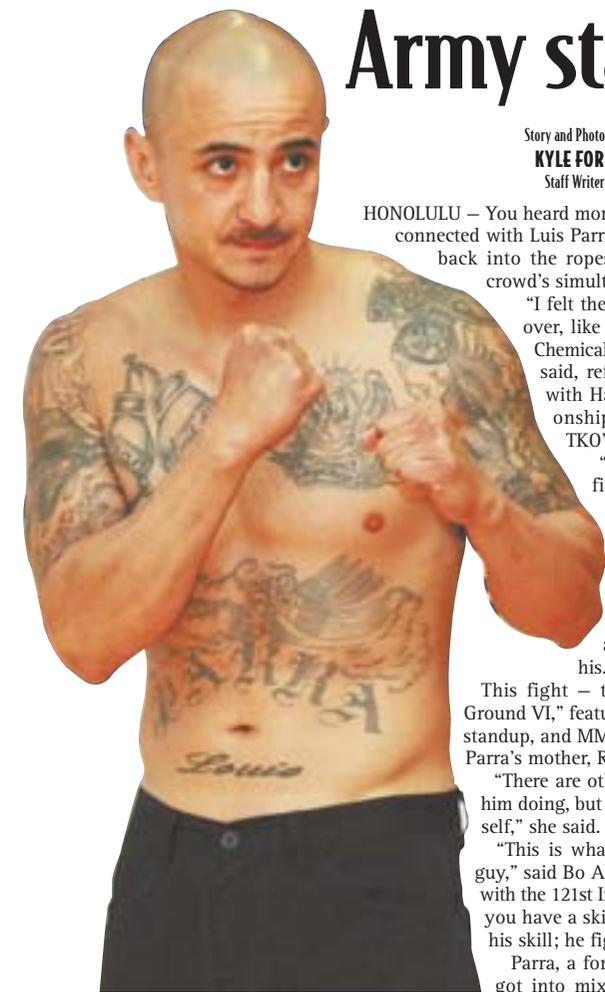
some slack and started punching his head to get him to give it up [the choke]."

The waiting is the hardest part for Parra. This night he was the 21st fight out of 23; the first time he fought he was 18th out of 25 fights.

"I didn't start getting anxious until the car ride over," he said. "Once I get into the ring everything will be fine."

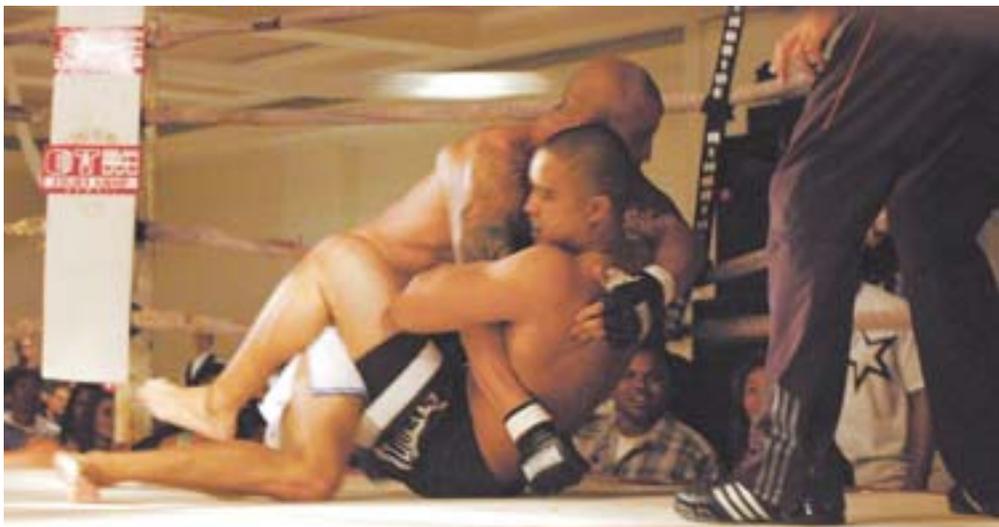
From 4-9 p.m. Parra paced behind the crowd and worked on staying calm. He chatted with other fighters, helped the kickboxers wrap their hands, and various

**SEE MARTIAL ARTS, B-7**

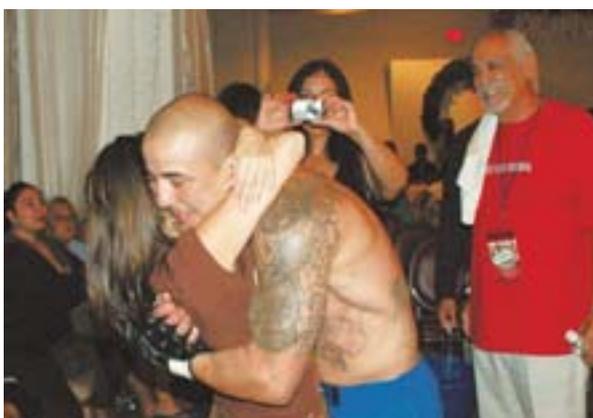




Luis Parra Sr., Parra's father, wraps Luis's hand before the fight.



Above — Luis Parra works on getting past Larry Lado's guard.



Left — Carlene Kona, Luis Parra's girlfriend, congratulates him after the fight while his proud father, Luis Sr., looks on at the Hawaii Fighting Championship.

## Martial Arts

From B-6

other things to keep him from getting too keyed up before the fight.

As the fight got closer, he became more focused. He was quiet, calm and determined despite his friends' well meaning attempts to get him fired up, offering advice needed or not.

Parra rolled his opponent over and got his back; after that, he applied a rear naked choke. Just like that, 30 seconds into the fight, Parra defeated Larry Lado. After months of training and hours of waiting to compete, Parra had his Mixed Martial Arts victory.

Parra's parents, friends and girlfriend rushed from their seats to congratulate him ringside.

"You know, as I was back in the dressing

area getting ready to come out, I was thinking maybe this will be the last one ... win or lose," he paused. "Now, I don't know."

Previous to meeting the HFC promoter, Parra ran the last three Tropic Rumbles at Schofield Barracks. He's trained the 25th Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade boxing team, which took first place in boxing and combat-ives.



For more information on MMA in Hawaii or to get involved, visit [www.hawaiifightingchampionship.com](http://www.hawaiifightingchampionship.com) or [www.mmahawaii.com](http://www.mmahawaii.com).

"I've been talking to the promoter for HFC about getting an MMA match up between local and Army fighters at the Conroy Bowl," said Parra. "I just have to find out the regulations and feasibility."

## Holiday To Do's

From B-1

**Santa at the Library** — Visit Santa at 3 p.m. at the following dates and locations: Dec. 4, Fort Shafter Library (438-9521); Dec. 5, Sgt. Yano Library, Schofield Barracks (655-8002); and Dec. 5, AMR Library (833-4851). Create a winter craft to take home while waiting in line to see Santa.

**Holiday Card Lane** — The annual Holiday Card Lanes for the Oahu South and North communities will be on display now through Jan. 4. All units, staff offices, agencies and organizations within their re-

spective community are invited to participate. Oahu South cards have already been judged. Oahu North cards will be judged Dec. 7. First, second and third place winners will receive awards. Call 655-8985.

**Oahu North Tree Lighting** — This annual community event will be held at Generals Loop, Schofield Barracks, Dec. 12, at 6 p.m. Enjoy holiday music by the Leilehua High School Concert Band and a special performance by Hale Kula Elementary School. Santa Clause will be on site to visit and take photos with kids. Call 655-8985.

**Music to your ears ...**

**"Rudolf Retirees"** — Enjoy the Sounds

of the Aloha Chorus and quartets and Diamond Head Shooting Stars in "Rudolf Retirees," at Paliku Theatre Dec. 8, 7:37 p.m., and Dec. 9, 4:07 p.m. Cost is \$20. Call 262-7664.

**Honolulu Symphony** — It's time to roll out the red carpet for Honolulu Symphony holiday concerts. This holiday season, share the warmth and good cheer of festive music with the symphony, at concerts such as Motown Christmas with The Four Tops and The Spinners, and Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.

In honor of America's Armed Forces, the symphony is offering a special 50-percent discount off all holiday concert tickets to military and their families, including reservists, National Guard and retirees. Mil-

itary discount tickets for concerts such as Motown Christmas and Burt Bacharach start from as low as \$8.50.

Tickets are on sale now at the Honolulu Symphony Box Office at the Dole Cannery, all Ticketmaster outlets and all Times supermarkets. Call 792-2000 (days), 524-0815 extension 245 (evenings), or visit [www.honolulusymphony.com](http://www.honolulusymphony.com).

**In the spirit of giving ...**

**Holiday Ornament Drive** — Help support Soldiers and their families who need an extra helping hand this holiday season. Purchase a Na Koa Aina holiday ornament at any Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) facility for a minimum of \$5.

All proceeds will go to support the MWR Holiday Dinner Voucher Program. Eligible Soldiers will receive a food voucher to purchase their holiday meal. Visit any MWR facility or call 655-4227.

**Community Gift-Wrapping Fundraiser** — The annual community Gift-Wrapping Fundraiser at the Schofield Barracks Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) will be held now through Dec. 24. This event will allow interested family readiness groups and authorized private organizations in the Schofield Barracks area (Wheeler Army Air Field, Helemano Military Reservation and Schofield Barracks) to conduct gift-wrapping fundraisers at the post exchange (PX).