

INSIDE

DoD extends some 25th ID units

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

TIKRIT, Iraq – Sunday, the Department of Defense (DoD) announced the extension of two Hawaii-based units in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08. Headquarters, 25th Infantry Division (ID) and the 25th Special Troops Battalion (STB), which includes the 25th Infantry Division Band, have been extended for about 45 days.

“The Soldiers of the 25th Infantry Division Headquarters and the 25th Special Troops Battalion have performed magnificently in Iraq through the past seven months. I am extremely proud of everything they have done and accomplished in Iraq,” said Maj. Gen. Benjamin R. Mixon, commanding general of the 25th ID. “I am sure that they will continue to excel throughout the remainder of the

deployment and remain proud to do their duty in the global war on terrorism.”

The extension will affect approximately 1,000 Soldiers from the Hawaii-based unit currently serving in Iraq. All of the Soldiers extended in this action were deployed to Iraq in July-August 2006.

Although DoD may, at a later date, decide to extend or accelerate deployments for additional units, the only Hawaii-based units affected by Sunday’s announcement are the Headquarters, 25th ID and the 25th STB.

“I encourage all our families to use our family readiness group and rear-detachment assets to assist them in every way necessary,” Mixon said.

RELATED STORY

• Find Division resources & info, page B-4.

Officials announce major Operation Iraqi Freedom rotations for more than 7,000 around the world

JIM GARAMONE

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – More than 7,000 service members will deploy to Iraq in the coming months – including two units that will not have been back to their home stations for the year they had expected when they returned home from their last deployments – Defense Department officials said Sunday.

The rotations will enable commanders in Iraq to maintain 20 brigade combat teams in theater through the end of August, officials said.

The 3,500 Soldiers of the 1st Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y., will return to Iraq 47 days before their one-year stateside “dwell break” is finished. The headquarters of 4th Infantry Division (ID), Fort Hood, Texas, will return to Iraq 81 days early.

“The level of effort that the United States is maintaining in Iraq is a build-up to

SEE ROTATE, A-8



Knocking softly

In collaboration with their Iraqi army counterparts, 2-27th Wolfhounds discover a new technique for communicating their message to the public

A-3



Just dropping in

2nd Stryker Brigade Soldiers get real-world training during an exercise in Daegu, Republic of Korea

A-5



Ford Island flair

Step back into history, to a time when behemoths lined “battleship row” and Zeros buzzed the sky — the Pacific Aviation Museum

B-1

This issue

- Lightning Spirit **A-2**
- News Briefs **A-6**
- MWR **B-2**
- Community **B-3**
- Sports & Fitness **B-5**



Air Force Master Sgt. Andy Dunaway

Ongoing search

AL MURADIA, Iraq — Sgts. Sean Bundy and Dennis First search for improvised explosive devices, here. The Soldiers are from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division. The smoke, top right, is from a controlled detonation of an IED.

Discovery Channel showcases hi-tech Army this month

Story and Photo by
STEVE HARDING
Army News Service

WASHINGTON – The Army’s Future Combat Systems (FCS) program is among the advanced military technologies featured on the second-season premier of the Discovery Channel’s “Future Weapons” series.

The episode, which debuted Monday and runs throughout the month of April, provides an in-depth look at such FCS systems as the Non-Line-of-Sight Cannon, the Class I Unmanned Aerial System, and tactical and urban Unattended Ground Sensors.

The program will also feature the “Crusher unmanned ground vehicle,” now under joint development by the Army and the De-

fense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

FCS is the Army’s principal modernization program and consists of a family of manned and unmanned systems, connected by a common network. FCS is the core of the Army’s continuing effort to ensure that Soldiers have the cutting-edge technologies and capabilities they’ll need to continue to dominate any battlespace, program officials said.

“What the Army is doing with FCS is exciting,” said Maj. Gen. Charles Cartwright, program manager of the Future Combat Systems (Brigade Combat Team). “We’re successfully modernizing in a way that’s never been done before.” FCS, he added, is indeed “a great ‘Discovery.’”



The “Future Weapons” episode, which premiered Monday and will air this month on the Discovery Channel, looks at such systems as the Class I Unmanned Aerial Vehicle, seen here being prepared for a test mission.

Recalled pet foods, PX parking among sensitive issues

PCR meetings update spouses and patrons of post exchange, Nehelani, commissary of hot issues

Story and Photo by
AIKO BRUM
Chief, Command Information

If you want to know what’s going on about post, just attend any one of the numerous meetings held at the Post Conference Room each month.

In back-to-back meetings Monday, members of the Schofield Barracks PX/Commissary/Nehelani Advisory Council, plus senior spouses and family readiness group (FRG) leaders who comprise the Spouse Information Meeting (SIM), met and discussed matters that impact everyone’s quality of life in

U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii (USAG-HI).

At the advisory council, prime among updates were what’s being done about recalled pet foods. Representatives from the Schofield post exchanges (PX) and commissary said they are receiving frequent alerts from their buyers and vendors stating which wet pet food products must be pulled from shelves and stock rooms.

Wednesday, the Schofield PX received an e-mail message to place signage adjacent pet foods.

The signs state, “To our customers, AAFES [Army & Air Force Exchange Service] cares about your pet. The health and well being of your pet is our number one priority. We know that the pet food recalls have created much concern for you. We are working with our vendors to stay on top of these issues and provide information as quickly as possible.

“Our policy has always been to pull any and all products identified by recalls. Like you, we are pet owners, too.”

Willia Gardner, AAFES Schofield sales and merchandise manager, said several signs have been placed in the pet foods section of the exchange.

“You’re almost terrified, half to death, about what to give your animal,” she said, repeating comments she’s heard from her store employees. “Today is wet food ... tomorrow might be dry food. They’re wondering if they should go to table food. It’s a little scary.”

Similarly, the commissary has pulled products, identified for recall by line number and UPC (Universal Product Code), from its shelves. The products are set aside into salvage holding areas as “medical hold,” said Jack Meredith, general manager. Veterinarians, who perform duties as food in-

spectors at Army commissaries, dispose of recalled pet foods and/or comply with directives regarding their disposition.

Other discussion at the advisory council addressed PX parking and commissary woes. Gardner stated construction contractors will be out of the Schofield PX in 40 days.

As for the parking lot, Gardner said, it should be fully available in two weeks; however, construction will provide confirmed project completion dates on April 18.

New to the advisory council, spouses who attend the SIM are now completing an “issue paper” for collection by the advisory council.

“The issue paper is intended to serve as a tool for patrons to address issues concerning the PX, commissary or Nehelani Club,” said Lt. Col. Mark Boussy, Oahu Base Sup-

SEE SIMS, A-8

We want to hear from you...

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

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

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

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

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Straight Talk

Lyman Gate closure did cause traffic issues

Community can assist law enforcement in some areas

LT. COL. SHANE WALLACE
 Director of Emergency Services,
 U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii

Lyman Gate closed March 10 as part of the contracted work effort to upgrade the gate area and make Schofield Barracks a safer place to live and work. The result of closing one of the main traffic arteries of the installation, however, naturally caused a re-routing of normal traffic patterns on Schofield Barracks.

This closure has caused traffic congestion at McNair Gate and the immediate surrounding communities, but mainly has impacted the Canby housing area. With McNair Gate being entrance only and Macomb Gate being exit only, many more motorists are traveling through the area more frequently.

These motorists, who are seeking alternative routes to accommodate daily travel, are using more of the areas side roads than normal. Hence, this traffic increase has brought many concerns to our organization in regard to community safety and quality of life.

From the beginning, during the planning phases through implementation, we fully recognized the need to increase police presence and enforcement. Currently, we are implementing many actions to maintain

the safety of one of the safest housing areas in the state of Hawaii.

Increased patrols

The Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) has dramatically increased patrol activity in the vicinity of the Canby Street neighborhood. A minimum of three patrolmen are on duty there during the morning rush hours. Additional patrols are on duty during lunch hours and evening exit hours, as well.

Increased patrol activity of Military Police, or MPs, in vehicles and bike patrols during high-traffic times has resulted in 77 citations being issued, most which were to area residents. The majority of these violations involved speeding, while other citations have been issued to drivers for failure to stop, loud music, or an expired registration tag, state safety tag, and/or post decal.

Directed patrols have increased radar detection, as well as enforcement of infractions for stop signs, jaywalking and other pedestrian traffic violations in the Canby housing area.

Bike patrols were dispatched to normal areas during the weeks of Spring Break due to the lull in traffic flow. The bike patrols have increased again now that Spring Break is over.

The DES is also purchasing "temporary" speed bumps to be emplaced on the two traffic roads in the Canby housing area.

These speed bumps will be removed after the Lyman Gate construction is complete.

While the initial turmoil of traffic congestion caused by changes in gate procedures is over, the presence of patrols and enforcement will continue.

What can I do to help?

Please do not take the law into your own hands by posting signs or placing objects in the roadways that disrupt traffic. If privately owned vehicles incur damages by erroneously placed objects in the roadways, personal liability may be pursued.

It is also not a good idea to take pictures or videos to prove to the MPs that violations are occurring. Instead, residents and workers can help security personnel by notifying the MP desk of any violations.

To ensure Schofield remains a safe place to live, play and work, be aware of where you are and what you are doing while driving. Pay attention to all traffic enforcement signs and posted speed limits.

Avoid these high traffic areas during the peak hours of 6:30-9:30 a.m. and 3-5:30 p.m. Plan to use other routes and allow proper time to travel them safely.

Reporting tips

An important responsibility of a victim or witness to a crime, alleged violation/incident, or other emergency, is timely

reporting to appropriate authorities. You can report an incident by calling 911, for emergencies only; or 655-7114, in the Schofield Barracks area; or 438-7114, in the Fort Shafter area, for non-emergencies.

When reporting, attempt to provide as much detail as possible about the situation, including at least the following items:

- 1) Your name
- 2) The location and telephone number where you can be reached,
- 3) The nature of the problem, concern or potential emergency you are reporting,
- 4) Additional information as requested by the communications operator.

Again, please remember to use 911 only for emergencies.

When reporting by telephone, remain on the phone until the Public Safety operator is fully briefed with all the information necessary to dispatch the appropriate response personnel to the scene.

In all, the inconveniences we are enduring now will make for a safer place to live and work in the future. We are all part of the same team and strive daily to maintain the safest communities in Hawaii. With a little help and consideration for others, our goals can be easily achieved.

Thank you in advance for your time and continued support.



Courts-Martial

Three privates lose pay, get bad conduct discharges

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

A private (Pvt.2) from Rear Detachment, 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, was sentenced at a special court-martial to be reduced to the grade of E-1, to forfeit \$867 pay per month for eight months, and to be discharged with a bad conduct discharge for missed movement.

A private (Pvt.2) from 545th Transportation Company, 29th Engineer Battalion, Hickam Air Force Base, was sentenced at a general court-martial to be re-

duced to the grade of E-1 to forfeit all pay and allowances, to be confined for six months, and to be discharged with a bad conduct discharge for absence without leave, wrongful appropriation, unlawful entry, and indecent acts.

A private (Pvt.1) from 71st Chemical Company, 8th Special Troops Battalion, was sentenced at a special court-martial to be confined for six months and to be discharged with a bad-conduct discharge for absence without leave and wrongful use of drugs.

In addition to forfeitures of pay (either adjudged or by operation of law), confinement, and a punitive discharge, the Soldiers listed above will also have a federal conviction on their records, which

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

they must report when filling out job applications. This federal conviction may strip the Soldiers of some civil rights, such as the right to purchase and maintain firearms and the right to vote.

Easter an opportunity for more than bunnies, eggs

CHAPLAIN (MAJ.) SCOTT C. KENNEDY
 Family Life Chaplain, Schofield Barracks

Most households around the island are enjoying a time-honored Easter tradition this week. Tea cups, bowls or drinking glasses will be arranged in a row. Water and vinegar will be carefully measured into each container, followed by a fizzing tablet.

Dozens of boiled eggs will be drained and carefully dried, and many other necessary items such as crayons, little cardboard circles, stickers and copper egg dippers will be set out.

Newspapers will more than likely cover every surface in the kitchen. In our household, children will be dressed in a variety of clothing, from dad's painting shirt to large, plastic bibs.

Then let the giggling, chaotic fun begin. New colors that have never been seen will be created. In fact, some eggs will be so plastered with stickers, they'll be almost unrecognizable.

Messes will be made, but so will many memories.

I love everything about Easter, but my

greatest joy is not seeing my daughters in their pastel dresses and hats, or watching my son's face as he exclaims with enthusiasm that he got the soccer basket this year.



Kennedy

It's not even the joy of creating an Easter egg masterpiece with my little budding artists, although that does bring out the kid in all of us.

The greatest joy is that God himself came to earth, was born as a baby, and lived a life without doing any wrong to others or to God. However, he was betrayed by one of his closest friends, suffered an unusually cruel, unfair death, and was raised to life three days later.

He is Jesus Christ, the suffering servant and the triumphant king. He is the lion of Judah and the lamb who was slain. He has broken down every wall and barrier between us and God.

This is the good news to all people of

every nation, tribe and language - not a religion or a structure or some code to try and live our life by, but the message that God is not far off, stern or uninvolved in our lives.

Nor is God some cosmic force that connects a circle of life in the universe. He came as a real person. He experienced sadness and joy, love and betrayal.

The Bible says that he is acquainted with all of our griefs and that he carried our sorrows on himself. He walked the earth, ate and laughed and cried, worshipped and prayed, faced trials and temptations, and yet, he never failed. Not even once.

He did what we cannot do. He perfectly met every requirement so that through him, by accepting his sacrifice for us, we can have a relationship with God. We can welcome him, his sacrifice and his triumph. We can open the door of our heart and invite him to come in and be with us.

We can know him and be known by him. We can live our lives connected to him, like the branch of a vine that receives nourishment and sustenance from the root.

We can learn from him. We can receive his promises - not just heaven in the by and by.

He gives practical help like comfort, peace and the washing away of guilt and fear. We can have a friend who will never desert us, betray us, or bring us harm. Instead, he invites us to learn from his wisdom. He promises to fill our weakness with his strength.

These things are the true joy of Easter, knowing that - though I was separated from God by my sin, rebellion and selfishness - God sees our helpless state and comes to us. He runs toward us, not away from us, when we call out to him.

We know that his love changes and transforms us.

This Easter, don't just welcome the spring and take a picture with the rabbit. Consider inviting a true friend to come in and stay.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes on Him will not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16, King James Version).

143 days since last fatal accident

Soldiers, as your daily reminder to be safe, place a "red dot" on your wristwatch. Remember, a division training holiday will be awarded for the first 100 consecutive days with no accidental fatalities.

Current as of 4/3/07.

Voices of Lightning: "What resources are helping or have helped you weather deployment?"



"The FRG ... and working extra hours."

Amy Miller
Family Member



"My FRG."

Blanca Navarro
Family Member



"Friends and the community I live in."

Amanda Arrent
Family Member



"Protestant Women of the Church."

Kim Vick
Family Member



"My friends here in Hawaii and my job (Tripler)."

Karen Wolford
Family Member

Wolfhounds make huge impact by knocking softly

Story and Photo by
SPC. AMANDA MORRISSEY
5th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

HAWIJA, Iraq— Soldiers lined up behind a humvee as evening set in the city of Hawija, while a bank of speakers atop a vehicle blared out a message in Arabic, announcing the presence of the troops. Anxious locals peered out from gates and windows.

The Soldiers of C Company, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Division and Iraqi army soldiers conducted an early evening mission, meeting with local residents in a specified neighborhood in order to map out the area and hand out school supplies to the children.

"The mission at hand is to just get a good message out to the people of Iraq about our presence there and also to get a good grasp on who lives where in the city of Hawija," said Sgt. Jason Bonney, a squad leader for the team in charge of providing security on these missions.

The Soldiers perform what is known as soft knocks, versus a more aggressive approach to enter the houses. They announce their intentions to enter houses over a loud speaker, asking the residents to unlock their front gates and doors and wait inside their homes for the U.S. Soldiers to come to them.

"It's a different tempo than what we originally started with and what the unit before us was operating under. But now we realize it's better to put out



our message in a kind of soft knock form," said 1st Lt. Gregory Luttman, the platoon leader in charge of this mission.

"That's basically what we do, just come in real soft and try to engage the people, not frighten them, and set them at ease so that we can effectively get our message out and get information from the people," Luttman continued.

The troops visit every house in the designated area in the early evening, shortly after the curfew. This plan of action allows Soldiers to meet with the residents while they're still awake and in the safety of their own homes.

"We avoid having to engage the insurgents on their terms where, in the daytime, they're mixed in the crowd and the civilian populace can get caught

Soldiers working with C Company, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, speak through an interpreter with a resident of Hawija during a mission.

These missions are designed to map out an area of the city in order to gauge its demographics and public concerns.

in the middle," Luttman said. "We lessen the collateral damage and make it a more comfortable environment for the civilian populace. It's a good way to engage the people without coming through and getting them caught in the middle."

The troops talk with the people about their concerns about the violence in the city, and let them know what they can do to help the Iraqi security forces (ISF) combat the insurgency in the area.

Soldiers also take the opportunity to reassure the locals as to what the goals of the coalition forces are in their city. They want to let the residents know that when incidents occur, such as mortar fire and improvised explosive devices, the coalition forces are there to help them and make them safer, said Bonney.

"We're getting our message out there, which is we're here to help, and we want to restore ISF control of security in the city itself, so that daily life for these people can go back to being as normal as it possibly can," Luttman said. "We're actually here to build their city back up, with them in the lead."

'I would do it again,' says King

Upbeat 209th ASB Soldier settles into his fifth deployment in the past 11 years

Story and Photos by
STAFF SGT. TYRONE C. MARSHALL JR.
Task Force Lightning Public Affairs

AL ASAD, Iraq — In recent years, the Army's operational tempo has increased dramatically. Some Soldiers find themselves on their second and third deployments very quickly.

Other Soldiers join their units and train up for the next rotation. Many are come straight out of Advanced Individual Training and deploy shortly after joining their units to fight in the global war on terrorism.

Others move from one rapidly deploying unit to another.

The latter is the case with Sgt. Les King, who works with the Region 2 Border Transition Team (BTT), based at Contingency Operating Base Speicher.

King, assigned to A Co., 209th Aviation Support Battalion, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, Task Force Lightning, found himself headed to Iraq after 90 short days with the 25th Infantry Division.

He currently serves as a gunner for the Region 2 BTT, a small unit of Marines, Soldiers, Iraqi interpreters and one sailor.

For some, this might be extremely stressful — joining a new unit, in a new place, and rapidly deploying with virtually no indoctrination to their home station.

However, King has been in the Army for "more than a day," and is well-equipped to deal with this scenario.

As an 11-year veteran, King has multiple deployments under his belt.

"This is my fifth deployment," said King. "I deployed from Ft. Bragg to Somalia, Bosnia, and I went to Panama while I was [stationed] there."

King has even served a prior stint at COB Speicher, after being stationed in Germany.

"I was at Speicher before," he said. "Then I PCS'd to Hawaii and deployed straight out here."

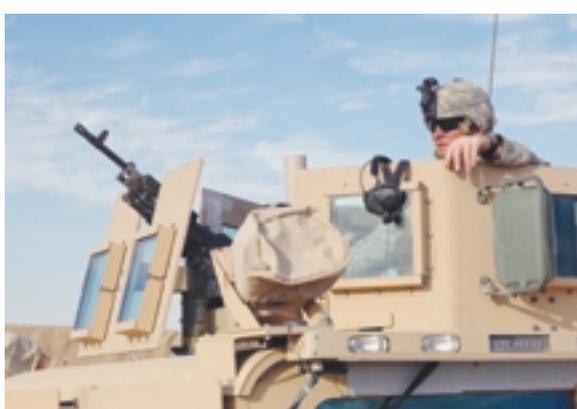
So this high optempo is not new to him. He's been there and done that.

Ask him how he handles it, and he has a very simple, but effective answer.

"I take it one day at a time," said the native of Carlsbad, N.M.



Above & Below — Sgt. Les King, a gunner with the Region 2 Border Transition Team, based out of Contingency Operating Base, Speicher, Iraq, completes his last-minute checks and inspections prior to a convoy to Al Asad, Iraq. King is assigned to A Co., 209th Aviation Support Battalion, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, Task Force Lightning.



Even after only being in paradise for a short period, he still remains upbeat.

"I was only stationed in Hawaii for three months," said King. "I love Hawaii though ... it's a great time."

King enjoys serving with the BTT as well.

"The most rewarding thing about working with the BTT is getting to know these guys," said King. "It was nice [and] I learned a lot."

Even with all his experience King recognizes he still hasn't

seen it all. His goal is to keep learning and visiting new places.

"Even with prior experience, it's neat to be out there," he said before chuckling, "to go where no man has gone before."

And no one would dare question his patriotism. But if someone were to ask him about how things have played out, they'd find he has no regrets about his adventurous career.

"I'd do it all over again," he said assuredly.

Eleven years, and still counting ...

2-27th Infantry, Iraqi army tighten security, ensure marketplace safety

After-action reports key to improvement

SPC. AMANDA MORRISSEY
5th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

RIYADH, Iraq — The Iraqi army soldiers' flashlights pierce the darkness as they search the Riyadh marketplace for any wires or materials that may indicate the emplacement of an improvised explosive device (IED) in the area.

Following close behind them are Soldiers from D Company, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, who work closely with the Iraqi army (IA) to conduct searches of various parts of the city.

"Every mission we do, IA or Iraqi police are with us, and we search the marketplace a lot," said Sgt. Shaun Raymond, a squad leader with D Co. "The marketplace is the main place we'll hit up because it's completely crowded during the day and we don't have a chance to search it too well. At night, it's a lot easier to search thoroughly."

Since D Co.'s arrival to the area, one of its goals has been to train the IA soldiers, so that they can

take the lead in operations in the city. The Iraqi troops have made significant progress towards that goal, which can be seen in their conduct during joint operations, said Raymond.

"In the beginning, the IA just kind of wandered around and had no idea what was going on. Tonight they moved together, rather than one guy going over here and everyone else doing their own thing," Raymond said. "They have a much better idea and are a lot more confident in what they're doing."

This confidence translates into how well they assist their U.S. counterparts, as the IA soldiers' knowledge of the city and its people provide a vital edge during missions.

"Anytime we go do a cordon and search or high-intensity operations, the IA always take the lead as the main effort of the search," said 1st Lt. Jakim Finlay, the platoon leader in charge of this mission.

"They're a lot better at searching than we are because they know what to look for. They can take us to places and uncover

things that we would never see except through experience," Finlay continued.

The Iraqi soldiers, not content with improvements they have already made, regularly work with U.S. Soldiers in order to continue developing their skills.

After every mission they do together, U.S. and IA soldiers conduct a review, where they discuss which aspects of the mission went well, and what parts still need to be worked on.

"At the most basic level, the after-action review is the thing that's helping to improve the Iraqi army, because they're seeing feedback brought back to them and it's giving them an arrow, pointing them to where they need to go," Finlay said.

"There are a lot of times the IA soldiers weren't even able to go to basic (training). So now they're retraining these guys and getting them up on what they need to learn," Finlay continued. "The IA is making strong improvements with the command, from the top down, with putting the right men into the right job and getting the soldiers the right training."

'Can you hear me, yet?'

'Commo' team helps ensure Soldiers can talk on the battlefield

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

HAWIJA, Iraq – In the desert, somewhere between the objective and their "home" in Iraq, two Soldiers work together silently in the dark. Without a word, and with movements that seem synchronized, they quickly fasten antennas, attach cables, and hoist a large receiving and transmitting device. "Got it?" asks the stocky sergeant. "Ya, got it," responds the spectacled specialist.

And just like that – in less than 15 minutes – the communications hardware is assembled, and ground forces are relaying critical information from just outside the morning's objective in a southern portion of the Kirkuk Province back to the command post.

Sgt. Jose Yanez and Spc. Jared Ward, both signal support specialists, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, have established the critical link in the mission's communication chain. They kick-back in the cab of their vehicle. Ward crunches on a candy bar. Yanez sips his soda. Mission accomplished and it's just 5:45 a.m.

Yanez grew up in Brownsville, Texas, where his parents still reside. Over his more than 10 years of military service, Yanez has spent time with units in Germany, Georgia and North Carolina, before moving to Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, late last year. He's one of the few who is on his third deployment to Iraq.

"I was in Iraq in February 2003 through June of that year when the war first started. Then, I changed



Sgt. Jose Yanez, right, and Spc. Jared Ward both signal support specialists, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, disassemble retransmission equipment at the conclusion of a mission in the southern portion of the Kirkuk Province, Iraq.

units and got orders to go back in March 2004 for a year," said Yanez. "After I got back from Iraq in 2005, I eventually got orders to Hawaii and got assigned to Third Brigade, which was already over here. I just arrived about a month ago," he continued.

Yanez explained that his "retransmission mission" means that he and Ward are part of the first push toward the objective. "We make sure that everyone can talk to each other from the forward elements all the way to the back," he said.

Noon rolls around and Ward and Yanez exit their vehicle after hours of monitoring radio traffic. Yanez explains that it is possible to construct a radio with just three "MRE (Meals Ready-To-Eat) spoons" and certain other natural material. Clearly, Yanez' time at Fort Bragg, N.C., with Special Forces units has paid off.

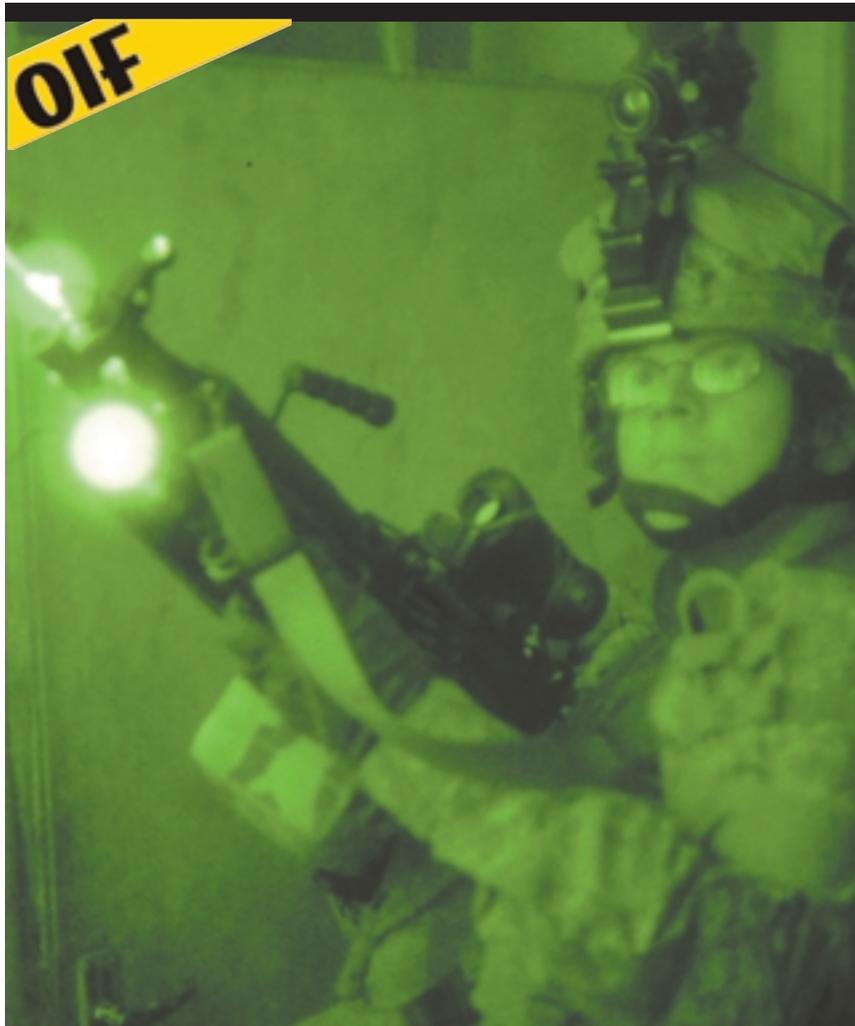
Ward, a native of West Monroe, La., whose family now resides just outside of Corpus Christie, Texas,

listens to Yanez, shakes his head approvingly and moves to the rear of the vehicle to grab chow. With his distinctive southern country drawl, Ward explains that his father is in the same field in the civilian world. Like his father, Ward finds that he really enjoys his work.

"The best part about my job is knowing that we are a big asset to the mission," said Ward. "If people can't talk out here then people can get hurt or injured, and if that does happen, we are the ones that [provide the means] for reaching those that are in need," he said.

Four hours later, Yanez and Ward get the order to "break it down." Together, in silence, they work. Again, in less than 15 minutes, the equipment is disassembled and packed away. Just that quickly, both Soldiers hop into the cab of their vehicle to head back home.

"First in, last out," said Ward. "There's a lot of perks to being in 'commo,' but it seems that we're still always the last to leave."



Sgt. Armando Monroig | 5th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Night vision

QUBAH, Iraq — A Soldier from Company B, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, looks up a stairwell to the second floor of a building here, March 25. The company had assisted troops from the 82nd Airborne Division in clearing insurgents from several villages in the Diyala River Basin. The mission is part of an ongoing military operation in the Diyala Province aimed at disrupting terrorist activities.

Iraqi Army takes the lead in counterinsurgency training

American advisors take backseat and allow Iraqi soldiers to train on own using nontraditional combat techniques, strategies at counterinsurgency academy

STAFF SGT. ERIC PAHON
5th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

KIRKUK, Iraq— The effects of Saddam Hussein's regime are less evident in the current Iraqi army as a group of officers conduct an after-action review (AAR) during training at the Counterinsurgency (COIN) Academy at Iraqi army post K-1, near Kirkuk.

Weakness was not something that Iraqi army officers were able to discuss openly under dictatorial control, but these assessment skills are becoming stronger in the 4th Iraqi Army Division as COIN training progresses, said Capt. Patton Nix, a Military Transition Team (MTT) advisor stationed at K-1.

AAR sessions like this are standard for U.S. troops following any operation, providing an informal, action-level assessment of operational strengths and weaknesses that affect future training and mission planning. Basically, leaders have a chance to discuss what their units did well, and what they need to improve upon next time.

"Positives and negatives are their equivalents to our

sustains and improves," explained Nix. "So if they say something is negative, that means they did it completely wrong; they didn't perform to the standard at all. So where we're trying to steer them is the sustain – improve mentality, where it might have went OK, it might have went bad, but how can we improve it next time? How can we continue to make what we learned better?"

Only a handful of American MIT Soldiers are stationed at K-1. Iraqi soldiers now conduct almost all of the training here, not only at the COIN Academy, but also at the basic training academy across post. The team still interjects occasionally during the AAR session, guiding the discussion to develop constructive criticism. But this is a small role in terms of overall operations at the academy.

"The whole point of the COIN Academy is to teach the companies to effectively conduct counterinsurgency operations on their own," Nix said. "A big part of this is to not involve coalition forces at all with any portion of the training. The only time we're involved in the training at all is the rehearsals, the OPORD (Operations Order) briefing and the AAR. It gives them a chance to analyze the mission as they see it, and really take a look at themselves and figure out where they need to improve and where they did well."

The COIN Academy is a nontraditional school for the Iraqi army, going beyond basic combat survival skills and weapons training. Company-sized ele-

ments rotate through the school every 10 days learning advanced counterinsurgency techniques.

"We teach them the right approaches," said Lt. Col. Fatah Latif Abdarhman, training officer for the 2nd Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division, currently training at the academy. "We focus on the right way to conduct an operation, especially cordon and search operations, taking care to safeguard human rights. All these points improve and enhance the picture of the Iraqi army to the populace."

The brigade has sent half of its 16 companies through the training so far. Abdarhman says that while the units are initially leery of the training they're about to encounter, they quickly settle in to its unique approach and value.

"Normally the first day, when the company reports to the base here, I can see that all the soldiers are angry and bored and complaining," he explained via an interpreter. "They think that the kind of training they will get here in this academy is just the regular drills, or combat drills, marching, or weapons systems. But they are surprised the first day, sitting in the classrooms. And these points, they provide security to the

soldiers, like he will be able to learn to protect himself and show a good picture for the Iraqi army."

Abdarhman also found that this value has produced more students who want to attend the training. At first only 30 or 40 soldiers from each company showed up for training. But once word got out about the curriculum, complete companies bombarded the academy with trainees. Their input, garnered from newly-developed AAR procedures, helped the school expand, and to include first-aid and lifesaving courses.

The Iraqis continue to develop the training at K-1, as American advisors take a backseat role in daily operations here. The goal, said Nix, is to show the Iraqi army that they are ready to take control without constant coalition involvement.

"It's getting the Iraqis to take ownership of their training, to take ownership of their army," Nix said. "It really builds a sense of pride and a sense of camaraderie in their soldiers, and I think that the companies have accepted that better because they're getting trained by their own guys now. It's not just the coalition that's that good anymore."

Spirit of aloha advances partnership for health in Vietnam

Story and Photo by
GEORGE O'BRIEN

Foreign Affairs Officer, U.S. Army, Pacific

IMPERIAL CITY OF HUE, Socialist Republic of Vietnam — At first it was just a trickle of country folks, but soon a steady procession formed on the narrow, dusty roads dotted with ancestral tombs and water buffalos. Just after sunrise, a huge crowd assembled. The excitement spread quickly: American medical personnel had returned to help the people.

The Aloha Medical and Civil Engineering Mission, a tri-service, civilian-military project, treated more than 3,000 people, performing more than 10,000 procedures, here.

The mission was executed by a 45-member team, consisting of surgeons, physicians, preventive medicine and biomedical specialists, dentists, hygienists, nurses, civil engineers, and support personnel from U.S. Army, Pacific (USARPAC); Pacific Air Forces; U.S. Navy Environmental and Preventive Medicine Unit-6; the East Meets West Foundation based in Vietnam; and the Aloha Medical Mission (AMM) from Honolulu.

Thanh-Lo Sananikone, coordinator for the AMM and a native of Hue now living in Honolulu, said locals appreciated how special emphasis was directed at meeting the needs of underserved communities, and were very surprised to see Americans in uniform again.

The existing Thuong Lac Humanitarian Dispensary here, and temporary clinics established in two nearby villages, were among the seven locations in the area set up to provide care to underserved people.

A dental clinic was set up by the U.S. Public Health Service's Capt. Fritz Craft at the local Phu



A U.S.-Vietnamese dental team works on a patient during the Aloha Medical and Civil Engineering Mission in the Imperial City of Hue, Socialist Republic of Vietnam, March 17.

Xuan orphanage, and boat children were brought in by vans for extractions, fillings and scaling.

At Hue Central Hospital, joint U.S.-Vietnamese teams exchanged info on the latest medical and surgical techniques, and performed operations to include open heart surgery, knee replacement, and facial reconstruction for a woman disfigured in the Vietnam Conflict.

Air Force Lt. Col. Mylene Huynh, mission commander, said the civilians and military quickly formed an effective team, pitched in to do a myriad of tasks they don't normally do at home, and put in long hours during a hectic, but rewarding, five-day period.

The austere conditions, high-demand environment and opportunity to work in close collaboration with

both active and reserve military forces and civilian volunteers from nongovernmental organizations were key benefits for U.S. personnel, said U.S. Army Maj. Kinsey McFadden, medical planner from USARPAC.

The teams also partnered with locals to improve living conditions in the villages. Under the watchful eyes of a huge crowd of school children, the teams rebuilt a latrine, repaired classroom floors, and established water lines at two elementary schools. The American and Vietnamese workers used hand tools to perform excavations and pour concrete in high heat and humidity.

The chairman of the Hue City People's Committee, Nguyen Van Ly, commended the team for helping so many different segments of the community with quality medical care. He also commended the donation of more than \$150,000 of medicine, hospital supplies and equipment, books, clothing, and school supplies to local hospitals and orphanages. He extended an invitation to the mayor of Honolulu to come visit Hue, possibly to see another "Partnership for Health" in action. The governor of the Province made a special effort to meet the team and expressed interest in initiating a state to state partnership with Hawaii. Dr. Nicholas DoanVan, a native of Hue, now a cardiologist practicing in the U.S., translated and explained how the Vietnamese officials thought the mission was truly groundbreaking and set the stage for expanded cooperation in the future.

On the way home, team members reflected on the hard work, long hours, frustrations, sights and patients. What a young Vietnamese translator said at the closing ceremony lingered on: "Your positive actions taught us what aloha means. Come again soon and work close beside your many new friends."

Wolfhounds, Strykers return from training on Korea penninsula

SGT. 1ST CLASS CHRISTINA BHATTI

U.S. Army, Pacific, Public Affairs

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE — Approximately 20 Soldiers and two Strykers from Company A, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team arrived here Monday, after spending two weeks in Daegu, Korea.

The platoon of approximately 50 Soldiers was there to participate in the Reception, Staging, Onward Movement (RSOI) and Integration and Foal Eagle exercises held annually by U.S. Forces Korea (USFK).

The unit deployed to Korea for the USFK exercise and to conduct platoon gunnery and squad live-fire exercises.

The RSOI exercise portion tests the military's ability to deploy warfighters to Korea each year.

Soldiers loaded their vehicles onto an Air Force C-17 Globemaster and flew from Daegu, South Korea, to Hawaii. The vehicles were then loaded onto flatbed trucks and taken back to Schofield Barracks.



Photos by Petty Officer 1st Class Daniel N. Woods

Above — Staff Sgt. Christopher Bolwell communicates with his squad during dismounted maneuvers, Monday. Approximately 50 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team Soldiers participated in the annual RSOI (Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration) and Foal Eagle exercises during the past two weeks.

Left — Soldiers practice clearing rooms at the Rodriguez Range Complex, in Daegu, Republic of Korea, Monday.

125th's Team B returns from Khandahar

CAPT. ROD D. DOYLE
125th Finance Battalion

HONOLULU — Last month when Team Bravo returned home, a six-Soldier team comprised of members from each of the three detachments of the 125th Finance Battalion, Schofield Barracks, perhaps no one was more excited than Susan Funcheon and Kathy Rydzynski. The two wives (of Staff Sgt. Kevin Funcheon and Spc. Gregg Rydzynski) were eagerly awaiting the arrival of their spouses after a long year.

Team Bravo returned to a heroes' welcome at the United Services Office, or USO, here at the Honolulu International Airport.

Col. Stanley Tunstall, commander, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, and Command Sgt. Maj. Harry Collins of 8th TSC officiated the welcome home ceremony. Tunstall gave remarks on the quality of the Soldiers and their unparalleled success in combat. Afterwards, Chaplain (Capt.) Jay Clark of 45th Special Troops Battalion delivered a blessing combined with a brief welcome back, safety and reintegration speech.

"When one ponders the global war on terror, immediately Soldiers loaded with weapons and pounds of equipment, searching cave to cave or evading IEDs [improvised explosive devices] come to mind," Maj Paul Bristol, 125th Finance battalion commander (rear detachment). "However, with all the work that these Finance Soldiers contributed to the RC-South mission at Kandahar Army Airfield in Afghanistan, many Soldiers on the battlefield have become familiar with these Pacific Paymasters and the slogan 'You can't afford to go to war without us,'" he said.

According to Bristol, during its yearlong deployment, Team Bravo disbursed more than \$8 million in check and casual payments, and more than \$25 million in contract payments in the fight against ter-



Sgt. 1st Class Jack Buchanan | 125th Finance Battalion

Col. Stanley Tunstall, commander, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, recognizes Team B during a welcome home ceremony at the Honolulu International Airport's USO office.

rorism, tremendous accomplishments.

Before the welcome home ceremony ended Bristol promoted 1st Lt. Andrea Darling, team officer in charge, to the rank of captain.

Darling giving parting comments: "The team did an outstanding job ... most of the Team will be on block leave during April and should be fully re-

freshed at the end of the month.

"Thank you to our family, friends and fellow Soldiers that came to welcome us with some aloha. Now we just need to bring the rest of the Paymasters home, safe and sound."

Following a brief reception, Team Bravo was released with some well-deserved passes.

Retired Soldiers receive new pin

LAURA PAUL
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The Army has created a new pin to emphasize the continuing bond between the Army and its almost 800,000 retired Soldiers.

The pin is the Army logo headed by the word "Retired." The new pin is larger than its predecessor and clearly identifies the wearer as part of the Army.

Mailing of the pin with a letter from the Army Chief of Staff and Sergeant Major of the Army began March 26 and will continue for about four months. The packet includes information on the Army Strong campaign and the \$2,000 recruiting referral bonus for retired Soldiers, plus an "Army Retired" window sticker.

"We're asking retired Soldiers to wear their retired pins proudly. We want them to wear their new pin to show pride in their past service, and as a 'call to service' for others in the community," said John Radke, chief of Army Retirement Services.

"We know that most communities are far from an Army post. Many young people have no living relatives who served in the military," he said. "The retired Soldiers in their town could be their first personal contact with the Army. The new pins will make our retired Soldiers easy to find."

The Army Chief of Staff's Retiree Council proposed the pin's creation at their annual meeting last April.

(Editor's Note: Laura Paul works for Army Retirement Services.)



News Briefs

Send calendar announcements to community
@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

April 6/Today

Volunteers — Event organizers of the Academic Decathlon, to be held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel, are looking for 20-30 service members to assist at various times during the decathlon's "Super Quiz" activities, running from 9:45 a.m.-3 p.m., April 27. The Academic Decathlon features high school students from 41 states who will converge in Hawaii to compete in 10 events: Economics, Essay, Art, Interview, Language and Literature, Math, Music, Science, Social Science and Speech.

Volunteers must register with Dennis Fujii, Public Affairs, U.S. Pacific Command, at 477-6282. The uniform for volunteers is Summer White or Blue.

9/Monday

American Ex-POW/MIA Ceremony — The annual ceremony to commemorate the service and sacrifice of former American prisoners of war and service members missing in action will be held at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, called Punchbowl, April 9 beginning at 10 a.m. Call Fred Ballard at 433-0049 for more information.

School Surveys — More than 3,000 military households on Oahu have been randomly selected to participate in a survey to measure

their perception of Hawaii public schools by the University of Hawaii.

A cover letter and survey was mailed out March 8 to families across the state. The data generated from the survey will provide useful information that will assist public schools, which support military children and families in Hawaii.

If your household was selected, your participation is highly encouraged. Call Amanda Quijano or Dr. Kathleen Berg at 956-4729.

16/Monday

Hawaii Medal of Honor — The Hawaii State Legislature will meet in joint session to present Hawaii Medals of Honor to 68 families with ties to Hawaii who have lost loved ones in Iraq.

Schofield Road Repair — Schofield Barracks' Foote Avenue adjacent to Quad E will be closed April 16-30, for road improvement work. Sidewalks will remain useable. For more information, contact Mr. Owen Ogata, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at 624-7234.

Days of Remembrance — The U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii, Equal Opportunity team invites the military-civilian community to its Days of Remembrance observance, April 16 from 10:30-11:30 a.m., Building 1554, Fort Shafter Flats. This year's focus is "Children in Crisis: Voices from the Holocaust."

Come enjoy a special presentation of hope, an artist gallery display and ethnic food tasting. Call Staff Sgt. Eli Handler (438-2986) or Master Sgt. Sophia Mendoza (258-3696) for more details.

23/Monday

Commissary Closure — The Schofield Barracks Commissary will be conducting a formal in-

ventory on Monday, April 23. In order to complete inventory and comply with the terms of contracts, the store will open at 8 a.m. and close at 2:30 p.m.

24/Tuesday

Culinary Honors — The community is invited to join the U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii, commander, Col. Howard J. Killian, when he honors Team Hawaii, April 24, 1:30 p.m., K-Quad dining facility, Building 780, Schofield Barracks, for its achievements during the 2007 U.S. Army Culinary Arts Competition in Fort Lee, Va.

26/Thursday

Annual Hawaii Military Appreciation Month — HMAM activities, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, will kick off Thursday, April 26, at the new Pacific Aviation Museum on Ford Island, beginning at 6 p.m. (attendance is by invitation).

The military community should "save the date" for these other HMAM 2007 events: May 19, 5:30 p.m., the Combined Military Band Concert at the Hawaii Theater; May 24, 11 a.m., the annual HMAM Awards Luncheon at the Hilton Hawaiian Village; June 2, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., the United Services Organization (USO)'s "Family Day at Honolulu Zoo" at Kapiolani Park. Call 545-4300, ext. 320.

Ongoing

Tax Center Hours — The Fort Shafter and Schofield Barracks Tax Centers will provide free federal and state income tax preparation and assistance to Soldiers, family members, retirees, active Reservists and National Guard members.

Patrons must bring proper identification, social security cards for

SEE NEWS BRIEFS, A-7



Spc. Juan Jimenez | 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

Goal!

1st Lt. Brent Martin, platoon leader, Bravo Co., 2nd Battalion 27th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, hands out back packs and soccer balls to local Iraqi kids, during an escort mission to re-supply the city of Zaab with benzene and kerosene.

The city's bridge was damaged by anti-Iraqi forces preventing supply shipments and regular vehicle traffic from reaching the city.

Tripler honors service of more than 160 volunteers



Mark Jackson | Tripler Army Medical Center Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Carla Hawley-Bowland, commanding general, Tripler Army Medical Center, expresses gratitude to the 165 volunteers being recognized for their service during Tripler's annual Red Cross volunteer breakfast banquet, March 29.

TRIPLER ARMY MEDICAL CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

News Release

HONOLULU – When Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC) hosted its annual volunteer recognition breakfast banquet March 29, more than 160 volunteers were recognized for their selfless service and significant contributions of over 20,570 hours in 2006.

Each year Tripler thanks volunteers who donate their time to support Tripler staff in its daily operations.

“Red Cross volunteers are an important part of what we [Tripler] do. We can never thank them enough for their service,” said Sue Rolsen, Tripler American Red Cross coordinator. “The chapel volunteers are a dedicated group; they always ensure that every patient has a visitor.”

If you have walked the halls of Tripler, undoubtedly, you have seen some of these volunteers proudly displaying the distinct American Red Cross emblem on their identification badge. Even TAMC's 19 registered animals have ID badges.

These volunteers range in age from 15 years old to well over 85 years young.

According to Rolsen, all of the volunteers undergo the same screening as paid Tripler staff. “They are fully qualified employees who are integrated into the workforce. In addition to giving back, it [volunteering] is a way for them to learn and improve their skills in the workplace – skills that can be added to their resumes.”

Opening remarks and presentation of awards were given by Tripler commanding general, Maj. Gen. Carla Hawley-Bowland.

“I especially want to thank all of our volunteers for sharing ... warm smiles with staff and beneficiaries,” said Hawley-Bowland. “We think the world of you for helping us to accomplish difficult daily tasks.”



Roger Monsarrat



Eloise Monsarrat

In addition to others recognized at the ceremony, a special group of volunteers were recognized. They contributed more than 10 years of selfless service.

For more information about the American Red Cross volunteer program, please contact Sue Rolsen at (808) 433-6631.

Special Recognition Volunteers

- 12 years, Francine Yates
- 13, Ruth Hall & Bernice Oshita
- 15, Gertrud Lynagh
- 16, Constance Hastings, Edith Muench & Rhonda Plum
- 17, Eloise Monsarrat
- 18, Sumiko Iwamoto
- 19, Roberta Christiansen
- 20, Mooklan Winber
- 21, Lawrence Heyenga
- 24, Margaret Gilbert
- 25, Nancy Airhart & Roger Monsarrat
- 26, Barbara Graessle

News Briefs

From A-6

all individuals to be claimed on all returns, W-2's and any other tax-related forms they deem necessary.

The Fort Shafter Tax Center is located in Building 330. The hours of operation are Monday-Wednesday, from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m., and Thursday, from 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Call 438-0829.

The Schofield Barracks Tax Center is located in Building 678. The hours of operation are Monday-Wednesday, from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Thursday, from 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m., and Friday, from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Call 655-1040.

Both centers will be closed on federal holidays.

Since April 15 falls on Sunday and April 15 is Emancipation Day, a legal holiday in the District of Columbia, taxpayers will have until April 17 to file their 2006 returns and pay any taxes due.

TSP Classes – Learn how a 403(b) plan like Thrift Savings Plan works in terms of allowable amounts and different types of investment opportunities. Classes are held on the third Wednesday of every month at the Schofield Barracks' Army Community Service, Building 2091 from 9-10:30 a.m.

Contact Georgianna McAnany at 655-1714 or Georgianna.McAnany@schofield.army.mil.

Green to Gold – A program briefing on the Army Green to Gold Program will be held at the Schofield Barracks and Tripler Army Medical Center Education Centers the last Wednesday of each month.

To be eligible, Soldiers must have served at least two years on active duty. The current application window will be open until Apr. 1.

Visit www.rotc.usaac.army.mil/command/Green2Gold/index.htm.

Call the University of Hawaii Army ROTC Warrior Battalion, 956-7766 or e-mail gblt@hawaii.edu.

Military Channel – The 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 broadcast weekdays at 4 p.m.

Reserve Officers Scholarship – Applications for The Henry J. Reilly Memorial Scholarship program, sponsored by the Reserve Officers Association (ROA), are now available online at www.roa.org/site/PageServer?pagenamereilly_scholarship.

ROA awards merit-based graduate scholarships to members and merit-based undergraduate scholarships to children and grandchildren of members.

Scholarships are valued at \$500. Winners can resubmit annually as long as they meet application criteria. The application deadline is April 10. Contact Henry.David.Pendleton@us.army.mil.

Lyman Closure – Lyman Gate on Schofield Barracks is closed through June 30 for construction improvements.

Macomb Gate has reopened only for exiting the post. McNair Gate will be used for entry only. Commercial deliveries, visitors and unregistered vehicles must use McNair Gate. Call 656-2473.

For a map of the changes, visit www.25idl.army.mil/communityimpactupdates/roadclosuremap.jpg.

Leadership Development Program – The Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) is accepting applications for The Frances Hesselbein Student Leadership Program for students in the Student to Student program.

The leadership program is a new initiative established by the MCEC board of directors to identify exemplary young people to provide them with specialized training that will nurture and develop their leadership skills, patriotism, commitment to service, and their intellectual and problem solving capacity.

The program will be held at the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.

Call Jewel Csiszar at 655-

9818 or 258-9192 for application information.

Reserve Opportunities – Active duty, Guard, reserve Soldiers: Are you looking to continue your Army career but your job, school, or schedule conflicts keep you from attending weekend drill? Are you leaving active duty and want to continue earning points towards retirement?

Join a local points-only reserve unit and continue your military career while maintaining your benefits (commisary/PX/SGLI). Drills are three evenings each month at Fort Shafter Flats. All ranks and any MOS are eligible. Annual training, schooling, and other paid tour opportunities exist.

Call Maj. Pepper 438-6242 or Sgt. Maj. Kahalehoe 228-3323.

AER Campaign – Army Emergency Relief will conduct its annual campaign through May 4. Your contributions remain important to help AER fulfill its mission of helping Soldiers in time of distress and misfortune. Contact Jackie Torres at 655-7132.

Car-buying Classes – Learn how to get the most vehicle for your money. Car buying classes are held on the third Wednesday of every month at the Schofield Barracks' Army Community Service, Building 2091 from 9-10:30 a.m. Contact Georgianna McAnany at 655-4227 or Georgianna.McAnany@schofield.army.mil.

Career Assistance – Need help in finding a job? Are you wondering how to market your skills and abilities? Explore www.militaryspousejobsearch.org and www.myarmylifetoo.com to learn job

search techniques, resume writing tips, and obtain information on the Army Spouse Employment Partnership.

For additional assistance, contact Alohalinda Bolosan at 655-2390.

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

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

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

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

Classes include checkbook maintenance, money management, credit management, the Thrift Savings Plan, car buying, mutual fund investing, college funding, and Army Emergency Relief (AER)/command referral. Instructors can also assist with zero percent interest, AER loans.

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

Army Reserve Opportunities – Reserve Soldiers who have schedule conflicts that prevent them from attending weekend drill or separating active duty Soldiers who want to continue earning points towards retirement should consider joining a points-only reserve unit. These

units allow participants to continue their military career while maintaining benefits. Drills are three evenings a month at Fort Shafter Flats. All ranks are eligible. Call 438-6242 or 228-3323.

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

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

Hickam Air Force Base (AFB), Mondays and Wednesdays;

Pearl Harbor, Tuesdays and Thursdays; Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH), Fridays.

Call Hickam AFB, 422-1032; Pearl Harbor, 422-0079; or MCBH, 254-4133.

Free USPS Packaging – The U.S. Postal Service provides military family members and friends with packaging materials to send packages to service members. Call 800-610-8734, follow prompts, then ask for the “Military Pack.”

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

Master's Degree – The University of Oklahoma is offering a Master of Arts in Managerial Economics. The non-thesis program can be completed in about 18 months. The one-week classes are temporary-duty friendly. Contact OU at 449-6364, or aphickam@ou.edu, or visit the Web site at www.gouou.ou.edu.

Rotate: Troop surge gives more latitude for leaders

CONTINUED FROM A-1

twenty combat brigades," said Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman. "These combat brigades – with these additional troop rotations – will permit the surge to commit at that level through the end of August."

The 18th Airborne Corps from Fort Bragg, N.C., will replace the 3rd Corps out of Fort Hood, Texas, as the lead unit for Multinational Corps Iraq in November. The corps headquarters is at Camp Victory outside Baghdad.

The 1st Armored Division headquarters, from Wiesbaden, Germany, will go in to replace the 25th ID headquarters (based out of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii) in August. However, the 25th ID headquarters will extend in Iraq for 45 days. The 25th is currently the headquarters for the Multinational Division North, based in Contingency Operating Base Speicher, near Tikrit.

The 4th ID will return to the Iraqi capital, to replace the 1st Cavalry Division as headquarters for Multinational Division Baghdad in September. The 4th served a year as the lead for Multinational Division Baghdad through 2006. The 1st Cavalry will depart on schedule.

These rotations will allow commanders the latitude they need to continue operations in Iraq. They can maintain the level, go down or go up depending on the circumstances, Whitman said.

"What you are seeing here today reflects a decision that will carry the effort of twenty brigade combat teams through August '07," he said.

Other decision points will be made for commanders in Iraq over the next few months, he continued.

There are roughly 1,000 service members apiece in the division headquarters.

A DoD official said Sunday the department regards the dwell break for the two units as significant, and that proposals being worked in DoD would compensate service members who either go back to Iraq early or are extended in the country.

SIMS: Spouses give feedback on commissary issues

CONTINUED FROM A-1

port Battalion commander.

The council received several issues from the SIM. Patrons said they want fully stocked grocery shelves at the commissary and more attention to food handling procedures in its deli. Another issue paper stated a need for better pricing and variety of clothing brands in the PX.

Patrons of the commissary, PX and Nehelani, who have access to the Division Intranet, may soon submit their issues online to the advisory council.

During the SIM, the 25th Infantry Division (ID) rear detachment commander, Col. Timothy Ryan, gave remarks about the Division's extension. Representatives from the Schofield Barracks Health Clinic, Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC) and Army Hawaii Family Housing (AHFH) also gave details about current issues.

Notably, Maj. James Hallmark, chief, TAMC Clinical Support Division, made the SIMS spouses and FRG leaders aware of a new forum, the Health Care Consumer

Meeting, which next meets in June. The Tripler meeting provides an opportunity for users to sit down with providers and see what's working and what's not.

Janine Lind, director of property management for AHFH, clarified misunderstandings about the housing priority wait list. The rumor mill was circulating some inaccurate method that families returning from the mainland, just in time for their 25th ID spouse's redeployment, could snag a new home.

Col. Howard J. Killian, commander, USAG-HI, explained that only one returning family has received a newly constructed home, and Lind confirmed that most all housing assignments are made to existing homes. Everyone who gets an AHFH home, she said, gets the home then available by established priorities.

Responding to an audience question, Killian said, during the last few years, occupancy rates in AHFH have risen from 65 percent to 88 percent. Occupancy must be maintained at 95 percent, he said, according to contractual agreements with Actus



The family readiness group (FRG) for 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, led by Carolyn Hunter (far right), discusses new business after the Spouse Information Meeting held at the Post Conference Room, Monday. Spouses of all units are highly encouraged to participate in their unit's FRG.

Lend Lease, the privatized developer.

That's why AHFH has several incentive programs, explained Lind. The Hawaii housing market is soft right now, and the mar-

ketplace is competitive. Therefore, AHFH offers incentives to renew leases and incentives to pull Army families from off post to on.

Ford Island Air Museum flies high

J.R. REESE

U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii, Public Affairs

FORD ISLAND – While you're admiring paintings of the old Royal Hawaiian Hotel and other Honolulu landmarks, an announcer breaks in over the music to announce that Pearl Harbor has been attacked, and seaplane Hangar 37, where you now stand, is at ground zero!

Time travel is possible at the Pacific Aviation Museum.

"This building is centered on the biggest aviation events that the world had seen up to that time, which was the attack on Pearl Harbor," said Jean Navarra, director of business and marketing for the museum. "Aviation took off from there."

The first-stage building of a planned three vintage hangars features life-sized dioramas depicting the first year of the war, 1941-1942, with aircraft that survived both the war and the intervening 65-70 years. Hangars 79 and 54, adjacent, are part of museum expansion plans and will feature the rest of the war, plus aircraft from the Korean War, Vietnam, and up to present day. All of the exhibits will keep with the Pacific theme of military aviation.

Ford Island was a natural choice to locate a military aviation museum. Purchased in 1917 for joint use by the Army and Navy, the tiny island with Luke Airfield was transferred to the Navy in 1923. The moorings of "battleship row" encircle the isle, making it the epicenter of the attack on Dec. 7, 1941.

A virtual time-travel experience

One gets the feeling of flying immediately upon entering the museum. The floor is an enormous, crisply detailed satellite photo of Pearl Harbor and the surrounding community. Local military and civilian visitors, especially children, start walking the roads to find their home or office.

"You can easily tell who lives here and who doesn't when they come through the door, because the people who live here don't want to leave the lobby," said Navarra. "They have to go find their house, their grandma's house, where they work, and their car."

Once past the admission desk, visitors pass through a time tunnel of paintings accented by period radio broadcasts to a theater with a brief, moving film on Ford Island, with survivors of the attack telling their personal experiences on that day of infamy.

The first exhibit is a restored 1942 Japanese A6M "Zero" fighter, the 500th off the Nakajima production line and one of the few surviving Zeros out of some 11,000 models produced during the war. It was found shot up and abandoned on Roi Island, was made airworthy, and then sent to Canada for a second life flying in air shows until the museum obtained it and restored it down to the exact six-month-faded shade of green.

"In the movies you see the Zero always portrayed as white or light gray. Actually, they're not, they're green," said Navarra. "The Japanese used cheap paint, and it faded very quickly."

The Zero was restored to match that of 20 year old Naval Airman 1st Class Shigenori Nishikaichi of the carrier Hiryu, and the tremendous ripple effect of his actions after he crash landed on Niihau. Another life-sized diorama of the actual remnants of his Zero and the little tractor that caused him to crash are close by.

When the museum opened its doors on Dec. 7, 2006, visitors from around the world who attended the commemoration of the 65th anniversary of the attack saw the rare sight of former Japanese Zero pilots – three of whom participated in the attack – posing before it.



Visit www.pacificaviationmuseum.org or call 441-1000 for more details.

Flying around the other exhibits

Other exhibits include an Army Air Force B-25 "Mitchell" bomber on the deck of the USS Hornet while en route to bomb Tokyo with Jimmy Doolittle's raiders; a Navy F-4 Wildcat fighter lost during carrier training on the Great Lakes and restored to flight-ready after decades on the bottom to resemble ace Joe Foss's fighter at Guadalcanal; and the actual trainer flown by a young cadet named Lt. George H.W. Bush. A replica of a P-40 fighter with a tuxedo-clad pilot that rose and fought during the Dec. 7 attack hangs overhead.

More exhibits are planned, like a SBD Dauntless dive-bomber to go with a mural of the Battle of Midway. Also, artist Hal Olsen, who painted the nose art of countless warbirds in the Pacific, will demonstrate his unique craft again on the B-25.

Even the museum's Blue Heaven Cafe is an exhibit. Squadron emblems line the walls where visitors can enjoy cold suds or a meal prepared fresh as you watch.

The Blue Heaven Cafe represents what an aviators' club in the Pacific might have looked like, said Navarra. The walls are decorated with "magazine covers, surfboards, posters--anything they might have brought from home."

Of keen interest to wannabe fighter jocks and computer gamers is the sophisticated flight battle simulator, where up to six virtual pilots can dogfight against the computer or each other. The aircraft model programs currently available range from World War II to present, with plans to expand to include Japanese fighters in the future.

Many of the visitors are World War II veterans, and they all want to talk, said Navarra, adding that the museum is enriching history by recording what the vets have to say. The odd phenomenon, she said, is that a lot of the time the former warriors tell stories their spouse, kids and grandchildren had never heard before.

"They're standing there in shock going 'he's never said this,'" said Navarra. "There's like a great need for them to talk to somebody who understands."

The Pacific Aviation Museum is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., 362 days a year. Tickets are available at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation's Information, Travel and Reservations office. Admission is free to service members in uniform. The museum will host the 2007 Military Appreciation Month opening ceremony, which requires an invitation, April 26.



The youngest Navy pilot to get his wings at the time he graduated flight school, 18-year-old Ensign George H.W. Bush flew this trainer before going on to complete 58 combat missions during World War II.



This AM6 "Zero" fighter, one of the few of its kind to survive the war, awaits launch from the deck of the INJ Hiryu to attack Oahu, Dec. 7, 1941. This diorama greets visitors as they enter the exhibit hall and begins the story of aviation in the Pacific.



6 / Today

NAF Property Sale — A NAF excess property sale will be held April 6, Building 1598, Fort Shafter Flats. Sale items include office and home furniture, golf course equipment, golf carts, restaurant equipment, and more.

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

Easter Egg Hunt — Teens, join friends for an evening of fun at the Schofield Barracks Teen Center, 7-9:30 p.m. for a flashlight Easter egg hunt. Listen to music, dance and hunt for Easter eggs in the dark.

Cost is \$2 for members and \$4 for non-members. Call 655-0445.

7 / Saturday

Family Fun Fest — Hop on over to the Nehelani, Schofield Barracks, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. for a day of Easter fun. Children will enjoy pictures with the Easter bunny, kiddie dashes and infant activities, inflatables, crafts, rides and other activities. Adults can check out great travel deals offered by a variety of local businesses at the Information, Ticketing, and Registration (ITR) Travel Fair.

Door prizes include a trip to Las Vegas or a neighbor island. Call 655-0111 or 655-0112.

ITR Closure — Offices on Fort Shafter and Schofield Barracks will be closed April 7 for the Family Fun Fest. Call 438-1985 (Fort Shafter) or 655-9971 (Schofield Barracks).

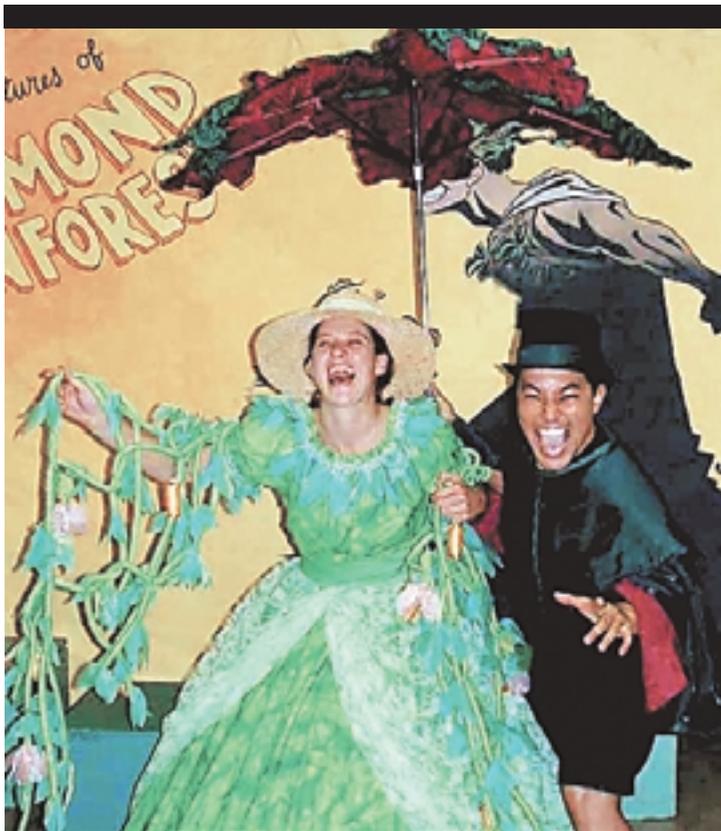
8 / Sunday

Easter Brunch — Join KoleKole Bar & Grill for a special Easter Brunch, April 8, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Enjoy a buffet with all of your favorites, including delicious salads, made-to-order omelettes, hot breakfast and entrée selections, and a carving station.

Cost is \$23 per person and children's pricing is available. For reservations, call 655-4466.

11 / Wednesday

Oogles n Googles — Preschoolers, come join the fun when Oogles n Googles present "Wild Wild West" at Sgt. Yano Library, April 11, 10 a.m. This program will provide preschoolers ages 3-5 an exciting adventure full of jumping, dancing, singing, laughing



Courtesy Photo

'Perils in Paradise'

Starbucks Hawaii will sponsor the play "Peril in Paradise," a stage performance for schoolchildren and the general public that will dramatize the dangers invasive species pose to Hawaii's native plants and animal life. Shows will begin Friday, April 13 at the Honolulu Zoo. See the community calendar listing below for details.

and learning. Call 655-8002.

13 / Friday

Hot Country Nights — Country music fans are invited to a free night of music, contests, giveaways and more at Hot Country Nights. Come to the Tropics, April 13, 8 p.m.-midnight, and enjoy DJs Charlie "Ghost Rider" and Kathleen "Rodeo Radio Girl" Garrett, who will spin all your country favorites.

Patrons must be 18 or older. Call 655-5697.

14 / Saturday

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

Children enrolled in Parents Night Out must be registered with CYS no later than

noon, April 12. Reservations are first-come, first-served. Call 655-8313.

17 / Tuesday

National Library Week — Celebrate National Library Week at the Library's Fun Fest. Enjoy balloon animals, face painting, games and a craft at the Fort Shafter Library, April 17, 3-4:30 p.m., and at the Sgt. Yano Library, April 18, 3-4:30 p.m.

This event is free for kids of all ages. Call 438-9521 or 655-8002.

Ongoing

Kolekole Bar & Grill — Come check out the newest addition to the Nehelani, the Kolekole Bar & Grill, which features a fresh new menu of pupu and entrée selections. Come for Wahine Wednesdays and Tropic Lightning Thursdays. Enjoy darts, pool, games, karaoke and more. Call 655-0664.

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.

Jorei — Join Mokichi Okada Association (MOA) Hawaii Health Activities and improve your mind and body through jorei: the practice of flower arranging and the Japanese tea ceremony. This free event takes place April 9 & 23 from 7:30-9:30 a.m. at Pearlridge Uptown Center Court.

10 / Tuesday

Sunshine Generation Hawaii — Come watch kids shine. This award-winning, non-auditioned children's performing group will present its spring show at Farrington Auditorium, located at 1564 N. King St. in Kalihi, Tuesday, April 10, beginning at 7 p.m.

Refreshments will be provided at this free event. Call Angela Harris, director, at 489-1998 for more details.

12 / Thursday

Job Fair — Start building your future as this event will showcase career information, college programs (associate's, bachelor's and master's) and employment opportunities. High school students, college students and the public are invited April 12 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Leeward Community College Campus.

See flyers located at Army Community Service, Schofield Barracks and Fort Shafter. Call 655-4227.

13 / Friday

"Peril in Paradise" — Starbucks Hawaii will sponsor the play "Peril in Paradise," a stage performance for schoolchildren and the general public that will dramatize the dangers invasive species pose to Hawaii's native plant and animal life. The play will use dialogue, song, choreography, creative costumes and puppets during performances.

A total of eight shows will be presented at the Honolulu Zoo beginning the week of April 16, and public shows will occur April 13, 14, 20, 27 and 28 at 7 p.m.

Walk-up box office sales will be available at the Zoo's Monsarrat Gate from 6 p.m. on the performance evening. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m.

SKIES Payment Plan — SKIES Unlimited is offering a new payment program for families enrolling their children in the Schools of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration, and Skills classes. Families can now enroll their children for a full semester and pay month by month. Call 655-8380 or 833-5393.

Paperback Book Kits — The Sgt. Yano Library, Schofield Barracks, will issue paperback book kits to deploying units. Call 655-9143.

Family Child Care — FCC provides in-home child care by an adult family member living in government quarters or housing, complete with flexible hours and a comfortable, family-like setting.

In Hawaii, certified FCC homes are available on Schofield Barracks, Wheeler Army Air Field (WAAF), Helemano Military Reservation, Aliamanu Military Reservation (AMR), and Fort Shafter.

If you are interested in placing your child in FCC, or want information on becoming a provider, call 655-8373 (Schofield Barracks) or 837-0236 (AMR).

SKIES Unlimited — Your one-stop program for child and youth instructional classes is SKIES Unlimited. Current offerings include music, martial arts, gymnastics and driver education classes, as well as babysitting certification, which includes CPR and first aid courses.

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

Auto Crafts Car Care — The Fort Shafter and Schofield Barracks Auto Craft Shops offer oil change, tire repair patch, tire demount/mount, tire rotations, transmission service and wheel balance services by appointment only on Wednesdays and Thursdays. The staff will provide services while the customer supplies the parts and fluids (oils) for the vehicle.

Prices vary by services needed. Call 655-9368 (Schofield Barracks) or 438-9402 (Ft. Shafter).

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers — Want to get involved in the community and don't know how? Join BOSS on one of its many volunteer outings.

BOSS works with many groups within the community such as Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Honolulu, Bowl Games of Hawaii and the PGA, and other organizations exclusive to the Army family like the Exceptional Family Member Program and Army Community Service.

Volunteers are needed; call 655-8169 for more information.

General admission is \$10, adults; \$9, students (13+), military, seniors (65+) and zoo members; and \$5, children (3-12). Call 247-0456.

"Youthful Energy" — The Honolulu Symphony announces joint performances by its Hawaii Youth Symphony as part of the Honolulu Symphony Halekulani MasterWorks "Youthful Energy" concert series, April 13 at 8 p.m., and April 15 at 4 p.m. All concerts take place at the Blaisdell Concert Hall.

Student tickets are available for only \$10; a 20 percent discount applies to military and seniors with ID. As a special promotion, the Symphony is offering a special ticket price of \$15 or \$30, based on seating, to one parent/adult who accompanies students. The discounted parent/adult ticket must be purchased at the same time as student tickets. Call the Box Office at 792-2000.

14 / Saturday

HPU International Week — Join in the celebration of the first Hawaii Pacific University International Week with activities, exhibitions, performances, workshops and more, April 14-21. The week of festivities and events is designed to showcase the array of diversity found on HPU.

15 / Sunday

April Hui Luncheon — The deadline to register for this month's Hui O'Wahine Luncheon at the Schofield Nehelani is 7 p.m., April 15. The luncheon will feature a Chinese cuisine cooking demonstration and include a look at Chinese culture, so be prepared to be dazzled and to toss out your take-out menus. Call 624-4989 or 624-0015. Cost is \$12.

Waikiki Aquarium — The sea-curious are invited to get up close and personal with some of the ocean's most incredible creatures during the aquarium's spring schedule of education programs:

- April 15, 7:30-9:30 a.m.: "Exploring the Reef By Day." Spend a morning discovering sea slugs, collector crabs, brittle stars, spaghetti worms, ghost shrimp and a variety of other animals the tide reveals. Minimum age is 5 with adults. Cost is \$8/adult, \$6/child.



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**

**(Note: During renovation, services normally held in the sanctuary will take place at the Wheeler Chapel.)*

- 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

- Chalice Circle Tuesday, 7 p.m.
- Islamic Prayers and Study Friday, 1 p.m.
- Buddhist 4th Sunday, 1 p.m.

Soldiers Chapel

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

Tripler AMC Chapel, 433-5727

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

Wheeler Chapel

- Catholic Saturday, 5 p.m.—Mass 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.

April

6 / Today

Employment Orientation — This orientation is the first step to prepare you for the job you want. Get employment information on federal, state, private sector and staffing agencies. See reference materials, job listings, computers, and more, that are available for use at the Army Community Service Employment Resource Center.

This workshop will be held today from 9-10:30 a.m. at ACS, Schofield Barracks, and Monday, April 9, from 1-2:30 p.m. at the Fort Shafter Outreach Center. Register online at www.mwrarmyhawaii.com or call 655-4227.

Springfest — Come join the fun at Springfest, today from 9:30-11 a.m. at the Armed Services YMCA, Wheeler Army Air Field, Building 782 on Santos Dumont. This event will feature activities especially for children up to age 5, including crafts, games, face painting, cupcake decorating, an Easter egg hunt and a special visit from the Easter bunny. Tickets are \$4 per child in advance, \$5 at the gate. Call 624-5645.

7 / Saturday

Pearlridge Easter — Portraits of keiki with the Easter bunny and free lollipops from See's Candies will make your child's day that much sweeter at Pearlridge's Downtown Center Court through April 7.

Plantation Days — Hawaii's Plantation Village presents its "Relive the Plantation Days: Drum Festival," Saturday. The festival will showcase percussion performances and Bon Dance workshops by cultural groups throughout the day in the Village Social Hall; an impromptu, short "hands-on" introduction to Taiko drumming; and tasting

of "bean" items prepared by the eight plantation heritage groups throughout the Village.

Activities and crafts for keiki include the popular catch and release fishing, buzz saw (an original plantation toy), origami, kite-making and more.

Cost is \$4 for kamaaina and military, \$7 general admission, and free for children under 12 years, as well as HPV members. Ample parking will be available for free.

8 / Sunday

Wheeler Easter Sunrise Service — The U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii, and the 25th Infantry Division, will conduct their annual Easter Sunrise Service, Sunday, at 6:30 a.m. at Wheeler Chapel, Wheeler Army Air Field. All Soldiers, their family members and civilians are invited to attend this Easter celebration.

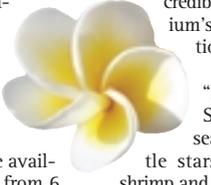
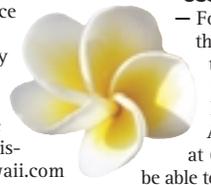
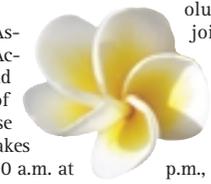
USS Missouri Sunrise Service — For the seventh year in a row, the Army and Navy will join together for Easter Sunrise Service onboard the USS Missouri, Easter Sunday, April 8. The service will begin at 6 a.m., and participants will be able to celebrate and enjoy a beautiful sunrise overlooking historic Pearl Harbor.

Come join this most special of occasions. Call the Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel at 473-3972 for entrance details.

Bellows Easter — Sunday, Bellows will host its Annual Easter Sunrise Service/Egg Hunt beginning at 6:30 a.m. at Pavilion B. A free breakfast buffet will follow the service at 7 a.m., and starting about 8:30 a.m., after breakfast, children through age 16 can enjoy an Easter Egg Hunt and free photos with the Easter Bunny. Call 259-4112.

9 / Monday

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.



This Week at the MOVIES Sgt. Smith Theater



Bridge to Terabithia

(PG)
Friday, 7 p.m.
Saturday, 2 p.m.
Thursday, 7 p.m.



Norbit

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



Tyler Perry's Daddy Little Girls

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

Family Advocacy puts spotlight on kids

The first in a four-part series on raising children in a safe environment

JEREMY S. BUDDEMEIER
Editor

Borrowing from the African proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child," the Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program (FAP) launched a campaign themed, "It takes a community ..." this month, to increase awareness and help prevent child abuse.

April has been designated Child Abuse Prevention Month and also the Month of the Military Child.

In a partnership with the other branches of armed forces, the Army's Child and Youth Services, and state and local representatives, FAP will host several ohana-sized events throughout the month, in addition to providing its usual level of services and support to Soldiers and family members.

We want family members in the community to be able to recognize the signs of child abuse, and if they see those signs, to tell somebody, said Floyd Davison, FAP manager. "They have a responsibility for the safety of those children."

In this vein, Davison and his staff, which has increased from seven to 22 personnel in the last two years, have tailored a program to not only increase the community's awareness of child abuse, but also of child neglect.

Child neglect includes any act, either intentional or of omission, that puts a child at risk. An example of neglect could be a parent leaving a young child at home alone, or allowing the child to play in a potentially dangerous environment without supervision.

Davison mentioned that it is not uncommon during mobilizations or deployments to witness a decrease in child abuse and an increase in child neglect.

"With the deployment of 7,000-8,000 Soldiers, you have 3,000-4,000 single parents overnight," Davison said. In addition to being single parents, many of these family members are young, first-time parents.

"They don't issue a handbook with the child," he said. "Young parents can lack institutional knowledge on parenting and development." Child abuse can also stem from unrealistic expectations for a child's behavior, Davison explained.

He pointed to an example of a young mother who believed her 19-month-old child should already be potty-trained. Davison told her that children normally potty train between ages 2-3, with some boys even taking till age 4.

The frustration of not knowing what's natural for children, coupled with deployment-related stress, can also lead to depression.

"We watch some isolate themselves; they don't come out for FRG meetings," he said.

Davison discussed the difficulty



Left — Army Community Service showcases its "Shaken Baby Syndrome Quilt" at Schofield Barracks Building 2091, in observance of April's Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Shaken Baby Alliance initiated the memorial for victims.

Actual pictures and personal mementos of victims comprise the squares of the quilt as a reminder to everyone that Shaken Baby Syndrome is a form of child abuse that must not be ignored.

"It takes a community..."

Check out future editions of the Hawaii Army Weekly for the rest of the Child Abuse Prevention Month series, including:

Part II (April 13) : The New Parent Support program — Is that behavior normal for a 2-year old? Tips, strategies and resources for new and not-so-new parents

Part III (April 20) : Car safety seat checks — The state's child safety-seat regulations changed as of Jan. 1; are you within regulations?

Part IV (April 27) : New supervisory policy — What your responsibilities as a parent and a neighbor will be under the new on-post supervisory policy.

Child Abuse Prevention Month events

7 / Saturday — Enjoy the MWR Family Fun Fest at the Schofield Nehelani from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. It's a full festival for the entire family, with games, bounce houses and information booths. In addition, the same day, from 9 a.m.-noon (behind the Nehelani), see car seat inspection experts (from the Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition), who will inspect your child safety seat, for free, to ensure it is in accordance with new state regulations.

14 / Saturday — Go to the Teddy Bear Drive at Ward Warehouse stage from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. This statewide event is sponsored by Prevent Child Abuse Hawaii; donated teddy bears will go to social service organizations working with children at risk for child abuse or neglect. ACS staff, along with various state and nonprofit programs, will assist with the event.

21 / Saturday — Enjoy the Spring Round Up, sponsored by Army Hawaii Family Housing, the Aliamanu Military Reservation version of the Family Fun Fest, taking place at AMR Housing Park from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

24 / Tuesday — Do PT in the Gym. Bring the children for a taste of a good old-fashioned (but light-hearted) military workout at 6:30 a.m. at the Fort Shafter Physical Fitness Center gym. Children and parents from all the armed forces branches are welcome. For more information on any activity, contact Cole Weeks at 655-1670.



On The WEB
To learn more about available ACS classes, visit www.mwrarmy.hawaii.com, and browse for classes under the ACS menu.

in reaching families who need assistance, but might not be aware of developing problems.

The FAP's "Deployment Support Group for Children" is one way to recognize potential issues early. During these meetings, groups of parents and children participate in activities designed to recognize stress-related or behavioral conflicts.

A professional assesses the child's behavior, and works with the parents to help manage the child. If the solution is beyond the scope of the support group, the professional can refer the family members for additional assistance.

The group meets from 3-4:30 p.m.: Mondays, for children ages 5 years and less; Tuesdays, ages 6-12; and Wednesdays, for teenagers.

Another resource outside the unit

family readiness group is the "Support Group for Spouses." This group brings together individuals who share the need to talk about deployment or any other issues.

Davison said spouses in the group who have experienced numerous deployments make excellent mentors for younger spouses.

The "Kids on the Block" puppets provide a curriculum for uncovering and dealing with children's deployment-related stress. "You'd be surprised how much children will talk to puppets," Davison said.

In addition, 11 licensed mental health therapists called "Military and Family Life Consultants," can pro-

vide confidential crisis intervention for Soldiers and family members.

Regardless of whether family members attend classes or support groups, the FAP's goal is to increase awareness and be there, when and where the community needs it.

"If we can just educate one more family or one more commander on where to find help, we will have succeeded," Davison said.

(Editor's Note: Next week, Cole Weeks, Family Advocacy Program lead social worker, elaborates on FAP's New Parent Support program.)

Easter Sunrise

All Soldiers and their family members are invited to attend various Easter celebrations, Sunday, April 8, including the following events:

- April 8, 6 a.m., Aboard USS Missouri (an entrance fee applies)
- April 8, 6:30 a.m., Wheeler Chapel, Wheeler Army Air Field

April Holy Week Services

(Note: Preregistered child care is available at AMR and Schofield chapels. Families must pre-register at 655-8313.)

6th, Good Friday

- Protestant's "Last Seven Words of Christ," Wheeler Chapel, 12 noon
- Catholic Good Friday Service, Wheeler Chapel, 1:30 pm.
- Catholic Good Friday Service, Aliamanu Military Reservation (AMR) Chapel, 3 p.m.
- Catholic Good Friday Service, Fort DeRussy Chapel, 3 p.m.
- Protestant Good Friday Service, Fort DeRussy Chapel, 5 p.m.
- Liturgical Good Friday Service, Schofield Soldiers' Chapel, 6 p.m.

7th, Holy Saturday

- Catholic Holy Saturday Easter Vigil, Wheeler Chapel, 7 p.m.
- Catholic Holy Saturday Easter Vigil, Fort DeRussy Chapel, 7 p.m.

8th, Easter Sunday

- Catholic Mass, AMR Chapel, 8:30 a.m.
- Protestant Easter Sunday Service, Fort DeRussy Chapel, 9 a.m.
- Protestant Easter Sunday Service, Fort Shafter Chapel, 9 a.m.
- Protestant Easter Sunday Service, Wheeler Chapel, 9 a.m.
- Protestant Easter Sunday Service, Schofield Soldiers' Chapel, 9:30 a.m.
- Protestant Easter Sunday Service, AMR Chapel, 9:45 a.m.
- Protestant Easter Sunday Service, Helemano Military Reservation (HMR) Chapel, 10 a.m.
- Catholic Mass, Wheeler Chapel, 10:30 a.m.
- Protestant Easter Sunday Service, Wheeler Chapel, 12 noon
- Protestant Easter Sunday Service, AMR Chapel, 12:30 p.m.

Contact the Army Community Service at 655-4227 if you see signs of child abuse or neglect. Remember, it takes a community to provide a safe environment for children.

Division leadership urges patience, support for Soldiers

Story and Photos by
AIKO BRUM
Chief, Command Information

Anticipating the Department of Defense (DoD) would announce the extension of about 1,000 Schofield-based Soldiers, the 25th Infantry Division (ID)'s rear detachment scheduled two town hall meetings to address family concerns, Saturday.

Col. Timothy Ryan, 25th ID rear detachment commander, said DoD delayed the official announcement, which was made Monday morning, so families could be notified before the rest of the nation.

"The decision that was handed down affects not only Hawaii units; it affects units in CONUS [the continental U.S.] and Germany," Ryan explained. "The reason for that, no surprise, the Army is in the middle of a troop surge. The decisions to source the troop surge resulted in some of the units being accelerated for deployment ... and others, like ours, being extended."

Marisol Williams, a wife with two very active children, said, "I just kinda' had a gut feeling that this was going to happen. It was just kind of a feeling ... some of the things my husband would say." Sonora Carter, another wife of an extended Soldier, has been through a deployment before. She said, "Everything happens for a reason. God has taken him there, and he'll bring him back safely."

At both town hall meetings, rear staff queued up and played a message from the 25th ID commanding general, Maj. Gen. Benjamin R. Mixon, who is serving as the commander of Multinational Division North in Iraq. The audience of mostly wives, few husbands, children and squealing toddlers listened as the commanding general spoke via a taped video teleconference.

"First of all I want to assure you that this extension is absolutely essential to us achieving victory here in Iraq. ... I greatly appreciate [your Sol-



Getting answers. Col. Timothy Ryan, 25th Infantry Division rear detachment commander, speaks to a concerned spouse after the town hall meeting, Saturday.

diers'] service, and I greatly appreciate the sacrifices ... families are making back at Schofield Barracks," Mixon said.

"Most importantly, I would like to encourage all of you to take full advantage of the information that is available, which will be posted on the 25th Infantry Division Web pages, to include the ability to ask questions concerning the deployment and how it will affect you and your family," he continued.

"I realize that this is difficult for family members, but I ask for your patience and your continued support for your Soldier while we complete our duties here in Iraq."

In total, 14 agencies explained how they can help support families of deployed Soldiers throughout the remainder of the Division's de-

ployment. Likewise, some audience members attended to hear the latest news and lend their support.

"Some of those guys, on average, work about 18 hours a day," explained Sgt. 1st Class Rhonda Lewis of 25th ID's G-1, whose husband has been extended. Lewis recently returned from a deployment herself, and she encouraged several wives around her to continue to be their mate's biggest ally, to speak up and let their voices be heard.

One group of wives was already looking forward to redeployment. Despite the extension, they are busily making plans now for reunions and surprises.

"It's just something that we all have to deal with at this point in time," said a reflective Williams. "Being a military wife, we have to make sacri-



Pauley

Samantha Pauley, a spouse whose husband has been extended in Iraq, is already making plans for redeployment. She is joining other spouses in her husband's unit to plan some reunion events.



Lewis

Sgt. 1st Class Leisa Lewis of G-1, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 25th ID, whose husband has been extended, encourages wives to get involved in family readiness groups.



Lewis

Sgt. 1st Class Rhonda Lewis, also of G-1, HHC, 25th ID, says spouses are a Soldier's biggest asset. She recently returned from a deployment herself and is awaiting the return of her husband, a Soldier whose tour has been extended.

fices."

Carter stressed, "I'm continuing to pray for each deployed Soldier." As well, she said, she's encouraging spouses in her neighborhood.

Numerous resources are available for families

Weekend town hall gives answers, resources to family members of deployed 25th Infantry Division Soldiers

Story and Photo by
AIKO BRUM
Chief, Command Information

Agencies that directly serve family members of deployed Soldiers assembled at the Sgt. Smith Theater, Saturday, to give families absorbing the news about the 45-day extension of several 25th Infantry Division units some useful information.

Equipped with handouts and slides, they presented brief snippets about urgent matters – such as expiring ID cards, housing availability, and compensation for involuntary extensions – as well as answered questions from the surprisingly sparse audiences.

Setting a candid tone for presentations that followed, Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Joel Lytle, said, "If you have an issue, give us a call." He reminded families that the Main Post Chapel is open every day for prayer and is still hosting Deployment Survival Night every third Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

Chaplain (Maj.) Kevin Stroop gave a heartfelt prayer for Soldiers downrange, for safety and for families. Agencies then discussed their resources.

Resources

Army Community Services. Chief of ACS Nancy Piper introduced a team of Military & Family Life Consultants (telephone, 222-7088), licensed mental health professionals who provide confidential crisis counseling, intervention and support, through a contract with the Department of Defense.

Additionally, she encouraged use of Military OneSource (toll free, 1-800-342-9647), a 24/7 online "cache of resources," which provides master's level counselors. The ACS Crisis Line (624-SAFE, or 624-7233), she said, provides advocates for victims of violence or sexual assault, 24/7.

Numerous other programs and services are provided through ACS, such as New Parent Support, debt consolidation, budgeting, and multicultural



services for English language learners. Children's deployment support groups have debuted for youth through 18 years old at the Schofield ACS Center, Building 2091, Monday-Wednesday at 3 p.m. Also, new programs, swimming pool activities and bowling have been scheduled "just for fun," said Piper, on posts in North and South Oahu. Call 655-4227 for details.

Child and Youth Services. Outreach Director Sylvia Scully reminded spouses and guardians, "You do need to make time for yourself." She explained that CYS takes care of children from 6 weeks to 18 years old; however, youth must be registered. Particularly, the program "Parents Night Out" provides free child care for parents/guardians needing some adult time.

School Liaison. As the Youth Education

Support Services director, Jewel Csiszar oversees the U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii, School Liaison Program. Notably, Csiszar dispenses truth when rumors abound.

"If you hear something, or if there are murmurings going on through your school that are not confirmed, please don't hesitate to call us [655-9818] for verification," she said.

Csiszar's staff is the liaison between the Department of Education and garrison. Similarly, the DoE staffs a civilian who serves as a military liaison to disseminate information to military communities.

Of considerable importance, Csiszar said, the DoE will administer assessment tests April 9-20, part of the No Child Left Behind Act, so parents should ensure their children are mentally prepared.

Concluding, she explained the School Liaison Office offers the DoE a deployment response team, comprised of individuals from various ACS and garrison agencies, that addresses deployment-related issues from a proactive stance in schools and communities. Deployment support groups are also offered "for kids by kids, so they can vent their feelings," said Csiszar.

Schofield Health Clinic. "We know this is a very, very stressful time for you," said Lt. Col. Sharon Pacchiana, deputy commander, administration, Health Clinic Headquarters. "[On this end,] we want to keep you well."

Pacchiana provided a wealth of contact information for numerous clinics at Schofield Barracks, as well as a handy map of the clinic's layout. She explained that health care is focused in three areas: prevention, treatment and public notification of resources and access.

Soldier & Family Assistance Center. Dr. Richard Schovitz, assistant chief, SAFAC, noted, "It's almost overwhelming – if you're in crisis or if you're helping someone who

is in crisis – to figure out where to turn to for help." Therefore the 24-hour SAFAC hotline (655-6600) was developed to guide and "triage" care, he explained. This one number, he said, will get individuals to the right person for their need(s).

Schovitz also said SAFAC encourages North Oahu families to use services at the Schofield Health Clinic to prevent added stress associated with traveling to, and parking at, Tripler Army Medical Center.

Soon, he continued, SAFAC will restart its daytime deployment support groups offered in the Adult Family Member Assistance Center (433-8130), as well as considering adding another group in the evening, if there's sufficient interest.

Directorate of Human Resources. Chief of Personnel Services, Constance Ceasar, stated family members who have ID cards about to expire can renew them anytime between 7:30 a.m. and 3 p.m., though the office closes at 4 p.m. Call 655-4104 for more details about ID cards or passports.

Re-enlistments. Regarding Soldiers whose re-enlistments for specific assignments or schools become due during the Division's extension period, Master Sgt. William Cooley, command career counselor, of the Division Reenlistment Office explained some assignments can be deferred up to four months.

"About ninety-five percent of the time, we get the same assignment back," he said. "We can't delay a school seat ... so if we know a Soldier is not going to be there, we must cancel the school seat." He added, in either case, career counselors renegotiate and try to place Soldiers in another desired assignment or in another school seat. In the few instances when redeployed Soldiers are not satisfied with any renegotiat-

SEE RESOURCES, B-6



Important Numbers

Marital / Family
• Soldier & Family Life Consultants, 222-7088 or 222-7526
• Military One Source 1-800-342-9647
• Adult Family Member Assistance Center, 433-8130
• Chaplain (p.m.), 655-8763
• Soldier and Family Assistance Center, 655-6600

Parenting / Child Care
• New Parent Support, 655-4227
• Family Child Care, 655-5314
• Family Life Chaplain 653-0703

Health Care
• Patient Advocacy for all Health Care Needs, 433-8504
• Schofield Family Practice Information Line, 433-8102 or 433-8155

Financial
• Financial Questions, ACS 655-4227 or 655-1714

Legal
• Power of Attorney, Wills 655-8607 or 655-8608

Miscellaneous
• Post Operator, 1-411
• Military Operator for all Hawaii Installations, 449-7110
• DEERS & ID Cards Schofield Barracks, 655-4104
Fort Shafter, 438-1757

Web sites
• 25th Infantry Division www.25idl.army.mil
• Military One Source www.militaryonesource.com



April

10 / Tuesday

Blue Star Card Golf Day — Blue Star cardholders are invited to a golf day at Leilehua Golf Course, April 10. Enjoy golfing with other Blue Star cardholders or golf instruction for beginners.

Cardholders will also receive 10-percent off green fees, cart fees and purchases in the Pro Shop for the day. Participants must sign up by April 2. Call 438-2911.

14 / Saturday

Witness the Smackdown — Come watch Hawaii Championship Wrestling at the Schofield Tropics, April 14. Doors will open at 6 p.m. and matches will start at 7 p.m.

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

15 / Sunday

Bowling Tournament — A "5 Game, No Tap" tournament will be held at the Schofield Bowling Center, April 15. Check-in will be at 1 p.m., and the cost is \$20 per bowler. Call 655-0573.

17 / Tuesday

Mini Soccer — Register now through April 17 for Mini Sports Soccer. This program is open to youths born in 2002-2003 and cost is \$10, which includes a T-shirt.

Mini Soccer is a parent-participation program, which meets once a week from 5-6 p.m., April



Spc. Joshua D. Pate | 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

Intramural champs!

FORT SHAFTER — Co-captain Corvell Conley, a sergeant, said, "We want to go out on top," speaking of his team's intramural basketball season, last year, and that's just what they did. During "Military March Madness" in the Pacific, the Tripler AMEDDD (Army Medical Department) team finished atop the regular and post season with an undefeated record of 15 wins, then took the championship during a standing-room-only crowd here, last month. The TAMC AMEDDD team is unique in that the majority of the players consist of Soldiers from all three medical departments — medical, dental and the veterinary corps.

24-June 14. Youth will learn the basic skills of soccer.

Call 836-1923 (Aliamanu Military Reservation or AMR), 438-9336 (Fort Shafter), 655-6465 (Schofield), or 655-0883 (Helemano Military Reservation, or HMR, and Wheeler Army Air Field, or WAAF).

19 / Thursday

Salsa — See firsthand what all the buzz has been about for years. Come for the exercise, come for the dance or just come to learn something new. Regardless of your reason, get in shape and have fun learning salsa.

Cost is free at the Schofield Barracks Health & Fitness Center, every Thursday, from 5-6 p.m. Call 655-8007.

20 / Friday

Brand New Exercise Bike — Enter the Lifetime Sports & Recreation Pursuit to win a brand new Life Fitness Lifecycle Exercise Bike, retail value of \$999. This scavenger hunt contest is open to all active duty Army Soldiers and their family members age 16 and older, one entry per person.

Enter at the Fort Shafter Physical Fitness Center or the Schofield Barracks Health and Fitness Center.

Cosmic Bowling — Experience bowling with a twist. Lights are dimmed, upbeat music is turned on, and the room becomes illuminated in glowing lights.

Cosmic Bowling is held every Wednesday at Wheeler Bowl. Cost is \$1.50 per game and \$1 for shoe rental. Call 656-1745.

Scuba Club — Join the Scuba Club for only \$7 a month and get free air fills, and a 10-percent discount off all your scuba equipment rentals.

Tank rentals come with "unlimited air" during the rental period. Call 655-0143.



Send community announcements to community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

April

6 / Today

Mixed Martial Arts — Come watch Schofield's Luis Parra, a staff sergeant with 71st Chemical Company, try his hand at Mixed Martial Arts tonight at the Dole Cannery Ballroom at 6:30. In his professional debut, Parra will take on young Duke Sargosa of the 808 Fight Factory, Waipahu.

Parra is making tickets available for \$25; call 351-7046. Or pay \$35 at the doors, which will open at 6 p.m.

7 / Saturday

Hike Oahu — Come join the Hawaiian Trail & Mountain Club on its next hike: an alternate route to the Koolau summit above Waialae Iki, a four-mile intermediate trek, easier than most, at 8 a.m., April 7. A final ascent will get your heart pumping, and great views of the windward side and east Oahu will be your reward. Novice hikers are encouraged to tackle this venture. Call coordinator Wil Kawano, 373-1492, for more details.

Also, stay tuned for these upcoming adventures:

-April 15, 8 a.m., a 10-miler in Moanalua for intermediate hikers.

-April 21, 8 a.m., a 2-miler in Ahiimanu for novice hikers.

-April 29, 8 a.m., an 8-miler in Kaipa-

pau Gulch for intermediate hikers.

A \$2 donation is requested of non-members 18 and older. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Hikers meet at the Iolani Palace, unless otherwise noted. Bring lunch and water on all hikes; wear sturdy shoes and clothing 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://htmlclub.org> for more details.

14 / Saturday

HPU Soccer Cup — This annual spring event has become a favorite of the Hawaii Pacific University ohana and will be held during HPU International Week, April 14, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at its Hawaii Loa Campus, 45-045 Kamehameha Hwy., Kaneohe.

Also, don't miss the food fair, as international as HPU. Join the fun and taste culinary delights from around the world while cheering on your favorite country at the HPU Soccer Cup.

20 / 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 next free, two-day class is April 20-21. Class runs Friday from 5:45-10 p.m., then Saturday from 7:45 a.m.-4 p.m. They are family-friendly and open to anyone age 10 years and older.

Classes are held at the Nimitz Center, second floor, Room #A-212A, 1130 N. Nimitz Hwy. (Drive up the ramp, the classroom is the first on the right.) All students

are required to provide a picture ID.

21 / Saturday

Earth Day Weed Whack — The community is invited to participate in this Earth Day activity. Meet at the Army Natural Resource Center at 8 a.m., Building 1595, East Range, Schofield Barracks, April 21.

Groups will hike approximately 30 minutes each way on a narrow trail to an overlook of beautiful Makua Valley. There, weed-whacking parties will eradicate non-native strawberry guava with herbicide from a native koa and ohia forest.

This event is your opportunity to see native plants such as olopuu, palapalai fern and native tree snails up close. Bring lunch, water (at least 1.5 liters), good hiking shoes, long pants, long sleeves, sunscreen and mosquito repellent (optional).

Call to reserve a spot. Contact Kapua Kawelo or Susan Ching at 656-7641.

Karate Showcase — See the Japan International Karate-Ki Center Showcase, Saturday, April 21, from 1:30-2:30 p.m. at the Pearlridge Uptown Center Court.

Jackpot Rodeo — The Hawaii Women's Rodeo Association will host a Jackpot Rodeo Saturday, April 21, at the Diamond J Ranch Arena in Waianae. Rodeo action will begin at 10 a.m. with open, 3D and keiki barrel racing followed by pole-bending.

Admission and parking are free. Call John Teixeira at 389-9884 or visit the HWRA online at www.rodeoohahu.com for more details.

June

3 / Sunday

Canoe Club — The Honolulu Pearl Canoe Club, a military-oriented outrigger

paddling canoe club, is currently recruiting new paddlers of all ages, skill and experience levels for the upcoming outrigger canoe regatta season.

Regatta races are sprints ranging from one-fourth mile to one-and-a-half miles, held every Sunday from June 3 to July 22 at Kailua Beach, Keehi Lagoon, Nanakuli Beach and Waimanalo Beach. This private organization operates on Naval Station Pearl Harbor and is open to all military and civilians.

Learn six-man, outrigger canoe paddling skills and techniques for fun or competition in a positive social environment. If you're interested in paddling, visit the Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Canoe Hale located at Rainbow Bay Marina, near the Arizona Memorial Visitor's Center, any Monday, Wednesday or Friday between 5 p.m. and sunset.

E-mail megtoad@mac.com or visit www.honolulupearl.com for more details.

Ongoing

Officials Needed — If you are interested in becoming a sports official and earning a few extra dollars, training is provided for the following sports: baseball, softball, flag football, basketball and soccer.

Many games are being played right in your backyard; game sites include Schofield Barracks, Helemano Military Reservation, Fort Shafter and Aliamanu Military Reservation.

The baseball/softball season is coming up in early May, so officiating classes are underway at the Sgt. Yano Library, Schofield Barracks. Practice with field mechanics is also scheduled.

Presently, 14 Soldiers and three wives are officiating, but more officials are needed, due to deployed Soldiers. Call Larry Cravalho at 780-4099 or 455-4575.

Deadline for entries is May 15. Drawing will be held during National Fitness Month, May 2007. Winner must be on island. Call 655-0111/0112.

Ongoing

Hatha Yoga — Relish the traditional approach to yoga that aids relaxation, and strengthening and lengthening muscles. Techniques can be modified based on individual skill level.

Sessions will be held Wednesdays at 5 p.m. and Saturdays at 8 a.m. at the Schofield Barracks Health and Fitness Center. Call 655-8007.

Trampoline and Gymnastics —

The Schools of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration & Skills (SKIES) Unlimited is partnering with Hawaii Academy to offer a military discount program for trampoline and gymnastics programs.

Hawaii Academy offers a variety of programs, including parent-tot and preschool classes; an essential skills program; flexibility, fitness and gymnastics programs; special education programs; and trampoline and power tumbling programs.

Discount cards can be picked up at the Child and Youth Services registration offices. Call 655-9818.

Cosmic Bowling — Experience bowling with a twist. Lights are dimmed, upbeat music is turned on, and the room becomes illuminated in glowing lights.

Cosmic Bowling is held every Wednesday at Wheeler Bowl. Cost is \$1.50 per game and \$1 for shoe rental. Call 656-1745.

Scuba Club — Join the Scuba Club for only \$7 a month and get free air fills, and a 10-percent discount off all your scuba equipment rentals.

Tank rentals come with "unlimited air" during the rental period. Call 655-0143.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly — The T.O.P.S support group meets every Thursday evening at the Armed Services YMCA. Join others to share weight loss tips, discuss concerns and provide encouragement to each other. Call Cheryl at 696-4423.

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

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

These innovative group workouts are designed for beginning and advanced swimmers. Expert coaching is provided to improve upon form and technique.

All ages are welcome. Cost is \$15 per month for Team Move members and \$25 per month for nonmembers.

The pool is located at 785 Hoomaemae St., Pearl City.

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

Meals are included. To schedule your adventure, call 734-4214, 877-682-7433, or go online at www.bikehawaii.com.

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

Tea time is usually begins before 8 a.m.

**You Drink.
You Drive.
You Lose.**

Alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes kill someone every 31 minutes and nonfatally injure someone every two minutes.

— National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Army uses virtual tool in its battle with PTSD

RACHEL YOUNG
Army News Service

FORT LEWIS, Wash. – The humvee rumbles down the narrow desert road. To the left and right is nothing but an expanse of beige sand, with an occasional palm tree sprinkled here and there.

Looking up through the gunner's hatch, the sky is blue and cloudless. It seems like a normal day – until the attack begins.

The ground trembles underfoot while the sound of gunfire and explosions pierce the air. The Humvee in front blows up, leaving a blackened shell in the road. A Black Hawk roars overhead. The only thing to do is keep driving and not panic. Finally, the sounds of battle cease, and all returns to normal again.

This scenario may sound terrifying, but there is no need to fear. It's not reality; it's virtual reality. And it is part of a new therapy for combat-related Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, called PTSD, being fine-tuned at Madigan Army Medical Center.

"PTSD occurs after an individual is subjected to, or witnesses, what they perceive as a life-threatening event," explained Capt. Greg Reger, Ph.D., a clinical psychologist for 62nd Medical Brigade.

Basically, three clusters of symptoms coincide with PTSD: re-experiencing, which could include nightmares or flashbacks; avoidance, when the patient avoids cues or reminders of the event; and hyperarousal or numbing, which could include hypervigilance or suspiciousness.

"These symptoms happen at least one month after the traumatic event and significantly interfere with [the Soldiers'] work or their relationships," Reger said.



Sgt. Chad Parrott, left, and Capt. Greg Reger demonstrate a simulator used to help in the treatment of PTSD.

PTSD causes humans to associate cues in the environment, cues that were previously normal with life-threatening events. For example, if a Soldier was in a convoy that was attacked in Iraq, the Soldier might associate that event with driving on I-5, causing that Soldier's body to respond as if freeway driving were a life-threatening situation, even though it is nothing more than the daily commute.

Currently, the standard treatments for PTSD are ex-

posure therapies. Reger uses the analogy of a child who fears dogs after being bitten to explain how the therapy works. The best way to diminish the child's fear is to slowly and progressively habituate the child to being around dogs again. The child might start by thinking about being around a dog and eventually work up to petting one, until the child is comfortable around dogs again.

"That ... is essentially what PTSD exposure-based

therapies are about," Reger said.

However, exposure therapies can be difficult for combat-related PTSD, because Soldiers cannot be re-exposed to combat as part of therapy, Reger said. Previously, Soldiers had to rely on recalling memories of combat as part of their PTSD treatment, which can be very difficult and painful, he went on. That is where the new technology comes in.

"Virtual reality allows us a means of delivering these potentially traumatic-event experiences to Soldiers that was previously not possible," Reger said. "It's a technological tool to improve our already gold standard of care with exposure therapy."

Inside the virtual-reality helmet, the patient is afforded a 360-degree view of two scenarios, a convoy through the desert or a foot patrol through a city. A video-game-style handset controls movement through the scene. Beneath the platform on which the patient sits or stands, speakers provide the rumbling sensation of the convoy and the attack.

The scenario can be altered to fit the Soldier's experience. It can be a sunny day, dusk or night. It can even be turned to the green tones of night vision, if that is what the Soldier recalls.

Eventually, the technology may include a system that delivers scents like burning rubber or Iraqi spices that could trigger memories for the Soldier. It is also designed to be able to monitor physical reactions like heart rates, which will help the clinician track the Soldier's reaction to the therapy, Reger explained.

The Fort Lewis-based MAMC is the only Army medical center testing this particular virtual reality technology.

Resources: Help is just a phone call away, say town hall leaders

CONTINUED FROM B-4

ed options, they may choose to separate.

125th Finance Battalion. The Army provides additional compensation for Soldiers who are stationed in combat zones, specifically, hostile fire pay (\$225), family separation allowance (\$250), and hazardous duty pay (\$3.33/daily or \$100/monthly). When Soldiers are assigned in zones for 366 days, they also receive assignment incentive pay (\$800) and hardship duty pay (\$200).

Capt. Rodlin Doyle, commander, A Detachment, 125th, said, "The involuntarily extension payments are eligible for Soldiers who spend any portion of the month over 366 days in theater, whether or not the portion is a full month."

Family members asked many questions

about compensation. The 25th ID rear detachment commander, Col. Timothy Ryan, a personnel officer, assured them, "each Soldier is managed individually – based on the day of arrival in theater – and tracked until the day they deploy."

Army Hawaii Family Housing. Of concern to AHFH, families who returned to the mainland when Soldiers deployed in 2006 – and who had planned to come back to Schofield this summer when their Soldiers were initially scheduled to return home, also referred to as redeploying – will be impacted by waiting lists.

According to Janine Lind, AHFH director of property management, only 180 of more than 800 of these families who left Hawaii have notified AHFH that they intend to return and want to be placed on the waiting list. Unknown is if any of the oth-

er families are planning to return. Of importance, Lind said, families also must notify AHFH and be placed on the waiting list because their date of application is used to determine their priority for placement.

Availability of AHFH is impacted by factors like construction, demolition and in/outbound Soldier families traveling on orders. However, Lind stressed that neither the extension, nor the eventual redeployment, determines in what housing areas families are assigned. All Soldiers are assigned housing based upon their waiting list priority status, the date that governs their application, rank and family size, she emphasized.

She concluded, stating the AHFH deployment care package, an assortment of services offering free child care, complimentary lawn care, and maintenance sup-

port, will continue until all Soldiers redeploy. Additionally, AHFH families will receive magnetic "chain of command" cards that provide them with important points of contact – and handy for posting on refrigerators, in their mailboxes this week.

Directorate of Logistics. Chief of Personal Property & Travel Branch, Victoria Tuggle, informed family members that they can still take deployment storage of household goods, personal property and privately owned vehicles. Families can also release items from storage with a power of attorney. Additionally, she assured, storage dates that will expire during the Division's extension will be renewed for the duration of the Division's deployment.

Public Affairs. "The American public needs to know what's going on with Army families," said Stefanie Gardin, public af-

fairs specialist. She explained that families should be honest when talking to local media outlets about the extension. Families contacted by, or interested in, speaking to the media should contact the Public Affairs Office.

Legal Assistance. Wrapping up the presentations, Lt. Col. James Robinette, staff judge advocate, reminded families to keep their powers of attorney up to date. He said wills do not expire; they only need updating when significant changes occur such as divorce or the birth of a child?.

Robinette also reminded families that the Tax Center (655-1040/438-0829) is open, but Soldiers have 180 days upon redeployment to file, without penalty. As well, Soldiers have access to legal assistance, in theater, if family members need to update documents.