

## INSIDE

# Solomon honors namesake

Story and Photos by  
**JEREMY S. BUDDEMEIER**  
Assistant Editor

A whisper of rain welcomed the students and more than 100 faculty and guests as they gathered for 1st Sgt. Samuel K. Solomon Elementary School's rededication ceremony at Schofield Barracks, Nov. 22.

The ceremony marked the 40th anniversary of Solomon's death.

The light rain, considered a "Hawaiian blessing," stopped almost on cue as the ceremony began, and preceded the actual Hawaiian blessing by Kahui Elias Parker.

Parker's booming voice drew light giggles from some students as he chanted in Hawaiian and deliberately crossed the recess field.

Although numerous VIPs attended and a



Virginia Solomon

group of teachers performed the hula, the more than 800 students who bordered the field were the heart of the ceremony.

Students played ukulele and performed the hula. They relayed the school's history to the audience and presented numerous handmade gifts to the Solomon family, some of whom traveled from the mainland for the ceremony.

Students even performed master of ceremonies duties. Two sets of eyes that barely cleared the lectern took turns and slowly introduced multi-syllabic last names of honored guests and speakers such as Clayton Fujie, the

Hawaii Department of Education assistant superintendent, and Linda Yoshikami, the school's principal.

"I believe First Sergeant Solomon is here with us today," Yoshikami said before describing his character. "He had one flaw ... his kind and caring ways, [which] brought an end to his life."

Solomon was killed in Vietnam, Nov. 3, 1966, by enemy machine gun fire as he made several trips to remove critically wounded Soldiers from the battlefield. The school was dedicated three years later on Veterans Day, 1969.

Other speakers, such as Col. Timothy Ryan, 25th Infantry Division rear detachment commander, expanded on Solomon's character.

SEE SOLOMON, A-4



## Earning spurs

2-6th Cavalry Soldiers face grueling challenges in a military rite of passage

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## Trees alive!

You are invited to the concert and tree lighting festivities at Schofield on Dec. 6 at 6 p.m., Generals Loop.



## OIF-deployed Thanksgiving

On the frontlines and in the rear, Soldiers celebrated the winter holiday teeming with tryptophan

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## Plantation days

Step back 100 years in Hawaiian history when sugar was king & the farm was a cultural melting pot

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# Self-serve HR system now online

ARMY NEWS SERVICE  
News Release

WASHINGTON — The Army plans to transform the way it manages its human resources by launching the Defense Integrated Military Human Resources System (DIMHRS) in early 2008.

DIMHRS is a secure, self-service Web system that will give Soldiers 24/7 access to personnel data, and the ability to update and review key personnel and family information without seeing a personnel specialist.

"DIMHRS is a congressional-mandated program spearheaded



Visit the Army DIMHRS at [www.armydimhrs.army.mil](http://www.armydimhrs.army.mil) or the DIMHRS AKO page at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/308853>.

by DoD [Department of Defense], and will result in the Army significantly transforming the way it delivers military personnel and pay," said Maj. Gen. Carlos (Butch) Pair, Defense Business Systems Acquisitions Executive.

"DIMHRS will provide Soldiers significant Web-based self-service capabilities, integrate all components on one database, and significantly reduce workload for commanders and Soldiers," he added.

The self-service system will help Soldiers avoid traditional written or verbal processes that can be time-consuming and costly.

DIMHRS will enable Soldiers to initiate requests for assignments, training, retirement, record updates, awards, and family-member travel. For example, it will help them transition from the Reserve to regular commission, make enlistment extensions, take various waivers and enlisted commissioning programs.

Self-service capabilities will also allow Soldiers to more efficiently start, stop or modify discretionary allotments and savings bonds; complete an Employee Withholding Request (Form W-4); complete an Employee Reissue W-2 Request; change personal direct deposit information; and change their state of legal residence declaration.

Another key function in DIMHRS is the view-only screen, which lets Soldiers view such personnel and pay items as family member information; Service Members' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) elections; Leave & Earnings Statements, and Wage and Tax Statement (Form W-2); their record of civilian and military education, awards, contracts, and more.



Spc. Mike Alberts | 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

## Beanie babies for everyone

UMARLIYAH, Iraq — Iraqi children show-off their new stuffed animals received as part of a humanitarian toy distribution mission between United States coalition and Iraqi forces during Ramadan. See full story about 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team's support, page A-6.

# Army Family Action Plan reps review top issues

MARGARET MCKENZIE  
Army News Service

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Delegates at the 24th Army Family Action Plan conference reviewed 68 issues from Army installations throughout the world, Nov. 14-17.

The issues were distributed into eight workgroup categories: wounded warrior, entitlements, family support (of which there were two groups), force support, medical (of which there were two groups) and outside of the continental United States.

The top conference issues of 2006, as voted by the delegates follow:

- Traumatic brain injury rehabilitation program at military medical centers.

- Traumatic service member's group life insurance annual supplement.
- Co-pay for replacement parts of durable medical equipment and prosthetics.
- Convicted sex offender registry outside the continental U.S.
- Retroactive traumatic service members group life insurance compensation. The top five critical active issues previously introduced into the AFAP process included these:
- Award contracts for household-goods shipments to moving companies based on performance and claims history, as well as cost. Provide full replacement value for lost/damaged

SEE AFAP, A-4



AFAP delegates (left to right) Karin Markert, Myra Williams Michelle Zittrouer and others, participate in a work group at the 24th annual conference in Alexandria, Va.

# Tripler Red Cross volunteer treats patients with pet pick-me-ups

Story and Photos by  
**JEREMY S. BUDDEMEIER**  
Assistant Editor

If Eloise Monsarrat had her way, doctors would be prescribing pets in addition to pills.

Monsarrat, a Tripler Army Medical Center Human Animal Bond Program volunteer for 17 years, has witnessed firsthand the positive impact pooches and other pets have had on patients.

"It's amazing how [animals] wake people up," she said.

Sponsored by the Red Cross, Tripler's program employs one cat, three rabbits and more than a dozen dogs to provide a special type of therapy for patients with social, mental and physical illnesses.



Christine Delaney pets Karma, a 6-year old golden retriever, in the "cozy chemo corner" of the Oncology Ward at Tripler Army Medical Center, Wednesday. Karma and her sister, Déja Vu, are volunteers with the TAMC Red Cross Human Animal Bond Program.

Monsarrat said the animals give patients and hospital visitors a diversion, in addition to simple petting enjoyment. In all, she has logged more than 10,000 hours helping countless patients with her furry friends.

For more information on Tripler's Human Animal Bond Program, call 433-6631.

The animals, which must pass strict behavioral tests to qualify for the program, are true professionals. Some pets even have their own business cards, which some patients collect.

On Wednesday morning, Monsarrat met up with another volunteer Debra Hanley and her two golden retrievers, Kar-

ma and Déja Vu, for their weekly two-hour session at Tripler. Hanley's 6-year old dogs are clad in red handkerchiefs, with their names embroidered, and volunteer badges with their pictures dangling from separate leashes.

Sisters from a litter of 13, the dogs have participated in the program for the past three years, including a tour in Landstuhl, Germany, when Hanley and her husband Mark, who serves in the Air Force, were stationed there.

"Would you like some therapy today," Monsarrat asked a passerby near the entrance. The innocent invitation coupled with two unassuming, smiling golden retrievers is irresistible for most.

SEE RED CROSS, A-3

## We want to hear from you...

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

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

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

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

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## Straight Talk

# Duh, it's a no-brainer, shoplifting is a crime

**BILL LAFFEA**

Directorate of Emergency Services

Shoplifting is the lie that can jeopardize your future.

Many people think shoplifting is just a game, especially children. Many don't realize they've committed a crime until it is too late.

They claim they never knew about the serious consequences when they took a piece of merchandise. But, truth be told, individuals can save themselves much grief by looking at the simple facts: Shoplifting is a crime. Shoplifters will be treated as criminals.

To see the profile of a would-be shoplifter, look in the mirror. Look at your child. It's a sad truth, but you and everyone you know are potential suspects.

Shoplifters come from all walks of life, all ages, all professions, and all family backgrounds. Hence, merchants are taking actions against shoplifting, no matter what size or price of an item stolen — regardless of race, color, creed, sex,

age or social standing of the offender.

No one has special immunity from prosecution, and the odds of getting caught are greater than ever before.

We do know that teenagers normally make up the largest percentage of shoplifters, but unfortunately, locally, many of our younger Soldiers run a close second. We also know that most Soldiers could have paid for a stolen item.

So why does anyone shoplift? Pressure from friends and the thrill of taking are among reasons. Many even think no one takes shoplifting seriously.

### It's not a victimless crime

Shoplifting is not a victimless crime; we all pay. Though it may seem trivial, a seemingly innocent phenomenon may happen daily.

For example, while in the commissary, a child starts crying and pointing at some item on a shelf,

say a piece of candy. The mother tries to quiet the child by opening the candy, giving it to the child, then continues along shopping. No matter how you look at this scenario, it is shoplifting.

### What's all the fuss about?

Nationally, shoplifting amounts to is the single largest monetary crime, to the tune of \$20 million a day.

A 10-percent reduction in the amount of shoplifting, nationally, would have the same effect as totally eliminating bank robbery.

In our exchanges and commissaries, you may see the results of shoplifting through loss of some Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs, due to loss of profits.

Yet, apprehension alone will not solve this problem. It's time we face this problem and give our children the facts.

Preventative education is far better than learning from experience.

### What do you say to your child?

Explain to youth that shoplifting is not a cheap thrill. It's a crime that levies a heavy burden.

Juvenile offenders can be jailed, fined, or both. They can receive a charge of "juvenile delinquency" or suffer charges that can add up to a lifetime of missed opportunities.

A criminal conviction for shoplifting can keep youth from holding school offices, honors and athletic positions. Plus, their future holds even worse prospects, as police records can keep youth from getting jobs, winning scholarships or even borrowing money.

Shoplifting can affect anything that requires a routine check of the past.

For example, the least punishment a shoplifter faces if caught in the exchange or commissary is a six-month suspension of privi-

leges. This penalty can be serious enough, especially for Soldiers or adults, considering the price of groceries here in Hawaii.

### What if your child is caught shoplifting?

If you discover that your child has been shoplifting, be firm and understanding. Make your child return the stolen item to the store.

The scare and embarrassment, especially with you as a witness, may be the strongest lesson you can give your child to prevent further shoplifting.

Don't take chances with your child's future. Take time to be a good parent and give your kids the right impression about shoplifting. The right impression can save you, and them, a lot of heartache.

Need more advice? Question the 106 shoplifters who have been caught so far this year at the Schofield Barracks main exchange.

# New graduation requirements for Class of 2010 and beyond

**TAM SIN KEONE**

School Liaison Coordinator, U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii

Beginning with the graduating class of 2010, students in the Hawaii public school system will need 24 credits to receive a high school diploma, instead of the 22 credits currently required for students graduating in years 2007-2009.

Taking a look at past developments leading to this change, in 2001, the Department of Education's (DoE) Graduation Requirements Task Force began efforts to redesign the high school experience, to better prepare students for post-secondary education, it said.

Then, after careful review of school-level and public comments and suggestions, the Board of Education (BoE) approved amendments to its graduation policy on June 24, 2004.

The new version of Board Policy 4540 takes effect this school year, 2006-2007, and applies to students beginning with the incoming ninth grade class.

According to the DoE, the purpose of these new graduation requirements is to establish rigorous standards of learning to enable all Hawaii public school graduates:

- To realize their individual goals and aspirations.
- To possess the attitudes, knowledge and skills necessary to contribute positively and compete in a global society.
- To exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.
- To pursue post-secondary education and/or careers without need for remediation.

Based on the new requirements, a high school diploma will be issued to students who have met all graduation requirements by demonstrating proficiency in the Hawaii Content and Performance Standards and General Learner Outcomes in their required courses.

Students will have the option of working towards a BoE Recognition Diploma, which requires a grade point average of 3.0 and above. In addition, they must earn extra credit — a total of 25 credits — by completing a Senior Project approved by their school such as a senior portfolio or a science project created with the help of a university professor.

There are some additional requirements that students should take into consideration:

- English must include English Language Arts 1 (one credit) and English Language Arts 2 (one credit).
- No more than one math credit can be lower than Algebra 1.
- No substitution courses are allowed for the three science credits.
- Physical Education (P.E.) includes a required half-credit course, P.E. Lifetime Fitness, and a second half-credit P.E. basic elective.
- Credits earned must be in the same language, for example, two credits in French (not one credit in French and one credit in Japanese).

If students or parents have any questions regarding graduation requirements, they should make an appointment with the school counselor or principal, as soon as possible.

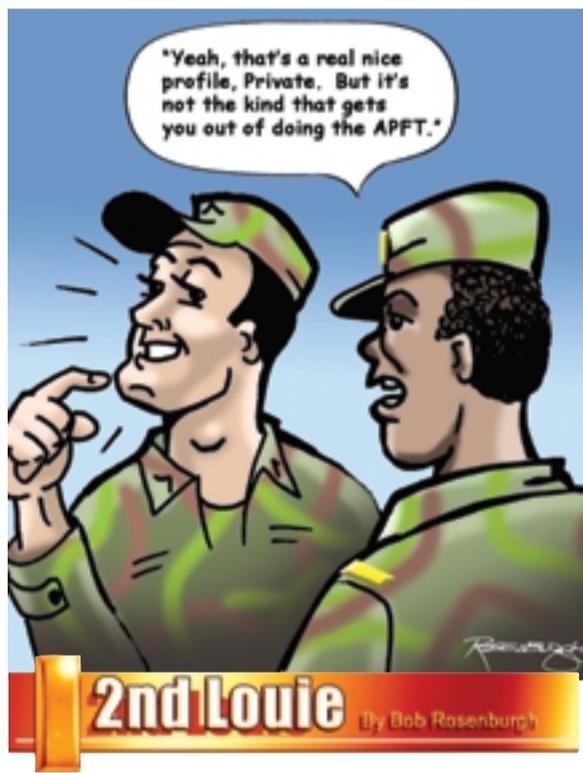
The DoE hopes these new requirements will help students to get more focused on planning their future by setting goals and preparing for their post high school plan of action.

The new changes support the DoE's efforts to give students, families and communities hope for a better future.

To view the policy, visit the BoE Web site at www.BO.E.k12.hi.us, click on "Document Library," on "BOE Policies," on "4500 series," and then scroll down to number 4540, "Graduation and Related Policy."

## High School Graduation Requirements

Course Requirement	Past Requirements	New High School Diploma	New Board of Education Recognition Diploma
English	4 credits	4 credits	4 credits
Social Studies	4 credits	4 credits	4 credits
Mathematics	3 credits	3 credits	3 credits
Science	3 credits	3 credits	3 credits
World Language			
Fine Arts			
Career and Technical Education	N/A	2 credits	2 credits
Senior Project	N/A	N/A	1 credit
Physical Education	1 credit	1 credit	1 credit
Health	1/2 credit	1/2 credit	1/2 credit
Personal/Transition Plan	N/A	1/2 credit	1/2 credit
Electives (any subject area)	6 credits	6 credits	6 credits
Guidance	1/2 credit	N/A	N/A
Total	22 credits	24 credits	25 credits



## LIGHTNING SPIRIT

# Anger management but a scripture away

**CHAPLAIN (CAPT.) STEVE HOMMEL**  
29th Engineer Battalion

The root cause of many of the problems facing families today is a failure to resolve anger and bitterness.

As newlyweds, 20 years ago, the best piece of advice that my wife, Naomi, and I received from an older couple was "Do not go to bed angry."

Working my way through Bible College, doing part time construction work, I distinctly remember my crusty old foreman, Bob, imparting that particular bit of wisdom to me. Bob had been married for nearly 40 years. Aside from the fact that anyone that has been married that long must be doing something right, what intrigued me about Bob's piece of advice was that he was paraphrasing Scripture without realizing it.

Bob echoed Ephesians 4:26-27: "Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity."

When we repeatedly go to bed angry we do give the devil an opportunity, because in the morning we will probably forget what we were angry about, but we do not forget our anger.

Couples go ballistic over what should be minor annoyances like the proper place to squeeze a tube of toothpaste, or whether the toilet paper rolls from the top or bottom, or the male habit of leaving the toilet seat up. (On a personal note, I have never understood why women just don't look before they sit down.) The root problem is unresolved anger that lingers simmering just below the surface.

In his excellent book, "Making Love Last Forever," Dr. Gary Smalley said, "The average person has little or no idea how damaging forgotten or ignored anger can be: alienating loved ones, sabotaging relationships. Worse yet, most people don't even know how much destructive anger they're

SEE SPIRIT, A-3

## 17 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 11/29/06.

# Voices of Lightning: "In what ways do you practice financial restraint during the holidays?"



"I give my money to my wife."

**Sgt. Benjamin Winn**  
13th MP Det.  
Military Policeman



"Throughout the year I make a budget, and stick to it, even during Christmas."

**CTI2 Shauna Hunt**  
NIOC, Hawaii  
Briefer



"I don't practice it at all."

**Pfc. Josh Bentley**  
B Co., 225th BSB  
Mechanic



"I don't. I try to spend as much money as possible."

**Kristina Meckler**  
Family Member



"I just give myself a budget for each person."

**Trisha Parrish**  
Family Member

# Red Cross: Volunteers leave a trail of smiles in their wake at Tripler hospital

CONTINUED FROM A-1

"These are doctor dogs, mommy," said a boy, barely taller than the dogs as he approached them. Before long, a dozen Waianae High School Health Academy students had swarmed around the dogs and were asking the usual questions — names and age.

"Help yourself," a smiling Monsarrat told one youth.

As the four ladies weave their way through the maze of multiple floors and departments, someone recognized Monsarrat. "Aren't you famous?" the woman asked.

During President Bush's brief stopover in Hawaii last week, he presented Monsarrat with the President's Volunteer Service Award for her work in the program.

The award recognizes Americans who, through their dedicated service, encourage and inspire others to volunteer. Though more than half a million have been awarded since its inception in 2003, Monsarrat is one of only a few hundred volunteers who have been recognized by the president in person.

Monsarrat had a gift for the president and first lady as well. She presented them with handmade silk lei for their two Scottish terriers, Barney and Miss Beazley.

"I told Mrs. Bush the lei would last forever," Monsarrat said.

Monsarrat used to be well known at Tripler, but after receiving the presidential award she has become full-fledged celebrity. In the first hour touring with the dogs, more than a dozen people recognized her and offered congratulations. One woman swore she saw Monsarrat on a billboard.

The fame doesn't appear to have gone to her head. She floats along with a perma-smile, at ease with strangers in the hospital as if she were in her own living room.

At each ward, Monsarrat, Hanley and the dogs check in with the nurses' station to learn which patients would enjoy therapy or might have an adverse reaction. In the pediatrics ward, the nurse recommended every patient except a boy who recently was bitten by a rottweiler on the face and arm.

After two a visit with 7-year old Nathan Gardikis and 2-year old Matthew Beat, a nurse informed



Matthew Beat, age 2, doles out a double dose of petting to Karma and Deja Vu, as Eloise Monsarrat looks on, at Tripler Army Medical Center, Wednesday. The dogs and Monsarrat are volunteers with TAMC's Human Animal Bond Program, sponsored by the American Red Cross.

the group that the previously traumatized child would like to meet the canine duo.

With slight trepidation, the boy approached the dogs, which seemed relaxed and unaware of his anxiety. Monsarrat and Hanley reassured him the dogs were friendly. Within a few minutes, he's smiling and petting, though not completely comfortable.

The group continued to trot along through other wings of the hospital, including the oncology, dialysis and general surgery wards, leaving a trail of smiles in their wake.

Regardless of age, the faces of patients and staff lit up as the dogs approached.

"How could you get so close and not pet her?" Monsarrat lightheartedly asked a passing doctor, who then doubled back for a dose of therapy.

In addition to her work with Tripler's program, Monsarrat has spent her life surrounded by dogs.

She and her husband, Roger,

have bred Australian Kelpies in Hawaii for the past 50 years.

"All of our children have had four legs instead of two," Monsarrat said. Australian Kelpies are working dogs that herd by "strong stares" she said.

It almost comes as no surprise that Roger is a fifth generation descendant of Marcus Cummings Monsarrat, the same person for which the road bordering the Honolulu Zoo is probably named. Roger taught their last dog, Qu-I, to salute on command.

As the holiday season approaches, Eloise Monsarrat is preparing for the Christmas Eve pet parade through Tripler's halls. Last year's parade, which included five dogs and 85 teddy bears, was led by a 12-pound cat in a wheelchair.

The cat was "too heavy to carry and won't walk on a leash," Monsarrat said.

*(Editor's Note: The Web site <http://ulukau.org/index.php> was a source for this article.)*

# Spirit: Sleeping on anger is a no-no

CONTINUED FROM A-2

carrying around, and from past experiences, everyone has some degree of buried anger.

"This (unresolved) anger," Smalley continues, "causes more pain, drowns more marriages, sinks more children than any other power I know."

Anger is a not a primary emotion. It comes from hurt, frustration or fear. For example, if someone says something mean or cutting to us, we feel first hurt and then anger.

Of course, we also use anger to overcome and deal with fear. God gave us anger to prepare for action and to deal with life's challenges.

When we get angry, adrenaline pumps through our bodies and we feel powerful. It is part of the fight or flight response.

The Bible does not say, "Do not get angry." Many examples show when Jesus became angry. It's called righteous anger.

There are certain things that should set you off righteously. The important thing is to control the emotion to do what is the right thing in a given situation. Anger becomes destructive when it is expressed inappropriately or when we hold on to it, nurse it, bury it, and use it to harm ourselves and others.

Unresolved anger provides a very tempting ex-

cuse to play the "Blame Game." In the blame game you win by blaming someone else for everything that is wrong in your life.

Americans are great at playing the blame game, but it's kind of refreshing to hear someone actually take some personal responsibility for their actions.

On the individual level, the way a person expresses anger is behavior that is usually learned in childhood. Angry, bitter parents usually go on to produce angry, bitter children. It is a vicious cycle that can go on and on in families for generations.

Where do you go from here? There is hope, but you must start with the man, or woman, in mirror.

You cannot change other people. Waiting for your "oh so irritating wife" or your "good for nothing husband" to change before you start facing up to our own faults is nothing but a cop out.

It never ceases to amaze me how accurately I can pick out all of my wife's faults, while at the same time have such a difficult time perceiving my own.

The first step towards real change starts with learning to take personal responsibility. It is a work in process, but when I step back and take a good objective look at me, it suddenly becomes much easier to forgive others.

Be encouraged. Even small personal changes in this area can have an enormous positive influence upon your life and marriage.



*(Note: Parcel post date has passed for on-time arrival.)*

## Recommended shipping dates for holiday mail

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

### APO AE Zip 093

- Space Available Mail: Nov. 27 • Parcel Airlift Mail: Dec. 2
- Priority Mail/First-Class Mail, Letter and Cards: Dec. 4
- Express Mail Military Service: Not Available

### APO AE Zips 090-092, 094-098; APO AA Zip 340; APO AP Zip 962-966

- Space Available Mail: Nov. 27 • Parcel Airlift Mail: Dec. 4
- Priority Mail/First-Class Mail, Letter and Cards: Dec. 11
- Express Mail Military Service: Dec. 19

# AFAP: Delegates come from Army installations

CONTINUED FROM A-1

household goods.

- Allow Soldiers with at least 10 years of service to transfer their Montgomery GI Bill benefits to their dependents.

- Authorize the use of permissive temporary duty for fathers upon birth of a child.

- Eliminate the expiration date for Montgomery GI Bill educational benefits.

- Allow service members to accumulate 90 days of leave until termination of service.

The four services identified by delegates as this year's most valuable are Army Community Service; Morale, Welfare and Recreation; Army Wounded Warrior Program; and medical care.

Additionally, the delegates voted on the top five mobilization/deployment and family-support strengths. Included on the list were Military OneSource and Army Community Service programs. Morale Welfare and Recreation, family readiness groups and rest and relaxation all tied for third place, and the rapid fielding initiative rounded out the list.

The top three mobilization/deployment and family challenges as determined by the delegates

were length and extension of deployments; deployment personnel tempo; and the stop-loss program.

The need for more standard National Guard, Active Guard and Reserve, Army Reserve, and active duty remote family readiness groups, and incomplete family reintegration training for children and teens were tied for fourth place.

For the past 24 years there have been 618 issues in the AFAP process that have driven 101 legislative changes, 145 Department of Defense Army policy and regulatory changes, and improved programs and services.

*(Editor's Note: Margaret McKenzie works for the U.S. Army Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Division. For more AFAP news, visit the Army News Service, [www.army.mil](http://www.army.mil).)*

# Solomon: Children honor hero's spirit of aloha

CONTINUED FROM A-1

"His zest for living allowed most who met him to come away better," Ryan said.

Sean Ross was one of those men who came away better.

Ross served with Solomon at Coleman Barracks near Mannheim, Germany, in 1964. He grew up near Solomon's hometown, Hawi, a former plantation town with 938 residents in 2000, located in the North Kohala region of the Big Island.

Ross thinks his father knew Solomon's father and remembered the first sergeant as a brother.

"My second day in Germany, he came up to me and said, 'Come on haole boy. We goin' church,'" Ross said. "I hung out with him ever since."

Solomon also met his wife, Virginia, in Germany. She was a teacher at Coleman Barracks at the time.

Virginia, who flew in from Utah, along with other family members, gave encouraging words to the elementary students and recalled her husband's philosophy of life.

"I don't want to be a hero," he would say. "I



Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Cook, D Troop, 5th Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, presents a flag to Solomon Elementary School Principal Linda Yoshikami at the school's rededication ceremony, Nov. 22.

just want to serve my country and help my company," she said.

Following Virginia's speech, one student from each grade read a short essay that described their school pride.

"[Solomon Elementary] is so cool that I don't even want to [go outside to] play. It's cool!" exclaimed second-grader Alexandria Curran as she read her essay.

Preschooler Kalia Alonzo read a description of the picture she drew for the essay contest.

"I like colors. Puzzles. I like to do dots. I really love circles."

In addition, more than 50 students and faculty festooned Virginia with flower, silk and construction-paper lei. Two teachers presented her a quilt.

Virginia requested that some of flowers be taken to the National Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl), where Solomon is buried, so he would "feel [their] aloha there as well."

After the ceremony, the entire student body formed meandering single-file lines and carried their chairs back to the classroom like ants from a picnic. Within minutes the sun shone through the clouds, and the cheerful sounds of children at recess filled the air.

## News Briefs

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

### 1/Today

**Flu Shot Schedule** — Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC) Preventive Medicine Department will provide immunizations as follows:

- Hickam Air Force Base Exchange, Dec. 1;
- Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Marine Corps Exchange, Dec. 2.
- Tripler Immunization Clinic, Dec. 1, for all service members, TAMC staff, adult family members, Department of Defense civilians and retirees.

### 2/Saturday

**Road Closure** — Kawamura Gate on Wheeler Army Air Field will be closed to incoming traffic Dec. 2 and 9, from 7 a.m.-5 p.m.

Incoming traffic must proceed through Kunia Gate. Call 624-5896.

### 5/Tuesday

**Troops to Teachers** — The federally-funded Troops to Teachers program supports military members choosing teaching as their next career and may allow up to a \$10,000 bonus for teaching in high-need schools.

The program coordinator is available from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Schofield Barracks Education Center Dec. 5. Call 587-5580, extension 409 or e-mail [hawaiiitt@notes.k12.hi.us](mailto:hawaiiitt@notes.k12.hi.us).

### 7/Thursday

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

Briefings are scheduled for Dec. 7 and 8 at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Call 655-4621.

### 11/Monday

**USAREC Health Profession Briefing** — U.S. Army Recruiting Command will sponsor briefings on the Interservice Physician Assistant Program (IPAP), the Army Medical Department (AMEDD) enlisted commissioning program, and other AMEDD training opportunities as follows:

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

E-mail [ipap@usarec.army.mil](mailto:ipap@usarec.army.mil) for unit briefings. Visit [www.usarec.army.mil](http://www.usarec.army.mil) or [www.goarmyhealthcare.com](http://www.goarmyhealthcare.com) for complete program details.

# Cavalry takes troops on a 'spur-ride' in Iraq

OIF

Story and Photo by  
**PFC. DURWOOD BLACKMON**

25th Infantry Division Combat Aviation Public Affairs

KIRKUK, Iraq — Soldiers of the 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, at Forward Operating Base Warrior here, were dressed in full battle rattle as they unloaded personnel carriers into a sea of chaos, similar to day zero at basic training.

The day would prove to rigorous. A host of challenges, tested the mettle, teamwork and unyielding commitment of every Soldier.

"This event is one of the most traditional customs the cavalry conducts. This time it was especially important because it took place in a combat zone," said Command Sgt. Maj. Allen Haynes of the 2-6th Cav.

Soldiers' locked their sights on acquiring the highly coveted spurs of the cavalry. First, though, a series of tribulations known as the "Spur-Ride" confronted them.

"Historically, when a new trooper was assigned to a cavalry unit, his horse's tail would be shaved. This signified the Soldier was in training and [gave] experienced warriors a visual warning to stand clear of the new recruit during combat," said Capt. Kevin J. Wardrobe, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop (HHT), 2-6th. "As the horse's tail grew back, it would designate a more experienced and seasoned rider.

"Today is special because, as Soldiers finish the spur ride, they will be honored like previous generations," Wardrobe explained, adding that once a Soldier proves



Spc. Andrea Hettler (front, right), C Troop, 2-6th Cavalry Regiment, and Chief Warrant Officer Rourke Peterson (front, left), A Troop, 2-6th Cav., aid other Soldiers in moving a simulated casualty during the Spur Ride at Forward Operation Base Warrior, Nov. 12.

he can control a horse and sword, he earns his spurs.

During the event, all participants — regardless of rank, job title or position — are referred to as spur candidates. Cavalry members in leadership positions are called spur holders.

Soldiers hit the ground running as spur holders encouraged them to file into a four-rank formation by assigned teams.

Candidate team leaders were then instructed to quickly get their Soldiers ready for a combat-load layout.

Although each group had its own specific instructions, Soldiers found themselves in mass confusion as spur holders changed the pre-developed plan.

"Some of the challenges we have organized put Soldiers under stress," said Wardrobe. "We assign them tasks that seem impossible to accomplish.

"It's very similar to any other leaders' course you go to," he continued. "The purpose is to bring Soldiers together and function as a group, to give them a better understanding of teamwork."

Soldiers went from one extreme to the next. For example, they quickly traded combat boots for running shoes. Although having been physically taxed since 4 a.m., candidates completed their physical fitness test then headed to classroom instruction and a written examination that assessed their knowledge of unit history.

"It's important to make sure everyone knows certain lineage and traditions of the cavalry such as the 'Fiddlers Green,'" said Haynes.

Challenges included an eight-mile road

march and the firing range.

"The spur-ride is a team effort, and there are no individuals," Haynes stressed.

During the teambuilding event, Soldiers painted buildings, cleaned weapons, washed vehicles and performed area beautification. With each passing assignment, candidates steadily pulled together.

"From start to finish, you can see teamwork grow, and its effectiveness. They help each other as the day moves on, and the level of motivation goes up," said Wardrobe.

"The ruck march was probably the most difficult because everyone was hurting and sore after it was finished," said Pfc. John Lott, aviation operation specialist, HHT, 2-6th.

After all tasks were completed, Soldiers filed into a hanger for one final formation. One by one, each received what he had worked so hard for.

"I had a really great time. At first I didn't think it would be that big of a deal, but it was a proud moment to strap spurs on at the end. The fact we all worked together gave us all a good feeling and real pride in our accomplishment," said Lott.

Honorary guest Brig. Gen. Frank Wiercinski, deputy commanding general, support, 25th Infantry Division, also attended the event and administered an oath of re-enlistment to Sgt. Miguel Aguirre, aircraft armament repair technician, A Troop, 2-6th Cav.

In addition, Wiercinski vowed to come back in March and participate in the next spur ride along with Soldiers.



## 25th CAB staff sergeant earns U.S.A. citizenship

Story and Photo by  
**SGT. MAURICE SMITH**  
3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team

KIRKUK, Iraq — It was a proud day for Staff Sgt. Tito Parra Fiallo, a Newark, N.J. native, as he raised his right hand, along with other service members, and officially became an American citizen during a recent ceremony at Logistics Support Area Anaconda in Balad, Iraq.

Fiallo, 26, originally from Ecuador, a member of Headquarters and Headquarters Troop (HHT), 2nd Squadron, 6th Cav-

alry Regiment, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, came to the U.S., along with his family, in 1989, in pursuit of better opportunities and a better life. He enlisted in the Army in '98 and is currently serving "his" country proudly in Iraq, doing his part in the war on terrorism, he said.

"In the country I am from, it is mandatory for a male to join the military when he turns eighteen. You have no choice," he explained. "Here you are given a choice, so it felt like the right thing to do for a country that's given so much to

me, to serve somehow and give something back."

President George W. Bush relayed congratulations to Fiallo and the other service members, via a video message. The president welcomed them as fellow American citizens.

Several other dignitaries also spoke during the ceremony, including Brig. Gen. Michael Terry, commanding general, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

"Becoming an American can have nothing to do with birth or ancestry,"

said Terry. "That is, because America is an idea, not a race."

For Fiallo, the speech registered.

"I liked what he said. You can come from China, and you can still be an American because it is an idea, it's not a race," Fiallo stated out loud, as he absorbed Terry's remarks.

"I have the same ideas as many others in the country. I just wasn't born here," he said, continuing to reflect upon the speech and his new title, citizen of the U.S.

# Beanie babies snatched up by Iraqi children

OIF

Story and Photo by  
SPC. MIKE ALBERTS

3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

KIRKUK, Iraq – Four years ago, a compassionate Soldier and a \$6 beanie baby named “Courage” brought an unforgettable smile to 4-year-old Sarah’s face. Over a million beanie babies later, that Soldier’s commitment to the future of Iraq and American generosity continue to impact Iraq’s next generation – its children.

“Beanies for Baghdad,” a civilian organization based in Evansville, Ind., donates thousands of the small stuffed animals weekly to the U.S. Army through Lt. Col. James Barker, squadron commander, 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, for distribution to Iraqi children throughout the Kirkuk Province.

It all began with a kind gesture.

Barker, of Whitewood, S.D., was one of thousands of Soldiers in Baghdad when Operation Iraqi Freedom began in 2003. During that tour, Barker frequently interacted with the local population.

“During our ‘walkabouts’ in the community, I never saw any children with toys of their own,” said Barker. “On one occasion, I threw [a beanie baby named Courage that my sister sent me] into my bag.

“That day, we were at an elementary school, he continued. “I saw a little girl about 4 years old named Sarah, and I called her over,” he recalled.

Barker gave Courage to Sarah, and her reaction to the gift compelled him to do more.

“When we got back from the mission that afternoon, I sent an e-mail with Sarah’s photograph to a Web site for beanie baby enthusiasts. I asked them to send beanie babies to me so that we could hand them out to Iraqi children. They ac-



An Iraqi soldier of the 3rd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 4th Division, hands out beanie baby stuffed animals to local Iraqi children in celebration of Ramadan in Umarilyah, Iraq.

cepted my e-mail and published it.

“I immediately began receiving emails, and within the first four or five days there were about 2,000 beanie babies on their way to me for distribution,” he said.

According to Barker, about one week later, two individuals back in the U.S. volunteered to stand-up a Web site at their own expense. On May 4, 2003, “Beanies for Baghdad” was born.

The program continues in Kirkuk

Barker redeployed from Baghdad in June 2003, yet the generosity he started, continued. Each successive Army unit

designated a representative to receive the beanie baby donations. The program thrived.

Then, in 2006, Barker again deployed to Iraq, this time to the Kirkuk Province. Once again, he became the point of contact for beanie baby donations.

“We still receive three to four thousand stuffed animals a week,” said Barker.

The toys arrive in boxes and are received by Barker’s Soldiers. One of those Soldiers is Pfc. Travis Zinn of West York, Pa.

As the boxes arrive, Zinn, and others, go

through them to ensure that all the gifts are culturally sensitive.

“I remove the beanie baby [pigs] and angels because those symbols might be considered offensive [by their primarily Muslim recipients],” Zinn said. “I really enjoy helping the people of Iraq. My philosophy is that small things will eventually add up to be a big thing, and these stuffed animals have a big impact.”

Primarily infantry units and military assistance teams received repackaged beanie babies for distribution to Iraqi children with the help of the Iraqi Army.

They contribute to mission success.

A recent mission to distribute the latest donation was conducted by the Iraqi Army’s 4th Division in conjunction with Soldiers of 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team’s 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment.

The Soldiers convoyed to the remote town of Umarilyah (pronounced “Amer-leeah”), Oct. 22. Umarilyah is best identified by reference to its nearest neighbor Tuz, a rural town 18 kilometers southwest of Kirkuk. By the end of the day, Soldiers had handed-out more than 900 beanie babies.

Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Nichols, military transition team noncommissioned officer in charge, 2-27th, said the humanitarian mission was a big success. The event brightened the day for almost 1,000 local children and served as another opportunity for coalition forces and the Iraqi Army to demonstrate their support for the community.

“The Iraqi Soldiers did the majority of the gift handouts,” said Nichols, “so that their community can see [they] are doing things to make life better for folks here, even if it seems relatively minor like providing toys for their children.”

Impacting the hearts and minds of the local population is a key component to mission success in Iraq, even in the tiny hearts and minds of the country’s next generation.

“You never know the future of these children,” said Barker. “Twenty or thirty years from now, one of these kids may be a prime minister or regional leader and that child will remember the kindness and generosity of a Soldier ... a Soldier who stopped and went out of their way and gave them a toy, probably the only toy that child ever had in their life.”

# ‘Operation Big Bird’ fills bellies

Story and Photo by  
SPC. MIKE ALBERTS

3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

KIRKUK, Iraq – As a Soldier, he recalled Thanksgiving Day meals sitting on the front slope of a tank, amidst howling winds and sub-zero temperatures in a German field. More than two decades later, he was the one charged with ensuring that Soldiers didn’t eat their holiday meal under similar conditions.

Hawaii native Sgt. Maj. Keith Castaneda, plans sergeant major, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, coordinated Thanksgiving Day festivities at Forward Operating Base Warrior, here, Nov. 23.

Castaneda, born on the island of Oahu and raised on the “Big Island” of Hawaii, normally assists the brigade staff in future operations, both tactically and administratively. Yet, he was the primary noncommissioned officer in charge of developing “Operation Big Bird.”

“Operation Big Bird is the term used to describe the Thanksgiving Day festivities,” said the Honokaa High School graduate. “Thanksgiving gives us an opportunity to celebrate as a deployed unit.

“You will never prevent a Soldier from feeling home sick on a holiday,” he explained, “but ‘Army Strong’ is about being part of a team. Soldiers depend on each other, and Operation Big Bird is a way to recognize [our military family],



Soldiers of the 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 25th Infantry Division, enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving Day meal at Forward Operating Base Warrior, Kirkuk, Iraq, Nov. 23.



Castaneda

build team-work and break bread together,” said Castaneda.

Castaneda’s military roots run deep. Both grandfathers were part of the Hawaii Rifles, the predecessor to the Hawaii National Guard. One uncle was also a Hawaii guardsman, another retired from the Army as a master sergeant, and a third gave his life while serving as a Marine staff sergeant in Vietnam.

Castaneda recalled his first Thanksgiving as an unpleasant experience while serving in a postal unit in Germany. He committed

himself to making sure that Soldiers felt at home on this Thanksgiving Day.

“The bottom line is that today is about Soldiers sitting together and enjoying a home-cooked meal,” he said. “In the end, we are here for each other and that’s what this day is about.”

One of those Soldiers who appreciated celebrating Thanksgiving with his military family was Pvt. Minor Adams, supply clerk, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 3IBCT.

“The job we do out here is rough at times,” said Adams, a native of Las Vegas, Nev., “but it’s a job worth doing. I miss my wife, but on this Thanksgiving I’m celebrating with a different family, one that’s just as important to me.”



Pfc. Durwood Blackmon | 25th Infantry Division Public Affairs

*‘Yes, I’ll give this a try ...’*

TIKRIT, Iraq — Pfc. Freddie Roebuck, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, tries out the dessert menu on Thanksgiving Day at the Wings of Lightning dining facility, Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq.

Soldiers enjoyed many of the same dishes they share with their families back home during Thanksgiving.



Service members at Forward Operating Base Warrior, Kirkuk, Iraq, lace up their shoes and kick-off their Thanksgiving holiday with a sunrise 5-kilometer Turkey Trot Fun Run.

## 25th ID runs with gratitude

Story and Photo by  
**SPC. MIKE ALBERTS**  
 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team

KIRKUK, Iraq — Just as millions of American families do at home, American Soldiers celebrated Thanksgiving by expressing their gratitude over a traditional meal. Unlike stateside observances, though, they dined with Iraqi Security Forces and local government leaders at Forward Operating Base Warrior, here, Nov. 23.

After their sunrise 5-kilometer Turkey Trot Fun Run, enlisted Soldiers faced off against officers during a flag football game in which winning was far less important than camaraderie of sport and friendship, according to Sgt. Maj. Keith Castenada, plans sergeant major, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (3IBCT), 25th Infantry Division.

Castenada, a Hawaii native, coordinated the day's festivities that were termed "Operation Big Bird."

After morning activities, Soldiers and their Iraqi guests enjoyed a traditional Thanksgiving meal punctuated by ornate ice carvings and a red-velvet cake that fed 1,000.

Maj. Gen. William Caldwell, spokesman, Multi-National Force-Iraq, joined brigade commander Col. Patrick T. Stackpole, 3IBCT, in welcoming Abdul-Rahman Mustafa, Kirkuk's governor. As well, Rizgar Ali, chairman, Kirkuk Provincial Council; Maj. Gen. Anwar, 2nd Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division; and Maj. Gen. Sherko Shakir, Kirkuk provincial police chief, among others, partook of the American tradition.

Despite the high profile invitees, the priority for the day was the American Soldier.



Spc. Amanda Flemett | 2nd Brigade Public Affairs

## Signing bonus

Houston Astros pitcher Roger Clemens autographs a special message to Spc. Jasmine Joyner and her husband Spc. Jon Joyner, both of 225th Brigade Support Battalion. The couple expect their baby girl to arrive soon.

Clemens visited Soldiers dining at the Schofield Barracks 2nd Brigade Warrior Inn on Thanksgiving Day. "This is a special day, and I want to spend it with special people," Clemens said. "My family and I thank you for your service and are so honored to be here with all of you."

At Inset — Ethan Bruce, son of Staff Sgt. Robert Bruce of 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, shows off two baseballs that Clemens autographed for him at the dining facility.



Early communal efforts and cooperative spirit turn fragments into families

Story and Photos by  
**CHRISTA B. THOMAS**  
Pau Hana Editor

WAIPAHU — When many newcomers and visitors arrive in Hawaii, they may notice an abundance of beautiful brown or tanned "locals" who are pleasant, accommodating and the embodiment of the aloha spirit.

What may not be so obvious is that the essence of this aloha spirit is the result of more than a century of collaborative efforts among people of eight cultures.

The story of this multicultural cooperative that created the framework for Hawaii's melting pot of culture, cuisine and language is told at the Hawaii Plantation Village (HPV).

The village is 32 original and replicated homes and buildings, spread along 50 acres, that have been furnished to represent the major ethnic groups which worked the sugar cane fields.

The homes are stylized with docents, or tour guides, dressed in period costumes, clothing, cookware and furnishings from 1900 to the late 1930s, which portray the humble beginnings of the 400,000 migrant sugar workers.

Represented are Puerto Ricans, Chinese, Filipinos, Japanese, Koreans, Native Hawaiians, Okinawans and Portuguese.

Most notably, many of the displays in the homes demonstrated that people and cultures are more alike than they are different.

#### Great expectations meet harsh reality

Somewhat in the vein of "misery loves company," the similar experience of backbreaking labor, low pay and constant supervision forged the bonds of the migrant workers, compelling them to meet on familiar common ground. They dined together, shared their ideas, customs and folklore.

In a typical plantation workday, the wake-up whistle sounded at 5 a.m., the workday began at 6 a.m., half-hour lunch started at noon, pau hana whistle sounded at 4:30 p.m. and lights went out at 8:30 p.m.

The women workers would prepare breakfast for their families, work in the field, and still have to tend to their household chores until lights out.

Although, laborers signed contracts that specified wages, the quality of housing and medical care was not defined and was often a source of discontent.

Homes for many of the early immigrants were little more than grass shacks or dilapidated barracks.

Workers began to feel as though they had been deceived and became disillusioned with low pay and harsh working conditions. Approximately one out of five workers were arrested for desertion or for minor infractions



Above — Puerto Rican homes were the first to have water pumped into their freestanding kitchens (smaller structure at left).



Left — The Chinese Society Building, circa 1909, is the first stop in the neighborhood village. Buildings like these were used for social functions.

that included arriving late to the fields. Another struggle faced by immigrants was the threat to their identity. Each plantation tracked workers by ethnicity, assigning a different number series to every ethnic group. Workers each received a metal "bango," or tag, to wear at work and when pay was collected. The bango identified the worker by number, instead of name. With blended cultures, names may have been strange or difficult to pronounce. On a placard inside the museum is a lament by immigrant Faustino Baysa that reads, "Most times they call you by the numbers. That was the thing I objected to. I wanted my name, not the number..."

#### Why you tawk laidadt?

Pidgin originated to lessen the language barrier between native and non-native English speakers.

"Pidgin incorporated phrases and words from Hawaiian, English and various immigrant languages and [was used consistently] so everyone could understand each other," said Joann Fakler, HPV program developer. "In the museum is a plantation pidgin reference that shows how many words are still in use today."

"Our focus is truly having visitors relive the plantation days by [seeing] how all the cultures blended," Fakler said. "Monday through Satur-

day, hourly 'talk story' tours take visitors back to the time when sugar was king.

"You'll really get the most out of your visit by asking questions of our staff," she said. "The HPV mission is based on the museum founders not wanting the contributions of the migrant workers to be lost or minimized," Fakler said. "Their lifestyles and sacrifices are the cornerstone of Hawaii's successful multicultural society."

The first Saturday of each month, HPV hosts "Relive the Plantation Days." This theme celebrates the identity of the represented cultures, Fakler said. "December 2, we will celebrate Christmas plantation style," she added.

Sylvia Gibbs, whose husband is deployed with A Company, 209th Aviation Support Battalion, brought her sons Orkeem, 9, and Deon, 3, to HPV for the November Makahiki Festival. "I read about HPV in the post newspaper calendar and it sounded interesting," she said. "I always try to find something fun to do to get the boys out of the house, and this has been entertaining and educational."

The museum is located at 94-695 Waipahu St. and is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with guided tours each hour.

With the exception of "Relive the Plantation Days" events, general admission is \$13 for adults, \$7 for residents and military, and \$5 for children ages 4-11. Children and HPV members pay no admission fee.

Japanese house docent Momoko is dressed as a plantation worker preparing to spend a day in the fields cutting sugar cane.

She is carrying a machete, a bucket for carrying cuttings, and has a "kaukau tin," or lunch pail, strapped to her side.

Her legs are wrapped in heavy denim fabric to minimize cuts and scrapes from sharp cane leaves.

#### On The WEB

Call Hawaii Plantation Village at 677-0110,  
e-mail [hpv.waipahu@hawaiiintel.net](mailto:hpv.waipahu@hawaiiintel.net) or visit  
[www.hawaiiplantationvillage.org](http://www.hawaiiplantationvillage.org).

#### Relive the Plantation Days Celebrate Christmas, Plantation Style

Dec. 2, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

December's festival will feature free samplings of holiday treats and meals enjoyed by plantation families, which include Chinese pretzels, Portuguese sweet bread, Puerto Rican pasteles, Okinawan sweet potato tempura, Japanese sweet bean manju, Korean mandoo, Filipino coconut deserts and Hawaiian chicken luau.

Plantation homes will be decorated to display traditional Christmas activities.

Other scheduled activities include holiday wreathmaking, performances by the Hand Bell Choir of the United Church of Christ of Liliha, Waipahu United Church of Christ's hula halau, St. Rita's by the Sea Catholic Church of Nanakuli choir, and Liz Santa Ana (who will entertain by "telling the Gospel through hula").

At noon, Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko Hawaii will perform Okinawa Eisa Daiko, an Okinawan bon-dance style taiko.

Santa will visit with plantation treats for every child: an apple, orange and candy in a brown bag.

Admission is \$4 for kamaaina and military, and \$7 for general admission. Children under age 12 and HPV members are free.



**1 / Today**

**Teen Social** — Teens are invited to come have fun with friends at the Schofield Barracks Teen Center Social. The fun will last from 7-9:30 p.m.

Cost is \$3 for members and \$4 for non-members. Call 655-0445.

**2 / Saturday**

**Holiday Rubber Stamping** — Stamp out boring holiday decorations. Adults, come stamp a card, treat bag or a gift tag at holiday rubber-stamping classes at Sgt. Yano Library, Schofield Barracks, or at the Fort Shafter Library.

The Schofield class will run Dec. 2 from 2-3:30 p.m., and the Fort Shafter class, Dec. 10 from 1-2:30 p.m.

Advance registration is required and all supplies will be provided. Call 655-8002 (Sgt. Yano) or 438-9521 (Fort Shafter).

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

Children enrolled in Parents Night Out must be registered with CYS no later than noon, Dec. 1. Reservations are first-come, first-served. Call 655-8313.

**6 / Wednesday**

**Santa Meet and Greet** — Santa is making a special appearance at the Fort Shafter Library, Dec. 6 at 3 p.m. Come make a holiday craft and listen to a story from Santa. Call 438-9521.

**Pictures with Santa** — Visit and take pictures with Santa at the annual North Community Holiday Concert and Tree Lighting Ceremony, Dec. 6. Pictures will be taken and placed in a tree ornament or snow globe for purchase beginning at 6 p.m. Call 655-0111 or 655-0112.

**11 / Monday**

**Keiki Christmas Crafts** — Today is the last day to register for the Keiki Christmas Craft Extravaganza. Enjoy fun, crafts and refreshments at the Schofield Arts and Crafts Center, Dec. 13, 2-4 p.m.

**Great Entertainment:**  
Entertainment by the SKIES classes, Hawaii Praise Dancers and special guest appearance by Angelo Johnson, Military Idol Winner.

**Holiday Activities:**  
Create your own gingerbread house, holiday cards and bookmarks, pictures with Santa, inflatable bouncers, preschool and toddler activities, games and refreshments. Bring your gifts and have them wrapped while you enjoy the Fun Fest. Greet Kelly Bear from the Family Advocacy Program.

**Bring an ornament on December 2 from 10 am - 1 pm**

Your ornament will help decorate the Christmas Tree in the AMR Library. Receive 1 free refreshment ticket per child.

**Operation Christmas Child.**  
Teen Center is collecting stuffed dolls and empty shoe boxes for their service project - Operation Christmas Child.

**Free Transportation to the Fun Fest for Blue Star Card Holders at Schofield Barracks.**  
Blue Star Card Holders call 438-2911 or 438-2192 to reserve your spaces.

**Christmas Parade**  
Starts at 9 am. Come and support your community and march in the parade.

Photo Courtesy Hawaii Army Morale, Welfare and Recreation

**Time for reindeer games**

The Holiday Fun Fest will be ushered in with a community parade on Bougainville Loop in Aliamanu Military Reservation, Dec. 2 at 9 a.m.

Holiday-themed activities will continue at the Youth and Fitness Centers from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

The Hawaii Praise Dancers and Hawaii Military Idol Angelo Johnson will provide entertainment. For complete details, call 833-0920.

**HPU International Holiday Bazaar** — Hawaii Pacific University will celebrate its second International Holiday Bazaar from 4-8 p.m. in downtown Honolulu.

This event is free and will transform Upper Fort Street Mall into a marketplace of booths exhibiting cultural and ethnic holiday traditions from around the world. HPU's International Choral, and International Vocal Ensemble will perform its Winter Concert, "A Star of Joy," at 7 p.m., at Central Union Church, located at Beretania and Punahou streets in Honolulu. HPU's Chamber Orchestra will make its debut performance at the concert.

Call 543-8071 or e-mail international@hpu.edu.

**2 / Saturday**

**HPV Plantation Holidays** — Relive the Plantation Days, the family event, which takes place the first Saturday of each month at Hawaii's Plantation Village (HPV). Celebrate the holidays plantation style, Dec. 2 from 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Plantation treats will be offered as visitors make their way through an outdoor museum that showcases plantation living during the early 1900s. Several of the homes will be decorated in a traditional holiday theme. Guides at each home will tell the story of how people lived on the plantation.

Guests will be treated to free samplings of traditional plantation food from various cultures, a wreath-making workshop, dancing, singing and a visit from Santa.

Cost is \$4 for military and \$7 for general admission. This event is free for ages 12 and under.

HPV is located at 94-695 Waipahu St. in Waipahu. Call 677-0110 or visit www.hawaiiplantationvillage.org.

**Tree Lighting Ceremony** — Maj. Gen. Carla Hawely-Bowland, commanding general of Tripler Army Medical Center, invites the public to watch as she and the TAMC staff brighten the holidays at the annual tree lighting ceremony.

This ceremony will be Dec. 4 at 5 p.m. on the oceanside entrance. Call 433-4293.

**Blaisdell Center Events** — The Neal S. Blaisdell Center, Oahu's community center, is located in downtown Honolulu at the base of Punchbowl. Upcoming events include the following:

- Pearl Jam concert, Dec. 2 at 8 p.m.
- Billy Joel, Dec. 16 at 8 p.m.
- Kirk Franklin and Yolanda Adams, Jan. 5, at 6 p.m.

Purchase tickets at the Blaisdell box office, Ticketmaster outlets, charge-by-phone at 877-750-4400, or visit www.ticketmaster.com.

**Toys for Tots** — A Toys for Tots collection box will be located in the Honolulu Hale courtyard, 530 King St., for new toys from Dec. 2-19, between 8 a.m.-11 p.m.

For more information about Honolulu Hale holiday activities, call the Mayor's Office of Culture and the Arts at 523-4674. For more information on Hawaii's Toys for Tots program, call 257-2531.

**6 / Wednesday**

**Making Seasons Bright** — The annual Oahu North community Holiday Concert and Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held Dec. 6 at 6 p.m. at Schofield Barracks Generals Loop.

Maj. Gen. William H. Brandenburg, Headquarters, 8th Sustainment Command and U.S. Army, Hawaii, will deliver the holiday message.

Santa Claus's visiting line will open at 6:40 p.m. and will continue through the evening.

Scheduled entertainment will include Wheeler Elementary School and the Leilehua High School Band. Call 655-0868 or 655-8985.

**6 / Wednesday**

**Historic Boat Tours** — The National Park Service is offering two special historic Pearl Harbor Boat Tours, Dec. 6 at the USS Arizona Memorial Visitor Center.

National Park Service rangers who will take visitors around historic Ford Island will narrate the free one-hour boat tours.

Seating is limited; no reservations will be accepted. Instead, tickets will be distributed beginning at 7:30 a.m., on a first-come, first-served basis. Call 808-422-2771.

**7 / Thursday**

**USS Arizona Commemoration** — Commander, Navy Region Hawaii will host a memorial ceremony commemorating the 65th anniversary of the Dec. 7 attack on Pearl Harbor, beginning at 7:40 a.m. on Kilo pier, which overlooks the USS Arizona Memorial.

The keynote speaker for this event is former NBC Nightly News anchor and managing editor Tom Brokaw.

Event highlights will include music by the U.S. Pacific Fleet Band, a Hawaiian blessing, a rifle salute by members of the U.S. Marine Corps, wreath presentations, echo "Taps"

Children can make dough ornaments, candy cane reindeer, and a sock puppet to use in a puppet show. Cost is \$3 per child. Call 655-0111 or e-mail Elizabeth.thunstedt@schofield.army.mil to register.

**15 / Friday**

**Christmas Coloring Contest** — Youth, through age 10 are invited to showcase their artistic talent in the Christmas coloring contest. Illustrate favorite things about the holiday season and be eligible to win a \$10 Morale, Welfare and Recreation gift certificate.

Submit drawings to the Leisure Activities office, Building 556, by Dec. 15. Drawings will be displayed at the Schofield Bowling Center and Tropics through Dec. 23. Call 655-0111 or 655-0112.

**16 / Saturday**

**Yu-Gi-Oh** — Get ready to duel at the Tropics. Registration for the Yu-Gi-Oh tournament starts at noon and matches will start at 1 p.m. Cost is \$6 and includes a pack of the latest Yu-Gi-Oh cards.

Prizes will be awarded, and all ages are welcome. Call 655-8522.

**21 / Thursday**

**Ante Up!** — Put on your best poker face and participate in a free Texas Hold'em tournament at the Tropics, Schofield Barracks, Dec. 21 at 6 p.m. All ID card holders are welcome to play, but should get there early because room is only available for 120 people to play. Call 655-5697.

**24 / Sunday**

**Single Soldier Christmas Party** — All Single Soldiers are invited to enjoy a free turkey dinner with all the trimmings at the Tropics, Dec. 24, 4-9 p.m.

Also, enjoy great food, door prizes, a volleyball serve contest, an indoor surf contest, and a Texas Hold'em poker tournament. Live music will be provided by Taylor Made Jazz. Call 655-5697 or 655-0968.

**Ongoing**

**New MWR Calendar Feature** — Visit the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Web site, www.mwrarmyhawaii.com, and check out the new calendar feature.

The new calendar allows users to activities by day, week, or month, in a list or tabular format.

Other features allow users to receive event reminders or notifications of event changes by e-mail or text message, as well as download event info, e-mail event information to friends, and import events to a calendar.

and recognition of the men and women who survived the attack on Pearl Harbor, and those who died.

At 7:55 a.m., a U.S. Navy ship will render honors to the USS Arizona; the Hawaii Air National Guard F-15s will fly over the memorial in a "missing man" formation.

**Museum Grand Opening** — The Pacific Aviation Museum grand opening will be held Dec. 7, 11:30 a.m., on Ford Island, Pearl Harbor.

Guest speakers will be Chuck Yeager, the first man to break the sound barrier, and Mercury astronaut Wally Schirra.

The museum occupies the World War II hangars and control tower on Ford Island that still bear the scars as our nation's first aviation battlefield. The museum is a private nonprofit organization.

Call the museum at 690-0169 or visit www.pacificaviationmuseum.org/.

**USS Oklahoma Ground-breaking** — The USS Oklahoma Memorial groundbreaking ceremony will take place on Ford Island in Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7 at 12:30 p.m., following the Pacific Aviation Museum's grand opening.

The battleship Oklahoma was berthed along Ford Island on Dec. 7, 1941, and suffered the second greatest loss of life during the attack. Call 473-8000, extension 2579.

**9 / Saturday**

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

Meet some of the residents of the land that time forgot by joining a safari through prehistoric surroundings.

Moving, roaring dinosaurs, including tyrannosaurus rex, apatosaurus, dilophosaurus, velociraptor and more will be supplemented with interactive, hands-on activities and educational displays.

The museum is open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily and is located at 1525 Bernice St. Admission prices are \$14.95 for adults and \$11.95 for youth, ages 4-12, and seniors.

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

**Missouri Tours** — In honor of the National Guards' 370th birthday Dec. 13, the Battleship Missouri Memorial will offer



**Aliamanu (AMR) Chapel**

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

**Fort DeRussy Chapel 836-4599**

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

**Fort Shafter Chapel 836-4599**

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

**Helemano (HMR) Chapel**

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

**Main Post Chapel 655-9307**

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

**MPC Annex, building 791**

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

**Soldiers Chapel**

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

**Tripler AMC Chapel 433-5727**

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

**Wheeler Chapel**

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



**The Departed**

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



**Man of the Year**

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



**Flicka**

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



Send calendar announcements to community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

**1 / Friday**

**Winter Carnival** — Fort Shafter Elementary School will host its Winter Carnival, Dec. 1 from 4-8 p.m. at the school.

Featured at this free event will be refreshments, games, arts, crafts, bouncers and a miniature roller coaster. Scheduled to appear are authentic Star Wars storm troopers and Aloha Santa.

Lots of prizes from local restaurants and retailers will be raffled. Proceeds from this event will benefit the school's Parent Teacher Association, classrooms, the student council and more. Call 841-3665.

**Family Employment Readiness Programs** — Family Employment Readiness at Army Community Service (ACS) offices will host monthly training workshops, including interviewing techniques, job search techniques, resume writing, dressing for success, and many more — designed to assist you in your transition into the workplace.

Upcoming employment-centered workshops are scheduled at Fort Shafter (FS) and Schofield Barracks (SB):

- Employment Orientation - Friday, Dec. 1, 8 and 15, from 9-10:30 a.m. (SB); Wednesday, Dec. 6, from 9-10:30 a.m. (FS);
  - Job Searching in Hawaii - Thursday, Dec. 7, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. (SB);
  - Creating a Winning Resume - Wednesday, Dec. 13, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. (SB)
- Fort Shafter workshops will be held in the Outreach Center, Building S330, and Schofield Barracks workshops at ACS offices, Building 291.

Call the Schofield Barracks ACS at 655-4227, or call the Fort Shafter ACS at 438-9285 to schedule an appointment or register for the workshops.

**The Nutcracker Ballet** — The Honolulu Dance Theatre presents "The Hawaiian Nutcracker Ballet," Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Sunday at 2 p.m.

Ticket prices start at \$16 and can be purchased at the box office, 1130 Bethel St. Call 526-0506 or visit www.hawaiitheatre.com.

# Site sends care packages to troops, families

## AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

News Release

SANTA ANA, Calif. — Just in time for the holidays, Operation Homefront has launched "eCarePackage," an online service that allows caring citizens to send care packages to deployed troops and their families.

Operation Homefront is part of CinC-House.com, a community for military wives, and is a team member of America Supports You, a Department of Defense program connecting U.S. citizens with members of the military.

Service members and families can register on [www.ecarepackage.org](http://www.ecarepackage.org), which protects their identity and location, and visitors can "adopt" them based on common interests. Visitors then select individual items to create a customized care package for their chosen service member or family and include a personal message.

Operation Homefront's team of volunteers takes the order, boxes the selected items and ships them directly to the service member or family, always protecting their identity and physical location.

"There's nothing like a care package to cheer a deployed Soldier or a lonely military family, especially during the holidays," said Amy Palmer, executive vice president of operations for Operation Homefront. "With operational security for the troops so tight, we were concerned that care packages weren't getting through. So we built eCarePackage to ensure our troops and families continue to 'feel the love' from Americans."

Items available in the eCarePackage store range from toiletries and necessities to games, books and candy. Most items were donated from sponsors, particularly The Dollar Tree, which runs its Operation Appreciation program in most stores nationwide.

Donated items are not marked up, so eCarePackage visitors often pay only the cost of handling and shipping, making eCarePackage less expensive than doing it yourself.

Moreover, Operation Homefront has partnered with DHL, which provides postal service to overseas troops, to ensure direct and timely delivery of all care packages to deployed troops.

The eCarePackage program is an extension of Operation Homefront's mission to provide emergency support and morale to our troops, the families they leave behind during deployments, and wounded warriors when they return home.

Operation Homefront recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the



Defense Department to ensure greater collaboration.

*(Editor's Note: Information compiled from a CinCHouse.com news release.)*

# IRS posts mileage rates for 2007

## INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

News Release

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service has issued the 2007 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2007, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car — including vans, pickups or panel trucks — will be as follows:

- 48.5 cents per mile for business miles driven.

- 20 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes.

- 14 cents per mile driven in service to a charitable organization.

The old rate for business miles was 44.5 cents per mile for 2006. The new rate for medical and moving purposes compares to 18 cents in 2006.

The primary reason for the higher rates is higher prices for vehicles and fuel during the year ending in October.

The standard mileage rates are based on an annual study of the fixed and variable costs of operating an automobile. Runzheimer International, an independent contractor, conducted the study for the IRS.

The mileage rate for charitable miles is set by statute.

Revenue Procedure 2006-49 contains more information on these standard mileage rates.

## Community Calendar

From B-2

complimentary admission to all active and retired U.S. National Guard personnel Dec. 9-17. In addition, their immediate family members will receive a 50 percent discount on admission.

Visitors must present their Guard identification at the Missouri's ticket window.

### 11/Monday

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

Registration is open now for the classroom-based interim, Dec. 16 - Jan. 6, and the online holiday interims.

HPU also offers a new scholarship program to assist spouses of military personnel.

Call HPU Tripler campus, 687-7036; e-mail [tripler@hpu.edu](mailto:tripler@hpu.edu); call the Schofield Barracks campus, 624-9881; or e-mail [schofield@hpu.edu](mailto:schofield@hpu.edu).

Visit [www.hpu.edu/military](http://www.hpu.edu/military) for more information on specific course offerings and spouse scholarship eligibility requirements.

### 14/Thursday

**Signing Santa** — Pearlridge Mall welcomes the state's lone deaf and signing Santa at the 15th Annual Deaf Santa Celebration.

In the only yuletide celebration of its kind, more than 100 deaf and hard-of-hearing children from around the state will share their wishes with Santa,

Thursday, Dec. 14, 9 a.m. - noon at Pearlridge Uptown, second level.

### 15/Friday

**Friends and Nabors** — Naborly Productions and Hawaii Theatre Center present "A Merry Christmas with Friends & Nabors," starring Jim Nabors, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m.

Scheduled to appear are Jimmy Borges, Philip Huber & the Huber Marionettes, Karen Keawehawaii, the Company Singers and the Hawaii Theatre Orchestra among many others.

Tickets may be purchased at the Hawaii Theatre Box Office, 1130 Bethel Street, or by visiting [www.hawaiitheatre.com](http://www.hawaiitheatre.com). Discounted military tickets will be available. Call 528-0506.

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

The show will run Fridays and Saturdays, 7:30 p.m. throughout December. Tickets are \$15 and \$20 for adults, and \$12 and \$15 for children, at the ACT Box Office. Season tickets are priced at \$60 and \$75 for adults, and \$45 and \$50 for children, for a four-show musical series.

The season will run through May 2007. Call 438-4480 or view details at [www.squareone.org/ACT](http://www.squareone.org/ACT).

## Ongoing

**Wives of the Warriors** — The Military Council of Catholic Women (MCCW) at Aliamanu Military Reservation (AMR) chapel meets each Thursday at 9:15 a.m. in the chapel for its fall Bible study, "Wives of the Warriors." The focus of this Bible study is to learning to live confidently in Christ as

a military spouse.

On-site child care will be provided for STACC-registered children at least 9 months of age. Nursing babies are welcome; however, RSVP for child care.

Call 836-4599 or e-mail [MC-CWHawaii@yahoo.com](mailto:MC-CWHawaii@yahoo.com).

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

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

**SAT/ACT Prep** — Military families can receive the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) /American College Testing (ACT) Power Prep DVD/CD-Rom training programs to prepare for taking the actual exams. This program is available in either a single DVD or two CD-ROM set that includes more than 11 hours of training video and 25-40 hours of student participation.

The program is valued at \$200, which will be subsidized 100 percent by the Victory Sports Group. The sponsoring group is made up of professional football players from around the world.

Military families pay only the \$9.95 shipping and handling charge. Customers may visit [www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil](http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil) to confirm military status, then on to the order page to request the programs. Call the School Liaison Office at 655-9818.

**Aloha Tower** — Any Tuesday from 2:30 to 3 p.m., get free ukulele lessons at the Hawaiian Ukulele Co. Call 536-3228 for more details.

Also, any day from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., enjoy an enchanting performance of the Star of Honolulu hula dancers as they

greet guests on Pier 8 of Aloha Tower Marketplace.

**Volunteer Opportunities** — Give back to the community by volunteering. It is a great way to meet new people, receive valuable job experience and support the Army Family.

Opportunities are available on and off post. Free child care at an hourly rate is provided for up to 20 hours per week for those who volunteer with ACS.

Visit [www.mwrarmyhawaii.com](http://www.mwrarmyhawaii.com) or call 655-4227.

**Community Calendar Briefs** — Do you have announcements of upcoming events or activities that you would like to post in the Hawaii Army Weekly?

If so, e-mail your information to [community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com](mailto:community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com) at least two weeks in advance of your event or activity.

**Lyon Arboretum** — The Lyon Arboretum, a 193-acre rainforest botanical garden, is offering free, guided tours, weekdays from 10-11:30 a.m.

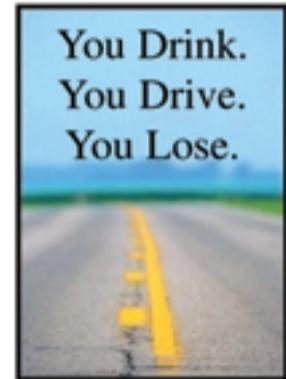
The tour is limited to the first 12 participants. For reservations, call 988-0461.

The Arboretum is open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., and closed on state and federal holidays.

**Classical Singers** — Hawaii Vocal Arts Ensemble, Hawaii's premiere chamber chorus, is looking for a few experienced voices to join them for their 15th anniversary season.

Experienced classical singers with strong music skills; clear, flexible voices; and the commitment to making beautiful choral music at the highest professional level are wanted.

Auditions will be held by appointment only. Call 261-6495 or e-mail [maestro-tim@aol.com](mailto:maestro-tim@aol.com).





## 2 / Saturday

**Ladies Golf Clinic** — Ladies, sharpen those golfing skills at a free golf clinic. This clinic will be held from 3–4 p.m. at the Leilehua Golf Course located outside the Wheeler Army Air Field front gate. All required equipment will be provided. Advance reservations are recommended. To reserve a space, call 655-4653.

## 3 / Sunday

**Bowling Tournament** — A “5 Game, No Tap” tournament will be held at the Schofield Bowling Center, Dec. 3. Check-in will be at 1 p.m., and the cost is \$20 per bowler. Call 655-0573.

## 4 / Monday

Moanalua Gardens Walking Trip — Walkers are invited to explore Moanalua Gardens and enjoy the gardens, koi pond and taro patch from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Limited transportation is avail-

able from Schofield Barracks. Call 655-0112 or e-mail Elizabeth.thunstedt@schofield.army.mil by Dec. 1 to register.

## 9 / Saturday

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

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

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

Races are held every second and fourth Saturdays. Volunteers are needed to help make this event a success. Visit [www.mwrrarmy-hawaii.com](http://www.mwrrarmy-hawaii.com), [www.armybm.org](http://www.armybm.org) or call 656-1601.

## 19 / Tuesday

**Football Bash Clinic** — Registration will begin for the 2nd annual Football Bash Clinic. This one-day clinic will be conducted by current and former National



Spc. Joshua D. Pate | 2nd Brigade Public Affairs

## Turkey Bowl

The defending champions of the annual “Turkey Bowl” contest between noncommissioned officers (left) and commissioned officers of 2nd Brigade line up for the reading of the flag football rules by Sgt. Maj. Errol Snyder of 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment.

Football League players, University of Hawaii football players, and other college and high school players and coaches.

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

a gift bag.

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

**Intramural Basketball** — Applications for Morale, Welfare and

Recreation’s (MWR) upcoming 2006–2007 Intramural Basketball season can be picked up at any Army fitness center. Eligible participants are limited to Hawaii-based, company-level, active duty Soldiers.

Call the Sports Office at 655-



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

## 1 / Today

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

The free classes are Dec. 1, from 5:45–10 p.m., and Dec. 2, 7:45 a.m.–4 p.m. Classes are family-friendly and open to anyone age 10 years and older.

Upcoming class dates are Dec. 15 & 16. Register by calling 587-0200.

## 2 / Saturday

**U.H. B.O.G.O.** — Members of the armed services will be offered a buy one, get one discount on tickets purchased to see the Uni-

versity of Hawaii Warriors trounce the Oregon State, Dec. 2 at 7:05 p.m.

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

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

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

## 9 / Saturday

**Scavenger Hunt** — Nationally known Ravenchase Adventures will host The Great Honolulu Hunt: Quest for the Queen’s Gold adventure from 1–3:30 p.m., starting at Aloha Tower Marketplace.

This spirited treasure hunt through downtown Honolulu will

include many cultural treasures and some hidden gems for locals who think they’ve seen it all.

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

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

## 10 / Sunday

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

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

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

Packets will include race number, timing chip and final instructions. They will be available Dec. 6,

from noon–5 p.m.; and Dec. 7–9, from 9 a.m.–6 p.m.

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

## 21 / Thursday

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

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

## Ongoing

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

**Prenatal Exercise Program** — Exercise during pregnancy has been shown to positively impact fitness during labor and childbirth. Learn and practice safe exercising during pregnancy. Classes are each Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the offices of Pacific Health & Fitness Consultants, through Dec. 30. A physician’s referral is required. Call 599-5918.

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

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

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

**Cricket in the Park** — The Honolulu Cricket Club invites play-

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

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

**Bike Hawaii** — Join Bike Hawaii’s professional nature guides and explore Oahu from the rainforest to the reef.

Packages can include downhill biking, waterfall hiking and sailing off Waikiki with exclusive access to a remote Hawaiian rainforest.

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

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

**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.