

HAWAII ARMY WEEKLY

VOL. 37 NO. 49 | DECEMBER 5, 2008

Serving the U.S. Army Community in Hawaii ★ www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil/haw.asp

INSIDE



Thanksgiving bonanza

Deployed Soldiers get a taste of home in Iraq.

A-5

Local dining facilities shine for Soldiers and families remaining at home.

B-1

Tree lighting

The Fort Shafter Holiday and Tree Lighting Ceremony is scheduled for Dec. 11, 6 p.m., by the gazebo on Palm Circle. The event is free and open to the public.

Family Camp

Register online now for the YMCA's Military Family Camp at Camp Erdman on the North Shore, Dec. 19-21. Visit www.campardman.net or call 637-4615.

See Community Calendar, B-2



Home makeover

Schofield Barracks' Outdoor Recreation Center gets a facelift from 25th Combat Aviation Brigade volunteers.

B-3

This issue

Footsteps in Faith A-2

Deployed Forces A-4

News Briefs A-6

FMWR B-2

Sports & Fitness B-5



Goldie Harvey, wife of Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Harvey, A Troop, 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, demonstrates her room-clearing prowess while participating in Military Operations in Urban Terrain exercises during 2-6th Cav. Regt.'s Spouse Spur Ride.

Troopers' spouses earn spurs

Story and Photos by
SGT. MIKE ALBERTS
25th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs

WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD — Spouses of Soldiers assigned to 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB), "earned their spurs" during an all-day, multitask tradition, recently.

More than 40 spouses participated in 2-6th

Cav. Regt.'s Spouse Spur Ride, which included activities at both Wheeler Army Airfield (WAAF) and Schofield Barracks.

Wearing spurs is a time-honored cavalry tradition of mounted warriors and serves as a symbol of leadership and excellence. The tradition of wearing spurs dates back to the days of knights who had to prove themselves in battle or in a tournament to "earn their spurs." The

spurs, which were worn when an individual was knighted, eventually became a symbol for knighthood.

In the past, when cavalry Soldiers (called a "trooper") first arrived to their unit, they would receive a horse with a shaved tail. The shaved tail indicated the riders had limited experience,

SEE SPOUSES, A-9

Garrison sets standards for decorations

U.S. ARMY GARRISON-HAWAII
News Release

WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD — During the holiday season, decorating homes, offices and other areas with ornamental lights and fixtures has become a tradition. However, in this time of dramatically increasing energy costs, this additional lighting has the potential to significantly increase utility bills by thousands of dollars.

In order to achieve a balance between individual desires for decorative lighting with the responsibility to conserve energy, reduce the danger of fires and be good stewards of resources, the garrison commander has approved a set of guidelines for holiday lighting.

Everyone on U.S. Army Garrison-

SEE LIGHTS, A-9

Medical unit joins USARPAC

SGT. 1ST CLASS JASON SHEPHERD
U.S. Army-Pacific Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER — U.S. Army-Pacific (USARPAC) recently welcomed a new member to its ever-growing family.

The 18th Medical Command (MEDCOM) (Deployment Support (DS)) unfurled its colors in an activation ceremony held on Palm Circle, Nov. 25.

The unit becomes the Army's first deployable medical support command and the last of the theater enabling commands to activate for USARPAC's transformation to an expeditionary, campaign-quality force meeting the needs of the U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM).

The 18th MEDCOM (DS) is an enabling force for the commanding general of USARPAC for health support, medical logistics, evacuation and humanitarian services in both combat and response to natural disasters.

Lt. Col. Chadwick Bowers, commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Shelton, both 18th MEDCOM (DS), unfurled the colors to officially activate the unit.

"Soldiers of the 18th Medical Command, you look magnificent and I extend to you my admiration and heartfelt appreciation for all that you have accomplished in a very short time

span, just over 100 days, and all that you will continue to accomplish as we move forward in achieving our mandate of full operational capability," Bowers said.

According to Bowers, the mission of the unit is an important one.

"Today's ceremony is special because of what it means to U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Army-Pacific," he said. "The activation of the 18th MEDCOM is the end of a long process that began several years ago when the Army realized the need for regionally aligned medical command and control headquarters expeditionary — capable of deploying forward in theater to support the combatant commander and Joint Task Force commander as necessary."

The unit will take on numerous roles, including:

- Providing the USARPAC commander with planning and capabilities focused on theater operation plans, contingency plans, current operations, the theater security cooperation program and homeland defense.
- Continuity and efficiency of force health protection requiring familiarity with the region.
- Deploying to support requirements throughout the Pacific area and serving as the medical

SEE MEDCOM, A-8

Marrow donation saves life

MOLLY HAYDEN
Staff Writer

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — A simple swab of a Q-tip more than five months ago led Sgt. 1st Class Jorge Cruz on a life-saving adventure 5,000 miles away.

Cruz, an operations noncommissioned officer in charge (NCOIC), U.S. Army Garrison-Oahu, was a participant in the C.W. Bill Young Department of Defense (DoD) Bone Marrow Program held here in May. Along with hundreds of other donors, Cruz's DNA was sampled by scraping a Q-tip inside his cheek, and sent to a lab in Washington D.C.

In July, Cruz was contacted because he was a possible match and began the process to determine whether or not he could donate. Numerous questionnaires, blood samples and doctors' appointments followed.

A few weeks later, Cruz received a phone call informing him that he was the best match for a family member in need of a bone marrow transfer.

"I was very excited when I got the word that I was a match," said Cruz. "I just never figured that I'd be selected so early."



Courtesy Photo

Sgt. 1st Class Jorge Cruz, operations NCOIC, USAG-Oahu flashes a shaka as he is wheeled out of the operating room at Georgetown University Hospital in Washington D.C. Through a simple surgery, Cruz donated bone marrow for a family member in need.

Cruz and a companion traveled to Washington D.C. for the procedure. As the sun rose Oct. 22, Cruz was being prepped for surgery.

"I don't remember any of the surgery," said Cruz. "I was rolling out of the doors to begin and the next thing I knew I was being wheeled into recovery."

The successful operation took less than two hours. As Cruz lay on his stomach, the doctor made two small incisions into his back. Marrow was then extracted from

SEE MARROW, A-9

Registration of property helps in recovering stolen goods

Story and Photo by
MOLLY HAYDEN
Staff Writer

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Phillip Hendrix loved his scooter. Eyes lit up on the 4-year-old's face when his parents brought it home. Less than two weeks later, the scooter was gone.

"I couldn't believe that someone would take it right out of our carport," said Jennifer Hendrix, Phillip's mom. "He was crushed."

When a new scooter arrived, the Hendrix family took action to protect their property by registering it during "Operation Property Identification" at the Main Post Exchange here, recently.

"It's a lot easier to claim your stolen goods when you are able to identify them," said Sgt. 1st Class Todd Hendrix, 71st Chemical Company. "It's just a good idea."

Hosted by the Directorate of Emergency Services (DES), Operation Property Identifi-

The Directorate of Emergency Services will hold the next "Operation Property Identification," Dec. 6 and Dec. 15, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Schofield Barracks Main Post Exchange entrance. For more information, call 655-5170.

cation allows community members to register bicycles, along with other high-value items. The free registration includes property identification, engraving, photographs and ownership documentation.

Engraving bikes, scooters, skateboards, jewelry and high-value items or easily pilfered property aids in identifying, recovering and returning property if it is stolen, according to Detective Edward Walker, Schofield Barracks Provost Marshal Office.

"A higher percent of recovered property will be returned to rightful owners when it

is registered," said Walker. "This registration has yielded positive results in crime prevention."

Lt. Col. Thomas Denzler, director, DES, said a majority of theft taking place in on post housing has occurred with unsecured items. Although Denzler urged family members to lock up private property, registering personal items will guarantee a reunion if the items are recovered.

This year alone, eight stolen bicycles have been recovered and returned to their owners.

"That statistic would be a lot higher if the items were registered," said Walker.

Sgt. 1st Class Todd Hendrix, 71st Chemical Company, retrieves the serial number off of his bike to register it with the Directorate of Emergency Services. The free registration will aid in identifying, recovering and returning property if it is stolen.



We want to hear from you...

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

If you have newsworthy ideas or stories you'd like to write, coordinate with the managing editor at 656-3155, or e-mail editor@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

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

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

The Hawaii Army Weekly is an authorized newspaper and is published in the interest of the U.S. Army community in Hawaii.

All editorial content of the Hawaii Army Weekly is the responsibility of the U.S. Army, Hawaii Public Affairs Office, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii 96857. Contents of the Hawaii Army Weekly are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or the Department of the Army.

The Hawaii Army Weekly is printed by The Honolulu Advertiser, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Government, under exclusive written agreement with the U.S. Army, Hawaii.

The Hawaii Army Weekly is published weekly using the offset method of reproduction and has a printed circulation of 15,300.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts and supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of the Army, or The Honolulu Advertiser, of the firms, products or services advertised.

HAWAII ARMY WEEKLY

Commander, U.S. Army Garrison
Col. Matthew Margotta
Director, Public Affairs
Dennis C. Drake
Chief, Command Information
Aiko Rose Brum, 656-3155
Aiko.Brum@us.army.mil
Managing Editor
Jeremy S. Buddemeier, 656-3156
editor@hawaiiarmyweekly.com
News Editor
Kyle Ford, 656-3150
kyle@hawaiiarmyweekly.com
Web Editor
Stephanie Rush
stephanie@hawaiiarmyweekly.com
Layout
Leah Mayo
Staff Writer
Molly Hayden
Advertising: 525-7439
Classifieds: 521-9111
Editorial Office: 656-3155/3156
Fax: 656-3162
Address:
Public Affairs Office
742 Santos Dumont Ave., WAAF
Building 108, Room 304
Schofield Barracks, HI 96857-5000
Web site:
www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil/haw.asp

Nondelivery or distribution problems in Army Hawaii Family Housing areas? If so, call 656-3155 or 656-3156.

180 days since last fatal accident

Number represents fatal accidents as defined by Army Regulation 385-10, which is inclusive of all active component U.S. Army units and personnel. Current as of 12/3/08.

Enjoying holidays requires good judgment

U.S. ARMY GARRISON-HAWAII PUBLIC AFFAIRS

News Release

Everyone is encouraged to enjoy the holiday season with friends, family and co-workers. People celebrate different holidays, whatever the celebration is called, however the season is referred, and greetings to one another should reflect this. In order to keep these events enjoyable, some workplace ground rules should be observed. These thoughts apply to similar activities throughout the year.

Use of government time

Some holiday celebrations may occur on government time, but only up to a point. Time taken for an actual event – perhaps a “pot luck” in the office, or a luncheon at a restaurant – is not typically an issue. However, preparation for these events can create issues. Supervisors may permit some use of duty time for preparations. However, preparing holiday events should not become a significant part of any employee's duties.

Fundraising

Offices may decide to raise money to reduce the cost of a holiday

event. The general rule is “no fundraising in the federal workplace.”

The DoD Joint Ethics Regulation (JER), 5500.7-R, generally permits raising money among co-workers for their collective benefit when approved by the head of our organization and the ethics counselor. For example, offices could have a bake sale to reduce the cost of tickets for the office holiday party.

Use minimal government time to plan and set up. No duty time should be used to bake or purchase cookies. Cookies are actually sold on personal time.

Raffles may not be used to raise money for office functions.

Contractor employees

Contractor employees may attend our celebrations, but:

There should be no official encouragement for someone else's employees to leave their workplace. We can let it be known that they may attend and will be a welcome part of the event.

Contractor employee time off, and the nature of the time off (leave, personal day, administrative absence) are between the contractor and its employees.

Contractor employees may not be tasked, or asked to volunteer, to organize holiday events.

Gifts

Gifts among employees may be exchanged during the holiday season. However, be mindful of appearances. Avoid creating the perception of favoritism. Gift giving in the workplace should be even-handed and democratic in spirit; no one should be left out. Be safe and set the gift limit value at \$10.

Federal employees may not accept gifts from contractors or contractor employees. However, gifts (other than cash) not exceeding \$20 in value may be accepted as an exception the JER. However, the employee may not accept other gifts from the contractor that exceed a total value of \$50 for the year.

Attendance at parties

All employees and contractor employees are free to attend a private party hosted by a Federal employee. Food, refreshments and entertainment may be shared and enjoyed. Subordinates may bring hospitality gifts, such as a bottle of wine, but they must not be lavish. Hospitality gifts are not strictly

limited to \$10 in value, but use common sense – don't go overboard. However, hospitality gifts from contractor employees are strictly limited to \$20 in value. Safe suggestion: bring hospitality gifts that are edible.

For more information, on holiday guidelines, contact the U.S. Army-Pacific Office of the Staff Judge Advocate at 438-9470.

the task of preparing or addressing personal greetings. Finally, official resources including paper, printers, envelopes and postage, may not be used for holiday greeting cards.

Electronic greeting cards with digital photographs, video, sound or other large file attachments should not be transmitted on official Army systems.

Alcohol

Consistent with paragraph 2-5, AR 600-85, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Program, official and unofficial functions will not encourage or glamorize consumption of alcohol, and alcoholic beverages may not be given as prizes.

Requests to serve alcoholic beverages on Army property will be submitted through U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii (Community Commander, AVPG-GF/APVG-GFC).

Supervisors and the U.S. Army-Pacific (USARPAC) principals must ensure that appropriate safety precautions are in effect.

Employees may plan and participate in holiday events. And, while some limited use of government resources and time is permitted, use common sense.



Customer management program seeks feedback

CUSTOMER MANAGEMENT SERVICES

News Release

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS – There's a new tool in the garrison commander's kitbag to help improve customer satisfaction throughout our installations. Customer Management Services (CMS) is a more comprehensive approach to eliciting feedback from the community about the services being provided by U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii. While the garrison already measures services and products being provided, CMS will help to identify how well service

are being provided from the customer's perspective. CMS involves three main components: Interactive Customer Evaluation system (ICE), community surveys and

SEE FEEDBACK, A-8

Giving thanks is tradition that began with pioneers

CHAPLAIN (LT. COL.) TIMOTHY WALLS

Schofield Barracks Community Chaplain

The word Thanksgiving conjures up many fond images for most of us: Houses filled with relatives, tables overflowing with turkey, pumpkin pie, cranberry sauce (yuck), smells of baked bread and, of course, football games. Memories of families holding hands around the table, sharing their stories of their blessings for the past year and thanking God for his providence over their lives are remembrances that hold a special place.

Giving thanks for the providence of God has been a special tradition to Americans since the first pioneers set foot on our blessed shores. According to historical documents, “The first American Thanksgiving didn't occur in 1621 when a group of Pilgrims shared a feast with a group of friendly Native Americans.

The first recorded Thanksgiving took place in Virginia more than 11 years earlier, and it wasn't a feast. The winter of 1610 at Jamestown had reduced a group of 409 settlers to 60. The survivors prayed for help, without knowing when or how it might come. When help arrived, in the form of a ship filled with food and supplies from England, a prayer meeting was held to give thanks to God” (Today in the Word, July 1990, p. 22).

A year after arriving at Plymouth Rock and only half of the original colony surviving, the Pilgrims and their Native American neighbors and benefactors, shared a feast of Thanksgiving in the fall of 1621. Two years later, Nov. 29, 1623, William Bradford, then governor of the Plymouth Colony, declared that a day of “Thanksgiving” be spent in the house of God.

With its struggling Army encamped at Valley Forge trying to survive that harsh winter, the Continental Congress issued the first National Thanksgiving Proclamation, Nov. 1, 1777, “to set apart Thursday, the eighteenth day of December next, for solemn thanksgiving and praise.”

As the first president of the United States, George Washington issued a “Thanksgiving Day Proclamation,” Oct. 3, 1789, stating that, “Thursday, the twenty-sixth day of November next, to be devoted by the people of these United States to the service of that great and glorious being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be ...”

(America's God and Country, William J. Federer, Amerisearch, Inc., c.2000, p. 654).

Sarah Hale, the celebrated author of the early 1800s, spent many years of her life campaigning to get Thanksgiving Day declared an annual national holiday. You know her as the author of “Mary Had A Little Lamb.” Through

her tireless efforts, she finally saw her dream come true with President Abraham Lincoln declaring on Oct. 3, 1863, 74 years after the proclamation given by President Washington, “to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a day of thanksgiving and

praise ...” (America's God and Country, William J. Federer, Amerisearch, Inc., c.2000, p. 385).

In 1939, an interesting thing occurred with Thanksgiving: Our nation celebrated Thanksgiving Day twice. President Roosevelt, through pressure from retailers to extend the Christmas season, declared Thanksgiving Day to be observed Nov. 23, (the fourth Thursday, but not the last Thursday), which was a break from tradition.

Calendars were wrong, football schedules had to be changed, half of the states celebrated Nov. 23, and the other half couldn't break with tradition and celebrated Nov. 30, with the exception of Texas and Colorado, which celebrated on both days.

Families didn't know which date to celebrate. Due to the confusion, which continued through 1940 and 1941, Congress took the matter into its hands and on Dec. 26, 1941, approved a joint resolution declaring that Thanksgiving Day would always be observed on the fourth Thursday of November. It was finally ratified by Congress in Public Law 77-379 in 1977 as “the fourth Thursday of every November: A National Day of Thanksgiving.”

Now, 398 years since that first Thanksgiving service in Jamestown, Va., we continue to come together as families and communities of faith giving thanks to our Creator, remembering the blessings of the year. May we continue as a nation to keep this tradition alive, for we are a blessed people. I hope you had a blessed Thanksgiving.



Walls

Voices of Ohana

What did America learn Dec. 7, 1941?

 “America needs to be more vigilant and prepared.” Sgt. Samuel Burchette Mobilization NCO DPTMS	 “That the world was much smaller than previously thought, making us more vulnerable.” Bill Laffey Branch Chief Force Protection	 “That we need to be prepared at any time to respond to threats, foreign and domestic.” Lt. Col. Larry Peoples Commander 218th BSB	 “That we were lackadaisical.” Tiara Perezsilerio Family member	 “Not to be complacent.” Marie Rodriguez Human Resources Assistant DES
---	--	--	--	---



The World War II-era M8 Light Armored Car, known as the Greyhound, bears a striking resemblance to the modern-day Stryker vehicle.

Cavalry unit finds history in Iraqi boneyard

Story and Photo by

PFC. LYNDESE DRANSFIELD

2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – The cavalry has always played an integral role in the world's militaries. Traveling and fighting on horseback gave them an advantage over regular ground troops, as it made them a faster, more mobile and a more lethal force.

Throughout the years, times changed and cavalry units eventually gave up their horses and replaced them with armored vehicles.

One of those armored vehicles, an M8 Light Armored Car, known as the Greyhound, used in World War II was found on Camp Taji in a vehicle boneyard.

Maj. John Highfill, former executive officer 2nd Battalion, 14th Cavalry Regiment "Strykehorse," a self-proclaimed history buff, discovered the antique while researching his unit's history.

"After doing some research ..., I found that the 14th Cavalry Group, as it was designated during World War II, used this piece of equipment in the European theater of operations," he said.

As Highfill continued his research, he came across a picture of an Iraqi soldier in Camp Taji standing next to a Greyhound. He eagerly shared this information with his Soldiers and went out to the boneyard to search for the vehicle. He eventually found it among the tons of old, discarded and broken down Soviet equipment.

The Greyhound was produced by Ford Motor Company starting in 1943, and used by British troops as well as the 14th Cavalry Group in Europe and the Far East during World War II. It was the first wheeled, scout vehicle after the horse cavalry ended.

However, Highfill noticed a striking resemblance between the Greyhound and the modern-day Stryker vehicles.

"It is an interesting parallel," Highfill said. "The first vehicle after the horse cavalry ended was a six-wheeled all-terrain type, close to our eight-wheeled Stryker, that the 14th Cavalry received after being re-activated at Fort Lewis, (Wash.) back in 2000."

Though Highfill found the vehicle, he struggled with the next course of action. He didn't know how to rescue it from the boneyard, but he knew he wanted it to go back to Schofield Barracks. He wanted to place it next to the cavalry wagon outside the battalion's headquarters as a reminder of the unit's rich heritage.

Before long, his question was answered.

During his transition ceremony in July, Soldiers from the Combat Repair Team (CRT), B Company, 225th Brigade Support Battalion (BSB), presented Highfill with a very special gift.

They found the Greyhound from the picture in the Taji tank boneyard, and although it was in poor condition, they managed to get it to the maintenance shop to make minor repairs.

"When we presented it to Maj. Highfill, his expression showed how valuable this vehicle was to him. It was incredible to see," said Staff Sgt. Cory Clothier, maintenance supervisor of the CRT, B Co., 225th BSB.

Although Highfill is no longer the battalion's executive officer, he continues to help refurbish the Greyhound in his spare time. Soon, a fresh coat of paint will be applied to cover the graffiti, and Highfill said he hopes the next step is getting it back to Hawaii.

"This vehicle is part of cavalry lineage," said Maj. Leonard Lira, executive officer, 2-14th Cav. Regt. "First, we used the wagon, and currently we use the Stryker. The Greyhound is the missing time piece that fills a gap in history."

Rebel son excels as Soldier **OIF**

Story and Photo by

STAFF SGT. J.B. JASO III

1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Running away from home, stealing the family's car and taking his father's checkbook are all things of the past.

Today, Pfc. Joseph Biando serves as an infantryman with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, "Wolfhounds."

It was a long and bumpy road for Biando to reach where he is today – a successful Soldier serving in his 11th month of a 15-month deployment. He lives and works in the Istaqlal Qada, just northeast of Baghdad.

"I was doing everything bad and nothing good," said the 19-year-old about his childhood. "I put my dad's life through hell. I ran away several times, one time for 18 days."

Biando's father, a U.S. Naval officer with 24 years of service, had equally important issues to face when he wasn't dealing with his son's troublesome nature.

At one point, Lt. Cmdr. Keith Biando, Joseph's father, was deployed to the Persian Gulf on the patrol coastal boat USS Firebolt.

"I was deployed when a lot of stuff was happening with him," said Keith, in regards to his son's free-spirited behavior. "I tried to be a father through a (satellite) phone."

If it wasn't for an argument with his father that resulted in Joseph leaving home for good with no shoes or shirt, he probably wouldn't be serving with distinction in Iraq today. The day after he left his home, he went to the Army recruiting station and enlisted as an infantryman.

"It was the quickest way out of the situation I was in," said Joseph, about joining the Army in June 2007. "I always figured I would go into the military, but never thought the Army."

Still not speaking to his family, Joseph stayed with a friend for two weeks before departing for basic combat training.

Even though Keith knew where his son was and what was going on, he decided to let Joseph tell him in his own time.

Finally, when Joseph was in need of clothes and other personal items, he talked to his father about his decision to join the Army.

The entire Biando family met with Joseph on his last night at home before heading to basic training. They didn't talk about the past and the trouble Joseph had caused. Instead, they enjoyed their last night together as a family.

That was the last night they were all together before Joseph departed for Iraq. Once he completed basic combat training in November 2007, he was assigned to the Wolfhounds at Schofield Barracks. However, he didn't have much time to enjoy the island because he deployed to Iraq three weeks after his arrival.

"I called my dad, and he told me that it had to be done," Joseph said. "He helped me get situated and told me to be careful."

"I gave him the same guidance I give my young sailors," Keith said. "Show up on time, and you'll be good."

Not knowing anyone yet, Joseph boarded the plane in Hawaii bound for Iraq.

"I was scared, nervous, worried, but also excited," said Joseph, about his feelings while flying to Iraq.

Now 11 months into deployment, Joseph's feelings of fear and nervousness have all but diminished. He has embraced



Pfc. Joseph Biando jokes with a child about height restrictions needed to enter a recreation center in Baghdad's Adhamiyah security district.

his job as a member of the personal security detachment for the Wolfhound commander.

It's no easy task standing in 120-degree temperatures wearing the required protective gear, while others get to be inside air-conditioned buildings.

However, Joseph realizes the importance of his duties.

"It's an important task," he said. "We secure the battalion's leadership in order to allow them to rebuild and reconstruct Iraq."

Because of the security he provides, the Wolfhounds have been able to assist the Iraqi government on the road to reconstruction. If it's a difficult journey down that road, Joseph can relate.

Joseph was selected as the Wolfhound Soldier of the month in July and received the Army Achievement Medal for meritorious service in Iraq.

"He was so proud to be selected," said his father. "I'm proud of him."

"It felt good," said Joseph, after receiving the award. "I felt special for about 20 minutes until I went on mission. Then it was back to work."

Joseph has another mission, though, which is family related.

"I just want to make my dad proud," Joseph said. "I want to redeem myself, but it's going to take a while. I caused my dad a lot of stress."

Keith said he doesn't hold a grudge.

"I never had any resentment or ill feelings for what he did," the lieutenant commander said of his son's childhood actions. "A dad can't have any. I just tried to steer him on the right path and away from the bad."

"He's always trying to make me proud, and I recognize that," Keith said. "I recognize his maturity and I'm so proud of him."

Joseph said he wants to continue to be the best he can and try to live up to his father.

"I apologize for my childhood, and I'm proud of my dad," Joseph said. "I wish I could accomplish what he has accomplished in his 24 years in the Navy."

Even though Joseph has several years until he can accomplish all that his dad has, he is definitely on the road to success, and looking at his childhood missteps in the rearview mirror.

Thanksgiving fellowship enjoyed in Iraq

OIF

Story and Photo by
PVT. JESUS J. ARANDA
25th Infantry Division Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq — Soldiers bustled around the dining facility, chatting, laughing and, perhaps, feeling more at home, if only for one meal.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Willie Taylor Jr. noted how some of the smaller things could take him back home.

"Sweet potato pie is the dish I love the most here," said Taylor, eyeing a healthy slice of the pie sitting on his dish. "Back home it was the main dish. My wife would make it for me every year."

For many Americans, the timeless feeling of Thanksgiving can only be experienced with close friends, family and a turkey feast. During the holiday season the absence of loved ones can be especially noticeable. For Taylor, being separated from family during holidays has become a common occurrence due to his job.

Taylor is serving as the brigade targeting officer with the 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, at Contingency Operating Base (COB) Speicher. Tropic Lightning troops from Hawaii recently started their deployment in northern Iraq.

"This is my third deployment in a row,"

said Taylor, who mentioned all three were with the 25th ID.

Taylor has enjoyed significant success spanning over his three deployments, including two promotions within the warrant officer ranks.

With success came sacrifice, however, as Taylor's continuous deployments meant many months away from his loved ones.

"It's very, very hard being away from the children now," Taylor said. "I had a chance to speak with them the other day, so that helps a lot."

Deployed Soldiers have a multitude of ways of communicating with their loved ones back home in the United States.

Where a simple telephone call was once the standard, e-mails and videos broadcast via the Internet have made the geographic distance between families and deployed Soldiers inconsequential for staying in touch.

Keeping in contact with people in the U.S. can be an effective way to fight off feelings of homesickness, but Taylor feels the same holiday spirit on COB Speicher that he would have experienced back at home.

"It feels like a holiday here," Taylor said. "The decorations, pretty good food here in the chow hall, everyone is in a great mood. It's like being back in Hawaii."

The only thing which Taylor, as well as



Chief Warrant Officer 3 Willie Taylor Jr. (right) 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, dines at Contingency Operating Base Speicher with members of his unit, Sgt. 1st Class Darrin Fox (left) and Sgt. 1st Class Leroy Alexander (center). The 25th Infantry Division will assume authority over northern Iraq from the 1st Armored Division in early December.

many others, found lacking during their turkey meal was a good game of football to watch on television.

"Thanksgiving isn't the same without football," Taylor said.

Due to the drastic difference in time

zones between the two countries, American football doesn't make it onto television in Iraq until the very late evening.

"I wanted to watch a game, but there would be no football until tonight," said Taylor. "I'll try to catch a game or part of

a game before bed."

In the absence of competitive sports during his meal, Taylor enjoyed the camaraderie of his fellow Soldiers.

Taylor dined with several members of his unit, including Sgt. 1st Class Darren Fox, and Sgt. 1st Class Leroy Alexander. Taylor admits, in the absence of his real family, the members of his unit were just as close to one another.

"Everybody in the unit is pretty close," Taylor said. "I can pretty much sit down with anybody in my unit and feel like one of them. It's a great feeling."

RELATED STORY

• For additional coverage on Soldiers and families celebrating their Thanksgiving in Hawaii, see page B-1.

The meal, the close friends, and the environment: All of these things combined make up what many Americans consider to be staples of the holiday season. At COB Speicher this year, all of these things were present, making Taylor's feast with his Army family very similar to his family in the U.S.

Taylor may not have had his actual family this year, but at least he had his slice of sweet potato pie.

FAST cooks make sure Soldiers eat well

225th BSB leaders recognize hard work and dedication of food service specialists

Story and Photo by
CAPT. KATHARINE LUBINSKI
225th Brigade Support Battalion

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — At many of the combat outposts and joint security stations north of Baghdad, Soldiers enjoyed a traditional Thanksgiving meal, Nov. 27, thanks to a few dedicated cooks and other support personnel.

Forward Area Support Team (FAST) Soldiers from the 225th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team "Warrior," worked tirelessly to prepare a homestyle Thanksgiving meal for Soldiers throughout the Warrior Brigade battle space.

More than half of the Warrior Brigade spent Thanksgiving at their combat outposts and joint security stations. To prepare for the meal, Warrant Officer Reginald Lemon, food service advisor, 2nd SBCT, coordinated with the cooks to provide food to each site. Sites requested the food more than a month in advance. One week prior to Thanksgiving, logistics convoys began delivering supplies to the sites.

"The (cooks) at the sites used their food service knowledge to take ownership of the mission, putting on the best Thanksgiving meal possible despite their limited resources," Lemon said.

Each site has only two cooks to serve approximately 200 Soldiers. To feed so many people such a massive meal, many cooks worked until the early hours of the



Spc. Jodi Dunn, Headquarters Company, 225th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, stirs sweet potatoes to ensure they cook evenly before they are mashed for sweet potato casserole, Nov. 27. Dunn started preparing food the day prior and woke up early to finish.

son, 225th BSB senior enlisted leader, visited outposts and security stations on Thanksgiving.

"We want to recognize the hard work these food specialists devoted to preparing a great meal," Collins said. "Cooks work hard every day. On days like this, they willingly go above and beyond. They wanted to give the best possible holiday meal at their sites because of their commitment to the Soldiers they support."

"It's important for us to see the fruit of their labor and let them know we appreciate their hard work," Johnson said.

Soldiers from logistics convoys volunteered to escort the commander and sergeant major on this mission, sacrificing their holiday relaxation to thank others for their hard work.

"This was a good mission to be on," said 1st Lt. Miles Haurtiz, the logistics convoy commander for the Thanksgiving mission, during his mission debrief. "I know I've never had a Thanksgiving where I got to do something like this. Showing these Soldiers that we appreciate what they do is important."

morning, returning after a brief respite to finish the meal. At the larger sites, cooks worked throughout the night until the meal was finished.

To thank the cooks for their hard work, Lt. Col. Mark Collins, 225th BSB commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony John-



Cpl. Dustin Weidman | 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment

Feast in the field

JOINT SECURITY STATION AQUR QU, Iraq — Capt. Jon Chavous, commander, C Company, 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment "Gimlets," 1st Sgt. Kenneth Clayborn and Capt. Colin Hewett serve turkey, potatoes and vegetables to their Soldiers in celebration of Thanksgiving Day, here, Nov. 27.



Medical officer knows meaning of time management

Living in a multitasked world doesn't stop him from pursuing dreams

SGT. KYNDAL GRIFFIN

8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER – Time management is a set of principles, practices, skills and systems that combine to allow individuals to work efficiently and improve their quality of life.

Capt. Sean Colley, a medical service officer and the 8th Theater Sustainment Command (TSC) Surgeon Cell operations officer and logistics officer, really knows the meaning of time management.

"We live in a multitasked world and we have to have diverse skill sets in order to be well-rounded Soldiers and well-rounded leaders," said Col. Darryl Daugherty, 8th TSC chief of staff. "What impresses me most is he has maximized his aptitude and his abilities with time management skills to accomplish his goals and objectives."

Colley recently graduated from the Health Services Materiel Officers Course

at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. The skills he learned in the course will allow him to ship blood products and medical supplies throughout a battlefield environment.

In addition to the intense, 10-week school, Soldiers taking the course also had to complete two, 40-hour online courses.

"Being at school kept me very busy, which was good for me. I was missing my family so staying busy helped keep my mind off it," Colley said.

However, Colley didn't let his already busy schedule stop him from working toward a personal goal.

During his time at the schoolhouse, Colley also furthered his flight education at night and on the weekends, at the San Antonio National Airport, to obtain his multiengine aircraft pilot license.

"My dream has always been to be an airline pilot," Colley said. "That is why I joined the Army and went into the medical field, so I could begin as a (medical evacuation) pilot."

Colley said he would do his flight training for three to four hours a day, and another three to four hours of academics,



Courtesy Photo

Capt. Sean Colley poses for a picture with his flight school instructor, Martin Fass, at the San Antonio National Airport while he was working to achieve his Multiengine Fixed Wing Certificate.

where he learned all the emergency procedures and operational procedures of the aircraft.

When Colley isn't busy working his two jobs, going to school to accomplish his dreams, or spending time with his

wife and 9-year-old son, he volunteering his time in the Hawaii Wing Wheeler Squadron Civil Air Patrol.

"I fly here in Hawaii on the weekends," Colley said. "We are responsible for emergency response, if a tsunami or any large storms were to come in and make any major damages, we would assess and survey the damage."

Colley said his wife has always encouraged him to accomplish his dreams and his family is very supportive.

"I believe that (Colley) ... is really maximizing his capabilities and his skills to get the most out of life both on and off duty." Daugherty said. "We have all these opportunities at our fingertips and when you're not deployed to combat and you're back home, you need to achieve balance in your life. And balance is perusing those hobbies and educational goals and military goals, as well as balance within your family."

"The best leaders in the Army are those leaders who are well balanced in their personal life, and that is what impresses me most about him. He is a role model," he added.

News Briefs

Send news announcements for Soldiers and civilian employees to community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

5 / Today

Gate Closure – Foote Gate, Schofield Barracks, will be temporarily closed through Dec. 10 to install a permanent gate.

The work will include installation of the new gate and work on the outbound islands. All other gates at Schofield Barracks will maintain their current operational times.

Road work from A Road to Flagler Road (the area from the gas station to the post office) will begin Dec. 10 and is expected to be completed on or around Feb. 15, 2009. Contra traffic flow will be managed throughout project.

For more information, call the Directorate of Public Works at 656-2435.

Athletic Field Closure – The following athletic fields will be closed due to an irrigation system being installed:

- Watts Field, today-Dec. 14;
- Wheeler Army Airfield's baseball fields, Dec. 15-31.

Call 655-9915/9654.

ID Card Office Closure – The ID Card Offices at Schofield Barracks and Fort Shafter Flats will be closed today for the Directorate of Human Resources Christmas Party.

Additionally, the Schofield office will be closed Dec. 10-11, and Fort Shafter will be closed Dec. 11-12, to install new equipment and upgrade the DEERS/Rapids system. The Schofield office will re-open Dec. 12; Fort Shafter will re-open Dec. 13.

Following the upgrades, customers must provide two pieces of identification prior to receiving their new CAC/ID card. Contact Makena Davis, Schofield Barracks, 655-1272, or Kevin Branch, Fort Shafter, 722-7630.

8 / Monday

Tripler Road Work – Contractors are scheduled to begin repairing Jarrett White,

Patterson and Krukowski roads on Tripler, Dec. 8 – Jan. 23, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily. Jarrett White Road will be open to emergency vehicles only. Expect detours, lane changes and delays. Call 656-2435.

10 / Wednesday

Weight Room Closure – Fort Shafter Fitness Center's weight room will be closed Dec. 10, 8 a.m. until Dec. 12, 5 a.m.

New flooring and weight equipment will be installed. The rest of the fitness center will be open to all qualified patrons. Call 438-1152.

24 / Wednesday

Holiday Closures – The Schofield Barracks Commissary will close 3 hour earlier, Dec. 24, at 5 p.m., for the Christmas Eve holiday. The commissary will also be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. Call 655-5066.

Ongoing

Traffic Control Plan – Construction of the Wiliwili neighborhood on Wheeler Army Airfield began Nov. 24, and all

personnel and dependents traveling in the area will experience traffic control measures through the end of the construction.

The road pathway through the construction site will be striped for two-way traffic. The existing sidewalk at the intersection of Lehua Road and Wiliwili Circle through the job site will remain open for Camp Stover pedestrians. Call 275-3118.

Hire a Hero – Active and transitioning military personnel, veterans, National Guard members, Reservists and their spouses have access to a unique online community that helps them network into quality job opportunities and training through the Armed Forces Support Foundation's (AFSF) Hire A Hero program.

The Hire A Hero online community is powered by volunteers who have connections to jobs and training in their hometowns. For more details, visit www.hireahero.org.

322nd CAB Vacancies – Officers and noncommissioned officers are needed in the 322nd Civil Affairs Brigade (CAB),

Army Reserve, located at Fort Shafter. Vacancies are available for staff sergeants, sergeants first class, captains and majors. No experience is necessary.

The 322nd CAB accepts former service members from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard, as well as current reservists and National Guardsmen.

The 322nd provides specialty training and the opportunity to deploy to exotic locations such as Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, Japan and Korea to participate in major exercise events. Prospective applicants must be physically fit and meet medical requirements.

Looking for adventure and a chance for promotion? Call Col. Gerald Timoney at 438-1600, ext. 3342.

Revision of Death Gratuity Designation

As of July 1, the Department of Defense implemented a new procedure in which a Soldier can designate his \$100,000 death gratuity election on his/her DD Form 93 (Record of Emergency Data).

Soldiers may now designate from one to 10 persons to receive all or a portion of the

SEE NEWS BRIEFS, A-7

196th Inf. Bde. spouse receives 'Shield of Sparta'

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

FORT SHAFTER — The legend of the 300 Spartans is well known. What isn't well known is the 300 spouses and even more children who waited at home for word of their husbands and fathers.

In honor of the sacrifice of these Spartan infantrymen and their families, and now all U.S. Army infantrymen and their families, the National Infantry Association began recognizing infantry spouses with a special award.

Veda Church, wife of Lt. Col. Jeffrey Church, deputy brigade commander, 196th Infantry Brigade, received the Shield of Sparta-Heroine of Infantry award for her outstanding contributions to the community of Army Infantry from Col. James George, commander, 196th Inf. Bde., in a ceremony on Fort Shafter, Nov. 26.

"It is a distinct honor to recommend Veda Church for the Shield of Sparta," George said. "Her 20 years of dedicated service and support to our infantrymen and the accomplishment of our infantry missions have been tremendous and continue now with her support of her son's infantry brigade as they deploy to Iraq in support of the global war on terror.

"This is a well-deserved recognition for her service and sacrifice. She is a true patriot and supporter of the infantry," he added.

Established in 1997, the Shield of Sparta recognizes individuals who have contributed significantly to the promotion of the infantry, and in support of infantrymen and their families, in ways that stand out in the eyes of the recipient's seniors, peers and subordinates, according to the citation.

For more than 20 years, Church has served in various capacities in all of her husband's units, including various roles in the family support group.

Her most significant contribution in support of the infantry was during her husband's assignment to the 1-26th Infantry Battalion. During the battalion's deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II, the battalion was assigned to Samarra and had significant contact with enemy combatants. Due to the high level of contact, the 1-26th experienced a significant number of losses, both wounded and killed in action.

Church attended all funeral services for the Soldiers killed within the brigade. She also saw to the needs of those widowed spouses and wounded Soldiers.

"She was a pillar of strength for these ladies and their children," George said. "Her services helping the wounded Soldiers of the battalion were no less spec-



Col. James George, commander, 196th Infantry Brigade, and Veda Church share a laugh during a ceremony where Church received the Shield of Sparta-Heroine of Infantry award, Nov. 26.

tacular. Taking them home-cooked dinners every Sunday, which she personally prepared for these wounded Soldiers, her contributions to our infantrymen and their families were immense."

"Families are always important to me," Veda said. "They have to be taken care of."

As if she hadn't given enough, her husband leaves soon for a six-month deployment to Afghanistan and one of her sons is deployed in Kuwait, providing convoy security for trips into Iraq, leaving Veda home one more time.

"My husband's been gone a lot," she said. "And my middle son is deployed in Kuwait which makes me nervous, but I have a feeling they'll both come home."

The legend of the 300 Spartans, their sacrifice, and the price paid by their spouses and families, exemplifies the special commitment for which the Shield of Sparta-Heroine of the Infantry is presented, and Veda Church has continued to embody that spirit for more than 20 years.

"This award isn't just about me," she said. "It wasn't just me who did all these things for all these infantrymen. I had a lot of help and I share this award with all those who gave me help along the way."



Loran Doane | U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Public Affairs

Getting 'Lost'

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Terry O'Quinn, an actor in the television series "Lost" met with wounded warriors from the Warrior Transition Battalion to enjoy lunch and sign autographs at the Tropics, Nov. 25. Wounded warriors met for a unit barbecue and were surprised by the guest appearance from the television show, which is beginning its fifth season.

News Briefs

From A-6

death gratuity payment. Call 655-4510. designate amounts payable in 10 percent (\$10,000) increments. Soldiers' spouses will be notified in writing if someone other than the spouse is designated to receive all or a portion of the benefits.

Call Angie Dizon at 655-4510 for more information.

Centers for Army Lessons Learned (CALL) — CALL has a wealth of current information to include Tactical Training Plans, publications and warrior-focused products. Soldiers can go to the multi-use learning center, on the second floor of the Sgt. Yano Library, Schofield Barracks, to receive CALL publications.

Contact Chrissy Morris, multiuse learning center director, at 655-4444; or Brian Espenshade at 655-

4621, brian.espenshade@usarmy.mil, or visit the CALL Web site at call.army.mil.

Reserve Opportunities — Active duty, Guard and Reserve Soldiers, are you looking to continue your Army career, but your job, school or schedule conflicts keep you from attending weekend drill?

Are you leaving active duty and want to continue earning points towards retirement?

Join a local, points-only reserve unit and continue your military career while maintaining your benefits (commissary/post exchange/SGLI). Drills are three evenings each month at Fort Shafter Flats.

All ranks and any MOS are eligible. Annual training, schooling and other paid tour opportunities exist. For details, call Maj. Pepper, 438-6242.

Passport Express — If for any reason Soldiers or their family

members need to acquire a passport quickly, they can download an application from www.travel.state.gov. After completing the form, individuals should make an appointment with the Passport Agency Office, by contacting Howard Josephs at 529-6565.

Normally, within three business days, the agency can rush/expedite passports if individuals bring along required documents: 1) proof of departure (airline tickets, travel orders or a letter from the commander), 2) proof of citizenship (previous passport, certified birth or naturalization certificate, certificate of citizenship), and 3) proof of identity (previous passport, driver's license, government or military ID card).

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

Body piercing can cause lifetime of regret

MARCIE BIRK

U.S. Army Center for Health
Promotion and Preventive Medicine

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. — In the past 25 years, body piercing's popularity has increased dramatically as a fashion statement or a form a self-expression. The earlobe and upper-ear cartilage are commonly pierced sites. Other piercing sites include eyebrows, nose, lips, tongue and navel.

On Army installations or other places under Army control, Soldiers are subject to specific regulations regarding body piercing both on and off duty. Army Regulation 670-1, 1-14c states, "Soldiers may not attach, affix or display objects, articles, jewelry or ornamentation to or through the skin ..."

Female Soldiers may wear prescribed earrings while in uniform, but even ear

On The WEB

For more information visit
Journal of the American Medical Association,
<http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/full/291/8/1024>

Mayo Clinic, Piercing
www.mayoclinic.com/health/piercings/SN00049

Association of Professional Piercers,
www.safepiercing.org/index.html

piercing poses risks.

Infections are a common risk of body piercing. In various surveys, the rate of infection from earlobe piercing alone has been estimated at 11 to 24 percent. Other risks of body piercing include

blood-borne diseases like hepatitis B, tetanus or human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), which can be passed from one customer to the next by contaminated equipment.

Piercings to the oral-facial region can carry risks and lead to complications, according to Col. Tim Mitchener, an Army public health dentist at the Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine. Along with infections and blood-borne diseases such as hepatitis B or C, individuals with oral-facial piercings can run the risk of prolonged bleeding, nerve damage and endocarditis, Mitchener said. (Endocarditis is a serious inflammation of heart tissues and valves.) Damage to teeth and gums also is common when wearing tongue piercings.

Despite the health risks, body piercing continues to be popular. Those who in-

sist on body piercing should see a health care provider if any of the following occur:

- Redness or swelling that extends more than a quarter-inch from the piercing site
- Soreness
- Thick yellow or green discharge
- Continuous oozing or bleeding
- Warmth/heat at the piercing site
- Red streaks coming from the piercing site

If an infection occurs, see a health care provider before removing the jewelry. When the jewelry is removed, a new body piercing closes very quickly — within hours or days — and may seal an infection in your body.

Risks of body piercing can be decreased but not eliminated. A piercing may only take a minute to get but could cause a lifetime of regret.

MEDCOM: Med team expands its role in Pacific

CONTINUED FROM A-1

force provider for USARPAC.

- Synchronizing and executing the continuous, regional force health protection mission.
- Monitoring both emerging disease threats, such as the emergence of multidrug resistant falciparum malaria, drug-resistant scrub typhus, avian influenza and re-emerging diseases such as tuberculosis and cholera within the Pacific area of responsibility (AOR) for the USARPAC commander.

- Maintaining visibility and utilization of regional medical infrastructure and treatment capabilities.

- Accomplishing medical Army support to other services.

- Partnering with the USARPAC surgeon and training host nation and multinational medical units within the Pacific AOR through three primary methods, including subject matter expert exchanges, medical readiness training exercises and combat first responder training.

- Finally, familiarization and coordination between Pacific Air Forces' Theater Patient Movement Requirements Center (TPMRC) and the 18th MEDCOM's (DS) Theater Patient Movement Center.

The 18th MEDCOM (DS) was originally the 18th Medical Command (Theater) before casting its colors in Seoul, South Korea, and transferring its heraldry and lineage to Fort Shafter.

"On behalf of the officers, non-commissioned officers and Soldiers of the 18th Medical Command," Bowers said to the dozens of Soldiers and family members in attendance, "we all look forward to serving with you and adding to the already honorable lineage of the 18th Medical Command and USARPAC."

The unit will be tested right away as it provides medical command and control to units deploying to Japan this week in support of Yama Sakura 55.

Feedback: Garrison products and services under constant review

CONTINUED FROM A-2

focus groups, and Community FIRST (Feedback, Issues, Resolutions, Solutions, Today).

Although different in scope, each component is designed to give customers an opportunity to provide input.

While ICE is not new, CMS is working to improve and streamline the system to be a convenient and easy-to-use customer feedback tool.

Michelle Evans knows the value of ICE. After submitting a comment card about the hours of the self-service carwash on Schofield Barracks, Evans was contacted a few days later and was told that her concerns were not only heard, but that the carwash would be open an hour earlier.

"ICE works!" she proclaimed.

Although not all customer concerns

can be resolved quickly, ICE is the timeliest method for sending a comment to a service provider. The comments sent through ICE are not all bad, either.

The Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation uses the ICE system to help recognize Legendary Service among its employees.

Another way CMS seeks customer feedback is through assessments and surveys. USAG-HI, along with other installations throughout the Army, just completed the 2008 annual assessment of garrison services. The data from the survey will be used to identify what's being done right on our installations and what needs improvement.

CMS also conducts surveys on an "as-needed" basis whenever a particular service provider wants a more focused view on a given service or prod-

uct. Through CMS, the Public Affairs Office conducted a survey on the readership of this publication. Survey respondents indicated what they liked about the paper and whether or not an enhanced on-line version would be beneficial to them. They also made suggestions about other items they wanted to see, including more information about garrison and local activities.

The final component of CMS is the most interactive. Falling in step with the Army Family Action Plan (AFAP), Community FIRST will be a quarterly process designed to resolve garrison-level issues. Community FIRST and AFAP will work hand-in-hand to identify the concerns of the community. Issues that can be addressed at the garrison level will be forwarded to the directorates and service providers for

resolution. Issues that require higher command resources, direction or support will continue to be worked through AFAP.

The Customer Service Officer managing CMS in Hawaii is Ophelia Isreal. Isreal is the newest member of the Plans, Integration & Analysis Office. She offers that CMS is the voice of the customer and her job is to ensure the community voice is heard loud and clear.

Isreal thanks the community for sharing their views in the recent Community Assessment. Results of the assessment should be released early next year. She also would like community members to consider participating in focus groups once Community FIRST holds its first session in 2009. Contact Isreal at usaghi.cms@us.army.mil or at 655-9033.

Marrow: Saving a life worth discomfort

CONTINUED FROM A-1

his pelvic bone using a syringe. Soon after, Cruz began the recovery process.

"The recovery was not as bad as indicated by many people who have heard about the procedure, well not for me at least," said Cruz. "After the surgery I was in pain, but not so significantly."

Cruz said the pain was minor and felt like a broken rib. Walking and bending over was troublesome for the first few days, but donating to help another in need was rewarding enough to endure a few days of slight pain.

"Through the whole process I was thankful for just being selected and hoping that my donation made a difference," said Cruz.

After a four-day whirlwind trip, Cruz began his journey back to Oahu.

The program's overall objective is the development and application of a life-saving technology for those with marrow damage resulting from radiation or certain chemical warfare agents. Currently, there are more than 500 people in the DoD family, including family members and active duty personnel, with disorders like leukemia who are in need life-saving bone marrow transplants.

The DoD has been putting people on the national bone marrow donor registry since 1989 and has grown to the number one center in the country. In 2007, 421 DoD volunteers donated marrow.

"The only encouragement I could give is that you as a person will heal from the operation and life will continue. But if you are selected as a match and do not donate, that recipient may not be so lucky," said Cruz. "Just the feeling of saving a life was enough for me."

Spouses: Family members work as a team

CONTINUED FROM A-1

so others would give those new riders more space to maneuver. Once riders were deemed proficient, they were awarded spurs. Today, troopers who successfully complete the "spur ride" are awarded silver spurs.

A spur ride typically includes tests of military knowledge and skill that demonstrate a trooper's toughness, leadership ability, physical fitness, and technical and tactical proficiency. This year's 2-6th Cav. Regt. Spouse Spur Ride was organized in that spirit.

"Our goal with the event was to introduce our family members to our unit tradition and our customs, and to give them a better feel for what their spouses do on a daily basis," said Maj. George Ferido, executive officer, 2-6th Cav. Regt.

"Today is also about family bonding," he continued. "Bringing our families together is very important for the unit. It builds a sense of pride and belonging to a good organization and builds esprit de corps."

To that end, spouses began the day learning U.S. Cavalry and 6th Cavalry history, followed by an introduction to Army drill and ceremony. Spouses then marched to 2-6 Cav. Regt.'s "wind tunnel" (hangar) and competed in a "drill down" competition, where they responded to basic facing movement commands much like a "Simon says" elimination event.

Next, spouses were schooled in the history and capabilities of the unit's attack helicopter, the OH-58D Kiowa Warrior, as well as other ground weapon systems. After-



Forty-two spouses of Soldiers assigned to 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, "fall-in" to formation moments before participating in a "Drill Down" elimination competition. Spouses responded to basic facing movement commands much like a "Simon-Says" elimination event as part of 2-6th Cav. Regt.'s Spouse Spur Ride at Wheeler Army Airfield.

ward, they organized into small teams, donned combat helmets, and were transported by military vehicles to Schofield Barracks' Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) site. There, spur candidates practiced room-clearing tactics with M-4 rifles and demonstrated their radio proficiency in calling for fire support from a Kiowa Warrior.

The second half of the day, spouses worked in teams to complete an obstacle course and were transported back to WAAF, where they were greeted by family and friends, were inducted as honorary Order of the Spur Troopers, and enjoyed a unit cook-out.

Two candidates who "earned their spurs" were Shannon Poppa, wife of Warrant Of-

ficer 3 Joseph Poppa, A Troop, 2-6th Cav. Regt., and Goldie Harvey, wife of Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Harvey, also of A Troop. Both ladies valued the experience.

"I think the obstacle course was the best part because we really had to work as a group in uncomfortable conditions," said Poppa. "We were teamed with women that we had never met, which really required us to bond more than if we would have been teamed with spouses in our own troop. And that was the most fun — working together with women in the different units."

Harvey agreed and also came to better appreciate her spouse.

"The best part was realizing how strong we all are," Harvey said. "It's amazing how strong we can be as a group. We usually see



A team of spouses scale cargo netting at a Schofield Barracks obstacle course during 2-6th Cav. Regt.'s Spouse Spur Ride.

each other in more supportive roles, so to see us actually needing to be tough, working and communicating together was really fun.

"I also feel closer to my husband," she continued. "We don't ever really get to see what they go through on a day-to-day basis. Now, I see how important his Soldiers are to him and have more respect for what he does every day."

Lights: Moderation encouraged for holiday decorations

CONTINUED FROM A-1

Hawaii installations is expected to follow these guidelines.

Outdoor holiday lighting is permitted now through Jan. 15. However, moderation is encouraged for decorations inside and out. Electrical decoration hours are 6-10 p.m. except Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day, when they may remain on until 1 a.m. Turn off holiday decorations when no one is at home or in the office.

Another way to save energy is to purchase lighting decorations that have the Energy Star label or use Light Emitting

Diodes (LEDs) instead of incandescent bulbs as they are safer, are more energy efficient, and have a much longer life.

Fire safety is also important at this time of year. People can keep families and neighborhoods safe by being aware of the risks associated with candles, electrical equipment and live trees.

Candle safety involves keeping candles away from curtains, decorations, or in other locations near combustible or flammable items. Place candles on surfaces or in containers that won't burn. Never leave candles burning unattended.

Keep safety in mind when setting up electrical decorations. Check that all dec-

Tree lighting ceremony

The Fort Shafter Holiday and Tree Lighting Ceremony is scheduled for Dec. 11, 6 p.m., by the gazebo on Palm Circle. The event is free and open to the public.

orations are in good working order and look for fraying or other damage on the wiring. Use a single power strip instead of several extension cords which can be fire and tripping hazards. When using extension cords, be sure to use a cord rated for the load to be placed on them. Use only

grounded extension cords suitable for outdoor use for exterior decorations. Three-way extension cords, also known as "zip-cords" should never be used as they are dangerous, especially with inside decorations. Don't use extension cords in doorways or other locations where they may become damaged and cause a short.

Cut evergreen trees should be kept well watered. Check the water level daily. Remember to watch for cut tree collection and recycling information in the community.

Everyone's cooperation during this festive season will keep it a safe and happy holiday.

HAWAII **ARMY** WEEKLY

PAU HANA

www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil/haw.asp

"When work is finished!"

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2008

Sgt. Florgelyn Dolores, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Special Troops Battalion, applies the finishing touches on some glazed ham for the Thanksgiving feast at Fort Shafter's Paradise Haven dining facility, Nov. 27.

Sgt. Ricardo Branch | 8th Military Police Brigade Public Affairs



Staff Sgt. Tyrone C. Marshall Jr. | 25th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs

Soldiers and their families, spouses of deployed Soldiers, retirees and other visitors from Army Hawaii visit the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade's (CAB) "Wings of Lightning" Inn, located at Wheeler Army Airfield, Thanksgiving Day. A Thanksgiving meal was served to patrons in the dining facility, which was elaborately decorated by 25th CAB food service personnel.



Sgt. Jennifer Premer | 45th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

Lt. Col. Theresa Rae, commander, Special Troops Battalion, 45th Sustainment Brigade, shares a laugh as she spoons up shrimp at Schofield's K Quad dining facility during the annual Thanksgiving meal, Nov. 27.



Sgt. Jennifer Premer | 45th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

Master Sgt. Minnie Lacking, Headquarters Company, 45th Sustainment Brigade, serves cornbread to a hungry customer at the K Quad dining facility during the annual Thanksgiving meal, Nov. 27. This Thanksgiving was especially important to members of the company as they will deploy to Afghanistan early next year in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Serving up gratitude

Hawaii dining facilities open their doors for Thanksgiving

STAFF SGT. TYRONE C. MARSHALL JR.
25th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs

WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD – Every year families around the world come together to celebrate the joys of Thanksgiving, whether it's at home, with other family or close friends.

This year, the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade's (CAB) dining facility (DFAC), known as the "Wings of Lightning" Inn, opened its doors to Soldiers and their families, spouses of deployed Soldiers, retirees and others for an elaborate Thanksgiving celebration.

Decorated with traditional scenes of Thanksgiving, patrons of the Wings of Lightning Inn were greeted in the holiday spirit as soon as they walked through the outer doors. Everything from the usual treats of stuffing, ham, cakes and, of course, turkey, were served in an elaborate manner, such as a full-sized fallen Soldier's tribute made entirely of chocolate, and all were blessed by the brigade chaplain.

But perhaps the best indication of the day's spirit of gratitude was the tireless effort of the food service specialists who worked throughout the previous evening to put together a special meal for their "extended" family. With more than \$10,000 worth of food and decorations, the staff worked long and hard making sure everything was in perfect order.

In keeping with tradition, the

brigade's leadership served Soldiers and their families as they lined the entrance to the DFAC. Led by Col. Mike Lundy, commander, 25th CAB, and brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Jesus Ruiz, each of the battalions and their leaders came out to do their part.

Those patrons eating with their "extended" family at the Wings of Lightning Inn, all shared in the family environment and their interpretations of Thanksgiving's meaning.

"Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on the things that you should be thankful for," said Carla Keller, a spouse from Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment. Her husband was one of the many Soldiers who volunteered to serve families.

"It's a time to spend with your family," agreed Spc. Peter Mettias, B Company, 209th Aviation Support Battalion (ASB).

Pfc. Benjamin Staniszewski, D Troop, 2-6th Cav. Regt., was also impressed with the DFAC's layout. Along with the good food, he enjoyed the decorations.

"I like how they did the setup. I've seen Christmas decorations like this before, but never anything this elaborate."

The staff's long hours of hard work were not lost on him either.

"It shows they actually care ... that they want to do something for us ... something really nice. I've never worked anywhere where they did



Staff Sgt. Tyrone C. Marshall Jr. | 25th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Valencia Anderson, E Troop, 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB), provides a quick food service brief to volunteer food servers from the 209th Aviation Support Battalion. The "Wings of Lightning" Inn opened to serve a Thanksgiving Day meal to Soldiers and their families, spouses of deployed Soldiers, retirees and others on Thanksgiving Day.

anything like this."

Sgt. 1st Class Robert Ybarra, DFAC manager, 209th ASB, was equally proud of his food service specialists' efforts.

"I'm very proud of my Soldiers. I had three different crews today, and they've all spent a lot of time,

preparation, sweat and some tears making this work. It's all coming together.

"It makes me feel good knowing that we can offer this food to not only Soldiers, but their spouses, and to spouses of Soldiers that are deployed," he continued. "Although they can't be

DFAC Decorations Contest

1st Place: Fort Shafter
Theme: Faith, Family, Friends
Manager: Sgt. 1st Class Adriana Ybarra
Winning Centerpiece:
Spc. Courtney White

2nd Place: 25th CAB
Theme: Plymouth Rock
Manager: Sgt. 1st Class Robert Ybarra
Winning Centerpiece:
Sgt. Raymond Denuccio

3rd Place: Schofield's K Quad
Theme: Wizard of Oz
Manager: Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Wallace
Winning Centerpiece:
Spc. Christopher Bohn

home with their families, it makes me feel good as their extended family."

Sgt. 1st Class Shelley Haney, senior food operations noncommissioned officer, 25th CAB, who also played a large role in making the celebration come together, shared her gratitude for the support she received.

"I would especially like to give thanks to the 209th (ASB) command. They really went above and beyond to help us get to where we were today," she said.



5/Today

Waikiki Party Bus – Party in Waikiki and let FMWR be the designated driver. The bus rolls again tonight at 9 p.m.

Cost is just \$20 for regular riders, but Blue Star Card holders ride for free. Get your party on and the ride is on us. Visit www.mwrarmyhawaii.com for the full schedule. Call 655-9971 or 438-1985.

Pick-up time at Schofield Barracks' Information, Ticketing and Registration (ITR) is 9 p.m. Pick-up at Fort Shafter Richardson Theatre is at 9:30 p.m.

Drop-off is approximately 9:45-10 p.m. at the Waikiki Royal Hawaiian Shopping Center.

Return pick-up time is 3 a.m. at the Hale Koa. Drop-off at Fort Shafter is at 3:30 a.m. and 4 a.m. at Schofield Barracks' ITR. The Party Bus operates twice a month. Check out www.mwrarmyhawaii.com for dates, prices and reservations. Call 655-9971 or 438-1985.

6/Saturday

Holiday Fest – Aliamanu Military Reservation's (AMR) Youth Center will hold its annual Holiday Fun Fest Dec. 6, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., at the AMR Gym and Community Center.

A parade will begin at 9 a.m. Community members are encouraged to march in the parade with their holiday-dressed pets. Awards will be given for the best holiday-themed pet.

Entertainment at the fun fest will be provided by SKIES classes, Hickam Youth Sports & Fitness's Air Force Elite Cheer-leading Squad and Flyers, and other community groups.

Holiday activities including pictures with Santa, bouncers, gingerbread houses, cookie decorating and others will be set up.

Call 833-0920/4932 for information on the fun fest. For information on the parade, call 438-6470.

Honolulu City Lights – Enjoy one of Hawaii's traditional holiday favorites, the Honolulu City Lights, on Saturday, Dec. 6, 6-8:30 p.m. Enjoy a popular electric light parade, Christmas concert, tree and wreath displays and a tree lighting ceremony at Honolulu Hale. Cost is \$5 per person, Blue Star Card holders ride for free. Space is limited, so reserve your seat today. Deadline for reservations is Dec. 3. Call 655-0113.

7/Sunday

Digital Photography Contest – The time has come again to enter your favorite digital images to compete against the best photographers in the Army. Submissions



Sgt. Jennifer Premer | 45th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

For the win ...

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Sgt. Maj. Damon Lile, Headquarters, 25th Infantry Division, looks on as Sgt. Maj. Larry Webb, Headquarters Company, U.S. Army-Pacific, putts during the 45th Sustainment Brigade's Turkey Shoot Golf Scramble, Nov. 26, at the Leilehua Golf Course. Hosted by the 39th Military Police Detachment, the event provided Soldiers the opportunity to get out of the office and associate in a different environment.

are being accepted now through Dec. 7. Categories include People, Place, Object, Military Life, Experimental and Animal Friends. Entries can be submitted at <https://artscrafts.fmwr.army.mil>. Call 655-4202.

8/Monday

First Term Financial Training – Learn basic financial skills, develop self reliance and personal responsibility, encourage financial planning, improve money management skills, and enhance personal financial literacy, Dec. 8, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., at Army Community Service, Schofield Barracks. This is a mandatory 8-hour program of instruction and certificates will be awarded upon completion. Call 655-4ACS (4227).

Active Parenting Class – Learn parenting skills to enrich the parenting experience in the active parenting class, Dec.

8, 9-11 a.m., at Aliamanu Military Reservation's Chapel. Gain knowledge about how to recognize developmental milestones and understand how to respond to difficult behavior in children. Call 655-0596.

9/Tuesday

Newborn Care – Learn the basics of newborn care, Dec. 9, 9-11 a.m., at Aliamanu Military Reservation's Chapel. This is a two-part class continuing on Dec. 16. Sessions are also available Dec. 10 and 17, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Kalakaua Community Center, Schofield Barracks.

Enhance your parenting skills, increase your understanding about infant development and decrease the uncertainty of how to care for your baby. Call 655-4227/4787.

Books by You – Write your own book,

Dec. 9, 3:30 p.m., at Fort Shafter's library; or Dec. 10, 5:30 p.m., at Schofield Barracks' Sgt. Yano library.

Choose one of four stories and make it your own. This program is open to children ages 8 and older. A parent must accompany each child.

Call 438-9521 (Fort Shafter) or 655-0002 (Schofield Barracks) to register.

10/Wednesday

Credit Management – Learn how to use your credit wisely and how to improve your credit score, Dec 10, 9-10:30 a.m., at Army Community Service (ACS) on Schofield Barracks. Call 655-4227.

Money Management – Learn basic tools for financial success, Dec. 10, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m., at Army Community Service (ACS) on Schofield Barracks.

Learn how to develop a spending plan, reduce expenses and make your paycheck work for you. Call 655-4227.

11/Thursday

Family Night – Aliamanu Military Reservation's (AMR) Library and Chapel are teaming up for an evening of Christmas Family Fun, Dec. 11, 5:30 p.m., at the Community Center, AMR.

There will be Christmas stories and ornament making to warm up your singing voices. We will be caroling through the neighborhood so bring walking shoes and Christmas cheer. Call 833-4851.

19/Friday

Big R: Countdown to Redeployment – Blue Star Card Holders, don't be a Scrooge!

Come celebrate another month of deployment Friday, Dec. 19, 6 - 8 p.m. at the Nehelani. The event will feature our holiday version of Jeopardy, with a festive twist. Light pupus and childcare will be provided. To reserve your space or child care, call 656-3327 before Dec. 15.

20/Saturday

Holidays in Whooville – Spend the holidays in Whooville with FMWR at a holiday party, Dec. 20, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at Building 1052 on Wheeler Army Airfield.

Enjoy food and drinks, ornament-making and other craft activities, games and goodie bags for the kids. Rumor has it Santa might even be taking time out of his busy schedule to drop by and say aloha. Call 655-0111/2.

24/Wednesday

Single Solider Christmas Eve Party – The Single Soldier Christmas Eve party will take place, Dec. 24, 1-7 p.m., at the Tropics Recreation Center, Schofield Barracks. This is a great free event open to any and all single Soldiers who enjoy music and dancing, fun and games, and food and prizes. Prizes will be awarded throughout the event and free shuttles will be available from the Tripler and Fort Shafter areas. Call 655-5697.

21/Sunday

Military Appreciation Days – The Contemporary Museum, Honolulu, will offer free admission for all military members and their families Sundays, during the H.C. Westermann exhibition.

H.C. Westermann is a former Marine Corps gunners mate-turned artist. Eligible Sundays include Dec. 21-Feb. 22, 2009. Visit www.tcmhi.org or call 526-0232.

Ongoing

Fire Warden Training – Army Regulation 420-1 mandates that unit commanders or facility managers must appoint a primary and alternate fire warden for their facility.

Training is held each month. Upcoming training dates are Dec. 30. To reserve your seat, contact Battalion Chief David Jimenez at 471-3303, ext. 632, or e-mail david.d.jimenez@navy.mil.

Free USPS Packaging – The U.S. Postal Service provides military family members and friends with packaging materials to send packages to service members. Call toll free 1-800-610-8734, follow prompts, then ask for the "Military Pack."

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

Holiday Mail for Heroes – The American Red Cross is collecting holiday cards to distribute to service members, veterans and their families in the United States and around the world.

Mail holiday cards or letters to Holiday Mail for Heroes, PO Box 5456, Capitol Heights, MD 20791-5456 or visit www.redcross.org/email/saf.

Operation Property Identification – The Directorate of Emergency Services will hold "Operation Property Identification," Dec. 6, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Schofield Post Exchange entrance.

Families can take advantage of the on-site bicycle registration, property ID engraving and ownership documentation.

Engraving bikes, scooters, skateboards and high-value items or easily pilfered property will aid in identifying, recovering and returning your property if it is stolen. Call 655-5170.

Hangar Dance – The public is invited to the Pacific Aviation Museum's Big Band Dance, Dec. 6, 5:30-9:30 p.m., at Ford Island. The highlight of the evening will be the awarding of honors to Hawaii's living legends-15 Hawaii pilots who flew in World War II.

Guests will also see the unveiling of the new Lt. Ted Shealy Restoration Shop, hear plans for the restoration of the Museum's second phase--Hangar 79--and participate in an evening of dining, dancing, and auction to benefit the Museum's fundraising efforts.

Call 441-1006 or visit www.PacificAviationMuseum.org for tickets.

Band Concert – The U.S. Coast Guard Band will hold a concert, Dec. 6, 7 p.m., at the Waikiki Shell. The concert is free and open to the public but tickets are required. For a maximum of four tickets, visit www.HonoluluNavyLeague.org or call 422-9404. Pending availability, tickets will be available at the door.

11/Thursday

Tree Lighting – U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii will host a Holiday Concert and Tree Lighting Ceremony near the gazebo on Palm Circle, Fort Shafter, Dec. 11, at 6 p.m. Christmas music and songs will be performed.

The event is free and open to the public and children are invited to have photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

13/Saturday

Family Strong Reintegration Classes – U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Support Ser-

vices will hold a series of reintegration classes designed to guide reunited families through the post deployment process, Dec. 13 and 15, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Main Post Chapel Annex, Schofield Barracks.

Issues particular to spouses, children, and soldiers will be addressed in addition to community services available. Call 655-8132.

15/Monday

Slick Deals for Soldiers – Sam's Club will offer service members and their families free preview days Dec. 15. If you're not already a member, the 10 percent service fee will be waived.

The Hawaii Super Ferry will offer a buy-one-get-one roundtrip offer to military members and their family members through Dec. 15.

Tickets must be purchased through Information, Ticketing and Registration offices. Call 438-1985 (Fort Shafter) or 655-9971 (Schofield Barracks).

19/Friday

Military Family Camp – Register online now for the YMCA's Military Family Camp at Camp Erdman on the North Shore, Dec. 19-21.

Activities include archery, swimming, kayaking and holiday crafts. Visit www.campferdman.net or call 637-4615.

Holiday Boat Tours – The U.S. Navy and National Park Service will offer free holiday boat tours, Dec. 19, 20 and 21, departing every 15 minutes, 6:30-8 p.m. An additional boat will depart at 8:15 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Boat tours are free, but seating is limited. Tickets will be handed out on a first-come, first-served basis, beginning at 6 p.m. the day of the tour. Call 422-2771.

20/Saturday

Hangar Talk – The Pacific Aviation Museum will present Hangar Talk, Dec. 20, 1-2 p.m., on Ford Island.

This month's presentation will feature aviators Chip Gunther discussing the F4F Grumman Wildcat and Mel Souza discussing



Send announcements to community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

5/Today

Santa Parade – The Wahiawa Community and Business Association will hold a Santa Parade, today, 6:30 p.m., beginning at Kaala Elementary School. The parade proceeds down California Avenue, and finishes at the Wahiawa Shopping Center.

Free drawings for holiday decorations and gifts will be held throughout the evening. Beginning at 4 p.m., rides will be set up in the parking lot and live entertainment begins at 6 p.m. Santa will be available beginning at 7 p.m. and while supplies last, free photos will be given out. Call 262-0687.

Christmas Music Recital – The students of the So Jin Kimura Piano Studio (ranging from age 6 to adult) will perform a Christmas recital of duets and solos featuring Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite at Studio 909 at the Musician's Union, 949 Kapiolani Blvd., today, 7-8 p.m. Call So Jin at 398-1382, or e-mail sojinn.kimura@us.army.mil for more information.

6/Saturday

Children's Holiday Program – The Honolulu Academy of Arts' Museum Learning Center will offer their Creatively Christmas program for children for the second year in a row.

The program mixed holiday fun with art and will feature a fun-filled magic show. Show times vary and include both weekends and weekdays. Admission is included with the purchase of a museum ticket. Museum admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for military, seniors and students, and free for members or children under 12.

Visit www.honoluluacademy.org or call 532-8700.



Aliamanu (AMR) Chapel 836-4599

- Catholic Sunday, 8:30 a.m. – Mass Sunday, 9:45 a.m. – Religious Edu.
- Gospel Sunday, 11 a.m. – Sunday School (Sept.-June only) Sunday, 12:30 p.m. – Worship service
- Protestant Sundays, 9:45 a.m. – Worship Service – Sunday School (Sept. – June only)

Fort DeRussy Chapel 836-4599

- Catholic Saturday, 5 p.m. – Mass in Chapel (May-Aug.) Saturday, 6 p.m. – Mass on Beach
- Protestant Sunday, 9 a.m. – Worship Service
- Buddhist 1st Sunday, 1 p.m.

Fort Shafter Chapel 836-4599

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

Helemano (HMR) Chapel 653-0703

- Contemporary Protestant Sunday, 9 a.m. – Bible Study Sunday, 10 a.m. – Worship Service & 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 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. – Sunday School
- Gospel Sunday, 10:30 a.m. – Sunday School Sunday, noon – 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, noon – Adoration
- Liturgical Sunday, 9:30 a.m. – Worship

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 656-4481

- Catholic Saturday, 5 p.m. – Mass
- Collective Protestant Sunday, 9 a.m. – Worship Sunday, 9 a.m. – Sunday School



This Week at the MOVIES
Sgt. Smith Theater

Call 624-2585 for movie listings or go to aafes.com under realtime movie listing.



Max Payne

(PG-13)
Friday, 7 p.m.
Saturday, 4 p.m.
Wednesday, 7 p.m.

Santa Clause III: Escape Clause

(G)
Saturday, 11 a.m.



The Express

(PG)
Sunday, 2 p.m.

W

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

No shows on Mondays or Tuesdays.

25th CAB gives Outdoor Recreation Center a much-needed makeover

Story and Photos by
MOLLY HAYDEN
Staff Writer

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — A fresh coat of paint made a big difference at the Outdoor Recreation Center (ODR) here, recently.

Dressed in jeans and paint-splattered T-shirts, six Soldiers from the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade cleaned, trimmed and painted the walls inside the nearly 4,000 square-foot building.

"This whole space was covered with mold yesterday," said Spc. Gary Ingram, leaning against a freshly dried and newly painted wall. "We had to clean it up before we started painting, but now you can't even tell."

The volunteer effort from the group of Soldiers came at a time when the staff at ODR needed it most.

ODR had recently received a bid for more than \$100,000 to complete the much-needed renovation project.

However, the bid was significantly outside the center's budget.

"We weren't sure how we were going to do it," said Shelly Leslie, outdoor recreation branch chief, Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation. "But these guys stepped up and rescued us."

For four straight days, Soldiers worked emphatically to make over the center.

"It's the benefit of giving back to the community," said Pfc. Chase Rall. "And showing that we care."

Soldiers scraped old paint, taped off walls, and applied a fresh coat. Employees stepped over numerous supplies lining the walkway, including paint buckets and rollers, and continued business as usual.

"It's great to see the impact the new building makes," said Spc. Preston Newbell. "The work effort has been great and everyone can enjoy the new look."

The team at ODR made sure the Soldiers were well taken care of during the process, providing them with all of the necessary tools to get the job done. Morale was high as the Soldiers smiled, joked and chatted with the staff as they worked.

"They have been a great help and have earned a hefty credit for their unit," said Leslie. "Everyone benefits from this."

The eye-catching new look coincides with the new programs and changes currently taking place at ODR.

Within the past few months, new classes, including stand-up paddling, surfing and kayaking, have been added at the center.

"Our classes are slowly taking off," said Leslie. "I think more and more people are taking advantage of all the things we have to offer."



Supplies line the entrance to the Outdoor Recreation Center in preparation for much-needed renovations.

ODR provides outdoor recreation and educational opportunities to the military ohana, as well as all equipment necessary to take advantage of Hawaii's natural splendor.

ODR also offers a full line of rental equipment designed for beach-goers, campers and outdoor enthusiasts, including tents, stoves, coolers, lanterns, surfboards, boogie boards,

bicycles, picnic canopies, various sports equipment, kayaks and canoes. All equipment is available at a low daily rate.

For more festive affairs, the center rents shave ice and cotton candy machines, a dunk tank and inflatable bounce house.

As the workday ended, the Soldiers stood around, soaking up the new look and reflecting on their hard work.

"It's more than just a fresh coat of paint," said Newbell. "It's a work of art."

Area students sample, assess Makiki, Ala Wai water sources

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS,
HONOLULU DISTRICT**

News Release

HONOLULU — Over two days in early November, 270 eighth grade students and teachers from Washington Middle School created a snapshot of the water quality in Makiki Stream and at the mouth of Ala Wai Canal as they participated in a safe sampling and assessment during World Water Monitoring Day 2008.

"Water quality sampling provides the students with hands-on experience into another dimension of the environment they may take for granted and often do not see in their day-to-day activities," said Michael Wong, hydraulic engineer and acting chief of Honolulu District's Civil Works Technical branch.

Students were introduced to the Makiki subwatershed in an outdoor lab setting that included hands-on water-sampling. Using both field instruments and educational monitoring kits, students determined how the parameters of pH, dissolved oxygen, temperature, turbidity, nitrate, phosphate and conductivity relate to each other.

They also learned how sediment and nutrients impact water quality and how life in the lower watershed is dependent upon upstream conditions.

The interactive components were geared to deliver a three-fold message:

- We all live in a watershed: everything is interconnected, the waters of Makiki Stream flows from the mountain to the sea.

- We all have an effect on water quality: how we impact water quality by our activities upstream and how our activities affect those downstream.

- We can all change our behavior to benefit the watershed, rather than harm it.

According to one of the event's primary organizers, Iwalani Sato, City and County of Honolulu's Department of Environmental Services, the specific goal was "to increase student awareness of the impact their behaviors have on the quality of Makiki Stream, the Ala Wai Canal and the ocean."

Since 2003 the City and County of Honolulu, Hawaii Department of Health and the U.S. Army Corps

of Engineers have sponsored World Water Monitoring Day with activities for Washington Middle School students.

This year's primary goal was to build public awareness and involvement in protecting water resources around the world by engaging citizens to conduct basic water monitoring of their local water bodies.

"A key learning point for them is environmental stewardship — how their actions or inaction affects their environment. The Corps' co-hosting of this learning opportunity helps reinforce the students' awareness," Wong said.

On The **WEB**

The data collected by Washington Middle School students will be uploaded into usable global databases at www.worldwatermonitoringday.org.

World Water Monitoring Day was initiated by America's Clean Water Foundation (ACWF) in 2002 as a significant part of the events in observance of the 30th anniversary of the U.S. Clean Water Act.

It serves as a global, international education and outreach program that builds public awareness and involvement in protecting water resources around the world by engaging citizens to conduct basic monitoring of their local water bodies.

The month-long World Water Monitoring program kicks off each year on Sept. 18 with a data entry deadline of Dec. 18.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District; the Storm Water Quality Branch, City and County of Honolulu; and the Clean Water Branch, Hawaii Department of Health hosted the project in conjunction with Washington Middle School science teacher Joanna Lee.

Cooperating organizations included the Hawaii Water Environment Association Public Education, Hawaii Division of Aquatic Resources, Hui Ku Maoli Ola, City and County of Honolulu Board of Water Supply, State of Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife and the Punahou School.



Iroquois Point Elementary School sixth graders stand with motivational speaker Michael Walden outside their school, Nov. 19. Walden met with students, faculty and parents to motivate and encourage students to be successful in life by having a good attitude. The Joint Venture Education Forum sponsored the event.

Education Front

Motivational speaker Michael Walden focuses on attitude

Story and Photo by
KATHLEEN HYDRO
Education Department, U.S. Pacific Command

EWA BEACH — Well-known motivational speaker Michael Walden made his first Hawaii appearance at Iroquois Point Elementary School here, Nov. 19.

Walden began his speaking career 17 years ago as a sergeant in the Army's 82nd Airborne Division and since then more than 100,000 students have heard him speak.

Walden gave his power presentation "Attitude is Everything" to the students and staff of Iroquois Point Elementary and presented his workshop for the parents that evening. Iroquois Point Elementary School Principal Heidi Armstrong believes Walden was a great choice.

"Mr. Mike," as the students called him, told the audience that "goals are the roadmap to dreams" and "you must be giving your best to reach your dreams."

According to Walden, the path to success starts with having a winning attitude, showing respect for the adults in your life, being a good friend, being drug-, tobacco- and gang-free, and furthering your education.

The students repeated Walden's mantras "I'm going somewhere" and "It starts with me, it starts to-



For more information
on the JVEF program,
visit www.pacom.mil/jvef.

day," and were later asked to state something they would like to change about their attitudes. Numerous students said they would like to work on completing their homework neatly and on time, while others were concerned they weren't showing the proper respect for their parents.

Walden arrived early enough to observe students and staff arriving to school and was impressed with the respect students showed for adults and vice versa.

"Good things are happening at this school," Walden said.

At the end of the presentation, it was not difficult for students and adults alike to stand a little taller and believe "I can do that."

Walden's presentation was made possible by a partnership grant from the Joint Venture Education Forum (JVEF), a military and Department of Education partnership that enhances the educational experience of students at military-impacted schools in Hawaii.

AHFH ready to take care of families of deployed

ARMY HAWAII FAMILY HOUSING
News Release

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — With another deployment underway, Army Hawaii Family Housing (AHFH) is again positioning itself to support families faced with deployment.

"Several members of our staff are spouses who have experienced deployment and they are continually sharing with our AHFH team what's important to families during a deployment," said Lisa Reese, AHFH director of property management. "Whether it's help around the house or with child care, creating opportunities for them to get together with others or working with ACS (Army Community Service), MWR (Morale, Welfare and Recreation) and the like to bring support services into the community, AHFH is committed to making this happen."

Reese encourages families with a deployed spouse to reach out to their AHFH community center staff

with ideas on services, programs or activities from which they could benefit.

"As an organization, we can implement programs such as our 'Family Care Package,' but at the community level we know we could do more to try to personalize some of our activities," said Reese.

AHFH will again offer its 'Family Care Package' to residents with a deployed spouse. The Family Care Package offers families free backyard lawn service, five hours of complimentary child care each month, and maintenance support not normally included in day-to-day services.

To register, residents simply need to bring their FMWR Blue Star Card to their community center.

Families that decide to return to the mainland during deployment may face some challenges when they return to the islands and try to secure a home.

AHFH residents who have questions may contact their AHFH community manager.

AHFH operating procedures during deployment

What happens if my family ...

Clears residence, temporarily relocates to mainland, then returns to Hawaii when spouse redeployes?

•Service member or family may be placed on waitlist when service member redeployes or when family arrives on island prior to redeployment

- Date of eligibility is date application is completed; service member or family must be on-island
- Family not eligible for TLA
- Waitlist priority status is 2; families on TLA will have priority
- BAH remains at Hawaii rate

Maintains AHFH residence, temporarily relocates to mainland, returns to Hawaii when spouse redeployes?

- No changes
- Family must notify community center, provide local point of contact and complete Permission to Enter form
- Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) remains at Hawaii rate

Moves off-post in Hawaii?

- Family may be placed on waitlist when service member redeployes

- Date of eligibility is date service member completes application; service member must be on-island
- Waitlist priority status is 2; families on temporary lodging allowance (TLA) will have priority

Relocates to the mainland via early return of dependents (ERD) process?

- Service member or family may be placed on waitlist when service member redeployes or when family arrives on island prior to redeployment
- Date of eligibility is date application is completed; service member or family must be on-island
- Family not eligible for TLA
- Waitlist priority status is 5; Due to loss of command sponsorship status (CS), service member is considered unaccompanied. When a Soldier loses his or her CS, the Soldier loses all CS allowances and entitlements. If a family decides to return to Hawaii at a later date, it will be at the family's own expense. The family will need to reapply for and meet all CS eligibility requirements.
- BAH will change to zip code of dependent's location on ERD orders

Remains living in an AHFH community?

- No changes
- Guest Policy: Few restrictions on who visits and length of stay





5 / Today

Dodgeball Tournament – Entries for the Helemano Military Reservation (HMR) dodgeball tournament are due today, at the HMR Physical Fitness Center. The double elimination tournament will take place Saturday, Dec. 20. Call 653-0719.

Pro Bowl Tickets – Tickets for this season's Pro Bowl are on sale now at Schofield Barracks Information, Ticketing and Registration (ITR). Seats are available throughout the stadium, but there is a four-ticket limit per person.

Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime benefit of living in Hawaii. Call 655-9971.

6 / Saturday

Introduction to Surfing – Try out the sport that ocean-crazy Hawaii is known for. An introduction to surfing program will take place Dec. 6, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. The cost is \$35 and all equipment will be provided. Call 655-0143.

8 / Monday

Bowling Center Closure – From Dec. 8-12, there will be no bowling at the Fort Shafter Bowling Center. The Strike Zone Snack Bar will continue to be open

for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The bowling center will be replacing floor tile and furniture in the lower level of the bowling center. Call 438-6733.

10 / Wednesday

Workout Without Walls – Trying to get in shape but the same old routine has you unmotivated? Outdoor Recreation gives you the chance to try a different workout in a new location every week. The next class is Dec. 17, 8:30-11 a.m. Classes will be held every Wednesday.

Each session costs \$10. Participants must sign up in advance to meet the 3-person minimum by the Tuesday before each week's class. Call 655-0143.

12 / Friday

Adventure Night Hike – Don't miss this great entry-level night time hike, Dec. 12, 6-11 p.m., at Makapuu Point. Skilled Outdoor Recreation staff will lead this family-friendly hike suitable for all ages. Cost is \$10. Call 655-0143.

Ongoing

Tripler Pool Extended Hours – Effective, Dec. 1, the Tripler Army Medical Center Pool will now be open for extended physical training (PT) hours. The new hours are 6-8:30 a.m., Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Regular operating hours on those days and weekend hours remain unchanged. Call 433-5257.

Student Bowling Special – The Bowling Center, Schofield Barracks, invites all students ages 18 and younger to

take part in their After-School Special. Games are \$1.75 with free shoe rental, Mondays-Fridays, 2-5 p.m. Students earn a free game for every "A" on their original report card. Call 655-0573.

Bowling Parties – Wheeler Bowling Center's eight lanes are available for private parties on Saturdays and Sundays for \$120 per hour. A three-hour minimum and \$1.75 shoe rental apply. Call 656-1745.

Twilight Golf – Pay half the green fee and enjoy the afternoon at Nagorski Golf Course, Fort Shafter. Twilight golf begins at 11:05 a.m., Monday-Friday. Not available during holidays. Call 438-9587.

Little Ninja – Classes are now being offered at Aliamanu Military Reservation's (AMR) Youth Gym, Saturdays, 9-9:45 a.m., for children ages 3-5. The cost is \$35 per month. Call the AMR Child and Youth Service's Registration Office at 833-5393.

100-Mile Run/Walk & 50-Mile Swim Clubs – Record each mile you run, walk or swim and win incentive prizes. Stop by any Army Physical Fitness Center or swimming pool to pick up a log sheet. Call 655-9914.

Volleyball & Racquetball – Learn basic skills and techniques from experienced instructors, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30-10 a.m., at Martinez Physical Fitness Center, Schofield Barracks.

Courts will be open for free play across the street from the facility. Call 655-4804.

Visit www.htmclub.org.

10 / Wednesday

Weight Room Closure – Fort Shafter Fitness Center's weight room will be closed Dec. 10, 8 a.m. until Dec. 12, 5 a.m.

New flooring and weight equipment will be installed. The rest of the fitness center will be open to all qualified patrons. Call 438-1152.

11 / Thursday

Golf Tournament – Registration will be accepted through Dec. 11 for the Waiānae Military Civilian Advisory Council Golf Tournament, scheduled for Dec. 19, noon, at Leilehua Golf Course.

Registration fees start at \$70 and include green fees, cart and banquet.

Call Les Akeo at 696-6026 for a registration form.



Terri Needels | Hawaiian Island Twisters Gymnastics

'TOP' performers

HONOLULU — (From left to right) Kiana Palin, a sixth grader at Salt Lake Elementary and daughter of Sgt. 1st Class Travis Palin, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team Special Troops Battalion; Lauren Lauro, fourth grade student at Le Jardin Academy; Sarah Barron, third grader at Waldorf School; and Coach Lori Yee are all smiles after the girls qualified to attend the National Talent Opportunity Program (TOPs) "B" Training Camp, Dec. 7-11. (Coach Joe Rapp is not pictured.)

The gymnasts, from the Hawaiian Island Twisters Gymnastics Team (HITs), earned spots on the TOPs National Team as a result of their performance at a competition in Houston in October. This competition is designed to identify the nation's top young gymnasts and provide them with training by Olympic coaches at the National Training Center.

Ongoing

Great Aloha Run – Entries are now being accepted for the Great Aloha Run, scheduled for Presidents' Day, Feb. 16, 2009. The 8.15-mile run starts at the Aloha Tower and ends at the Stadium.

There are divisions for elites, age groups, wheelchair and hand cycle competitors and military personnel running individually or in Sounds of Freedom (in formation).

Applications are available online at www.greataloharun.com or at Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities. Contact Jim Perry at 655-9650.

Outdoor Excursions for Veterans – Outward Bound, an international non-

profit outdoor education program, will offer fully funded outdoor adventure excursions to all Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom (OIF/OEF) veterans.

Anyone who has deployed in support of OIF/OEF combat operations is eligible to apply.

The five-day excursions offer adventure activities in Maine, Texas, Colorado, California and Minnesota. All expedition costs for lodging, equipment, food and instruction are completely funded by a multimillion dollar Sierra Club grant, including the participants' round-trip transportation between home and the wilderness site.

To sign up for a prescheduled course, call Doug Hayward at 1-866-669-2362, ext. 8387 or send an e-mail to obvets@outwardbound.org.



Send sports announcements to community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

6 / Saturday

Hike Oahu – Join the Hawaiian Trail & Mountain Club on a hike through the Kaena Shoreline.

On this hike, watch for the low flying albatross that nest in this protected area. Whales may be frolicking off shore while you enjoy the sound of crashing waves along the coastline and the wind in your hair. Bring plenty of water and sunscreen.

This novice hike is 4 miles. Call Phil Booth at 382-4709.

All hikers will be assessed an additional fee of \$2 to cover a new permit fee for this hike.

Save the date for these upcoming hikes, too:

- Dec. 7, a 12-mile advanced hike through Moanalua Ridge.
- Dec. 14, a 6-mile intermediate hike through Waimalu Valley.

Hikes begin at 8 a.m., and a \$2 donation is requested of non-members. An adult must accompany children under 18. Hikers meet at Iolani Palace, mountainside.

Bring lunch and water on all hikes; wear sturdy shoes, as extra caution may be required on some trails.

Hikers must keep all trails and lunch sites clear of clutter, as well as treat trees and plants with care and respect.