

## INSIDE

# Community rallies after heavy rains

**U.S. ARMY GARRISON-HAWAII PUBLIC AFFAIRS**  
 News Release

**SCHOFIELD BARRACKS** – It wasn't 40 days and nights but the rains that began Dec. 10 and continued through the weekend made some people wonder if they should have built an ark.

The National Weather Service reported 17.73 inches of rain fell on Schofield Barracks during the four day storm causing floods which damaged many areas on post.

"You know it's bad when the gate guard is directing traffic with water up to his knees," said Paul Dickey, director of maintenance services, Army Hawaii Family Housing, who had to drive on to help monitor the storm damage.

Eight families had to be evacuated from on-post housing and roughly 21 homes were affected.

The damage was mild compared to last year's December storm, which knocked out power to most of Schofield Barracks housing for several days.

"Still, this storm was no less serious than the last one," Dickey said. "We have 7,500 homes and feel fortunate that only 27 homes were severely affected."

As soon as crews had access, AHFH had workers in the homes and neighborhoods pumping water and cleaning. Homes were getting new carpeting as early as Monday.

"Our goal is to have people displaced as little time as possible," Dickey said. "I'm really proud of how well our maintenance teams responded."



A volunteer walks along the washed out road leading to the Wheeler Saddle Club on Wheeler Army Airfield. During the rain, the road was covered with a 50-foot wide river with a 30-foot tall waterfall.

Mike Kraft | Wheeler Saddle Club

Some displaced families have already been placed in new homes within AHFH communities.

In addition to homes, several buildings on post were affected. The interior roof at Schofield's Post Conference Room collapsed. Other buildings received minor

damage, including headquarters buildings of the 25th Infantry Division, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, and Martinez Physical Fitness Center.

The storm also affected phone lines on-post.

"There was significant flooding in the manholes and cable vaults at Schofield Barracks, which (caused) localized outages for telephone services," said Maj. Jason Winterle, executive officer, 30th Signal

**SEE FLOOD, A-10**

## Spreading cheer

"Moms on a Mission" from Tennessee send a Christmas tree to the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team in Taji, Iraq.

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## Road closure

Due to flood damage at the bottom of the hill south of Lyman Gate, Kunia Road is estimated to be closed six to eight weeks.

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## Yama Sakura

USARPAC participates in an important bilateral exercise with Japanese defense forces.

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## Holiday events

The Hale Koa Hotel has something for everyone this holiday season.

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## Reintegration series keeps families strong

New program helps spouses, children understand, thrive during redeployment process

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

**SCHOFIELD BARRACKS** – More than 30 people crowded into a small room at the Main Post Chapel Annex here, Saturday, for an informative briefing to kick off the "Family Strong Series." The event was presented by 25th Infantry Division, Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC) and Schofield Barracks' Health Clinic.

Although the majority of those in attendance were subject matter experts, four spouses of Soldiers who are deployed or have recently returned from deployment listened attentively as Maj. Adelaido Godinez, 2nd

The "Family Strong Series" will be held Jan. 10, 12 and 22, and Feb. 7, 9 and 12, at the Main Post Chapel Annex on Schofield Barracks, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Leticia Rivera, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team Family Readiness Support Assistant (FRSA), at [leticia.rivera@us.army.mil](mailto:leticia.rivera@us.army.mil).

Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT) Rear Detachment commander, explained the series' purpose.

"We are all here for you," said Godinez. "We will help you understand what it is like for your Soldier and prepare you as best we can for their return."

Godinez then shared personal accounts of his own redeployment, including the struggles he and his family went through.

"I was angry when I returned," said Godinez. "I felt I had left my Soldiers too early and experienced feelings of guilt for not being in Iraq."

Godinez explained the event was dedicated to explaining ways Soldiers cope and how family members can help returning Soldiers remain a healthy member of the family. Subject matter experts were also on hand to discuss issues particular to spouses and children and available community services.

"A lot of spouses aren't prepared for their Soldier's homecoming," said Godinez. "We are here to provide information to help every member of the family."

The four spouses then began the first of

**SEE REINTEGRATION, A-12**

## Shafter dedicates community center to fallen hero

Story and Photo by  
**SGT. RICARDO BRANCH**  
 8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs

**FORT SHAFTER** – In life, 1st Lt. Jonathan Brostrom was a known as a demanding leader who worked hard to ensure the well-being of his Soldiers and to foster a sense of teamwork among the troops.

The courage of the young leader was put to the test when he went off to war in the combat zone of Wanat, Afghanistan, where he fought a fierce battle, outnumbered, against enemy forces, July 13, 2008.

Brostrom, and eight other Soldiers, paid the ultimate sacrifice to save their "battle-buddies" and repelled an attack on their remote outpost.

Brostrom was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart for his actions.

His actions ensured the enemy did not take control of the outpost and helped save the lives of countless troops stationed in the base.

The people of Hawaii suffered a loss with Brostrom's death, but service members and community officials paid tribute one last time to the fallen hero with a newly opened community center at Fort Shafter, Dec. 15.

"The center opening is a joyous occasion but it also incorporates a solemn character," said Col. Matthew Margotta, commander, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii. "We are proud and honored to dedicate this facility to our fallen son, 1st Lt. Jonathan P. Brostrom, who heroically sacrificed his own life to save the lives of the Soldiers he was leading in combat operations in Afghanistan."

The facility provides residents a 1,200-square foot aquatic center, which includes a 25-meter

**SEE BROSTROM A-12**

## Wheeler's 599th helps its own during holidays

**DONNA KLAPAKIS**  
 599th Transportation Group Command Affairs

**WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD** – The 599th Transportation Group here is getting into the spirit of the holidays by sponsoring an Army family.

The Smock family grew from two members to six, Oct. 8, when Belinda Garza-Smock had quadruplets at Tripler Army Medical Center.

Staff Sgt. Matthew Smock is a section sergeant for a communications squad at C Company, 307th Integrated Theater Signal Battalion. His wife, Belinda Garza-Smock, is a registered nurse at Hawaii Medical Center.

"It's the season of giving, and if



From left, quadruplets Caiden Matthew, Christian Thomas, Cameron Matthew and Chloe Isla Garza-Smock lie on a blanket in the order of their birth at their home in Ewa, Monday.

we can give to others, it makes us feel good as well," said Navy Cmdr. Thomas LaCoss, deputy commander, 599th Transportation

Group.

Sgt. 1st Class Vernon Williams, 599th first sergeant, is leading the effort to sponsor a family. He said

**SEE QUADS A-11**

## 'Wolfhounds' bring holiday cheer to Japanese orphans

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

**SCHOFIELD BARRACKS** – Filled with holiday spirit and softly humming Christmas tunes, 27th Infantry Regiment "Wolfhounds," Soldiers and family members gathered at the Tropics Recreation Center, here, Monday, for an annual gift wrapping party.

The party continued the long tradition started in 1947 by Sgt. Hugh F.X. O'Rielly when "Wolfhounds" eagerly wrapped presents to send to the Holy Family Home in Osaka,

Japan.

Freshly wrapped gifts piled quickly along the tables. Donations from the United Japanese Society of Hawaii, the Mililani Rotary Club and community members included stuffed animals, games, crayons and Hawaii T-shirts.

For more than 50 years, Wolfhound Soldiers have put smiles on the faces of many children as they deliver Christmas cheer. Sgt. Jason Anderson, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, and Sgt. Alphonso Banton, 2-27th Inf. Regt., are currently in Osaka visiting the more than 130 orphans and showering them with the donated gifts. The Soldiers will return the

day after Christmas, allowing them to spend the holiday playing and sharing the special day with the children.

"I know they appreciate this greatly," said Anderson. "Our unit has a proud history and relationship with the orphanage. I'm happy to help continue the tradition."

O'Rielly established this relationship with the orphanage upon a visit following World War II. After noticing the severe lack of bare necessities and the poor upkeep of the facilities, O'Rielly collected donations from Soldiers in

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# Holiday season can be safe, fun

**ARMY HAWAII FAMILY HOUSING**  
News Release

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Army Hawaii Family Housing's holiday wish is safe celebrations for all its families. The holidays are an exciting time of year for children, and to help ensure they have a safe holiday season, here are some tips from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).

**Decorations.** In homes with children, take special care to avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable, and avoid trimmings that resemble candy or food that may tempt a young child to eat them.

**Toy Safety.** Before buying a toy or allowing a child to play with a toy that he or she has received, read the instructions carefully.

To prevent both burns and electrical shocks, don't give children younger than 10 years old a toy that must be plugged into an electrical outlet. Instead, buy toys that are battery-operated.

**Happy Visiting.** Clean up immediately after a holiday party. A toddler could rise early and choke on leftover food or come in contact with alcohol or tobacco.

## AHFH holiday hours

Army Hawaii Family Housing (AHFH) wishes everyone a happy and safe holiday season. In observance of the holidays, AHFH office hours are:

- Dec. 24: Open 8 a.m. to noon
- Dec. 25, Christmas Day: Closed
- Dec. 26: Closed
- Jan. 1, New Year's Day: Closed

During the hours when offices are closed, AHFH maintenance service teams will remain available for emergencies.

Remember that other people's homes may not be childproofed. Keep an eye out for danger spots.

Traveling, visiting family members, getting presents, shopping, etc., can all increase your child's stress levels. Trying to stick to the child's usual routines, including sleep schedules and timing of naps, can help enjoy the holidays and reduce stress.



# Accident-free holiday is ultimate goal

**LT. GEN. BENJAMIN R. MIXON**  
Commander, U.S. Army-Pacific

As we celebrate the holiday season, my family and I extend a heartfelt thanks to the Soldiers, family members and civilians of U.S. Army-Pacific (USARPAC) for your outstanding dedication to the Army and our country. Let us not forget our fellow Soldiers and civilians deployed around the globe during the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Keep them in your hearts and prayers as they are away from loved ones during this special time.

Many members of the USARPAC family will combine time off and seasonal festivities with increased travel. Recently redeployed USARPAC Soldiers and civilians will

be free to engage in activities prohibited during their deployment, such as alcohol consumption. Hazard identification and remedial action can reduce or eliminate the causes of most holiday accidents: fatigue, inattention, stress, inclement weather, speed and drinking while driving.

Everyone should get proper rest before starting a trip, plan rest stops, obey speed limits, adjust to weather and road conditions, use seat belts and child safety restraints and drink responsibly.

My ultimate goal is an accident-free holiday season.



Mixon

The active, timely and sincere involvement of all leaders ensures the protection of our USARPAC family. All leaders must ensure Soldiers know that we are counting on them to return unhurt and to be standing proud and ready when the holidays end.

Enjoy this joyous holiday season. Keep yourself ready to serve. Manage your risk; be safe. One Team!

Benjamin R. Mixon  
Lt. Gen.  
Commander, U.S. Army-Pacific



Sgt. Ricardo Branch | 8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs

## Lighting the holidays

FORT SHAFTER — Brig. Gen. John Seward, deputy commanding general, U.S. Army-Pacific, and Makaliah Billings, Shafter Elementary School student council president, light a Christmas tree during the annual holiday ceremony at the Hale Ikena, Dec. 11.

## We want to hear from you...

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

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

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

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

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656-3155 or 656-3156.

## 194 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 12/17/08.

# Voices of Ohana

What's the first thing you'd take with you if you had to evacuate your home?



"Grab my uniform. Because wherever we go we're recognized as U.S. Soldiers."

Spc. Tai Barbee  
Air Traffic Controller  
F Troop, 3-25th  
Avn. Regt.



"My guitar."

Spc. Jared Bullock  
Transportation Specialist  
25th Trans. Co.



"I'd take my photo albums."

Amy Mahowald  
Engineer  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kuwait



"My lock box with all my paperwork."

Spc. Hillary Mougeotte  
Transportation Specialist  
25th Trans. Co.



"My important military documents."

Pfc. Doroteo Pecina  
Aviation Fueler  
A Co., 209th ASB

## 5 STEPS in FAITH

# Mary had faith, spread joy and persevered through uncertainty

**CHAPLAIN (LT. COL.) KEVIN P. STROOP**  
Fort Shafter Community Chaplain

In our preparation for Christmas, we need to take a moment and look at what we are preparing for.

We are in the church season of Advent, and we are looking forward (preparing) for the season of Christmas. There are two distinct periods: one of preparation (Advent) and one of celebration (Christmas).

So much for the confusion; it's the joy of both seasons that we seek, especially in these days of financial upheaval and political change. It seems as though when we have prepared for our financial futures, the bottom fell out. As we prepared for our own personal futures, we have a new leader and wait for him to find his voice, so we can follow.

Anxious times are what unfolded prior to the birth of Jesus. Anxious in terms of life itself, the Maccabean Revolt had failed. The Romans now inhabited all of Judea and forced their will and leadership upon the Jews. Historically, areas around Jerusalem were in turmoil. It is into this political and religious boiling pot news of great joy comes to a young girl in Nazareth.

Before his natal star, his birth foretold by prophets and

sought by wise men from a far, the Son of God's birth is told to Mary. The Gospel writer, Luke, carefully details how the announcement to Mary and her response will be the fulfillment of the ancient promise to David that his throne will last "forever." The announcement also tells how a barren woman, Elizabeth, will miraculously conceive a son, John the Baptist, with her husband.

"Greetings favored one! The Lord is with you" (Luke 1:28).

Favored, but how could she call herself favored? A seemingly mundane engagement now becomes turmoil of, "what in the world is about to happen to me?"

Her situation is unlike any other in Judeo-Christian history. Although she is still a virgin and without sleeping with her betrothed, Joseph, she will bear a son. This totally new thing will be accomplished because "the Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the most high will overshadow you" (Luke 1:26-38).

Recession. Inflation. Terror. These are our words for turmoil. Mary's response is astonishment and fear, much



Stroop

of what we have been experiencing these past few months. The crisis of the world is not something we welcome and embrace. In these moments, we try hard not to panic in the face of hardships and unrest. Our lives seem teetering in the balance and many fear ruin is upon us.

Mary is pregnant and unwed, in a culture where death or social ostracism is the penalty for her situation. If any one person could of and should have said, "No!" it was she.

However, Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." How's that in the face of uncertainty?

In preparation for the event of her son's birth, Mary accepts her circumstance in light of God's will for her life. Mary has tremendous faith. It is her faith that makes her ready for the future and what it holds in store for her. She does not worry, but spreads the joy of her faith with others. She is a light in the middle of the dark night.

As we prepare (Advent) for Christmas, keeping in mind all the turmoil around us, would it not be a gift to ourselves if we just let go and said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord."

Relying upon our faith in God to see us through the turmoil into the blessed joy of a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger, Emmanuel - God with us.

# Holiday tree, decorations, cheer arrive in Taji

**OIF**

Story and Photos by  
**MAJ. AL HING**

2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — The Warriors received a touch of home when a live pine tree with full complement of lights and decorations arrived after an extensive journey, Dec. 10.

The tree's travels started in central Tennessee when a group of women who call themselves "Moms on a Mission" from Marshal County, Tenn., purchased the tree, wrapped it up and express mailed the gift to Iraq, Nov. 29.

After 11 days of travel, it was received by the waiting Warriors of the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT).

The smell of fresh pine wafted through the building as the civil affairs team opened the box and unwrapped the tree.

"I was really, happily surprised to find a green, live tree that had spent so much time getting to us," said Maj. Gustav Waterhouse, brigade civil affairs officer. "The smell of pine brought me back to when I was a kid back on the East Coast when we were getting ready to decorate the Christmas tree. It reminds me of growing up in the snow, and all the winter fun we had as kids."

The decorations were mostly handmade and accompanied the tree in its package. The box was full of paper cut-out bells, handmade bead wreaths and



Master Sgt. Agaluma Filoialii, Iraqi Security Forces noncommissioned officer in charge, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, hangs an ornament on a Christmas tree.

hand-painted glass ornaments.

"It took time for the kids to make these, and I'm proud to put these on the tree for them," said Master Sgt. Agaluma Filoialii. "They may not know me, but their work



Maj. Gustav Waterhouse, Capt. Jason Bowers and Capt. Timothy Cho prepare the Christmas tree by building a foundation of rocks and sand.

makes me feel like they did this just for me."

The lights went on, then the tinsel, and then each decoration was put on the tree.

Numerous times Soldiers commented on each ornament, what they were, and exchanged smiles and laughter.

"This is a piece of home for those of us

who can't be home ... our second Christmas away from loved ones," said Capt. Jason Bowers, civil affairs officer. "We're here, but it brings back great memories. We're making great things happen here, and someday those will be memories for me to think about ... because someone cared enough to send us a part of home."

Another Warrior fully agreed with the sentiment.

"This brings memories of togetherness, and family. It reminds me of home," said Capt. Bethany Vollmer, collection manager. "We're in Iraq, but we're not so far when you look at the family here, and when someone cares enough to send us a tree. There's family everywhere for us."

Warrior Deputy Commanding Officer Lt. Col. David Davidson sent his heartfelt thanks.

"I can't begin to express how grateful I am to have a little piece of home during the Christmas season," Davidson said.

"My family and I are spending our second Christmas in a row apart, as are thousands of other Soldiers serving here in Iraq (and) around the world. This gesture gives all of us a little piece of home and a moment to pause and remember why we do what we do."

"A very Merry Christmas and blessed New Year to you all, thank you very much from all of us."

## Operation Christmas Tree brightens holiday season for 3rd Bde.

Service member's parents started nonprofit to spread holiday cheer

**SPC. ANGIE JOHNSTON**

3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARRIOR, Iraq — Jolly Old Saint Nick has a lot of places to go during the holiday season, spreading Christmas cheer from his sleigh all over the globe.

He heads to Brazil, where they call him Papai Noel and go to the beach celebrate his visit; he stops off in Australia, where, rumor has it, he gives his reindeer a break and puts eight white kangaroos to work

in their place. In France, children put empty socks by the door hoping he'll fill them with goodies while they're sleeping.

Does Santa stop in Iraq, though? It's not very reindeer-friendly, after all, so where are deployed Soldiers getting their Christmas cheer?

The Soldiers of the Special Troops Battalion (STB), 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division learned that the spirit of Christmas doesn't have to come directly from Santa Claus — there are people out there who like to step into the man-in-red's shoes to make sure all the bases get covered.

Operation Christmas Tree is a nonprofit organization dedicated to filling Santa's shoes as best they can.

They send live Christmas trees to Soldiers deployed all over the world.

It all began when James and Betty Ward's daughter was deployed to Afghanistan. The Baltimore, Md., parents wanted to make sure that she wasn't missing out on Christmas just because she was half a world away. They sent their daughter a two-foot tall tree and the idea of spreading holiday cheer took wing. Soon, they were sending as many trees as they could to deployed service members.

Operation Christmas Tree has brightened the holiday season for the STB by sending a hundred trees for the Soldiers to share and enjoy.

Lt. Col. Christopher Stenman, battalion commander,

scattered the trees throughout his battalion to make sure every Soldier had the chance to benefit from the kindness of people on the other side of the world.

Spc. Sterling Molby was astonished at the kindness of strangers.

"It was nice of the people back home to help us celebrate Christmas," said Molby. "It's great to know that people still have us in their thoughts and prayers during the holiday season."

"Considering the fact that no Christmas trees grow out here, it's nice that people help us remember home," said Spc. Ryan Munson.

It turns out that Santa Claus does stop in Iraq, after all.

# 3rd Bde. engineers stay busy building a better Iraq, providing security

Unit's main mission is to support Iraqi forces with new projects

**1ST LT. KEVIN SABOORI**  
3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq — Since Nov. 1, engineers from A Company, Task Force Steel, 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment have been constantly moving.

Training heavily before going to Iraq, the engineers were more than prepared for the challenges that lay ahead of them.

The Soldiers of A Co. are in a different Iraq than their last deployment.

"This is my third tour of Iraq and I have never seen such an optimistic and positive attitude displayed by the Iraqi populous," said Capt. Reynaldo Rivera, commander, A Co., 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion.

During the unit's last deployment to Kirkuk, Soldiers were primarily used as a route clearance company, and were not assigned "battle space," or a specific area to cover.

However, because of the nature of the battlefield and the positive change that has been made over the past year, the nature of the company's mission had to change, as well.

This year's deployment brings new challenges and a different mission to accomplish. Now deployed to Contingency Operating Base Speicher in Tikrit, Soldiers are tasked with providing security to the State Department's Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) as they conduct meetings with local leaders. After only a short time in Tikrit, members of the PRT have

praised the engineers for their hard work and dedication.

In addition to the PRT mission, the company now has the responsibility of covering a battle space, which means the platoons conduct weekly meetings with local leaders and the civilian population. This includes conducting market walks to get a feel for the atmosphere and getting to know the people in the area. They also help make local leadership aware of the peoples' concerns and assist with reconstruction projects throughout the area.

One of the biggest tasks is to help the Iraqi government find ways to fund school repairs and construct water treatment plants. Although these projects are funded and built by the Iraqis, the engineers are responsible for bringing the Iraqi leadership together to get the projects started.

**"This is my third tour ... I have never seen such an optimistic and positive attitude displayed by the Iraqi populous."**

*Capt. Reynaldo Rivera  
Commander, A Company  
3rd Brigade Special Troops Bn.*

"Our main role is to assist and facilitate, but once we get things rolling the Iraqis quickly and easily take over," said Rivera.

This mission requires a great deal of patience and determination to ensure projects get funded and completed. With all this, the company's engineers continue to conduct route clearance missions in support of logistics movements to other bases.

# 25th ID takes charge in Iraq

**TASK FORCE LIGHTNING PUBLIC AFFAIRS**  
News Release

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq — The 25th Infantry Division assumed responsibility for Multinational Division-North (MND-N) from the 1st Armored Division in Iraq this week in a ceremony here, near the city of Tikrit.

Maj. Gen. Robert Caslen Jr. assumed command from Maj. Gen. Mark Hertling at the official transfer of authority proceedings (TOA), Dec. 9.

This marks the 25th Infantry Division's second tour as the MND-N headquarters. The division's previous tour was in the same location from August 2006-October 2007. The ceremony also provided an opportunity for the division's leadership to meet as a group with the Government of Iraq, Iraqi army and Iraqi police leaders in attendance to discuss future goals for Iraq's northern provinces.

MND-N's area of responsibility includes Iraq's seven northern-most provinces of Diyala, Salah Ad Din, Sulaymaniyah, Kirkuk, Ninewa, Irbil and Dahuk, which all have immensely diverse, rich and historic cultures.

Three brigade combat teams make up the majority of the division's operational forces. The 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, comprised primarily of light infantry units, is from Schofield Barracks. The 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, comprised of mechanized and armored forces, is from Fort Hood, Texas. The 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team of the 25th ID comes from Fort Wainwright, Alaska. The division is also supported by the 10th Combat Aviation Brigade from Fort Drum, N.Y.

Prior to the TOA, the division spent roughly two weeks settling in and becoming familiar with the area's current situation and activities. Personnel worked side-by-side with the people they were replacing from the previous unit to ensure full understanding of the complexity and intricacies of operations.

Key leaders and personnel were introduced to Iraqi officials who will continue to be close partners in the next year in the division's efforts to ensure the emerging nation's institutions can provide security and services to the people.

Several of the division's veterans were reunited with Iraqi friends and partners from previous tours, and were astonished at the improvements that had been made.

Markets appeared busy and several Iraqi cities are beginning to experience traffic dif-



Pfc. Jesus Aranda | Task Force Lightning Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Robert Caslen Jr. (left), Task Force Lightning commanding general, and Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Leota uncasing the 25th ID colors during a transfer of authority ceremony held at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, Dec. 9. The uncasing of the colors symbolically begins the Tropic Lightning Division's deployment in Iraq.

iculties, perhaps frustrating for drivers, but a sign of increased security and prosperity.

The 25th ID and MND-N have a historic year ahead. The provinces of Iraq will hold elections in January, marking the second nationwide democratic elections held in the country. Implementation of the new securi-

ty agreement sets the timeframe for Iraq to increasingly exercise its sovereignty, and for the multinational coalition to diminish its role.

As Iraq's government and people unite to rebuild their nation, the 25th ID will partner with them every step of the way.

# 94th recognizes new NCOs, celebrates 'Year of the NCO'

Symbolic ceremony bridges gap between lower enlisted and NCOs

Story and Photo by  
**PFC. ASHLEY M. ARMSTRONG**  
94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE — “At the front of every Army mission in the U.S. or overseas, you’ll find a noncommissioned officer (NCO). They know their mission, they know their equipment, but most importantly, they know their Soldiers,” said Secretary of the Army Pete Geren during the 2008 Association of the United States Army Annual Meeting and Exposition.

Geren said 2009 was to be “The Year Of The Non-commissioned Officer.”

To promote the Year of the Noncommissioned Officer, the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command (AAMDC) conducted an NCO Induction Ceremony at the Makai Recreation Center here, Tuesday, to honor nine recent additions to the NCO Corps.

“The ceremony gave the 94th the opportunity to recognize the achievements of the NCO Corps,” said Sgt. Maj. John Foley, project manager for the ceremony, 94th AAMDC. “And since this is the year of the



Nine noncommissioned officers recited the NCO Oath of Induction during the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command's NCO Corps Induction ceremony conducted at the Makai Recreation Center, Hickam Air Force Base, Tuesday.

NCO, I felt it was imperative to start the year with an NCO induction ceremony.”

The ceremony is an Army tradition to recognize Soldiers who pass from the ranks of the lower enlisted into the corps of noncommissioned officers. Though

the Soldiers inducted were promoted prior to the ceremony, the ceremony served as a symbolic, formal transition into the corps of noncommissioned officers.

“The main purpose of conducting these ceremonies is the recognition; for the inductees to recognize the

importance of the transition that they have made, and for everyone else within the command and installation to acknowledge that they have made that difficult transition,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Philip Rowland, 94th AAMDC.

At the start of the ceremony, three NCOs walked up to the stage, one at a time, as they recited individual portions of the NCO Creed. They lit three candles, red, white and blue, each representing the three portions of the NCO creed that they recited.

Following the recital, Command Sgt. Maj. George Duncan, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, spoke about the history of the corps and its significance within the Army.

“Among the things that made the ceremony a success was the dynamic guest speaker, (who) shared some influential words of wisdom to junior noncommissioned officers,” said Foley.

Afterward, NCOs recited the NCO Oath of Induction. They were then called to the stage where they crossed the line between Soldiers and NCOs and formally became members in good standing of the NCO Corps.

“I hoped the symbolism and tradition of the ceremony would give the NCOs a feeling of acceptance into the Corps of Noncommissioned Officers,” said Foley.

## News Briefs

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

### 19 / Today

**Holiday Lighting Policy** — U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Commander, Col. Matthew Margotta, issued a holiday lighting memorandum stating holiday lights on installation housing may be turned on between 6-10 p.m. Lights should not be left on outside of those hours to conserve energy. View the memo at [www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil](http://www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil) (click on USAG-HI

Policies on the left). Additional housing policies on lighting and ornamental displays can be found at [www.army.hawaii.familyhousing.com](http://www.army.hawaii.familyhousing.com).

**Kolekole Pass Closed** — Schofield's Kolekole Pass is closed to traffic due to the recent storm. It is expected to be closed for two to three weeks.

Call 655-7114 for more information.

**Road Closure** — Due to flood damage at the bottom of the hill south of Lyman Gate, Kunia Road will be closed for six to

eight weeks. For more information, call the Hawaii Department of Transportation at 587-2160.

**New Hours of Operation** — The Schofield Barracks Military Clothing and Sales Store will be open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-

4 p.m.; and closed Sunday. Call 655-0497.

**Tripler Road Work** — Contractors are scheduled to begin repairing Jarrett White, Patterson and Krukowski roads on Tripler, through 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.

**24 / Wednesday**  
**Holiday Closures** — Schofield's

SEE NEWS BRIEFS, A-9

# Cornerstone of Army aviation retires

Story and Photo by

**SGT. MIKE ALBERTS**

25th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER — The year he enlisted in the Army, President Richard Nixon resigned amidst the Watergate scandal, disco music and pet rocks were all the rage, and Hank Aaron broke Babe Ruth's Major League Baseball home run record. That was 1974.

Thirty-four years and several iterations of Army uniforms later, Chief Warrant Officer 5 Albert Taitano, aviation resource management survey team chief, U.S. Army-Pacific (USARPAC), was honored during his retirement ceremony at Fort Shafter's Palm Circle Gazebo.

Taitano joined the Army during the Vietnam conflict. He was subsequently appointed as Warrant Officer 1 and earned his aeronautical rating in 1983. Since then, he has held virtually every key Army aviation standardization position in his career field from the company to the Department of the Army level.

In addition to the presentation of the Presidential Certificate of Appreciation and Retirement Certificate, Taitano was inducted into the prestigious Order of St. Michael and was awarded the Legion of Merit decoration during the ceremony.

The Order of St. Michael recognizes individuals who have contributed significantly to the promotion of Army aviation in ways that stand out in the eyes of the recipient's seniors, subordinates and peers. The Legion of Merit is awarded for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and

**SEE TAITANO, A-12**

# Yama Sakura tests new Pacific command posts

**SGT. 1ST CLASS JASON SHEPHERD**

U.S. Army-Pacific Public Affairs

CAMP ASAKA, Japan — U.S. Army-Pacific (USARPAC) and the Japan Ground Self Defense Force (JGSDF) joined together for Exercise Yama Sakura 55, Dec. 7-13.

The exercise was considered as one of the most important bilateral exercises of the year for USARPAC.

This exercise has concentrated on the enhancement of the U.S. Army and JGSDF efforts in bilateral planning, coordination and interoperability since 1982.

Yama Sakura also has given the U.S. and Japan the opportunity to work as partners in support of the U.S.-Japan Security Alliance, and for continued peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

"Yama Sakura is important for USARPAC for two reasons," said Lt. Gen. Benjamin Mixon, commander, USARPAC. "It's the first exercise for the operational command post (OCP) and the main command post as the primary command and control headquarters. Secondly, it's important to our allies in the Japanese military."

Yama Sakura has four major training objectives: the exchange of ideas, techniques and military experience with the JGSDF; training a major U.S. OCP and ground forces to deploy at a moment's notice; exercise the JGSDF and USARPAC's capabilities in the defense of Japan; and to prepare USARPAC forces for combined, multinational and joint full spectrum operations.

"This is the best training that we have experienced as an OCP far and away," said Col. Sean Callahan, OCP-core element (OCP-CE) director. "The bilateral aspects of this exercise have added to the realism because it helps simulate the type of environment we would normally fight."

"For this being the first time doing this type of mission, I think the collaboration between the U.S. and the Japanese is great," added Sgt Maj. Luis Cruz, OCP-CE sergeant major. "The information flow is going both ways which makes for great training for both staffs."

U.S. Army-Alaska, 29th Infantry Division, 94th Army Air Missile Defense Command, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, 18th Medical Command and the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade are just a few of the units that helped to make Yama Sakura a success.

More than 1,300 U.S. service members were in Japan supporting the exercise, as



Sgt. 1st Class Roy Henry | Georgia National Guard 124th Military Public Affairs Detachment

Staff Sgt. Angel Luciano (right) of Headquarters Company, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, gets a lesson in calligraphy from Japanese Ground Self Defense Force Sgt. 1st Class Kazuku Harashima, at a cultural awareness event during the exercise.

well as several hundred in Hawaii.

Japan's Eastern Army played host to Yama Sakura. Both partners were able to learn each other's tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) and how to integrate as a command post in case of a real conflict in the future.

"This is the first time I've ever done an exercise like this," said Japanese Sgt. Noriko Shimoyama, signal branch. "At first I wasn't sure, but now I've learned how (the U.S. Army) works. Everything is new and interesting."

"Japan is one of our best allies in the Pacific," added Col. Oscar Hall, operational maneuver director, U.S. Army-Alaska. "It is a great honor to work with them on our TTPs. We're going forward and building something together."

Exercises like Yama Sakura provide the U.S.

and its allies the ability to train in peace to thwart those who prepare for and contemplate creating instability in the region.

In addition to the training, U.S. service

members hosted Japanese veterans of World War II for a day, and participated in several cultural awareness events, including a home visit where Japanese families hosted U.S. service members in their homes for a traditional Japanese meal.

"I think one of the greatest aspects of this is the personal relationships at both the senior and Soldier level," Hall said. "It's something to witness when a Soldier takes off his patch and trades it for a patch from his Japanese counterpart. That is soldiering at its finest."

"The Soldiers are doing a great job," Mixon said. "They are building good relationships with the Japanese and at the same time, perfecting our warfighting capability."

Yama Sakura is just one of the five bilateral exercises in which USARPAC and Japan participate.

Next year, USARPAC will be one of the major participants in exercises with the Japanese Defense Forces including Keen Edge, Northwind, Orient Shield and Rising Warrior.

Additionally, the 2009 Pacific Armies Management Seminar will be held in Tokyo.

All of these exercises and events are essential in enhancing the growing military partnership between the U.S. and Japan.

# Goal setting helps resolutions stick

KELLY L. FORYS

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

Lose weight, eat a better diet, exercise more, spend more time with family, pay off debt, quit smoking.

How many of us have made one or more resolutions like this, or have heard our friends and family members set similar goals on Jan. 1 of the new year? Then, how many of us have experienced the letdown that occurs after not being able to stick to the goal in February or March? It can be tough.

If you have found it difficult to stick to a resolution in the past, the problem might not be a lack of willpower. Rather, the goals that you set may not have been realistic or measurable. One of the most popular new year's resolutions is to lose weight. Losing weight can certainly improve health, and a resolution to do so can be a great motivator. However, following some simple guidelines when you create your resolution can greatly improve your success.

**1. Set a realistic goal.** If you have many things in your life that you would like to change, start by choosing one. Changing life behaviors is very difficult, and if you choose one behavior at a time, you will be better able to focus on and make progress toward achieving that goal. Also, the goal should be realistic. If you want to lose 50 pounds, don't expect to lose 10 pounds in the first week. Products on infomercials that promise huge weight loss are likely ineffective or can even be harmful.



**2. Set a specific goal.** A vague goal of losing weight is not helpful. In addition to being realistic, the goal should be specific. A goal of losing five pounds over the next two months is realistic and specific. Another approach is to set specific and measurable behavioral goals such as exercising three times per week or eating three servings of vegetables every day.

**3. Identify potential barriers.** Think of barriers to your goal and ways that you will overcome them. For example, your goal

might be to eat healthy foods while you are pulling night duty; however, a barrier might be that at that time of night, fast food restaurants are the only places to get food. Ask your fellow Soldiers to help you think of obstacles to your goal and solutions to work around those obstacles. Your fellow Soldiers might suggest that you stop at the deli and purchase a healthy sandwich before you report for night duty, so that you can eat that instead of going to a fast food restaurant. It may seem discouraging to think about the barriers that might prevent you from reaching your goals; however, if you are able to identify the barriers that might get in your way, you can plan how you will overcome them.

**4. Engage support from others.**

Don't underestimate the power of social support. Tell others what your goals are, and enlist their help if they are willing. For example, if your goal is to exercise more, ask your family members to go for a walk with you after dinner, or find a buddy or co-worker with whom you can exercise during lunch. If your existing support system isn't supporting you, look for groups to join that can help you reach your goal. You are probably not the only one trying to make a change for the new year.

After you have set a realistic and specific goal, identified potential barriers and gathered your support system, get started. Taking steps to reach your goal will motivate you to keep that resolution.

## News Briefs

From A-6

Commissary will close three hours earlier, Dec. 24, at 5 p.m., for the Christmas Eve holiday. The commissary will also be closed Dec. 25, 26 and Jan. 1.

Call 655-5066 for more information.

## January

### 12 / Monday

**Change in Government Vehicle Cards** – GSA, GSA Fleet and Department of Defense Fleet customers can no longer use the Voyager card as an acceptable form of payment at Army and Air Force Exchange (AAFES) gas facilities.

AAFES will not be equipped to accept the new Wright Express (WEX) cards until Jan. 12, 2009.

The "pay at the pump" system will be upgraded and ready to accept the new form of payment in fall 2009.

## 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.

**Crime Tips** – Community members can now submit anonymous crime tips to the military police via cell phone text messaging or online.

To submit a text message tip through your personal cell phone, send "TIP730" along with your tip information to the number "Crimes" (274637).

To submit a tip online, visit [www.militarycrimetips.com](http://www.militarycrimetips.com).

**Resale Lot Relocated** – The Resale Lot, located behind the Schofield Barracks Commissary, has relocated to the parking lot behind the post office.

The service is now free; however, authorized patrons must register with U.S. Army Garrison-Oahu.

Contact the Oahu North Community Director's Office, 655-0497/1252.

**Office Change** – The ID card operation center, Fort Shafter, was moved from the Aloha Center to Building 1599 (same building as Vehicle Registration), Funston Loop, Fort Shafter Flats.

Hours of operation are Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Call 438-1757.

# Flood: Offices, homes across USARHAW affected by rains

CONTINUED FROM A-1

Battalion/Director of Information Management (DOIM). "There was so much rain that the sump pumps couldn't keep up."

As of Wednesday, AT&T had 15 crews and water pumping trucks attempting to restore telephone services to government buildings on Schofield and Wheeler Army Airfield, Winterle said.

The flooding also caused six manholes on Schofield and five manholes on Wheeler to overflow, spilling approximately 90,000 gallons of raw sewage.

Approximately 81,000 gallons of partially treated wastewater overflowed at Schofield's Wastewater Treatment Plant.

In addition, nearly 675,000 gallons of partially treated wastewater was discharged into the Kaukonahu Stream from the plant's effluent discharge line.

"The storm drainage system on Schofield Barracks was not designed to handle that much water, said Modesto

Cordero, operations officer, Directorate of Public Works (DPW). "The storm drainage system will be studied to evaluate its capacity and condition."

DPW has begun repairing buildings and cleaning up after the water damage.

"Damaged buildings are currently being repaired to include mitigations to prevent future floodings, water extraction, dehumidifying, cleaning, disinfecting and sanitizing walls, floors and carpets," Cordero said.

DPW anticipates being done with repairs by the end of the year, but some may take longer depending on the scope of damage.

Due to flood damage at the bottom of the hill south of Lyman Gate, Kunia Road is estimated to be closed two to four months.

Some members of the Army Hawaii team worked throughout the storm to keep damages and injuries to a minimum.

"The real credit needs to go to the



Courtesy Photo

Waters reached heights of seven feet in places on Schofield Barracks.

military policemen all over the island who were out in the rain directing traffic at intersections, manning traffic control points and helping people," said Master Sgt. Gregory West, operations sergeant, Directorate of Emergency Services (DES).

"The people who manned the (emergency operations center) worked around-

the-clock coordinating issues also deserve a lot of credit," West added.

Some waters reached heights of seven feet in spots and several families needed to be rescued from the rising waters, according to Fred Makinney, operations officer, DES.

One person the MPs helped was Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation

Wheeler Saddle Club Stable Manager, Christina MacMiller, who needed to get to the stables to ensure the animals' safety.

"Basically, there was a 50-foot river with a 30-foot waterfall at the end that washed out the main road to the stables," MacMiller said. "I saw some MPs getting set up in their big vehicles and I asked if they could help."

After getting stuck in a light medium tactical vehicle (LMTV), the group backed up and found another route to the stables. MacMiller ended up walking a half mile to the stables and found the horses were fine and the stalls dry but the stables full of mud.

Currently, only trucks can access the stables according to MacMiller, and they have begun the process of cleaning up the mud.

"Now that I look at the road dry I'm glad we didn't make it through the front way," MacMiller said. "On both sides of the road there is a 20-foot drop down. We would have been swept away."



Soldiers from the 27th Infantry Regiment, along with family members, wrapped numerous gifts to be sent to Japan this holiday season. Through donations from the Soldiers and community, smiles will be seen from the faces of many children at the Holy Family Home in Osaka.

## Cheer: Tradition started after WWII

CONTINUED FROM A-1

the regiment to aid the young orphans. A Christmas visit to the orphanage came two years later as part of a Red Cross outreach mission. Gradually, the Wolfhounds came to adopt the orphanage.

Through the community support and dedication of the Soldiers, the relationship continued to prosper.

In 1957, a new tradition started as children were invited to Hawaii to spend a few weeks with the Wolfhounds. Each year, children and their escorts stay with a volunteer family to experience military life and

catch a glimpse of the aloha spirit.

“These traditions help strengthen the long friendship between the regiment and the Holy Family Home,” said Capt. Greg Luttmann, rear detachment executive officer, 2-27th Inf. Regt.

From infants to high school students, all children residing at the Holy Family Home will enjoy a Merry Christmas through the support of the Wolfhounds.

“All we want is for the hopes and dreams of these children to come true,” said Luttmann. “And it starts with the bond and display of brotherhood between two different cultures.”

## Quads: Holidays about giving

CONTINUED FROM A-1

discussed ways he could help out.

“(Belinda is) a registered nurse and her husband’s an E-6 in the military, but I know one child is difficult financially,” said Williams, whose wife, Angel, gave birth to their fourth child, Noah, in July. “Four kids at one time is a big burden.”

Belinda Garza-Smock said she and her husband had planned for a child and were financially prepared to have a baby.

“But four at once is just too much,” she said.

“We’ve set up an angel tree that has a list of things the family said they needed,” said Williams. “So far we’ve had a huge success. Some bought gift cards, and some took the angels off the tree to buy presents themselves. This starts the year off right for the family.”

Ragragola, operations systems administrator, said she is doing the shopping for members of the 599th who either do not have the time or do not enjoy it.

“I love to shop,” Ragragola said, “and some of the guys don’t know where to buy things, so it’s fun for me.”

“Soldiers want to help other Soldiers when they need it,” said Williams. “Then they can help someone else when they are able to. That’s how it’s supposed to work.”

Garza-Smock said she was not sure when she could plan to go back to work as a registered nurse.

“Child care is so expensive. Even on base, it’s \$500

a month per child, so the four of them would be \$2,000.

“I finished my bachelor’s two weeks ago. I’d planned to go into a master’s program. But God has his own plan. It’s as if he said, ‘I want to bless you with four babies.’

“They are blessings,” she added, smiling at the quadruplets.

For now, Garza-Smock’s time is taken up by changing, feeding, cleaning, burping and trying to get the babies to sleep. She said the quads go through about 32 bottles and 40-50 diapers a day.

“I try to wake up before the babies, to get an early start on the day.”

Smock and Garza-Smock said they are also very thankful to the 307th Signal Battalion’s C Co.

“They have supported us from day one,” Garza-Smock said, “and they are still giving us great support.”

Van Vleet said she is happy with the 599th’s effort to give during the holiday season.

“It’s nice to give at Christmas. It should make your heart feel good,” Van Vleet said. “That’s what Christmas is all about.”

LaCoss agreed, saying he hopes the 599th will continue the tradition in coming years.

“Last year we sponsored a family with triplets, and this year we have quadruplets. I don’t know; I guess next year we’ll be looking for quintuplets,” he said, laughing.

# Taitano: Warrant officer believes in following standard

CONTINUED FROM A-8

achievements and is one of only two U.S. decorations to be issued as a neck order, the other being the Medal of Honor.

Taitano was privileged to have Lt. Gen. Benjamin Mixon, commanding general, USARPAC, present him with the Legion of Merit. Mixon was one of many leaders whom Taitano impressed.

"As an officer coming up throughout my career, I have had the distinct pleasure of serving in a lot of units supported by Army aviation," said Mixon. "I have seen a lot of great warrant officers of all grades and, without a doubt, this particular warrant officer here is as good as any I have ever seen. He typifies that quiet professional we all talk about. He just gets the job done and he gets the job done better than anyone I have ever seen."

Taitano attributed his success, in part, to one incident in particular that helped shape his purpose throughout his Army career.

"When I was a (warrant officer 1) there was a midair collision between two air-



Chief Warrant Officer 5 Albert Taitano, Aviation Resource Management Survey Team chief, U.S. Army-Pacific, recounts the many things that have changed in the Army since his enlistment in 1974 during his retirement ceremony at the Palm Circle Gazebo, Fort Shafter, recently.

craft," recalled Taitano. "I told myself then that that will never happen on my watch. I committed myself to ensuring

that flight regulations were followed. And to this day, I am most proud to say that I have never lost an aircraft or crew

member or had an accident, except in combat."

Taitano prided himself on simply doing things the right way. Among those who worked closely with Taitano and appreciated his commitment to standards was Col. A. Thomas (A.T.) Ball Jr., chief of staff, USARPAC.

Ball witnessed Taitano's professionalism firsthand. Taitano served under Ball as the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade's standardization officer during the unit's deployment to Iraq from 2006-2008.

For Ball, Taitano's impact on Army aviation could not be overstated.

"Throughout his sterling career, he has had the awesome responsibility to ensure that our air crew members are qualified and standardized for their missions across the full spectrum of military operations," said Ball. "Al personally has been the torch bearer for Army aviation standardization for more than 20 years and remains the expert in training aviation units for deployments and in the exercise arena."

"When it comes to any type of aviation

regulation or policy you can bet Al had a hand in crafting it. Army Regulation 95-1, (The Aircrew Training Program, Commander's Guide to Individual Crew and Collective Training), and the UH-60 Aircrew Training Manual all bear his personal imprint," Ball continued. "And these are not abstractions; these documents are key and essential in how we operate day-to-day. We simply couldn't do what we do without contributions from Al and guys like Al."

Of course, much has changed in the Army since Taitano enlisted. He recounted many of them during the ceremony. But he made a special point to emphasize something that hasn't changed, something that marked his stellar career – the necessity of simply doing things the right way.

"There are a lot of publications printed and not read," he said. "My advice for any Soldier is and has always been to follow the standards, read the publications that apply to your job. Accidents occur when people go out of standard."

## Brostrom: Aiea native a 'hero among heroes'

CONTINUED FROM A-1

lap pool, children's sand pool and spray park.

It's the first of just two family Army Hawaii Family Housing community centers that will have a pool.

"It dawned on me as I looked around the significance of this place as it pertains to most of the life of Jon," said Lt. Gen. Benjamin Mixon, commanding general, U.S. Army-Pacific.

"Take a moment as you look out in the distance," Mixon said. "You see the water, the ocean, the land and it's beauty, and what it will mean for Soldiers and families for years to come – what a great tribute to a Soldier and son."

Brostrom worked as a lifeguard in Pearl Harbor for Navy Morale,

Welfare and Recreation while he was in high school and later college, which makes the center fitting for his dedication.

"Jon made the ultimate sacrifice for his country and his fellow Soldiers. He was on the front lines of the war on terrorism defending our freedoms that we all enjoy today and that all will enjoy who come to this site. He is a true hero among heroes," Mixon said.

The community center will provide an environment to make friends and take care of the military community.

The symbolic pulling of the ribbon and the opening of the doors ensured the memory of Brostrom will never be forgotten, and that taking care of Soldiers will continue for years to come.

## Reintegration: Communication is key

CONTINUED FROM A-1

many personalized briefings.

Psychiatrist William Pettit, West Virginia University, spoke with a soft kind voice during "The Secret of Hope and Health" briefing and asked family members what questions and concerns they had for their Soldiers.

Many spouses stressed the importance of communication, and asked questions on how to safeguard children from the stress they feel, and for tips on uniting with their Soldier.

Pettit explained the idea of understanding one's self and the natural feelings that come along with living in a stressful environment.

"Our experiences are not caused by external circumstances," said Pettit. "You have the power to control those thoughts by not giving them power."

Pettit explained how to find the ability to keep a peaceful feeling despite the challenges many family members face.

"This is the key to parenting, relationships and being a good Soldier," said Pettit.

The next briefing led family members on

a quest to answer questions on expectations.

"Just like you, your Soldier has expectations for their return," said Sandy Crocker, mobilization and deployment specialist, Army Community Service (ACS). "But the one thing about expectations is you have to be flexible."

Crocker explained the length of deployment could harden the transition, stating many family members experience the habit of not having their Soldier present in their life.

"There is no magic wand, but there are techniques to ease the transition," said Crocker.

Crocker explained effective ways to communicate, engaged the participants in a group discussion, and presented possible scenarios of returning Soldiers and the impact it will have on daily life.

"It's going to be hard for me and my child when my husband returns," said Keri Coulson, family member. "This is helpful in understanding what we all may go through."

Hank Cashen, senior prevention specialist, ACS, and psychiatrist Capt. Kathy Kolacki,

TAMC, provided a wealth of information regarding post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain disorder, including symptoms and various stress-management strategies.

"These symptoms are very common for someone who has experienced a traumatic event," said Kolacki. "We want the family members to understand what the Soldier has gone through and the reactions they may experience because of it."

The program also offered child-specific classes, as well as classes aimed to tackle financial issues, issues of transition and building social networks.

The extensive program allowed family members to experience all classes available, or set their own schedule to focus on specialized areas.

"We all understand what (family members) are going through," said Godinez. "But no reaction is the same and it is important to take steps to prepare for these scenarios."

"It's more than the techniques, but an understanding for both Soldier and spouse," he said.

# HAWAII **ARMY** WEEKLY

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

"When work is finished!"

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2008



## Hale Koa

has something for everyone



Jodi Uesugi dances the Hula at the Experience Aloha cocktail show at the Hale Koa Hotel.

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



Renovations and new rooms are scheduled to be completed in February.



Pools are open to all U.S. armed services personnel.

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

Nohelani Cypriano, star of the Experience Aloha cocktail show, sings at the Hale Koa Hotel.

**KYLE FORD**  
News Editor

WAIKIKI – Soldiers and family members looking for a night out on the town needn't look any further than the Hale Koa Hotel.

The hotel is not just for vacationers and it offers a wide variety of entertainment options for everyone from the single Soldier to couples and children in every price range.

People who want to spend the day at the beach can take advantage of the discounted parking for military members at the Hale Koa garage, just remember to bring your identification card.

Many people park at the Hale Koa and walk down the avenue to Waikiki beaches, according to Todd Yorimoto, marketing specialist, Hale Koa Hotel.

Rather than making the Hale Koa a rest stop, the staff at the Hale Koa work hard to ensure the military resort is a destination for visitors and those stationed in Hawaii.

"There's so much to do here you wouldn't have to leave the hotel grounds if you didn't want to," said John Bush, a retired Navy service member.

"You don't need to stay at the hotel visit the bars, lounges and restaurants," Yorimoto said.

The pool, parking lot, beaches and live shows are available to military members and government workers. Armed services members can take in the free entertainment nightly at the Barefoot Bar, with a live band at the beach.

The Hale Koa Luau on Monday and Thursday evenings is widely attended and has a diverse menu of Hawaiian

### Upcoming Events at the Hale Koa Hotel

#### Dec. 24

- An Island Christmas Candlelight Dinner with Nohelani Cypriano, 6 p.m., Hale Koa Luau Garden.
- An evening of song and dance showcasing the vocal talents of Nohelani Cypriano, one of Hawaii's top recording artists, as she shares a little bit of Christmas island style. A dinner is included to complete this festive evening. Adults \$59.95, children under 12 years, \$34.95 inclusive.

#### Dec. 25

- A Christmas day buffet is 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Banyan Tree Showroom in the Hale Koa Hotel. The chef prepares a bountiful buffet with popular local and continental favorites. Adults \$38.50, children under 12, \$22 inclusive.

#### Dec. 31

- New Year's Eve Gala, 7 p.m. in the Banyan Tree showroom. Enjoy music, dancing and a special toast at midnight. A sit down dinner starts off the evening and then the party begins. Tickets are \$89 inclusive.
- New Year's Eve beach party
- A New Year's Eve Beach Party is at the Barefoot bar at 10:30 p.m. Welcome in 2009

as you dance the evening away with one of Hawaii's hottest DJs spinning great tunes all evening long. Cover charge \$12.

#### Weekly entertainment

- The Hale Koa Luau is Monday and Thursday evenings at 5 p.m. in the Hale Koa Luau garden. Adults \$49.50, children under 12, \$29.50 inclusive.
- Magic in Paradise buffet dinner show is Tuesdays at 6 p.m. in the Banyan Tree Showroom. Cost is \$35.95 for adults and \$22.95 for children under 12 years of age.
- Experience Aloha with Nohelani Cypriano, cocktail show is Wednesdays, at 6:45 p.m. in the Banyan Tree Showroom. This upbeat musical experience showcases everyone's favorite music from hula, to jazz a little bit of country and good old rock and roll in a unique stage show that will keep you dancing throughout the night. On special cocktail is included. Cost is \$29.95 for adults and \$12.95 for children under 12.

Tickets can be purchased by mail, fax or online at [www.halekoa.com](http://www.halekoa.com). For more information, call the activities desk at 955-0555.

and American dishes.

The Magic in Paradise show on Tuesdays is popular with families as a night out, according to Yorimoto.

"We loved the magic show," said

Ann Bush, who had been planning on coming to Hawaii for years. "It was great how it was a family show."

"There is always something going on at the Warriors Lounge, with

nightly, live entertainment," said Yorimoto. "Many Soldiers begin their evening at the Hale Koa before moving on to the clubs in Waikiki."

The newest show is the Experience

Aloha show on Wednesday evenings, a Hawaiian variety show, of hula, jazz, country and rock and roll with a lot of Hawaiian musical influence.

Not only are the performances family friendly, they are also presented by performers who have worked at the Hale Koa a number of years. Nohelani Cypriano remembers her mother running the luau when she was a little girl.



For more information, visit [www.halekoa.com](http://www.halekoa.com).

"Now I've come full circle," Cypriano said. "It's great having the freedom to create and be artistic, I love doing the variety shows taking a little of this and a little of that. And spreading a little aloha from the islands to the world."

People come from all over the world to visit Hawaii and stay at the Hale Koa Hotel. At the Experience Aloha show, recently, there were guests from Sweden, Chile, Japan and several dozen states. With the hotel being so popular, it can be hard to get a room.

"The biggest comment we hear is the Hale Koa is always booked," said Yorimoto. "While that's a great problem for us to have it's also tough to tell people that we don't have room. However, as booked as we are, there's always a possibility of getting a room for a night. Plus, if you're flexible, the reservations staff will work their best to get you into the hotel."



**19 / Today**

**Holiday Facility Hours** – A number of FMWR facilities will be operating under shortened holiday hours during the weeks between Monday, Dec. 22 and Friday, Jan. 2. Schofield's Martinez Physical Fitness Center and Fort Shafter's Physical Fitness Center will be open Dec. 26, from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. The Tropics, Schofield Barracks, will be open Dec. 26, from 9 a.m.-10 p.m. The full schedule of operating hours is available on [www.mwrrarmyhawaii.com](http://www.mwrrarmyhawaii.com).

**Breastfeeding Basics** – Breastfeeding Basics will be offered today, 9-11 a.m., at Sgt. Yano Library, Schofield Barracks. Learn about getting started with breastfeeding, overcoming challenges, and the importance of breastfeeding for your baby. Call 655-4227.

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

Come celebrate another month of deployment, today, 6-8 p.m., at the Nehelani. The event will feature our holiday version of Jeopardy, with a festive twist. Light pupus and child care will be provided. Call 656-3327.

**Family Fun Fridays** – Family Fun Friday is back at the Tropics, today, at 6 p.m. Enjoy food and drink specials, video games, table games, volleyball and the chance to just get out of the house and socialize for awhile. Call 655-5697.

**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 Soldier 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.



Staff Sgt. Henry Moran (left) and Sgt. Charles Jones, both assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, test a young girl in one of three visual acuity tests at St. John's Catholic Preschool in Mililani. The unit participated in the Mililani Lions Club's basic vision screening program to conduct tests at several Mililani preschools over the past two months.

# 25th CAB partners with Lions Club

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

MILILANI – Soldiers of the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB) recently partnered with the Mililani Lions Club to conduct basic vision screening at several Mililani preschools over the past two months.

In 1925, Hellen Keller, who among other accomplishments was the first deaf-blind person to complete college, charged the Lions organization at its international

convention to foster and sponsor the work of the American Foundation for the Blind, to help hasten the day when there would be no preventable blindness. From then on, the principal mission of Lions Clubs worldwide has been to combat blindness.

This year, the Mililani Lions Club reinitiated its basic vision screening program at eight Mililani preschools. Vision disorders are the fourth most prevalent cause of disability in the U.S., and the most dominant handicapping condition in childhood. According to Winston Watarai, presi-

dent, Mililani Lions Club, selecting a young demographic for the vision screening program was no accident.

"We chose preschool children ages four and five because we wanted to help children in early childhood and also did not want to duplicate the efforts of Rotarians, who are doing vision screening for older children," said Watarai.

"In addition, I believe that certain self-esteem problems develop if vision problems are not caught early. Not being able to

**SEE LIONS, B-4**

## Ongoing

**Island Tour** – Want to discover Oahu? A free island tour, designed to familiarize all newly arrived Soldiers and family members, is held every Tuesday, and the second and fourth Wednesday of the month, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

The tour will orient you to the Hawaiian culture and customs, language, installation and various points of interests. Tuesday tours depart from Schofield Barracks and Wednesday tours depart from Fort Shafter. Call Army Community Service office at 655-4ACS (4227) for reservations. Seating is limited.

**Mobilization and Deployment Workshops** – Army Community Service (ACS) and Military Family Life Consultants offer Child and Parent group workshops at Aliamanu Military Reservation (AMR) and at Helemano Military Reservation (HMR). Meet other parents and children and participate

in workshops every Tuesday and Wednesday, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

At least one parent must attend with their child. No long-term commitment is required. You and your child may join a group or stop at anytime. Nine ongoing workshops will cover topics like conflict resolution, communication and stress management, deployment and reunion.

The first and third Tuesdays are for ages 16-18; second and fourth Tuesdays, ages 10-12. The first and third Wednesdays are for ages 13-15. The second and fourth Wednesdays are for ages 7-9.

Call AMR 366-9121 or HMR 366-7482.

**Thrift Shop Hours** – The Fort Shafter Thrift Shop is open Thursdays, 2-6 p.m. The store will not be open Nov. 27 (Thanksgiving) and from Dec. 22-Jan. 2. It will reopen Jan. 6. Call 842-1074.

The Thrift Shop is located at 342 Pierce St.; just follow the brown signs past the Post Exchange Market, Post Office, Vet Clinic and Housing Office. Call 842-1074.

**Classes Available by Request** – Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault Awareness and Child Abuse classes are available upon request. Call 655-0596/4779.

**Karaoke** – Karaoke is now available at the Tropics Recreation Center, Schofield Barracks, every Tuesday, 5-8 p.m. Warm up your pipes and let your inner idol shine. Not a singer? Not to worry-you can still stop by and enjoy the show and drink and food specials. Call 655-0002.

**Babysitting Classes** – Babysitting classes for youth at least 11 years and 9 months old and CPR/first aid classes for youth at least 12 years and 9 months old are available free of charge for all Child, Youth and School Services (CYS2) members. Classes are held regularly at Schofield Barracks and Aliamanu Military Reservation (AMR). Registration is available at Building 556 on Schofield Barracks or Building 1783 at AMR. Call 655-9818.

## Community Calendar

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

**19 / Today**

**Holiday Lighting** – U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Commander, Col. Matthew Margotta, issued a holiday lighting memorandum stating holiday lights on installation housing may be turned on between 6-10 p.m. Lights should not be left on outside of those hours to conserve energy.

The memo can be viewed online at [www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil](http://www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil) (click on USAG-HI Policies on the left). Additional housing policies on holiday lighting and ornamental displays can be found online [www.armyhawaiifamilyhousing.com](http://www.armyhawaiifamilyhousing.com) (click on Current Resident and then Resident Resources).

**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.campderman.net](http://www.campderman.net) or call 637-4615.

**Holiday Boat Tours** – The U.S. Navy and National Park Service offers free holiday boat tours, today, Dec. 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.

**The Religious Support Office will offer the following holiday services:**

- Aliamanu Military Reservation (AMR) Chapel  
Dec. 21, 12:15 p.m., Ecumenical Christmas Service  
Dec. 24, 4:30 p.m., Keiki Christmas Pageant  
Dec. 24, 5 p.m., Christmas Eve Mass  
Dec. 25, 9 a.m., Christmas Day Mass  
Jan. 1, 4 p.m., New Year's Mass

- Main Post Chapel (Schofield Barracks)  
Dec. 24, 4:30 p.m., Children's Christmas Mass  
Dec. 24, 6:30 p.m., Candle Light Service and Cantata  
Dec. 25, 10:30 a.m., Christmas Mass  
Dec. 31, 10 p.m., Watch Night Service  
Jan. 1, 10:30 a.m., Mass for Mary

- Fort DeRussy Chapel (near the Hale Koa Hotel, Waikiki)  
Dec. 24, 5 p.m., Christmas Eve Service  
Dec. 24, 7:30 p.m., Catholic Christmas Eve Mass

- Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC) Chapel  
Dec. 24, 5 p.m., Christmas Eve Mass  
Dec. 24, 7 p.m., Candle Light Service  
Dec. 25, 11 a.m., Catholic Christmas Mass  
Jan. 1, 11 a.m., New Year's Mass

- Fort Shafter Religious Activity Center (Building 344)  
Dec. 24, 6 p.m., Christmas Eve Service

- Wheeler Chapel (Wheeler Army Airfield)  
Dec. 24, 10 p.m., Christmas Vigil Mass  
Dec. 31, 5 p.m., Vigil Mass for Mary

- Helemano Military Reservation (HMR) Chapel  
Dec. 21, 6:30 p.m., Christmas Cantata

Call the Religious Support Office at 655-9355 for more information.

**23 / Tuesday**

**Prayer Time** – Prayer time will be held every Tuesday, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at Schofield's Main Post Chapel sanctuary. Prayer focus sheets with instructions and the names of deployed Soldiers will be available each week. Call 655-9355.

**Whale Watching Cruises** – The Star of Honolulu offers 2.5-hour whale watching cruises, daily, through April 30. Tickets are \$39 for adults and \$23.50 for children. Kamaaina and military discounts are available. Visit [www.starofhonolulu.com](http://www.starofhonolulu.com) or call 983-STAR (7827).

**30 / Tuesday**

**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 date is Dec. 30.

To reserve your seat, contact Battalion Chief David Jimenez at 471-3303, ext. 632, or e-mail [david.d.jimenez@navy.mil](mailto:david.d.jimenez@navy.mil).

**31 / Wednesday**

**New Year's Eve Cruise** – Celebrate

New Year's Eve aboard the Star of Honolulu. Enjoy spectacular views of the fireworks at Aloha Tower Marketplace and along the Waikiki coastline, along with a "champagne" toast, special party favor, delicious dinner, live entertainment and dancing into 2009. The cruise departs at 10:45 p.m. and returns at 12:45 a.m.

Cost is \$150 and up, with kamaaina/military tickets from \$113.76. Visit [www.starofhonolulu.com](http://www.starofhonolulu.com) or call 983-STAR (7827).

## Ongoing

**Honolulu City Lights** – The City and County of Honolulu will continue its monthlong celebration, now in its 24th year. This year's theme, Kuu Home, or "our home," highlights Honolulu, a place where diverse cultures intertwine and where history blends.

Hundreds of thousands of people visit the Honolulu Hale (City Hall) and Civic Center grounds to view the City Employee's Christmas Tree Exhibit, wreath displays, gingerbread houses, strolling musicians and other entertainment and nightly visits from Santa. Visit [www.honolulu.gov/csd/citylights](http://www.honolulu.gov/csd/citylights).



**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, 11 a.m. – Sunday School (Sept. – June only)

**Fort DeRussy Chapel 836-4599**

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

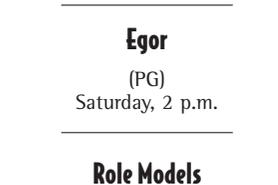
## This Week at the MOVIES Sgt. Smith Theater

Call 624-2585 for movie listings or go to [aafes.com](http://aafes.com) under reeltime movie listing.



**Saw V**

(R)  
Friday, 7 p.m.



**Egor**

(PG)  
Saturday, 2 p.m.



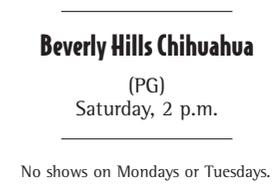
**Role Models**

(R)  
Saturday, 7 p.m.



**Charlotte's Web**

(G)  
Friday, 7 p.m.



**Beverly Hills Chihuahua**

(PG)  
Saturday, 2 p.m.

No shows on Mondays or Tuesdays.

# 'Lunch with Soldiers' a big hit at Waialua Elementary

**SGT. JENNIFER PREMIER**  
45th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

WAIALUA — For many Soldiers, lunch is usually a routine of fast food, cat naps or catching up on work. For others, however, lunch is a time to learn, bond and share experiences within the local community.

Earlier this month, Soldiers of the 57th Military Police (MP) Company made the trek to at Waialua Elementary School to participate in the first "Lunch with Soldiers," a biweekly event that provides an opportunity for Soldiers and students to share a meal while strengthening community ties.

Students who eat lunch with the Soldiers are chosen based on their grades and classroom participation.

"It's a great incentive for the children. They work harder in class for the chance to spend time with us," said Sgt. Jorie Miller, a squad leader with the company who has attended other events at the school.

The relationship is part of 25th Infantry Division's School Partnership Program that goes back to the mid 1980s. Through the program, Soldiers give their time to assist schools with whatever they need and, in turn, individuals gain exposure to the local community.

"(The partnership program) is important because it breaks the ice between the military personnel and the community," said 1st Lt. Kelly Elwood, platoon leader, 57th MP Co., who is in charge of the partnership with the school. "It makes the military personal to (the students), and they remember the Soldiers that see them, read to them and play with them."

Soldiers of the 57th MP Co. also make a point to become more acquainted with the families and faculty, as well as the children. But at the end of the day, it's not only the local community who benefits from the partnership.

"I love working with the children and seeing their faces light up when we arrive," said Miller. "Working with the children is a real enlightening thing."

"I don't have children of my own, so visiting the school is a special thing for me," said Elwood.

Last month, Soldiers organized and participated in "Make a Difference Day," where 26 members of 3rd platoon donated their time and energy to paint, plant and set up classrooms.

"It's vital to the company because it gets Soldiers out and gives them a chance to give back to the surrounding areas," said Elwood. "Every event we've had so



Photos Courtesy of 57th Military Police Company

Pfc. Joseph Merritt plays tag with students during a visit to Waialua Elementary School.

far has had outstanding participation from the Soldiers, many asking if they can come to the next event when it comes around."

So the next time you find yourself

eating a hamburger or lounging around during lunch, think of ways that you can get involved with the community and possibly make a difference in the life of a child.



1st Lt. Kelly Elwood, platoon leader with 57th Military Police Company, gives a piggyback ride to a student at Waialua Elementary School.

# 209th ASB shares reading time with Kipapa Elementary students

Story and Photo by  
**STAFF SGT. TYRONE C. MARSHALL JR.**  
25th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs

WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD — Reading is one of the most important components in the success of a child's educational experience since it promotes literacy, language skills and reading comprehension.

Reading aloud is further beneficial to children, which is exactly what Soldiers from the 209th Aviation Support Battalion (ASB) did, recently.

In partnership with Kipapa Elementary School staff, 209th ASB Soldiers spent a day interacting with students and continued to build bonds between Schofield Barracks and the local community.

With a Christmas-themed backdrop, 30 Soldiers read stories to students in grades ranging from kindergarten to fifth grade. Some readers wore colorful Santa Claus or elf hats with their uniforms to give their classes a jovial feel.

"It was fun reading to the kids and interacting with them," said Sgt. Lakisha Long, B Company, 209th ASB. "I really liked it, and I felt like they were entertained and listened well."

As volunteer readers spread throughout the school,



A student escorts Sgt. Lakisha Long, B Co., 209th Aviation Support Battalion (ASB), to a classroom at Kipapa Elementary in Mililani. Long and other 209th ASB Soldiers read stories to students, Dec. 4.

small huddles of children sat at their feet as they read story after story, and in some cases, book after book, to the delight students.

Pfc. Jessica Raby, Headquarters Support Company, 209th ASB, used the opportunity to further her passion to be a teacher.

"Spending time with the kids was definitely a lot of fun," she said with a smile. "I've always thought I was good at explaining things ... but I've never had to put it to practice. This actually gave me a chance to stand in front of people and see if I could hold their attention."

"I engaged the kids — they helped each other read; they read aloud to each other; they read to me; they recounted the story and I definitely think that's because they were engaged (in the reading)."

Although the ability to read is an integral part of a child's intellectual development, Valerie Broussard, Kipapa Elementary School's Parent Community Networking Center facilitator, stressed the importance of reading aloud.

"They see how important reading is. They feel if the Soldiers are so busy and they take the time to come to my class and read to me, then reading is an essential part."

Second Lt. Veronica Carter, C Co., 209th ASB, agreed, and shared what she discussed as she read to her fifth grade class.

"I try to reiterate that when I talk to them," Carter said. "A lot of times they just see us come in uniform and their impressed. But it's not just uniforms. You're a normal person that has to do something to get where you're at."

With both children and adults alike enjoying the experience, everyone seemed to recognize the importance of the partnership between 209th ASB and Kipapa Elementary School.

"I think it's rewarding for the children to have the Soldiers come in and read them a story. Everybody loves to have a story read to them no matter what their age is," said Broussard. "The teachers love having the participation of the military partnership, and I think the Soldiers enjoy that little bit of down time when they can go in and enjoy the company of a five, six or seven-year old."

"It is important that the Army put its best foot forward with the community," said Capt. Mark Dudley, commander, HSC, 209th ASB. "The best way that I think you can do that is getting out there and getting involved especially with the school. Show kids, at a very young age, that the military is a very positive force. I think it really gave them a good impression of the military," Dudley said.

# Lions: Children and Soldiers benefit from community partnership

CONTINUED FROM B-2

see impacts a child's ability to learn which can make life challenging."

But the Mililani Lions Club couldn't initiate the endeavor without volunteer assistance. That's where the 25th CAB pitched in to help.

Watarai said he learned that the brigade frequently participates in Mililani community events during the 25th CAB's Open House, July 2. A couple of phone calls later, Watarai had his volunteers.

"When it was decided that this program was one that we would support, we jumped right in to help," said Sgt. Maj. Timothy Wagley, operations sergeant major, 25th CAB.

Wagley attended the initial training with the Lions Club and in turn trained Soldiers who were later tasked to conduct the screenings. Soldiers manned screening stations with Lions Club members where they administered vision tests that evaluated each child's vision.

Two Soldiers who participated were Sgt. Charles Jones and Staff Sgt. Jason Ignacio, both training noncommissioned officers assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 25th CAB.

"I'm always up to volunteer and to try and show a good image of the military," said Jones. "And it's just good helping kids. I have kids of my own and know that vision problems can cause other problems as you get older."

Ignacio also has a young child and was equally eager to help.

"Not only is it fun to work with kids, but I think it's important," said Ignacio. "Interacting in the community gives people an idea of what we do. I also believe that it helps put the Army in a good light in the minds of these children, and maybe, when they look back on it, they see the Army as positive."

Maj. John Herrman, Fire and Ef-

fects Coordination Cell officer-in-charge, 25th CAB, oversees the brigade's community relation program. For Herrman, volunteering in the community is a critical piece to the brigade's mission at home and at war.

"Many of our Soldiers are no strangers to the neighboring communities as this is where they live, shop, play and learn; the neighboring communities are part of our ohana," said Herrman. "We as an Army unit cannot deploy unless our families are cared for back at home, and the neighboring communities are an important reason for our success. Therefore, when a great organization like the Lions Club asks for help on a great program, we did not hesitate."

According to Herrman, 42 Soldiers with the 25th CAB assisted in the screening events, logging 126 volunteer hours.

Mark Despault, a longtime member, former president of the club, and retired sergeant major, can appreciate firsthand the value of having Soldiers involved in the vision screening program.

"For the Soldiers, volunteering in these things broadens their perspective," said Despault. "As far as our Mililani community, people that have never been in the military don't know much about Soldiers other than what they see on the news. Events and opportunities like this one give the community a different look at their military, one that doesn't involve combat operations."

More than 300 children were tested at eight Mililani preschools during the volunteer group's efforts. The Lions Club estimated that somewhere between 15 and 20 percent of those tested will get referrals, which means their parent will be notified that a vision problem was identified, and each parent is encouraged to have the child visit an optometrist.



Runners near a water point during the Satellite Honolulu Marathon at Camp Taji, northwest of Baghdad, Sunday. Approximately 160 runners participated in the race, which was sponsored by the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team.

## Distance doesn't stop deployed runners

Story and Photos by  
**MAJ. AL HING**  
2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — Approximately 160 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and civilians braved the chilly morning air, Sunday, to run the Satellite Honolulu Marathon in Iraq.

The 26.2-mile course weaved its way through the camp's roads, and at some points challenged runners' mental toughness.

After a little more than three hours, the first runner crossed the finish line.

Maj. Kurt Kinney, battalion surgeon, 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, "Gimlets," 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SCBT), finished first with a time of 3:04:02. The top female finisher, Spc. Navidad Caldron, who serves with A Company, 404th Aviation Support Battalion, 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, crossed the finish line with a time of 3:15:46.

"I've run a few other marathons, but this is the first I've won and the first here in Iraq," said Kinney. "I've run the Boston Marathon six times, and the Honolulu Marathon twice (in Hawaii), but to be here with our Soldiers and to win is really special."

Organizer for the marathon, 1st Lt. Clayton Cole, an officer assigned to 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment, is an avid runner, but gave up the opportunity to run so he could focus on executing the event.

"This took a lot of effort with a lot of help, but it's a great thing for the Soldiers to be able to run and just step away from their normal missions. We wanted to give the Soldiers goals to keep them running."



Maj. Kurt Kinney finishes the Satellite Honolulu Marathon in a time of 3:04:02, Sunday. The satellite marathon was run 8,000 miles away and 12 hours ahead of the Honolulu Marathon.

Cole said he received support from Hawaii, as well.

"With the help of (Hawaii) Governor (Linda) Lingle and the Honolulu Marathon guys (in Hawaii), we got support that reaches over 8,000 miles," said Cole.

Help from service members and civilians who volunteered was invaluable, Cole said. Those individuals set up and manned water and food stations to keep runners hydrated and their energy levels high.

One of the runners, Lt. Col. Mark Collins, battalion commander, 225th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd SBCT, had a different form of motivation as he pushed through cramps and mental challenges. His wife ran in the marathon in Honolulu the same day.

"Starting around mile 13, I really started to cramp in my legs bad, but I kept going," said Collins. "At mile 20, the only thing that kept me going was thinking of my wife, and knowing that she would be running today."



### 19 / Today

**Holiday Facility Hours** — A number of FMWR facilities will be operating under shortened holiday hours during the weeks between Monday, Dec. 22, and Friday, Jan. 2.

Schofield's Martinez Physical Fitness Center and Fort Shafter's Fitness Center will be open Dec. 26, from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. The Tropics, Schofield Barracks, will be open Dec. 26, from 9 a.m.-10 p.m.

The full schedule of operating hours is available on [www.mwrmilitaryhawaii.com](http://www.mwrmilitaryhawaii.com).

**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.

### 20 / Saturday

**Stand-Up Paddling** — Another session of this newest craze will be taking place Saturday, Dec. 20, 9 a.m.-noon.

As an added bonus, transportation will be available from both Fort Shafter and Schofield Barracks for this special session.



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

### 21 / Sunday

**Hike Oahu** — Join the Hawaiian Trail & Mountain Club on a hike through the Tantalus Ridge.

This hike's forte is variety. We'll hike along a contoured trail, descend a ridge-top trek, follow a valley pipeline and climb back up through a ti grove, over a waterfall and back to the contour again for a pleasant Sunday workout. Coordinator



Col. Wayne Shanks | U.S. Army-Pacific Public Affairs

## Formation fun

FORT SHAFTER — Led by Lt. Gen. Benjamin Mixon, commanding general, U.S. Army-Pacific, more than 1,000 USARPAC Soldiers welcome the holiday season at Palm Circle, here, during a four-mile formation run, Wednesday morning.

This is a brand-new trend taking the surf-crazy islands by storm, and anyone can do it!

Cost is just \$45 and all equipment is included. Call 655-0143.

### 21 / Sunday

**Adventure Bike Tour** — Want to keep

the adrenaline pumping but on land? Try the newest adventure bike tour, Sunday, Dec. 21, 7 a.m.-2 p.m. This is a level one beginner program, suitable for all ages.

Cost is just \$15 if using your own bike, with bike rental available for an additional \$5 for those without bikes.

Call 655-0143.

**Fort Shafter Fitness Center Hours** — The test phase of females-only hours of operation at the Fort Shafter Physical Fitness Center will end Dec. 21.

Effective Dec. 22, the center will be open to all guests in all areas at all times, except for females-only aerobics sessions on the gym floor, from 9-10:30 a.m., each

Steve Davis, [Steve\\_Davis@ymail.com](mailto:Steve_Davis@ymail.com) (preferred) or 371-1492.

Save the date for these upcoming hikes, too:

- Jan. 1, a 3-mile intermediate hike up Kokohead Crater.
- Jan. 3, a 3-mile novice hike in Kaha-luu.

Hikes begin at 8 a.m., and a \$2 donation is requested of nonmembers. 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. Visit [www.htmclub.org](http://www.htmclub.org).

**Running Workshops** — In-training

workshops will be held in preparation of the Great Aloha Run, scheduled for Feb. 16, 2009, every Sunday leading up to the race, 7:20 a.m., at Kapiolani Park Bandstand.

Sessions are free for run participants and will include a warm-up, training session, cool down and question-and-answer session on training topics and health tips.

Upcoming training sessions include: Dec. 21 and 28, Jan. 4, 11, 18 and 25, Feb. 1 and 8.

Call 943-0309 or e-mail [health@drchrist.com](mailto:health@drchrist.com).

## January

### 15 / Thursday

**Golf Scramble** — Registrations and

fees are due Jan. 15, 2009, for the 8th Theater Sustainment Command Golf Scramble, scheduled for Jan. 22, 2009, noon, at Leilehua Golf Course. Fees vary by rank and awards will be given. Contact Lt. Col. Michael Bender, 438-0740 or [michael.bender@shafter.army.mil](mailto:michael.bender@shafter.army.mil).

## 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 Aloha Stadium.

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

day. For details, call 438-1152.

### 28 / Sunday

**Stand-Up Paddling** — Another session of this newest craze will be taking place Sunday, Dec. 28, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Transportation will also be available from both Fort Shafter and Schofield Barracks for this special session. This is a brand-new trend taking the surf-crazy islands by storm, and anyone can do it! Cost is just \$45 and all equipment is included.

Call 655-0143.

## January

### 1 / Thursday

**Ladies' Fitness Hours** — Effective Jan. 1, 2009, the Aliamanu Military Reservation (AMR) Physical Fitness Center will be changing its hours of operation.

The new hours will be Monday-Thursday, 6 a.m.-9 p.m., with females-only hours from 9-10:30 a.m. the gym will be open Saturdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and on Sundays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The females-only hours are a 30-day trial run in response to community feedback. Call 836-0338.

### 5 / Monday

**Intramural Soccer** — The deadline for registering teams for the 2009 battalion-level intramural soccer program is Jan. 5, no later than 4 p.m., at the Kaala Community Activity Center, Schofield Barracks. Entries can be faxed to 655-8012.

An organizational meeting will take place Jan. 9, 1:30 p.m., at the Kaala Community Center. Visit [www.MWRArmy-Hawaii.com](http://www.MWRArmy-Hawaii.com) or call 655-0856.

Applications are available online at [www.greataloharun.com](http://www.greataloharun.com) or at Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities. Contact Jim Perry at 655-9650.

**TOPS** — The Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) support group meets every Thursday evening at the Armed Services YMCA. Join others to share weight loss tips, discuss concerns and provide encouragement to each other.

Call Cheryl at 696-4423 for more information.

**Bike Hawaii** — Join Bike Hawaii's professional nature guides and explore Oahu from the rainforest to the reef. Packages include downhill biking, sailing off Waikiki and more. Meals are included.

To schedule adventures, visit [www.bike-hawaii.com](http://www.bike-hawaii.com) or call 734-4214.