

INSIDE

Army leaders state case for troop surge

SARA WOOD
Armed Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The end-strength increases in the Army and Marine Corps will help reduce strain on the forces and position them for the long war against terrorism, the leaders of the two services said in congressional testimony last Thursday.

The extra 65,000 Soldiers and 27,000 Marines, due to be added by 2012, will increase time at home for units between deployments and will prepare the forces for missions in areas besides Iraq and Afghanistan, Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker, Army chief of staff, and Gen. James T. Conway, commandant of the Marine Corps, told

the Senate Armed Services Committee.

"I think that the Army is too small for the century that we're in," Schoomaker said. "I believe the plan we have is the proper plan and proper slope to do it. And so my advice would be that we complete the plan and we sustain this force. It's my opinion the nation can afford it, and it's necessary in this century."

Advocating for the increase in the Marine Corps, Conway said, "I believe we're a nation at war. I think that

Afghanistan and Iraq represent the first battles of this long war. And I think, like in any war, you don't know what's on the horizon; you don't know what is going to follow.

"So if asked for my military advice on whether or not we should look at off-ramping or stopping something short of 202,000 Marines at this point," he continued, "I would recommend we not do that until such time as we think that this war against Islamic extremists is over."

The Army is set to grow at 7,000 Soldiers per year, and the Marines at 5,000 per year. Schoomaker and Conway said this rate of growth will be sustainable without additional incentives to serve or a diminished quality of recruits.

Last year was the best recruiting year in nine years for the Army's active force and 13 years for the reserve force, Schoomaker said. The Army also has exceeded goals this year and is on track to continue to do so, he said. The Marine Corps will add additional recruiters to meet the growth goal and also will appeal to Marines who are now serving and those who have just separated from service, Conway said.

While the troop increase will be helpful in the long term, both leaders expressed concern about the readiness of nondeployed forces.

SEE SURGE, A-3



Dialing a winner

Fourteen 25th Combat Aviation Brigade Soldiers compete for the coveted title of Soldier of the Trimester

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Photojournalist wanted

Can you write well and take photographs? The Hawaii Army Weekly is looking for qualified applicants. Call 655-4816.



Proud Papa

Staff Sgt. James Lee and 3-7th FA have waited six months for this day; their Iraqi troops are ready

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An ocean away

Escape to a place that combines old Hawaii and northern California — the island of Lanai

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Air Force Master Sgt. Andy Dunaway

Securing the perimeter

RIYAH, Iraq — Soldiers from D Company, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, stand guard while waiting for Iraqi police to lead a patrol in.

Risk planning tool reaches across DoD

KELLY WIDENER
U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center

FORT RUCKER, Ala. — A tool used by Soldiers to assess the risk of driving their privately owned vehicles on trips is now the same tool that airman, sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen will use beginning early March.

Formally adopted across the Department of Defense, the tool known to Soldiers as AS-MIS-2 officially becomes TRiPS, or Travel Risk Planning System.

The tool was adopted because of its ability to give users a comprehensive risk assessment based on their travel plans and recommending certain actions to help lower risks.

"ASMIS-2's greatest value has always been the one-on-one interaction and dialogue it promotes between the supervisor and subordinate," said U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center Sgt. Maj. David Griffith. "The specific questions asked about an upcoming trip al-



low supervisors and Soldiers to engage and help identify potential faults in driving plans and help provide other alternatives."

The online tool was adopted last year by the Navy, Marines, Coast Guard and, recently this year, the Air Force. Since its implementation in the Army, Soldiers have completed more than 1,783,000 assessments, with six fatalities occurring during an assessed trip.

These statistics show that those using the tool may be less likely to be involved in fatal mishaps. TRiPS is expected to continue with the same results across all service branches.

While elements of ASMIS-2 remain the

same — such as inputting information like the type of vehicle being driven, age, start and end points; expected sleep before traveling; seat belt use; and more — TRiPS offers more than just a name change. The tool offers additional features specifically for supervisors.

One of the new features allows supervisors to view the TRiPS activity of their subordinates two levels down, which offers more opportunity for leadership engagement and awareness.

"TRiPS will continue to provide users with risk awareness features such as the mapping feature," said Griffith. "However, the new features make this positive and proven tool even more valuable in the fight against POV fatalities of not only our Soldiers, but all DoD service members and civilians."

Army personnel can expect to notice the name change of ASMIS-2 to TRiPS on the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center's Web site at <https://crc.army.mil> this March.

RELATED STORY

• For upcoming events to help you save, see B-3.

For Soldiers, the risk of financially falling behind carries even more problems; severe debt can result in the loss of security clearances and disciplinary or administrative actions. It also adds to their stress if they are deployed, as they're distracted about payments, repossessions or the welfare of their family members rather than the mission they're facing.

Financial security directly impacts Army readiness and reduces stress for Soldiers and their family members.

To combat financial insecurity, the Department of Defense (DoD) has designated

Feb. 25 through March 4, 2007, as "Military Saves Week," part of a DoD financial readiness campaign. Its purpose is to encourage Soldiers and their families to establish positive fiscal management habits through savings and financial planning.

The Army's Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command (FMWRC), with the Office of the Chief of Public Affairs, is coordinating the Army's response to Under Secretary of Defense David Chu's message urging all departments to participate in Military Saves Week.

DoD has teamed with Consumer Federation of America (CFA) to provide tools, resources and financial counseling to service

SEE FINANCES, A-5

More than one way to the OCS

JORGE GOMEZ
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Soldiers seeking to attend Officer Candidate School now have an alternative to appearing before the board. They can apply for direct selection as installation commanders may select up to 20 eligible Soldiers to attend OCS in 2007 and waive the local interview board.

The Accessions Human Resources Command initially made the exception to policy last year to meet the challenge of recruiting 300 more officers. The need for more officers, said Col. Jayne Carson, Combined Arms Support Command chief of staff, is related to the Army's growth through modularity.



Visit www.infantry.army.mil/ocs for more details.

Soldiers must still meet eligibility requirements and complete an OCS application in accordance with Army Regulation 350-51, "United States Army Officer Candidate School." Applicants, up to age 42, must have at least 90 semester hours of college credit and a minimum general technical score of 110.

It's the Soldier's responsibility to properly put a packet together and not assume that his chain of command will straighten it out, said Capt. Adam Clark, CASCOM, Headquarters and Headquarters Company commander, a former board member.

Board members look at the Soldier to see if he pays attention to details on his Class A uniform, posture, speech, attitude and even the way he sits.

"We are looking for initiative, motivation, leadership, attention to detail and drive," Clark said. "We have 30 minutes to evaluate someone we have never met."

(Editor's Note: Gomez writes for the Fort Lee "Traveler.")

'Military Saves' campaign helps to prepare for tomorrow

WILLIAM BRADNER
Installation Management Command

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — For most Soldiers, a savings account is something that's not on their agenda, and in many cases, if they think about it at all, it's in a vague, sometime-in-the-future sort of way.

However, regardless of rank or marital status, Soldiers who make regular deposits to a savings account are by far in the minority. Yet, few are planning for retirement, according to recent surveys by the Thrift Savings Plan, a voluntary retirement plan for Department of Defense (DoD) employees and uniformed service members.

DoD recently surveyed almost 20,000 uniformed and civilian federal employees and discovered that less than 21 percent of

active duty service members are saving for retirement. Lack of funds was cited as the largest reason for not contributing to a savings or retirement account. However, it's not just the distant, retirement future that service members should be worried about.

Unexpected medical expenses, new brakes on a car, new uniforms, parking or speeding tickets, and emergency dental work — if one thing is certain, it's that life happens regardless of whether or not we have the money to cover its expenses.

Americans take out an estimated \$2 billion a year in payday loans, loans which often charge as much as 500 percent interest, to cover emergency expenses. Yet, a modest savings account in each household could end the need for predatory lenders.

RELATED STORY

• For upcoming events to help you save, see B-3.

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

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

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Straight Talk

Drivers can curb big business of auto theft

DES provides sound advice on car theft prevention

DIRECTORATE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
News Release

A variety of motives lead thieves to steal cars. Some large, organized groups of car thieves seemingly fill orders for a contract buyer. Still other cars appear to be stolen for shipment out of the country, especially to Mexico.

Less inspired car thieves often steal as a lark or on a dare to joy ride. Others intend to personally drive or sell the stolen vehicle to an associate, after disguising the vehicle with new paint, plates and wheels.

For the most part, however, it's all about the parts. The majority of cars are stolen for the value of their parts as the cars of choice were the most frequently sold cars a few years earlier.

Hot locations

Motor vehicles are stolen from shopping malls, streets, driveways, parking lots, garages, and car dealerships. Also, automobile theft seems to occur with greater frequency where large groups of cars are parked together for extended periods of time, like at airports, shopping centers, colleges, sporting events, fairgrounds, movie complexes and large apartment complexes.

High-rise and subterranean parking structures seem to have a lower auto theft rate, probably due to a reduced number of escape routes and the possibility of being trapped



Peter Dazeley | Getty Images

Drivers can deter thieves by taking precautions such as not leaving valuables in plain sight, parking in well-lit areas, locking the door and rolling up windows, and installing a device like the "club" that locks to the steering wheel.

from above or below ground level.

Fee parking lots also experience fewer stolen cars, possibly because the thief has to pass a ticket taker or pay booth, and sometimes a video camera to enter and exit.

Yet, valet parking seems to be the safest place to temporarily park one's car, both for the car, driver and passengers. Therefore, anyone who is vulnerable and traveling alone should take advantage of valet parking at hotels, airports and special events to

avoid making the trek into a parking lot alone, especially at night.

Useful tips

Some commonsense steps can help anyone reduce their chances of becoming a victim of auto theft:

Never leave your car running and unattended, even to dash into a business.

Never leave your keys in the car or ignition, even inside a locked garage.



Chaplain, Soldiers escort some fallen heroes home

SPC. DANIEL BEARL

25th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs

TIKRIT, Iraq – Soldiers of the U.S. Army learn to endure the hardships of training and combat. They adapt to operating effectively while stressed, fatigued and hungry, but there is one task that they can perhaps never fully ready themselves for.

Saying goodbye to a fallen comrade is perhaps the most daunting challenge that any Soldier can hope to never have to face during a career in the military. Yet, there is someone whose job it is to help the troops through the trying time.

Military chaplains act as the officer in charge of "hero missions," operations involving the transportation of the remains of fallen Soldiers.

"I ensure that we adhere to standard operating procedures with regard to the mission," said Chaplain (Capt.) Ray Santillano of 3rd Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, 25th Infantry Division. Santillano has been a part of 16 hero mis-

sions since deploying to Iraq, last summer.

"I make sure we render the proper courtesies and respect for the fallen, and after the ceremonial aspects, I bring the crews together and debrief them, provide pastoral care for them, and offer a prayer for peace," Santillano said.

The entire process is highly ceremonial and designed to ensure that Soldiers who die in Iraq receive honor and respect at each leg of their journey home.

On the evening of Feb. 9, the Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, stood at attention in the chilling darkness as three of their own were carried ceremoniously onto two UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters to begin their journey home.

While the Soldiers' units will soon hold memorials services in which their surviving comrades will share stories and memories of their now-gone friends, the ceremony by the cold, dark tarmac seems more visceral, more per-

SEE HEROES, A-4

100 days since last fatal accident

Tuesday marked the 100th day since the last fatal accident. A training holiday will be awarded Monday, Feb. 26. If the count reaches 200 consecutive days with no accidental fatalities, Soldiers will receive two training holidays.



LIGHTNING SPIRIT

Hope, setting goals give sense of purpose in life

CHAPLAIN (LT. COL.)

JOSE RODRIGUEZ

Deputy Installation Chaplain, Schofield Barracks

For four years after high school, I gambled with life.

Some would say that I experimented with life. An older generation would say that I sowed some wild oats. Looking back on it, I would say that I wasted most of my time.

Some of my earlier friends, if they survived, would look at me today and be surprised that I survived the foolishness and stupidity of those times.

I think there are many who have gone (or are going) through such a "phase," but you can experience only so much excitement in your life. Regardless, many people find that their lives eventually become boring and routine. They concern themselves with making ends meet – too much month left at the end of the money, with their health, their families, and their jobs.

With the ever-increasing challenges of life, optimism can find itself kicked to the curb. The result is often a life with activity, but without hope and purpose. It's like running in place: You may work up a sweat, but you never get anywhere.

The Christian scriptures relate the experience of a prophet named Ezekiel who found himself in a valley of dry bones (Ezekiel 37). In an exchange with God, he learns that he has the power to bring the bones back to life. It becomes a matter of his obeying the command of the Lord to speak to the bones.

On the surface, the situation looked impossible. God's proposed solution defied logic. Yet, Ezekiel trusted enough to have hope in what God told him.

Impossibilities become challenges to the person with hope. Ezekiel knew something that we would do well to remember: In order to have power in the present, there must be hope in the future.

In many inner city schools, students wonder if there is a future for them. In a particular school in East Harlem, the self-made millionaire Eugene Land had been asked to speak to a class of '59

Always roll up your windows and lock the car, even if it is in front of your home.

Never leave valuables in plain view, even if your car is locked. Put them in the trunk out of sight.

Always park in a high-traffic, well-lit area, if possible.

Install a mechanical device that locks to the steering wheel, column or brake pedal to prevent the wheel from being turned more than a few degrees. Commonly called clubs, collars or J-bars, these devices can act as a highly visible physical deterrent if installed properly.

Investigate the purchase of an auto alarm system if you live in a high-theft area or drive a theft-prone vehicle. Display an alarm decal near the door handle.

If you park in a fee garage, take the pay-ticket with you. It's the thief's ticket out of the garage, too.

If you use valet parking, leave just the ignition key with the attendant. Make sure no identifying information is attached to the key. Do the same when you take your car for repairs.

Carry your driver's license, registration and insurance card with you. Don't leave personal identification documents or credit cards in your vehicle.

Copy your license plate and vehicle identification (VIN) numbers on a card, and keep them on you with your driver's license. If your vehicle is stolen, police will need this information promptly.

(Editor's Note: Some information was obtained from the "Crime Doctor," Chris McGoy, a crime prevention consultant.)

sixth-graders. He was supposed to inspire them, but he wondered how he could get them to even look at him.

He knew that most of these predominantly black and Puerto Rican children would eventually drop out of school and never finish high school, much less go on to college.

He had written some notes, but decided instead to lay them aside and speak from his heart. "Stay in school," he told them, "and I'll help pay the college tuition for every one of you."

Upon hearing those words, the lives of these students changed. For the first time they had hope. Said one student, "I had something to look forward to, something waiting for me. It was a golden feeling."

With this new hope, nearly 90 percent of that class went on to graduate from high school.

Ten years from now we will be 10 years older. What we accomplish in those 10 years will be dependent on the steps we take to achieve goals we set for ourselves.

If the goal is education, I tell people that they can be 10 years older with a college degree or two, or they can be 10 years older with nothing to show for it.

The key to have power in the present to set and achieve your goals is to have hope for the future.

It's been said that favor is not fair. That is not only true, but it comes dressed with hope.

Ezekiel's hope was based on his relationship with God, and God's ability to keep his word when Ezekiel did what he was told.

We live in challenging times, and each of us will fight our own individual battles. The God I serve has my back; he can have yours, too.

Whatever challenges the future may bring, the response of those of us with the Ezekiel kind of hope is, "Bring it on."



Rodriguez

Voices of Lightning: "What do you like most about your job?"

 <p>"(Seeing) the cohesion between Soldiers."</p> <p>Staff Sgt. Armand Curet 84th Eng. Bn. Squad Leader</p>	 <p>"[I like] that I'm my own boss."</p> <p>Valerie Fautanu Family Member</p>	 <p>"[I like] helping people."</p> <p>Rachel Galvin Family Member</p>	 <p>"I like meeting new people."</p> <p>Staff Sgt. Kishma Green HHC, 29th Eng. Bn. Food Services</p>	 <p>"I like that my job is pretty easy and relaxed."</p> <p>David Segovia Family Member</p>
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Schofield loses 24-year-old

The Department of Defense has announced the death of a Soldier who was supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

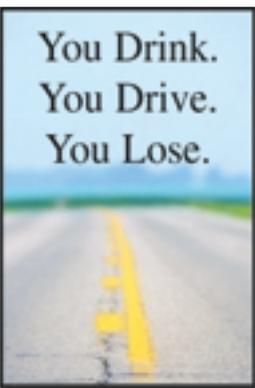
Pfc. Nickolas Tanton, 24, of San Antonio, Texas, died Feb. 13 in Kirkuk, Iraq, from non-combat-related causes.



Tanton

Tanton was assigned to the 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks. He joined the Army in January 2005 and was assigned to Schofield Barracks in November 2005.

The incident is under investigation.



25th CAB competes in Trimester OIF

SPC. DANIEL BEARL

25th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs

TIKRIT, Iraq – Soldiers from units under the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, competed for the title of Soldier of the Trimester, Feb. 13 and 14 at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq.

Fourteen competitors vied for the title through two days of challenges that tested their physical and mental endurance and basic Soldiering skills. The Soldiers each had won similar competitions within their own units to be eligible for the brigade level event.

Spc. Liliana Soto, from A Company 209th Aviation Support Battalion, and Sgt. Robert Diaz, from D Company, 2nd Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment, won in the categories of junior enlisted and noncommissioned officer.

"I never thought I was going to win," Soto said. "It was a big surprise."

"It feels good to be able to compete with outstanding Soldiers from all the battalions and to rise above the rest," Diaz said.

The winners were awarded a four-day pass to Doha, Qatar; a brigade coin with their name engraved on it; a trophy; a \$50 gift certificate from the Army and Air Force Exchange Services (AAFES); an Army Commendation Medal; and a chance to participate in the Soldier of the Rotation competition at the end of the deployment.

The winner of Soldier of the Rotation will not only receive a free dress blue uniform, but also be awarded a seat on the first flight back to their home station at the end of their unit's combat tour.

To win the Trimester contest, Soldiers competed in a standard Army Physical Fitness Test, which tested their muscular and cardio-



Photos Courtesy of 25th Combat Aviation Brigade

Above — Soldiers fire from the kneeling position during a qualification range as part of the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade Soldier of the Trimester competition at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Tikrit, Iraq.

Right — Sgt. Jeremy Wendt, from D Troop, 1st Battalion, 17th Cavalry Regiment, demonstrates his operating a radio during the hands-on portion of the 25th CAB Soldier of the Trimester competition.



vascular strength and endurance, and they faced a board of command sergeants major who grilled them with questions on topics such as weapons, survival and wear of the uniform. The final event on day one was a written test on basic Soldiering skills.

Day two, competitors qualified on their M16 and M4 rifles, and they performed a series of hands-on tests that included basic weapon drills, radio operations and first aid.

"For both Soldiers and NCOs ... it tests their ability to perform basic Soldier tasks under pres-

sure," said Master Sgt. Mike Sutterfield, from 3rd Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment, at the competition as a sponsor for Staff Sgt. Rodney Randolph. "For NCOs, it tests their ability to perform those tasks at a leadership level."

Despite preparations, parts of the event were quite intimidating.

"The hardest part was being in front of the all the sergeants major," Soto said, and Diaz agreed the board was challenging.

"The PT test was the most physically challenging, and the board was the most intimidating, but to get those done first is good because it's definitely downhill from there," Diaz said. "The rest is just demonstrating knowledge."

Surge: Must move forward

CONTINUED FROM A-1

The Army started the war on terror with a \$56 billion deficit in equipment, Schoomaker said. In the five years since, the Army has been expanding and transforming, and ongoing operations have accelerated the depreciation and loss of equipment. As a result, the Army has had to move equipment from units in the United States to those deploying to ensure the forward forces are fully equipped, he said.

The units operating in Iraq and Afghanistan are fully trained, equipped and led, Schoomaker emphasized, but something must be done to make up for the lack in nondeployed forces. "We can't do it by keeping shooting behind the ducks," he said. "We have to get ahead of the program, and that means adequate funding in a timely fashion to get ahead of where we have to go."

Conway said that the equipment status of nondeployed Marine forces is generally good, but training is a concern. Marine units often have short times at home between deployments, so they spend their time focused on training for Iraq instead of training on alternate tasks, such as amphibious operations, mountain and combined arms live-fire maneuvers, he said.

The leaders also talked about the upcoming surge of 21,500 additional troops into Baghdad and Anbar province in Iraq. Schoomaker said that the five Army brigades being sent to Baghdad are "only the tip of the iceberg," as combat support units will be necessary.

Heroes: Chaplains stay spiritually fit for families

CONTINUED FROM A-2

sonal. As the Soldiers stand ramrod straight, right hands sharply angling away from their foreheads in a salute, there is a reverent silence.

The occasion is not a moment of remembrance, but a farewell.

The Soldiers being honored are Spc. Leeroy A. Camacho, 28, of Saipan, Mariana Islands; Staff Sgt. Eric Ross, 26, of Kenduskeag, Maine; and Staff Sgt. Alan W. Shaw, 31, of Little Rock, Ark. They were killed on Feb. 9 in Baqubah, Iraq, of wounds suffered from an explosion during breaching operations.

A hero mission is one that can test the emotional and spiritual reserve of the chaplain who oversees it. To prepare, he or she must turn to his or her own faith and spiritual study.

"A big part is my daily devotion time," Santillano said. "It's like Soldiers do physical training to keep their bodies fit. For a chaplain, spiritual life has to be kept fit through spiritual and emotional exercise."

And while the chaplain on a hero mission is charged with ensuring the remains are properly handled, a major part of his job is to shore up the spirits of the air crews operating the helicopters.

"Ninety percent of the ministry

[on a hero mission] is tending to the spiritual needs of the aircrew," said Chaplain (Maj.) Sam Murray, chaplain, 25th CAB, 25th ID.

And despite their role as overseers and caregivers, the chaplains themselves also feel the effects of the loss as they conduct their mission.

"I experience a lot of empathy for the unit affected," Santillano said. "It's a pretty traumatic experience and has a huge impact on the Soldiers. I feel empathy for the unit chaplain. The unit chaplain has the greatest burden in ministering to the needs of the Soldiers. And, I feel empathy for the family. I have to think, 'this is a family member who is never coming home.' Having been on the other side as the chaplain on a notification team, I know how devastating this can be [to the family]."

Sometimes, the effects are not as immediately felt, though, Santillano added. Self-described as a news hound who likes to follow various aspects of Operation Iraqi Freedom through the media, Santillano sometimes re-encounters the Soldiers he has helped bring home while watching television.

"Sometimes, as they roll the pictures of fallen Soldiers and their names, I'll see Soldiers I played a small role in bringing home," Santillano said. "There's a sort of emotional connection there."

Fuelers keep helicopters in air **OIF**

Story and Photo By
SGT. MICHAEL TUTTLE
5th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

KIRKUK, Iraq – Troops on the ground are much more comfortable carrying out their mission with the protection provided by helicopters in the air. Those helicopters would never launch, however, without the daily efforts of the Soldiers who keep them fueled.

The Soldiers of E Troop, 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, work around the clock at Forward Operating Base Warrior to refuel the helicopters that provide support for their fellow 25th Infantry Division Soldiers.

The helicopters from FOB Warrior provide security throughout Kirkuk. Keeping them refueled, even on short notice, and getting them back out to cover the ground is crucial.

"Fueling in a timely fashion gets the birds up in the air to provide cover for convoys and infantry guys," said Spc. John Preis, fuel specialist. "A bird shouldn't be on the pad for any longer than five minutes. Once [it] lands, it should be refueled and sent right back out in two minutes."

The Soldiers of E Troop are a mix of fuel, ammunition and transportation specialists. They were all cross-trained during the first three months of their deployment to be able to perform each other's job, said Sgt. 1st Class Terry Williams, platoon sergeant.

"We incorporated all of these MOSs [military occupation specialties] together so that any of them could function in the others' job," Williams said. "It can be intense when a number of helicopters come in on short notice. Everyone needs to be able to cover down."

Preis and his fellow fuel specialists must also contend with the Iraqi environment to keep the helicopters in the air. Despite the recent rain and cold weather, they continue to get the helicopters out on time.

"When I've been in convoys in the past, it's always a better feeling when I have overhead cover looking for IEDs [improvised explosive devices] and possible insurgents," Preis said.



Spc. John Preis, fuel specialist with E Troop, 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, refuels a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter at Forward Operating Base Warrior. Preis said that helicopters should be refueled and sent back out in two minutes.



Photo Courtesy of 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

Fill 'er up

KIRKUK, Iraq — Brig. Gen. Francis J. Wiercinski, deputy commanding general support, 25th Infantry Division, stands with Pfc. Joseph Gardner, aviation fueller, E Company, 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, as he pumps the "one-millionth" gallon of fuel into an OH-58D "Kiowa Warrior" at Forward Operating Base Warrior.

Finances: Small steps save much

CONTINUED FROM A-1

members through the Web site www.militarysaves.org.

FMWRC is also supporting the effort through a monthlong media campaign encouraging Soldiers and their families to participate.

Many installation credit unions and banks will be participating by offering reduced minimum deposits for savings accounts and special offers to service members to entice them to make short- and long-range savings plans.

It doesn't have to be much. Cutting out the morning stop at the coffee shop on the way to work can save more than \$40 a month. Paying credit cards on time to avoid service fees adds as much as \$25 a month more.

Simply going to the post library rather than a name-brand bookstore frees up money to put in a savings account, and using post recreation facilities (theaters, bowling alleys, gas stations, gyms and clubs) not only frees up money in the budget from the reduced costs of these items and services, it saves on gas, oil and wear and tear on personal vehicles.

Programs like the Thrift Savings Plan and the Savings Deposit Program make it easy for Soldiers to save, and there are huge tax and savings benefits to Soldiers who participate in these programs while deployed.

Most Soldiers have \$50 or more that they can put away, if they really sit down, make a plan, and stick to it. In less than a year,

they can go from "I never have enough money" to "I'm confident we can face an emergency."

The local Army Community Service Center and www.militarysaves.org can show the way. You can also find more information about Military Saves and financial planning online at www.armymwr.com and at your local banks and credit unions.

Don't just think about doing it. Think of protecting your finances and your family in the same way you think about protecting your country and our freedoms — it's not something to put off until "someday."

(Editor's Note: William Bradner writes for Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command Public Affairs.)

Iraqi troops make 25th ID Soldier proud

Story and Photo By
SGT. MICHAEL TUTTLE
5th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

KIRKUK, Iraq — Staff Sgt. James Lee looked like a proud father.

A group of Iraqi Strategic Infrastructure Brigade (SIB) Soldiers, who Lee has been helping to train for six months, huddled around him after showing off their warrior skills during a demonstration for Maj. Gen. Benjamin R. Mixon, commander Multi-National Division North and the 25th Infantry Division (ID).

Lee told the group of 1st and 5th Battalion Iraqi Soldiers of the 1st SIB that he was proud of them and to maintain their motivation level while performing their mission.

The 1st SIB is charged with protecting the oil infrastructure here, including various pipelines, said Lt. Col. Jack Pritchard, commander 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th ID. Achieving Iraq's full oil production capacity is key to its economic recovery, critical, as well, is rebuilding refineries, wells and pipelines and keeping all of them safe from insurgent attacks.

Lee and his fellow 3-7th Soldiers have been working with the 1st SIB four days a week to improve their defense of strategic facilities.

As a noncommissioned officer, Lee is used to training Soldiers. Despite instructing through an interpreter, Lee said that his approach to working with the Iraqi troops is similar to how he trains Soldiers back in the States.

"I had to break things down to the basics and make sure they had them down before moving on," Lee said. "But once they started tracking they wanted more. It's like training Soldiers back home. Once you grab their attention and they start to learn, they're hungry for more."

The 3-7th Soldiers have been training 1st SIB for what its most likely to face while protecting infrastructure, including close quarters marksmanship, setting up checkpoints and reacting to improvised explosive devices.

In an effort to get the SIB to train on its own, Lee has encouraged leaders to emerge. While unsure of them at first, Lee said that a few Soldiers have taken charge and are training the group on their own. They even constructed a checkpoint in front of the 1st SIB compound without any suggestion from the 3-7th Soldiers.



Staff Sgt. James Lee, 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, directs a formation of Iraqi Soldiers from the 1st Strategic Infrastructure Brigade near Kirkuk. Lee has been helping to train the 1st SIB for the past six months. It protects the oil infrastructure.

"They've been tracking since we started working with them, and they continue to take steps forward," Lee said. "It was amazing to see them today during the demonstration. From when we started teaching them and to see them now ... it feels like watching a child grow."

News Briefs

Send calendar announcements to community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

23/Today

GSA Closes for Inventory — The GSA Customer Supply Center at Schofield Barracks will be closed today to take its annual inventory. The center will reopen Feb. 26.

In the interim, customers are reminded to make purchases at the Hickam Air Force Base GSA store. Call 655-0280.

Black History Celebration — U.S. Army, Pacific will host a Black History Month celebration today, from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. The event will take place in Building 1554, in the 9th Regional Readiness Command assembly conference room, Fort Shafter Flats.

Everyone is invited to enjoy gospel singing, food sampling, a keynote speaker, role-playing, a slide presentation and more. Call Col. Jennie Williamson at 438-3157.

28 / Wednesday

Preretirement Orientation — A semi-annual preretirement orientation will be held Feb. 28, from 8-11:30 a.m. at the Schofield Barracks Post Conference Room.

This orientation will cover the benefits and privileges of military retirement. Invited personnel include Soldiers and their spouses with at least 18 years of active service. Representatives of federal, state and military staff offices will be available to answer questions. Call 655-1585/1514.

Training Day — The Fort Shafter and Schofield Barracks vehicle registration and installation pass offices will be closed 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Feb. 28, for training. Normal hours will

resume March 1.

The Fort Shafter office is located in Building 1599 and the Schofield Barracks office is located in Building 6508 on Leilehua Golf Course Road. Call 655-8940.

Green to Gold — The Army Green to Gold Program is seeking Soldiers who are interested in earning a college baccalaureate or master's degree. To be eligible, Soldiers must have served at least two years on active duty. Selected Soldiers have an option of requesting discharge from active duty or remaining on active duty and enrolling in the Army Reserve Officer Training Course (ROTC) to be commissioned as a second lieutenant.

The current application window will be open until April 1.

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

A program briefing will be held at the Schofield Barracks and Tripler Army Medical Center Education Centers the last Wednesday of each month.

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

10 / March

Gate Closure — Lyman Gate on Schofield Barracks will close March 10-June 30 for construction improvements.

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

For a map of the changes, visit www.251d.army.mil/communityimpactupdates/roadclosuremap.jpg.

Ongoing

Reserve Officers Scholarship — Appli-

cations for The Henry J. Reilly Memorial Scholarship program, sponsored by the Reserve Officers Association (ROA), are now available online at www.roa.org/site/PageServer?page-name=reilly_scholarship.

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

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

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

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

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

Road closure — Trimble Road on Schofield Barracks, from Cadet Sheridan Road to Beaver Road, will be resurfaced through March 16, from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

The road will remain open and lanes will be closed and traffic will be redirected as necessary. Call 656-2435.

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

Patrons must bring ID, W-2's and other tax-related forms. Call 438-0829 or 655-1040.

April 17 is tax filing deadline

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

News Release

WASHINGTON — Taxpayers across the nation will have until Tuesday, April 17, 2007, to file their 2006 returns and pay any taxes due, the Internal Revenue Service has announced.

Taxpayers will have extra time to file and pay because April 15 falls on a Sunday in 2007, and the following day, Monday, April 16, is Emancipation Day, a legal holiday in the District of Columbia.

"This year, taxpayers have additional time to file and pay beyond the traditional April 15 deadline," said IRS Commissioner Mark W. Everson. "As we always do, we encourage taxpayers to get an early start on their taxes to make sure they have plenty of time to accurately prepare their return."

This means the entire country has an April 17 deadline. Previously, the April 17 deadline applied just to individuals in the District of Columbia and six eastern states who are served by an IRS processing facility in Massachusetts, where Patriots' Day will be observed on April 16.

The April 17, 2007, deadline will apply to any of the following:

- 2006 federal individual in-

come tax returns, whether filed electronically or on paper.

- Requests for an automatic six-month tax-filing extension, whether submitted electronically or on Form 4868.
- Tax year 2006 balance due payments, whether made electronically (direct debit or credit card) or by check.
- Tax-year 2006 contributions to a Roth or traditional IRA.
- Individual estimated tax payments for the first quarter of 2007, whether made electronically or by check.
- Individual refund claims for tax year 2003, where the regular three-year statute of limitations is expiring.

Other tax-filing and payment requirements affected by this change are described in IRS Publication 509, Tax Calendars for 2007, available at the IRS Web site at <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p509.pdf>.





PAU HANA



www.25idl.army.mil/haw.asp

"When work is finished."

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2007

The island of Lanai

A world apart



Once dubbed the "Pineapple Isle" and bustling with activity, this now "Private Island" serves up a thick slice of solitude

Story and Photos by
JEREMY S. BUDEMEIER
Assistant Editor

LANAI CITY, Hawaii — If you're looking for an exciting, inter-island adventure or a new place to explore, don't go to Lanai.

Although the island boasts two world-class golf courses, hunting, skeet shooting and off-road excursions to pristine beaches, the main attraction here is the silence.

Visitors arriving by plane or via the ferry from Lahaina are immediately struck by Lanai's desolate landscape. Clouds slowly graze on golden brown, bristled plains; scattered shrubs, gnarled kiawe trees and dark, volcanic boulders protrude from rumpled hillsides; and intermittent pine trees form a line of stubble on 3,000-foot ridges.

Four hundred years ago, Hawaiians believed man-eating spirits roamed the 18- by 13-mile kidney-shaped island, and even after those myths were dispelled, the harsh environment rarely supported more than a few thousand "pioneers."

However, everything changed in the 20th century. In 1922, James Dole purchased the island and converted it into a pineapple-producing machine. In its heyday, approximately 80 percent of the world's pineapples originated from the more than 15,000 acres of neatly-spaced rows on the island.

Since the 1980s, Lanai's cash crop has been rooted in two upscale resorts, but the slow, plantation lifestyle has continued to thrive.

The island's central hub, Lanai City, makes Haleiwa look like Honolulu.

But the throngs of 80-foot Cook pines and temperate climes, which average nearly five degrees cooler than Honolulu because of its 1,600-foot altitude, create an oasis that's more like Lake Tahoe.

A football-field sized park, aptly named Dole Park, anchors the community with fewer than a dozen shops and restaurants in brightly colored plantation-house shells.

If ever a place epitomized the term "one-horse town," it's Lanai City.

The island's 3,000 residents faithfully support one post office, one gas station, one bank, one library, one nail salon, and one movie theater, which shows, as you might have guessed, one movie per week. All the roads are either single lane or one-way and the elementary school and high school are conjoined.

One fixture you won't find is a single stoplight. Most of the traffic, which is sporadic at best, flows between Lanai City and the two high-end resorts, where the overwhelming majority of the island's residents work.

Though more than half the residents claim Filipino ancestry, they are no strangers to the aloha spirit. Visitors strolling through town are greeted with hearty waves and genuine hellos as though they were longtime next-door neighbors.

As friendly as the residents are, the atmosphere is so quiet you'll almost feel like whispering in normal conversation; it's a calm that implores you to lose yourself in a good book, forget about time, and take a few moments to exhale fully.

Although this place exudes an abundance of tranquility, when you return to the bustle of Honolulu something will be missing; that silent part of yourself will have stayed behind.

SEE LANAI, B-6

Background and center — Just a short walk from the Manele Bay Hotel on the southern tip of the island, the calm waters at Puu Pehe Cove host an assortment of fish and provide beachgoers a refreshing break from the sun's rays.

Above — A sailboat sits quietly in its berth at Manele Harbor, where the Lahaina ferry and several tour boats operate.





23 / Today

Hawaiian Luau Lunch Buffet – Enjoy the “ono” taste of a traditional Hawaiian-style feast, 11 a.m.–1 p.m. at the Hale Ike-na on Fort Shafter, or 11 a.m.–2 p.m. at the Nehelani on Schofield Barracks. Cost is \$9.95 per person. Call the Hale Ike-na at 438-1974 or the Nehelani at 655-4466.

Army Community Theater – Get tickets for the Army Community Theater’s production of “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.”

Performances will be held at Richardson Theatre, Fort Shafter, Feb. 23 and 24, and Mar. 2, 3, 9, 10, 16 and 17. Tickets are available at the theater box office, Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.–2 p.m., or online at www.squareone.org/ACT/tickets.html. Call 438-4480.

March

3 / Saturday

Texas Hold'em Tournament – Active duty personnel are invited to try their hand at the Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament to be held at the Tropics on Schofield Barracks. The tournament will be held Mar. 3 and 4, starting at noon. Participants must register in advance. Call 655-0968.

7 / Wednesday

Teen Tech Week – Teens, improve SAT and ACT test scores by practicing online at www.petersons.com. The practice session will be held Mar. 7, starting at 3 p.m., in the Sgt. Yano Library on Schofield Barracks. Call 655-8002 to pre-register. Groups may contact Janet Howard at 655-8002 for a special orientation.

Makapuu Lighthouse Trail Walk – Blue Star Cardholders are invited to come enjoy stunning views of the southeast shore, visits a historical lighthouse and perhaps catch a glimpse of whales from the vantage point at Makapuu Lighthouse.

The walk will be held Mar. 10, from 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Guests should wear comfortable walking shoes, sun block and bug spray and bring water, lunch and a camera. Children are welcome, as this walk is stroller accessible. Limited transportation is available. Register by Mar. 7 by calling 655-0112 or 655-0111.



Christa B. Thomas | U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii, Public Affairs

Joy ride

Pint-sized revelers squeal with excitement while riding the kiddie coaster at the 49th annual Hickam Carnival.

The carnival is held each February on Hickam Air Force Base and serves as the culmination of the service squadron’s customer appreciation week.

9 / Friday

Mongolian BBQ – Come enjoy a local favorite, Mongolian barbecue, cooked outside the Nehelani, with seating in the Kolekole Bar & Grill on Schofield Barracks. Meals will be served from 5-8 p.m.

Select your favorites from a large variety of meats and vegetables and have them grilled to your liking.

Cost is 65¢ for each ounce. Call 655-0446 for reservations.

Ongoing

Kolekole Bar & Grill – Come spend pau hana at the Kolekole Bar & Grill in the Nehelani on Schofield Barracks.

Join the fun for Wahine Wednesdays and Tropic Lightning Thursdays, and play darts,

pool, games, karaoke and more. Call 655-0664.

SKIES Payment Plan – The Schools of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration & Skills (SKIES) Unlimited is offering a new payment program for children enrolled in SKIES classes. Children may be enrolled for a semester with payments being accepted month by month. Call 655-8380 or 833-5393.

Family Child Care – Family Child Care (FCC) provides in-home child care by an adult family member living in government quarters or housing. FCC homes offer flexible hours and comfortable family-like settings.

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

accepted through March 15. Visit www.nmfa.org/scholarship.

17 / Saturday

Navy Choral Performance – The 75-member Men’s Glee Club from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., will drop anchor in Honolulu for two public performances on its Spring Break tour in March.

The first performance will be held March 17 at 7:30 p.m., at the St. Andrew’s Cathedral, the second on March 18 at 7 p.m., in the Central Union Church. Both churches are in downtown Honolulu.

Tickets for both performances will be available through the Navy’s MWR outlets. Contact the Music Office at 410-293-2439.

Luck O’ the Irish – Irish eyes will be smiling at Aloha Tower Marketplace’s St. Patrick’s Day celebration March 17, starting at 4 p.m. The free festivities will include live entertainment with music, contra dancers, and leprechauns, plus prize giveaways and party beads. The marketplace is located next to the Hawaii Maritime Center on Ala Moana Boulevard. Call 566-2337 or visit www.alohatower.com.

Ongoing

Making the Grade – Students can cash in on the Army and Air Force Exchange Service’s (AAFES) “You Made the Grade” program.

The reward program is designed to recognize above-average academic achievement. Qualifying students will receive a coupon booklet that includes free admission to an AAFES Reel Time Theater, a complimentary slice of Anthony’s pizza with drink and a free magazine, as well as other coupons.

To be eligible for a booklet, students must present a valid military ID card and proof of an overall “B” or better average to their local post or base exchange.

Summer Art Festival – Visual artists are invited to apply for the tenth Annual Haleiwa Arts Festival Summer Event, held July 21-22 in the Haleiwa Beach Park.

Artists will be selected by jury to exhibit and sell their artwork and demonstrate their artistic styles and techniques during this two-day fine arts and crafts festival. Original and limited edition works of fine art

For information on placement or becoming a provider, call 655-8373 (Schofield Barracks) or 837-0236 (AMR).

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

SKIES Unlimited – SKIES Unlimited is a one-stop program for child and youth instructional classes. Current offerings include music, martial arts, gymnastics, driver education classes, babysitting certification, dance classes and more. Call 655-9818.

Auto Crafts Car Care – The Fort Shafter and Schofield Barracks Auto Craft Shops offer by appointment on Wednesdays and Thursdays, oil changes, various tire services, transmission service and wheel balance services

Customer need only to supply the parts and fluids (oils) for the vehicle. Prices vary by service needed.

Call 655-9368 (Schofield Barracks) or 438-9402 (Ft. Shafter).

Youth Sponsorship – Children new to Hawaii, ages 5-18, can pick up a welcome gift from Child and Youth Service. Call 655-2263 for more information.

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers – Want to get involved in the community? Join BOSS (Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers) on one of its many volunteer outings.

BOSS works with many groups within the local and the Army communities such as Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Honolulu, the Exceptional Family Member Program and Army Community Service.

Volunteers are needed; call 655-8169.

Tropic Lightning Museum – Come visit the Tropic Lightning Museum on Schofield Barracks to learn about the rich history of the 25th Infantry Division and Wheeler Army Air Field. Public and private tours, and sergeant’s time training programs are available. Every Saturday at 1 p.m., a free war movie or documentary will be shown. Call 655-8301.

MWR Happenings – To find out more information about MWR activities, programs and facilities, pick-up a copy of the “Discovery” magazine available at the Schofield Barracks commissary, Fort Shafter post exchange, the AMR shoppette, the Tripler mauka entrance or any MWR facility.

Also, visit the MWR Web site at www.mwrmilitaryhawaii.com.

Job Search – Browse and apply for federal jobs available in Hawaii at www.nafjobs.com.

in all media will be considered.

The deadline to submit an application is March 24. Guidelines, applications and additional information are available at: www.HaleiwaArtsFestival.org

Keiki Tuesday – Kid-friendly entertainers including Chris da Clown, Aloha Clowns, Paradise Jugglers and Families for R.E.A.L. will delight the whole family at free celebrations every Tuesday, from 10:30 a.m.–noon in the Pearlridge Mall uptown center court.

Bring the children for crafts, balloons, storytelling, face-painting and silly songs School-age children are invited to join the fun from 6-8 p.m.

MDA Volunteers Needed

The Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) has begun its search for summer camp volunteers.

Volunteer counselors are needed to help young people with neuromuscular diseases enjoy a fun-filled MDA summer camp June 8-15 at YMCA Camp H.R. Erdman on the North Shore.

Volunteer counselors must be at least age 16 and able to lift and care for a young person between ages 6 and 21.

For an application, call the Honolulu MDA office at 593-4454 or 800- 572-1717. Visit www.mda.org/clinics/camp or www.groups.yahoo.com/group/mdahawaii.

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

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

Call 836-4599 or e-mail MCCW Hawaii@yahoo.com.

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

SEE COMMUNITY CALENDAR, B-3



Aliamanu (AMR) Chapel, 836-4599

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

Fort DeRussy Chapel, 836-4599

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

Fort Shafter Chapel, 836-4599

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

Helemano (HMR) Chapel

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

***Main Post Chapel, 655-9307**

- * (Note: During renovation, services normally held in the sanctuary will take place at the Wheeler Chapel.)
- Catholic Sunday, 9 a.m.–CCD & RCIA Collective Protestant Sunday, 10:30 a.m. – Sunday School
- Gospel Sunday, 10:30 a.m. – Sunday School

MPC Annex, Building 791

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

Soldiers Chapel

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

Tripler AMC Chapel, 433-5727

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

Wheeler Chapel

- Catholic Saturday, 5 p.m.–Mass Sunday, 10:30 a.m.–Mass
- Collective Protestant Sunday, 9 a.m. – Worship Service
- Gospel Sunday, 12 p.m. – Worship Service



Send calendar announcements to community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

March

3 / Saturday

Writer’s Workshop – Novice and seasoned writers are invited to Hawaii Pacific University’s 10th annual Koolau Writing Workshop, March 3, from 8:45 a.m.–3:30 p.m. on the windward campus, located at 45-045 Kamehameha Highway.

Darrell Lum, a writer who has found a voice, and an audience, through his use of Hawaiian creole (pidgin), will be the speaker.

This event will feature nonfiction, poetry, fiction and scriptwriting sessions.

Participants will receive a breakfast from 8:45-9:15 a.m. and soft drinks and juice during the brown bag lunch.

A \$10 donation is requested for the workshops, \$5 for students.

To reserve a seat, call 544-9340 or 544-1108; or send name, address, and phone number to pwilson@hpu.edu by March 2.

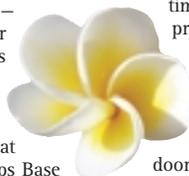
USO Celebrity Tour Show

Award-winning actor, director and musician Gary Sinese brings the “Lieutenant Dan Band” (in which he plays bass guitar) to Kaneohe Bay, March 3 to perform for and salute the military at Pop Warner Field, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, beginning at 3 p.m.

Sinese, who currently plays detective Mac Taylor in the TV crime series CSI New York, was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor for his portrayal of Lt. Dan Tyler in Forrest Gump. An autograph session will follow the show.

5 / Monday

Grease is the Word – The Army Community Theatre (ACT) concludes its 2006-2007 season with the popular Broadway and film musical “Grease,” a 1950s’ rock ‘n’ roll extravaganza of hot rod-loving boys and wise-cracking girls in pedal pushers, slated for May 10-26 at Richardson Theatre, Fort Shafter.



Happily N’ever After

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



Alpha Dog

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



Primeval

(R)
Sunday, 7 p.m.

DoD campaign encourages financial savvy

Laura Wittig
Army Community Service Financial Readiness Program

Military Saves 2007 is part of a Department of Defense (DoD) financial readiness campaign and will run in conjunction with "America Saves" from Feb. 25-March 4. The initiative is in place to encourage military personnel and their families to save for the future.

For the campaign, this year, Army Community Service (ACS) financial counselors will offer free financial advice. Counselors will stage themselves in front of the Schofield Barracks Commissary on Feb. 28 - March 2 from 1-5 p.m., and at the Fort Shafter Shoppette on Feb. 27 and March 3 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Save these dates for free financial advice:

• Feb. 27 & March 3 at Fort Shafter Shopette 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

• Feb. 28-March 2 at Schofield Commissary 1-5 p.m.

The worldwide America Saves campaign is aimed at benefiting military service members and their family members. Goals are threefold: First, DoD would like to provide educational information on creative ways to save you money.

For example, one should never buy expensive items on impulse. He or she should pay with a debit card and not a credit card; take lunch to work, instead of eating out; eat out less; and when grocery shopping, stick to a list. Additionally, individuals should avoid automatic teller machine (ATM) and "overage" fees, pay down debt, and raise deductions on insurance for greater benefits.

By following basic savings techniques, individuals are more likely to be successful in saving for your future.

Another goal, for those who have not started a savings account, DoD would like to explain the importance of an emergency savings account and show how to get started.

Third, ACS provides free financial counselors, just waiting to help military and their family members with all of their financial needs.

ACS programs provide services beyond emergency funding. Trained counselors are available daily to assist with most financial needs, except securities. ACS educators provide nonbiased reliable information for individuals to make the best possible decision(s).

Overall, DoD hopes service members and their families understand that financial preparedness contributes to military preparedness.

Leilehua continues winning streak in art contest

High school nets 32 awards and nine honorable mentions

LEILEHUA HIGH SCHOOL
News Release

Last month, hundreds of art submissions from public and private schools in Hawaii were scrutinized by groups of judges in the 44th Annual Hawaii Regional Scholastic Art Competition. In the end, only 244 finalists were selected, and students from Leilehua High School shined brightly.

Leilehua won the most awards, overall, with an impressive 24 gold finalists and eight silver finalists. In addition, nine other Leilehua works received Honorable Mention.

Tabitha Taraya and Kayley Squire led the Gold finalists with three awards each. Marilyn Banach and Jazmine Nakamura won two Gold awards each.

Multiple Gold winner Tabitha Taraya has compiled four national awards in the past two years.

All the Leilehua winners and other finalists from throughout the state are on exhibit at the Mall Gallery at 1132 Bishop Street through March 24.

The Honorable Mentions will be displayed at the Department of Education Instructional Services Building at 475 22nd Ave. through March 24.

At the conclusion of the regional show, all the Gold Finalists will be judged in the National Scholastic Art Competition in New York City.

Evidenced by its 32 awards and nine honorable mentions, Leilehua continues its reputation for nurturing some of the state's most outstanding young artists with in its best Scholastic Art showing ever.



Above Left — Kayley Squire stands next to her award winning piece "Imagine Fear." Squire and fellow Leilehua High School artists left the art competition with 24 gold awards.

Above Right — Tabitha Taraya, who has won four national awards in the previous two years, poses by her piece, "Reflections."

Gold finalists Geren Adolpho Kirstie Ball Marilyn Banach Angely Barreto Jessica Cabal Sapphire Edayan Diane Harriete Gonzales Sha'nee Henderson Kyle Kaai Grant Lampitoc Vida Losik Jazmine Nakamura	Daryl Patlingrao Kayley Squire Tabitha Taraya Jaelyse Tezak Niko Turner Holly Wentworth	Sarah Sollner Holly Wentworth
Silver finalists Clarissa Avery Kimberlyn Beppu Kristin Fisher Esther Kim Stephanie Maddox Daryl Patlingrao		Honorable Mentions Marilyn Banach Maria Capulong Zoe Davis Teresa Hann Raechel Huff Aladin Gasmen Joli Johnston Jazmine Nakamura Margaret Talaroc Jaydeen Yonekura

Community Calendar

From B-2

Free child care at an hourly rate is provided for up to 20 hours per week for those who volunteer with ACS. Visit www.mwrrarmyhawaii.com or call 655-4227.

Torch Lighting and Hula Show — Enjoy free nightly performances (weather permitting), 6:30-7:30 p.m.

at the Kuhio Beach Hula Mound, near the Duke Kahanamoku statue in Waikiki.

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

PWOC Spring Session — A place to find laughter, a place to find hope, a place to find friends, a place to find faith.

The Protestant Women of the Chapel (PWOC) will host its spring session every Tuesday through

May 15th. Sessions are held in the Main Post Chapel on Schofield, from 9-11:30 a.m. Free on-site child care is available by reservation. Call 206-8504.

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

hours of student participation.

The program is valued at \$200, which will be subsidized 100 percent by the Victory Sports Group.

The sponsoring group is made up of professional football players from around the world.

Military families pay only the \$9.95 shipping and handling charge.

Customers may visit www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil to confirm military status, then go to the order page to request programs. Call the School Liaison Office at 655-9818.



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

Sounds of Freedom

HONOLULU — Col. Stefan J. Banach, commander, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, leads his Headquarters and Headquarters Company Soldiers to the finish line of the Great Aloha Run, Monday.



March

1 / Thursday

Guard Start — The Guard Start Program prepares children, age 11-14, for learning lifeguard training.

Registration for the next class will be held March 1-24 at the Richardson Pool, Schofield Barracks. The class is scheduled for March 26-30, 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the same location.

Cost is \$50 per child. All participants must be able to swim proficiently in the deep end of the pool. Call 655-1128.

Spring Fling — Teens, register at the Aliamanu Military Reser-

vation (AMR) central registration office March 1-16 to participate in the many exciting activities planned for the spring break. Scheduled events include box-car racing, cooking demonstrations, a trip to the Polynesian Cultural Center, field trips to Haleiwa Beach Park and much more. Cost is \$30 for each two-week session. Call 833-0920.

3 / Saturday

Ladies Golf Clinic — Ladies, sharpen those golfing skills at a free golf clinic. The clinic will be held March 3 at the Leilehua Golf Course located near the Wheeler Army Air Field front gate.

This clinic will last for one hour and will begin promptly at 2:20 p.m. All required equipment will be provided to participants and advance reservations are recommended. Call 655-4653.

4 / Sunday

Bowling Tournament — A “5 Game, No Tap” tournament will be held at the Schofield

Bowling Center, March 4. Check-in will be at 1 p.m., and the cost is \$20 per bowler. Call 655-0573.

Ongoing

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

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

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

Hawaii Academy offers a variety of programs, including parent-tot and preschool classes; an

essential skills program; flexibility, fitness and gymnastics programs; special education programs; and trampoline and power tumbling programs.

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

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

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

Scuba Club — Join the Scuba Club for \$7 a month. Membership includes free air fills, and a 10 percent discount on all scuba equipment rentals.

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

OIF Soldiers triple excitement of Great Aloha Run

SPC. BRYANNA POULIN
Task Force Lightning Public Affairs

TIKRIT, Iraq – Approximately 1,548 Soldiers and U.S. contractors participated in the 8.15 mile Great Aloha Run (GAR) held in various locations throughout Iraq, Feb. 10. In all, they collected \$6,451 in donations – \$2,407 of which will be used for charities in Iraq.

At Forward Operating Base (FOB) Warrior, 448 runners ran the Telcom GAR, the satellite race that originated in Hawaii. At FOB Q-West, 578 runners joined together for the annual tradition, and at Contingency Operating Base (COB) Speicher, 522 runners gathered at the Army Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) gym for the run.

The GAR is held annually in Honolulu, on the third Monday in February, or President's Day. The charity run benefits Carole Kai Charities, a philanthropic fund run by Hawaii entertainer Carole Kai, who along with Honolulu Marathon founder Dr. Jack Scaff started the race in 1985.

"I want to extend an 'aloha' to Carole Kai and all of the other runners in Hawaii. Good luck and mahalo," said Maj. Gen. Benjamin R. Mixon, commander of Multi-National Division-North and



Sgt. 1st Class David E. Gillespie | 45th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

Before the race at FOB Q-West, Col. Michael McBride, 45th Sustainment Brigade commander, talks to a crowd of more than 200 runners about Hawaii's Great Aloha Run and its significant impact on charities there.

the 25th Infantry Division (ID).

Because it begins at the Aloha Tower and finishes on the floor of Aloha Stadium, the Great Aloha Run so gets its name. In the Hawaii race, Soldiers run in a "Sounds of Freedom" category, a formation run of the separate military branches. However, at COB Speicher,

Soldiers competed against each other.

"I actually enjoyed not having to run in formation and running at my own pace," said Sgt. Gerald Craig, driver for the command sergeant major, Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC), 25th ID. "[However.] I did miss the big finale in Hawaii, where we always

finished in the Aloha Stadium."

Enthusiasm remained high throughout all races in Iraq.

"The motivational level of the runners this morning was phenomenal," said Sgt. Amaka Brown, G-1 awards noncommissioned officer, HHC, 25th ID, exuberantly. "Everyone was having a great time,

First Place, Great Aloha Run, Iraq At COB Speicher

- 1st Lt. Desiree Strozier G-2, 25th ID Time, 53:27.
- 1st Lt. Paul Strozier, 2nd Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment, finished in 43:11.

At FOB Warrior

- Air Force's Kristi Anders Time, 54:16
- Spc. William Smallwood 2nd Battalion, 35th Regiment, 25th ID Time, 54:16

At FOB Q-West

- Sgt. Monica Colts Bravo Company, 298th TC Time, 64:00
- 2nd Lt. Eli Soliz 364th Quartermaster Co. Time, 59:14

cheering for each person and giving support as we passed."

Craig echoed similar sentiments.

"It was great that we could still share experience while deployed in Iraq," Craig noted. "It's a morale booster when 25th Division Soldiers come together to run a race that only Hawaii offers."



Visitors enjoy the sunset and cool temperatures in front of the Hotel Lanai. Built in 1923, the hotel was originally used by James Dole to entertain guests. Its plantation style architecture is relatively unchanged.

Lanai: Island's simple style beacons

CONTINUED FROM B-1

If you decide to visit Lanai, here are a few tips:

- Getting there hasn't been cheaper in recent years. Most inter-island carriers have lowered their prices in the past month — in some cases cutting them in half.
- Alternatively, fly to Maui, spend a day in historic Lahaina and take the one-hour Expeditions ferry to Lanai. Kamaaina and military-discount rates cost about \$20 each way. Some even make it a day trip.

Transportation — Feet to four wheels

- While Lanai City itself is quite walkable, a vehicle is necessary to reach most destinations.
- A half-hourly shuttle connects the Manele Harbor and the Manele Bay Hotel at Hulopoe Bay to the south with Lanai City and the Lodge of Koele to the north. A separate shuttle brings travelers from the airport to Lanai City. Both shuttles cost approximately \$5 per person, each way, and are sufficient if you're not heading to any off-road excursions.
- Travelers who wish to venture off the paved roads can rent a 4-wheel-drive Jeep from the island's only car rental company for \$125-150 per 24-hour period. Booking through Hotel Lanai can lower the rate.

Lodging — Upscale to no scale

- Even if you can't reserve all the resort's hotel rooms like Bill Gates did for his wedding in 1994,

you can relax and enjoy the good life on Lanai.

- The Manele Bay Hotel and Lodge at Koele provide elegant rooms for guests who are willing to splurge \$300-plus per night. With two croquet pitches, several stylish gazebos, and a large koi pond, the Lodge edges out the upscale competition with its English manor feel.
- The island's oldest hotel, Hotel Lanai, offers minimalist décor and plantation-style charm. The walls are a bit thin, but the lack of televisions sets in the rooms makes staying here quite pleasant. Prices range from \$125 and up.
- Alternatively, camping is available at Hulopoe Bay, but reservations must be made in advance through the Lanai Company. Call (808) 565-3978.

Activities — Mauka to makai

- In addition to soaking up Lanai's slow, peaceful vibe, try a few excursions around the island:
- Snorkel at Hulopoe Bay — Heralded as some of the best snorkeling in the state.
- Hike the Munro Trail — A day hike with views of most of the island chain.
- Off-road it to Shipwreck Beach — Learn firsthand how this stretch of coastline earned its name.

For additional information, visit the Lanai Visitors Bureau at www.visitlanai.net.

(Editor's Note: "Hawaii —The All-Island Guide" by Robert Nilsen was a source for this article.)



Send community announcements to community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

23 / Today

Peanuts and Cracker Jacks

— Active and reserve military members will receive two tickets for the price of one for the University of Hawaii's three-game baseball series against Wichita State.

The series will be held in the Les Murakami Stadium, Friday and Saturday at 6:35 p.m., and Sunday at 1:05 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Stan Sheriff Center box office or on game day at the stadium box office.

24 / Saturday

Down and Dirty

— The 12th Annual Combat Service Support Group (CSSG)-3 Swamp Romp will be held Feb. 24 at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, beginning at 7 a.m.

Oahu's dirtiest footrace is open to six-member teams and will begin at the intersection of Seldon Street and Harris Avenue.

Call 254-7590 or 254-7679.

LPGA Tournament

— All active and retired military with proper identification will be ad-

mitted free to the Fields Open, the second official LPGA tournament of the year. The final rounds will be held Saturday at the Ko Olina Golf Club.

Nonmilitary ticket prices are \$10 and may be purchased at any First Hawaiian Bank branch, the Ko Olina Golf Club and the Fields Open tournament office.

25 / Sunday

Hike Oahu

— Advanced hikers are invited to join the Hawaiian Trail and Mountain Club on its trek from Laie up to the Koolau summit.

A hot, dusty farm road will lead hikers onto a contoured graded trail, then through guava groves and blankets of native vegetation.

Hikers will meet at the Iolani Palace at 8 a.m. however, transportation is not provided. A \$2 donation is requested from all nonmembers. Call 674-1459 or 377-5442.

March

10 / Saturday

Walk for Lupus — The Hawaii chapter of The Lupus Foundation of America will host its third annual Walk for Lupus NOW!, March 10, starting at Kapiolani Park bandstand.

Since lupus patients cannot spend too much time absorbing the ultraviolet rays of the sun, this twilight event will begin at 5:30 p.m. Registration and packet pick up begins at 4 p.m. Call

538-1522 or visit www.lupushawaii.org.

17 / Saturday

The March March

— The Menhune Marchers will be sponsoring a 10k Kaimuki and Kapiolani Community College Farmer's Market volksmarch (walk) March 17.

This free march will start at Fort Ruger Triangle Park. Participants may begin any time between 8-11 a.m. To receive IVV credit, the cost is \$3. Call 205-1846.

Ongoing

Hunter Education Courses

— The Hawaii Department of Land & Natural Resources offers monthly Hunter Education classes.

Subjects to be covered include wildlife identification and conservation, firearms and archery safety, survival, game care and more.

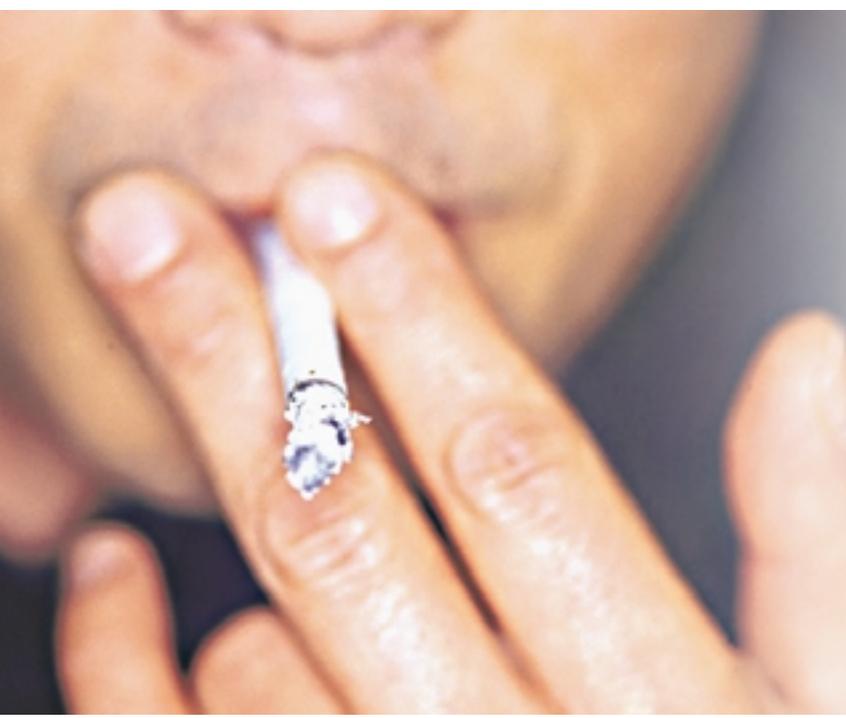
The free two-day classes are held each month, on a Saturday, from 5:45-10 p.m., and Sunday, 7:45 a.m.-4 p.m. Classes are family-friendly and open to anyone age 10 years and older. Visit www.hawaii.gov/dlnr/dcre/courses.htm or call 587-0200.

Golfers Wanted

— Military or civilian golfers interested in playing golf on Sunday mornings at Leilehua Golf Course should call 347-8038 or 375-3322. Tee time is usually before 8 a.m.

'The doctor is in'

Quitting tobacco first step to being kind to your heart



DR. DAVID N. TORNBURG, MPH
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for
Clinical and Program Policy

February is American Heart Month, the time when the American Heart Association focuses on spreading the word on heart health, heart attack and stroke.

Cardiovascular disease – heart attack, stroke and atherosclerosis (hardening of the arteries) – is the number one killer in America. Education and prevention are your best defenses against heart disease.

Heart disease prevention has several components: a healthy diet, regular exercise, maintaining healthy cholesterol levels and blood pressure, and not using tobacco.

In January, the Defense Department released the results of the 2005 Health Related Behaviors Survey. This survey, the ninth since 1980, provides information on diet and fitness; tobacco, alcohol and drug use; and other risky health behaviors of active duty personnel.

The survey shows that tobacco use in the military is still too common. For those who smoke, quitting tobacco should be their first step to a healthy heart.

Encouraging tobacco cessation – quitting cigarettes or smokeless tobacco – remains a priority of the military health community, and tobacco use among active duty military members has declined steadily between 1980 and 1998.

On The WEB American Heart Health Month:
www.americanheart.org

Trying to quit smoking?
Call Public Health Nursing at
433-8675 for help.

While health professionals are proud of this effort, much more work is needed. Tobacco use rose significantly in the 2002 survey and still remained above 1998 levels in 2005.

Tobacco use, and especially smoking, causes a number of preventable diseases: heart attacks, strokes, high blood pressure and cancer, to name just a few. Common illnesses like colds, sinus and respiratory infections are also even more common in smokers.

Quitting smoking makes you instantly healthier, and over time your health can be restored to nearly what it would have been had you never smoked.

But first, you need to quit. It is never too late to benefit from quitting.

Resources are available to you at your military treatment facility; just ask and then, just quit.



Tornburg

Tricare benefits now include HPV vaccine

Disease prevention key to lowering cancer risk

FALLS CHURCH, Va. – Human papillomavirus (HPV) infection is a concern for girls and young women because it can lead to cervical cancer. Tricare wants its beneficiaries to know a preventive vaccine is available, and that the vaccine is a Tricare-covered benefit.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that in 2006, approximately 9,700 cases of cervical cancer were diagnosed in the United States, and approximately 3,700 women died from the disease. Nearly all cervical cancer cases

are associated with an HPV infection.

"It is important for us to protect our beneficiaries from preventable disease whenever we can," said Army Maj. Gen. Elder Granger, deputy director, Tricare Management Activity, "so we cover all immunizations the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends and adopts."

The CDC recommends a three-dose schedule for the HPV vaccine with the second and third doses administered two and six months after the first dose. They recommend routine vaccination with HPV for girls 11 to 12 years old.

Doctors may start the vaccination series in girls as young as nine years

old, and can give a catch-up vaccination to 13 to 26 years olds who have not been vaccinated previously or who have not completed the full vaccine series.



Because the vaccine is new, it may not be available everywhere. Interested beneficiaries or their parents should contact their doctors to find

out if they administer the HPV vaccine.

Also, the new vaccine does not protect against every type of HPV infection and can't prevent all cervical cancers, so getting vaccinated does not eliminate the need for screening pap smears, or reduce the importance of regular gynecological exams.

About Tricare Management Activity

Tricare Management Activity, the Defense Department agency that administers the health care plan for the uniformed services, retirees and their families, serves more than 9.1 million eligible beneficiaries worldwide.

Tripler parking lot closes for weekend

TRIPLER ARMY MEDICAL CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS
News Release

HONOLULU – The parking lot directly outside of the mountainside entrance to Tripler Army Medical Center is closed (since Thursday, Feb. 22) for receipt and installation of a second Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machine at Tripler.

The installation of this second MRI machine will allow Tripler to better serve its beneficiaries.

Parking will be available in all other areas of the Tripler campus, to include the parking lot located behind the guest housing buildings.

Weather permitting, the mountainside parking lot will be reopened, Sunday, Feb. 25.

To contact the Tripler Trolley for transport from parking areas to the main entrances, call 433-1111.