

HAWAII ARMY WEEKLY

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Serving the U.S. Army Community in Hawai'i ★ www.25idl.army.mil/haw.asp

INSIDE



307th ITSB operational

The 307th ITSB reaches a new milestone as a fully operational expeditionary communications unit

A-4

Wounded Warrior

The Warrior Assistance Center will be renamed Na Koa Puuhonua (Warrior Place of Refuge) at 2:30 p.m., Tuesday, at Grant Hall (Building 692), Schofield Barracks.

See News Briefs, A-3

Ash Wednesday

Services for Ash Wednesday are offered throughout the island for Catholic and Protestant observers.

See Community Calendar, B-2



Football Bash

Professional athletes train youth at the 3rd Annual Army Hawaii Football Bash at AMR

B-1

This issue

Lightning Spirit A-2

Soldiers A-3

News Briefs A-3

MWR B-2

Sports & Fitness B-4

Tropic Lightning family bids aloha to Mixon

SPC. DURWOOD BLACKMON
25th Infantry Division Public Affairs

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Unit flags rattled in the rain as an entire division of Soldiers masked the horizon and bid farewell to the 25th Infantry Division's (ID) outgoing commanding general at Sills Field, Wednesday.

Maj. Gen. Benjamin Mixon, commander, 25th ID, said his final goodbyes to the Tropic Lightning family in a relinquishment of command ceremony, which concluded his more than two years of service.

His successor, Brig. Gen. Mick Bednarek, interim commanding general, 25th ID, took great pride in assuming responsibility of the division. Bednarek was previously the 25th's deputy commanding general for operations. Although the ceremony honored Mixon and Bednarek, both generals placed emphasis on their Soldiers.

"This ceremony is not about an outgoing or incoming commander, but rather these battle-hardened warriors on this field of honor," said Bednarek.

Mixon agreed: "To your front is the strength of America — its Soldiers. You heard me talking ... of the accomplishments of this great division in the past and most recently in Iraq. Those accomplishments are not mine. They belong to the men and women you see on the field ... I tell you they are the nation's greatest patriots, and they are a national treasure."

Lt. Gen. John M. Brown III, commander, U.S. Army Pacific (USARPAC), praised both leaders for their leadership and dedication to the Army and its Soldiers.

"The Army has chosen very wisely in selecting Mick Bednarek to take command of this position at a very important time," said Brown. "He is always out in front of

Soldiers. He is always setting the example. He is making things happen to accomplish the mission and take care of Soldiers."

Bednarek, who just returned with the division from a 15-month deployment, will act as the interim commander until a successor is named. Bednarek also commanded the 4th Training Brigade, Ft. Jackson, S.C.; and served as the chief, Joint Training Group, Joint Warfighting Center, U.S. Joint Forces Command.

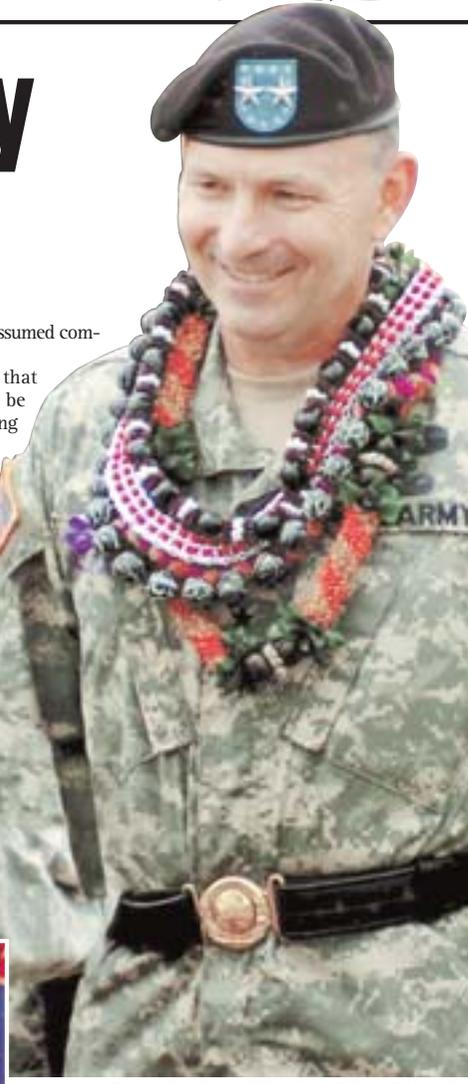
Mixon leaves the division with extensive and distinguished service, but will not travel far. After being promoted to lieutenant

general this morning, Mixon assumed command of USARPAC.

"I couldn't be prouder that Randy has been selected to be my replacement as commanding general of the United States Army Pacific," Brown said. "He has the credentials, he has the confidence, but more than that, he has the heart and the character to lead America's Soldiers all across this Asia-Pacific region."



Maj. Gen. Benjamin Mixon, his wife Rhonda and daughter Ashlee Mixon-Holbein greet guests following the ceremony, Wednesday.



SpC. Durwood Blackmon | 25th Infantry Division Public Affairs

Above — Maj. Gen. Benjamin Mixon is greeted with lei at the conclusion of his relinquishment of command ceremony at Sills Field, Wednesday.

Top Left — During a pass-and-review, Soldiers render honors to former 25th ID commander Maj. Gen. Benjamin Mixon, interim commander Brig. Gen. Mick Bednarek, and Lt. Gen. John Brown III, commander, U.S. Army, Pacific. Photo by Sgt. Katrina Nichols, 25th Infantry Division Public Affairs.

Survey may give Hawaii troops pay raise

U.S. PACIFIC COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
News Release

FORD ISLAND — Military personnel in Hawaii have an opportunity to directly affect their paychecks this year by taking part in a Living Pattern Survey, said Maj. Gen. Stephen Tom, chief of staff, U.S. Pacific Command, Jan. 22.

The survey, which takes place this month, affects the Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) military personnel stationed in Hawaii receive each month.

The final result of the survey could be an increase, decrease or have no change to the COLA, said Tom.

Tom and Stephen Westbrook, director of the Per Diem, Travel and Transportation Allowance Committee for Military Personnel



Staff Sgt. Tim Meyer | U.S. Pacific Command Public Affairs

Stephen Westbrook, director of the Per Diem, Travel and Transportation Allowance Committee for Military Personnel Policy, speaks to 50 officers and senior enlisted from all branches during an information session about the online Living Pattern Survey.

Policy, spoke to 50 senior enlisted service members and officers from all branches during an information session on Ford Island, Jan. 22,

about COLA and the online survey that will be available throughout February.

The Living Pattern Survey is

only conducted every three years and is the basis for COLA amounts service members receive. Therefore, maximum participation is critical, said Westbrook.

COLA is an allowance designed to compensate members for the difference between the costs of goods and services in the continental U.S. and the same goods and services in an overseas area, which includes Alaska and Hawaii.

The Living Pattern Survey collects information about locations where military families shop and dine, on and off base. The results of the survey are used to form a Retail Price Schedule.

Afterward, a Market Basket Survey — for prices of 120 goods and services at on-base commissaries and exchanges and the top

SEE SURVEY, A-8

MPSA reunites Soldiers and parcels

MAJ. DAVID WHEELER
U.S. Army Human Resources Command

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Are you a military member who has deployed or redeployed overseas, and are you still waiting on your footlocker, duffle bag or parcel to arrive?

Soldiers and families members can now contact the Military Postal Service Agency (MPSA) at mpsa-mrc@hqda.mil to inquire or claim mail that has not arrived but was sent more than 60 days ago.

"The best way to ensure your package is delivered, in the event the address label is lost or destroyed, would be to enclose the mailing address information on the inside of each parcel," according to Tech. Sgt. Steven L. Bennett, mail recovery coordinator for MPSA.

Address information can be typed or legibly written on a piece of paper or index card, and must include the complete address information of the mailer and recipient. This information will help postal employees determine the article's owner and provide a forwarding address.

Soldiers should include the following details in their e-mail to MPSA: a contact phone number; e-mail address; rank; first and last name; mailing address; return

SEE MPSA, A-8

Housing, safety take precedence at town hall meeting

Story and Photo by
MOLLY HAYDEN
Staff Writer

ALIAMANU MILITARY RESERVATION — Chapel pews filled quickly as more than 80 Soldiers, family members and subject-matter experts gathered here for the town hall meeting, Wednesday.

Lt. Col. Mark Boussy, commander, U.S. Army Garrison, Oahu, began the meeting by reminding the audience, "We are here to listen and help you."
With new-home construction in full swing at Aliamanu Military Reservation (AMR), housing was a hot topic. Vicky Domingo, Army Hawaii Family Housing (AHFH) operations director, empathized with the crowd as she provided an update on construction.

AHFH has been building homes in Army

communities since June 2006. Since this time many families have been relocated, with more scheduled in the upcoming months.

So far, 59 of the 200 new homes have been completed in the in Ama neighborhood. Also, starting in May, AHFH will begin building 361 homes in the Bougainvillea area, while a 140-home project will begin in June or July in the Red Hill community.

Residents of the Makai and Skyview areas will receive a 120-day notice to relocate in March and April, respectively, and will be offered new homes.

Domingo excitedly addressed the crowd with news of the recently opened AMR Community Center. The facility contains family gathering room, which will be available for parties, and a 30-seat theater.

Dennis Morris, operations officer, Fort Shafter Military Police, provided the provost

marshall update.

Morris said Department of Army police working alongside military police have given the community a well-integrated force; however, safety is still a top concern.

Representatives from Army Community Service, Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, and the Army and Air Force Exchange Service relayed upcoming events and asked for community feedback.

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Robert Powers ended the briefings with explanations of religious support and upcoming chapel services.

The question-and-answer portion of the meeting lasted well over an hour as residents raised concerns of safety and child activities at AMR.

"When we moved in, the playgrounds were

SEE TOWN HALL, A-8

We want to hear from you...

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

If you have newsworthy ideas or stories you'd like to write, coordinate with the managing editor at 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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28 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 1/30/08.

Spotlight on Education

UH continues to support military families

ARMY SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICE
 News Release

MANOA – University of Hawaii President David McClain recently announced 10 campuses of the University of Hawaii (UH) system will continue the benefit of resident tuition to family members of active duty, nonresident military personnel who are required to move outside of Hawaii due to military orders.

This new policy ensures military family members can continue their higher education at UH even if their parents are reassigned. Students who cope with deployed parents and frequent moves can breathe a sigh of relief knowing they can continue their studies without paying out-

of-state tuition if their military sponsor is reassigned to another state before they receive their degree.

Since 2003, State Representative Mark Takai has worked with UH to find ways to help military families affected by military orders and deployments.

The following are other areas UH addressed to assist military families:

- In-state tuition for active duty military personnel stationed in Hawaii and their authorized family members while they are stationed here.
- In-state tuition for members of the Hawaii National Guard and reservists who lived in Hawaii for less than the required 12 months

for residency and tuition purposes.

- Full refund of all tuition and fees for active duty military personnel and their authorized family members, Hawaii National Guard members and reservists who withdraw from UH for reasons related to deployment.
- A prorated refund for deployed students who paid fees for services, such as residence halls, child care or parking permits.

These benefits and the new policy are the university's way of showing its gratitude to service members who serve the United States.

"We are grateful to all of our military service members and their dependents

who serve our country so diligently," McClain said, "and we are committed to those who are able to attend ... the university."

The new policy is instrumental in making UH a viable option for higher education for military family members who choose to be continuously enrolled in the same program. This decision by UH will have a positive effect on the educational future of many military children.

"In these difficult times in which our military families give so much, this news speaks volumes of how supportive the State of Hawaii continues to be," said Holly Bednarek, wife of Brig. Gen. John Bednarek, interim commander, 25th Infantry Division.

Former Iraqi general salutes Soldiers

Editor's Note: Maj. Gen. Georges Hormis Sada is the author of "Saddam's Secrets," an expose on Iraq's weapons programs, the murderous reign of Saddam Hussein, and of Iraq's gratitude to the coalition troops and the American people who have sacrificed given to bring new freedom and democracy to Iraq and its people.

Sada expressed his gratitude to the people of Oahu, Soldiers and their families on several occasions during his recent 10-day visit. Sada sent the letter below to Lt. Gen. Benjamin Mixon, former commander, 25th Infantry Division, recently.

Dear General Mixon,

I want to express my gratitude for the opportunity to meet and share experiences and goals in freeing Iraq from an oppressive dictator's regime.

It was a privilege to communicate my observations on what my country has gone through and needs in the future. The millions of good Iraqis will never forget the sacrifices of America that have freed them from tyranny, a cruel dictator and a world danger.

I want to salute the brave men and women who serve here, and in Iraq, and who have sacrificed much for a country so far away. I want to bow in respect for the fathers and mothers who have also sacrificed much to send their sons and daughters into this fight.

My belief is that the Americans have done an excellent job, and now it is time for Iraqis to complete the details that will create a stable and lasting peace in our country.

Terrorists have openly declared war against goodness and civilization; therefore, it is clear that we face an ongoing and serious battle between evil and good. We cannot afford to only be observers ... we must choose good and continue to stand for it.

The security and safety of America should never be politicized. And all Americans, whatever they believe, should always back their troops who are the lifeline to freedom worldwide.

With great conviction, I believe we will be victorious as we serve together. We are truly brothers for truth and freedom. God bless America and Iraq.

Sincerely yours,
 General Georges H. Sada
 President of International Institute for Reconciliation and Peace

Maj. Gen. Georges Hormis Sada graduated from Iraq's Air Academy in 1960 and was trained by elite forces in Britain, Russia and the U.S.

An ace fighter pilot who trained other pilots, he later became Air Vice Marshal in Saddam Hussein's military. His acts of bravery, including saving the lives of 45 downed coalition pilots in the Gulf War, have earned him hero status among coalition nations.

Sada was born into an Assyrian Christian family in northern Iraq, and he became a dedicated believer in 1986. Saddam was well aware Sada was a Christian.

Though advisors often told Saddam lies in hopes of saving their own necks, Sada was known for giving wise and truthful advice. Saddam even took Sada's repeated advice not to attack Israel with chemical weapons, something Saddam considered doing on two separate occasions.

Now retired, Sada is executive secretary of the International Institute for Reconciliation and Peace, has served as a spokesman for the newly elected prime minister of Iraq, is president of the National Presbyterian Church in Baghdad, and chairman of the Assembly of Iraqi Evangelical Presbyterian Churches.

In recent years, Sada held the position of principal advisor to former Iraqi Prime minister, Iyad Allawi, and served as the spokesman for the Iraqi government and Ministry of Defense.



LIGHTNING SPIRIT

Alone time doesn't mean a person is really alone

CHAPLAIN (MAJ.) KEVIN P. STROOP
 Fort Shafter Installation Chaplain

As I near the age of 50, I am confronted with the concept of being alone. As my oldest son boards the plane for college and my youngest gets mail from the schools that want him to apply next year, I realize the old homestead will be quiet in the near future.

The quietness doesn't scare me, the aloneness does. Who will listen to my uniquely funny stories? Who will quiz me for my insight on politics and world affairs? Who will learn from my deep insight into people and personalities?

My wife will not. She's already told me not to go there. She's heard it all before and doesn't want the hassle. The cat seems to be the best bet for me; she is a great audience if I can catch her.

I know that I will be alone for periods of time, and aloneness is OK, sometimes, but to want to say something and have no one listen — well, that is aloneness.

Jesus spent 40 days and nights in the wilderness and was alone until the pesky devil came to break up the party. He used the alone time to prepare for his earthly ministry and came out of it in need of some human companionship.

He chose the disciples to listen to all the

things he had for mankind, and they took it in and held on to every word he spoke. The Scriptures come from these moments, and we still learn from them.



Stroop

Still, by the end of his ministry, Jesus needed to get away from the crowds and be alone with his disciples, and sometimes by himself. I understand these times.

When my wife needs to be alone, I'm not so understanding. She wants to go and do some things by herself, and I cannot fathom why. Why would she not want me around? Is she cooking up some plan that involves my imminent demise? Is there some surprise in store that she is hiding?

I want you to understand that my wife does need her alone time. She needs the quietness that comes from not having schoolchildren around the desk. She needs moments that are not filled with my wants and desires, but hers and hers alone.

My fear is that she will enjoy those alone moments more than she does the ones with me. But after so many years, that's not likely to happen.

Back to the empty nest that is staring me in the face. My focus these last 20-plus years has been those kids. Every decision, every move and every idea hinged on them. Now what?

I guess I'll have to come to the realization that as life changes so must I, that being alone with my own thoughts and prayers is not something to fear, but to embrace.

Time to catch up on reading the Bible. Time to learn new skills. Time to practice golf — now there is some great alone time. Now that I think of it, maybe the kids being gone won't be so bad.

The joy and reality of life is that we are never really alone. There is no total desolation or isolation if we have faith. Even Jesus in the wilderness called upon God the Father to guide and sustain him.

With his resurrection, we, too, have his presence with us even when we are alone. Hence, if we know him, we are never really alone. Even in the loneliest moments he is there.

This knowledge can keep away the fear of deployments, aging, death and kids growing up. Having the knowledge that God is with us no matter the situation, with or without people, gives comfort even through fear.

As I write this, the kid waiting to go to college is bothering me.

Everyone urged to do their part by voting

BRIG. GEN. REUBEN D. JONES
 Adjutant General

As the Army's senior voting officer, I strongly encourage you to participate and cast your vote in the 2008 presidential primaries.

Voting is the essence of our democracy and one of our most important constitutional rights.

Our elected officials have important jobs, and you have a voice in who gets those jobs — if you vote.

The primaries began in January with the Iowa Caucus and continue through June. You can exercise your right to vote by completing the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA Standard Form 76) or complying with the ballot request procedures enacted by the state in which you vote.

You will receive your absentee ballot after mailing or e-mailing the FPCA Standard Form 76, or other request, so send those forms in as soon as possible.

The Federal Assistance Program has been working with states to allow ballots to be submitted and received electronically. Check with your unit voting assistance officer for your state requirements.

It is important that you complete and send in your ballot immediately to ensure it is received before your state's deadline.

If you are an overseas voter and have not received your regular absentee ballot 30-45 days prior to your state's deadline, you should complete a Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB) and send it to your local election official.

If you later receive your absentee ballot, you should complete and send it in as well.

Mailing guidelines differ from state to state, so check your state's guidelines by contacting your unit voting assistance officer, or by visiting the Army Voting Assistance Program Web site at www.vote.army.mil.

Be smart, do your part. Vote.



Jones

Voices of Lightning: "What out-dated piece of technology do you still have?"



"A normal DVD player."

Staff Sgt. Jeff Czapl
 B Co, Warrior Transition Bn, Infantryman



"I still have a cassette player."

Missy Davis
 Family Member



"Portable CD player."

Shannon Hager
 Flower Shop Desk Clerk



"We still have an old cord phone."

Staff Sgt. Eduard Reyes
 1101st GSU Medical NCO



"Kenwood turntable stereo."

Kathleen Weems
 Family Member

Soldiers bring medicine to overlooked Iraqi community

Story and Photo by
SPC. AARON L. ROSECRANS
2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — Multinational Division, Baghdad (MNDDB) and Iraqi Soldiers hosted a Combined Medical Engagement, Friday, at the Falahat Girls School here.

The medical engagement was intended to bring medical care to a community that has been overlooked in the past.

“This area is predominantly Sunni, so many of the families have been neglected when it comes to medical care,” said 1st Lt. Jon Still, a medical officer and event coordinator with 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team.

Soldiers and coalition forces are working hard to train the Iraqi army to assume many of the responsibilities currently performed by coalition forces.

In general, the country badly needs regular medical care, and the U.S. is unable to meet all of the needs of the people, Still

said. He and other medical teams are training the Iraqi army to assume responsibility for the medical needs of their fellow Iraqis.

Coordinating and working with the Iraqi army has been a challenge for some Soldiers, but the medics seem to work through issues with ease.

“Working with the Iraqi army can be difficult because of the large language barrier, but we all focused on taking care of the people,” said Spc. Nicholas Bergmooser, a combat medic with C Troop, 2-14th Cav. Regt. “Sometimes, the Iraqi medics don’t know everything, but that is why we’re here.”

“For me, working with the Iraqi army has been easy,” Still said. “The [Military Transition Team] has helped out a lot getting them on board with this operation.”

During the medical engagement, U.S. medics took a back seat and let the Iraqis take charge.

“We are putting Iraqi army medics out front to let them practice,” said Still. “Our

goal is to only play more of a supporting role.”

For many Soldiers, the medical engagement wasn’t their first time helping Iraqis in the area. Some have seen the horrifying effects of war.

“The hardest thing I saw was a kid who had half of his back burned,” Bergmooser said. “It was infected and not healing right. We helped dress his wounds and gave him antibiotics. He came back later, and his back finally started to heal properly. It’s nice to see some good come out of our efforts.”

Near the end of the medical engagement, many were still waiting to be seen.

“We can’t stay here too long because you never know what the enemy is doing while you’re working here, trying to help the people,” said Still. “Not being able to provide medical care to everyone is hard at first, but just being able to give them something is awesome. Some people only come for the free soccer ball and blanket, but for some, we actually have the opportunity to make a difference in their life.”



Capt. R. Dale Jackson, who serves as the battalion surgeon with 1st Brigade, 143rd Field Artillery Regiment, assists a man who lost a couple fingers after an accident at work. The mission focused on providing care for Iraqis in a neglected area and training Iraqi army medics to conduct their own medical missions in the future.

News Briefs

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

1 / Today

USARPAC Change of Command — Lt. Gen. John Brown III, commander, U.S. Army, Pacific, will relinquish command to Maj. Gen. Benjamin Mixon at Fort Shafter’s Palm Circle, today, at 10 a.m.

Mixon will be promoted to lieutenant general prior to the ceremony at 9:15 a.m.

Collection Sites — The temporary storm-damage collection sites along Schofield Barracks’ Trimble Road and at the Wheeler Army Air Field Gulch closed Dec. 21. Do not deposit trash or green waste at these sites. Housing residents should contact their community centers for information about waste disposal. Call 656-2439.

Road Closure — Schofield Barracks Foote Avenue will be closed from Lewis Street to Heard Avenue until Feb. 5 for construction work on a nearby building. Call 624-7234.

4 / Monday

Post Exchange Meeting — The next Schofield Barracks Post Exchange Advisory Council Meeting will be held Feb. 4, 10:15–11:15 a.m., at the Post Conference Room. Call 655-0497.

6 / Wednesday

Asymmetric Warfare Group Recruiting — The Asymmetric Warfare Group (AWG) recruiting team will visit Schofield Barracks to inform interested candidates about AWG, Feb. 6-8.

Briefings will be held at the Post Education Center, Room 220, Feb. 6-7, at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; and Feb. 8, at 9:30 a.m.

Visit www.awg.army.mil, e-mail awg.recruiter@us.army.mil, or call (301) 786-6159.

12 / Tuesday

WLC Graduation — There will be a Warrior Leaders Course graduation ceremony at Schofield’s Stoneman Field, Feb. 12, 11–11:30 a.m.

14 / Thursday

Retirement Ceremony — The next 25th Infantry Division retirement ceremony will be held at the Nehelani, Schofield Barracks, Feb. 14, at 2 p.m.

SEE NEWS BRIEFS, A-5

Signal battalion reaches historical mark in Pacific

307th ITSB achieves one milestone after another in record time – the latest, the unit’s “fully operational”

Story and Photo by
STAFF SGT. CRISTA YAZZIE
U.S. Army, Pacific, Public Affairs

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS – The 307th Integrated Theater Signal Battalion (ITSB) has officially changed communications readiness throughout the Pacific region. During a recent ceremony, the unit was recognized as the only fully operational capable signal battalion in the Pacific.

“This is a culminating point in the history of the Pacific and the Army campaign plan,” said Maj. Gen. Donna Dacier, commanding general, 311th Theater Signal Command. “The 307th ITSB is the only expeditionary communications capability that the U.S. Pacific [commanding general] has at his disposal every day in this theater.”

Dacier thanked the 307th ITSB for its diligence and vigor during the validation process.

“From start to finish, this unit was able to accomplish full operational capability in fourteen months. That is a Herculean accomplishment by anybody’s standards.”

Uncasing the colors in November 2006, the battalion moved from Korea to Hawaii and Alaska, accomplishing this particular feat with approximately 20 percent of its original manning.

“They established their barracks, motor pool and the battalion and company headquarters, while simultaneously inventorying and prepping their equipment for training,” said Lt. Col. Maria B. Barrett, 307th ITSB commander.

“Still nominally manned, the Soldiers of the 307th rolled out to their first training exercise on the fifth of February ... just two months after receiving it,” she added.

Capt. William James Griffin, commander, A Company, added that moving his unit to Alaska came with its own pitfalls.

“We brought only five original Soldiers and their equipment with us to Alaska,” he said. “When we opened up the [shipping containers], many of the newer Soldiers were seeing this equipment for the first time. We had to upgrade. A lot of the equipment was outdated. Soldiers had to step up and learn completely different jobs, all while training in negative ten- or fifteen-degree weather.”

By December 2007, the 307th had successfully executed 11 training and evaluation exercises, four exercises where it provided customer support prior to achieving fully operational capability, three major inspections by higher headquarters, and three major equipment fieldings or upgrades.

The unit is tasked to assist transformation in U.S. Army, Pacific, in various capacities like in upcoming Theater Security Cooperation exercises such as Exercise Balikatan in the Philippines and Exercise Cobra Gold in Thailand.

“The battalion has a fifteen command post package network. Just in C Company alone, there are two large, two small and a medium package,” said Sgt. 1st Class Doyle, C Co. extension node platoon sergeant, who played an integral part in the battalion’s fully operational capability as a movement non-commissioned officer in the transition from Korea. “The command post package network is a team, so the battalion consists of fifteen different teams.

“The way we’re designed is basically to be piecemealed out,” Doyle added. “Some Soldiers here, some there, so we constantly have something going on, but it’s shorter one- to three-month deployments.”

According to Barrett, as the first and only fully operational capable integrated signal battalion in the history of the Pacific, the 307th ITSB has become as indispensable to the theater as communication itself.



Col. Bruce Crawford, commander, 516th Signal Brigade, hands the “fully operational capable” ribbon to Lt. Col. Maria Barrett, 307th ITSB commander, while 307th ITSB Command Sgt. Maj. Herman Badger looks on, during a ceremony officially recognizing the battalion as fully warfighter capable.

25th ID hails command sergeant major

Story and Photo by
SPC. CARLEE ROSS
25th Infantry Division Public Affairs

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS – Friends and families gathered at Sills Field for a “Flying V” ceremony to welcome one of the 25th Infantry Division’s (ID) newest leaders, Jan. 23.

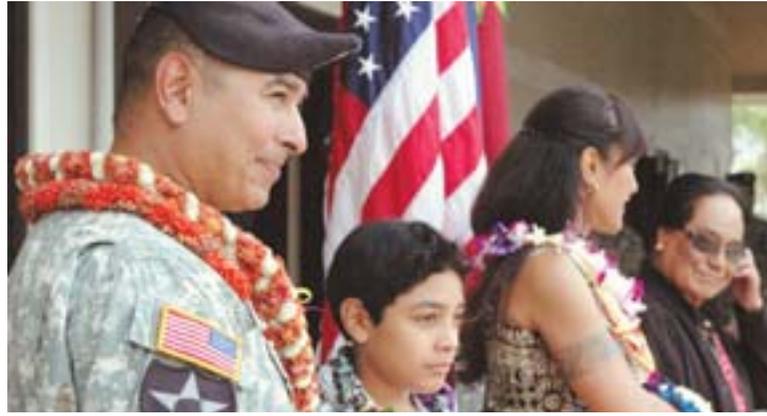
Soldiers from the 25th ID, along with Maj. Gen. Benjamin Mixon, who was promoted and took command of U.S. Army, Pacific, this morning, welcomed 25th ID Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Leota and his family.

“Although we may be suffering from ceremony fatigue, there is no more important ceremony than the one we just completed,” said Mixon, referring to the spate of change of command ceremonies in the past two weeks.

The ceremony marked the continued transformation the division has undergone since its return from deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08.

Although the 25th ID will have a new command sergeant major, standards and discipline will continue to be a top priority.

“My pledge is to enforce our standard and



Soldiers and family members welcome newly appointed Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Leota and his family at the Kalakaua Community Center, following a ceremony at Sills Field, Jan. 23.

to ensure leading by example is not just a phrase,” said Leota.

The ceremony concluded with the Tropic Lightning March as guests moved on to cel-

ebate at the Kalakaua Community Center. During an informal luncheon there, guests greeted the Leota family with lei, warm handshakes and plenty of aloha spirit.

News Briefs

From A-3

Ongoing

Office Change – The Commercial Solicitation/Private Organization Office has transferred from U.S. Army Garrison, Oahu to Directorate, Family & Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR). DFMWR is located in Building 547, 350 Eastman Road, Wheeler Army Air Field. Hours of operation are 7:30 a.m.–4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Call 655-0009.

Green to Gold – The Army Green to Gold Program seeks qualified enlisted Soldiers interested in attaining their commission while completing their bachelor’s or master’s degree. A program briefing is the last Wednesday of every month.

The current application window will be open until April 1, 2008.

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

322nd CAB Vacancies – Officers and noncommissioned officers are needed in the 322nd Civil Affairs Brigade (CAB), Army Reserve, located at Fort Shafter. There are vacancies for staff sergeants, sergeant first class, captains and majors. No experience is necessary.

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

We provide specialty training and the opportunity to deploy to exotic locations such as Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, Japan and Korea to participate in major exercise events. Prospective applicants must be physically fit and meet medical requirements. Looking for adventure and a chance for promotion?

Call Col. Gerald Timoney at 438-1600, ext. 3342.

Children learn energy-saving practices

JOE FEIND

Directorate of Public Works

HELEMANO MILITARY RESERVATION – In the midst of Hawaiian winter, the Directorate of Public Works (DPW) took its light box on the road to spread energy awareness to a youth center here, Jan. 10.

Children discussed global warming and how it relates to choosing lightbulbs in the home. They learned that by reducing greenhouse gases they can become part of the solution in the global warming situation.

One way to reduce greenhouse gases is by replacing a standard 100-watt incandescent lightbulb with a new 23-watt compact fluorescent lamp (CFL). This simple action saves 260 pounds of carbon dioxide a year from going into the atmosphere.

Using the DPW light box, children also explored the heat associated with different types of bulbs. The light box has sockets for comparing lightbulbs side-by-side. Children used a thermocouple to measure the temperature of each bulb,



Courtesy Photo

Children at Helemano Military Reservation measure the temperatures of different lightbulbs at a Directorate of Public Works-sponsored energy awareness event.

and recorded their results on a worksheet. They were encouraged to take their lighting worksheets home to educate their parents.

CFLs save about 75 percent in electricity compared to incandescent lamps. Each CFL can save up to \$26 a year in electricity.

A secondary benefit of using CFLs is lower operating temperatures.

If a home has air conditioning, the lower-temperature CFLs can reduce the air conditioning load, resulting in additional savings of \$6 a year in electricity, a total savings of about \$32 per bulb.

Community honors sacrifices at National Prayer Breakfast

STAFF SGT. MAURICE SMITH

3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS – Hundreds of Soldiers bowed their heads in prayer, Jan. 23, at the old Nehelani Club, to honor our nation, its leaders and Soldiers and families during the National Prayer Breakfast.

“We need to stay spiritually strong in the days in which we live,” said Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Douglas Carver, U.S. Army Chief of Chaplains and primary speaker for the breakfast.

The history of the National Prayer Breakfast dates back to 1956 when the U.S. Senate held the first Presidential Prayer Breakfast after receiving a suggestion from President Dwight D. Eisenhower. The ceremony, which transcends religious denominations, gives members of all faiths an opportunity to celebrate shared spiritual values.

The ceremony began with a prelude by the 25th Infantry Division Band and was

followed by a series of Scripture readings, singing and prayer for the men and women who serve the nation and their families.

Soldiers of all ranks attended the ceremony and gained strength in their faith through prayer.

“I thought it was a wonderful sermon,” said Sgt. Sophia Gray, supply sergeant, B Company, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team.

Gray has attended numerous prayer breakfasts in the past but was more impressed with this ceremony.

“I really enjoyed the variety in this ceremony,” explained Gray. “It was well coordinated with the different Scripture readings, singing and the guest speaker.”

Carver delivered a poignant remark for the audience during his closing remarks.

“If you are having a bad day, go talk to a Soldier and see what God has done in your life,” he said.

Soldiers get cookin' for DoD-wide culinary arts competition

Cooking passion sparks heated competition for culinary team positions

Story and Photo by
LES OZAWA
U.S. Army, Pacific, Public Affairs

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS – “They have a passion for it ... If they have passion, we can teach them what they need to know to get there.”

That’s how Chef Alan Tsuchiyama, culinary arts instructor at Kapiolani Community College, described the 14 Soldiers trying to make the team that will represent Hawaii at the 33rd Annual U.S. Army Culinary Arts Competition at Fort Lee, Va., March 1-15.

“It’s pretty intense,” said Staff Sgt. Anica Spencer, U.S. Army, Pacific’s Special Troops Battalion. “I think everybody is putting on their game faces today. It’s going to be a tough call.”

Spencer, a veteran of the 2005 Department of Defense-wide competition, is one of three food services specialists competing for the pastry chef position on the team.

January 18 was the final day of qualifications, when she and her fellow competitors had only three hours to prepare three dishes for viewing and tasting by Chef Tsuchiyama; Staff Sgt. David Marcelli; Sgt. 1st Class C.W. Francis III, the culinary team’s manager; and Sgt. Edmund Perez, team captain.

First time competitor Spc. Lucas Ashley, F Company, 325th Brigade Support Battalion, took the competition in stride.

“I wasn’t too nervous because I knew what I was cooking,” Ashley said.

“I’m impressed because they’re a very young team with new and exciting ideas for this year’s competition.”

*Sgt. Edmund Perez
Team Captain*

His menu for the day: Tomato and basil soup with prosciutto ham, salad with roasted jalapeno with vinaigrette cranberries. His entrée was stuffed pesto chicken with spinach, garlic and parmesan cheese sauce.

For the past three weeks, contestants worked with Tsuchiyama, who learned his trade at Kapiolani Community College and was a chef at world-class restaurants in Hawaii, Chicago and Austria.

“For the first two weeks, we concentrated on cold platters,” Tsuchiyama said. “They have to be perfect and have to be glazed with aspic.” (Aspic is a clear savory jelly used as a garnish.)

“It’s stuff I’ve always seen but never knew how to do,” said Ashley. “We take a normal dish and transform it into something totally different.”

Unlike the “Iron Chef” television program, however, the Army competition relies on teamwork as well as individual talent. Spc. Jason Nauta, 2-35th Infantry, who won a gold medal in the hot food international category as a junior chef apprentice in the Fort Lee competition in 2006, reflected on the competition.

“Everybody comes up with their own recipes,” Nauta said. “Then you practice it. You critique each other, from the lowest ranking to the highest ranking guy. It’s very exciting; I always love it.”

Team Captain Sgt. Edmund Perez was impressed with the

team being formed this year.

“I’m impressed because they’re a very young team with new and exciting ideas for this year’s competition,” said Perez.

Perez also credited the garrison’s installation food program manager, Velinda White, for being very open to training this year’s team with local food experts at Kapiolani Community College and the Y. Hata Executive Chefs program.

“They will provide this year’s team and future teams with the foundation and skills to compete with the best of the best,” Perez said.

The team leaves Feb. 26 for Fort Lee, where it will compete in varied competitions with dozens of teams from the Army and other services.

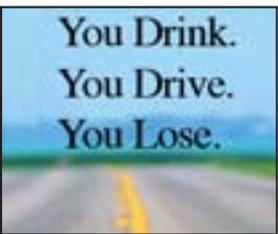
“It’s a group of young Soldiers,” said Francis. “We have some who have been on other culinary arts teams and some that don’t have any experience. They bring a lot of new ideas and initiatives. It is a diverse team with the heart and drive of true Olympians. Our goal is to bring home the gold.”



Spc. Emmanuel Gomez (right) helps Spc. Christopher Pope prepare his chicken entrée for the judges.

2007 All-Hawaii Culinary Team

- Sgt. 1st Class C.W. Francis III, USAG-HI
- Sgt. Edmund Perez, 84th Eng. Bn.
- Staff Sgt. Anica P. Spencer, USARPAC STB
- Spc. Emmanuel Gomez, 25th ID STB
- Spc. Lucas Ashley, 325th BSB
- Spc. Cesar Sumauang, 45th STB
- Spc. Tony Sanders, 37th FSB
- Spc. Jeffrey Morgan, 3-25th Avn. Regt.
- Spc. Christopher Pope, 25th ID STB
- Spc. Monique Sorrell-Johnson, USARPAC STB
- Spc. Christopher Bohn, 540th Quartermaster Co.
- Spc. Jason Nauta, 2-35th Inf. Regt.





Town hall: Leaders listen

CONTINUED FROM A-1

in shambles,” said Abby Vazquez, who has been an AMR resident for more than one year. Vazquez asked why the structures were still standing.

Vazquez said that although she would like to see a new age-appropriate playground within the housing area, she understood it may not be feasible during the renovation.

“At the very least take down the playgrounds,” Vazquez said. “They are dangerous.”

Col. Matthew Margotta, commander, U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii, stressed patience and assured res-

Residents meet with AHFH Operations Director Vicky Domingo to discuss changes taking place on the Aliamanu Military Reservation. Residents met one-on-one to discuss concerns following the South Oahu Town Hall meeting, Wednesday.

idents the command was working toward the community’s future.

“We know we are short playgrounds for kids, fields, parks, barbecue areas ... but it will be resolved eventually,” said Margotta. “In a few years, you will have more of these things.”

The topic of safety raised many hands as residents complained about the lack of proper security procedures entering AMR. Many said they witnessed DA police allowing cars onto AMR without properly checking identification.

“IDs should be checked 100 percent of the time,” said Morris. “Our access control procedures are set, and if they are not being fulfilled, we will address this situation.”

As the meeting ended, Boussy asked residents to bring additional concerns to the experts on hand.

“Please come talk to us one-on-one and we will do our best to resolve any issues you have,” said Boussy.

MPSA: Parcels return to senders

CONTINUED FROM A-1

address; any insured, certified, registered or confirmation number (if applicable); date of mailing; type of container used for mailing; detailed description of the container contents; and any additional information that could be used to help identify the item, such as distinctive marking.

Once the information is received, MPSA will contact the service member to positively identify the owner and, if found, ship the item.

“This is just one example of the Department of Defense doing what we can to better serve those that serve the American people – our Soldiers and families,” said Col. David Ernst, deputy director, MPSA. “Help us help you by contacting the Military Postal Service Agency.”

Survey: Spending patterns affect COLA

CONTINUED FROM A-1

three off-base locations identified from the Living Pattern Survey – is analyzed for each overseas location.

Other data, such as income, number of command-sponsored family members and the percentage of income military families spend on COLA-related items, are also factored into the amount service members receive in COLA.

Currently, approximately 45,000 military personnel are stationed throughout the Hawaiian Islands. However, in 2005 approximately 11,000 participants took the survey, said Westbrook.

This year’s goal is to have maximum survey participation by all uniformed military, said Tom, which includes all Coast Guard, U.S. Public Health Services, and Hawaii Army and Air Force National Guard personnel who have been assigned to Hawaii for at least three months.

But members in uniform are not the only ones who are urged to take the survey.

“We really want the spouses who do the shopping [for a military family] to participate in the survey,” said Westbrook.

A link to the survey on the U.S. Pacific Command Web site, www.pacom.mil, will be active throughout the month of February.

HAWAII **ARMY** WEEKLY

PAU HANA

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

"When work is finished."

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2008

Down, Set, Hike!

Pro football players coach next crop of Super Bowlers at 3rd Annual Army Hawaii Football Bash

Story and Photos by
KYLE FORD
Staff Writer

ALIAMANU MILITARY RESERVATION — More than 400 children and youth participated in the Third Annual Army Hawaii Football Bash Clinic at the fields here, Saturday.

Participants learned the fundamentals and fine-tuned their football skills with current and former National Football League and University of Hawaii football players, and other college and high school players and coaches.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for the kids," said Gus Harper, chief of Youth Sports and Fitness. "This is a huge thing for the Child and Youth Services, for kids to improve their skills, meet their idols and say 'I've been trained by Maa Tanuvasa at Aliamanu.'"

The children weren't the only ones who benefited from the bash; the coaches said they were honored to give back to the community.

"It's really about transferring wisdom and goodness to the kids of Hawaii and being a positive role model," said yearly volunteer Mike Talamaivao, defensive coordinator for West Seattle High School. "It's a platform for us to give back to the community. I came back to Hawaii just for this event."

The morning belonged to children ages 8-12, while youth ages 13-17 focused on improving

their skills in the afternoon session. Both learned the fundamentals of all positions, including quarterback, running back and receiver.

"I came here last year, and I loved it," said Samantha Alverado, from the 8-12 group. "It's great to meet the players, and I learned a lot. I liked the receiving and backpedaling drills the most. I know the boys really loved the tackling."

"This is the third year I've done this," said Maa Tanuvasa, Denver Broncos two-time Superbowl champion. "I love seeing the enjoyment of the kids running drills, the enthusiasm they show for the sport."

Everyone from children to coaches to parents enjoyed the event.

"It's great seeing kids outside playing, learning teamwork and fundamentals of football," said Maj. Pete Eberhardt, U.S. Army, Pacific, surgeon, whose two sons participated in the event.

The afternoon session added a teamwork dimension to technical drills for the youth.

"You guys are the front line," said a coach for the defensive line. "You're all here to get better; don't be embarrassed if you may not be as good as someone else. Just keep pushing and you will get better."

At the end of each session, participants won prizes and awards and finally a well-earned meal.



Samantha Alverado rushes past a "defender" at the Third Annual Army Hawaii Football Bash. More than 400 children and youth participated in the event.



Emmanuel Hall practices tackling.



Chris Fuamatu-Maafala, Pittsburgh Steelers, gives a participant something to jump for at the Third Annual Army Hawaii Football Bash, Saturday.



Jhefferson Blunt goes long to catch a ball during receiving drills.



Vince Manuwai, Jacksonville Jaguars, explains fundamentals and provides tips to participants prior to a drill.



1 / Friday

Big Time Urban R&B – Enjoy great music, card games and a cash bar at the Nehelani, Schofield Barracks, Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29, 9 p.m. to closing. Enjoy a free taco bar with a beverage purchase, 9-10 p.m. Call 655-4466.

Lunch Special at Mulligan's – Purchase a chicken or steak burrito grill combo, which includes a choice of either a salad or fries and a drink for \$6.95 at Mulligan's Bar and Grill, Nagorski Golf Course, Fort Shafter. Call 438-6712.

5 / Tuesday

Torch Club Volunteers – The Torch Club is looking for volunteer teen leaders. Torch Club members help plan and organize teen events, manage the teen lounge, attend leadership camps and trips, meet new teens, and have fun participating in leadership and social activities. Meetings will be held once a week beginning Feb. 5, 3:30 p.m., at the Fort Shafter Teen Lounge. Call 438-6470.

6 / Wednesday

Cooking Club for Teens – The Fort Shafter Teen Lounge is looking for teens who enjoy cooking, want to learn new recipes, participate in food tours and shows, and earn cooking award points toward reward excursions. The club will meet once a week Feb.-May, beginning Feb. 6, at 3 p.m. Call the teen manager at 438-6470.

15 / Friday

NAF Property Sale – Get the best bargains on furniture, restaurant equipment, electronics, golf clubs and more at the Non-Appropriated Funds (NAF) excess property sale, Building 1598, Fort Shafter Flats, Feb. 15, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Call 438-3503.

23 / Saturday

Kolekole Jam 2 – Don't miss the best, free concert of the year, Feb. 23, at Sills Field, Schofield Barracks. Montgomery Gentry and Bowling for Soup are already confirmed, with more names on the way. Stay tuned to Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation publications for further details on special offers and chances to win reserved seating for this great event. Call 655-0112.

Ocean Count 2008 – Outdoor Recreation at Schofield Barracks is looking for volunteers interested in counting migrating whales and recording their behavior, Feb. 23 and March 29, 8 a.m.-12:15 p.m. This free event includes transportation and is great for families. Call 655-0143.



Molly Hayden | Pacific Media Publishing

Computing aboard the USS Missouri

FORD ISLAND — Tour guide Bob Lamborn explains the use of an analog computer aboard the USS Missouri to honored members and volunteers during Member and Volunteer Appreciation Day, Jan. 19. Highlights of the day included a boat cruise around Pearl Harbor and a tour of an active Navy ship. Participants also had the option to take a guided tour of the Battleship Missouri Memorial and visit the newly opened USS Oklahoma Memorial. The activity-filled day concluded with a reception and awards program on the Missouri's fantail.

28 / Thursday

Build Wealth Not Debt – Military Saves Week kicks off with a Build Wealth Not Debt class Feb. 28, 1-6 p.m., at Kalakaua Community Center, Schofield Barracks. Learn how to make your money work for you, and enter a drawing for prizes. Call Army Community Services (ACS) at 655-4227.

Call the Schofield Barracks ITR office at 655-9971, the Fort Shafter ITR office at 438-1985, or visit www.mwrarmy-hawaii.com. Click "ITR Ticketing and Registration" for a full list of discounts at various attractions.

Paperback Kits – Sgt. Yano Library, Schofield Barracks, will issue paperback book kits to deploying units. Call Chris Kobayashi at 655-9143.

Quilting Workshops – Learn to quilt at an Arts and Crafts Center near you. Quilting workshops are held Tuesdays, 6-8 p.m., at Schofield, and Thursdays, 6-8 p.m., at Fort Shafter. Call 655-4202 (Schofield), or 438-1315/1071 (Fort Shafter).

"Starlets" – Performing Arts introduces a rhythm and motion class for 2-year-olds with parent participation. Cost is \$33 per month.

Classes will be held at the School of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills (SKIES) Unlimited, 241 Hewitt Street, the first four Fridays of each month, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Call 655-9818. Children must either be a member of CYS, or be enrolled in SKIES Unlimited to participate. Blue Star Card benefits apply to this class. Call 833-5393 or 655-8380.

SKIES Driver Education – Learn to drive with SKIES at Valentine's Driving

School, Schofield Barracks. This session, which is taught by qualified instructors, includes 32 hours of classroom instruction and six hours of behind-the-wheel instruction.

Cost is \$295 and must be paid at the time of registration. Call 655-9818.

Active Parenting Class – ACS's New Parent Support Program offers a one-day class for parents of children ages 1-4. Classes are held the first and third Monday of every month at ACS Room 1, Schofield Barracks, 9-11 a.m. Call 655-1670 for registration.

Returning Library Materials – Deploying soon? Help the library staff by returning all borrowed materials before your departure. Doing so will save the staff time and make those materials available to others.

Call Sgt. Yano Library, Schofield Barracks at 655-8002, the Fort Shafter Library at 438-9521, or the AMR Library at 833-4851.

Paint It & Take It – Ceramic parties offer a unique way to celebrate get-togethers, coffees, children's birthday parties, showers or any occasion. Your arts and crafts center provides a varied selection of ceramic bisqueware to paint and take home.

Call 655-6330 (Schofield Barracks) or 438-1315 (Fort Shafter).

Ongoing

Information, Ticketing and Registration – Looking for tickets to area attractions? Visit Information Ticketing and Registration (ITR) at Schofield Barracks or Fort Shafter for your tickets to paradise.

A variety of tickets to luaus, cruises, whale watching adventures, Hawaiian Waters Adventure Park, Sea Life Park, movie tickets, interisland packages and much more are available for service members, Department of Defense (DoD) civilians and family members.

Buy one, get one free specials are available for the Alii Kai catamaran sunset dinner sail and "The Magic of Polynesia" show, now through March 31.

Enjoy a sunset buffet island-style dinner sail, a Polynesian show, live music and dancing on the Alii Kai Catamaran. The Magic of Polynesia features master illusionist John Hirakawa.

Bourbon Street Basket Bash – Purchase tickets now for the masquerade at the Hui O' Na Wahine Bourbon Street Basket Bash at Helemano Plantation, Feb. 16, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Baskets of goodies to be auctioned off include everything from luxurious getaways for two, to jewelry, Buzz's Steakhouse certificates and much more.

Last year, guests had a grand 'ole Mardi Gras time and went home with over \$10,000 of amazing baskets and prizes. Cost is \$15 in advance, or \$20 at the door. Call 646-0107.

Employment Orientation – Prepare for the job you want. Attend an Army Community Service (ACS) Employment Orientation class and get employment information on federal, state, private sector and staffing agencies. Reference materials, job listings, computers, web tour and more will be available for use. Orientations will be held at the Schofield Barracks ACS, Feb. 1, 15, 22 & 29, 9-10:30 a.m. Orientation will be held at the Fort Shafter Outreach Center Feb. 7, 10-11:30 a.m. Call ACS Schofield at 655-4227, or Fort Shafter at 438-9285. Register online at www.acsclasses.com. Free child care vouchers are available. Call 655-5314, or 833-5393.

Leeward Moms Club – Meet with the Leeward Moms Club at the Asing Recreation Center every first Friday of the month at 10 a.m. The Leeward Moms Club is a support group for stay-at-home moms from Kapolei, Makakilo, Ewa Beach and Leeward Coast areas. Call 674-0187.

2 / Saturday

Dog Meet and Greet – Meet and greet the dogs and the people who help the Hawaii Dog Foundation work toward its goal of no homeless dogs in Hawaii at the Mililani Mauka Dog Park, Feb. 2, noon-3 p.m. Call 782-8137, or visit www.hawaiidogfoundation.org for more information.

Ash Wednesday Services, Feb. 6:

- Catholic: AMR, 8 a.m. Soldiers' Chapel, 11:45 a.m. Fort DeRussy, noon Wheeler Army Air Field, 6 p.m. AMR, 6 p.m.

- Protestant: Fort Shafter, noon Wheeler Army Air Field, noon

The Catholic Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday, from Feb. 8 until March 14, at the following locations and times: Wheeler Army Air Field, 5:30 p.m. AMR, 6 p.m.

(Editor's Note: No Ash Wednesday Service or Stations of the Cross will be held at Schofield's Main Post Chapel due to the installation of new air conditioning. Sunday services and programs will continue as scheduled.)

Blood Drive – Donate a pint of blood and save a life at the uptown main entrance of Pearlridge Mall, Feb. 2, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

4 / Monday

Marine Munchies – It's a smorgasbord of aquatic nutrition as visitors learn who eats what in the wild and within the confines of the Waikiki Aquarium every Monday, 4:15-6 p.m. Can an octopus open a jar to get its dinner? Does a sea-dragon's snout work like a straw? Where's an anemone's mouth?

Watch the animals eat in this exclusive after-hours animal feeding, then feed the fish in the reef exhibit. Cost is \$16 per adult, \$12 per child and \$20 or \$15 for nonmembers. Call 923-9741, or visit www.waquarium.org for more information.

5 / Tuesday

Troops to Teachers – The Troops to Teachers and Spouses to Teachers programs' coordinator will be at the Schofield Education Center, Room 220, Feb. 5, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Learn about opportunities to transition to teaching. Call 586-4054.

Mardi Gras Celebration – Take out your boas and beads, put on your feathers, and join the biggest Mardi Gras party in town at the Aloha Tower Marketplace, Feb. 5 at 5 p.m.

The festivities will include live entertainment on multiple stages with jazz and blues, a Brazilian samba parade, and strolling entertainers performing throughout the marketplace. Participating restaurants will offer food and drink specials as part of their regular menus. Admission is free. Call 566-2337, or visit www.alohatower.com.

7 / Thursday

Wahiawa Toastmasters – The Pineapple Wahiawa Toastmasters Club meets the first and third Thursday of each month at the Sgt. Yano Library, Schofield Barracks, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Call 622-0169.

8 / Friday

Sunset on the Beach – Enjoy live entertainment, food, crafters and more at Queen's Surf Beach, Waikiki, Feb. 8-9. This Pro Bowl-themed weekend kicks off with the movie "The Game Plan," Feb. 8, and Pro Bowl entertainment, Feb. 9. Food booths open at 4 p.m., and the movie starts at 6:30 p.m. Call 923-1094.

Reading Road Trip – Schofield families are welcome to be a race car, map out monuments, and run family relay races at our Reading Road Trip Book Fair Family Event, Feb. 8, 5:30-7:30 p.m., behind the cafeteria at Hale Kula Elementary School. Call 622-6380 ext. 232 for more information.



Send calendar announcements to community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

1 / Today

Bottles for Books – The Hale Kula Elementary School Library Club is sponsoring a "Bottle for Books" drive to purchase books for classrooms and the library. Aluminum cans, glass and plastic bottles may be deposited in the bins at the school now through Feb. 6. Scholastic Books will also match donations. For every dollar raised, Scholastic will give one free book to a child. Call Michelle Colte at 622-6380 ext. 232 for more information.

West Point Founder's Day Dinner – The West Point Society of Hawaii will be hosting the 2008 West Point Founder's Day Dinner at DeRussy Hall in the Hale Kula Hotel, Fort DeRussy, March 7. All West Point graduates and their families are invited to attend. The evening will begin with Benny Haden's Hour at 6:30 p.m., and dinner will be served at 7:15 p.m. The guest speaker will be Lt. Gen. "Buster" Hagenback, class of 1971. The attire is aloha "crisp." Cost is \$45 per person.

The deadline to R.S.V.P. is Feb. 29. Send payment to Retired Col. Chuck Cardinal, 576 Kumukahi Place, Honolulu, Hawaii 96825; e-mail bandccardinal@msn.com, or 1st Lt. Desiree Strozier at dstrozier@gmail.com.

Latino Idol – Singers are now being sought for Hawaii's second Latino Idol. Participants must be Hispanic, age 18 and older, and sing in Spanish. The winner will receive \$1,000 cash and a CD recording. Deadline to register is Feb. 29. Call Alma Latina Productions at 285-0072.



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

- 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 Shelter, Building 791

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

Soldiers Chapel

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

Tripler AMC Chapel, 433-5727

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

Wheeler Chapel

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



Alvin and the Chipmunks

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

I Am Legend

(R)
Sunday, 4 p.m.



Aliens vs. Predator-Requiem

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

Charlie Wilson's War

(R)
Wednesday, 7 p.m.

No shows on Mondays or Tuesdays.

Simple daily changes can make big savings over time

MERCEDES ACUÑA Army Community Service

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — “Build wealth, not debt,” is this year’s theme for the Military Saves Campaign, which runs Feb. 24–March 2.

The campaign is designed to encourage Soldiers and their families by empowering them to save and build wealth to avoid the downward spiral of debt. Little things can add up to big savings over a year’s time, so here are a few tips to get you started:

- Dine out less. Dining out can drain a wallet by \$10 to \$80 or more per week. Eat out two fewer times in a month and save at least \$45 — that’s more than \$500 per year.
- Brown bag it; pack your lunch. Think about it, ordering out for lunch every day is expensive — \$6 per day times five days a week = \$30 per week; \$30 a week times 52 weeks = \$1,560 a year. Along the same lines, cut out one carbonated beverage a day and save \$10 each month, another \$520 per year.
- Check your phone status. Do you need both cell and land-line

Save the date Feb. 28, from 1–6 p.m., at the Kalakaua Community Center for this year’s Military Saves Week event. Local organizations and financial counselors will be available to answer questions, and there will be free food, games and prizes. Call 655-4227.

phones? Do you have the right cell phone contract for your lifestyle? Limit long-distance calls or consider using prepaid discount phone cards. Eliminating some of those “bells and whistles” you never use can save you \$20–\$50 a month or more. Saving just \$25 a month can add up to another \$300 a year.

These ideas for cutting costs, more \$2,500 a year, don’t severely restrict comfort or convenience. Watch for more money-saving tips and suggestions on what to do with your monthly savings, so you can build upon your wealth.

Start the new year financially firm

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS CHAPLAINS OFFICE

News Release

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Financial Peace University (FPU), a program sponsored by the Schofield Barracks Chaplains Office, is designed to teach families or individuals to get out of debt, stay out of debt and build wealth. Take the following quiz to see if FPU can help you:

- Have you always wanted to be debt free but never seem to get there?
- Are huge credit card bills staring you in the face as you begin 2008?
- Do you and your spouse spend a lot of time arguing about the same old money problems?
- Do you feel like you are in pretty good shape financially, but would really like to have some savings and understand more about buying a house, getting enough

Both chapels offer the following during the adult FPU class:

- Bible classes for children ages 4–6th grade.
- Youth group (7th–12th grade).

Families can register at either chapel, Sundays. Call AMR Chapel at 833-8175 or Schofield Barracks Chapel at 655-6645.

insurance, or how to be smart about investing? If any of these questions hits home for you, then FPU has the perfect class for you.

FPU is a tried-and-true program that cuts to the chase, explains financial information in a simple-to-understand fashion, and helps families plan and budget and get them where they want to be.

No tricks or gimmicks will mislead you. Hard work and information about ways

take charge and make your money work for you will prevail.

Although no fees are charged for this 13-14 weeklong class, consistent attendance and participation are musts to maximize impact the in your life.

The AMR class runs Tuesday evenings, from 5:30–7:30 p.m., at the AMR Chapel, located at 1790 Bougainvillea Loop. At Schofield, the class is held Wednesday evenings, from 5:30–7:30 p.m., at the Main Post Chapel, behind the Main Post Exchange. Dinner is provided at both chapels, from 5:30–6:10 p.m., prior to class, and all are welcome.

Child care is available for children 6 months–4 years old (who are registered with Short Term Alternate Child Care (STACC) or Child and Youth Services and have a card showing their registration). Closed-toed shoes must be worn.

Free class teaches art, tradition of lei making

Story and Photos by
MOLLY HAYDEN
Staff Writer

HONOLULU — The smell of fresh flowers filled the air of the Royal Hawaiian Shopping Center here, recently. A long white table stood in the middle of the aisle as 13 people listened attentively to lei maker Naomi Braine.

"There are many ways to make a lei," said Braine. "I'm going to show you the right way."

Braine is a third generation lei maker and runs Aunt Bella's Lei Stand at the shopping center. She is currently training her daughter to become the fourth generation. Her family has been selling and making lei in Waikiki since the 1920s.

"This is a tradition for us," said Braine. "It is in my blood to create lei, and I love bringing other people into our history."

Braine gives back to the community and passes on Hawaiian traditions by teaching a free lei making class every Friday.

Join the free lei making class every Friday, 1 p.m., at the Royal Hawaiian Shopping Center. Call 922-2299 for more details.

The magical history of the lei dates back to the ancient Hawaiians who wore braided leaves, native flowers, shells, feathers, stones and bones to beautify themselves. Hawaiians also offered these handmade garlands to each other and to their gods as a symbol of love and friendship. The lei was treasured and worn with pride by people of every age.

Today, the ancient tradition continues. The tender, beautiful lei is still carefully made by handweaving fragrant and colorful flowers and leaves together to create a work of art. Lei are worn on special occasions and provided to family and friends as gifts of love. The lei is a symbol of Hawaii's aloha spirit.

"The art of lei making is constantly changing," said Braine. "I try to teach the traditional methods while employing new techniques."

Armed with a needle, orchids, crown flowers and leaves, members of the class began stringing their lei.

"This was Queen Liliuokalani's favorite flower," said Braine, holding up a crown flower.

Braine continued to talk of the history of both Hawaii and lei making as she walked around the table, gave personal instructions to aspiring lei makers, and demonstrated ways to make the lei last. She praised those who were doing well and kept a close watch on children as they attempted to string flowers on a dull needle almost the same size as them.

"I think it is a positive move to keep the tradition of wearing flowers alive," said Braine. "Lei are a sign of love and harmony."

Braine placed a completed lei over the shoulders of



Tourists and locals gather around a flower-filled table to learn the proper way to make a lei. The free hourlong class produced 13 fresh flower lei, and students experienced Hawaiian culture firsthand.



Karokana Chiharu helps her daughter Haruko thread a crown flower to create her lei. Each Friday, tourists and locals alike gather at the Royal Hawaiian Shopping Center for a taste of Hawaii's oldest tradition.

each her students and adjusted them so the flowers hung evenly from front to back.

"A lei should be worn as one should live their life," said Braine, "well-balanced."

Schofield volunteers honored for service

Story and Photo by
SPC. DURWOOD BLACKMON
 25th Infantry Division Public Affairs

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Friends, families and guests attended the 25th Infantry Division quarterly volunteer awards and recognition ceremony at the Nainoa K. Hoe Battle Command Training Center, Jan. 25. The ceremony called attention to one of the Army's most valuable assets — its volunteers.

"Your volunteer service sets an example of excellence for all to follow and signifi-

cantly contributes to the Army's ability to accomplish its mission," said Maj. Gen. Benjamin Mixon, who assumed command of U.S. Army, Pacific, and was promoted today. "On behalf of a grateful military community, please accept this certificate as a sincere mahalo nui loa [thank you very much] for your contribution, concern and willingness to serve."

Award recipients included one community agency volunteer, 12 volunteers from brigades and 11 active duty division volunteers. Several award categories helped

characterize each individual's contributions to the Army community. Categories included the Tropic Lightning "Alii" Award, Volunteer Ambassador "Lokahi" Award, Yellow Ribbon Award, along with recognition for participation in special projects and the Fallen Warrior Remembrance Ceremony.

At the ceremony's end, friends shared laughs, hugs, handshakes and appreciation for the volunteers' hard work.

SEE VOLUNTEERS, B-7



Maj. Gen. Benjamin R. Mixon, commanding general, 25th ID (center) recognizes awardees at the 25th Infantry Division quarterly volunteer ceremony at Schofield Barracks, Jan. 25. Soldiers who participated in the Fallen Warrior Remembrance Ceremony and other special projects were also recognized at the event.



Send sports announcements to community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

2 / Saturday

Seabee 5K – Run the 16th Annual Seabee 5K at Pearl Harbor, Feb. 2, at 7:30 a.m. All ages are welcome. All participants will receive T-shirts, and awards will be presented to age group winners.

Participants must have a government-issued ID in order to gain access to the base. Cost is \$20. Register at www.active.com.

Sugar Sharks Run – Check out St. Michael School's 13th Annual Sugar Sharks Run at Waialua, Feb. 2, at 7 a.m. Participants can run a 10K or two-mile fun run/walk.

Entry fee is \$25 and will be accepted until the morning of the race. Call 637-7772.

3 / Sunday

Harold Chapson 8K – Run the Harold Chapson Memorial 8K at Kapiolani Park, Feb. 3, 7 a.m.

Cost is \$25 for nonmembers. Visit www.mprrc.com, or call 295-6777.

Hike Oahu – Join the Hawaiian Trail & Mountain Club on its next hiking event at Kuaokala, Feb. 3. This five-mile hike is for interme-

diated hikers. Call 778-8629.

A \$2 donation is requested of nonmembers. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Hikers meet at Iolani Palace, mountainside, at 8 a.m. 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, and treat trees and plants with care and respect. Visit <http://htmclub.org>.

10 / Sunday

Valentine's Biathlon – Participate in a biathlon with your special someone at Ala Moana Beach Park, Feb. 10, 7 a.m. This event will include a 2.5-mile run and 800-meter swim.

Visit www.hawaiiswim.com.



1 / Today

Cardio Endurance Challenge

– Get your cardio on at the Fort Shafter Physical Fitness Center, Feb. 1–29, for the Cardio Endurance Challenge. Teams of two will compete to accrue the most miles. Run, stair step and bike your way to finish line. Prizes will be awarded to the top three teams. Call 438-1152.

Sharks Youth Swim Team –

Tryouts are held at the Richardson Pool, Schofield Barracks, Fridays at 3 p.m. Applicants must be level 4 or higher swimmers. Club fee is \$35 monthly. Call 655-9698.

2 / Saturday

Poamoho Trail – Hike Poamoho Trail, Feb. 2, 10–11 a.m. The trail begins just outside of Helemano Military Reservation. Call the Recreation Activities Office at 655-0112 to register.

4 / Monday

Youth Dive Team Lessons – Spring board and platform youth diving lessons are available Monday–Thursday, 4–6 p.m., at Richardson Pool, Schofield Barracks. Cost is \$63 per month. Call 864-0037.

6 / Wednesday

Mom and Baby Yoga – Get fit with your baby at Mom and Baby Yoga, Wednesdays, 9:45 a.m., at the Heath and Fitness Center, Schofield Barracks. Mats are provided, but it is recommended that moms bring a small towel or blanket to lay their baby on. Register at 655-8007.

8 / Friday

Night Diving – Join Ocean Concepts at their next two-tank boat dive adventure, Feb. 8. Check in is at Ocean Concepts, Waianae, at 6 p.m. Military rate is \$70. Equipment rentals are available for \$25. Lights are not included.

For more information, call Outdoor Recreation at 655-0143.

Volunteers: More than 20 receive recognition

CONTINUED FROM B-5

Quarterly Installation Award for Volunteer Service

Military Spouse Topic Lightning "Alii" Award

- Barbie Ball, 25th CAB
- Kathryn Barton, HHB, 3-7th FA
- Sherri DeSilva, 225th BSB
- Andretta Journey, HSC 209th ASB
- Heather Katz, B Battery, 3-7th FA
- Nicole Lysaght, G Co., 3-7th FA
- Jennifer St. Pierre, A Co., 1-14th Inf. Regt.

Yellow Ribbon Award

- Nicole Mungie, 25th STB
- Rachel Otto, 2-27 Inf. Regt.
- Bonnie Williams, B Battery, 3-7th FA
- Nicole Williams, B Co., 1-14th Inf. Regt.

Volunteer Ambassador Award "Lokahi"

- Mari Vidal, Thrift Shop

Volunteer Ambassador Award "Lokahi"

- Corie Madden, 225th BSB

Military Awardees Fallen Warrior Remembrance Ceremony clean up crew

- Staff Sgt. Franklin Blackmon
- Sgt. Jose Arredondo
- Sgt. Amber Bonds
- Sgt. Joseph Dyer
- Sgt. Kristoffer Lenning
- Sgt. Timothy Person
- Sgt. Michael Swintek
- Spc. Jonathan Marroquin
- Spc. Crisaline Resurreccion

Special Projects

- Maj. Gregory Boyland
- Capt. John McClurkin

Call-in Refill Pharmacy gets new home

TRIPLER ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS
News Release

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS – Patients who use the Automated Prescription Refill System can now pick up their refills at a new location, the Call-in Refill Pharmacy, Building 695, here.

The Call-in Refill Pharmacy improves access for patients who only come to the pharmacy to pick up refills. Pharmacy staff will have the capacity to process about 250 call-in refill prescriptions each day.

The new location will relieve congestion in the main pharmacy waiting room at Schofield Barracks Health Clinic, provide greater access to patient parking, and make visits to the pharmacy quicker. Located in a small Spanish-tiled building near the main post exchange, the facility is adjacent to the main Health Clinic complex and the credit union. Its main entrance is off McCornack Road.

The refill pharmacy is open Monday–Thursday, 8:45 a.m.–5:30 p.m., and Friday, 8:15 a.m.–5 p.m. The main pharmacy will continue to process new prescriptions. For more information, call 433-6962.



Courtesy Photo

A new Call-in Refill Pharmacy is now located in Building 695, adjacent to the Schofield Barracks Health Clinic complex, off McCornack Road.

Customers provide rave reviews on Tripler's valet parking service

Story and Photo by
MINDY ANDERSON

Tripler Army Medical Center Public Affairs

TRIPLER ARMY MEDICAL CENTER – The 90-day valet parking pilot program that started here Nov. 1, 2007, is here to stay. Tripler offered yet another parking option for its staff, family members and beneficiaries – in addition to trolley and shuttle services – and based on customer feedback, the valet parking service is a hit.

Customer feedback has been overwhelmingly favorable, and the need for continuing this service is evident.

"We love the parking service," said Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Richard Phelps. "It's usually hard to find parking here, but we didn't have to look for parking today. All we had to do is drop off the car, go in for our appointment, and then leave. It's a great service."

During the pilot phase, Tripler valet service averaged 145 cars per business



Valet parking attendant Anthony Williams (right) returns Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Richard Phelps' vehicle in a jiffy, Jan. 23.

day, with a 99-percent approval rate.

"I think this is a great service and a wonderful asset. Thank you for finally implementing it," wrote one customer

through the Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE) program for Parking and Parking Lot Security. Another customer wrote, "What a good idea! After 20 minutes of

trying to find a place to park, this was great!"

Tripler received several hundred positive ICE comments related to the parking service.

To ensure parking options are available to staff, beneficiaries and family members, Tripler is pursuing a long-term valet service contract that it expects to be awarded and in operation sometime in March. There will be no disruption of service until the long-term contractor begins operation.

"We anticipate several professional valet services will submit bids for the contract," said Don Devaney, Tripler's provost marshal. "During the ninety-day trial period, our cost analysis has indicated that based on the numbers of vehicles parked per day, the price would have to increase if we were going to do this permanently."

Although Tripler guests will pay more for permanent valet parking services than

they did during the trial period, the cost is the same as valet services at Queen's Medical Center and other Oahu medical centers.

"We understand the meaning of 'convenience' and are aware that everyone's time is valuable," Devaney said. "This is why we intend to provide the highest quality valet parking service available with a minimum wait time. To do this, the cost will increase to five dollars, effective February 4."

Additionally, Tripler continues to offer door-to-door Tripler Trolley service to all parking lots and provides shuttle service around the Tripler campus, including the Oceanside and Mountainside entrances, D Wing and Emergency Room entrances, Fisher House and the Tripler Lodge.

To use the trolley service, visitors should call 433-1200 when they arrive, and the Tripler Trolley will be radio dispatched to their area.