

# HAWAII ARMY WEEKLY

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**Scout Days**  
Nearly 900 island scouts storm Schofield Barracks' Air Assault School, continuing a 37-year tradition that builds and sustains camaraderie. B-1

# 46 DAYS

since last fatal accident

As your daily reminder to be safe, place a "red dot" on your wristwatch.

Remember, a division training holiday will be awarded for the first 100 consecutive days with no accidental fatalities.

A four day holiday/long weekend will be awarded for 200 consecutive days with no accidental fatalities.



As of 1/4/06



Spc. Amanda Fiemett

Sgt. Jackie Keener (right) simulates starting an IV Lenny Beach assists. All Soldiers are members of in patient role play on Spc. Michelle Carter as Spc. Medical Company C, Tripler Army Medical Center.

## Army Medics train as EMTs

Spc. David House  
17th Public Affairs Detachment

HONOLULU — Surrounded by bandages and stacks of paperwork, Army medics are cramming their heads with knowledge in the Emergency Medical Technician – Intermediate Certification course.

The eight-week course was established by the Division Surgeon's

office and the Kapiolani Community College to help refresh Army medics on areas that they are expected to know, as well as to train for the EMT-I certification exam, said Capt. Sean Farley, officer in charge of the Division Surgeon's Medical Logistics.

The class is shortened to eight weeks, as it takes in account the training that Army medics have already received. Soldiers must be

Emergency Medical Technician – Basic certified through the National Registry. Each company commander selects the medics for the program based on the Soldier's capabilities and capacity to learn.

Some of the new items taught to students in the class include airway management, cardiology, defibrilla-

See "Medics," page A-6

## Rumsfeld announces Iraq troop reduction

Jim Garamone  
American Forces Press Service

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq — The United States will have two fewer brigades in Iraq in 2006, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said here Dec. 23.

Rumsfeld announced before a cheering group of service members that the United States will drop from 17 to 15 brigades in the coming year. The change will drop the number of Americans in the country under the 138,000-level baseline, officials said.

The decision reflects the proper balance between coalition and Iraqi forces, the secretary said. The coalition footprint must be large enough to help maintain security and allow the Iraq forces to train up, Rumsfeld explained, yet not so large as to be intrusive or to antagonize the Iraqi people.

The force also must not be so large as to take initiative from the Iraqi security forces, he said.

The reduction is possible because of the growing strength and capabilities of the Iraqi security forces, the secretary said. In the coming months, he added, more and more Iraqi army and police units will take over battlespace from coalition forces.

Iraqi brigades and divisions are standing up, Rumsfeld said, and American trainers will continue to work with Iraqi units.

Rumsfeld said President Bush approved the troop reduction in consultation with coalition allies and Iraqi officials.

"The size and composition of U.S. forces, of course, will continue to fluctuate as commanders continue to shift focus to emphasize training and supporting the Iraqi security forces," Rumsfeld said.

In other words, U.S. force size and composition will remain situation-dependent, officials traveling with the secretary said. If the situation warrants, Army Gen. George W. Casey Jr., commander of Multinational Force Iraq, and Army Gen. John Abizaid, commander of U.S. Central Command, may recommend further reductions.

## PACOM hosts first senior NCO seminar

Marine Sgt. Maj. William T. Kinney, senior enlisted leader, U. S. Pacific Command, brought together more than 100 senior enlisted leaders from all branches of the service at PACOM's first Joint Enlisted Leader Seminar held at Camp Smith, Dec. 14 and 15.



### Goals include training NCOs in partner nations

Story and Photo by Sgt. Tim Meyer  
U.S. Pacific Command Public Affairs

CAMP H.M. SMITH — More than 100 senior enlisted military leaders from the U.S. Pacific Command region took part in the first Joint Enlisted Leader Seminar held here Dec. 14 – 15.

The attendees, from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard, gained a better understanding of PACOM and issues affecting the Pacific region.

Admiral William J. Fallon, commander, U.S. Pacific Command, spoke to attendees about the complexities of the Pacific

See "PACOM," page A-7

## DFAS distributes year-end pay, tax statements for 2005

Donna Miles  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Service members, military retirees and annuitants, and federal civilian employees paid by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service can expect to receive their 2005 tax statements by mail soon, a DFAS official told the American Forces Press Service.

In fact, most retirees and annuitants already may have received theirs, with the last hard-copy mailings slated on Dec. 31, the official confirmed.

Mailing for active duty Army, Navy and Air Force W-2 forms won't begin until Jan. 24, but service members can access their forms on myPay beginning Jan. 21. W-2 mailings for reservists from the Army, Navy and

### ON THE WEB

Get more details at <https://mypay.dfas.mil/my.pay.aspx>.

Air Force began Wednesday, but the forms were posted online Dec. 31.

Active duty and Reserve Marines can check their mailboxes after Jan. 12 or access their myPay accounts beginning Jan. 10.

Mailing for DoD civilians' W-2s will begin Jan. 10, and the forms will be posted on myPay beginning Jan. 9.

An increasingly large percentage of the almost 6 million people DFAS serves now receive their pay and tax statements electronically through myPay, the DFAS official said. By doing so, customers get their statements quicker and more securely,

### 2006 Military & Civilian Pay and Entitlements

- Service members received a 3.1 percent across-the-board pay raise.
- Civilians in statutory pay systems, the General Schedule, the Foreign Service schedule, and certain schedules for the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, received a 2.1 percent raise in the rates of basic pay.
- Housing allowance increased an average of 5.9 percent, or \$53 a month.
- Retirees received a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) of 4.1 percent.

•For officers, the 2006 BAS rates is \$187.49/month, for enlisted Soldiers \$272.26/month.

•Earnings received in a combat zone are excluded from taxable income. This exclusion is unlimited for enlisted members and warrant officers and it's limited to \$6,724.50/month in 2006, for officers.

•If a Soldier spends a single qualifying day in a combat zone, his or her pay for the entire month is excluded from taxable income.

said Pat Shine, director of DFAS' Military and Civilian Pay Services.

A state-of-the-art encryption technology incorporated into the myPay system, which users access through a personal identification number, safeguards personal information that's

more vulnerable to theft when transmitted by mail, the official said.

DFAS clients who never have set up their myPay accounts or have forgotten their PIN numbers can set up or get new ones through the myPay Web site, he said.

**We want to hear from you...**

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

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

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

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

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# Looking back

## 2005 was indeed a challenging year

In keeping with tradition in the first published paper of a new year, the Hawaii Army Weekly looks back at news and feature stories that headlined 2005, the year filled with redeployments, transformation and activations.

Numerous training, events and activities shaped 2005 in Army Hawaii. A trek through the months could be summed up with words like coalition, elections and voting. As well, acronyms and abbreviations such as OEF and OIF, GWOT and IED, and ACU and BCT, which tell the story of the 25th Infantry Division at war, along with FRG and BSRE, casualties, Purple Hearts and Combat Action Badges.

On the home front, Soldiers and garrison assets in Army Hawaii navigated Residential Community Initiatives, recruiting highs and lows, NSPS changes, town halls, transition cycles, climbing divorce rates and major catastrophes around the world: the tsunami in Asia, Hurricane Katrina in the Gulf Coast region and Pakistan's 7.6 Richter-scale earthquake.

Still, Army Hawaii units and organizations exhibited the Warrior Ethos and earned recognition for maintenance excellence, culinary expertise, leadership effectiveness and Tropic Lightning Week sportsmanship, among other notable awards.

**January**  
Soldiers of the 40th Quartermaster Company and 84th Engineers get a New Year's present, a return from deployment Dec. 30.

The U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii's Cultural Resources Management department was recognized for its leading achievement and awarded the 2004 Secretary of the Army Environmental Award for Cultural Resources Management, Installation Award Category, Jan. 6.

A Leilehua High School student, planned, organized and prepared 190 welcome baskets for single Soldiers

To review articles, follow links to the Hawaii Army Weekly archives at [www.25idl.army.mil](http://www.25idl.army.mil).

and geographic bachelors to earn the highest award recognized by Girl Scouts.

More than 200 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Soldiers, packed inside 13 helicopters and ascended into the Jan. 21 moonlit sky as part of Operation Wolfhound Trap II in Heychel and its surrounding villages in Iraq.

Soldiers of the 7th Dive Detachment, 29th Engineer Battalion, Fort Shafter performed an underwater change of command ceremony in Richardson Pool at Schofield Barracks, Dec. 15.



**11 division Soldiers received Purple Heart medals in a ceremony held Feb. 14.**

**February**  
Hundreds of Iraqi men and women — equally in force — and their children, stood in a growing line of determined Iraqis who had never voted in a democratic election in their country.

The 25th Infantry Division (Light) was honored at Kabul compound just days before returning home after a year deployment to Afghanistan.

Fifteen Soldiers from across the 25th ID (L) and U.S. Army, Hawaii, traveled to the Philippines to participate in a historic ceremony there Feb. 12.

Soldiers of the 116th Brigade Combat Team were responsible for Northern Iraq's Kirkuk and Sulaymaniyah Provinces follow-

ing a Transfer of Authority Ceremony at Kirkuk Air Base Feb. 12.

Sergeant Major of the Army Sgt. Maj. Kenneth O. Preston testified on Army Quality of Life before the Subcommittee on Military Affairs in Washington, D.C. Feb. 16.

**March**  
Several Soldiers from Battery C, 3rd Battalion, 7th field Artillery Regiment, serving at Forward Operation Base Tiger, Afghanistan took their gunner's test, a comprehensive 13-part exam that artillery Soldiers in grades E-4 and E-5 must pass to receive their certification on the M-119 AS howitzer.

The 68th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) earned the Army Aviation Association of America Air/Sea Rescue of the Year award after retrieving three Marine casualties following an attack by militants in Eastern Afghanistan in June 2004.

The commander of the combined Joint Task Force 76 and 25th Infantry Division (Light) received a meritorious award, Feb. 25, on behalf of the U.S. Agency for International Development in his efforts in providing stability and security for Afghanistan.

A new policy authorized nondependent basic allowance for housing pay to single staff sergeants on installations in the continental United States, Hawaii and Alaska.

Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, distributed tons of food to the citizens of Southern Afghanistan, helping them survive one of the country's worst winters in recent history.

**April**  
The Division honored Brig. Gen. Charles H. Jacoby the outgoing assistant division commander in a Flying V ceremony while welcoming the incoming ADC, Brig.

Gen. John M. Bednarek. Master Sgt. Edwin Matos-colon and Master Sgt. Barbaralien Banks made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in Afghanistan. They died April 6 when aboard a Chinook that crashed killing 16 others as well.

Six Soldiers, including Staff Sgt. Christopher Downs of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, reached the quarterfinals in U.S. Boxing Nationals exhibiting the best performance by Soldiers in five years.

New digital training facilities become available at Ft. Shafter and Wheeler Army Air Field, ushering the Army into the future. The systems revolutionize how Soldiers better themselves using Digital Learning Systems and Learning Management Systems.

Maj. Joseph P. Walsh, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, praised service members of the past and present as he described the honorable tradition of being an American Soldier in times of war.

Hawaii Governor Linda Lingle, and other local leaders, paid tribute to nearly 1,000 Soldiers and other military members, April 21, on Ford Island.

**May**  
The Army announced the availability of the Combat Action Badge.

Roughly 5,000 Soldiers from the 25th Infantry Division (Light) were honored in the Operation Iraqi Freedom appreciation ceremony May 3 at Schofield Barracks.

Ten Division Soldiers competed for Noncommissioned Officer of the Year and Soldier of the Year, May 11.

U.S. Army Hawaii installations survived the BRAC recommendations, which were announced May 13.

The 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, honored two fallen Soldiers and a task force that served 13 months in Iraq, May 31.

**June**  
About 400 competitors came out for the Tarlavsky's North Shore Triathlon at Mokelea Beach Park — the largest in the 10-year history of the event — during the Memorial Day weekend. The triathlon honored fallen Soldier Capt. Michael Y. Tarlavsky.

June 10, the 25th Infantry Division (Light) War Memorial was unveiled in front of Fernandez Hall to honor (at that time) 56 fallen Soldiers from the Division since World War II as Soldiers, veterans, family and community members looked on.

Due to Army transformation, the Division Artillery Brigade was deactivated June 15 after 60 years of service.

Company C, 125th Aviation Regiment, was awarded the Chief of Logistics Excellence Award for FY05 for



**The War Memorial was unveiled in June**

winning first place in the small warehouse category — for the entire military.

**July**  
Maj. Gen. Benjamin R. Mixon assumed command of the Tropic Lightning Division, June 29, in a ceremony on Sills Field, Schofield Barracks.

The 4th Brigade, 25th Infantry Division's Airborne Brigade Combat Team, activated July 14, at Fort Richardson, Alaska.

Three Soldiers from the

See "Looking Back," page A-5

### ARMY HAWAII MILESTONES

Numerous significant events made 2005 a challenging, but rich year for military here.

- JANUARY
- FEBRUARY
- MARCH
- APRIL
- MAY
- JUNE
- JULY
- AUGUST
- SEPTEMBER
- OCTOBER
- NOVEMBER
- DECEMBER

**Jan. 7:** Soldiers of the 40th Quartermaster Company & 84th Engineers return from Iraq Dec. 30, 2004, at Hickam Airfield.



**March 11:** A patient is loaded into a 68th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter in Afghanistan.



**Aug. 19:** A US Army Chinook helicopter drops water on a brushfire on Palehua Ridge.



**Dec. 16:** Sgt. Edgar Salas, C Co., 2nd Bat., 27th Inf., 3rd BDE, practices grenade tosses during EIB training.

**April 8:** 1st Bn., 62nd Air Defense Artillery Regt. inactivates



**Aug. 26:** The Division command sergeant major is introduced during a Flying V ceremony held in his honor, Aug. 23, at Sills Field, Schofield Barracks.

**Oct. 22:** Soldiers and family members dedicated themselves to volunteering and helping out the around the local community. The fourth Saturday of every October is "Make a Difference Day" in Hawaii.

### Voices of Lightning: What are your hopes for 2006?



"I hope to go active duty and continue building on my faith."



"...Hopefully, go to IT school so I can provide more stability for my son."



"I already have a bachelor's degree, so I would like to become an officer."



"...Shorter deployments."



"I hope it's a good year for the Army."

**Spc. John Takai**  
100th Bn., 442nd Inf. Rgt. Infantryman

**Sgt. 1st Class. Luz Echevarria-Holiday**  
HHC Div. Aviation Bde., S-4

**Spc. Somya Malasri**  
Co. E, 125th Aviation Bde. Cook

**Staff Sgt. Pierre Berube**  
Troop C, 5-14th Cav. Platoon Sgt.

**Spc. Mike Willis**  
Co. E, 325 CSB Transportation Coordinator

# Air Assault wings shine in the sun

Staff Sgt.  
Manuel Torres-Cortes  
17th Public Affairs Detachment

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — As their backs ached, legs burned and feet throbbled, Air Assault graduates stood in formation Dec. 16 at Watts Field— soon after completing a grueling 12-mile road march — to officially pin on the wings they worked so hard to get.

Before the crack of dawn, one Coast Guard Petty Officer and 89 Soldiers had road marched the 12 miles as their last physical task to graduate in the last Air Assault Course here.

“This training shows them how much heart, muscles and knowledge each individual has,” said Staff Sgt. Jennifer Littlejohn, air assault instructor. “Soldiers have received essential training that will benefit the 25th Infantry Division when they deploy.”

The course challenged service members in four phases of training: knowledge of helicopter landing zones, pathfinder hand and arm signals, sling load ground crew operations rapelling off a tower and a UH-60 Blackhawk, helicopter from an altitude of 90 feet in combat equipment.

The course provided direction, motivation and training to U.S. Army Soldiers and other branches of the military.

“There a lot of things that we can use this Army training for like sling loading, vertical insertion and rapelling,” said the lone Coast Guardsman, Petty Officer 2nd Class Jeremiah Brennan, with Sand Island’s Marine Safety and Security Team. “Sling loading was the hardest part, definitely, but that training has helped me understand the importance of it.”

By integrating military branches into the mix, Soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines benefited from the joint training.

The 25th Infantry Division said it will renew



**Above — Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Jeremiah Brennan, U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety and Security Team, Sand Island, gets his Army Air Assault wings Dec. 16, at Watts Field, Schofield Barracks.**



**Above Right — Sgt. 1st Class Dennis M. Harper, 196th Infantry Battalion, Fort Shafter, also receives his air assault wings.**



**Spc. Jason G. McPhee, 732 Military Intelligence Battalion, smiles after his new Air Assault Badge was pinned on right below his Combat Action Badge during the Dec. 16 ceremony.**

the Air Assault Course following deployment to Iraq. Commanders said they recognize the importance of the course training throughout the Division said Maj. John Highfill chief of G-3 training.



Military and their family members in Hawaii said they thoroughly enjoyed the nail-biting contest between the University of Central Florida and the University of Nevada at the 2005 Sheraton Hawaii Bowl, Dec. 24. Military entered free of charge and witnessed the Wolf Pack beat the Golden Knights, 49-48, in overtime.

Photos by Spc. David House, Spc. Juan F. Jimenez. Collage by Spc. Juan F. Jimenez

# 27th Infantry creates Christmas miracles for Japanese orphans

Story and Photos by  
Pfc. Teirney M. Humberson  
17th Public Affairs Detachment

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Unwrapped teddy bears and toys lay scattered on the floor while tape, ribbons and gift tags cluttered tables. Laughter, chatter and camaraderie set the atmosphere for the annual gift wrapping party held at the Tropics here, Dec. 13.

The party was held to wrap gifts for orphaned children in Japan. Two Soldiers from the 27th Infantry Regiment then flew to Japan with one mission in mind: to become Santa Claus.

Staff Sgt. Jesse Wyant of Company B, 1st Battalion, 27 Inf. Rgt., 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, and Spc. Sean C. Callaway of 2-27th, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, took dozens of Christmas presents donated by Soldiers and various organizations to more than 130 children at the Holy Family Home Orphanage in Osaka, Japan.

In 1949, Wolfhound Soldiers embarked on the first of many Christmas miracles for the children of Holy Family Home Orphanage. Then, platoon sergeant, Hugh O'Reilly, established a relationship with the orphanage beginning a tradition that continues today.

The tale of the orphanage and the Wolfhound Soldiers begin that same year. O'Reilly visited the orphanage and noticed the severe lack of bare necessities and the poor upkeep of the facilities. He decided to take action.

O'Reilly and Soldiers from the 27th collected money, one dollar for each Soldier, and delivered funds to the Holy Family Home Orphanage on New Year's Eve.

The collections continued through the Korean War. Their final collection then was more than \$10,000. But the generosity didn't end there. Christmas of 1958 began the tradition of sending two Wolfhound Soldiers over to Japan to deliver Christmas presents. The yuletide giving has held steadfast in pride and longevity since.

"There's a lot of history of the Wolfhounds and the orphanage," said Pat Muranaka, an adoptive mother of a child from the Holy Family Orphanage. "The children look forward to the program, and prepare for their coming."

The Santa Soldiers will spend 10 days at the orphanage to play and commiserate with children.

"It's good that we haven't given up on the children. I take pride in being a part of this unit. Not a lot of units have this kind of relationship," said Callaway.

"It pulls your heart strings because while you're shopping for your family, you realize there are children who pretty much have only



Above — Playing the role of a reindeer, Staff Sgt. Jesse Wyant poses for a memorable shot with an orphan who lives at the Holy Family Home Orphanage in Osaka, Japan, after providing her with presents from Santa.



Left — Soldiers from the 27th Infantry Regiment wrap presents Dec. 13 that will be sent to Japan for orphans at Osaka's Holy Family Home Orphanage, just in time for Christmas.

each other," said family readiness group leader Terri Rudacille of 1st Bn, 27th Inf. Rgt. "It's a privilege to work with Soldiers ... to make this happen for the children. This is something I wish the community knew more about because the same kinds of relationships are being established in Iraq."

Even though they have never seen the orphanage or met the children, the men of the 27th give their money, time and love anyway.

"This has been a pleasure and honor to be a part of this volunteer work. I am privileged to be a part of the Wolfhounds," said 1st Lt. Joseph G. Marullo, assistant security officer for 1-27th. "One-hundred twenty-nine

children, plus infants, are going to have a Christmas because of these Soldiers. It's one of those pure good feelings. I'm lucky to be a part of it."

Today the young sergeant that began this tradition also remains a member of the Wolfhounds. O'Reilly is the Honorary Regimental Sergeant Major for the very same regiment he helped forged a trusting bond with the Japanese orphanage. The 91-year-old still continues his lifetime of service to Soldiers. He is an constant supporter of the 27th Regiment.

Thus, creating a tradition of excellence as an icon for the Wolfhounds, and a hero to the orphanage that still flourishes today.



Courtesy Photo

Home-schooled children from Schofield Barracks sing "Jingle Bells" to veterans.

## Homeschoolers bring yuletide to patients

Kelly Slater  
Contributing Writer

HONOLULU — Families and children with the Schofield Barracks Child and Youth Services Home Schooling Group practiced singing and signing Christmas songs, while one child who plays the flute perfected Christmas tunes.

Then, Dec. 14 all set their alarm clocks for an early morning wake-up call to perform before veterans at the Center for the Aging and before children who are patients at Tripler Army Medical Center's Pediatric Ward.

For veterans, families

donated gifts for prizes at regular bingo games. For Pediatrics, children donated crafts they made as well as books to the ward.

Attendees said both events were very moving, to see so much appreciation from veterans and children. Many also said the events brought tears to their eyes.

The Schofield Barracks home school group meets regularly for computer classes, field trips, park days, arts and crafts activities, science stations and more. Homeschool families are welcome to join outings. Call 655-8326 or e-mail tam.sin.keone@us.army.mil.

## OWL honors director at U.S. Army Pacific

### Nielsen receives the public award

Org. of Women Leaders  
News Release

HONOLULU — When the Organization of Women Leaders, or OWL, conferred its leadership awards at its annual luncheon in late November, a U.S. Army, Pacific, civilian was honored.

Janice Nielsen was named the public sector awardee. She is the director of Government and Legislative Affairs at U.S. Army, Pacific.

Seeking to unite leaders of the public and private sector, the OWL's mission is to bring together women decision-makers from the entire community to promote job effectiveness. Awardees are selected based on achievement within their jobs and their contributions to the community at large by an OWL board.

The occasion was the sec-



Nielsen

ond time Nielsen has received the public sector award, and she's the first OWL member to be honored more than

once. Nielsen served as OWL president in 2005, and she has been a member of the organization for six years.

Nielsen has worked for the federal government for 30 years in Hawaii, Europe and Washington, D.C., and in various capacities for the Air Force, Army, Office of the Secretary of Defense, and as a staffer in the U.S. Senate.

Special assistant to the superintendent at West Point, U.S. Army, Col. Jeanette McMahon, received the president's award, another first, in addition to honors awarded to other local community members.

# Helping people one step at a time

## One by One aids homeless

Story and Photos by  
Pfc. Kyndal Brewer  
Staff Writer

WAIANAË — Volunteers with the “One by One” organization spread some holiday cheer for those who are less fortunate, by handing out flyers and conducting their monthly free clothes laundering service here, Dec. 8.

The event was held Dec. 9, and allowed those without easy access to cleaning facilities to bring their clothes in to laundromats in two different locations, one in Nanakuli and one in Makaha, plus to have their laundry washed and dried for them free of charge.

As an extra gift, people from all over Oahu donated presents for the organization to hand out to adults and children as they waited on their newly cleaned duds.

Dozens of people stood in line with bags and baskets filled with clothes. Many said they considered the service their Christmas present.

The One By One organization started with the idea of two people, Sgt. Maj. Jose Garcia-Aponte, Transient Billet sergeant major at Schofield Barracks, and Hawaii native Pele To’omata, who both were determined to reach out and help other people.

“You always hear about people donating food and clothing to needy people,” Garcia-Aponte explained. “But what do they do when the clothes they already have get dirty? That’s how we

came up with the idea of washing their clothes for them.”

The concept is that people bring their clothes to the laundry facility, and the organization provides the money they get from sponsors and the soap for homeless to wash their clothing.

Garcia and To’omata started the organization in January 2005, and since then, it’s grown with Soldiers, stay-at-home moms, professionals and students who are committed to volunteering to help the people of Waianae.

“Our mission is to reach out to these people and change their lives by building them a foundation one by one,” said Garcia-Aponte.

Garcia-Aponte, To’omata and the rest of their crew are now in the process of spreading the organization to all of the islands of Hawaii. They made their first trip to the Big Island Dec. 18 – 20, and it was a major success.

“It is a real miracle what you are doing here,” said Donnie Cruz of Eden Rock Mountain View on the Big Island. “It really is a true blessing, and we are very thankful!”

“The people don’t always voice their gratitude,” said Master Sgt. Jose Ortiz, acting first sergeant of Transient Billets. “We hear a lot of them say ‘thank you,’ but it’s the look in their eyes that gets to your heart,” he continued. “Helping these people makes you realize how lucky you really are. You get out there and suddenly your problems aren’t problems anymore.”



Above — Homeless individuals in the Waianae Coast area take the opportunity to select donated clothing during a “One By One” monthly visit. Soldiers and other volunteers regularly assist with supplies and funds to wash clothes at local laundromats.



Left — Volunteers with One By One Hawaii bring toys to children of homeless individuals at their most recent visit. Sponsors and other charitable people from throughout Oahu donated the gifts for children in the spirit of the holidays.

# ACS recognizes volunteers, celebrates 11-year anniversary

Photo and Story by Joy Boisselle  
Staff Writer

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Recognizing volunteer service is an important part of Army programs at all levels. Hence, Army Community Service honored its volunteers and the creation of one of its signature programs, Army Family Team Building, at a Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon Dec. 16 at the ACS building here.

The quarterly event recognized 47 volunteers as well as noted the official eleventh birthday of the Army Family Team Building program with a cake-cutting ceremony.

Brian Dougherty, deputy ACS chief, presided over the event. He said, “Today, we are recognizing our extraordinary volunteers whose dedication and commitment to helping others truly displays a tradition of extreme excellence.”

Dougherty continued, “Our volunteers help strengthen our community through their selfless serv-

ice everyday. This recognition and birthday celebration are to spotlight and recognize the efforts of those who go the extra mile and to encourage others to get involved.”

The Army officially began recognizing volunteer service when it created ACS in 1965. But, according to Dougherty, volunteers have been assisting Soldiers and families throughout history.

He cited uniform production, caring for the sick and wounded, and helping the families of deceased Soldiers as just a few of the roles volunteers have undertaken throughout the years.

Volunteers fulfill many of those same roles today. ACS volunteers work as AFTB instructors, newcomer tour guides, administrative assistants, financial and employment counselors, and more. Illustrating their importance to the ACS mission, Cathy Henderson, installation volunteer manager, said volunteers logged more than 5,600 hours of service translating to

\$76,000 in savings for ACS in 2005.

“We do not have enough staff to take care of the different needs of our Soldiers and their families. With the help of these volunteers, we are able to provide them with supreme service, especially during deployments,” explained Henderson.

Dougherty also touched on the eleventh birthday of AFTB. Announced as an official Army program on Dec. 16, 1994, the program continues to educate and empower Army families.

“AFTB has been instrumental in connecting families to the Army ... one class at a time. Volunteers have kept the program running for 11 years, and it truly belongs to Army families ... it was conceived by Army families for Army families,” he explained.

Here, according to Robin Sherrod, AFTB program manager, the AFTB program has 23 volunteers who assist in instructing and running the program. In 2005, those

volunteers taught 70 classes to 963 spouses, Soldiers and family members.

Of volunteers’ importance to AFTB, Sherrod said, “We couldn’t do what we do without them; they are the backbone of AFTB.”

The benefits of volunteering according to



Bobbie Hanlon, AFTB instructor, prepares to cut the birthday cake commemorating the AFTB program’s eleventh birthday.

Sherrod are many. She cited future employment, resume building and networking with others as some of

the long-term benefits.

“Making friends, building confidence and self-esteem, and doing something worthwhile, are what volunteering is all about,” Sherrod said.

Just prior to the award ceremony, Dougherty introduced Maj. Gen. Benjamin R. Mixon, commanding general, 25th Infantry Division. Mixon came to thank the volunteers for their efforts.

“Everything that you do to help families means so very much to our community,” Mixon said.

“You are a major part of our combat readiness, and without a doubt, volunteers are what makes this community work,” the commander emphasized.

# Looking Back: Tropic Lightning began to transform in 2005

From A-1

524th Corps Support Battalion received Purple Hearts, July 20, at Hamilton Field, Schofield Barracks, for injuries sustained while deployed to Iraq.

A free concert was held for all military service members and their families in Waikiki, July 23. A \$50,000 donation was made to the Fisher House Foundation.

July 18, the Sergeant Major of the Army visited Schofield Barracks to speak to Soldiers about Army transformation at Sgt. Smith Theater.

### August

The Division commanding general selects Command Sgt. Maj. Jerry L. Taylor as the new Division command sergeant major, Aug. 8.

Three UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters and a CH-47 Chinook helicopter participate in an effort to extinguish brush fires threatening homes and highways on the Leeward side of Oahu, Aug. 15 and 16.

1st Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment, completes the first battalion-sized rotation at the Pohakuloa Training Area since its return from a yearlong deployment to Iraq.

The Division commanding general presents five noncommissioned officers with the Sergeant Audie

Murphy Club medallion and Certificates of Achievement for leadership performances and achievements, Aug. 8, at Schofield Barracks.

The Division command sergeant major is introduced during a Flying V ceremony held in his honor, Aug. 23, at Sills Field, Schofield Barracks.

### September

Aug. 25, three lucky contestants dashed through the Schofield Barracks commissary and grabbed more than \$1,242 of free groceries in an event mimicking the “Supermarket Sweep” game show. Morale, Welfare and Recreation created the event to boost the morale of family members of deployed Soldiers.

Community and family members gathered in a ceremony, Sept. 9, at Fernandez Hall to honor the fallen heroes and Soldiers who lost their lives fighting the Global War on Terrorism.

The 536th Maintenance Company arrived home where family members awaited them at Martinez Gym, Schofield Barracks.

U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers deployed to Mongolia in a Medical Readiness Training Exercise to pro-

vide and assist the Mongolian armed forces in medical care.

### October

Sept. 23, the 58th Military Police Company demonstrated the newest technology, the Overwatch system, to Lt. Gen. John M. Brown III commander of U.S. Army, Pacific, and before Command Sgt. Maj. Mark L. Farley to determine the technology’s effectiveness for combat at the Urban Terrain site, Schofield Barracks.

The Army announced that its Primary Leadership Development Course was being renamed the Warrior Leader Course. The new name reflects changes made to PLDC curriculum.

The 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command is activated in a ceremony held Oct. 14 at Fort Shafter. The 94th AAMDC provides command and control of Army air defense units and assists in planning theater level air and missile defenses.

The 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery, received the 2005 Phoenix Trophy, DoD’s highest maintenance award, Oct. 26, at the Secretary of Defense Awards Banquet held in Birmingham, Ala.

In keeping with 64 years of

tradition, Tropic Lightning Week celebrated the birthday of the Division. Unit cohesion and esprits de corps comprised 16 athletic and soldiering challenges for any unit wishing to participate.

### November

The Department of Defense announced that approximately 7,000 Division Soldiers will deploy to Iraq in 2006 to support Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The U.S. Army Sniper School at Fort Benning, Ga., held the fifth annual International Sniper Competition, Oct. 28 – Nov. 4. Two Soldiers from the 1st Infantry, 21st Infantry Regiment, were awarded second place out of 31 teams from the United States and six other countries.

Nov. 17, Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery, and 227th Engineers Company, Hawaii Army National Guard, arrived home from Kuwait, after an 11-month deployment supporting OIF.

An official reorganization ceremony of the 225th Brigade Support Battalion honored the 225th’s transformation from a forward support battalion to a brigade support battalion for the 2nd Brigade.

### December

Alpha Battery, 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, conducted its semiannual section certification at Hamilton Field, Schofield Barracks, Nov. 16–18.

Nearly 70 Soldiers from the Combat Aviation Brigade received the Combat Action Badge at a ceremony Dec. 7 at Schofield Barracks.

The 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion conducted its Squad Lane Training, which began with a ruck march from Schofield Barracks to East Range.

A total of 290 Soldiers were invited to 3rd Brigade’s two-week Expert Infantry Badge qualification Dec. 5.

Construction of Schofield’s first new residential community got underway. The new Kalakaua Community is designated for junior noncommissioned officers who will begin moving in with their families in June 2006.

*(Editor’s Note: The 25th Infantry Division Public Affairs Office compiled information for this article from news and feature stories published in 2005. However, this summary only scratches the surface of what the Army, its Soldiers, civilians and the local community accomplished in 2005.)*

# Medics: Soldiers interact with civilian emergency medical techs

From A-1

tion, fluids and pharmacology.

"Learning about the intubations and electrocardiograms were things I enjoyed, as it is not something that we did a lot in the field," said Spc. Lance Holley, 2nd Brigade, 1-21 Infantry. "But everything that we are doing here is a reinforcement of our existing training."

The opportunity to ride along in an ambulance with civilian EMTs is a highlight of the course and allows medics an opportunity to interact with civilian patients.

"It was more like a field environment," said Spc. Romeo Delrosario, 2nd Brigade 5-14 Cavalry Regiment. "Plus, we were able to gain exposure to dealing with non-military health cases such as mental illness and the elderly."

"Dealing with rough, tough infantry guys is one thing; handling an 80 year-old woman is another," he continued. "You quickly learn how to adapt your people skills to deal with all types of patients. Communication is the key to a successful medic-patient relationship."

"More hands on is something all medics desire," said Spc. Shawn Cohen, 2nd Brigade, 1-27 Infantry. "I found that the ride along program gave us a broader range of patients to work on such as the elderly. That alone, I think, helped expand our skill-set and gave us more confidence in our skills."

Three major goals for the class include training medics to accomplish more responsibilities on the battlefield, expose them to more techniques that allow them to execute their mission and to produce EMT-I certified medics that meet civilian training requirements.

"Overall, I feel that this class is a great benefit; it explains not only how something is done but elaborates on the why," said Holley. "There is a method to the madness, and this course helps explain it further."

The current class is the second one for fiscal year 2006, the classroom portion started Dec. 12, said Farley. Of the 20 students who will participate, statistics show that only 15 will successfully complete the program. Two more classes are both scheduled for 2006 with a fifth class in the works.

"Medical skills are very perishable," said Farley. "Most medics only see minor injuries and illnesses in garrison. The ride-along portion of this program allows our medics to interact with state and county agencies and exposes them to real-world injuries beyond those seen here."



Photos by Spc. David House

**Above — With Sgt. Aaron Storey from 2nd Brigade's 5/14th Cavalry Regiment playing the part of a car crash victim, Pfc. Russell Smith (right) in his unit and Pfc. Charles "Chip" Jost of the 545th Transportation Detachment practice EMT procedures during EMT-I classroom training at Schofield Barracks.**

**Right — Jost examines Storey during the EMT-I training.**



## News Briefs

**Army All-American** — Saturday, the 6th annual U.S. Army All-American Bowl will showcase the best high school football players in the country, who show great physical strength on the field and mental strength in the classroom. The game features tomorrow's college and NFL stars in a classic East vs. West match-up that is nationally televised on NBC.

"The Army sponsors the game to enhance its connection with America's youth and to recognize excellence demonstrated by our youth," said Col. Garrie Dornan, director, Office of the Chief of Public Affairs Army Outreach Division. "The Army All-American Bowl is the largest Army-sponsored event in America."

See "News Briefs," page A-8

# PACOM: Senior NCOs collaborate about Pacific region issues

From A-1

ic region, where the United States has many partners, each with its own concerns.

“We are the only region remaining that has a conventional scenario, the Korean Peninsula, as well as the challenge of an emerging China, and the Global War on Terrorism ... which will remain a important mission for many years to come,” said Marine Sgt. Maj. William T. Kinney, senior enlisted leader, PACOM.

Army Command Sgt. Maj. William J. Gainey, senior enlisted advisor to the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, spoke about his new position, adding that it was 15 years in the making.

Attendees were also briefed on the U.S. North American Aerospace Defense Command/Northern Com-

mand, U.S. Strategic Command, U.S. Joint Forces Command, and initiatives such as theater security cooperation, Homeland Security by the U.S. Coast Guard, humanitarian assistance efforts, and the Global War on Terrorism.

Participants were introduced to partner nation enlisted leader development, a new program which will be spearheaded by senior enlisted leaders from all services in the region.

“The Global War on Terrorism [GWOT] is not just fought by the U.S. Other countries also participate, and we want to ensure that their NCOs are competent and confident to be able to be successful in that mission as well as global peacekeeping operations,” said Kinney.

“We have begun this pro-

gram over the last year, and we have a lot of work going on in places like Mongolia and the Philippines. We also have partner programs with other countries such as Japan,” he continued.

The process of developing NCOs involves working with the allied partner country in several steps. First, assistance is offered. Next, an NCO structure is created, if one doesn’t already exist. Then, assistance is provided in developing an education system that prepares individuals to assume those positions. Finally, officers are educated to know what the NCOs can do, and what they bring to the table, according to Kinney.

“We want our senior enlisted to focus their efforts

on enlisted personnel throughout the area of operations, as part of theater security cooperation,” said Kinney. “We want to get a mindset out there that every time you go forward, every time you interact with enlisted people of foreign nations, you’re thinking of ways to help reach the objectives of a professional NCO Corps,” he explained.

One of the sessions in the seminar included the concept of “The Strategic Corporal,” which discussed

the need, as seen in Iraq, to push down command and control empowerment to the leaders at the lowest level – corporals, sergeants, lieutenants, and captains – who must have the training and experience necessary to successfully lead and make decisions in combat and global peacekeeping operations.

“I want the senior enlisted leaders of our own country to realize that this type of empowerment doesn’t end with your own,” said Kinney.

“The hardest part of the whole program is convincing those that have never been a noncommissioned officer how you are going to do this, because you don’t create a noncommissioned officer overnight.

“So to create an empowered noncommissioned officer who is confident on the battlefield and can be successful in peacekeeping operations is a generational process ... that may take 30 or 40 years, and we must begin now,” Kinney emphasized.

## News Briefs

From A-6

The pre-game show begins at 11 a.m. and the game at noon, both Central times.

**Road Closure** — At Schofield Barracks, Waianae Avenue, between Devol Street and Road "A," will be closed through Jan. 31 during the hours of 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. to install new water and sewer lines. For more details, contact Hunjin Kye, Army Corps of Engineers, at 655-0441.

**"The Wave"** — This Fort Shafter worship service meets each Sunday at 9 a.m. in the Fort Shafter dining facility. You are invited to worship and attend the breakfast potluck. For more details, call Chaplain (Capt.) James Lester at 438-1816.

**Troops To Teachers** — Gain valuable information about the Troops to Teachers program and the teaching profession. Participate in sessions with a local representative any first Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Education Center, Room 223.

All military and spouses are welcome. Call 587-5580, extension, 409, or e-mail hawaiiitt@notes.k12.hi.us for more information.

**GSA Annual Inventory** — The Hickam GSA Customer Supply Center will be closed for inventory Jan. 9 – 13 and will reopen Jan. 17. The GSA store located at Schofield Barracks will be open for supply needs during

the Hickam closure. For more information, contact Teresa DeMello at 448-8937.

The Schofield Barracks GSA Customer Supply Center will be closed Jan. 17 – 20; customers should shop at Hickam then. For more details, call Mike Martin or Monique Paano at 655-0280.

**ACAP Seminars** — The Army Career Alumni Program is offering a number of specialized job assistance seminars during the month of January. All ACAP clients and their family members are welcome to attend these events.

Thursday, Jan. 12, from noon to 2 p.m., catch the seminar on writing powerful accomplishment bullets for your resume; Jan. 19, from 11 a.m.–1 p.m., federal resume writing; and Jan. 26, from noon to 2 p.m., conducting information referral meetings and salary negotiation.

Call the Schofield Barracks ACAP Center at 655-1028 to reserve a place in any of these job assistance seminars.

**Volunteer Advisory Council** — The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 18 from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Chapel Annex, Schofield Barracks. The council consists of the Army volunteer coordinator, senior command spouses, volunteer user military agency representatives and unit representatives.

The council will be discussing implementation of a Quarterly Volunteer Awards program, the upcoming volunteer recognition in April, implementation of the Volunteer Management Information System, which is a new procedure for submitting vol-

unteer hours, and will address issues and/or concerns directly related to volunteerism.

For more details, contact Cathie Henderson at 655-1703.

**Water Outage** — A scheduled post-wide water outage will take place for 12 hours, from 9 p.m. to 9 a.m., Jan. 20 – 21. All personnel on Schofield Barracks, Wheeler Army Air Field and Kunia will be affected by the outage, which accommodates water line connections for the new AAFES shopping center.

**IO Specialists** — Functional Area 30, Information Operations, is seeking highly motivated year group 1997–2002 officers for expanding IO opportunities in brigade combat teams, divisions, corps and joint positions. Interested officers in year groups 1998–2001 can request career field designation by completing the online preference form at [www.hrc.army.mil/site/active/opfamdd/cfd\\_Upcoming\\_boards.htm](http://www.hrc.army.mil/site/active/opfamdd/cfd_Upcoming_boards.htm) or contact Maj. Mogavero, Information Operations career management officer, at [gregory.mogavero@us.army.mil](mailto:gregory.mogavero@us.army.mil) or 703-325-5791 for more details.

All other interested officers can request redesignation to Information Operations through the HRC Information Operations career management officer. Fort Leavenworth points of contact at the U.S. Army Information Operations Proponent are Lt. Col. Ken Krumm at 913- 684-5318 or David Pendleton at 913- 684-5320.



# COMMUNITY & SPORTS

Friday

January 6, 2006



A Koola district Cub Scout shimmies across a one-rope bridge.

## Area Cub Scouts

### experience life as a Soldier

Story and Photos by  
Pfc. Nicole R. Montoya  
17th Public Affairs Detachment

Climbing across a one-rope bridge, muddy water inches away, and rappelling down a wall at a 45-degree angle were just a few of the many missions accomplished by the tough, daring Cub Scouts of Oahu. Approximately 900 island scouts vis-

ited Schofield's Air Assault School Dec. 27-29 to participate in a day of fun designed to build confidence and emphasize health, safety and camaraderie.

The young scouts learned how to camouflage their faces with camo paint, to rappel down a wall at a 45 degree angle, to climb across a one-rope bridge and to learn

new and exciting information about Soldiers' weapons and gear and the UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter.

"Cub Scout Days has been conducted here for the past 37 years," said Capt. Sean P. Finnerty, 25th Infantry Division, Special Troops Battalion, assistant operations officer and coordinator for the Schofield Cub Scouts Days.

"Cub Scouts from the whole island come in and have an opening ceremony, kicked off with the pledge of allegiance, Cub Scout oath, and a short brief given by Michael Braham, Cub Scout aloha council advisor," Finnerty said.

Soldiers from the 25th ID who weren't on Christmas leave helped guide the energetic scouts through their short missions.

The Cub Scouts were divided into groups, which rotated around the various stations. At one station, the scouts received a brief on the

capabilities of the light medium tactical vehicle (LMTV) and rode out to East Range, about a mile down the road, said Pfc. Juan Reyes, 25th ID STB, signal support specialist.

"This was so much fun," said Reyes. "The children are fun to work with, and it's a lot of fun helping out."

The second half of the station was the one-rope bridge. Soldiers hooked the scouts to a harness, allowing them to shimmy across the rope, said Finnerty.

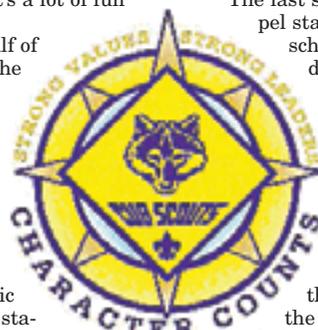
The next station was the static weapons display station. Cub Scouts checked out the various weapons, as well as painted their faces and relayed across an open field with different types of military-issued items such as Kevlar helmets and interceptor body armor.

Next to the weapons display station, sat a UH-60 Blackhawk

helicopter. Soldiers from the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade gave briefings to the Cub Scouts on the capabilities and maneuvering techniques the bird could perform, and then the scouts climbed aboard to get a view from the inside.

The last station was the rappel station. Air assault school instructors conducted demonstrations on different rappelling techniques, even plunging from the rappel tower head first, to the delight of the scouts on the ground. Soon after the demonstrations, the children tested their own rappelling skills on a 15-foot wall at a 45-degree angle. Instructors helped the children rappel down as quickly and calmly as they could.

"The most fun I had was the rappelling," said Isaac Feagai, a Koola district Cub Scout. "I also really enjoyed playing with the weapons."



Left — An air assault instructor helps Cub Scout Isaac Feagai rappel down a 15 foot wall at a 45-degree angle.

Below — Connor Farney, a Cub Scout with Pack 115, gets his face painted camouflage by Spc. Edward Rung with Special Troops Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Company.



Left — Alex Schulz, age 10 from Cub Scout Pack 126 gets his face painted during the 37th annual Cub Scout Schofield Days held at the Air Assault School range Dec. 27 - 29..

Right — Spc. Lou A. Holland with Special Troops Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Co., unhooks a parent from the one-rope bridge.





**MWR Briefs**  
Serving America's Army in Hawaii

**JANUARY**

**7 / Saturday**

**Teen Pool Tournament** — Teens ages 11 to 18 are invited to participate in the Tropics Pool Tournament, Jan. 7, at 4 p.m. The tournament consists of two age categories, and great prizes will be presented.

Sign up at the Tropics today; cost is only \$2, or pay \$3 at the door. For more information, call 655-8522.



**Latin Night** — Come to the Tropics for an evening of fun and dancing from 8 p.m. to 12 a.m. For more information, call 655-5697.

**14 / Saturday**

**Yu-Gi-Oh** — Get ready to duel at the Tropics. Registration for the Yu-Gi-Oh tournament starts at noon and matches will start at 1 p.m. Cost is \$6 and includes a pack of the latest Yu-Gi-Oh cards. Prizes will be awarded, and all ages are welcome. Call 655-8522 for more details.

**Parents Night Out** — Leave your kids in the competent hands of Child and Youth Services on Parents Night Out, Jan. 14, and then enjoy a nice night out on the town.

Children enrolled in Parent's Night Out must be registered with the Resource and Referral Office no later than noon, Jan 11.

Reservations are first-come, first-served at the Resource and Referral Office. Call 655-8313 for more information.

**Teen Social** — Join friends for an evening of fun at the Schofield Barracks Teen Center from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Listen to music, dance, play games or



Courtesy Photo

**Hurt 100-Miler**

The Sixth Annual Hurt 100-mile trail race will start at 6 a.m. Jan 14 at the Hawaii Nature Trail System.

participate in contests. Admission is \$3 for members and \$4 for nonmembers.

**18 / Wednesday**

**Teen Volleyball** — Teens show off your skills at the Tropics Teen Volleyball Party from 4 to 6 p.m. Volleyball games and a serving contest with prizes, along with refreshments and music, will take the spotlight.

Sign up at the Tropics. For more information, call 655-8522.



**19 / Thursday**

**Bunko Night**—Come to the Tropics for Bunko night, Jan. 19, from 6 to 8 p.m. If you have never played before, come to learn and have fun. Bunko supplies will be provided. For more information, call 655-8522.

**20 / Friday**

**AMR Teen Social** — Join friends for an evening of fun at the Aliamanu Teen Center from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Listen to music, dance, play games or participate in contests. Admission is

\$3 for members and \$4 for nonmembers.

**21 / Saturday**

**Great American Voices** — Come enjoy exciting selections from American musicals and popular operas at the Great American Voices performance at 6 p.m., Jan. 21, at the Nehealani. Presented by the National Endowment for the Arts, the evening will include the talented voices of the Hawaii Opera Theatre, pupus, no host cocktails, and door prizes. For more information, call 655-4466.

**ONGOING**

**SKIES Unlimited Volunteer Opportunities** — Do you have a special skill or talent and enjoy teaching children? Join the Child and Youth Services family as a child and youth instructor.

Schools of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration & Skills (SKIES) is looking for qualified, caring volunteer instructors for the School of Arts, School of Sports, School of Academics, and the School of Life Skills.

If you have a hobby or skill or are interested in learning more about volunteering, please call 655-5525.

Ballroom from 2 to 4 p.m. New dancers will be introduced to the basic fun moves of this national folk dance. No experience is required.

Singles, couples and families with teens are welcome. Admission is free and casual attire is suggested. Call 456-8465 for additional information.

**ONGOING**

**Community Calendar Briefs** — Do you have announcements of upcoming events or activities you'd like to post in the Hawaii Army Weekly? If so, e-mail your information to editor@hawaiiarmyweekly.com at least two weeks in advance of your event or activity.

**Financial Health** — Want to find the road to healthy finances? Contact Army Community Service, located in Building 2091 across the street from Richardson swimming pool.

The following classes are offered in January: Checkbook Maintenance, Money Management, Credit Management, Thrift Savings Plan, Car Buying, Mutual Fund Investing, College Funding, and AER/Command Referral. Instructors also assist with zero percent interest Army Emergency Relief loans.

To attend a class or schedule a one-on-one appointment with a financial counselor, call 655-4ACS (4227). All services are free and help is only a phone call away.

**Cirque Hawaii** — The new Cirque Hawaii show, which opened yesterday, takes audiences on a magical journey following the lead character, Josephine, as she searches the globe for the best talent for her exotic circus based on aerial, dance and acrobatic artistry.

The Cirque Hawaii Theatre (formerly IMAX) is located at 325 Seaside Avenue in Waikiki. Ticket prices start at \$55, with discounts offered to kamaaina, military and children under 12. For reservations or more information, call 922-0017 or visit www.cirque-hawaii.com.

**Islam For Kids** — The Muslim Community at Schofield Barracks

**Arts and Crafts Classes** — The Arts and Crafts centers on Schofield Barracks and Fort Shafter offer a variety of classes including ukulele making, stained glass, pottery classes, framing and matting, and woodshop.

Call 655-6330 (Schofield Barracks) or 438-1315 (Fort Shafter) to find out class locations, schedules and additional information.

**Auto Safety and Training** — "At Ease Automotive Training" and "Ensuring Auto Safety for Everyone" are taught at the Schofield Barracks Auto Craft Center on the second Friday of each month from 9 to 10 a.m.

Learn how to check your auto's fluid levels and basic safety checks prior to driving your vehicle.

Registration is required by the Sunday prior to the class start date. Special sessions can be arranged for groups of four to six.

Cost is \$5. For more information, call 655-2271.

**Pau Hana Friday** — Enjoy cool refreshments and the chef's choice, a \$2 pupu platter every Friday, beginning at 4:30 p.m. at Mulligans and Hale Ikena on Fort Shafter. Call 438-1974 for more information.

**Story Time** — Nurture your preschooler's love of reading at your Army library story time.

Preschool story time is held on Tuesdays at the Fort Shafter library, Wednesdays at the Sgt. Yano library, and Thursdays at the Aliamanu library.

All story times begin at 10 a.m.

**MWR Pet Kennel** — Located at the Halawa Quarantine Station in Halawa Valley, the MWR pet kennel is available for military personnel deploying, awaiting permanent housing or just going on vacation.

The facility is an outdoor boarding facility for cats and dogs only. Fees for dogs are \$14. The second family dog boarding in the same kennel is \$10. Cats are \$10 per day. The second family cat boarding in the same kennel is \$5.

Spaces are limited. For reservations, call 368-3456.

will hold "Islam For Kids" classes at the Chapel Annex Building, Main Post Chapel, every Saturday from 4 to 6 p.m.

Instruction will include Qura'an reading and the Arabic language. For more information, call 352-3605.

**Art on the Zoo Fence** — Every Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., more than 35 local artists display their works at the "Art on the Zoo Fence," located on Monsarrat Avenue, across from the Kapiolani Park Bandstand. You can meet the artists who sell their works in the form of originals, prints and photographs.

**ACS Volunteers** — Free child care at an hourly site is provided for up to 20 hours per week when you volunteer with ACS. What's more, volunteering offers valuable job experience and flexible hours.

Come on out and support your Army family today. Contact Cathie Henderson at 655-2398 or hendersonca@schofield.army.mil for more information.

**Fort Shafter Newcomers Orientation Tour** — The Fort Shafter Army Community Service presents a Newcomers Orientation Tour every other Tuesday.

This Oahu tour helps familiarize new Soldiers and family members with many aspects of Hawaiian culture, customs, language, surrounding communities, the Hale Koa Hotel and various points of interest on the island.

Preregistration is required and seating is limited. Tour time is 7:30 a.m. to 4 pm. Lunch is not provided, but you can bring your lunch or purchase it at the Hale Koa. Call the Fort Shafter ACS at 438-9285 for registration or questions.

**La Leche League** — Breastfeeding or considering it? La Leche League of Central Oahu welcomes all nursing and expectant mothers to attend their monthly meetings. The league meets the third Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. at Sgt. Yano Library, Schofield Barracks.

Attendees should enter the office entrance on the left side of the building. Call Lisa at 685-1865, or e-mail laparks22@yahoo.com for more information.

**HACN TV2 Schedule**

**Morning**

- 6:00 Sign On
- 6:26 Coqui Frog Invasion in Hawaii
- 6:47 Welcome Home Redeployment Guam
- 7:00 Bulletin Board
- 7:30 What's Down the Drain
- 7:41 White Face
- 7:55 Water Safety
- 8:00 Hawaii Army Report
- 8:30 Army News Watch
- 9:00 Pentagon Channel
- 10:00 White Face
- 10:15 Change of Command Ceremony 25ID (L) & USARHAW
- 10:20 Bulletin Board
- 10:50 Welcome Home Redeployment Guam
- 11:04 Coqui Frog Invasion in Hawaii
- 11:26 VATV #2
- 11:52 Inside Afghanistan 8/31/05
- 12:00 Hawaii Army Report
- 12:35 Pentagon Channel

**Afternoon**

- 2:00 Inside Afghanistan 9/08/05
- 2:12 Bulletin Board
- 2:42 Welcome Home Redeployment Guam
- 2:55 Shamu: The Rhino Story
- 3:30 Coqui Frog Invasion in Hawaii
- 3:50 Hurricane Safety
- 4:00 Pentagon Channel

**Evening**

- 6:00 Hawaii Army Report
- 6:30 Community Focus
- 6:47 What's Down the Drain
- 6:56 Change of Command Ceremony 25ID (L) & USARHAW
- 7:00 NFL: Football Follies
- 8:00 Bulletin Board
- 8:30 Inside Afghanistan 8/31/05
- 8:42 What's Down the Drain
- 8:50 White Face
- 9:06 Volunteers
- 9:21 Welcome Home Redeployment Guam
- 9:34 Inside Afghanistan 8/22/05
- 9:45 Safety Video
- 9:49 Coqui Frog Invasion in Hawaii
- 10:10 NFL: Ice Bowl
- 11:25 Bulletin Board

**Overnight**

- Pentagon Channel

**Community Calendar**

**JANUARY**

**11 / Wednesday**

**Waikiki Aquarium Small Fry Program** — For the youngest sea life enthusiast, the Waikiki Aquarium Small Fry program invites parents to bring their 1 to 3 year olds to discover the amazing undersea world. Five weekly sessions include crafts, song, play and exploration of the exhibits.

This introduction to sea life is an extraordinary opportunity for parent and child to explore together. The costs are \$50 for parent and child for all five sessions and \$80 for non-members.

Classes will run Jan. 11 to Feb. 8, and Feb. 15 to March 15. For more information, call 923-9741 or visit online at www.waquarium.org.



**12 / Thursday**

**Federal Employment Workshop** — Interested in obtaining federal employment? Learn about job vacancy announcements, writing your federal and electronic resumes and tracking your applications at the "10 Steps to Federal Employment Workshop" to be held Thursday, Jan. 12, at Army Community Service, Schofield Barracks, and on Wednesday, Jan. 18, at ACS, Fort Shafter.

Classes will be held from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. For more information or to register, call ACS, Fort Shafter at 438-9285 or ACS, Schofield Barracks at 655-4227.

**Military Channel** — "Iraq vs. Iraq," a side-by-side comparison of Operation Desert Storm in 1991 and Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003, will premier on the Military Channel Thursday, Jan. 12, at 8 p.m.

**17 / Tuesday**

**Waikiki Aquarium** — Want to make a big splash? The Waikiki Aquarium is seeking volunteers for its "Edge of the Reef" interactive program. Volunteers will learn to interpret different habitats and species

within the exhibit for visitors to the aquarium.

The next volunteer training session will take place from Jan. 17 -31 on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7 to 9:30 p.m. and Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon at the Waikiki Aquarium.

For more information, call the Volunteer Hotline at 440-9020 from 9 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday. Volunteers must be 18 years or older and willing to make a six-month commitment.

**18 / Wednesday**

**Volunteer Advisory Council Meeting** — The Volunteer Advisory Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 18, from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Chapel Annex, Schofield Barracks. The council consists of the Army Volunteer Coordinator, senior command spouses, volunteer user military agency representatives and unit representatives.

The council will be discussing implementation of a quarterly volunteer awards program, the upcoming volunteer recognition in April, implementation of the Volunteer Management Information System, a new procedure for submitting volunteer hours and address issues related to volunteerism. Contact Cathie Henderson at 655-1703 for more information.

**26 / Thursday**

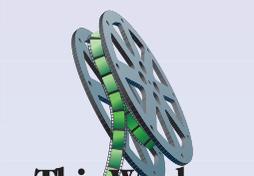
**Hawaii Theater** — Tickets are on sale now for the Hawaii Theater's "The Three Phantoms in Concert." The show features stellar Broadway performers Craig Schulman, known for his star performance in "Les Miserables"; Cris Groenendaal, who starred in "The Phantom of the Opera"; and Kevin Gray, from "Miss Saigon."

Performances are Thursday, Jan. 26, and Saturday, Jan. 28, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 29, at 2 p.m. Tickets are priced from \$25 to \$60 at the Hawaii Theatre Box Office, 1130 Bethel Street.

Discounts are available for students, seniors, military and members of the Hawaii Theatre. Tickets also may be ordered by phone at 528-0506 or on-line at www.hawaiitheatre.com.

**28 / Saturday**

**Community Square Dance** — The public is invited to a free Community Square Dance on Saturday, Jan. 28, at the Ala Wai Golf Course



**This Week at the MOVIES**  
**Sgt. Smith Theater**

**Today**  
Get Rich Or Die Tryin' 7 p.m. (R)

**Saturday**  
Yours, Mine And Ours 7 p.m. (PG)

**Sunday**  
Zathura 7 p.m. (PG)

**Wednesday**  
Yours, Mine And Ours 7 p.m. (PG)

**Thursday**  
Get Rich Or Die Tryin' 7 p.m. (R)

The theater is closed Monday, and Tuesday

# Wheeler's 'Even Start' makes parents true education partners

Story and Photo by  
Joy Boisselle  
Staff Writer

WHEELER ARMY AIR FIELD — Education programs literally dot the learning landscape. Children are usually the targets of most federal, state and local programs. "Even Start," a unique family literacy program at Wheeler Elementary School, targets the parents of school-age children.

Even Start is a free, federally funded family literacy program, which began nationally in 1988. It has been a fixture at Wheeler Elementary since 2000.

Program teachers, Joy Matsukawa and Leslie Shimokawa, have been with



**Ann Neamon, a Wheeler Elementary "Even Start" participant, displays artwork from the Marshall Islands during a cultural appreciation day held Nov. 22. Her daughter, Mary Ann Andrew, 5, looks on intently.**

the Wheeler program from the start.

"The program is nationwide with seven programs in Hawaii," explained Matsukawa. "Our program is the only one that services military families and is at the elementary-school level."

"The whole intent of Even Start is to empower families and increase student achievement, especially in the area of reading," Matsukawa added.

To achieve that purpose, four core components make up the program: early childhood education, adult literacy, parenting education, and parent and child literacy activities.

A parent simply wanting to be a part of the program is

not enough. Prospective parents must submit an application detailing their goals, their desire to be a partner in their own education, and their child's education and volunteer time at the school.

Annually, the Wheeler program services 20 parents, though mothers are more likely to be participants than military fathers. This year, 17 mothers are enrolled, and their backgrounds, motivations and education needs are diverse.

Some seek high school diplomas; others have college degrees. Many call English their second language and

desire to improve their fluency of the language. Still others just want to be involved in the education process and want to understand the standards expected of their child.

One thing all share is a commitment to bettering themselves and helping their child succeed.

Commitment is key. Participating parents spend three hours in Monday education classes, followed by Tuesday and Thursday training in job skills, communication and parenting instruction.

See "Even Start," page B-4

# Even Start: Family literacy takes centerstage at Wheeler Elem.

From B-3

In addition, Even Start parents are involved in volunteer activities, including a transition program for new families, during- and after-school tutoring, and special events projects.

One participant is Kristine McMillan-Chau, a high school graduate with some college and who is originally from Vietnam, but of Chinese ancestry.

"My main reason for being in the program was to be more informed and involved with my son's education. It

has benefited my whole family and taught me how to teach my son," she said.

Darci Ramos, in her second year with Even Start, is of Japanese-Filipino-Chinese-Spanish descent.

Initially, Ramos joined the program to assist her two speech-delayed daughters with reading improvement. Today, she is a Parent Teacher Association Board member, and is working towards a career in nursing.

"Even Start helped me to learn education strategies to

help my girls. Personally, it helped me build my self-esteem, which led me to be more involved in the school, like the PTA," Ramos said.

Ann Neamon, originally from the Marshall Islands, credits the program with helping her to teach her 5-year-old kindergartner, MaryAnn Andrew, how to read. And, although college-educated, Neamon is working hard to build her own English fluency.

Probably the biggest fans of the program are the chil-

dren. Many said that having "Mom" in school made their learning experience more fun and provided them with a common bond. Neamon's daughter, Mary Ann, said, "I like having my Mom in school, she helps me."

For all the good the program accomplishes, according to Shimokawa, the program is in danger of losing its federal funding.

"This comprehensive program offers services to the whole family. If we lose the funding for this program, it

would be tragic.

"The parents would lose, the children would lose ... and not just in the education benefits, but in parent-child bonding," she emphasized, adding, "And, the school would lose because these parents are ambassadors for our school."

For more information, contact Joy Matsukawa and Leslie Shimokawa at 622-6400 or go online to <http://www.ed.gov/programs/evenstartformula/index.html>.

## For the Parent, Even Start provides...

- Basic education classes
- Career planning
- Building life skills
- Parenting education
- Field trips
- Computer training

## For the child, Even Start provides...

- Reading readiness
- Individual and group tutoring
- Social skills
- Hands-on activities