

INSIDE

Bush outlines new strategy for Iraq

DONNA MILES
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — President Bush's new strategy for Iraq, announced Wednesday evening in a televised speech to the nation, includes more than 20,000 additional U.S. troops on the ground in Baghdad and Anbar province, increased responsibility for the Iraqi government and Iraqi security forces, and more diplomatic and economic initiatives.

Speaking from the White House, Bush said his new strategy "will change America's course in Iraq and help us succeed in the fight against terror."

The president acknowledged that the sit-

uation in Iraq has changed dramatically since the bombing of the Golden Mosque in Samarra in February 2006. The sectarian violence it ignited has overwhelmed political gains Iraqis have achieved and created an "unacceptable" situation in Iraq, he said.

The most urgent priority in Iraq is to stop the violence and create the stability needed for the country's new government to succeed, the president said.

Toward this end, Bush announced that the Iraqi government has committed 18 Iraqi

army and national police brigades to deploy across Baghdad's nine districts and work in concert with local police.

To help the Iraqis succeed in their mission, Bush said he has committed five additional U.S. military brigades to Baghdad and 4,000 more troops in Anbar province, the most restive parts of Iraq.

He noted that 80 percent of all violence in Iraq occurs within 30 miles of the capital city and that Anbar province has become al Qaeda's new home base.

The U.S. troops will embed with Iraqi formations and operate alongside them, helping them clear and secure neighborhoods, protect the local population and ensure that they are able to provide the secu-

urity Baghdad needs, he said.

Bush said military commanders who have reviewed his new plan say it addresses the two principal reasons past efforts to secure Baghdad failed.

"Here are the differences," the president said. "In earlier operations, Iraqi and American forces cleared many neighborhoods of terrorists and insurgents, but when our forces moved on to other targets, the killers returned. This time, we will have the force levels we need to hold the areas."

Also, Bush said, political and sectarian interference during past operations prevented Iraqi and American forces from going

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Last-second stop

On a hunch, Wolfhounds stop a suspicious car and prevent armed militants from entering a local city

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Warrior wives

Spots are still available for the Wives of Warriors Worldwide Conference, Jan. 26 & 27. See page B-3.



Combat warehouse

From spareribs to spare parts, 209th Aviation Support Battalion keeps supply lines alive

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Food at its finest

Soldier-chefs throughout Army Hawaii compete for coveted spots on the all-star culinary team

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Sgt. Armando L. Monroig | 5th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Operation Horseman

TAL AFAR, Iraq — Lt. Col. Malcolm Frost (left), commander, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, distributes supplies to schoolchildren during a recent visit by U.S. troops. Many of the items were donated by family and friends of Soldiers in the United States. See the full story on page A-4.

Gates asks for increase in Army #s

JIM GARAMONE
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The active duty Army will grow by 65,000 personnel during the next five years, Defense Secretary Robert Gates said during a White House news conference yesterday.

"The President announced last night [Wednesday] that he would strengthen our military for the long war against terrorism by authorizing an increase in the overall strength of the Army and Marine Corps," Gates said. "I am recommending to him a total increase in the two services of 92,000 Soldiers and Marines over the next five years."

The increase will make permanent the 30,000 temporary increase in Army end-strength. The service will then increase in annual increments of 7,000.

The Army has a current end-strength of 512,400. Under Gates' proposal, the Army's end-strength will grow to 547,000.

"We should recognize that while it may take some time for these new troops to become available for deployment, it is important that our men and women in uniform know that additional manpower and resources are on the way," Gates said.

The increase will give Soldiers more "dwell time" at home, officials said. Currently, units are on close to a one-to-one deployment to dwell-time schedule. The increase in end-strength will reduce the stress on deployable active-duty personnel.

Army officials say the service cannot grow forces overnight. The active duty Army currently recruits 80,000 young Americans each year.

According to recruiting officials, only three of 10 young men and women in the 19-to-24-year-old age group meet enlistment standards. More recruiters and additional incentives may be needed to encourage those who qualify to enlist.

SEE FLYING V, A-7

Flying V caps full career for Sokoloski

Story and Photos by
CHRISTA B. THOMAS
Pau Hana Editor

FORT SHAFTER — A driving rain that held steady most of the morning did little to dampen the celebratory mood during a Flying V ceremony held Jan. 5 to honor the service of Stanley Sokoloski, director of Installation Management Command-Pacific (IMCOM).

Fittingly, the retirement ceremony, attended by family members, Soldiers, civilians and leaders of U. S. Army, Pacific (USARPAC), capped a 37-year career that began and ended on Fort Shafter's storied Palm Circle.

Posted in a V-shaped formation on the field were all garrison and battalion commanders and command sergeants major assigned to IMCOM Pacific - Garrison Hawaii; Oahu Base Support Battalion; the Pohakuloa Training Area; Fort Greely, Alaska; Garrison Japan; Garrison Alaska; and Fort Wainwright, Alaska. The Pacific Fleet Band provided musical accompaniment.

Lt. Gen. John M. Brown III, commander of USARPAC, recognized Sokoloski as an effective, tireless leader who understands the im-



Brig. Gen. John Macdonald stands with Stanley Sokoloski as they prepare to take the reviewing stand during the Flying V ceremony celebrating Sokoloski's retirement.

portance of quality of service.

"Combat readiness of any force cannot be attained unless quality of service is addressed," Brown said. Because "quality of service is as much a part of combat readiness as personnel, equipment, maintenance and training.

"I haven't met an individual who understands [that] better than Stan Sokoloski," Brown continued. "He understands that this volunteer Army...will not survive as a volun-

Honolulu mayor recognizes Hawaii's top spouses in each military branch

AIKO BRUM
Command Information Officer

HONOLULU — Need, sacrifice and recognition aptly describe Friday's award presentation at Honolulu Hale.

Family readiness group (FRG) leader Maria Grimsley saw the needs in her community, made the necessary sacrifices to lend her support, and though she did not seek reward, was recognized by Mayor Mufi Hannemann and the Honolulu Council Navy League for

her tremendous contributions to the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB), Wheeler Army Air Field.

Along with six other military spouses, Maria Grimsley (second from left), receives recognition for her role as an FRG key leader spouse at the mayor's office, Friday.

As a senior FRG leader, Grimsley, along with other key leader spouses at the company, battalion and brigade levels, volunteers where needed to take care of military families, and help keep communication flowing — on deployment matters, family housing issues, public school concerns, and the like — with families in her husband's unit.

Yet, the mother of three, a 20-, 18- and 14-year-old, doesn't ride the coattails of her husband, Sgt. Maj. James Grimsley of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 25th CAB, who is currently deployed in support

of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"I personally never present myself as a sergeant major's wife, just Maria Grimsley," she said. "If I meet young wives that I'm able to mentor, I mentor them. I was in the service myself," she said, explaining she understands the varied aspects of military life.

"You give up a lot of time, family time, to be involved with other families," she said about her FRG role, "but I like doing that."

For the past three years, the council has recognized the top seven spouses in each Hawaii-based military branch by presenting them with a \$1,000 check, courtesy of fund-

SEE SPOUSES, A-4

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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59 days since last fatal accident

Soldiers, 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.

Current as of 1/10/07.

Straight Talk

Some simple do's and don'ts help protect all

BILL LAFFEA

Directorate of Emergency Services

Simple ways exist to remain safe while going about your daily activities. However, unfortunately, we often do not give much thought to personal safety when it comes to crime prevention.

Too frequently, we have the mindset, "It will never happen to me," when it comes to criminal activity. But crimes of opportunities are not restricted to property left unsecured or in plain view for anyone window-shopping past your home or car.

If you make yourself a target for a criminal, you may very well become a crime of opportunity. By following some commonsense "do's" and "don'ts," you can ensure you are protected and armed with basic street safety, whether on foot walking about your neighborhood or driving to and from destinations.

When on foot

DON'T: Jog or walk alone early in the morning or late at night when the streets are quiet and deserted.

DO: Your workouts during daylight hours in well-populated areas, where you can find help. Use the buddy system and workout with someone.

Know the neighborhoods where you live and work. Stick to well-traveled streets. Avoid shortcuts through wooded areas, parking lots or alleys.

Avoid areas with bushes and shrubbery. If you think someone is following you, switch direction or cross the street.

Have your car or house key in hand before you reach the door. Don't hitchhike.

When on buses

DO: Use well-lighted, busy stops, and stay alert. Don't doze or daydream.

If someone harasses you, don't be embarrassed. Loudly say, "Leave me alone!" If that doesn't work, hit the emergency device.

Watch who gets off with you. If you feel uneasy, walk directly to a place where there are other people.

When driving and parking

DON'T: Think it's a waste of

time to lock your car because you'll be back in a few minutes.

DO: Always roll up the windows and lock your car doors, even if you're coming right back.

Avoid breakdowns by keep your car in good running condition. Make sure there's enough gas to get where you're going and back.

Check inside and out before getting in, and avoid parking in isolated areas. Be especially alert in lots and underground parking garages.

If you think someone is following you, don't head home. Drive to the nearest police or fire station, gas station or other open business to get help. Again, don't pick up hitchhikers.

If someone tries to rob you

DON'T: Resist.

DO: Give up your property, not your life.

Report the crime to police. Try to describe the attacker accurately because your actions can help prevent others from becoming victims.

About personal property

DON'T: Leave your purse open and unattended on a counter, your desk or the floor.

DO: Make sure your purse is closed and secured in a drawer while at the office, or carry a purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps.

DON'T: Leave your wallet in a jacket when you take it off and hang it up or throw it over a chair.

DO: Remove your wallet to a secure place. Place your wallet in an inside coat or front pants pocket, not in a back pocket.

DON'T: Flash large amounts of cash or other tempting targets like expensive jewelry or clothing.

DO: Use automated teller machines in the daytime, have your card in hand, and don't approach the machine if you're uneasy about people nearby.

About being aware and staying alert

DON'T: Let your mind wander, such as thinking about your job or

all the things you have to do, when you're when walking or driving.

DO: Wherever you are — on the street, in an office building or the shopping mall, while driving or waiting for a bus — stay alert and tuned in to your surroundings.

Do you have to work late? Make sure there are others in the building, and ask someone such as a colleague or security guard to walk you to your car or transit stop.

Think you are being followed? Walk toward an open store, restaurant or lighted house. If you're scared, yell for help.

Knowing your community

DO: Check out the locations of police and fire stations, public telephones, hospitals and restaurants, or stores that are open late.

DO: Send the message that you're calm, confident and know where you're going.

Trust your instincts. If something or someone makes you uneasy, avoid the person or leave.

Former UN Ambassador Young praises military's inclusiveness

As nation prepares to celebrate MLK Jr.'s legacy, ambassador reflects upon DoD's milestones

Story and Photo by
GERRY J. GILMORE
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Andrew J. Young Jr., a former aide to the late civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., praised the U.S. military's culture of inclusiveness during an Army observance of King's upcoming birthday held Jan. 5 in Alexandria, Va.

The U.S. military fulfills King's dream of equality and social justice for all by its practice of promoting service members due to individual merit, rather than by ethnic makeup, Young said at the event that was sponsored by and held at the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command headquarters.

Service members "appreciate the diversity of this nation, and you fight to defend the freedoms and opportunities of all of our citizens," he said. "And, that is what makes the military a leader in our society."

Young, 74, has had a distinguished public service career that includes serving as a U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, the mayor of Atlanta, and as a congressman from Georgia.

Young said that, like King's years of efforts to achieve civil rights for all Americans regardless of race, the U.S. military didn't achieve equal opportunity for all service members overnight.

The U.S. military began its march toward equality back in the late 1940s, Young recalled, when President Harry S. Truman ordered the armed services to desegregate. Before Truman's 1947 directive, military units had been segregated by race.

Yet, civil rights for all were still lacking in America a decade after World War II had ended. King began his nonviolent campaign to achieve civil rights for African-American citizens, Young noted, soon after Montgomery, Ala., resident Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to sit in the back of a public bus on Dec. 1, 1955.

In 1957, King helped to establish the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, a group that harnessed the efforts of black churches to conduct nonviolent protests and lobbying for civil rights reform. King's and others' efforts for civil rights changes in America were realized by the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

King was awarded the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize for his civil rights work.

Race relations across the nation worsened when King was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn.,



Andrew J. Young Jr., a former aide to the late civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., praised the U.S. military's culture of inclusiveness at an Army observance of King's upcoming birthday that held Jan. 5 at the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command, Alexandria, Va.

on April 4, 1968. King's death led to race riots in 60 cities in the United States. And, the U.S. military wasn't immune to the racial tension that existed at that time.

Although the military had issued a service-wide equal opportunity edict in 1963, race relations worsened during the late 1960s and early 1970s. Around that time, the Defense Department began successful service-wide equal opportunity and race relations programs that exist to this day.

Young thanked America's military for its part in continuing King's vision, by ensuring that all Americans can enjoy their freedoms.

"You are continuing the dream," Young said. "And, don't ever forget, that we either must learn to live together as brothers and sisters or ultimately we will perish together as fools."

King's birthday is an annual federal holiday, held the third Monday of January. This year it is observed Jan. 15.

LIGHTNING SPIRIT

What's your passion?

CHAPLAIN (CAPT.) JAY CLARK
728th Military Police Battalion

Something of a quandary has taken up residence in my heart and soul as of late. I have found myself desiring to disobey orders and argue with my "superiors" over what I believe are legitimate concerns of conscience.

You may ask yourself what could ever have caused such a radical shift in such a humble Soldier such as Chaplain Jay K. Clark — formerly known as Capt. America, but I have identified this quagmire of spirit as my passion to do my job, my duty.

I am a chaplain, and whenever anyone or anything gets in the way of me doing my job, I get frustrated and then I get angry. I then begin to move down a dark road that I am best not to take.

It is a fantastic and sometimes scary place to find yourself when you are torn between your passion and your duty.

Some of you understand having a passion for something. For example, I had a Soldier who I spent time with on my first deployment. Spc. Dan (no relation to the Lt. Dan of Forrest Gump fame) was a man with a passion. In between some very demanding workloads and less than obliging weather conditions, Dan would build the most fantastic pieces of furniture for whomever asked.

As we were in a desert climate, the only wood that he could get a hold of was from packing crates and palettes. Still, Dan was a friend to anyone who wanted a chair, a card table or any other kind of creature comfort the individual could want.

What was simply a stable piece of furniture for anyone else was in fact a part of Dan's heart, an extension of his passion to create. He put himself into each piece of furniture, and so he kept himself grounded in his passion while doing his duty.

You see, Dan was also my partner as a part of a machine-gun team. There was no one I wanted more watching my back or manning the gun than my friend Dan.

He was a great friend and a competent Soldier, but his passion was not the same as his duty. Yet, for some, the lucky few, duty and passion coincide so that the two coexist. For others, there is a constant strug-

gle between that which we want to do and that thing we are doing for the moment.

As God works in your life over this next year, do not be afraid to ask the question: "What does God want me to do with my life? What is my passion?"

Let the answer to that question become your passion, and hence your duty. If you can catch a piece of the excitement and energy that God is offering when you are working in a

place that he has set, you will find that your efforts come more easily. And a little extra work becomes a joy.

In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul

makes reference numerous times to the overwhelming passion that he has for his duty. He received the directive from God to take the message out to the Gentiles and the "unwashed." Because of his passion for this duty he received, Paul literally changed the world around him at that time.

Now I am not suggesting that you give up your current jobs and start making furniture; although, you can if you would like. Rather, I would like to state that each one of you has a calling, a passion, in your life. God has blessed you with certain talents and abilities that are unlike any others.

You may find yourself to be naturally more physically adept, or maybe you have a artistic streak, or a heart to help and serve others. Whatever it is, I encourage you to seek out your passion and then find a place where you can use it as your duty.

Some years ago, a pastor wrote a book called "In His Steps." One Sunday morning, he got up in front of his congregation and began to read from its pages. Since that time, the question from that book has become a movement of believers and non-believers alike. This movement has identified themselves by the simple catch phrase, "What Would Jesus Do?"

Ask yourself this year, "What would Jesus do with my life? What would we he do with my passion?"



Clark

Voices of Lightning: "What aspect of Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream remains unfulfilled in today's society?"



"As nationalities we still segregate ourselves." Master Sgt. Pete Garza 8th MP Brigade Maintenance NCO



"His dream hasn't been fulfilled yet. It's still a dream." CW01 Jose Oliveri HHC, 84th Eng. Bn. Maintenance /Ops Officer



"Some of it has been fulfilled, but there are still folk who are in the past." Spc. Lionel Tafea 225th BSB



"If anything, racism has been reversed instead of going away." Staff Sgt. Joe Bob Merriman C Co. 205th MI Bn. Squad Leader



"Not completely. I feel there is still undercover racism." Spc. Crystal Jordan 25th Trans. Co. NBC NCO



Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, prepare for an early morning mission at Forward Operating Base McHenry, Hawija, Iraq.

Wolfhounds augment ground, air assets

Story and Photo by
SPC. MIKE ALBERTS

3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

HAWIJA, Iraq — Soldiers of B Company, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, captured four Anti-Iraqi Forces and confiscated weapons during an air reconnaissance mission near here, last month, that affirmed the use of aviation assets to help counter improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

According to 2nd Lt. J. Brent Martin, platoon leader, Bravo Co., 2-27th, a vehi-

cle was speeding along a route in the battalion's area of operation while Martin and his Soldiers were in helicopters patrolling the area for enemy activity.

Martin asked the pilots to get a bit closer to assess the vehicle's occupants.

"All the occupants in the vehicle were males of military age, and I noticed that none of them would even look at the helicopter that was flying [less than 100 feet] away," said Martin. "The hair on the back of my neck stood up when the guys wouldn't even look at the helicopter. I knew they were hiding something," he said.

Martin, who has been operating in the area as an infantry platoon leader for the past four months, told the pilots he needed to stop and search the vehicle. The vehicle diverted to a small dirt road.

A helicopter was placed in the speeding vehicle's path while Martin deployed his Soldiers to prevent the vehicle from entering a nearby village. The sedan stopped and the occupants surrendered.

Martin's suspicions were confirmed. From the vehicle, Bravo Co. Soldiers con-

SEE WOLFHOUNDS, A-5

Building becomes 'shining light' for Tal Afar

3-4th Cavalry gives some military support to the city

Story and Photo by
SGT. ARMANDO MONROIG

5th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

TAL AFAR, Iraq — City leaders in Tal Afar received more than additional office space with the grand opening of a new building at the city's government center, recently.

"This building is a symbol for the people of Tal Afar," said Mayor Najim Abdullah Abid Al-Jibouri. "With this building, the people of Tal Afar show their insistence on building their city in spite of the hard situation in Iraq and Tal Afar."

The recently constructed facility will house the mayor's office, along with those of other city officials. More importantly, the building has become a symbol of the continuing progress being made by the citizens of Tal Afar to be self-reliant, the dedication of their leaders to keep moving forward,



A Soldier from 3-4th Cav. Regt. hands an Iraqi flag to a young boy after a grand opening celebration of a Tal Afar facility.

said Lt. Col. Malcolm Frost, commander, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division.

"It demonstrates the Iraqi security forces are taking the lead," said Frost, whose unit provides military support to Iraq

Security Forces operating in Tal Afar. "This becomes the shining light for the seat of governance here."

Frost said the new building is "a visible marker for the transition" of Tal Afar's government to a body that continues to grow less dependent on U.S. influence. To that end, members of the 3-4th have been supporting Iraqi leaders in the western Nineveh Province the past five months.

Maj. Gen. Benjamin Mixon, commander of the 25th Inf. Div., headquartered in Tikrit, attended the grand opening and commended the city's leaders on unity.

"This is what Iraq needs — Iraqis coming together," said Mixon during a press conference held inside the new government building. "The coalition will stand with you," he said.

"It is up to Iraqis to take control of Iraq. I know this great country and people can do that."

New year to bring transitions in Iraq

Caldwell cites 2006 achievements, gives '07 summer and fall goals

MULTI-NATIONAL FORCE-IRAQ
News Release

BAGHDAD — "Historic highs and heartbreaking lows" — that is how a Multi-National Force-Iraq (MNF-I) spokesman summed up 2006 in Iraq during a press conference Jan. 3 at the Combined Press Conference Center here.

Maj. Gen. William B. Caldwell IV said that despite the notable achievements the Iraqi people made in 2006, key challenges still lie ahead.

As a major achievement in 2006, Caldwell cited the establishment of the first permanent democratically elected government in Iraq's history.

Contrasting the new government with the previous regime, Caldwell said, "Months of negotiation produced a national unity government, rather than a government that privileges the interest of one sect or the ethnicity of another."

He also referenced the first significant pieces of legislation passed by the Iraqi Council of Representatives — the Import Liberalization Law and the Investment Law — as signs of progress.

"The Iraqi people continue to overcome the legacy of 35 years of brutal dictatorship and to build a secure, stable and self-governing nation," he said.

Besides establishing a national unity government, Caldwell said the Iraqi people took significant steps toward assuming responsibility for their own security in 2006.

"On January 1st, 2006, only one of Iraq's ten Army divisions was responsible for its own battle space, meaning it would plan, coordinate and conduct security operations independent of coalition forces. Today, eighty percent of Iraq's divisions are in the lead," he said.

Caldwell also noted that in 2006 the Iraqi Army and police assumed overall responsibility for all law enforcement and security activities in three provinces: Al-Muthanna, Dhi Qar and An-Najaf. However, while these achievements are important, Caldwell

said, "neither the Multi-National Force-Iraq nor the Iraqi people achieved the strategic conditions we wanted at the end of 2006.

"Iraq continues to be plagued by unacceptably high levels of violence," he said, adding that "the February bombing of the Golden Mosque in Samarra triggered a dramatic increase in sectarian violence, which now is the gravest strategic threat to our objectives in Iraq and the expressed desire of the Iraqi people to live in a multi-ethnic, unified country."

Caldwell also mentioned the loss of coalition force member lives in Iraq in 2006 and the deaths of innocent Iraqis caused by terrorist and extremist death squads as "terrible" tragedies.

He stated that the Iraqis will need to step up and meet the challenges brought in with the new year.

"We open 2007 facing significant challenges. Iraq security forces must not only continue to improve their capabilities, but must also work to gain the confidence of all Iraqi people," Caldwell said.

He noted that the government of Iraq and the Council of Representatives will have to rise above past divisions to realize Iraqi people's desire for unity.

"This will likely entail difficult decisions on reforms to the de-Ba'athification process, and hard compromises necessary for national reconciliation," Caldwell said.

He expressed MNF-I's support in this endeavor.

"The Multi-National Force-Iraq is committed to conducting operations and developing Iraqi forces in order to provide the stability necessary for this political process to occur," said Caldwell.

By summertime, the transition of Iraqi Army divisions will be made to an Iraqi Ground Forces Command, which will control all Iraqi ground forces. By fall, all provinces will be under Iraqi control, said Caldwell.

He added, 2007 will be a year of transition and adaptation, and coalition force members will support of the efforts of the government of Iraq.

Strategy: Bush provides benchmarks for Iraqis, U.S.

CONTINUED FROM A-1

into neighborhoods that are home to the people fueling sectarian violence.

Ultimately, he said “only the Iraqis can end the sectarian violence and secure their people.” The Iraqi government has an aggressive plan to accomplish that.

The president said bumping up the U.S. troop presence now will help the Iraqis succeed.

Bush said he has made it clear to Maliki that the U.S. commitment is not open-ended and that his government must step up to the plate.

“If the Iraqi government does not follow through on its promises, it will lose the support of the American people, and it will lose the support of the Iraqi people,” the president said. “Now is the time to act. The prime minister understands this.”

Bush emphasized that a successful strategy for Iraq goes beyond military operations.

“So America will hold the Iraqi government to the benchmarks it has announced,” he said.

Benchmarks include these:

- Taking responsibility for security in all of Iraq’s provinces by November;
- Passing legislation to share oil revenues among all Iraqis, giving every Iraqi citizen a stake in the country’s economy;
- Spending \$10 billion of its own money on reconstruction and infrastructure projects that create new jobs;
- Holding local provincial elections later this year to empower local leaders; and
- Reforming de-Baathification laws to allow more Iraqis to re-enter political life and establish a fair process for considering amendments to Iraq’s constitution.

The president said the U.S. will change its approach to help the Iraqi government as it works to

meet these benchmarks. The U.S. will accomplish the following:

- Embed more U.S. advisors in Iraqi army units and partner a coalition brigade with every Iraqi army division;
- Help the Iraqis build a larger and better-equipped army and accelerate the training of Iraqi forces;
- Give U.S. commanders and civilians greater flexibility to spend funds for economic assistance;
- Double the number of provincial reconstruction teams that help local Iraqi communities pursue reconciliation, strengthen moderates and speed the transition to self-reliance; and
- Appoint a reconstruction coordinator in Baghdad to ensure better results for economic assistance being spent in Iraq.

Spirit of giving lasts all year

SGT. ARMANDO MONROIG

5th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

TAL AFAR, Iraq —While Soldiers from the 1st Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, continue to help improve the stability and quality of life for people living in northwestern Iraq, their relatives and friends have taken up the cause as well.

Through a voluntary program called Operation Horsemen Help, the regiment has been able to bring the spirit of giving to children living in Tal Afar year around.

Operation Horsemen Help was organized by the members of the 1-17th U.S. Cav. Regt., an aviation unit located at Forward Operating Base Sykes, just outside of Tal Afar. Soldiers of the regiment, nicknamed “Horsemen,” belong to the 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, from Fort Bragg, N.C.

The unit’s family readiness group (FRG), an organization of family members, Soldiers and civilian employees who provide mutual support during unit deployments, make the program possible. The FRG is able to solicit donations far from the

unit’s home station, back on the U.S. mainland.

About once a week, the unit receives about 10 boxes of donations, which include pens, pencils, notebooks, crayons, paper, staplers and rulers. Children also receive clothes, blankets, toys and candy.

Once the donations arrive, members of the 3rd Squadron, 4th U.S. Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, a 25th Infantry Division unit also located at FOB Sykes, makes distributions when out patrolling the streets of Tal Afar.

Capt. Catherine Crocker, personnel officer, 1-17th Cav. Regt., said she appreciates the efforts of people who are trying to help out.

“I think it’s great. I think that’s the way we’re going to win this war, through the children and changing the way they see us at an early age,” she said.

Many Iraqi children were without shoes, warm clothes, toys and school supplies, explained Lt. Col. Michael Pyott, commander of the aviation regiment, but “it’s heartwarming to see that folks back home want to do their part to help the people of Iraq.”

The donated items do make a difference, said 1st Lt.

Matthew Davis, a civil military operations officer from Joliet, Ill., assigned to the 3-4th.

“The donations help if you don’t have enough fuel to heat your home,” said Davis. “If you have a high unemployment rate, and there is not enough income being generated by the family, then you can’t afford these [other needed] items.”

The donations not only provide a way of helping the children in Tal Afar, they also work as a catalyst for the Iraqi police to strengthen its relationship with the community.

“While it’s nice to have the locals look favorably upon U.S. Soldiers, in the long term, they really need to be able to look to their own Iraqi Security Forces and know that these are people who they can trust,” said Davis.

With the police’s participation, the Iraqi people are more likely to sympathize with the local authorities, said Davis.

Spouses: Seven net top honors

CONTINUED FROM A-1

ing from JN Chevrolet; a handsome keepsake plaque from the league itself; and the mayor’s letter of acknowledgement.

Though the council is comprised of mostly sea service members, Bob McDermott, executive director, said, the council recognizes all the branches because “when units are deployed, it’s not just the Navy, the Marine Corps and the Coast Guard. It’s the Army, very much so, and the Air Force,” he explained. “We’re all on the same team.”

The U.S. Pacific Command provided the council with names of awardees. Its individual branches selected a spouse who met specific criteria, mainly as the rear focal point for units deployed in a hostile theater of operations during 2006. “Simply put,” the criteria read, “he or she is the glue that helps hold these deployed families together.”

“Mahalo nui loa [thank you very much] ... for serving as the main source for communication for families whose loved ones are serving our country overseas,” said Mayor Hannemann during the ceremony. “I can’t say enough about what you do. You have really gone beyond the call.

“Being the mayor of the thirteenth largest municipality in the United States, I can’t be everywhere. I need individuals to step forward, and you’ve done that,” he said.

Hannemann stressed that the military is a key partner in the Hawaii community.

“I shutter to think about what our security would be like were it not for a very strong military post here, each of our military branches here,” he said.

One key spouse each from the Air Force, Coast Guard, Navy, Marine Corps, Hawaii Army National Guard Reserve, and Hawaii Air National Guard Reserve received recognition from the mayor.

“At the end of the day,” he concluded, “it’s all about families. No other homefront is as important.”

OIF

Wolfhounds: Air assets help lookout for IEDs

CONTINUED FROM A-3

ffiscated five rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs), three RPG launchers and loaders, 100 armor piercing rounds of ammunition, and a video camera. All four occupants of the vehicle were detained. The munitions, weapons and vehicle were safely destroyed at the site.

"The mission was a big success on many levels," said Maj. Robert Atienza, operations officer, 2-27th. "Tactically, the reduction of weapons and removal of Anti-Iraqi Forces [AIF] in our area of operation will save Coalition Force and Iraqi Security Force lives. Operationally, the removal of AIF causes other cells to alter tactics and possibly go into hiding."

Atienza also stressed the significance of air reconnaissance in the fight against AIF in the Kirkuk.

"Conducting missions with the use of aviation assets decreases the risk to Coalition Forces on the ground with minimal risk to those Soldiers in the air," he stressed. "The [helicopters] allow for a 360-degree view of the battlefield and can, for instance, greatly assist ground forces in locating individuals that are triggering [IEDs]."

Soldiers in and around Hawija frequently come into contact with IEDs, and having air assets is just another tool in the toolbox.

Atienza said, "The flexibility and rapid response times that aviation assets provide are vital in responding to incidents."

209th ASB keeps units supplied



Spc. Martina Rogers (left), an automated logistics supply specialist, and Spc. Liliانا Soto, logistics specialist, both with Co. A, 209th Aviation Support Battalion, inspect an incoming shipment for accuracy and defects at the Supply Support Activity on Contingency Operating Base Speicher, which distributes more than \$50 million supplies to units per day.

Behind the scenes, logistics personnel ensure comrades are well-equipped for battle

Story and Photo by

SPC. DANIEL BEARL

25th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs

TIKRIT, Iraq – As Soldiers in Multination Division-North go about their day-to-day duties, an unseen group of fellow service members works day and night to make the mission possible.

The little-thought-of supplies that make the fight possible are part of a multimillion-dollar logistics operation that is the lifeblood of the war effort, and someone has to be responsible for ordering, tracking and delivering the vital equipment.

That's where Company A, 209th Aviation Support Battalion comes in. From food to office supplies to vehicle parts, the Soldiers at the company's warehouse at Contingency Operating Base Speicher handle supply requests from more than seven battalions operating in Iraq and Kuwait.

"We're like the combat Wal-Mart," said Warrant Officer Dempster Upshaw, in Co. A. "What you can get at Wal-Mart, you can get here."

But handling that variety and volume of supplies presents its own problems and challenges.

"One of the biggest challenges is getting the right part to the customer," Upshaw said. "We track supplies from when the customer places the order, to getting it shipped from the U.S. to Iraq to when you're sitting at your desk and you sign the hand receipt for your new supplies."

And with as many as 50,000 requisitions coming from 200-plus customers

every day, it can get difficult, Upshaw said.

Another challenge faced by the company is the storage of supplies.

"We have to make sure it's stored properly so that it's protected from the elements," Upshaw said. "So when the customer gets it, it works."

"There's a big difference between working here and in the rear," added Sgt. Missy Maye, the company's warehouse storage noncommissioned officer in charge. "In the rear, we don't stock nearly as many lines. Over here it's quadrupled."

The care of the stored supplies is even more important when you take into account their value, Upshaw said. "When I see parts like this [helicopter] engine here, I see money."

With about \$70 million worth of supplies at his main warehouse, alone, and with as much as \$50 million worth of equipment and supplies moving through every day, Upshaw has a lot to keep track of and take care of, which takes dedication and drive.

"Sometimes you'll see me with a little shadow," Upshaw said, motioning at his jaw line. "I'm here that much. I live here and work here."

Fortunately, he doesn't have to handle the load on his own.

"I have outstanding NCOs and Soldiers," Upshaw said. "Sergeants and Soldiers are what make this place run."

As the troops continue to fight in the global war on terror, the Soldiers of Co. A, 209th ASB, continue to keep them supplied.

"We do it with integrity," Upshaw said. "I'm not going to let my Soldiers fall. I'm not going to let the Army down."

OIF

Soldier Show seeks musicians for 2007 tour

Story and Photo by
TIM HIPPS
Army News Service

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — The U.S. Army Soldier Show seeks musicians for its 2007 tour. Soldiers who play the guitar, bass, keyboard or drums have until Thursday, Jan. 18, to apply for an audition. Those selected to be cast in the show must be released by their commander for a six-month tour of entertaining troops and their families.

"A live rhythm section is going to bring a different kind of energy and really change the feel of the show," said Soldier Show director Victor Hurtado. "When you have a live person behind one more element of the show, it's going to give it that much more energy."

"When the vocalists know they have these musicians putting that power behind them, they're going to come out swinging," he continued. "We want to rock. We want to have that energy, and I think this will do it."

Application packets must include the following:

- A copy of enlisted records brief or officer records brief.
- A copy of the most recent noncommissioned officer evaluation.
- A copy of the most recent Army Physical Fitness Training, including height and weight.
- Most recent Department of Army photo.
- A resume of relevant experience with a



Tim Hipps | Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center

During the 2006 U.S. Army Soldier Show, Spc. Benjamin Piel (left) of Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz., sings lead vocals on Little Big Town's "Boondocks" while Spc. Elisabeth Graham of Fort Jackson, S.C., plays the violin and Spc. Adel Nammour of Youngsan, Korea, and 1st Lt. Sonya Moore of the California Army National Guard provide backup.

- phone number and e-mail address.
- An audition video.
- A commander's letter of intent to release.

The applicant's military occupational specialty does not need to be musician, but applicants must be proficient in reading basic lead sheets or chord charts. Audition videos must include a recording of a solo performance, which can be supplemented with a recording of an ensemble or band.

Singing ability is desired but not required, and additional talents will be evaluated in conjunction with proficiency on the primary instrument, including singing, playing of multiple instruments and dancing.

The Army Entertainment Division's panel of judges will select Soldier-musicians for live auditions based on the videos and application packets.

Application packets mailed from a U.S. Post Office mailbox or facility should be sent

Mail applications to:
U.S. Army Soldier Show
Attn: 2006 Selection Committee
P.O. Box 439
Fort Belvoir, VA 22060

to U.S. Army Soldier Show, Attn: 2006 Selection Committee, P.O. Box 439, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060.

Via other carriers, send to U.S. Army Soldier Show, Attn: 2006 Selection Committee, 6091 Sharon Lane, Bldg. 1434, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060.

The Soldier Show has always been a mix of song, dance and theatre, and Hurtado has often taken advantage of vocalists who double as musicians.

The 2006 show featured the trombone of multitasking Staff Sgt. Samuel Hesch, an Army National Guardsman from Pearl City, Hawaii. A year earlier, Spc. David Linson II brought his saxophone from Camp Carroll, Korea, to the Soldier Show.

Now Hurtado is looking to add more talented musicians, preferably a few who can double as dancers or vocalists.

"We just want more of a concert feel for the show," he said. "We want to come out of the box and move onto a little bit of a different paradigm, to more of a concert-feel of the production. It really is about the mix of the talent. And we want to go all the way live."

For more details, contact Hurtado at Victor.Hurtado@cfsc.army.mil.

Courts-Martial

One court-martial held in December

Soldier loses all his liberties for murder

During the past month, one Soldier was tried, found guilty and sentenced for various offenses occurring on and off Schofield Barracks.

A specialist from 325th Brigade Support Battalion (rear detachment) was sentenced by a military judge, at a general court-martial, to be reprimanded, reduced to the grade of E-1, forfeit all pay and allowances, be confined for life without the possibility of parole, and discharged from the service with a dishonorable discharge for murder.

Q: Why does the Hawaii Army Weekly publish court-martial findings? The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate releases the results of recent courts-martial for publication to inform the community of military justice trends and to deter future misconduct by Soldiers.

In addition to forfeitures of pay (either adjudged or by operation of law), confinement and a punitive discharge, the Soldier will also have a federal conviction.

A released Soldier who has served time must report federal convictions when filling out a job application. A federal conviction may strip a Soldier of some civil rights, such as the right to purchase and maintain firearms and the right to vote.

News Briefs

Send calendar announcements to community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

12/Today

Special Forces — The U.S. Army Special Forces is now seeking male officer volunteers from year group 2004.

Officer packets will be accepted until Feb. 15, but early submission is strongly encouraged. For more information, visit

www.bragg.army.mil/specialforces.

22 / Monday

Road closure — Trimble Road on Schofield Barracks, from Cadet Sheridan Road to Beaver Road, will be resurfaced Jan. 22-March 16, from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

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

23 / Tuesday

Town Hall Meeting — The next Oahu North Town hall meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 23 at 6:30 p.m. in Sgt. Smith Theater, Schofield Barracks. Call 656-4356.

Troops to Teachers — The federally-funded Troops to Teachers program supports military members choosing teaching as their next career.

The program can provide hiring support and allows up to a \$10,000 bonus for teaching in high-need schools.

Find out what it takes to become a teacher and how the TTT can benefit you. The program coordinator will be available from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Schofield Barracks Education Center Jan. 23. Starting in February, the coordinator will visit the first Tuesday of each month.

Contact Mr. Miller at 587-4054, extension 409 or e-mail

hawaiiitt@notes.k12.hi.us.

26 / Friday

Safety Stand-Down — Motor vehicle safety will be the focus at the Safety Stand-Down event Jan. 26 on Wheeler Army Air Field. This free event will be open from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

This stand-down is part of the 25th Infantry Division and U.S. Army Hawaii's annual safety campaign and is a concerted effort aimed at enhancing driver's skills, and increasing awareness of the importance of safe driving.

The Installation Fire and Safety Office will host an all-day exhibition on Wheeler Army Air Field, with vendor displays, emergency

services displays and three practical slalom driver courses: one for motorcycles, one for automobiles, and a course where participants will drive a small electric vehicle, wearing goggles which simulate alcohol impairment.

Units will hold briefings, conduct personal vehicle safety inspections and check rides for Soldiers. Call 656-4150.

31 / Wednesday

Green to Gold — The Army Green to Gold Program is seeking Soldiers who are interested in earning a baccalaureate or master's degree. Call the University of Hawaii Army ROTC Warrior Battalion, 956-7766, for details.

Flying V: Director's focus was quality of service

CONTINUED FROM A-1

teer force if the service provided is not of the highest caliber."

As IMCOM-Pacific Director, Sokoloski was responsible for installation management activities, including base operation support programs, in Hawaii, Alaska and Japan.

He and his staff of 150 military and civilian personnel manage all Pacific active and reserve installations, providing support for more than 104,000 Soldiers, family members and retirees, and 26,444 civilians; administer a budget exceeding \$760 million in appropriated and non-appropriated funds; and supervise millions of acres of land and facilities.

Brown lauded Sokoloski as "the definition of a professional Army civilian who sets the example."

"As Stan moves on to the next phase of his life, IMCOM Pacific will continue to strive and achieve at an even higher level because of the leadership, training development and mentorship that he demonstrated while in charge of this organization," Brown said. "I thank you for decades of splendid commitment and service to the U.S. Army."

In a brief speech punctuated with sincerity and admiration, Brig. Gen. John Macdonald, deputy commanding general of U.S. Army IMCOM, began by crediting Sokoloski with being instrumental in transforming the Pacific region into a powerhouse from "the snow-capped peaks of Alaska to the shores of Japan."

Macdonald threw the spotlight on the impact that Sokoloski had across the Pacific Rim.

"A few years ago, Fort Greely, Alaska, lay dormant. Today, it's running at full speed as the epicenter of the U.S. Ground-Based Midcourse Defense program," he said. "In Hawaii, Schofield Barracks is the growing hub of force protection, and the Pacific's leading flagship installation.



Col. Yvette Kelley, deputy director IMCOM-Pacific, congratulates Stanley Sokoloski at his retirement ceremony. Sokoloski's career spanned 37 years, beginning and ending on Fort Shafter's Palm Circle.

"When you look at the new barracks and the new family housing in the Pacific Region, you can thank Stan Sokoloski," Macdonald said.

Taking the podium, Sokoloski appeared humbled by the sizeable, responsive gathering. He acknowledged his guests, among which were retired Gen. Fred C. Weyand, retired Lt. Gen. Ed Smith, Hawaii State Senator Russell Kokubun, and Bill Paty and Christina Kemmer, civilian aides to the secretary of the U.S. Army.

Sokoloski expressed profound appreciation for the contributions and unwavering support from his many mentors, Department of the Army civilian staff, contractors and community members who have worked with him to sustain and support Soldiers and their families.

"I feel a tremendous sense of pride and gratitude for the selfless service of Soldiers who put boots on the ground and their lives on the line for their nation," Sokoloski said. "Our Army isn't just about barracks, helicopters

and Stryker vehicles; our Army is about people – all the individuals who come together to make an Army Strong team."

Acknowledging that there were too many people to thank publicly, Sokoloski said there were a few individuals he wanted to recognize for their support.

Sokoloski said he had been "fortunate to have guidance from Dr. Mario Fiori, former assistant to the secretary of the Army, and Tom White, former secretary of the Army...and blessed by the wisdom of Gen. Weyand...and advice of Gen. Dave Bramlett."

Sokoloski stated that serving as the director of IMCOM-Pacific had been the highlight of his Army career.

"I started my career on Palm Circle thirty-seven years ago and began a journey that has provided my family with a wealth of experiences and lifelong friendships," he said. "This amazing journey was capped four years ago by the opportunity to serve as director of IMCOM-Pacific.

"As [my wife] Chasmin and I prepare for the next chapter in our

• Hawaii State Senator Russell Kokubun presented a certificate of recognition from the Hawaii State senate acknowledging Sokoloski's "exceptional leadership and selfless dedication has had a significant and positive impact on the lives of our country's Soldiers and family members."

• Presented on behalf of Secretary of the Army Francis J. Harvey was the Exceptional Civilian Service award for being "the catalyst that moved the Pacific region through its initial stand-up to full operational capability in 2005."

• A shadowbox containing a U.S. flag flown over the Pentagon building Nov. 27, 2006, in Sokoloski's honor, was presented on behalf of Steven Calvery, director of the Pentagon Force Protection Agency.

• Brig. Gen Macdonald presented him a Department of the Army (DA) certificate of retirement from federal service and the Retired Army Civilian Service lapel pin.

• Mrs. Chasmin Sokoloski was awarded the outstanding civilian service award on behalf of the secretary of the Army. In addition, she was presented with a DA certificate of appreciation in "grateful acknowledgement of her support... which contributed significantly to her husband's career in the service of the Army and the nation."

life, I know that our future is in strong, capable hands, thanks to the dedicated Soldiers, civilians and professionals who are working together to keep all of us in the Pacific, and throughout the world 'Army Strong.'"

PAU HANA



Staff Sgt. Marcella Childs | 8th TSC



Staff Sgt. Marcella Childs | 8th TSC



Staff Sgt. Marcella Childs | 8th TSC



Christa B. Thomas

Chef Mavro (George Mavrothalassitis), right, is one of the culinary trainers who help the Army cooks add flair to their creations.

Staff Sgt. Christopher Roberts uses a cooking torch to caramelize a crème brûlée.

Sgt. Edmond Perez, Culinary Team Hawaii captain, separates egg whites to prepare newest sensation.

Staff Sgt. Zachery Brubaker 'sweetens the pot' with several cups of sugar during Thursday's try-outs.

'Iron chefs'

steel themselves in preparation for Army-wide competition



Culinary artisans use ordinary dinner plates as canvas for tasty masterpieces

CHRISTA B. THOMAS
Pau Hana Editor

Some Soldiers spend their days building morale and retention, one plate at a time. They are Army culinary specialists — fearless Soldiers first, but they can also caramelize the heck out of a brûlée. Gone are the days of their grandfather's rations.

Not content to prepare creamed beef on toast (called "S.O.S.") with boiled potatoes, 21st century Soldier-chefs craft pastries, grill fresh salmon and put their soul into their soufflés.

Eight kitchen wizards competed Thursday in phase two of the 2007 Team Hawaii Culinary Try-outs in the culinary laboratory in the Schofield Barracks B Quad.



Sgt. Edmond Perez, Culinary Team Hawaii captain, advises Pfc. Donna Major on a more effective use of her boning knife. Proper knife-handling is one of the criteria that was judged at Thursday's try outs.

"These Soldiers will compete for a place on the new team and also for a spot on the U.S. Army Culinary Team [USACAT]," said Master Sgt. Amelia Mosby, 25th Infantry Division (Rear) food service sergeant major. "This event is also a chance for the food service specialists of all grades to expand their knowledge and skills."

In true Iron Chef style, Thursday's competitors were provided a mystery basket filled with an assortment of meats, vegetables and spices to create an "instant" signature dish.

They each received three hours and 50 minutes to create a menu, prepare and plate a three-course meal.

This part of the competition tests the contestants' planning ability, individual skill and knowledge. Sgt. Edmond Perez, 84th Engineers, a classically trained chef, Hawaii team captain, and judge for Thursday's event, shared what he and the other judges look for when scrutinizing the competition.

Knife-handling (the correct knife for the job), proper use of equipment, maintaining sanitation standards, and accuracy of classic cuts (precise measurements) of vegetables is part of what will be judged, he said.

"Presentation is everything," Perez said. "But taste is the number one thing."

Other competition judges included Chef Ernesto of local wholesaler YHata, who is also the team's civilian adviser, retired Master Sgt. Jimmy Neal, director of the Logistics/ Food Program Management Office; Staff Sgt. Marcella Childs, 8th Theater Sustainment Command; Sgt. Robert Wagner, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 225th Brigade Support Battalion; and Sgt. Perez, USACAT member.

As the clock ticked, the Soldier-chefs began presenting their masterpieces to the judges, proud and hesitant, like parents of a newborn baby.

The seasoned judges let nothing escape the scrutiny of their well-seasoned palates, and their body language sometimes betrayed their overwhelming approval.

As students of the art, competitors listened intently to the judges' constructive comments and real advice.

"This is our passion. It is what we do. We're not just throwing food together," said Childs. "We practice our craft at home and on the weekends. We are very critical and spend a lot of hours off work, perfecting our techniques."

The 12 Soldier-chefs who make the Hawaii team will go on to compete in the 32nd annual Culinary Competition, held at Fort Lee, Va., in March.

The annual competition will begin with the Culinary Knowledge Bowl, a 50-question test which includes food safety and sanitation, nutritional cooking, food service management, and quality food preparation.

This culinary arts extravaganza will also include a "Jeopardy-style" game and a student skills competition, which will test specialists (E-4) and below in knife skills, meat fabrication and menu production.

This two-week contest will culminate in team finals, exhibits, hot and cold foods, ice sculptures, public viewings, and an awards ceremony.

Culinary Team Hawaii won top honors at Fort Lee in 2004, with six gold medals, seven silver medals, twenty bronze medals and "Installation of the Year."

Perez is confident with his soon-to-be-named team.

"I guarantee the team we put together will come back from Virginia with at least twenty medals, and if we don't win it all, we'll at least be in the top three."

Left — Sgt. Motavia Alston, a certified junior chef, prepares a shrimp dish with a lemony twist. Alston will compete for his senior chef designation in March if he is selected for the 2007 Hawaii team.



12 / Today

Walk off the Wait — Today is the last chance to register for the “Walk off the Wait” trip to Kaena Point, Jan. 20. Deployed spouses and people supporting deployed spouses are welcome to participate. Register by calling 655-0111.

Teen Social — Teens are invited to come have fun with friends at the Aliamanu Teen Center Social. The fun will last from 7-9:30 p.m.

Cost is \$3 for members and \$4 for non-members. A military, school or Child and Youth Services (CYS) identification will be required. Call 833-0920.

13 / 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.

17 / Wednesday

Create a Quilt — Get ready for Valentine’s Day by creating a quilt for a deployed loved one at Sgt. Yano Library, Schofield Barracks, Jan. 17 from 3-6 p.m. Call 655-8002.

19 / Friday

Teen Lock-in — Teens are invited for a night of fun, Jan. 19 from 9 p.m.-6 a.m. at the Tropics. Cost is \$25 for food.

The night will be filled with game activities, contests, movies, music, prizes and fun. Permission slips are due by Jan. 15. Call 655-8522.

New Year’s Dance — Teens are invited to come have fun with friends at the Aliamanu New Year’s Dance. The fun will last from 7-9:30 p.m.

Cost is \$3 for members and \$4 for non-members. A military, school or CYS identification will be required. Call 833-0920.

20 / Saturday

Parents Night Out — Leave your kids with Child and Youth Services (CYS) at Peterson Center, Schofield Barracks, on Parents Night Out, and then enjoy a nice night out on the town.

Children enrolled in Parents Night Out must first be registered with CYS no later than noon, Jan. 18. Reservations are first-come, first-served. Call 655-8313.

25 / Thursday

Know when to hold ‘em! — Put on your best poker face and participate in a free Texas Hold ‘em tournament at Tropics, Jan. 25 at 6 p.m.

All ID cardholders are welcome to play, but get there early because room is only available for 120 people to play. Call 655-5697.



Photo Courtesy of the New Shanghai Circus

‘Shanghaied’

The renowned New Shanghai Circus, with its breathtaking feats of strength, agility, balance and endurance, will have shows Jan. 12-14 at the Hawaii Theatre, 1130 Bethel St.

Discounted prices will be offered to students and military for this gravity-defying show. Visit www.hawaiitheatre.com.

26 / Friday

ACS Outreach — The Fort Shafter Outreach Center of Army Community Service is hosting an open house, Jan. 26 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Tour the facility and see what ACS is all about. Call 438-9285.

Hawaiian Luau Lunch Buffet — Enjoy the “ono” taste of a traditional Hawaiian style feast, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Hale Ikena on Fort Shafter, or 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Schofield Nehelani.

Cost is \$9.95 per person. Call the Hale Ikena at 438-1974 or the Nehelani at 655-4466 for lunch buffet reservations or more information.

30 / Tuesday

Theater of Laughter — Come see top-notch comics at a “Theater of Laughter” performance at the Tropics, Jan. 30. Hear four great comedians who collectively have been featured on Comedy Central and HBO and have performed with comedy legends, including George Lopez, Chris Rock, Jerry Seinfeld and Paul Rodriguez. Call 655-0111/0112.

Ongoing

Teen Fiction Contest — Teens are invited to submit their best work of fiction to the biannual Creative Writing Contest. All works of fiction will be accepted, and stories must be between 500 and 2,000 words.

The first place story will win \$150; second place, \$100; and third place, \$50. Entry forms and rules are available at all Army libraries, the Leisure Activities office and online at www.mwrarmyhawaii.com.

This contest runs through March 18. Call 655-0111 or 655-0112.

New Pool Policy — Children under 12 years of age must be under the supervision of a parent or guardian at all garrison swimming pools, effective Jan. 2. Call 656-0086.

High School Volunteers — High School students have the opportunity to earn volunteer credits by being a part of the 2007 Hawaii Army Family Action Plan Conference. Teens are needed to represent the Army as youth delegates.

SKIES Registration — Parents can register their children for instructional classes and off-post discounts through the Schools of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills (SKIES) Unlimited. Parents only need to enroll in SKIES, not at CYS.

However, parents must complete a one-page application, and show proof of their child’s age. A one-time enrollment fee of \$18 applies.

To enroll in SKIES, visit the CYS Registration Office on Schofield Barracks, Building 556 (655-8380), or at AMR, Building 1782 (833-5393).

To register for sports, Child Development Centers, School Age Services, Middle School

Teens, Summer Fun, Family Child Care, Parents Night Out, or Short Term Alternative Child Care, children and youth need to be a registered member of CYS.

SKIES Unlimited enrollment does not cover CYS membership.

Hawaii MusicWorks — SKIES Unlimited is partnering with Hawaii MusicWorks Studio to offer a military discount program for music and voice lessons. Hawaii MusicWorks offers both classical study and pop study.

Classes include “Intro to Piano and Composition,” “Intro to Guitar and Ukulele,” “Intro to Voice,” “Intro to Percussion” and “Rock School.” Discount cards can be picked up at the CYS registration offices. Call 655-9818.

Storage Shed Rentals — Many 8-by-6-foot sheds are available for rental at \$40 per month at Schofield Barracks or Fort Shafter. Call 655-9368 (Schofield Auto Craft Center) or 438-9402 (Fort Shafter Auto Craft Center).

Outdoor Recreation Rentals — Outdoor recreation can supply all your party needs to include tables, chairs, canopies, inflatables, and even a dunk tank for the kids.

Not having a party, going camping instead? Outdoor Recreation can supply you with all the gear, from tents and coolers to stoves. Outdoor Recreation is open everyday, except Tuesday. Call 655-0143.

Tropics and Starbucks — Visit the Ono Isle at the Tropics and enjoy hot and cold Starbucks specialties such as lattes, cappuccinos, mochas, hot chocolate and much more. The Ono Isle serves delicious pastries, desserts and smoothies.

Visit the Tropics in Building 589 on Schofield Barracks. Call 655-0002.

Waianae Beach Live Entertainment — Unwind over the weekend at Waianae Beach with live entertainment, every Saturday from 9 p.m.-1 a.m. and Sunday from 6-10 p.m. Call 696-4778.

RecTrac Registration — The Department of the Army has instituted a tracking system for Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) to better serve its customers, monitor usage and assist in obtaining funding support programs.

To participate in MWR programs, patrons must complete a simple registration process.

In lieu of using sign-in sheets, customers only need to scan their ID card each time they visit a facility or program. Scanners are designed to read bar codes located on the back of the ID card of eligible patrons.

Programs affected include Information, Ticketing, and Registration; physical fitness centers; swimming pools; craft shops; recreation centers; outdoor recreation equipment checkout; and access theater productions. Call 656-0086.

MWR Happenings — To find out more information about MWR activities, programs and facilities, pick-up a copy of the “Discovery” magazine available at the Schofield Barracks commissary, Fort Shafter post exchange, Aliamanu shopette, Tripler mauka entrance, or any MWR facility. Visit the MWR Web site at www.mwrarmyhawaii.com.



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 DeRusse Chapel — 836-4599

- Catholic Saturday, 5 p.m. – Mass in chapel (May – Aug.) Saturday, 6 p.m. – Mass on the beach
- Protestant Sunday, 9 a.m. – Worship service

Fort Shafter Chapel — 836-4599

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

Helemano (HMR) Chapel

- Contemporary Protestant Sunday, 10 a.m. – Worship service and children’s church

Main Post Chapel — 655-9307

- Catholic Sunday, 9 a.m. – CCD & RCIA Sunday, 10:30 a.m. – Mass
- Collective Protestant Sunday, 9 a.m. – Worship service Sunday, 10:30 a.m. – Sunday school
- Gospel Sunday, 10:30 a.m. – Sunday school Sunday, 12 p.m. – Worship service

MPC Annex, building 791

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

Soldiers Chapel

- Catholic Friday – Saturday, 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
- Collective Protestant Sunday, 10:30 a.m. – Worship Service and children’s church



Turista
(R)
Friday, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, 7 p.m.



The Holiday
(PG-13)
Saturday, 7 p.m.
Thursday, 7 p.m.



Happy Feet
(PG)
Sunday, 7 p.m.

The theater is closed Monday & Tuesday.



Send calendar announcements to community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

12 / Today

Flying High in Hawaii — The world-famous Shanghai Circus, with its breathtaking feats of strength, agility, balance and endurance will have shows Jan. 12-14 at the Hawaii Theatre.

Shows will be Jan. 12 at 7:30 p.m. and Jan. 13 and 14 at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$22.50 and \$32.50 and may be purchased at the theatre box office, 1130 Bethel St. Discounted prices will be offered to students and military. Visit www.hawaiitheatre.com.

13 / Saturday

Cat Parade — The South West Regional Cat Fancier’s Association Cat Show will be held Jan. 13, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Ala Moana Beach Park’s McCoy Pavilion.

Four international judges will review and judge the all-breed, pure-bred cats, and house cats. Call 531-4891.

16 / Tuesday

An Evening of Brilliance — Oscar, Grammy, Tony, Golden Globe and Pulitzer Prize winner Marvin Hamlisch will join The Honolulu Symphony Pops for an evening of musical magic.

Joining Hamlisch, creator of “A Chorus Line,” will be renowned tenor J. Mark McVey Jan. 16, 7:30 p.m., in the Neal S. Blaisdell Concert Hall.

chased at the box office or www.honolulu-symphony.com. Call 792-2000.

PWOC New Year Kickoff —

The Protestant Women of the Chapel will host its 2007 fellowship kickoff Jan. 16, from 9-11:30 a.m., at the Schofield Barracks Main Post Chapel.

New Bible study sign-up will begin and refreshments will be served. Free on-site child care will be available by reservation. Call 206-8504.

Aquarium Volunteers Needed —

The Waikiki Aquarium needs volunteer interpreters for its new “Edge of the Reef” exhibit. This new exhibit profiles habitats found along the Hawaiian shoreline.

During a weekly, two-hour shift, volunteers will share information about Hawaii’s marine life and provide visitors with an opportunity for close encounters with hermit crabs, sea urchins and other marine life.

A free training class is scheduled Jan. 16-Feb. 1, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7-9:30 p.m., and Saturday mornings, 9 a.m.-noon. After training, volunteers will work one two-hour shift each week for at least six months.

Volunteer benefits include complimentary “Friends of the Waikiki Aquarium” membership, free admission, a quarterly newsletter, special event notices and gift shop discounts. To register for training, call 440-9020.

18 / Thursday

Hui Luncheon — The Hui O’ Na Wahine, the all-ranks spouses’ club, hosts its monthly luncheon Jan. 18, beginning at 10:30 a.m. at the Schofield Nehelani. A buffet lunch will be served at 11 a.m. The January theme will be “The Madd Hatter Tea: Hats Off To The Hui.”

Guests are invited to don their favorite

bonnet to compete in seven categories:

- Most Botanical, Arsenic & Old Lace, Most Whimsical, Hello Dolly!, Roaring 20s, Diamonds are a Girl’s Best Friend, and Aloha Hattie!

On-site child care will be provided for children registered with Child and Youth Services.

To reserve a spot for child care or for information on child care costs, call 655-3929 or 655-5314 by noon, Tuesday, Jan. 16.

19 / Friday

Emperors of Soul — Motown legends The Temptations will join Maestro Matt Catingub and the Honolulu Symphony Pops for three concerts at the Neal S. Blaisdell Concert Hall. The Temptations will blend their soulful songs and stylish choreography with the symphonic delights of Hawaii’s own Pops orchestra.

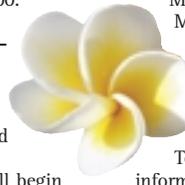
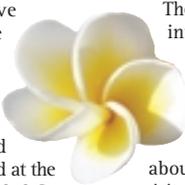
The shows are Jan. 18 at 7:30 p.m., Jan. 19 and 20 at 8 p.m. Ticket prices begin at \$25. Seniors, students and military patrons will receive a 20-percent discount on ticket purchases. Call 792-2000 or visit www.honolulu-symphony.com.

26 / Friday

WoW Conference — Most spouses of Soldiers have similar days, chaos and disorder with little down time. So these like-minded people can commune and commiserate, the Schofield Barracks Chapel community will bring the international Wives of Warriors (WoW) Conference to the island.

The WoW Worldwide team is women who are or have been military spouses. They travel to posts providing encouragement and practical tips.

The event will be Jan. 26, from 6:30-9 p.m., and Jan. 27, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., in the Helemano Military Reservation Chapel.



SYNERGY to launch in housing

ANN M. WHARTON
Army Hawaii Family Housing

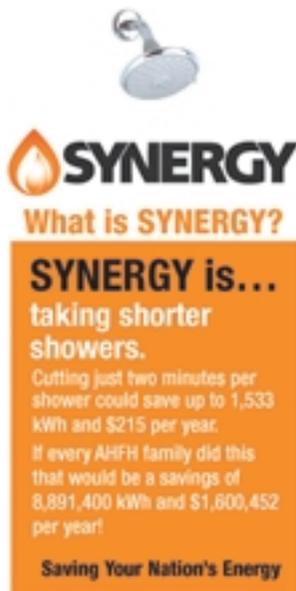
A poster and essay contest, colorful banners, energy-saving tips and entertaining activities will officially launch a SYNERGY program in Army Hawaii Family Housing (AHFH) communities later this month.

SYNERGY, Saving Your Nation's Energy, is an initiative of AHFH to educate residents living in its privatized military communities about the importance of energy conservation and what their roles and responsibilities are in the effort.

The program is part of Actus Lend Lease's corporate commitment of "20 by 10," to reduce energy consumption 20 percent by 2010. It is also part of Actus' overall sustainability goals and complements the U.S. Army's initiative to be responsible custodians of the communities it and Soldiers and their families work and live in.

"Our initial launch at AHFH will help educate our residents about SYNERGY," said Bonnie Griffith, AHFH community service coordinator. "The campaign will take place over the next six months, during which time we will build membership in our SYNERGY Kid's Club and host events for kids and adults."

To kick-off the kid's program a Mad Science Festival will be held Monday, Jan. 22, from 4 to 6 p.m. at AHFH's new Kalakaua Community Center located at Schofield Barracks. The fes-



tival is free, but space is limited, so parents must register their children through the AHFH calendar at www.ArmyHawaiiFamilyHousing.com, or call 275-3178.

AHFH residents will receive priority.

Next on the agenda, presented by AHFH and the Army's Child and Youth Service's division, is a six-week Mad Science Workshop. Geared for children in third through fifth grades,

Energy-saving Tips

Use lights with compact fluorescent bulbs (CFL).

Changing just one 100-watt bulb to a CFL equivalent, based on four hours use per day, can save 108 kilowatts and \$15 per year. If all AHFH residents did this, it would be a savings of 583,200 kWh and \$810,000 per year.

Air dry dishes.

Air-drying dishes instead of using heated drying can save 110 kilowatts and \$15 per year. If all AHFH residents did this, it would be a savings of 594,000 kilowatts and \$810,000 per year.

Eliminate energy sneakers.

Use a power strip to conveniently turn off computers, which use standby power when not in use. Using a power strip can save 50 kilowatts and \$7 per year. If all AHFH residents did this, it would be a savings of 270,000 kilowatts and \$378,000 per year.

For more energy-saving tips, log on to Live Energy Lite at www.heco.com.

this workshop will focus heavily on energy. It will be held each Thursday beginning Feb. 1 from 3 to 5 p.m., also at the Kalakaua Community Center.

With support from AHFH, the normal \$120 enrollment fee has been

SEE SYNERGY, B-5

Wives conference seeks to encourage, inspire

KHALIDA DUBOSE
Staff Writer

With one-third of the 140 available seats already claimed, organizers for a conference meant to inspire and encourage military wives are expecting to pack the house.

The Schofield Barracks chapel community is hosting the Wives of Warriors Worldwide Conference (WoWW) Jan. 26 and 27 at the Helemano Military Reservation Chapel.

The two-day event aims to bring spouses of deployed Soldiers together to encourage hope, discuss coping strategies and work through family struggles by using biblical principles.

"I've always been passionate about family issues," said Jenny Norwood, a speaker for the conference. "I have a heart for them [military wives], and I really wish the best because I know they are going through a trying time."

Norwood, along with two other speakers, including Doris Waldrop who started the conference in 2001, will cover topics such as marriage, dealing with present separation, stress and loneliness, and finally, coping with change.

"My major concern [when WoWW first started] was, and continues to be, young military wives, especially those whose families are fragmented by frequent separations," said Waldrop in an e-mail interview.

"The main thing the women can look forward to are the tools, teaching and support from

these gals, because they have walked in their shoes," said Christina Craft, co-chair for the conference planning committee.

Norwood, Waldrop and the third speaker, Carol Simpson, have collectively traveled to 35 military installations around the United States, twice to Germany and once to Italy, sharing advice and offering tools to military wives. The trio is well versed in what it means to be a spouse of a Soldier.

Waldrop and Norwood collectively have 47 years of experience as military wives, and Simpson's husband is currently finishing up a tour in Iraq.

"We hope they just come and have a chance to relax and be with friends," said Norwood. "Hopefully they will be able to meet other women and meet people who have similar circumstances."

The conference will run from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 26, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27.

Amenities for families interested in attending the conference include free child care for children registered with Child and Youth Services, a Bible-based program for children ages 6 through 12, and lunch served on the second day of the conference.

Anyone interested in attending the conference can pick up and drop off registration forms at the Main Post Chapel, or contact Stephanie Lee for more information at 664-5987.

New governance will improve military health care

By 2009, DoD will execute more “unified” health care services to save tax dollars, improve care to military

SGT. SARA WOOD
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The new governance plan for the military health care system, which is in its very early stages, will improve the care given to troops and their families in today’s joint environment, the Defense Department’s top health official said Jan. 5.

The idea behind the new governance plan is to have the separate military services work together even more closely than they do now in the area of health care. This will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the system, Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, said in an interview at the Pentagon.

“Our system does work well now; we have great outcomes in battlefield medicine and in the care of our wounded — the best in history,” Winkenwerder said. “But we have a vision; we have a clear set of ideas that things can work even better.”



Photo Courtesy of Tripler Army Medical Center Public Affairs
Patrons pick up and drop off prescriptions at the Tripler Army Medical Center Consolidated Pharmacy.

The new governance plan was approved by Deputy Defense Secretary Gordon England, Nov. 27, 2006. It calls for joint oversight and leadership of several key functional areas across the health system, such as education and training, medical research, and health care delivery.

Under the new plan, large local markets that serve more than one branch of the military will have a unified authority, Winkenwerder explained. This will allow for better decision-making, increased cost effectiveness and shared resources, he said.

The Defense Department will consolidate medical education and training at a new center in San Antonio, and it will also consolidate medical research. Any research that is unique to a specific service will be preserved, Winkenwerder added.

“One of the things that we wanted to do was to not break anything that works well today; we don’t think we’re going to do that at all,” he said.

DoD health care has already consolidated in one area: information technology. Winkenwerder praised the new electronic medical records system, AHLTA, the “Armed Forces Health Longitudinal Technology Application,”

which is used by all services at all military treatment facilities.

“We have the chance to do that kind of thing in other areas, and that’s what the new governance plan is about,” he said.

The new governance plan will not create a new joint command with one surgeon general, Winkenwerder explained. The services will maintain their separate surgeons general, he said, but major changes in governance will happen across the board.

The new governance system will require a transition process, he added. Details of the plan still need to be worked out, and a transition team will be appointed to map the execution of the plan, which is expected to be complete by 2009.

Key goals of the new plan are to save taxpayer dollars and improve the health care given to troops and their families, Winkenwerder said. He praised the services for their cooperation and compromise in developing the plan, and expressed optimism about the success of the plan.

“Ultimately, all of this needs to be about producing a better product, producing a better result, all in the interest of our service members and their families,” he said. “They deserve the best that we can provide them, and that’s the goal of all this.”



Information gained from medically-necessary ultrasounds can ease parental anxieties.

Tricare enhances military's maternity ultrasound policy

TRICARE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY

News Release

FALLS CHURCH, Va. – Tricare Management Activity (TMA) recently changed the maternity ultrasound policy, making ultrasounds easier to obtain when medically necessary.

Ultrasounds for medical necessity have always been part of Tricare's maternity benefit; however, they were formerly covered as a service within the global fee for prenatal care and delivery services.

According to Army Col. (Dr.) John Kugler of the Tricare Office of the Chief Medical Officer, "Because an obstetric ultrasound is not a simple procedure, and may be an involved process ... we changed the policy to have Tricare cover medically necessary maternity ultrasounds separate from the global delivery fee."

Doctors often perform medically necessary maternity ultrasounds at different times during pregnancy. According to Kugler, "If an obstetric provider has reason for concern, Tricare will cover the ultrasound."

Specific conditions for which Tricare will cover an ultrasound include the following:

- Estimating gestational age
- Evaluating fetal growth
- Conducting a biophysical evaluation for fetal well-being
- Evaluating a suspected ectopic pregnancy

- Defining the cause of vaginal bleeding
- Diagnosing or evaluating multiple gestations
- Confirming cardiac activity
- Evaluating maternal pelvic masses or uterine abnormalities
- Evaluating suspected hydatidiform mole
- Evaluating the fetus's condition in late registrants for prenatal care



The enhanced ultrasound benefit also helps Tricare beneficiaries and providers develop stronger partnerships as they discuss when it is appropriate to perform an ultrasound to ensure the best outcome. This benefit enhancement gives uniformed services families greater peace of mind during what can be an emotional time.

For more information about the enhanced maternity ultrasound benefit, visit <http://manuals.tricare.osd.mil> and click on the Tricare Policy Manual, Change 39.

Easy-to-understand 'Standard' handbook becomes available

TRICARE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY

News Release

FALLS CHURCH, Va. – Tricare is making a handbook available to all beneficiaries covered under Tricare Standard. This new manual goes into much greater detail than the old booklet, making it as useful as the Tricare Prime and Prime Remote handbooks.

"We are publishing the Standard handbook to help beneficiaries fully understand their medical care," said Army Maj. General Elder Granger, deputy director, Tricare Management Activity. "Explaining the benefit more clearly promotes beneficiary satisfaction, and is in keeping with the President's initiative to make health care more transparent."

Although the handbook is chockfull of useful

data from what's covered, to how to file a claim, it does not include cost information. Because of annual cost changes, Tricare created a separate summary of beneficiary costs flyer that contains costs for all Tricare programs, including dental and pharmacy.



Get more details on the handbook at the Tricare Smart Site, www.tricare.osd.mil/TRICARESmart.

Tricare will update the flyer whenever the rates change.

Beneficiaries may ask for copies of the Tricare Standard handbook, or the summary of beneficiary costs flyer, from their local Tricare Service Center.

Synergy: AHFH program to launch

CONTINUED FROM B-3

discounted to just \$60 for the Mad Science Workshop. To enroll, parents must stop by Schofield's CYS Registration Office, Building 556, or call 655-8380 by Jan. 22.

"Building and maintaining sustainable communities is a top goal at AHFH, and conserving energy in our day-to-day lives is something every family member can do, no matter what their age," said Jerry Schmitz, AHFH asset man-



ager. "Whether it's shortening our showers by a few minutes or turning off lights, the savings can be significant."

"Money saved by using photovoltaic [PV] and solar power in our homes, and by changing our daily habits, goes back into AHFH

communities to maintain a quality life for Soldiers and their families."

For more information about SYNERGY and AHFH's activities and programs, log on to www.ArmyHawaiiFamilyHousing.com.



12/Today

Youth Baseball/Softball — Registration for Hawaii Youth Sports baseball and softball will be held through Jan. 30 at Aliamanu Military Reservation (AMR), Fort Shafter, Schofield Barracks, Helemano Military Reservation and Wheeler Army Air Field (WAAF) youth centers.

First-time participants must sign up with the Child and Youth Services (CYS) Registration Office before registering for any activities. For baseball and softball, the Hawaii Youth Sports League is open to youth born between 1988-2001.

Cost is \$60 for baseball or softball, and \$50 for T-ball and coach-pitch. Call 655-6465 (Schofield), 655-0883 (Wheeler), 836-1923 (AMR), or 438-9336 (Fort Shafter).

Unit PT Bowling — Units can now spend their physical training time at the Fort Shafter Bowling

Center, Monday-Friday, 6-8 a.m. The cost is \$1 per Soldier and includes all games and shoes. Units must have a minimum of 20 bowlers and reservations must be made three working days prior to bowling date. Call 438-6733.

13/Saturday

BMX Racing — Come to the BMX track at WAAF for BMX racing. First, second and third place ribbons will be awarded, along with participation ribbons.

Registration will be held from 4-5 p.m., and cost is \$4 per rider. BMX races will begin at 5 p.m., and refreshments will be provided.

Races are held every second and fourth Saturday. Volunteers are needed to help make this event a success. Visit www.mwrarmy-hawaii.com or www.armybm.org. Call 656-1601.

16/Tuesday

Mini Baseball — Register through Jan. 16 for the Mini-Baseball Program for youth born between 2002-2003. This program will cover basic skills in throwing, hitting, base running and catching.

Cost is \$10 per player and includes a T-shirt. The program runs Jan. 30-March 22. Register at the Schofield Barracks, WAAF, AMR,



Jeremy S. Buddemeier | U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii, Public Affairs

End in sight

Construction workers continue to develop phase two of the Schofield Barracks Main Post Exchange last week. The additional 68,000 square feet will house selling space and the food court. The building is expected to be complete by spring 2007.

p.m.; and Jan. 14, 8:30 a.m.-8 p.m.

Tickets for the Jan. 12 heat are \$3 for children and \$6 for adults. Tickets for the Jan. 13 and 14 events are \$5 for children and \$10 for adults.

Call Kokokahi Gymnastics 235-6866 or visit www.kokokahigymnastics.com.

17/Wednesday

Spring Synchro — Hawaii Synchro has scheduled three new synchroized swimming classes.

Free introductory classes will be held in six-week increments, Mondays and Wednesdays, from 3:30-4:30 p.m. at the aquatic complex in the Central Oahu Regional Park.

Paid classes will also be held Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:30-5:30 p.m. at La Pietra Hawaii School for Girls, 2933 Poni Moi Rd., Honolulu.

For fee schedule and informa-

tion, visit www.hawaiisynchro.com, e-mail info@hawaiisynchro.com or call 551-0316.

27/Saturday

Moonlight Hike — The Paws on the Path hiking club will host its 9th annual Makapuu Lighthouse evening hike Jan. 27, from 4:30-8 p.m.

A volunteer from the Hawaiian Humane Society will serve as hike guide. Guests are encouraged to bring their leashed pets, a meal and water, and a flashlight. Call 356-2217.

28/Sunday

Outrigger Races — The Waikiki Community Center will host the Ala Wai Challenge outrigger canoe races and ancient Hawaiian makahiki games. The event will be Jan. 28 at the Ala Wai neighborhood park near Waikiki.

The race, open to all skill levels, will take place along a quarter-mile stretch of the Ala Wai Canal. It will be a double elimination, with winners and consolation brackets, so all teams will compete twice.

There will be handmade Hawaiian crafts, free entertainment, and a variety of food vendors at the event.

The opening ceremony will be held at 8 a.m. and the races and games will begin at 9 a.m. Parking will be limited, so event organizers have arranged a free double-hulled canoe taxi service from 9 a.m.-noon. Pick up will be near Kalaimoku and Olohana streets crossing Ala Wai Boulevard.

Free trolley service will be available. Call 923-1802 for pickup locations and event information.

or Fort Shafter youth centers.

Call 655-6465 (Schofield), 655-0883 (Wheeler), 836-1923 (AMR), or 438-9336 (Fort Shafter).

19/Friday

Football Bash Clinic — Register for the 2nd annual Football Bash Clinic through Jan. 19. This one-day clinic will be conducted by current and former National Football League players, University of Hawaii football players, and other college and high school players and coaches.

This clinic will be held Jan. 27 at 9 a.m. for ages 8-12, and 1 p.m. for ages 13-17. Cost is \$40 and includes a T-shirt, refreshments and a gift bag.

Register at the Schofield Barracks, AMR or Fort Shafter youth centers. Call 836-1923.

21/Sunday

Bowling Tournament — A "5 Game, No Tap" tournament will be held at the Schofield Bowling Center, Jan. 21. Check-in will be at 1 p.m., and the cost is \$20 per bowler. Call 655-0573.

Youth Wrestling — Register now at the Bennett Youth Center on Schofield Barracks through Feb. 6 for the USA Wrestling Team. Youth born between 1987-2001

are eligible to participate.

Cost is \$20 per person, plus a \$30 USA Wrestling Team fee. Call 655-6465.

Ongoing

Muscle Moves — Tone your muscles using a variety of equipment, including bands, dumbbells, exercise balls and more. Classes are offered every Friday at the Schofield Barracks Health and Fitness Center at 11:45 a.m. Call 655-8007.

Wheeler Lanes Parties — Score a strike with your friends by planning a party at Wheeler Lanes. Rent the entire six-lane bowling center on Saturdays or Sundays for birthday parties, reunions, hail and farewell gatherings, and other special occasions. Call 656-1745.

Run/Walk/Swim Club — Record each mile you run, walk or swim and win incentive prizes in the 100-mile run/walk and 50-mile swim clubs. Runners receive a pair of Thorlo running socks, and swimmers receive goggles.

Stop by any Army Physical Fitness Center or swimming pool to pick up a log sheet. Call 655-9914.

Ongoing

Fleet Feet — Faerber's Flyers women's running club invites women of all ages and skill levels to join them at the University of Hawaii track at Cooke Field. The club meets Wednesdays from 5:15-7 p.m.

Cost is \$50 per year. Call 277-3609.

Masters Swim Program — Team Move hosts a master's swimming program Wednesdays, from 7:30-8:30 a.m., and Saturdays from 7-8:15 a.m., in the Pearl City district park swimming pool.

The innovative group workouts are designed for beginning and advanced swimmers. Expert coaching will be provided to improve upon form and technique.

All ages are welcome. Cost is

\$15 per month for Team Move members and \$25 per month for nonmembers. The pool is located at 785 Hoomaemae St., Pearl City.

Bike Hawaii — Join Bike Hawaii's professional nature guides and explore Oahu from the rainforest to the reef. Packages can include downhill biking, waterfall hiking and sailing off Waikiki with exclusive access to a remote Hawaiian rainforest.

Delicious meals are included. To schedule your adventure, call 734-4214, toll free 1-877-682-7433, or go online at www.bikehawaii.com.

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



Send community announcements to community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

12/Today

Flipfest — The 31st annual Aloha Gymfest gymnastics meet will be held Jan. 12-14 at Kailua High School gym, 451 Ulumanu Dr., in Kailua.

Thirty-eight teams from Japan, Canada, Australia and the United States will be competing for team and all-around honors. Level 10 and elite athletes will compete Jan. 13, at 8 p.m.

Event times are Jan. 12, from 6-9 p.m.; Jan. 13, from 8:30 a.m. - 8