

## INSIDE

# Law pressures VA to protect identities

**JOHN NEVILLE**  
Army News Service

FORT KNOX, Ky. — Last month, President Bush signed into law the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2006.

In addition to expanding health care benefits and setting aside money for new facilities, the bill is an attempt to better secure the personal data of millions of veterans. It also requires the VA to follow specific procedures if such a theft occurs again.

Last May, a laptop containing the names and Social Security numbers of 26.5 million veterans and 2.2 million members currently serving with the National Guard and Reserve were stolen from the home of a VA data analyst.

It was feared that thieves would use the information for identity theft crimes, but that turned out not to be the case. The laptop was eventually recovered, and a subsequent FBI investigation concluded that such information wasn't

lifted from the computer's hard drive.

"There is also no indication that the information was accessed," said Phil Budahn, a spokesman for the VA in Washington, D.C., during a telephone interview two weeks ago.

"The FBI has ways of looking at a hard drive and telling whether information in a particular file has been opened. We've seen no indication that it had."

Under the new law, the VA will use encryption protection for all data, according to

Budahn. The VA will also centralize its management of information technology and security systems.

"We're convinced that the centralization [of the data] will permit us to exert the highest possible standards across the entire agency," Budahn said. "We're about 230,000 people as far as employees. It's the second largest federal agency. To put that all under one office with everyone using form stan-

**SEE ID THEFT, A-5**



## Silent warriors

The deft hands of 2-6th Cavalry crew chiefs keep helicopters flying, ground troops safe

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## Town Halls

Get the latest on "lean six sigma" and other garrison initiatives, Monday at 10 a.m., Richardson Theater, Fort Shafter, or Tuesday at 2:30 p.m., Sgt. Smith Theater, Schofield Barracks.



## Gang's all here

Take a stroll around Aloha Stadium and pick up a slice of Hawaiiana at the swap meet

**B-1**

## SEIS meetings

The Army has announced the following public meetings on the supplemental environmental impact statement regarding the 5th Stryker Brigade. All meetings are scheduled for 6-9 p.m.:

- Oahu, Jan. 29, Waianae District Park Multi-Purpose Building, 85-601 Farrington Hwy., Waianae
- Oahu, Jan. 30, Kawanakoa Inter. School, 49 Funchai St., Honolulu
- Oahu, Jan. 31, Haleiwa Elem. School, 66-505 Haleiwa Rd., Haleiwa
- Hawaii, Feb. 1, Waikoloa Elem. School, 68-1730 Hooko St., Waikoloa
- Hawaii, Feb. 2, Waiakea Inter. School, 200 W. Puainako St., Hilo

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

Before departing the base, Maj. John Treufeldt of 2-123 Armor Regiment and troops from Class seven units at Q-West take notes as they are briefed on the humanitarian mission to Ad Walla.

# Q-West troops unite to aid village

**SPC. KYNDAL HERNANDEZ**  
45th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq — Troops here continued the holiday spirit of giving by delivering gifts and medical care to more than 25 families in a nearby village, recently.

Organizers said this mission was designed to bring Soldiers from seven different units together and promote base-wide camaraderie, as well as provide much-needed humanitarian assistance for the Iraqi people.

The troops visited Ad Walla, a small village often neglected because of its remote location. "One of the main reasons that we are here is to win the hearts and minds of the local community, and this is one of the events that we do in order to achieve that goal," said Command Sgt. Maj. Benjamin Ramos, 45th Special Troops Battalion command sergeant major.

Soldiers, including Iraqi Army troops, arrived with truckloads of gifts and water to give to the local people of the villages. They gave away 54 boxes filled with things such as clothes, candy, personal hygiene products and school supplies.

The village of Ad Walla does not have running water, so troops also brought five pallets of water for residents. Medics from Q-West's Troop Medical Clinic provided basic



Spc. Kyndal Hernandez | 45th Sustainment Brigade

In a remote area less than 30 miles from Q-West, an Iraqi woman in the village of Ad Walla waits to be seen by a U.S. Army doctor visiting from the nearby base.

medical care as well as medicines and antibiotics to treat colds and other ailments.

"Anything we get out here is a big help to us," said Ahmed Ashab, a resident of Ad Walla. "The people here do not have a lot of

stuff. We don't have running water; the children can't even go to school because there is not electricity and no heat, so we are very thankful for whatever we can get."

Ramos said people in villages like Ad Walla rarely ever get new things. They usually get used, or second hand items from other families.

"The stuff that we brought them was all new. So seeing the expressions on their faces and making the children happy is just a good feeling," Ramos said. "News media covers a lot of the negative things that happen here [in Iraq], and we don't see a lot of positive. Well this is some of the good stuff that Soldiers are doing to help the Iraqi people and to ensure a good relationship with them."

"I think it's important that we do stuff for the Iraqi villages not based on what they have or what they don't have," said Pfc. Theresa Colvin, personnel clerk with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 45th Sustainment Brigade. "It isn't about their poverty level. This is about just establishing a report between Iraqis and Americans. It is about getting to see first hand what Americans are willing to do for people and getting them to trust us."

"That's what wins the war," Colvin opined, "people trusting you and being on your side instead of being against you."

# Rear crisis teams take hard look at practices

Story and Photos by  
**AIKO BRUM**  
Managing Editor

Nothing is more devastating to an adult than the death or serious injury of a loved one. And, receiving this dreadful news causes mixed reactions.

Nonetheless the tragic news demands many critical decisions when adults are least able to collect their senses and proceed rationally.

But in the military, someone is there to help.

In fact, a host of people work in concert to comfort the aggrieved and set in motion actions to provide stability. These concerned assistants are called the crisis response team, or CRT, "a trained, voluntary support group that is activated upon request of the next of kin during the critical period immediately, and up to 48-72 hours, following notification," according to the 25th Infantry Division's (ID) new "CRT Handbook."

Locally, a rear detachment commander for a 25th ID unit activates a CRT. The commander follows many established protocols, beginning with the Army's casualty notification process, but ultimately rallies a CRT to embrace hurting families and serve as communicators, the liaison between a command and a family, until the family readiness group (FRG) is mobilized.

"Initially, reaction is disgust with the Army and anyone in uniform; however, we are trying to convey official information," explained Maj. Will O'Brien, rear detachment commander for the 2-35th Infantry Regiment and one of two guest speakers at the crisis response town hall meeting that addressed best practices, Jan. 19.

O'Brien said some family members equate the Army to a "military industrial complex" that is "lying to them"

**SEE CRT, A-7**

# Housing, clinics addressed at Oahu North town hall meeting

## OBSB staff tackles residents' issues at latest town hall forum

**KHALIDA DUBOSE**  
Staff Writer

Rainy weather did not deter 96 Soldiers and family members who showed up for Tuesday's town hall meeting at Sergeant Smith Theater to voice concerns and keep up-to-date on the latest Schofield Barracks community information.

Lt. Col. Mark Boussy, commander of the Oahu Base Support Battalion, facilitated the meeting as

subject matter experts (SMEs) presented information on the status of finished projects, progress of ongoing projects, and activities for families and more, to concerned post residents.

In his "State of the Post Address," Boussy said that improving the community sometimes means residents will be inconvenienced, but that the town hall is a place for

residents to voice their concerns so that services and methods can continuously be improved.

Topics discussed included beautifying gate areas and striping of streets and gates. Boussy reminded residents that the Lyman Gate is closing March 10 through July 1 for repairs.

New housing was another hot topic. Janine Lind, director of property management for Army Hawaii Family Housing (AHFH), said more than 500 families have been relocated since new construction and renovation in Kalakaua and other housing areas.

Boussy highlighted his concerns

with post health clinics. Of note, he explained, many are not showing up for their appointments or improperly canceling appointments.

He said that 3,426 appointments were missed last year. He identified the clinic's phone system as a problem area; it's not particularly user-friendly, he said.

Patients may not know how to cancel their appointments because the phone system needs revamping. Therefore, Boussy encouraged residents to fill out surveys about the clinics and other services on Army installations. That way, he said, commanders will get feedback and better serve their Sol-

diers and family members.

In the near future, a new phone system will be set up for clinics, Boussy added.

Also at the town hall, the Morale, Welfare and Recreation representative announced MWR has designated a new deployment program coordinator. The new position, held by Sarah Horrigan, was established to focus on programs for family members of deployed Soldiers.

During the question and answer portion of the meeting, residents voiced their concerns about mo-

residents and family members.

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**SEE TOWN HALL, A-3**

## 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 full captions and bylines.

The Hawaii Army Weekly is an authorized newspaper and is published in the interest of the U.S. Army community in Hawaii.

All editorial content of the Hawaii Army Weekly is the responsibility of the U.S. Army, Hawaii Public Affairs Office, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii 96857. Contents of the Hawaii Army Weekly are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or the Department of the Army.

The Hawaii Army Weekly is printed by The Honolulu Advertiser, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Government, under exclusive written agreement with the U.S. Army, Hawaii.

The Hawaii Army Weekly is published weekly using the offset method of reproduction and has a printed circulation of 15,300.

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**HAWAII ARMY WEEKLY**  
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 Bldg. 580, Stop 215  
 Schofield Barracks, HI 96857  
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## Straight Talk

# Kids, parents must be smart, safe in cyberspace

**BILL LAFFEA**  
 Directorate of Emergency Services

In today's high-tech world, parents and youth, as well as law enforcement, need to keep abreast of the emerging trend of social networking in cyberspace. Parents must be especially mindful of the cybernet lingo and follow varied safety guidelines to help children and youth socialize safely online.

What is social networking in Cyberspace? Social networking sites on the Internet provide teens and young adults with a virtual environment where they can share stories, pictures and videos. Youth can participate in these chat rooms with their friends and acquaintances.

However, by providing information about themselves using blogs, chat rooms, e-mail, or instant messaging, users communicate both within a limited community and with the world at large.

Some of the types of social networking sites include the following: sites geared toward teens like Myspace.com, Classmates.com, and Piczo.com; sites for schools and colleges, cultures (for example, African-American or Hispanic), businesses, music and videos, and sports; sites for locating others like Reunion.com and Friendster.com; and sites for blogging like MSN Spaces.

### What are the statistics?

The National Crime Prevention Council and the Bureau of Justice Assistance said more than 300 known social networking sites existed in 2005. Additionally, one in five child Internet users received unwanted sexual solicitation, but only one in four told his or her parents.

One in 17 children reported being threatened or harassed while using the Internet, according to the sources. About 45 million

### Vital contacts

No national agency deals with every type of Internet crime, so local law enforcement is your best, first resource for emergencies.

### Advocacy Groups

Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-SUICIDE (784-2433)  
 Runaway Hotline: 1-800-231-6946  
 National Council for Child Abuse and Family Violence: 1-800-222-2000  
 ChildHelp USA National Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-4-A-Child  
 National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information: 1-800-729-6686  
 The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (child sexual exploitation): 1-800-843-5678

### Federal Enforcement

FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation for child luring, when an adult meets a child face-to-face): Call the state office.  
 U.S. Customs Service (for child pornography): 1-800-BE-ALERT  
 U.S. Postal Inspection Service: usps.gov  
 Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms: 1-888-ATF-TIPS (8477)  
 Drug Enforcement Administration: usdoj.gov/dea

American children ages 10 to 17, the sources said, are currently estimated to be online, spending hours every day at their computers.

Further still, some 60 percent of teens have received e-mail or instant messages from perfect strangers, and 63 percent of those teens responded.

At any given time, 3.4 million people are chat room users. About 94 percent of young people access the Internet from home, and millions of teenagers own their own blogs.

More than half of all blogs are maintained by people ages 13-19. Some 26 percent of teens say they surf the net unsupervised. Only 31 percent of teens say their parents check their social networking sites.

### Guidelines for safe online social networking

- Think about how different sites work before deciding to join a site.
- Keep some control over the information you post.
- Keep vital information to yourself.
- Make sure your screen name doesn't reveal too much about you
- Post only information that you are comfortable with others seeing and knowing about you.
- Remember, once your information is posted, you can't take it back. Someone can forward this information, and millions of people can have access.
- Consider not posting your picture.
- Don't flirt with strangers online.

### Tips for parents

- Use the Internet with your children.
- Teach your children never to give out personal information.
- Instruct your child never to plan a face-

to-face meeting with online acquaintances.

- Establish clear ground rules for Internet use within your family.
- Tell your children not to respond if they receive offensive or dangerous e-mail, chat requests, or other types of communication. Have children tell you when these instances occur.
- Place your computer in a room that's open and accessible to all family members (not in your child's room).
- Consider installing software filters that prevent your child from entering personal information.
- Consider installing monitoring software that prevents your child from entering personal information.
- Many networking sites have valuable safety information.

### Tips for youth

- Remember, your profile is on a public space.
- People aren't always who they say they are.
- Harassment, hate speech and inappropriate content should be reported. Tell your parents or an adult if this happens.
- Don't mislead people into thinking that you're older or younger than you really are.
- Don't post anything that would embarrass you later.
- Always follow your family's rules for using the Internet.
- Don't open up e-mails, files, or Web pages that you get from people you don't really know or trust.
- Don't ever do anything that could cost your family money unless your parents are there to help you do it.
- Don't ever give out your password.

# Troops' stories to air on Military Channel

**GERRY J. GILMORE**  
 American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The Military Channel is asking service members across the armed forces to submit videotaped stories about their service in the global war on terrorism for broadcast on television, company officials said.

"We want to give a voice to the troops to allow them to tell their stories," Jill Bondurant, Military Channel publicist, said during an interview with American Forces Press Service, Monday.

The Military Channel plans to use service member-submitted video for broadcast during nightly one-hour blocks of programming starting in early February, Bondurant said. The dates and times haven't been specified yet, she said.

Video can be in digital or taped format, Bondurant said, and can be submitted via the following methods:

- Online at [www.mywardiary.com](http://www.mywardiary.com).
- E-mail at [mywardiary@discovcry.com](mailto:mywardiary@discovcry.com).
- Mail at Military Videos, care of Discovery Productions, 8045

Kennett Street, Silver Spring, Md. 20910.

All submitted video will be screened for appropriate content, Bondurant noted.

The initiative seeks to illustrate some personal stories of military service during wartime, Military Channel spokesman and former Soldier Pat Lafferty told the Pentagon Channel in a recent interview.

Most evening news programming on the military these days shies away from the personal and focuses on "big picture" events, he said.

"There's only so much that the 'normal media' can get out as far as the stories [and] what's going on," Lafferty said. "And, oftentimes, that really isn't the story about individual service members and what they're doing on a day-to-day basis."

A component of Discovery Communications, the Silver Spring, Md.-based Military Channel was the first television media outlet to partner with America Supports You, a Department of Defense program connecting public and corporate support for the troops to service members and their families.

## LIGHTNING SPIRIT

# Commitments more than words

**CHAPLAIN (CAPT.) DEREK M. POTTINGER**  
 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment

I want to share with you a story of a king. Some may have heard of him, others not, but this king's name is Uzziah.

"In the year that king Uzziah died, I saw the Lord," the Prophet Isaiah said when he received his great call to ministry (Isaiah 6:1).

Some know the story of Uzziah's reign as detailed in 2 Chronicles 26 and 2 Kings 15.

Uzziah was a young man, only 16, when the people of Israel made him their king in place of his father. And Uzziah started off well.

"He did what was right in the eyes of the lord" (2 Kings 15:3, 2 Chronicles 26:4).

"He sought God during the days of Zechariah. ...As long as he sought the lord, God gave him success" (2 Chronicles 26:5).

Uzziah was also a mighty warrior. He commanded a well-trained, well-led and well-equipped army of more than 300,000 men; he fortified his cities to protect his kingdom; and he defeated the Philistines and Arabs.

Ultimately, "the Ammonites brought tribute to Uzziah, and his fame spread as far as the border of Egypt because he had become very powerful."

He was king of Israel, God's chosen people, but "after Uzziah became powerful, his pride led to his downfall. He was unfaithful to the lord his God" (2 Chronicles 26:16).

Uzziah's story ends tragically. "The lord afflicted the king with leprosy" (2 Chronicles 26:19-21).

Uzziah's tragic end was a direct result of his loss of commitment. Once he gained power and wealth, he left behind his basic commitment to his faith, leading to a horrible illness, the loss of his right to rule, social isolation — ultimately, his own death.

Far too often, when the grass starts looking greener in other pastures, we leave behind the solemn commitments we make without really counting the cost.

For example, think about these commitments many of us have made, often stated in words: Will you love; comfort, honor and keep; in sickness and in health; for richer, for poorer; for better, for worse; in sadness and in joy; to cherish and continually bestow upon your heart's deepest devotion; forsaking all others; keeping yourself only unto her/him — as long as you both shall live? Doesn't everyone say, "I do"?

Review that commitment for a few moments be-

cause those words represent true love. Notice the commitment says nothing about what you will get or enjoy. It says nothing of personal freedom or "mine and hers or his." The commitment is to love — for life.

Dennis McCallum and Gary DeLashmutt said, "Love is a voluntary commitment to give of your-

self in every area to meet the appropriate needs of another person," in *The Myth of Romance: Marriage Choices that Last a Lifetime*.

Love begins with giving, whether it's loving God or loving your spouse. It means giving of yourself in every area not for personal benefit, but for the benefit of the other.

Giving is difficult. It goes against our nature, because in truth we prefer getting to giving.

If I governed my life solely on what I'd prefer, I'd do what I want, when I want. That's much easier than living up to my commitments to faith, family, friends and ministry.

Giving in love requires something of us. Giving sometimes means giving up things we like, relationships we enjoy, or activities that give us pleasure.

Many exchange what's truly rewarding for the fleeting. For example, what's really more rewarding, sitting in front of a new 52-inch, flat-panel, HDTV, or knowing that you did what it took to grow into a person your spouse can be proud of?

What's more rewarding? Hanging out with people who may not remember you 15 years from now or teaching your kids about what it really means to love their husband or wife through your self-sacrificing action?

What's more important to you? Fulfilling your own desires or letting your spouse know that there is, without a doubt, no one on earth you desire more than they?

What can you be more proud of? Avoiding conflict in marriage, because resolving the issues are hard, or wearing the scars of resolution that forge a man and woman's souls together with welds that are stronger than steel?

What of kings and commitments?

Uzziah's focus on short-term, selfish interests, and departure from his most fundamental commitment, led to loss of kingdom, mental anguish and pain. In marital terms, we call that "divorce."



Pottinger

## Quotable

— Lt. Gen Karl Eikenberry

"We can help train an army, we can help equip an army, we can help build facilities for the army, but only the Afghan people can breathe a soul into that army."

— Lt. Gen. Karl Eikenberry, commander, Combined Forces Command Afghanistan, speaking with reporters, Jan. 16, in Kabul.

Eikenberry previously served as

director, Strategic Planning and Policy, U.S. Pacific Command, Camp H.M. Smith, when he was a major general. He served as assistant division commander, support, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, when he was a brigadier general.



## 73 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 1/24/07.

# Voices of Lightning: "What do you miss about the mainland?"



"Nothing. I like it here."

Nicole Case  
 Family Member



"I haven't been over there long enough to miss anything."

Staff Sgt. Jonathan Mendiola  
 2-11th FA  
 Section Chief



"Change of seasons."

Sgt. Stalin Procope  
 84th Eng. Bn.  
 Office NCO



"Hunting."

Sgt. Nathan Ratliff  
 307th ITSB  
 Tactical Satellite Operator



"Being able to go on long drives in the country."

Master Sgt. Wendy Robinson  
 USARPAC G-4  
 Fuels NCO

# 2-6th Cav. crew chiefs keep Kiowas in the air

Story and Photo by  
**SPC. DANIEL BEARL**

25th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs

KIRKUK, Iraq – Troops on the ground are much more comfortable carrying out their mission with the protection provided by helicopters in the air. Those helicopters would never launch, however, without the skilled hands of the “silent warriors” who keep them in the air.

The crew chiefs in C Troop, 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, work around the clock at Forward Operating Base Warrior to maintain OH-58D Kiowa helicopters and ensure their readiness to provide ground support for their fellow 25th Infantry Division Soldiers.

The stable of Kiowas maintained by C Troop have logged more flight hours than most other cavalry units in Iraq so far, according to Capt. Tim McGrew, troop commander.

“I call them the silent warriors because without their hard work we wouldn’t be able to do what we do,” McGrew said.

The crew chiefs conduct daily maintenance based on a Kiowa’s number of flight hours, regularly scheduled inspections and repairs to normal wear and tear the helicopters undergo while conducting missions in Iraq.

“We work on the helicopters, fix them and get them back up in the air to cover the ground guys and support them,” said Spc. Warren Buchanan, crew chief.

Maintenance crews are on duty 24 hours a

day rotating among three shifts. Their responsibilities are divided between preparing the Kiowas to launch, launching them and then conducting maintenance when the helicopters return.

Keeping the Kiowas in the air is critical as they are the most flexible asset the brigade has on the battlefield, said McGrew. They enable pilots to conduct reconnaissance missions and locate improvised explosive devices that may not have been seen from the ground.

From the air, 2-6th pilots are also able to make positive identification on the enemy and maintain contact with them.

“Our helicopters have the capabilities of flying over the enemy,” Buchanan said. “The guys on the ground can be informed of what their dealing with in their area.”

Buchanan and his fellow crew chiefs must contend with the Iraq environment to maintain the Kiowas. They do more preventive maintenance here to account for dust, and work through the heat, sandstorms and cold to make sure their helicopters are always ready.

“No matter what, the Kiowas have to be ready to provide the best support on the ground possible,” Buchanan said.

Right — Spc. Kevin McMahon, crew chief with C Troop, 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, replaces expanding bolts during regular maintenance on an OH-58D Kiowa helicopter.

Crew chiefs provide round-the-clock maintenance so that Kiowas can support troops conducting missions on the ground.



## Town Hall: Community voices issues with SMEs

CONTINUED FROM A-1

torists speeding in school zones, drivers on their cell phones, loud noise during physical training — every morning in some neighborhoods, lack of available areas to conduct fundraising on post, and finally, inappropriate trailers shown during children’s movies at the post theater.

Some residents spoke with SMEs after the meeting to get specific answers to their questions.

Before the town hall ended, Boussy announced a raffle drawing for participants who took the time to attend. Two lucky attendees won door prizes: one an oil change, the other a gift certificate for the Schofield post exchange.

### Upcoming town halls

The next Fort Shafter/Aliamanu Military Reservation (AMR) town hall meeting is Feb. 7 from 6:30–7:30 p.m. at the AMR Chapel.

The next Schofield/Wheeler/Helemano meeting is March 13, 6:30–7:30 p.m., at Sgt. Smith Theater.

# FAA-certified air traffic controllers keep aircraft safe

Story and Photo by  
**SPC. DANIEL BEARL**

25th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs

TAL AFAR, Iraq – As aircraft move from base to base throughout Iraq, a certain group of Soldiers is constantly at work to ensure the safety of their pilots, crews and passengers.

Perched in towers and mobile tactical traffic control stations, they track aircraft and weather over coalition air strips throughout Iraq.

At war, but ever safety minded, air traffic controllers from Company F, 3rd Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment, and Company D, 1st Bn., 14th Aviation Regt., perform the vital task of keeping the runway at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Sykes running smoothly.

“The biggest thing for us is keeping aircraft separated and making sure they land safely,” said Sgt. 1st Class Robert Walter, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the air traffic control tower at FOB Sykes.

From the vantage point of a metal and glass tactical control tower situated on top of a Saddam-era bunker, the Soldiers scan the surrounding airspace for aircraft, monitor radios and frequently check and update the weather conditions around the base.

“We’re responsible for all aircraft in a five-mile air zone,” Walter said.

The long stretch of runway that extends left and right of the tower handles traffic from all types of aircraft.

“We see everything from C-130s, UH-60s [Blackhawks], and OH-58D [Kiowas]. Basically, we have a combination of fixed

wing and rotary wing type traffic,” Walter said.

The tower also employs a mix of Soldiers from different units. The 3-25th is an active duty unit that falls under the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, based out of Wheeler Army Air Field, in Hawaii. The 1-14th comes from the Arkansas National Guard.

Mixed in are troops from other National Guard units who volunteered for the deployment.

“I was supposed to go to college,” said Spc. Jonathan D. Braden, an air traffic controller from the Tennessee National Guard, “but I decided to volunteer to deploy with these guys instead.”

Different than a normal, fixed-base tower, during combat, the control tower at FOB Sykes operates in a mobile, tactical manner.

“Fixed base is like some place like San Antonio International,” Walter said. “It’s a set facility.”

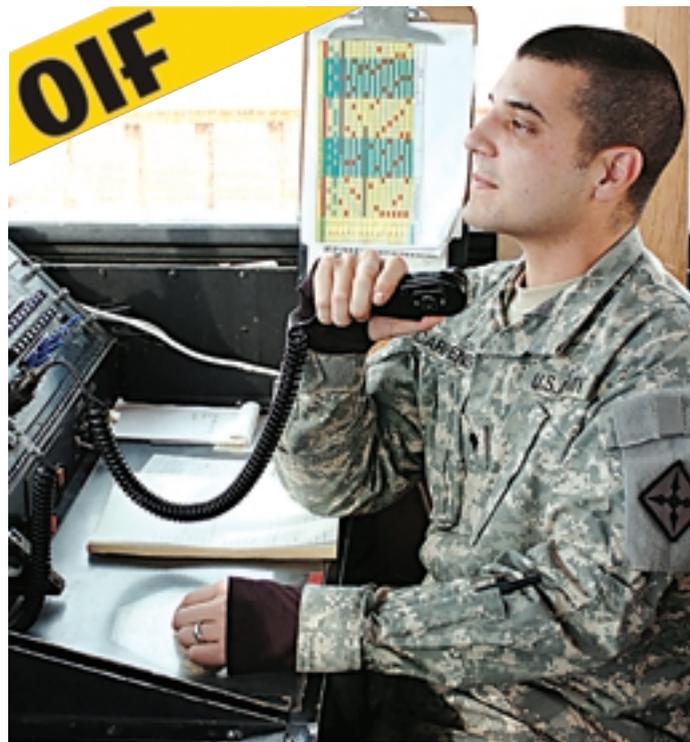
A tactical control tower, however, can be operated from something as mobile as the back of a humvee, provided the operators have the right radio equipment.

“You can roll out and it’s very mobile. You can literally talk to aircraft while you’re driving down the road,” said Walter, describing one of the Army’s tactical air traffic control platforms.

“I wouldn’t want to do that, but I mean you could,” he added, with a laugh.

Whether fixed or mobile, though, the job is essentially the same.

“The reporting points may change; the control zone may change its shape a little bit,” Walter said, “but, your rules and



Spc. Chad E. Carpenter, an air traffic controller at Forward Operating Base Sykes, Iraq, watches an aircraft as it taxis down the runway. Carpenter and many of his coworkers are training to become FAA-certified air traffic controllers while serving on deployment in Tal Afar, Iraq.

regulations on how you talk to aircraft are the same everywhere you go. Once you’re a controller, you’re always a controller.”

And though the airfield operates as a tactical control tower, it sees civilian air traffic, too, which means the tower must

meet Federal Aviation Administration guidelines, Walter explained.

That does pose a training problem, though, Walter said. In order to operate an FAA tower, a controller must have a control tower operator rating, commonly just called a CTO, which requires six months of training, he said. To meet this requirement, the Soldiers have been training on the job while performing their duties.

“That’s the hardest thing,” said Walter, himself CTO rated. “It takes six months before these guys can actually work by themselves. You have to have at least one CTO rated person on every shift.”

The great benefit of training is that the rating can help the Soldiers gain employment in the civilian world, Walter said.

“The most important thing to me is getting a rating while out here,” said Spc. Chad E. Carpenter, an air traffic controller with the Arkansas National Guard. “I’m new to this MOS [military occupational specialty], and I’ve done more already this year than most people do their first year.”

Carpenter says when he earns his CTO rating in the near future it will be the third air traffic control rating he will have earned while on deployment.

“Most people don’t do that in just one year in air traffic control. That alone will make me eligible for jobs back home with the FAA.”

For Walter, seeing his Soldiers succeed is what his job is all about.

“My whole thing is Soldiers,” he said. “I work for them; they don’t work for me. My whole mission in life while I’m here is to make their life better.”

# Army’s ‘Blue to Green’ program hits milestone with record applicants

Service members separating from the other armed forces branches choose careers in the U.S. Army

**SAMANTHA L. QUIGLEY**  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – The Army’s “Blue to Green” program, designed to allow airmen, sailors and Marines affected by force shaping to move to the Army, recently hit a milestone, a Defense Department official said here Wednesday.

“Just in the past couple of weeks we’ve had our one-thousandth transfer,” Bill Carr, acting deputy undersecretary of defense for military personnel policy, said in an interview.

An effect of the Air Force and Navy downsizing is fewer opportunities for airmen, sailors and Marines to continue in their career fields, he said. The Army’s Blue to Green interservice transfer program, open to officers and enlisted personnel, affords an alternative to leaving military service.

“That would be to serve as an officer or noncommissioned officer in the U.S. Army,” Carr said. “I

think the ones that are considering Blue to Green are the ones who are interested in trying another career and the challenges associated with it.”

Carr said the program is good not only for the military, which retains experienced service members through the Blue to Green program, but also for the service members. It provides them

a chance to look into options within the military before they consider the private sector, he said.

“For Blue to Green, the ideal future would be that anyone who was considering leaving the service would first look to Blue to Green as they’re looking at other options and consider what it has to offer,” Carr said. “And it has a lot to offer.”

# Petraeus supports troop increase

## Lieutenant general encourages departments to support Iraqis

**SGT. SARA WOOD**  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Tuesday, President Bush’s pick for command of Multinational Force Iraq supported the new strategy for Iraq, emphasizing that additional U.S. forces are essential in accomplishing the mission there.

“If we are to carry out the Multinational Force Iraq mission in accordance with the new strategy, the additional forces that have been directed to move to Iraq will be essential, as will greatly increased support by our government’s other agencies, additional resources for reconstruction and economic initiatives, and a number of other actions critical to what must be a broad, comprehensive, multifaceted approach to the challenges in Iraq,” Army Lt. Gen. David Petraeus said at his confirmation hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Petraeus was nominated Jan. 17 to be promoted to general and take over command of MNFI from Army Gen. George W. Casey Jr., who has been nominated to become the Army’s chief of staff.

The new strategy for Iraq shifts the U.S. focus in Iraq to securing the population and creating secure conditions to enable the Iraqi government, Petraeus said. Solving security problems will not be the ultimate solution for Iraq, he acknowledged, but the Iraqi government cannot deal with the political issues it must resolve while violence in Baghdad creates life-or-death situations for citizens every day.

“The objective will be to achieve sufficient security to provide the space and time for the Iraqi government to come to grips with the tough decisions its members must make to enable Iraq to move forward,” Petraeus said. “In short, it is not just that there will be additional forces in Baghdad; it is what they will do and how they will do it that is important.”



Petraeus

When questioned directly, Petraeus said he would not be able to do his job as commander of MNFI without the additional 21,000 troops President Bush has pledged to Iraq. Deploying these additional forces will make it difficult to increase time between deployments for troops who have already been burdened by the war on terror, he said, but plans are under way to sustain increased force levels.

The increase of 92,000 in the overall strength of the Army and Marine Corps, which Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates announced Jan. 11, will also help alleviate this strain, he said. “Our ongoing endeavors in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere are people-intensive, and it is heartening to know that there will be more soldiers and Marines to shoulder the load,” he said.

The coalition will continue to transition control of Iraqi forces and provinces to Iraqis, and the U.S. advisor effort will be reinforced, Petraeus said. The focus on security in Baghdad will require that U.S. and Iraqi commanders become familiar with the areas

they are operating in and work together to establish a permanent presence in areas where violence has been eliminated, he said.

In addition to overcoming security challenges, success in Iraq depends on actions in political and economic areas like governance, the distribution of oil revenues, national reconciliation, improvement in the capacity of Iraq’s ministries, the establishment of the rule of law, and economic development, Petraeus said. To bolster progress in these areas, all agencies of the U.S. government need to step in and provide assistance, he emphasized.

“Our military is making an enormous commitment in Iraq; we need the rest of the departments to do likewise, to help the Iraqi government get the country and its citizens working, and to use Iraq’s substantial oil revenues for the benefit of all the Iraqi people,” he said.

The situation in Iraq is serious, and it will take time for the new strategy to be effective, Petraeus noted. The additional U.S. forces will need time to deploy to the region, become familiar with the situation, and set the conditions for successful security operations, he said.

“The only assurance I can give you is that, if confirmed, I will provide Multinational Force Iraq the best leadership and direction I can muster; I will work to ensure unity of effort with the ambassador and our Iraqi and coalition partners; and I will provide my bosses and you with forthright, professional military advice with respect to the missions given to Multinational Force Iraq and the situation on the ground in Iraq,” Petraeus said to the committee.

# ID Theft: VA tightens policies to prevent loss

CONTINUED FROM A-1

dards and being accountable in the same way is a formidable undertaking.”

If such a breach does occur again, the VA is now required to notify those affected so that they may act promptly to prevent or at least minimize damage. The VA must also issue fraud alerts to those affected. A fraud alert is a notice placed on a person’s credit report that requires creditors to contact the person before new credit is issued under that name.

The VA must also provide credit-monitoring services to those who’ve had their information compromised. Companies hired to monitor credit will alert customers when the following has occurred.

- **New account activity:** whenever a new account is opened in the customer’s name.
- **Address change:** Thieves opening an account (in the victim’s name) are also likely to use a different address.
- **Account information changes:** If other changes are made to information on the account, such as the amount borrowed, the customer will be notified.
- **Changes to public records:** Customers will also be alerted to any change made to the

type of public records that appear on a credit report, such as the status of bankruptcies or legal judgments.

- **Closed accounts:** A customer will be alerted if his or her account has been closed.
- **Collection accounts:** Monitoring services will alert customers if any action is related to collection services.
- **Inquiries to credit information:** A credit-monitoring service will alert the customer if an inquiry is made to the customer’s credit file.

The new bill also requires the VA to submit reports to Congress about the breach.

Finally, the VA must provide identity-theft insurance, which reimburses victims for costs incurred in restoring their identity and repairing credit reports.

“We’re absolutely committed to what our secretary has called the ‘gold standard of information security,’” said Budahn.

“We’ve dramatically tightened our processes for protecting information since that incident, and it’s very important to note that it didn’t involve any patient records.”

*(Editor’s Note: John Neville writes for the Fort Knox, Ky., “Turret.”)*

# TAPS embraces, assists grieving military families in aftermath

**KAMRYN JAROSZEWSKI**  
Army News Service

FORT RICHARDSON, Alaska — Describing the day her husband died, Bonnie Carroll said, "Life just stopped, and it stopped for a long time."

Carroll's husband, Brig. Gen. Tom Carroll, an Alaska Air National Guardsman, was killed Nov. 12, 1992, in a plane crash in Juneau. Seven other service members also died.

Carroll said she connected with those widowed spouses in a way she found few other people understood.

Two years after her husband's crash, Carroll transformed her small group of bereft widows into a national nonprofit organization called TAPS, the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors.

"I wanted to create a safe place to go to find support," Carroll said.

Her mission through TAPS is to connect people who understand what it means to lose someone in the military.

"There are no eligibility rules; we're here for everyone, whatever surviving families need."

Carroll said losing a loved one in the military is different for many reasons:

- The death notification and military burial is so tough.
- Living overseas and moving within 180 days takes away your support system.
- Death benefits can be very complex.
- Losing the military lifestyle can be traumatic.

In the process of grief, people used to follow the Kübler-Ross model discussing denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance. Carroll said that model

was actually based on anticipatory grief; for example, knowing a loved one had a terminal illness and preparing for their death.

In the last 15 years, these four tasks of grief were developed:

- Accept the reality of the death.
- Experience the pain of grief.
- Adjust to the environment in which the deceased is missing.
- Form a new identity and reinvest energy without forgetting the past.

Carroll said every griever has a different timeline; some may accept the reality of death right away, while others may not fully understand until months afterward.

She also said some families may not want emotional support, initially. Instead, Carroll said caregivers could offer logistical support, such as cooking, cleaning or babysitting, until family members are ready to discuss their loss.

"Say, 'I'm very sorry.' 'You have our support.' Say he or she will be greatly missed, but use that person's name. Remember to honor the dead by focusing on the life and the service," she said. "Don't say, 'I know exactly how you feel,' unless you really do."

Carroll also discourages caregivers from using such phrases as "closure," "goodbye," "get on with life" and "move past this" when talking to bereft spouses and families. Because a person may not know what to say to a widow, Carroll said, they are sometimes avoided.

"Companioning is about being present to another person's pain. It's not about taking away or relieving the pain," she said. "[It] is about discovering the gifts of sacred silence. It's not about filling

# TAPS

The TAPS call center is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, toll free at 1-800-959-TAPS (8277), or at [www.taps.org](http://www.taps.org).

every painful moment with talk." Simply being in the room with that person can be enough, she said.

Carroll stressed the need for caregivers to take care of themselves so they can be available to support others.

Signs of caregiver stress include depression, headaches or stomachaches, sleeping difficulties, weakened immune systems, and

lack of concentration.

"Stay in touch with friends. Social activities can help keep you feeling connected and help with stress," Carroll said. "Find a support group for you and your fellow caregivers. Have fun, laugh [and] do things that bring you joy."

Carroll said while the process of grieving is a long one for everyone involved, it's important to remember two things about recovery.

"Many people live through a trauma and are able to reconstruct their lives without outside help," she said. "[However,] most people find some type of benign, outside intervention useful in dealing with trauma."



Bill Rollins

Firemen bring a hose to bear on a fire in quarters 13 at Fort Shafter's Palm Circle, Jan. 22. It took eight firefighting units more than three hours to extinguish the blaze.

## 25 YEARS AGO

January 21, 1982

• **The more things change ...** Army Hawaii announced plans to reduce energy consumption with the goal of "making America less dependent upon scarce fuel resources." The plan included restricting air conditioning use and lowering water heater temperatures in family quarters, which accounted for almost half of the Army's energy use.

• The musical groups "DEVO" and "The Manhattan" made stops on Hawaii at the NBC Arena and Hawaiian Hilton Ballroom respectively.

• President Ronald Reagan granted evaders of the selective service a 30- to 60-day grace period to avoid prosecution. The president said he did not foresee the return of the draft since "only in the most severe national emergency does the government have a claim to the mandatory service of its young people."

• A special task force assigned to test the shrinkage problem of battle dress uniforms (BDUs) found that less than one percent of BDUs sold or issued were returned due to shrinkage. The Department of the Army also began seeking a replacement for the traditional combat boot.

(Editor's Note: Information gathered from Hawaii Army Weekly archives.)

# News Briefs

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

## 26 / Today

**Safety Stand-Down** — Motor vehicle safety will be the focus at the Safety Stand-Down event today 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 motor cycles, 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

SEE NEWS BRIEFS, A-8

# CRT: New handbook guides volunteers through crises

CONTINUED FROM A-1

about their Soldier. Still, the CRT must prioritize needs and assist where help is requested to "de-militarize the process."

"What do you [men] say?" asked senior spouse and FRG leader Patti Ryan, "because a woman's voice is so calming."

"How do I get my mother here?" Susan Meyerowich, FRG leader and senior spouse at the 2-27th Infantry Regiment, said is the first question she's always asked.

Similarly, Shauna Smith, key spouse and 2-27th CRT coordinator, said the next question is "How long can I stay in housing?"

Answers were forthcoming.

"Your first information must be clear," stressed senior spouse and FRG leader Greta Browder of the 2-35th Inf. Regt.

Col. Timothy Ryan, 25th ID rear detachment commander, explained, "Formal notification is a military responsibility. The CRT is working as a vehicle through official channels. Families look to the CRT, but receive updates through military channels."

Recognizing that any process can be tweaked or improved for optimum performance, Rhonda Mixon, wife of the division commanding general, Maj. Gen. Benjamin R. Mixon (currently deployed to Iraq as commander, Multinational Division North), hosted the town hall meeting, along with Ryan.

"The overall purpose [of this training] was to come together with CRT volunteers, as well as the rear detachment, to talk about what has happened in the past and



Above — Col. Timothy Ryan (center), 25th ID rear detachment commander, and Rhonda Mixon, wife of the commanding general, host the CRT town hall meeting.

Left — Shauna Smith, 2-27th CRT coordinator, listens attentively to comments.

a conglomeration of experiences, so we can learn from those experiences," said Rhonda Mixon.

For most of the FRG and rear detachment participants who attended the town hall meeting, the candor of experienced CRT coordinators was most helpful in gathering information for potential experiences and to actively recruit more family members to serve as volunteer CRT members.

They believe the combination of resources — four hours of training by chaplains and Army Community Service con-

sultants, an optional six additional hours of refresher training, the new handbook, and naturally, compassion — should all help recruitment.

"We are looking for stable people, who can maintain their composure," said O'Brien. "Home is where the Army is going to focus all its efforts ... [but notifications] are not real high on the fun list."

For these reasons, O'Brien continued, it's best to have one familiar face on the CRT, at the company level, someone who knows the bereaved, he explained. Sometimes, he said, the notification or crisis response process can drag on for weeks.

"We don't have a lot of volunteers coming to the forefront ... that's why we do training," he added.

Since new volunteers could provide misleading information, the CRT Handbook and experienced CRT members guide them after training. But everyone feels "nervous and inadequate" through stages of the process, according to the handbook.

Of note, the rear detachment and CRT coordinators shared they have learned that families of Soldiers who are wounded in action need just as much support with CRTs as families coping with death. Additionally, volunteers must focus on the "here and now," avoiding speculation.

When responding to casualty calls, crisis volunteers must approach this overwhelming situation with the thought, "What if this were me."

Ryan aptly wrapped the town hall meeting, stating, "Every single situation is unique."

## News Briefs

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for Soldiers. Call 656-4150.

### 29 / Monday

**Fort Shafter Tax Center Opens** — The Fort Shafter Tax Center, Building 330, will open Jan. 29.

Free federal and state income tax preparation and assistance will be provided to Soldiers, family members, retirees, active Reservists and National Guard members.

Patrons must bring proper identification, social security cards for all individuals to be claimed on all returns, W-2's, 1099 interest income forms, and any other tax-related forms they deem necessary.

The Fort Shafter Tax Center's hours of operation will be Monday-Wednesday, from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m., and Thursday, from 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Call 438-0829.

The Schofield Barracks Tax Center's hours of operation will be Monday-Wednesday, from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Thursday, from 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m., and Friday, from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

in Building 678. Call 655-1040.

Both centers will be closed on Federal holidays.

### 31 / Wednesday

**Green to Gold** — The Army Green to Gold Program is seeking Soldiers who are interested in earning a college baccalaureate or master's degree.

A program briefing will be held at the Schofield Barracks and Tripler Army Medical Center Education Centers the last Wednesday of each month. The current application window will be open until Apr. 1.

For more information, visit the Green to Gold Web site at [www.rotc.usaac.army.mil/command/Green2Gold/index.htm](http://www.rotc.usaac.army.mil/command/Green2Gold/index.htm), call the University of Hawaii Army ROTC Warrior Battalion, 956-7766 or e-mail [gblt@hawaii.edu](mailto:gblt@hawaii.edu).

## February

### 5 / Monday

**Advisory Council Meeting** — The next Schofield Barracks Commissary/Post Exchange/Nehelani Advisory Council Meeting will be held Feb. 5, from

10:30-11:30 a.m. in the Main Post Conference Room.

This bimonthly meeting is a forum for representatives from those organizations and its patrons to share ideas and information. Call 655-0497 or 655-1252.

### 6 / Tuesday

**Warrant Officers Wanted** — A warrant officer recruiting team from Fort Knox will host a briefing for interested Soldiers on the qualifications and application procedures for becoming an Army Warrant Officer.

Briefings will be held in the Schofield Barracks Post Conference Room Feb. 6-8, at 10 a.m. and 1 pm. Call 655-0839, visit [www.usarec.army.mil/warrant](http://www.usarec.army.mil/warrant) or e-mail [thomas.skaggs@usarec.army.mil](mailto:thomas.skaggs@usarec.army.mil).

**Troops to Teachers** — The federally-funded Troops to Teachers 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 the first Tues-

day of each month. Contact Mr. Miller at 587-4054, extension 409 or e-mail [hawaiiitt@notes.k12.hi.us](mailto:hawaiiitt@notes.k12.hi.us).

### 7 / Wednesday

**Town Hall Meeting** — The next Oahu South Town hall meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 7 at 6:30 p.m. in Aliamanu Military Reservation Chapel. Call 438-6147.

### 15 / Thursday

**Black History Presentation** —The 8th Theater Sustainment Command and the 25th Infantry Division Equal Opportunity will host an event to recognize the significant contributions of Black Americans Feb. 15, from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Sgt. Smith Theater, Schofield Barracks.

### 20 / Tuesday

**Recruiting Recruiters** — The U.S. Army Recruiting Command will host a briefing for interested Soldiers, specialists through sergeants first class on the benefits, challenges and qualifications of recruiting duty.

Presentations will be held in the Schofield Barracks Post Conference Room, Feb. 20 at 1:30 p.m. and Feb. 21 at 10 a.m.

and 1:30 p.m.

Spouses are invited to attend this important presentation. Call Sgt. 1st Class Perez, 502-626-0465.

### GSA Closes for Inventory

— The GSA Customer Supply Center at Schofield Barracks will be closed Feb. 20-23 to take its annual inventory. The center will re-open Feb. 26.

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

### 22 / Thursday

**National Prayer Luncheon** — The annual National Prayer Luncheon will be held Feb. 22 at 11:30 a.m. in the Nehelani on Schofield Barracks.

The theme of the luncheon is "Caring for God's People in the Midst of Crisis." The guest speaker will be Command Chaplain (Col.) Sonny Moore, U.S. Forces Command, Atlanta, Georgia.

Tickets will be available through unit ministry teams, command sergeants major or at the event. The suggested ticket donations are \$3 for Soldiers E-1 through E-5, and \$5 for all others. Call 656-1384 or 655-9355.

# PAU HANA

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

"When work is finished."

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 2007



## The Aloha Stadium Swap Meet

Savvy shoppers know that Hawaii is expensive, but souvenirs do not empty the wallet at this outdoor marketplace

Story and Photos by  
**CHRISTA B. THOMAS**  
Pau Hana Editor

When most visitors land in Hawaii, the first thing they do is dart to nearby malls and stores to shell out big bucks for souvenirs and island attire.

Fortunate tourists, however, will escape the trappings of Waikiki and visit keepsake nirvana – the Aloha Stadium Swap Meet.

Since 1979, the swap meet, which surrounds the Aloha Stadium, has sold island flavor to visitors and residents and continues to make improvements to maintain its "hot spot" designation.

Open Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday, rain or shine and in the absence of the occasional football game, this outdoor bazaar features everything from the delightfully tacky dashboard hula girls and black-light posters, to the ultra-refined, channel-set diamond toe ring, Chinese brocade dresses and professional-grade Kala ukuleles.

This swap meet is well worth the \$1 per adult admission. Parking is free and plentiful, and the entertainment value of people-watching is worth the price.

An average of 600-800 vendors pay about \$75 a day for two parking stalls (on the inner circle) to set up tarps and tables to peddle their wares to thousands of customers who traverse the well-worn loop.

People from all walks of life, dressed in every imaginable way, speaking sometimes lyrical or sometimes guttural languages, traipse from booth to booth to find island memories fashioned from monkey pod, jade, bamboo, coconut shell and the like.

Because the merchandise mix is mainly tourist-driven, many island residents may not find most of their day-to-day necessities at the swap meet. However, the bountiful mix of Hawaiian, cheap T-shirts, aloha and beach attire, crack-seed, and the lure of deep discounts, continues to attract area residents each day the gates swing open.

Many people will attest to at least three obligatory shopping trips – before they take a trip to the mainland, when mainland guests visit, and at some point, during the holidays.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Marwan McCutcheon put Soesie Matwirjo through the swap meet paces when she visited him from Holland.

"Every time I have a visitor, a trip to the swap meet is on my list of things to do," he said. "It's the best place to pick up souvenirs, and most times I find something for myself, too."

Matwirjo, who started her round in five-inch heels, had no idea there would be so much to see.

"They have bikinis, calendars, art...everything I could think of," she said, as she purchased some more comfortable footwear.

Guests should be prepared for an unhindered dosage of high-beam sunlight. A hat or umbrella, sun block and comfortable walking shoes are a "must have."

It takes about two-and-a-half hours to lap the swap meet comfortably. However, the booths begin to look the same after a quarter of the way around.



Centerplate, a national food and concession service company, manages the Aloha Stadium Swap Meet.

In a promotional release, Centerplate shared some of its operational changes.

Those changes include a new logo, more security, market umbrellas for shade, picnic tables, live entertainment, four portable automatic teller machines, shopper's guides and more food and beverage booths.

Many special events have been planned throughout the year for the whole family to enjoy.

- Feb. 18 – To welcome the Chinese New Year, a traditional lion dance will be performed Feb. 18. Three lions will start at the main entrance at 9 a.m., then course through the swap meet until noon.
- May 27 – Car "show and shine" events will be held Sunday, May 27 and Sept. 2. Dragsters, classic and customized cars and motorcycles will be featured. To celebrate Independence Day, an All-American Party is planned for June 30 and July 1. These events will feature live bands, a beer garden and island-style barbecue.

The stadium is located at 99-500 Salt Lake Blvd. For a calendar of events, vendor directory, booth rental or stadium information, visit [www.alohastadiumswapmeet.net](http://www.alohastadiumswapmeet.net) or call 486-6704.

"After about a half hour, I'm not sure what's easiest; should I go back the way I came or make the loop?" McCutcheon said.

The vendors are mostly friendly and happy to talk about their bargains, which include popular look-alike designer bags and the ubiquitous floral luggage that ranges in size from carry-on to that of a small refrigerator.

Jackson Lee operates the Leeplus Company from a rather large space in row D. When asked how long he has sold his Asian decoratives, fine metals and good luck

Above — Desktop accessories fashioned from monkeypod adorn the tables at Saato Crafts at the main entrance to the swap meet.

jade at the swap meet, as specifically as he could recall, he said, "a long time."

"I have low overhead, so I have low prices," Lee said. The Leeplus Company sells \$300-500 in goods each day.

Lee and many other vendors are open to haggling and often offer a better price to encourage bulk purchases.

Employing a twisted logic that many diehard shoppers swear by, Lee ensures all his customers, "The more you buy, the more you save."

With that kind of encouragement, very few people leave empty-handed. Their bags may not be filled with the find of a lifetime, but are sure to be filled with local treasures.

Right — At the Aloha Stadium Swap Meet, guests can find everything and anything — jewelry, clothes, plants, tools, paintings, antiques, wedding favors, school supplies, luggage, ukuleles, food and more. The best finds are the discounted prices.





**26 / Today**

**ACS Outreach Open House** — Army Community Service (ACS) Fort Shafter Outreach Center is hosting an open house, Jan. 26, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Tour the facility and see what ACS is all about. Call 438-9285.

**Mad Science** — Students in grades 3–5 are invited to join School of Knowledge, Inspiration, Education and Skills (SKIES) Unlimited and Army Hawaii Family Housing for the Mad Science “Save our Nations Energy” program. Topics to be covered will include optical illusions, slime, sonic sounds, tantalizing taste, harnessing heat, lights, color action, and watts-up.

Class dates are Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, and March 1 and 8. Classes will be held at the Kalakaua Community Center. Cost is \$60 per session, and the deadline to enroll is Jan. 26. Call 655-9818.

**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 Barracks 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 the Theater of Laughter performance at the Tropics, Jan. 30. Four great comedians, who collectively have been featured on Comedy Central and HBO and who have performed with comedy legends, including George Lopez, Chris Rock, Jerry Seinfeld and Paul Rodriguez, will share their comedic insights on everything. Call 655-0111 or 655-0112.

**February**

**1 / Thursday**

**Spring Teen Camp** — Registration begins Feb. 1 for the Spring Teen Camp “4-H Fitness.” This camp will run March 19–23 and March 26–30 from 10 a.m.–6 p.m. Activities will include cooking, art, technology, photography, community service, gym day, and the 4-H finale.

Scheduled field trips will include Pearlridge Mall, the beach, Richardson pool, Hawaiian Waters Adventure Park, the Polynesian Cultural Center, and Kualoa Ranch. Cost is \$30 per week. Call 655-0451.

**3 / Saturday**

**Keiki Valentine Craft Party** — Kids of all ages are invited to enjoy fun Valentine



Photo Courtesy of Anti-Gravity

**Hangin' around**

Expect the unexpected when New York City's Anti-Gravity whirs into the Hawaii Theatre, Feb. 7–11, for an aerial blend of circus, dance, gymnastics, rock music and sheer energy.

Olympic-caliber athletes have thrilled MTV, Grammy Awards and Winter Olympics audiences with edgy, boisterous aerial maneuvers, 10-foot leaps and pyrotechnics. For show details, see the Community Calendar, below.

craft projects and games at the Tropics, Feb. 3, 1–3 p.m. Cost is \$4 per child, and registration is required by Jan. 25. Call 655-0112.

**Ongoing**

**Play and Learn** — Play and Learn is a weekly play group for infants (0-12 months), toddlers (12-36 months), preschoolers (36-60 months) and their parents. This free program combines playtime with short learn-

ing topics. Groups will meet at Aliamanu and Schofield Barracks. Call 655-4227.

**Free Tutoring Service** — SKIES is now offering free tutoring to youth who are enrolled with SKIES or registered with Child and Youth Services (CYS).

Tutoring is available for English, math, sociology, social studies, history, drama, and science. This service will be available Mondays, from 3:30–4:30 p.m. for students in grades 6–12. To enroll, call 655-9818.

der. Call 847-3511 or visit [www.bishopmuseum.org](http://www.bishopmuseum.org).

**31 / Wednesday**

**Kindermusik classes** — The Armed Services YMCA will host a Kindermusik program to introduce children to the adventures of music and movement.

Children ages 1–3 are invited to a free class Jan. 31, from 10–11 a.m. at the Sgt. Yano Library on Schofield Barracks. Call 624-5645.

**New Year, New Baby** — The Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) is sponsoring an exclusive contest for the military's newest moms and dads. The “New Year Baby Sweepstakes” is open to any authorized customer who had a baby born on Jan. 1, 2007.

The prize packs for the online drawings include a stroller, toddler bed, security gate, bouncer, tub, bassinet, activity center, and swing along with a one-year supply of AAFES' Exchange Select Diapers and six-month supply of Baby's Choice Formula. Sweepstakes entries must be submitted to [www.aafes.com](http://www.aafes.com) before Jan. 31. The drawing for the three grand prizes, each projected to exceed \$500 in value, will be held Feb. 5.

**February**

**2 / Friday**

**Lights Out** — Wheeler Army Air Field and East Range is scheduled for an electrical outage Feb. 2, from midnight until approximately 4 a.m. for the Hawaiian Electric Company to perform repairs and maintenance on the substation. Call 656-2682, extension 1122.

**3 / Saturday**

**Bourbon Street Basket Bash** — The Hui O' Na Wahine will be conducting its annual basket auction.

This year's Mardi Gras-themed basket auction will take place at the Leilehua Golf Course, Feb. 3, from 7–10 p.m.

This fundraising event will be held to support the community with scholarships to college students and welfare grants to local

organizations.

Cost is \$10 per ticket or \$12 at the event. To purchase tickets or donate a basket, call Karen Barker at 206-8041.

**PAM Needs You** — The Pacific Aviation Museum–Pearl Harbor will host a volunteer and docent meeting Feb. 3 at 4 p.m. at the museum on Ford Island.

Be a part of the team that brings Hawaii's aviation history, patriotism and valor to life in the original World War II hangars.

To register, call 441-1012 or 690-0169 or visit [kt@pacificaviationmuseum.org](mailto:kt@pacificaviationmuseum.org).

**New Year Celebration**

Celebrate the Chinese New Year and Portuguese Malasada Day Feb. 3 at the Hawaii Plantation Village.

The event will begin at 9 a.m. Scheduled activities will include a special performance by popular local comedian Frank De Lima and a Chinese lion dance by Waipahu High School students, a blessing at the Inari Shrine, book readings, games and crafts. Guests may enjoy samples of plantation foods, including gau, tsukemono, kim chee, miso pork and malassadas.

Tickets are \$4 for military, and free for children age 12 and under. General admission is \$7. Call 677-0110 or visit [www.hawaiiplantationvillage.org](http://www.hawaiiplantationvillage.org).

**3rd Annual Bob Fest** — Yea Mon... Hawaiian Waters Adventure Park in Kapolei will host the ultimate tribute to Bob Marley, Feb. 3 from 7 p.m.–3 a.m.

The featured act is Lauryn Hill, along with Jamaica's top dancehall star Capleton, local boys Pepper, and many more.

The main stage will be set in the hurricane wave pool, which will be drained for a unique amphitheater experience. Tickets can be purchased for \$25 by visiting [www.PreSaleTicketsOnline.com](http://www.PreSaleTicketsOnline.com) or at the event for \$30. The concert will be open to customers age 18 and older.

**7 / Wednesday**

**High-Flying Rock** — An aerial explosion of athletic theater and American pop culture – Anti-Gravity – leaps into the Hawaii The-

**Nehelani Catering** — The Nehelani Banquet and Conference Center is the perfect setting for most catering needs. This service is available for weddings, graduations, proms, birthday parties, military functions, reunions, conferences, workshops or private parties.

The Nehelani staff will work hard to make any occasion an event to remember. Call 655-0660.

**SKIES Unlimited Volunteer Opportunities** — SKIES is looking for qualified, caring volunteer instructors for the School of Arts, School of Sports, School of Academics, and the School of Life Skills. Call 655-9818.

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

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

**Auto Safety and Training** — “At Ease Automotive Training” and “Ensuring Auto Safety for Everyone” are taught at the Schofield Barracks Auto Craft Center on the second Friday of each month from 9–10 a.m. Learn how to properly check fluid levels and basic vehicle safety checks.

Registration is required by the Sunday prior to the class start date. Special sessions can be arranged for groups of four to six. Cost is \$5. Call 655-2271.

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

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

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

All story times begin at 10 a.m.

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

The outdoor facility boards only cats and dogs. For fees and reservations, call 368-3456.

**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 shoppette, Tripler mauka entrance, or any MWR facility.

Visit the MWR Web site at [www.mwrarmy.hawaii.com](http://www.mwrarmy.hawaii.com).

atre, Feb. 7–11.

The New York Times called Anti-Gravity “industrial strength entertainment” where art meets science, athletics meets dance, and rock meets theater. This show was performed at the 2002 Winter Olympics, the MTV Video Awards and with P. Diddy at the MTV Music Awards.

On opening night, Feb. 7, active duty military patrons will get into the show free. Reserved tickets for Feb. 7 and 8 will be priced \$25–\$45. Tickets for the Feb. 9–11 show will be priced \$35–\$55. To purchase tickets, call the box office at 528-0506, or visit [www.hawaiitheatre.com](http://www.hawaiitheatre.com). Also, visit [www.anti-gravity.com](http://www.anti-gravity.com) for information on the performance.

**15 / Thursday**

**Vein Drain** — The Second Brigade will host the monthly Schofield Barracks unit blood drive Feb. 15 in the Kaala Recreation Center, room 101.

The Tripler Blood Donor Center conducts a blood drive the third Thursday of each month, with different units hosting, and the last Tuesday of each month at Tropics.

Upcoming drive dates are Feb. 27, March 15 and March 27.

For dates and location of additional blood drives, or to schedule a donation at Tripler, visit [www.militarylifeforce.com](http://www.militarylifeforce.com) or call 433-6699.

**Ongoing**

**Military Spouses Scholarship** — The National Military Family Association (NMFA) in partnership with the Military Channel invites military spouses to apply for the Joanne Holbrook Patton Military Spouse Scholarship Program.

The scholarships are available to military spouses of any branch or rank who want to train for professional certifications or to attend post-secondary or graduate school and range from \$500 to \$1,000 and may be used for tuition, fees, room and board. Applications will be accepted through March 15. Visit [www.nmfa.org/scholarship](http://www.nmfa.org/scholarship).



**Aliamanu (AMR) Chapel, 836-4599**

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

**Fort DeRussy Chapel, 836-4599**

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

**Fort Shafter Chapel, 836-4599**

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

**Helemano (HMR) Chapel**

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

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

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

**MPC Annex, Building 791**

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

**Soldiers Chapel**

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

**Tripler AMC Chapel, 433-5727**

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

**Wheeler Chapel**

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



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

**26 / Today**

**WoW Conference** — Most spouses of Soldiers have similar days: some filled with chaos and disorder with little down time. In an effort to show support, the Schofield Barracks Chapel community will bring the international Wives of Warriors (WoW) Conference to the island.

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

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

A school-age program will be offered for ages 6–12, and free child care will be available for children already registered with Child and Youth Services.

Pick up registration forms at the Schofield Main Post Chapel, or call Stephanie at 664-5987. Jan. 19 is the registration deadline.

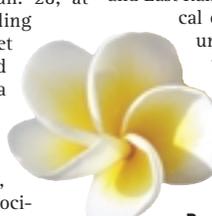
**28 / Sunday**

**Dino-mite Exhibit** — Take a walk on the wild side, through Jan. 28, at Bishop Museum's latest traveling exhibit, Dinosaurs Alive! Meet some of the residents of the land that time forgot by joining a safari through prehistoric surroundings.

Moving, roaring dinosaurs (including tyrannosaurus rex, apatosaurus, dilophosaurus, velociraptor and more) will be supplemented with interactive, hands-on activities and educational displays.

The museum is open 9 a.m.–5 p.m. daily and is located at 1525 Bernice St. Admission prices are \$14.95 for adults and \$11.95 for youth, ages 4–12, and seniors.

Special rates are available for kamaaina, military patrons, and children age 3 and un-



**Eragon**  
(PG)  
Friday, 7 p.m.  
Sunday, 2 p.m.  
Thursday, 7 p.m.



**Blood Diamond**  
(R)  
Saturday, 7 p.m.  
Wednesday, 7 p.m.

The theater is closed Monday & Tuesday.

# Scholarship applications available for military kids

**BONNIE POWELL**  
Defense Commissary Agency

FORT LEE, Va. — Gas prices are biting into the family budget, interest rates are rising, and college tuition is outpacing inflation.

At least some relief is in sight for military families as the Scholarships for Military Children program opens for 2007.

Applications for the \$1,500 scholarships are available at 264 commissaries worldwide, or can be downloaded through links at [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com), [www.militaryscholar.org](http://www.militaryscholar.org), or [www.dodea.edu](http://www.dodea.edu).

"Scholarships for Military Children is a wonderful military community program," said Patrick Nixon, director and chief executive officer of the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA). "Nearly three thousand scholarships totaling over four million dollars have been awarded since the first awards were given in 2001."

The \$1,500 scholarships are available for children of military active duty, retired, and Guard and Reserve service members. Manufacturers, brokers and suppliers selling groceries in commissaries, donate most of the funds, and every dollar donated to the program by industry or the general public goes to fund the scholarships.

The Fisher House Foundation administers the program.

A significant number of scholarships, about 10 percent every year, go to high school students at Department of Defense (DoD) schools overseas.

"Every cent that community organizations can mobilize to support college-bound students is an investment in the future," said Joseph Tafoya, director of the DoD Education Activity.

"With college costs soaring, our DoD students and their parents appreciate every available scholarship to help defray the cost, and the scholarships enable many of our families to better afford the tuition and provide an incentive for students to work hard," said Tafoya. "They also demonstrate that military communities are committed to education and increased opportunities for all students."

The scholarship program has also made inroads to increasing support from the "nonmilitary" community. For example,

California high school students sponsoring golf tournaments in 2006 raised thousands of dollars to donate to the program, and already for 2007, a private foundation has made a substantial donation.

"We're excited to see this worthwhile program gaining recognition and funding from the community at large, said Jim Weiskopf, vice president of communications at Fisher House Foundation. "Commissary industry support has been amazing and increased public support can only help ensure that the Scholarships for Military Children program continues to benefit the military community for many years to come."



Donations can be made through the link at [militaryscholar.org](http://militaryscholar.org), the official program Web site.

Applications for 2007, which include an essay on "how and why" the applicant would change a historical event, must be turned in at a commissary by close of business on Feb. 21, 2007. At least one \$1,500 scholarship will be awarded at every commissary location with qualified applicants.

The program is open to unmarried children under the age of 21 (23 if enrolled in school) of military active duty, Reserve, Guard and retired personnel. Eligibility will be determined using the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) database. Therefore, applicants should ensure that they, as well as their sponsor, are enrolled in the DEERS database and have a current ID card.

The applicant must be planning to attend, or already attending, an accredited college or university full-time in the fall term of 2007, or enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year program.



U.S. Army, Pacific, Photo

Stewart's Eagle Scout service project was to demolish and reconstruct two information bulletin boards for the Schofield Sharks Swim Team on Schofield Barracks and construct a new presentation case for a team perpetual award.

## Scouts improve Army facilities

**KEVIN DOWNEY**  
U.S. Army, Pacific, Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER— Two Mililani High School students have attained the coveted Boy Scouts of America rank of Eagle Scout by significantly improving local Army community facilities.

William Stewart, son of U.S. Army, Pacific, federal civilian Thomas Stewart, and Jeremy Howze Jr. were recognized at the Mililani Recreation Center in the prestigious Eagle Court of Honor ceremony for their long-term achievements in the local community and scouting arena.

Stewart and Howze are both 15-year-old sophomores and members of the Aloha Council, Kaala District, Boy Scout Troop 32 in Waipahu.

Stewart's Eagle Scout service project was to demolish and reconstruct two information bulletin boards on Schofield Barracks for the Schofield Sharks swim team and then to construct a new presentation case for a perpetual award. Military families use the pool for recreation.

Stewart said he chose this project because growing up as an Army family member, he benefited from Army youth sports programs. He wanted to give back to the Army community.

Howze's Eagle Scout service project transformed the Tripler Army Medical Center's Outpatient Pediatric treatment room into a child-friendly atmosphere. He created a pleasant environment for pediatric patients undergoing procedures.

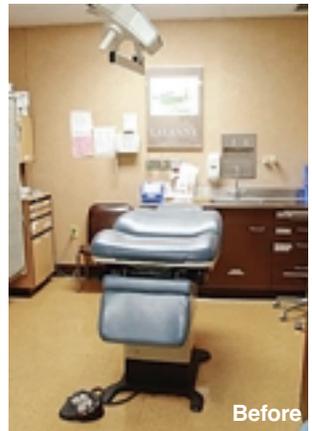
Throughout their Boy Scout tenure, both boys have worked on many other projects to improve local Army facilities.



Stewart



Howze



Before



After

U.S. Army, Pacific, Photo

Left and Below — Howze's Eagle Scout service project transformed the Tripler Army Medical Center's Outpatient Pediatric treatment room into a child-friendly atmosphere through the use of vibrant colors, ornaments and fixtures.

The teenager helped create a pleasant environment for pediatric patients undergoing medical procedures.



26 / Today

Witness the Smackdown — Come watch Hawaii Championship Wrestling at the Schofield Tropics, today. Doors will open at 6 p.m. and matches will start at 7 p.m.

The cost is \$5 for guests ages 12 and up, \$3 for ages 6-11 and under, and free for children age 5 and under. Call 655-5697.

27 / Saturday

BMX Racing — Come to the BMX track at Wheeler Army Air Field (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 Saturdays. Volunteers are needed to help make this event a success. Visit www.mwrarmy-hawaii.com, www.armybmw.org or call 656-1601.

30 / Tuesday

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 WAAF youth centers.

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

theateroflaughter



WIPE THAT SILLY FROWN OFF YOUR FACE

Come see top notch comics at the Theater of Laughter performance at Tropics, 7 p.m., January 30.

Get ready for rip-roaring laughs. This hilarious group of comedians send audiences into hysterics with fresh material and adversarial witticisms.

Come 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.



Please Note: Must be 18 years or older to attend. Don't miss your seat for the "The Theater of Laughter." Call 655-0111/0112 for more information



February

4 / Sunday

Bears v. Colts — Come enjoy a spectacular Super Bowl party at the Schofield Barracks Tropics. Watch the game, enjoy great food at an "all-you-can-eat" buffet, and enter to win a pair of Pro Bowl Tickets. Call 655-0002.

6 / Tuesday

Youth Wrestling Team — Register now through Feb. 6 at Schofield Barracks for the USA Wrestling Team.

Youth born between 1987-2001 will be eligible to participate. Cost is \$20 per person, plus a \$30 USA Wrestling Team fee.

Registration will be held during regular business hours at the Ben-

nett Youth Center. Call 655-6465.

8 / Thursday

Pro Bowl at Tropics — Meet and greet cheerleaders and mascots of the National Football League, as well as a special guest. Join the fun Feb. 8, from 4-6 p.m. at the Tropics. Enter to win many prizes, including Pro Bowl tickets. Call 655-5697 or 655-0968.

9 / Friday

Big Toys for Big Boys — The Hawaii Big Boy's Expo will feature the latest trends in automotive, health and fitness, electronics, gadgets, fashion, sports and much more.

The event will be held Friday, Feb. 9-11, from 5-10 p.m. in the Neal S. Blaisdell Exhibition Hall on Ward Avenue.

The event will also have an autograph signing by NFL Pro Bowl players, appearances by area

celebrities, players with the Budweiser 2007 World Poker Tour, a bikini contest, local entertainment and special attractions.

Cost is \$8 for adults, \$5 for children age 6-12 and seniors. Visit www.thehawaiibigboys.com for event updates.

Ongoing

Brazilian Capoeira — Develop your mind, body and spirit with physical fitness, self-defense and self-discipline through Brazilian Capoeira. Classes are held Tuesdays, from 5:30-7 p.m. at the Fort Shafter Physical Fitness Center. Call 247-7890.

Driving Range — The golf driving range at the Leilehua Golf Course is open weekdays until 9:30 p.m. Call 655-4653.

Water Aerobics — Come for a new and exciting workout at Richardson Pool. July Classes will be held Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; and Tuesday and Thursday, from 5-6 p.m.

A \$2 fee is charged per class or a punch card is available for \$15. Water aerobics provide a safe and effective exercise alternative that improves fitness levels with little stress on the joints. Call 655-1128.

What's Up Gymnastics — Schools of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills (SKIES) Unlimited is partnering with What's Up Gymnastics to offer a military discount program for all upcoming classes. What's Up Gymnastics provides several classes, including recreational and competitive classes, and offers the only indoor climbing wall on Oahu.

Classes are provided for all ages, even as early as age one. Discount cards can be picked up at the Child and Youth Services registration offices. Call 655-9818.

BMX Track — The BMX track on WAAF is now open on Thursdays from 5-7 p.m. and Saturdays from 4-7 p.m. Call 655-0883 or visit www.mwrarmyhawaii.com/cys/bmx\_track.htm.



Send community announcements to community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

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.

Diamond Head Run — The Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii will be sponsoring a bike/walk/run event Jan. 28, starting at 7 a.m. at Kapiolani Community College on Diamond Head Road. The bike ride distances will be

100K, 75K and 10K; the runs will be 5K and 10K and the walk will be one mile.

Entry fees begin at \$20. Applications will be in "Athlete HI" magazines found at area sporting goods stores, fitness facilities and bicycle shops or online at www.athletehi.com. Call 528-3058 or visit www.hawaiiepilepsy.com/efh.

10 / Saturday

Pro Bowl Events — The annual NFL Pro Bowl game will be held at 1 p.m. in Aloha Stadium Feb. 10. Active duty personnel will participate in pre-game and half-time ceremonial activities.

Events during Feb. 7-10 will include player visits to area military installations along with many other island-wide appearances.

For information on the Pro Bowl and all related activities, call 877-750-4400 or visit their Web site at www.nfl.com/probowl/information.

19 / Monday

The GAR — The ever-popular Great Aloha Run will be held Feb. 19.

More than 20,000 participants are expected to participate in this year's 8.15-mile run/walk that starts on Nimitz Street at the Aloha Tower Marketplace in downtown Honolulu (with entertainment along the route) and ends in Aloha Stadium.

Call 528-7388 or visit www.greataloharun.com for event and registration information.

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.

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.