

INSIDE

## Site details troop-stationing changes

ELIZABETH M. LORGE  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The Army launched its latest Web site, Grow the Army, to illustrate upcoming troop movements and upcoming unit stationing changes.

The site, www.army.mil/growthearmy, features interactive maps, charts and graphs to show Soldiers and their families where the Army's new 74,200 Soldiers, six infantry brigade combat teams, eight active-component support brigades, and various-sized combat-support and combat-service-support units will move, grow or activate between fiscal years 2008 and 2013.

"The Army is undergoing the largest transformational change since 1942," said Vice Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Richard Cody at a Pentagon press conference, Dec. 19.



Courtesy Photo

The Grow the Army Web site features interactive maps, charts and graphs to illustrate upcoming troop movements and unit stationing changes.

"We've changed our doctrine. We've changed our organizational structure to the Army modular force.

"We've changed the active component and the reserve component, balancing between formations. We've changed modernization and reset programs, and at the same time, under [Base Realignment and Closure Act (BRAC)] 2005, we're changing the footprint of our Army to make it more agile, more expeditionary, but also to place our formations and our family members in camps and stations that have a higher quality of life, a higher quality of training ranges so that we have the right formations so that we are training as we would fight."

States are color-coded and users can click on them to see specific stationing changes. Downloadable fact sheets describe changes for each state and installations overseas.



### Surf's up

Single Soldiers celebrate Christmas Eve in style at the Schofield Barracks Tropics

B-3

### Wheeler gate closure

Wheeler's Kawamura Gate will be closed from 7:30 a.m., Jan. 5 to 5:30 a.m. Jan. 6 to facilitate gate replacements and repairs.

See News Briefs, A-3



U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii, Public Affairs File Photos

### Looking back on 2007

Clockwise from left to right — Spc. Corey Truett, E Company, 2-25th Aviation Regiment, greets his wife Lorien and daughter Reese, 1, during a redeployment ceremony at Wheeler Army Air Field, Sept. 12; Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey Jr. tours a Kalakaua community model home at Schofield Barracks, April 28; Pfc. Nicholas Worley and Cpl. Daniel Jones, 66th Engineer Company, explode into a room during urban operations module training, March 19; Linda Sue Moshier of the American Belles, a 1940s singing group, serenades retired Army Col. Thomas Wells at Fort Shafter's 100th anniversary celebration, June 22. For more on significant events that shaped the U.S. Army Hawaii community in 2007, see pages A-4 and A-5.

## Time to get out and vote

SGT. 1ST CLASS JASON SHEPHERD  
U.S. Army, Pacific, Public Affairs

In 1789, George Washington was elected president with 100 percent of the vote. Then, only white males who owned property and were over the age of 21 could vote.

Much has changed since then. During the last election, Republican incumbent George W. Bush defeated Democrat John Kerry, winning 51 percent of the popular vote. The election before, Bush lost the popular vote, but won enough Electoral College votes to defeat Democrat Al Gore. In both elections, the voting was really close, proving that each vote counts.

Now, anyone over the age of 18 has the right to vote — yet many choose not to exercise that right, including thousands in the military.

In less than a year, the United States of America will have elected a new president and vice president, 33 senators, the entire House of Representatives, and thousands of local and state leaders all across the country. These elections provide a great opportunity for Soldiers to exercise a right they have fought so hard for.

"No citizen of our nation deserves more the freedom to vote than our Soldiers, many of whom have fought and bled to secure that right for all of our citizens," said Lt. Gen. John M. Brown, III, commanding general, U.S. Army, Pacific (USARPAC). "I strongly urge each and every one of you to vote in the upcoming election."

There are many reasons Soldiers don't exercise the right to vote. Some claim the voting process is too difficult while others believe their vote doesn't really matter in the grand scheme of things. Even more are not sure of the absentee voting process and how to get started.

"I've voted before I joined the military," said James Gilmore, a light-wheeled mechanic with the 45th Special Troops Battalion. "But now, I wouldn't even know how to begin to do it."

Each unit has a voting assistance officer (VAO) and a non-commissioned officer who is trained to help Soldiers through the voting process. Soldiers interested in voting should check with their personnel office or check the USARPAC Web site for information of voting and assistant voting officers.

VAOs are equipped with the "Assistant's Guide to Voting," which explains the requirements and dates that must be met in order to vote in every state and territory in the U.S. Also, USARPAC daily pop-up messages display dates for voting registration along with pertinent information for each state.

Some Soldiers also aren't sure

## Doctors improve 'sight, sound, smiles'

Story and Photo by  
LT. COL. CHRISTOPHER KLEM  
Army News Service

BOGRA, Bangladesh — A team of seven medical personnel from Tripler Army Medical Center recently teamed with army physicians from Bangladesh to treat impoverished civilians at a Bangladeshi Army hospital.

The "Sight, Sound, and Smile" mission name is derived from the three types of disease addressed by the surgical team: cataracts, chronic ear disease and cleft lip and palate.

The deploying team consisted of two ear, nose, and throat (ENT) staff surgeons, one ENT chief resident, one ophthalmologist, one noncommissioned officer-in-charge (NCOIC), and two surgical technicians.

Forty-four patients had life-changing surgeries during the four-day mission at Combined Military Hospital Bogra.

"It was really incredible to see how much of a difference we made," said the mission's team leader Maj. Ben Cable, an ENT surgeon who performed cleft lip and palate surgery on 12 patients. "Bangladeshi children born with a



Medical personnel from Tripler Army Medical Center recently teamed with army physicians from Bangladesh to treat impoverished civilians at Combined Military Hospital Bogra.

cleft lip deformity are frequently ostracized and often unable to lead a normal life," he said.

In developed countries, cleft lips are typically repaired when a child is 3 months old, while the average age of the cleft lip patient

on the mission was five years.

Diseases, such as cataracts and chronic ear disease, are usually treated at an early stage in

SEE AID, A-6

## Isle's newcomers get crash course in culture

Story and Photo by  
KYLE FORD  
Staff Writer

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — The newcomers briefing here is unlike any other newcomers briefing in the Army.

"Here, our newcomers day is called Ho Ike," explained Charlyn Sales, relocation, readiness, information and reference program manager. "Ho Ike is Hawaiian for sharing and that's what we're doing today."

Army Community Service (ACS) attempts to keep from doing a presentation that becomes "death by PowerPoint." The office achieves this by creating an interactive day that keeps Soldiers engaged in learning.

At a recent Ho Ike, Ana Despault treated Soldiers to a Hawaiian culture and language lesson. She told Soldiers how local people give to directions, such as using Ewa to refer to west.

"Don't worry if you don't get this all right



Pfc. Sarah Midgley, replacement detachment, spins the prize wheel at the newcomers briefing while Tim Pugh, commercial sponsorship and advertising manager, DMWR marketing department, looks on.

now," Despault said with a smile. "You cannot get lost for long, eh? After all, we are on an island."

Students learned how to pronounce

Hawaiian words on maps and streets, punctuated by Despault's reminders that this was a "par-tice-ah-pa-tory class."

The Hawaiian language consists of seven consonants and five vowels.

"I know sometimes it looks like we try and fit them all in one word, but you will be fine if you remember to just pronounce every letter," Despault said.

ACS also partnered with the Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR) program during this day for Soldiers and families new to the island.

"We got twelve sponsors to donate \$100,000 to provide Soldiers with a buffet luncheon," said Tim Pugh, commercial sponsorship and advertising manager, DMWR marketing department. At the luncheon Soldiers talked to the sponsors and won free prizes, including an Apple iPod.

SEE NEWCOMERS, A-6



### Hula haven

Students experience Hawaiian traditions through the art of hula at Wanna Hula classes

B-1

### This issue

Lightning Spirit A-2

Soldiers A-3

News Briefs A-3

MWR B-2

Over the Holidays B-3-5

SEE VOTE, A-6

## We want to hear from you...

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

If you have newsworthy ideas or stories you'd like to write, coordinate with the managing editor at 656-3155, or e-mail editor@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

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

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

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## 1 day since last fatal accident

Number represents fatal accidents as defined by Army Regulation 385-10, which is inclusive of all active component U.S. Army units and personnel. Current as of 1/2/08.

# AHFH offers a resolution for the entire family

ANN M. WHARTON

Army Hawaii Family Housing LLC

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS – Let's face it, New Year's resolutions are tough to keep – a new exercise routine, saving more money or organizing computer files. These all boil down to self-discipline, one person's determination. Instead of putting pressure on oneself, how about a New Year's resolution the whole family can work on together? The resolution is making safety top-of-mind – personal safety and the safety of one another.

Army Hawaii Family Housing (AHFH) operates an "Incident & Injury Free" environment, and this philosophy reaches every part of its operations, including its residents.

This year, our communities experienced a few house fires, felled trees and power outages due to bad weather. Luckily, no serious injuries occurred. But, the more aware we are of our surroundings and prepared for the unexpected, the better we can ensure the safety and well-being of our families and our neighbors.

AHFH has a safety team dedicated to supporting its operations, so if residents have any questions or need guidance, they

are encouraged to contact their community center for assistance.

Take about 20 minutes to inspect your home. As you go from room to room, answer the questions on the fire safety checklist below. For each question you answer "yes" to, give yourself a point. When you're finished, add up the points to find out your score. Kids, ask a grown-up to help you complete this checklist.

### Safety resources on the web

www.nfpa.org

www.kidshealth.org

www.homeinspectorlocator.com

www.homesafetycouncil.org

www.cpsc.gov

### Cooking Safety

Yes  No – Does a grown-up always stay in the kitchen when food is cooking on the stove?

Yes  No – Are stove tops and counters clean and uncluttered?

Yes  No – Are pot holders within easy reach of the stove?

Yes  No – Are pot handles turned inward so they can't be bumped?

Yes  No – Are curtains and other objects that can burn well away from the stove?

Yes  No – Is there a "kid-free" zone of three feet around the stove when grown-ups are cooking?

### Electrical Safety

Yes  No – Are extension cords used safely? (Are they not under carpets or across doorways?)

Yes  No – Are electrical cords in good condition, without cracks or frayed areas? (A grown-up should unplug lamps and appliances before inspecting the cords.)

Yes  No – Are kitchen appliances, such as the coffee maker, toaster oven, and microwave, plugged into separate receptacle outlets?

### Smoke Alarm/Fire Safety

Yes  No – Does your home have smoke alarms on every level and outside each sleeping areas?

Yes  No – Are the batteries working in all your smoke alarms?

Yes  No – Are all the exits in your home clear of furniture, toys and clutter?

Yes  No – Does your family have a home fire escape plan that includes two exits, usually a door and a window, from each room?

Yes  No – Has your family picked a safe place to meet outside after you exit your home?

Yes  No – Have you and your family practiced a home fire drill within the last six months? (Why not do one tonight?)

Yes  No – Do you know the fire department's emergency phone number, which should be called from a neighbor's or nearby phone once you get outside?

### What's your fire safety average?

If you answered "yes" to all of the checklist questions above, congratulations!

If you answered "yes" to 11 to 15 questions, you just need to make a few adjustments.

If you answered "yes" to fewer than 10 questions, you need to make many changes around your home.

For all questions you answered "no," make sure your family takes the necessary steps to make them a "yes."

## JVEF course sheds light on military culture

WAYNE YOSHINO

Youth Educational Support Services

A wide discrepancy exists between the culture and lifestyle of our military communities in comparison to our local communities in Hawaii. Because of these differences, the Joint Venture Education Forum (JVEF) created the Military Culture Course (MCC) to inform Department of Education (DOE) personnel of issues military families encounter while serving our nation.

The course is designed to provide background information about military culture and illuminate special issues related to family members transitioning to Hawaii schools. The

course encourages participants to develop and implement activities or programs that will address some of the issues highlighted in the course. The participants' final project will be to implement a program or activity in their respective schools to assist our military students with their transition.

DOE personnel that work with the military, such as families, students and volunteers, along with school principals, teachers, counselors, and coaches, are encouraged to take the course. This course is also ideal for schools that have received JVEF Transition Grants.

With approval of the principal, teams of two to four participants from each school discuss and select group projects prior to registering

for the course. Projects should assist military students transitioning into the various schools.

Among the topics covered will be military protocol, briefings from each branch of the military, transition issues, local culture and the scope of U.S. Pacific Command. A boat tour of Pearl Harbor is also included on the Admiral's special boat.

The course is worth three professional credits and will surely enhance participants' overall knowledge of issues family members encounter related with military life.

The MCC, which begins in September and meets once a week, is offered in the fall of every year. The 2007 class marked the eighth anniversary of the course.

## Upcoming leadership changes

The 25th Infantry Division and U.S. Army Hawaii community are invited to attend the multitude of change of command ceremonies occurring in January.

Each will be preceded by an awards ceremony, 15 minutes prior to the change of command, and all will be held at Sills Field, Schofield Barracks, unless noted otherwise. (Editor's Note: All information is subject to change.)

•Jan. 7, 10 a.m., 25th Special Troops Battalion

•Jan. 7, 2 p.m., 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment

•Jan. 8, 10 a.m., 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment

•Jan. 8, 2 p.m., 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion

•Jan. 9, 10 a.m., 325th Brigade Support Battalion

•Jan. 9, 2 p.m., 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment

•Jan. 11, 10 a.m., 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team

•Jan. 15, 10 a.m., 3rd Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment

•Jan. 16, 10 a.m., 209th Aviation Support Battalion

•Jan. 17, 2 p.m., 25th Combat Aviation Brigade



2nd Louie by the Penmanship

### LIGHTNING SPIRIT

## Wise men's wisdom during Biblical times is still relevant today

CHAPLAIN (CAPT.) KEVIN DAUL

45th Special Troops Battalion Chaplain

Look at the nativity scene in Matthew with all of those important figures surrounding the central figure, the Christ child. It's all in a shelter for livestock, so there may be a donkey, cow and shepherds and their sheep. There is mother Mary and father Joseph focused reverently on baby Jesus, wrapped up in cloth, sleeping in a feeding trough.

Generation after generation, Israel longed for the Messiah to arrive and rescue them, and now prophecy was unfolding right in front of them. All of this attention on one baby, the theme of salvation.

Yet there are still more figures to make mention – the wise men.

Probably the wise men were Arabian philosophers and priests who studied the Hebrew Scriptures and found the star in the east over Bethlehem, which lead them to the Christ child.

Tradition numbers three wise men, prob-

ably because of the three gifts. However, their presence lets us know that the birth of Christ was a global event, not just regional or exclusive to the Hebrews. True, they came later, perhaps a year later, but they, too, are included in the nativity scene because of their dedication to find and worship the Messiah, the entire reason for Christmas.



Daul

What made the wise men so wise? Was it their knowledge of the Hebrew Scriptures? Apparently, the priests and scribes knew their bible expertly enough to quote Christ's place of birth, Bethlehem, and his mission, to rule Israel, and yet there is no mention of the wisdom of these priests and scribes in Matthew.

Did the wise men's stately position or wealth recommend them as wise?

Most likely not. If so, then Herod would qualify for at least an honorable mention in wisdom. Wealth is never a healthy indicator of heavenly wisdom.

How about popularity?

Certainly the wise men were well known within their communities, but this could not establish wisdom; for Herod, the chief priests and scribes certainly influenced the uproar in Jerusalem, and one definitely needs that charismatic popularity to sway the masses. Even Herod's verbal assent to worship the Messiah is not evidence of heavenly wisdom. Neither Biblical knowledge, position, wealth, honor, nor verbal piety recommended the wise men to a holy wisdom; all are together insufficient.

So what made them so wise? These wise men focused on true worship.

In contrast, Herod jealously affixed attention on the Messiah, not worshipping. Worship requires commitment to time, which the wise men spent lavishly on Christ with a very long and costly trip. The gifts of

gold, frankincense, and myrrh were fit only for the highest of honor.

Most importantly, these wise worshippers required faith. Studying the Hebrew Scripture required dedication, yet following a star took more – a living faith in God's Biblical promises.

What made ancient wise men wise makes modern men and women wise today. Modern faith leads you and me into a saving relationship that lasts eternally.

We don't need to find a star in the east to worship in Bethlehem. Rather, we find the presence of the Messiah everywhere and at any time; access to God has no geological, ethnic, educational, political or financial boundaries.

As you go about your daily experiences, think of the wise men's focus. Fame, fortune or even mediocre profession winds up in a life like Herod, selfish and lonely. True faith-filled worship changes lives and makes us wise because it's not ours, it's God's.

Worship God always, that's wise.

# Voices of Lightning: "How do you save money?"



"I don't spend it."

Staff Sgt. Ricky Dewitt  
1101st GSU  
Military Police



"Through allotments going to my IRA, savings and CDs. I never see it."

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Bobby Register  
9th MSC  
Networks Current Ops Chief



"I have money stored from my deployment. It's my 'do not touch' fund."

Sgt. Ikaika Reyes  
456th Repl. Co.  
Wheel Mechanic



"I set aside a percentage of my paycheck. It automatically goes to savings, investments and TSP, so I never have it in hand."

Maj. Stevie Smith  
9th MSC, HHC  
Commandant



"Every time I get paid I put 5-10 percent in savings."

Master Sgt. Norene Tunstall  
9th MSC, HHC  
Senior HR NCO

# Safe practices net extra training holidays for Soldiers

**STAFF SGT. CRISTA YAZZIE**  
U.S. Army, Pacific, Public Affairs

HONOLULU — U.S. Army, Pacific, Soldiers without safety violations can look forward to a training holiday in the new year.

Lt. Gen. John M. Brown III's U.S. Army, Pacific (USARPAC), Commanding General's Safety and Occupational Health Plan for 2008 allows units down to the battalion level to give Soldiers a training day off for every 100 days without a safety violation and an additional day off for every 300 days without a safety violation, as deemed by the individual command.

Capt. Ronald Hogsten, company commander and safety officer, USARPAC Special Troops Battalion (STB), recently made use of the plan and worked both incentives into the battalion schedule.

"We took that guidance and wrote it into our own [Standing Operating Procedure]," said Hogsten. "For us, since the

policy had a 100 day and 300 day, and we had the outstanding safety performance of over 300 days accident free, we got a three-day and a four-day weekend."

According to the policy, units deem a specific goal for their 100-day achievement, such as no accident deaths or no driving-under-the-influence convictions.

"One thing units can base their policy on is the fatalities sign on post," said George Phillips, U.S. Army, Pacific, director of safety and occupational health. "When you see that sign as you drive off post, the intent is to key the following information into your brain, 'don't be the one to break this record.'"

Based on that sign, or whatever commands deem sufficient for their unit's official safety SOP, he said, commands can decide to have training holidays.

"I think it's a good incentive for Soldiers, they definitely keep track of it, and they don't want to be the reason why we're not getting a pass," said Hogsten.



Spc. Carlos Guzman | 2-11th Field Artillery Regiment

From left to right — Maj. Gen. Benjamin Mixon, commander, 25th ID, ties the green streamer for safety excellence onto the guidon of the 2-11th FA's Headquarters and Service Battery, as Lt. Col. Stephen Myers, 2-11th battalion commander; Billy Chestnut of the Installation Safety Office; and Capt. Roger Miran look on, Feb. 10, 2006.

According to Roger Stone, 25th Infantry Division safety manager, Brown's safety message also holds commanders responsible.

"We don't know how people are going to be killed, but we try to prevent it," Stone said. "This plan is leadership driven, from the top down. Having a training day to reward Soldiers is just such an incentive."

This incentive seems to be working.

"Having a day off helps people think before they go out and do reckless things," stated Pfc. Jennifer Stevenson, who works for USARPAC STB, and was a recipient of a training holiday due to her battalion's safety performance. "They look at it as receiving a reward for preventing something bad from happening."

For more information about this or other safety issues, contact individual unit safety office or call the 25th ID Safety Office at 655-6454.

## News Briefs

Send news announcements for Soldiers and civilian employees to [community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com](mailto:community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com).

### 4 / Today

**Fort Shafter Gate Changes** — Gate guards now direct all vehicles with Department of Defense (DoD) decals entering Fort Shafter's Buckner Gate to the right lane during peak hours.

Vehicles without DoD decals will be directed to the left lane for inspection. Peak hours are 6-9:30 a.m. and noon-1:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Drivers are asked for their patience and cooperation while these efforts are underway to alleviate traffic delays and congestion. Call 438-2859.

**Access Control Procedure Change** — In an effort to mitigate installation traffic congestion

during peak hours, the following change to U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii (USAG-HI) access control procedures is in effect: All access control personnel will no longer physically handle and inspect identification cards between the hours of 5:30-9:30 a.m. and 11:30-1:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. This applies to all USAG-HI Army Installation Access Control Points (ACPs).

During the above stated hours, ACP guards are not required to touch/hold vehicle occupant ID cards to verify identification. Vehicle occupants may hold their identification cards within clear view of the guard to facilitate positive identification and permission to access the installation in an expedited manner.

However, ACP personnel are required to look at the ID card picture to verify vehicle occupant identity for all vehicle occupants. Should any question arise as to the validity of the ID card, ACP personnel still retain the authority to physically handle the ID.

**Wheeler One-Way Traffic** — There will be one way traffic between Dans Road and Whitman

Road, Wheeler Army Air Field, today through Jan. 8. To alleviate Wheeler's parking constraints, the Directorate of Public Works (DPW) will be restriping for one-way parking.

During the restriping process, there will be intermittent street closures on Santos Dumont Avenue for safety purposes. Other areas on Santos Dumont Avenue will remain two-way traffic. Call 656-1288.

### 5 / Saturday

**Kawamura Gate Weekend Closure** — Wheeler Army Air Field's Kawamura Gate (off of Kamehameha Highway) will be closed for maintenance from 5:30 a.m., Jan. 5, until 5:30 a.m., Jan. 6.

Drivers accessing Wheeler should use Kunia Gate (Kunia Road) as an alternate. Kunia Gate is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Call 656-2482.

### 14 / Monday

**Parking Lot Closure** — The parking lot adjacent to Building

505, the Fort Shafter Youth Center, will be closed Jan. 14-21 for repaving. Call 438-9281.

### 15 / Tuesday

**Oahu North Community Town Hall** — The next Town Hall meeting for the Oahu North community will be held at the Sgt. Smith Theater, Schofield Barracks, Jan. 15, at 6:30 p.m. The town hall provides information about community events, security, housing updates, deployments and much more. A sign language interpreter is available. Call Melvin Wright at 655-0497.

### 16 / Wednesday

**Post Exchange Meeting** — The next Fort Shafter Post Exchange Meeting for the Oahu South community will be held Jan. 16, 10-11 a.m., at Room 201C of the Aloha Center, Fort Shafter.

All Fort Shafter community members are invited to attend. Input is encouraged. Call Rosey Stone at 438-6147.

### 17 / Thursday

**Prayer Breakfast** — There will be a prayer breakfast at the Nehealani, Schofield Barracks, Jan. 17, 6:30-8 a.m., in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.

### 25 / Friday

**Volunteer Ceremony** — The next 25th Infantry Division Quarterly Volunteer Ceremony will be held at the Battle Command Training Center (BCTC), Jan. 25, at 10 a.m.

## Ongoing

**Wives of the Warriors** — The Military Council of Catholic Women (MCCW) at Aliamanu Military Reservation (AMR) Chapel meets each Thursday at 9:15 a.m. in the chapel for its fall Bible study,

"Wives of the Warriors." The focus of this Bible study is learning to live confidently in Christ as a military spouse.

On-site child care will be provided for STACC-registered children at least 9 months old. Nursing babies are welcome; however, RSVP for child care. Call 836-4599 or e-mail [MCCWHawaii@yahoo.com](mailto:MCCWHawaii@yahoo.com).

Sessions will be held in the Main Post Chapel on Schofield from 9-11:30 a.m. Free on-site child care is available by reservation. Call 206-8504 for more information.

**CIF Appointments** — All personnel are required to make an appointment for all initial issues and turn-ins. Call 655-9876 for information on partial turn-ins and direct exchanges.

# Extensions, redeployment, Fort Shafter celebrates its centennial and Chief of Staff of the Army visit among highlights of the year

# 2007 Year in Review

## JANUARY

Army Hawaii commands kicked off 2007 as they had ended 2006: with safety messages and with a stand-down, Jan. 26. Commanding General, U.S. Army, Pacific (USARPAC), Lt. Gen. John M. Brown III, said the service "loses too many Soldiers to speeding, driving under the influence, failure to wear seat belts, and to unsafe motorcycle operations." The stand-down aimed to "enhance drivers' skills and awareness of the importance of safe driving," said Bill Maxwell, U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii (USAG-HI), transportation safety manager.

Meanwhile, in true Iron Chef style, Army chefs competed in the 2007 Team Hawaii Culinary Tryouts at B Quad, Schofield Barracks.

Installation Management Command-Pacific, or IMCOM-Pacific, bid aloha to its director during a Flying V ceremony at Fort Shafter. That same day at Honolulu Hale, city hall, Mayor Mufi Hannemann and the Honolulu Council Navy League honored seven military spouses for "serving as the main source of communication for families whose loved ones [were] serving our country overseas."

Rounding out the month, Col. Howard J. Killian, former commander USAG-HI, introduced the basics of Lean Six Sigma, a business improvement model, to garrison employees during a town hall assembly.

Army Hawaii Family Housing (AHFH) launched "Synergy," Saving Your Nation's Energy, to educate residents about energy conservation and their roles and responsibilities, and the chapel community hosted the Wives of Warriors Worldwide Conference at Helemano Military Reservation.



Hawaii Army Weekly Archive Photo

Firefighters from the Federal Fire Department Station 14 pry and cut away crushed metal during a sobering simulated rescue demonstration of the Jaws of Life and other tools designed to extract someone from a car wreck at the Motor Vehicle Safety Day, Jan. 26.

## FEBRUARY

Sustainability took center stage in 2007, especially in military housing. Through the Department of the Army's Residential Communities Initiative (RCI), developer Actus Lend Lease showcased numerous sustainable features of modern home design — such as the largest solar-powered residential community in the world at Kalakaua Community, Schofield Barracks.

Hawaii Governor Linda Lingle joined former commander, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, Maj. Gen. William Brandenburg, and Killian, to dedicate the 1st Lt. Nainoa K. Hoe Battle Command Training Center (BCTC), Feb. 9. Hoe, 27, was fatally shot by a sniper in 2005, while patrolling streets in Mosul, Iraq. The \$27.2 million BCTC is a state-of-the-art combat simulation training center.



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

**Tree's company** — A branch from an Albizia tree near Schofield Barracks' Headquarters Building received a cushioned landing care of one employee's Jeep, Feb. 2. However, the unwired "passenger" still didn't qualify the employee for the HOV lane.

## MARCH

The State of Hawaii's Senate and House of Representatives adopted separate resolutions to recognize Fort Shafter's centennial, March 9, 2007. The proclamations honored USARPAC's role in the Asia-Pacific region, with Homeland Defense, and as one of the state's largest employers.

The Pohakuloa Training Area (PTA) received the Military Conservation Partner Award for 2006, which recognizes military installations that have made significant achievements in natural resource conservation through partnerships and cooperation, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Also in March, Hawaii Army Family Action Plan (HAFAP) delegates "reported out" their findings in four separate areas: base op-

erations, force support, community and family services. "I didn't realize how much emotion we had on this issue until we sat around and talked about it," delegate Genie Brainerd said about the pet policy. Among other quarrelsome issues were parking, housing, child care, and security.

Most contentious in March, however, was the closure of Lyman Gate, Schofield Barracks. Closing one of the installation's main traffic arteries caused congestion at four other gates and in the Canby housing area.

The month finished on high notes. Capt. Anthony Barbina, 66th Engineer Company, snagged the prestigious Gen. Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award. In Fort Lee, Va., Team Hawaii took second and third place honors in field cooking and culinary bowl at the 2007 U.S. Army Culinary Arts Competition.



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

Lt. Col. Michael Browder, left, commander, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, pins a Purple Heart medal on Sgt. William Price during a ceremony at Schofield Barracks Tropic Lightning Museum, March 14.

## APRIL

April 1, the Department of Defense (DoD) announced it would extend two Hawaii-based units, approximately 1,000 Soldiers, who were supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) 06-08: Headquarters, 25th Infantry Division (ID) and 25th Special Troops Battalion. By April 11, DoD had revised the policy: "Effective immediately, active Army units now in the Central Command area of responsibility and those headed there will deploy for not more than 15 months and return home for not less than 12 months," Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates, said during a Pentagon news conference.

The news came the second day of duty for the 36th Chief of Staff of the Army (CSA), Gen. George W. Casey Jr.

Anticipating the announcement, the 25th ID and USAG-HI hosted several town hall meetings to address concerns and ensure families were aware of numerous resources available to support them.

Early April, Spc. Steven Rovelsat of Army Dental Activity, Hawaii, emerged from a grueling five-day competition at Fort Sam Houston and Camp Bullis, Texas, as Soldier of the Year, U.S. Army Medical Command.

About mid-April, USAG-HI reopened Schofield's historic C Quad, home to the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 25th ID, with the latest amenities. The Army's Whole Barracks Renewal Program required transformation of the facilities to comply with 21st century building codes, antiterrorism and force protection standards.

Most IMCOM-Pacific civilians spiraled into the National Security Personnel System, or NSPS, April 15.

In the first three weeks as new CSA, Casey and his wife, Sheila, traveled to Army installations around the country on fact-finding missions. During his stop in Hawaii, April 26-28, he visited wounded Soldiers at Tripler Army Medical Center, interacted with family members at Fort Shafter and Schofield Barracks, talked to noncommissioned officers at the academy, toured numerous facilities and participated in several briefings.

## MAY

For the third straight year, the 66th Engineer Company, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT), dominated the Best Sapper contest at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., May 1-3. Staff Sgt. Erasmo Flores and 1st Lt. Colby Krug achieved their objective, "to come back and win it," Flores said.

Part of an Army-wide initiative to strengthen families and address the high divorce rates occurring in the Army, the Unit Ministry Teams of the 8th Theater Sustainment Command (TSC) hosted a Strong Bonds Retreat in early May.

May 8, DoD released another OIF announcement. Ten brigades, among them the 2nd SBCT, would deploy by the end of 2007. Before the month ended, the 25th Transportation Company, 8th TSC, departed for Iraq.

Mid-May, the USAG-HI Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers, or BOSS program, received recognition as the best in the Army. Sgt.



John Reese | U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii, Public Affairs

Sen. Daniel Inouye, right, assists as the garland ribbon is unweaved by Danny Akaka, Jr., left, to officially open the 6.5-mile segment of Saddle Road, at Pohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island, May 29.

Danielle Colson of Installation Troop Command and local BOSS president, said, "We have exceeded our volunteer levels. In our BOSS, we submitted 4,599 volunteer hours [in community service projects]."

For the first time ever, President George W. Bush hosted a presidential joint commissioning ceremony for 55 Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) cadets. Army ROTC Cadet David Song from the University of Hawaii-Manoa received his commission from Bush.

At PTA, a 6.5-mile segment of Ala Mauna Saddle Road, part of a much larger project that began in the early 1990s, finally opened, May 29. The Army contributed \$60 million to the project that required cooperation of local, state and federal agencies.

The Corps of Engineers and the Directorate of Public Works, USAG-HI, netted many awards at the 2007 Excellence in Federal Government Awards Luncheon, May 31.

Rounding out the month, Schofield's Hui O' Na Wahine and Fort Shafter's Hui O' Wahine military spouses clubs donated a combined total of \$57,000 in college scholarships and welfare grants.

The Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR), USAG-HI, hosted a "Picnic, Pool & Penguins" extravaganza to support military families of Soldiers deployed to Iraq.

## JUNE

Like May, June was full of significant events. Then Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Marine Gen. Peter Pace, visited Hawaii June 5 to give face-to-face reasons why he extended deployments in Iraq to the family members of impacted Soldiers. He invited spouses to ask questions without fear of whether concerns would embarrass him or hurt his feelings, and they did, in numbers.

When Casey visited Hawaii in April, he outlined seven initiatives for balancing strategic requirements and resources across the Army. In June, then Brig. Gen. Belinda Pinckney, commander, Family and MWR Command, came to Fort Shafter to address Casey's second initiative: enhance the quality of life support to Soldiers, family members and civilians.

"It's crucial today that we get [support for families] right ... because family members are making so many sacrifices," Pinckney said to senior spouses at the Hale Ikena.

At Schofield Barracks, the Army Community Service's (ACS) Family Advocacy Program released new guidelines for child supervision. The policy set the age for babysitters at 14 and older; it restricted unsupervised play by children under 10 years old.

USAG-HI established vital partnerships to keep 1,129 acres of land at Pupuake-Paumalu coastal bluff permanently protected from development.

Typical of the summer months, many units held changes of command to formally pass authority from one commander to another. Several activations, reintegrations and deactivations occurred, too, among them, the 29th & 84th Engineer Battalions under 8th Military Police, June 13, and Special Troops Battalion under USARPAC, June 15.

Then June 19, Debra Zedalis became the second region director of IMCOM. June 27, command of USAG-HI passed from Killian to Col. Matthew Margotta, and the same day, Col. Todd McCaffrey took command of the 2nd SBCT.

However, family members received the best news; the 45th Sustainment Brigade returned home from Iraq, June 26.

A new Federal Fire Department opened at Schofield Barracks, and Fort Shafter officially celebrated its centennial during June.



Pic. Nathan Porter | U.S. Army, Pacific, Public Affairs

The American Belles singing group perform during Fort Shafter's centennial celebration on Palm Circle, Fort Shafter, June 22.

## JULY

Three alternatives for permanently stationing the 2nd SBCT emerged when the Department of the Army (DA) announced the availability of its Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) in July: Schofield Barracks Military Reservation; Fort Richardson, Alaska; and Fort Carson, Colo., as well as a "no action" alternative.

Dr. David S.C. Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, toured commands in Hawaii during a visit to attend a conference. "Our people tend to possess little experience in making the financial decisions that will impact their financial well-being and their financial future," he said. Chu re-emphasized the "Military Saves" campaign, which urges service families "to build wealth and not debt."

The 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command welcomed a new leader, and the 65th Engineer Bn. reactivated under the 8th Military Police Brigade, 8th TSC.

DA recognized 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, 25th ID, as the best aviation unit in the service, July 10. Before the month ended, the Association of Defense Communities selected AHFH as the recipient of its 2007 Private Sector Catalyst Award.

Keeping tradition alive, the Wolfhounds of 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 2SBCT, enthusiastically welcomed four orphans from Japan's Holy Family Home to Hawaii for a weeklong visit. Six Wolfhound families took turns hosting the orphans, part of a custom started 50 years ago.

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) officially opened the new state-of-the-art Schofield Barracks post exchange, July 25. The \$32 million complex more than doubles the old facility in size, with a food court.

During the assembly of Wahiawa-Whitmore Village Neighborhood Board #26, members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars donated 4,000 phone cards to Soldiers of the 2nd SBCT, for use during their upcoming deployment.

## AUGUST

The Army CSA returned to Hawaii, Aug. 3, he and his wife, Sheila, witnessed the immediate impacts of new family support initiatives, notably hiring new family readiness support assistants and Child Development Center improvements.

Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC) continued to place tremendous emphasis on taking care of wounded warriors. TAMC was not implicated in shocking care reports at military hospitals, in the wake of the Walter Reed AMC scandal.

The 8th Human Resources Sustainment Command activated, and days afterward, the unit began deploying along with two other 8th TSC units. The 9th Regional Readiness Command, (which became the 9th Mission Support Command, Oct. 1), however, welcomed home the Army Reserve's 657th Area Support Group.

The Noncommissioned Officer Academy at Schofield received distinguished recognition as an Institution of Excellence by the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy, Fort Bliss, Texas, the highest level of accreditation in the Army.

Retired Master Sgt. Jerry D. McKinney was inducted as honorary sergeant major at 27th Infantry. He will carry on the legacy began by legendary Sgt. Maj. Hugh O'Reilly with Japan's Holy Family Orphanage.

Yet, the month ended on a somber note. More than 600 Tropic Lightning Soldiers, veterans, family members and government representatives gathered to remember 10 Soldiers who perished in a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter crash in Kirkuk, Iraq.



Aiko Brum | U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii, Public Affairs

Command Sgt. Maj. William "Dan" Hain, (left), battalion sergeant major, 1-27th Inf. Regt., accompanies retired Master Sgt. Jerry D. McKinney (center) during the inspection of troops at McKinney's induction ceremony as the second honorary sergeant major of 27th Inf. Regt., 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Aug. 14, at Schofield Barracks.

## SEPTEMBER

The 25th Combat Aviation Brigade began returning home in early September; numerous other 25th ID units, including elements of 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team and the 25th ID headquarters redeployed later in the month.

Meanwhile, USARPAC encouraged its 1,000 eligible captains to apply for a \$35K bonus, by extending their initial active duty obligation to support the war on terror. Reservists were encouraged to aid recruiting for a \$2K bonus.

In civilian news, IMCOM learned that the January 2008 government-wide pay increase would be divided equally between base salary adjustments and performance bonuses.

## OCTOBER

The BOSS program and family readiness group volunteers took the time to make homecomings special for single Soldiers living in the barracks. Soldiers walked into their rooms to find fresh linens on the bed, handmade pillowcases stating they were "a hero," and well-stocked refrigerators, among other amenities.

Command of the 8th TSC passed from Maj. Gen. William H. Brandenburg — who continues duties as deputy commanding general, USARPAC — to Brig. Gen. Raymond V. Mason, Oct. 18.

USAG-HI increased the number of motorcycle safety classes, to keep up with demand from returning Soldiers and to emphasize safe-riding practices.

Garrison's DMWR debuted Oktoberfest, a German-themed celebration, to support military, civilians and family members in Army Hawaii.

The 25th ID commander returned to Hawaii, Oct. 30. "The mission, of course, was very difficult," Maj. Gen. Benjamin R. Mixon said. "[However,] we made great progress in the area of governance and security."

Also Oct. 30, the 2SBCT officially deployed. "The nearly 4,000 Soldiers ... are prepared to answer this unit's second call to duty in the last three years," Col. Todd McCaffrey, brigade commander, said.



Molly Hayden | Pacific Media Publishing

Amy Henderson, family readiness group advisor 3IBCT, STB, places candy in bag for Soldiers redeploying. BOSS and FRG members donated time and resources to create a warm welcome home for single Soldiers.

## NOVEMBER

Nov. 1, Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Richard Cody joined other dignitaries to officially sign the Army Family Covenant at Schofield Barracks. "This is a commitment by our Army to take care of you while your Soldier is deployed," Cody said.

Complementing the new initiative, Army Community Service announced new funding available for spouses to attain degrees or credentials in selected career fields. Also, the Army allotted approximately \$1.3 in funding to hire 33 family readiness support assistants in Hawaii.

Meanwhile, key military spouses of each service were recognized by Mayor Mufi Hannemann at Honolulu Hale and during the University of Hawaii's Military Appreciation Night at Aloha Stadium, Nov. 10.

USAG-HI and AHFH began opening new homes at Aliamanu Military Reservation. The Army found three pieces of unexploded ordnance during a sweep of Makua Military Reservation in November.



Sgt. 1st Class Jason Shepherd | U.S. Army, Pacific, Public Affairs

Gen. Richard Cody, Army Vice Chief of Staff, signs the Army Family Covenant during a ceremony held at Schofield Barracks, Nov. 1.

## DECEMBER

Dec. 3, USAG-HI's Installation Safety Office detonated the unexploded ordnance found at Makua in November.

The garrison commander hosted two Workforce Town Hall assemblies at Schofield and Fort Shafter, Dec. 3-4, to outline the garrison agenda and answer questions.

Soon after, garrison directorates rallied to recover from the turbulent storms that swept Oahu through Dec. 5.

To commemorate sacrifices made on behalf of America, the military community paused to remember the tragedies of Dec. 7, 1941, during the anniversary of the infamous date at Soldiers Chapel, Schofield Barracks.

The Hawaii Department of Education announced it would receive an additional \$4.9 million in federal funding to pay for educational costs of students of military and federal government employees.

Mid-month, two reserve units redeployed to Fort Shafter Flats, the 456th Replacement Detachment and the 428th Automotive Repair Platoon. Army Hawaii bid aloha to Brig. Gen. Steve Jones, the new commanding general of Pacific Regional Medical Command and Tripler; Brig. Gen. Robert Brown, 25th ID deputy commanding general for support and 25th ID Command Sgt. Maj. Billy Thompson.

Before the year ended, the Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) revised gate operating hours and traffic flow to accommodate the return of the division's 7,000 Soldiers, and DPW began projects to create additional parking spaces at Wheeler Army Air Field.

In total, the 25th ID in Hawaii lost 70 warriors to Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom in 2007.



Kyle Ford | U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii, Public Affairs



Photo Courtesy of 84th Engineer Battalion

Top — A civilian picks her way through the fallen tree to a building on Wheeler Army Air Field, Dec. 5, after a storm. The storm created gusts of wind greater than 50 mph, pushing down electrical wiring, trees and lightposts.

Above — Members of the 84th Engineer Battalion clear trees and debris from a housing area on Schofield Barracks after a storm, Dec. 5. The storm downed trees and power lines leaving many without electricity for days.

# Vote: Options abound for making a difference

CONTINUED FROM A-1

what state they are eligible to vote in. If a Soldier is stationed in Hawaii, where does he or she vote? What about a Soldier's family? Where does it vote?

According to the federal voting assistance guide Web site, a Soldier's legal voting residence is the state or territory where he or she last resided in prior to entering military service or the one claimed as the legal residence. For example, if you joined the military from Virginia and have never claimed a new state of residence afterward, your voting residence will be Virginia. Again, check with your unit's VAO for more information.

There are two ways you can vote, according to the U.S. Army voting Web site. You can vote by getting in a request for an absentee ballot or you can register to vote in the state where you are stationed.

"The key is time," Brown said. "You need to get that request in early enough to make that process happen."

Again, it's every citizen's responsibility to get out there and vote. Whether or not you want to be a part of the solution is up to you.

"I strongly urge you to exercise your right to vote," Brown said. "You should be a part of the process that selects the leaders our great nation. Make your vote count."

# Newcomers: Ho Ike a 'win-win' for community

CONTINUED FROM A-1

"It's a win, win-win situation," Pugh said. "The Army wins because the Soldiers and families get information on MWR and other services. The Soldiers and families win, literally prizes. The ACS likes it because they get more Soldiers to the newcomers briefing. And the sponsors like it because they get face time with the Soldiers."

Even though sponsors play a big part of the MWR briefing, Pugh was clear there was singular goal to MWR luncheon, "The point is one thing, that is to tell the Soldiers what MWR is and the services we offer."

Throughout the day Soldiers and family members learned about ACS and other services through games that get people engaged in the material. They learned about financial planning through a game of Financial Jeopardy, based on the television show, and learned about deployment issues through charades.

More than 110 Soldiers and family members attended the Ho Ike.

"[The briefing] gives people the information that they need to know about Hawaii. It's better to learn now than later somewhere else. Or offend someone," said Spc. Edward Bumamanglag, 8th Military Police Brigade. "I like the format ... too. It keeps people interested. Better

than sitting through a bunch of speakers."

"It was a good briefing and I appreciate the food," said Sgt. Stan Livingston, Replacement Detachment, who has been in Hawaii a week. "Who can complain about free food?"

Family members also enjoyed the briefing.

"It helps make me a more informed spouse," said Eunice Cruz.

"[The briefing] gave me a lot of information, a lot more than I had before," said Sherry Mathias. "And we get to meet new people and make new friends."

Newcomers Briefings are held Thursdays at Schofield's Army Community Service, Building 2091, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Call 655-4ACS(4227).

# Aid: TAMC physicians bridge medical gap in Bangladesh

CONTINUED FROM A-1

developed countries, but frequently progress to cause major problems when left untreated.

"We literally had people who came in blind from advanced cataract disease and were able to see after surgery," said Maj. Brett Nelson, the

team's ophthalmologist.

The team offered specialty surgical services that are typically unavailable to Bangladeshi patients, and trained Bangladeshi doctors to perform these surgeries. Army physicians from both countries worked accomplish this task.

"There were sometimes two U.S. and two

Bangladeshi physicians around a patient in surgery at one time," said Sgt. Melissa Aschenbrenner, a surgical technician. "By the end of the mission, the Bangladeshi doctors were able to do a lot of the surgery on their own."

*(Editor's Note: Lt. Col. Christopher Klem is assigned to Tripler Army Medical Center.)*

HAWAII **ARMY** WEEKLY

# PAU HANA

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

"When work is finished."

FRIDAY, JANUARY 4, 2008



# Talking hands

## Wanna Hula teaches the art of hula dancing

Story and Photos by  
**MOLLY HAYDEN**  
Staff Writer

HONOLULU – Imagine the feeling you get from doing your favorite activity – that rush from riding a motorcycle, the laughter from hanging out with your best friends, or perhaps, the quiet peace from reading a good book.

Sarah Chang, manager, Wanna Hula, encourages students to generate this feeling while dancing hula during her weekly class.

"The ultimate goal is to understand the song's meaning and dance with so much heart, passion and aloha," Chang said to her small class of hula dancers. "So much, that your audience can feel it and starts to smile too."

Chang has been dancing hula and Tahitian hula since the age of five. She feels that teaching her extensive knowledge of hula will help women everywhere unleash the power and happiness that comes from the native dance.

"We dance primarily auana and hapa haole hula to keep the tone happy and introduce everyone to the art of hula," said Chang. "We provide a comfortable environment for all skill and commitment levels."

Mina Porcelli swings her arms and hips to interpret a mele in a newly learned hula dance. Hula is a native dance of Hawaii and embodies the essence of cultural traditions.

Wanna Hula wants to share some fun and aloha by sending a \$10 hula lesson gift certificate to military wives whose husbands are deployed.

Gift certificates are redeemable toward:

- Homecoming celebration private hula lessons to surprise your husband
- Child's group birthday party hula lessons
- Girls' night out group hula lessons
- Hula DVD: Hula lessons in the comfort and privacy of your own home.

For more information, contact Sarah Chang at 677-7341 or e-mail [info@wannahula.com](mailto:info@wannahula.com)

The small group of women gracefully stepped across the wooden floor with soft music that rang from the CD player. Their hands and arms gestured in a rhythmic motion as Chang directed and explained each movement.

"This is great exercise and so much fun," said student Elaine Takata. "The

class is very supportive and it makes me feel closer to the traditions here in Hawaii."

According to Chang, the term hula refers to movement and gestures. She explained the movements in a hula dance are based off of mele, or poems. The hula dance does not tell the story in its entirety, but rather interprets key aspects of the mele.

Hula dancing is the essence and spirit of Hawaii and embodies the life form it represents.

"It is a powerful and meaningful dance," said Chang. "It allows people to be in touch with the Hawaiian culture while having fun."

The movement each dancer makes represents many facets of nature, including, plants, trees, war, wind, fire and water. The hula uses the entire body to express the meaning of the dance – hands, feet, eyes, posture – all have a place in interpreting the story.

"Every moment has purpose," said Chang.

There are many types of Polynesian dances, however, the hula is one of a kind and completely different than other dances in this area of the world. Originally, the hula was used for rituals and ceremonies. As some institutes still practice this timely art, the hula has changed over time and is now commonly associated with entertainment.

# Operation Best Wishes brings aloha to deployed loved ones

Story and Photo by  
**CHRISTINA DOUGLAS**  
Staff Writer

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS – With three cameras aimed in his direction and a microphone attached to his shirt, 5-year-old Dillon Etsitty was feeling a bit shy. "Say 'Hi dad,'" his mom, Vernora Etsitty, encouraged.

"Hi dad," said Dillon. "Say 'I miss you,'" said Vernora. "I miss you," repeated Dillon. "Ask him if you can put the Xbox 360 in your room," said Telisha Spencer, Dillon's 15-year-old sister.

With a mischievous grin, Dillon looked into the cameras and asked, "Dad, can I have the Xbox 360 in my room?" More than 50 families recorded webcast greetings for their deployed loved ones through Operation Best Wishes at the Nehelani here, Friday.

Operation Best Wishes is a credit union-sponsored program that affords families the opportunity to record and send webcast greetings to deployed family members.

The program is produced through a partnership of the corporate credit union, WesCorp, and the Defense Credit Union Council, an organization of credit unions whose membership consists of Department of Defense personnel.

"This is the first year Schofield [Federal Credit Union (SFCU)] has done this and it's been very successful," said Donna Hatico, administrative assistant to the president of SFCU.

Hatico said all 45 of the slots for the event were booked in advance, but no one was turned away. Within the first three hours, 17 walk-ins had signed in.

Vernora Etsitty and her four children were one of the walk-ins. Her husband, Spc. Theran Etsitty of the 225th Brigade Support Battalion, deployed last month.

"This is his first deployment, so this is all new to me," said Vernora.

Though they initially used a webcam, the Etsitty family plans to communicate primarily via telephone during deployment.

"I just want him to be able to see all of us and know that everything is under



Janice Flick and her 22-month-old daughter Alana record their webcast greeting for deployed husband and father, Staff Sgt. Brandon Flick, at Schofield's Nehelani, Friday.

control," said Vernora.

During the recording, the Etsitty family sent love, shared what they received for Christmas and of course, asked about all-important Xbox configuration in the house.

**On The WEB** Learn more about Operation Best Wishes at [www.operationbestwishes.com](http://www.operationbestwishes.com).

"Every family is different," said Ken Lyall, communications manager, WesCorp. "It's just amazing to be a part of this. We've had baby's first steps, special announcements ... Every family brings their own level of uniqueness."

Each family recorded their greeting for up to 10 minutes in WesCorp's mobile webcast studio. Participants e-mailed access links and passwords, enabling loved ones to log in to the Operation Best Wishes Web site and watch their recordings live, or watch the archived recordings any time for the next six months.

"We all know what it's like to be separated from loved ones over the holidays,"

said Lyall. "Anything we [WesCorp] can do to bridge the gap is rewarding."

This year, each family received two DVDs of the recorded greeting – one for the family, one to send to the deployed family member.

Janice Flick, the wife of Staff Sgt. Brandon Flick, uses a webcam to communicate with her deployed husband as often as she can. Her 22-month-old daughter, Alana, is going to be three by the time her husband returns. Janice said she doesn't want to miss out on any opportunities for Brandon to see his daughter as she's growing up.

Brandon, a staff sergeant with the 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, has missed both of his daughter's Christmases because of deployments. However, because of Operation Best Wishes, he's didn't miss seeing his daughter this December.

"We miss you and we love you so much. We're always here for you," Janice said in her webcast.

Janice said the webcast's production quality was much better than a normal webcast.

"It's helping families," she said.



**4/Today**

**"Starlets"** – Performing Arts introduces a rhythm and motion class for 2-year-olds with parent participation beginning Jan. 4. Cost is \$33 per month.

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

**7/Monday**

**Active Parenting Class** – Army Community Services (ACS) New Parent Support Program will offer a one-day class for parents of children ages 1-4 starting Jan. 7. Classes will be held the first and third Monday of every month at ACS Room 1, Schofield Barracks, 9-11 a.m. Call 655-1670 for registration.

**8/Tuesday**

**Free Baby Sitting Class** – Youths age 12 and older are invited to attend a free babysitting class, Jan. 8, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Classes will be held at SKIES Unlimited, Schofield Barracks. Participants must be a member of CYS or be enrolled in SKIES Unlimited to participate. Call 833-5393 or 655-8380.

**Special Needs Sibling Workshop** – ACS Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP), in partnership with Hawaii Army Family Housing, will offer a one-day workshop for siblings of special needs children at the Kalakaua Community Center, Schofield Barracks, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Jan. 8, for ages 6-11; and Jan. 10, for ages 12-17. Siblings will be given tools to navigate challenges and an opportunity to celebrate the unique gifts of their special needs brothers and sisters. Call 655-4777, 655-0596 or 655-4791 for registration.

**9/Wednesday**

**Free First Aid Class** – Youths age 14 and older are invited to learn First Aid, Jan. 9, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Classes will be held at SKIES Unlimited, Schofield Barracks. Participants must be a member of CYS or be enrolled in SKIES Unlimited to participate. Call 833-5393 or 655-8380.



Col. Wayne Shanks | U.S. Army, Pacific, Public Affairs

**Just roping around**

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Alan Clark, 7, a Tiger Cub from Pack 442 of Fort Shafter, crosses a rope bridge during 'Cub Scout Days,' a cub scout program provided by the 25th Infantry Division and the Boy Scouts of America's Aloha Council, near Area X, Dec. 27.

**Make Valentine's Cards** – Family members of deployed Soldiers are invited to make free Valentine's Day cards, at the Sgt. Yano Library, Schofield Barracks, Jan. 9, at 3 p.m. Call 655-8002.

**11/Friday**

**Hawaii Championship Wrestling** – Enjoy a great night of wrestling at the Tropics, Schofield Barracks, Jan. 12, 6-9 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m. Cost is \$5 for ages 12 and over, \$3 for 11 and under, free for five and under. Call 655-5697.

**16/Wednesday**

**Letter Writing at the Library** – Support our troops by writing letters of appreciation to deployed Soldiers. Children 6 years old and over, and adults are invited to Aliamanu Military Reservation (AMR) Library, Jan. 16, at 3:30 p.m. Call 833-4851.

**After School Snowy Tales** – Celebrate the wonders of winter at the Fort Shafter Li-

brary, Jan. 16, at 3 p.m. Enjoy interactive stories and make your very own winter wonderland snow globe. Frosty fun for kids ages 5-12. Call 438-9521.

**Ongoing**

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

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

Call the Schofield Barracks ITR office at 655-9971, the Fort Shafter ITR office at 438-1985, or visit [www.mwrarmy-hawaii.com](http://www.mwrarmy-hawaii.com). Click "ITR Ticketing and Reg-

istration" for a full list of discounts at various attractions.

istration" for a full list of discounts at various attractions.

**SKIES Driver Education** – Learn to drive with SKIES at Valentine's Driving School, Schofield Barracks. This session, which is taught by qualified instructors, includes 32 hours of classroom instruction and six hours of behind-the-wheel instruction. Cost is \$295 and must be paid at the time of registration. Call 655-9818.

**Paint It & Take It** – Ceramic parties offer a unique way to celebrate get-togethers, coffees, children's birthday parties, showers or any occasion. Your arts and crafts center provides a varied selection of ceramic bisqueware to paint and take home. Call 655-6330 at Schofield Barracks or 438-1315 at Fort Shafter.

**Fort Shafter Thrift Shop** – Browse the Thrift Shop for your holiday decor. Normal business hours are Tuesday and Friday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and consignment hours are 9-10:30 a.m.

Donations and volunteers are always welcome. The Thrift Shop is the main fundraising venue for the Fort Shafter Hui'o Wahine Spouses club. All profits are donated to charities and scholarships in the military and local community. Call 842-1074 or visit Building 342, Pierce St.

**HMR Teen Lounge** – The Helemano Military Reservation (HMR) Teen Lounge, located inside the HMR Youth Center, is now open Monday-Friday, 2-6 p.m.

If you are attending grades 6-12, the Teen Lounge is the place to go after school. The lounge offers daily activities, including tournaments, sports, video games, crafts, games and volunteer opportunities. A nutritious snack is offered each day.

The program is free except for the annual CYS registration fee of \$18. Call 655-0451 or 653-0717.

**Preschool Story Times** – The MWR Libraries have Story Time at 10 a.m., Tuesdays at Fort Shafter (438-9521); Wednesdays at the Sgt. Yano Library, Schofield Barracks (655-8002); and Thursdays at the AMR Library (833-4851).

**Salvage Yard Auto Sales** – Fort Shafter and Schofield Barracks salvage yards will be sponsoring sealed bid auto sales twice a month. Bidding will end on the first and third Saturdays of each month, and the highest bidder will be notified the following day.

A minimum bid will be marked on each auto that is for sale. Call 655-9368 at Schofield Brracks or 438-9402 at Fort Shafter.

Queen's Surf Beach, Waikiki, Jan. 19-20. After the sun goes down, watch a movie on the big screen, right on the beach. Food booths open at 4 p.m. and the movie start at 6:30 p.m. Call 923-1094.

**20/Sunday**

**Parade of Champions** – Cheer on the University of Hawaii football team and coaches at the Parade of Champions, Jan. 20. The parade starts at 4 p.m. down Kalakaua Avenue, ending at Sunset on the Beach, with special program to follow.

**24/Thursday**

**Magic Lessons** – The Hawaii Magicians Society holds free beginners magic lessons at Kalihi-Palama Public Library Community Room, 1325 Kalihi Street, every fourth Thursday of the month, 6-7 p.m. Topics include card magic, rope magic, how to make our own production boxes, magic tables and more. Call 234-5262 or visit [www.hawaiimagic-club.com](http://www.hawaiimagic-club.com).

**Ongoing**

**Preschool Story Time** – Parents and children ages 3-5 are invited to sing songs and read stories at Wahiawa Public Library, Wednesdays, at 10 a.m. Call 622-6345.

**Baby Boot Camp** – Pre- and post-natal women can maintain a healthy weight during and after pregnancy at Baby Boot Camp. Classes are available island-wide. Call 689-6668, or visit [www.babyboot-camp.com](http://www.babyboot-camp.com).

**Ballet for Beginners** – Learn the art of ballet at W Performing Arts Center, 823 Olive Avenue, Wahiawa, Wednesdays, 4:30-6 p.m. Cost is \$60 per month. Call 779-8709.

**Waipahu Market** – The Waipahu Festival Marketplace is open 7 a.m.-6 p.m. daily at Waipahu Depot Road, offering fresh fish, produce, crafts, refreshments and island-made products. Call 677-6939.

**Strollerstrides** – Are you a mom looking to get into shape? Strollerstrides offers a fitness program for mothers who can get in shape, accompanied by their young children. Classes are 8:30-9:45 a.m., Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at Central Oahu Regional Park; and 8:45-10 a.m., Mondays and Wednesdays at Kapolei Regional Park. Call 358-7335.

to start off the new year right by getting rid of recyclables? Support Boy Scout Troop 32 by bringing your recyclables to the Mililani Park and Ride, 95-1101 Ukuwai Street, Mililani Mauka, for the 35th Aloha Aina Earth Day Recycling Community Cleanup, Jan. 5, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Accepted recyclables include scrap metal, appliances, auto parts, metal beams, bicycles, newspaper, cardboard, beverage containers, usable clothing and household items such as old tires, car batteries, cell phones and more.

Curbside pickup will be available. Call 623-8769 or 306-1876.

**Statewide Prayer Watch** – Come together to worship, fast and pray for the needs of our state, nation and the world at the Aloha Stadium, Jan. 5, 4-6:30 p.m. Doors open at 3 p.m.

The prayer focus will include the government, military, education, businesses, communication and media, families, churches, public servants, prisons and more. This event is sponsored by the Prayer Center of the Pacific (456-PRAY) in association with the Network of Christian Churches.

**8/Tuesday**

**Tango, Swing and Rumba** – The Pearlridge Chapter of the Hawaii Ballroom Dance Association registers students Jan. 8, 15 & 22 at Waimalu Elementary School cafeteria (98-825 Moanalua Road) for classes in tango, West Coast swing and rumba. Lessons will be held Tuesdays, Jan. 8-March 18. Call 836-4579 or 488-3935.

**Story Time in Mililani** – Mililani Library will host story time Jan. 8, 15, & 22, at 10:30 a.m. There will also be sing alongs and crafts. Call 627-7470.

**Beginning Square Dance** – Learn how to square dance at Asing Park, which is located at 91-1450 Renton Road, Ewa Beach. Classes are Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m. Cost is \$20 for five classes. Register by the first day of class, Jan. 8. Call 681-6435.

**9/Wednesday**

**Bestsellers Reading Group** – The next Bestsellers reading group meeting will be held at Borders in Waikale, Jan. 9, at 7 p.m. Borders Waikale hosts three monthly reading groups: Bestsellers, second Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m.; Romance Readers Anonymous, second Thursday of the month, at 6:30 p.m.; and International Women's Writing Guide, first and third

Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m. Call 676-6699.

**11/Friday**

**"Encore!" Hawaiian Music Series** – The Hawaii Theatre Center (HTC) continues its 85th anniversary "Encore!" series special presentation with an array of Hawaiian music concerts produced by Burton White, HTC's artistic director and general manager.

The series begins Jan. 11 with "The Makaha Sons," a group known for the past three decades for its vibrant sound full and rich with harmonies. Tickets are \$35 at the HTC box office.

Other concerts in the upcoming series include the "New Traditionalists," Feb. 8, \$30; "The Brothers Cazimero," March 14, \$35; and "Holunape," April 25, \$30. Call 528-0506, or visit [www.hawaiitheatre.com](http://www.hawaiitheatre.com). All tickets are subject to a \$3 theatre restoration charge. Discounts available for HTC members, youth, students, military with ID and groups of 10 or more. All concerts are at 8 p.m. at the Hawaii Theatre, 1130 Bethel Street.

**15/Tuesday**

**Literature Awards Nominations** – The Hawaii Literary Arts Council is accepting nominations for the 2007 Elliott Cades Awards for Literature. Cash prizes awarded to two winners. Entrants should include a letter summarizing the writer's accomplishments and samples. Deadline is Jan. 15. Call 263-5627.

**17/Thursday**

**MLK Celebration** – The 45th Sustainment Brigade will host a Martin Luther King Day celebration at Sgt. Smith Theater, Schofield Barracks, Jan. 17, 11 a.m.-noon. Call 655-4802.

**18/Friday**

**Leilehua Blood Drive** – Leilehua High School will host a blood drive at the school library Jan. 18, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Call 622-6550.

**MTA Movie Night** – The Mililani Town Association (MTA) will host a family movie night at Rec Center III, Jan. 18, at 7 p.m. Admission for MTA members is \$2 for individuals and \$5 for families. Nonmembers pay \$4 or \$7. Call 623-7300.

**19/Saturday**

**Sunset on the Beach** – Enjoy live entertainment, food, crafters and more at the



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

**4/Today**

**Christmas Tree Recycling** – Still have your Christmas tree up? Recycle your tree at the Army Recycling Center, Building 1087-B, McMahon Road, Schofield Barracks, Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. All ornaments, decorations and stands should be removed. Call 655-0011.

Trees may also be dropped off at any of the seven Oahu Refuse & Recycling Convenience Centers. These centers are open seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Oahu Convenience Center locations and phone numbers:

Ewa, off of Geiger Road. Call 226-2996. Laie, call 293-8714.

Wahiawa, intersection of Kamananui Road and Wilikina Drive. Call 621-3648.

Waianae, off of Plantation Road. Call 696-4203.

Waimanalo, off Hihimanu Street. Call 259-7182.

Waipahu, off Waipahu Depot Road. Call 676-8878.

Kawailoa, off Kawailoa Road. Call 637-5511.

**Career and College Fair** – Leilehua High School is looking for speakers and exhibitors for their upcoming 2008 Career and College Fair, which will be held April 23.

The purpose of the fair is to help students explore different careers, colleges, and other post-secondary options.

Interested participants must submit a response form no later than March 1.

Call Janet Hyrne at 622-6554, or e-mail [janet\\_hyrne@notes.k12.hi.us](mailto:janet_hyrne@notes.k12.hi.us).

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

**5/Saturday**

**Recycling Community Cleanup** – Want



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

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

**Fort DeRussy Chapel, 836-4599**

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

**Fort Shafter Chapel, 836-4599**

- Contemporary Protestant Sunday, 9 a.m.-"The Wave" Worship

**Helemano (HMR) Chapel**

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

**Main Post Chapel, 655-9307**

- Catholic Sunday, 9 a.m.-CCD & RCIA Collective Protestant Sunday, 10:30 a.m. – Sunday School
- Gospel Sunday, 10:30 a.m. – Sunday School

**MPC Annex, Building 791**

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

**Soldiers Chapel**

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

**Tripler AMC Chapel, 433-5727**

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

**Wheeler Chapel**

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



**Beowulf**

(PG-13)  
Friday, 7 p.m.  
Thursday, 7 p.m.

**Lions for Lambs**

(R)  
Friday, 9:30 p.m.

**Mr. Magorium's Wonder**

(G)  
Saturday, 2 p.m.



**Enchanted**

(G)  
Saturday, 7 p.m.  
Sunday, 2 p.m.

**Martian Child**

(PG)  
Wednesday, 7 p.m.

# Tropics rocks Christmas Eve

Story and Photo by  
**KYLE FORD**  
Staff Writer

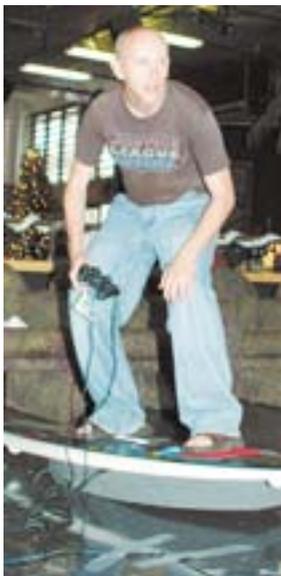
SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — 'Twas the night before Christmas ... and the Tropics was rockin.' More than 200 Soldiers who were away from their families were treated to a Christmas Eve party that included a dinner, presents, various activities and music from 4-9 p.m. at the Tropics Community Center.

In the "Over the Holidays" section on pages B-3 through B-5, the Hawaii Army Weekly highlights events where Soldiers and families made a difference during the holiday season.

Dinner included turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, stuffing, beans, corn and four tables full of desserts. The Tropics even supported redeploying Soldiers of the 66th Engineer Company, providing to-go boxes for incoming flights.

Since the Tropics was one of the few facilities open on Christmas Eve, several families new to Hawaii also joined in the festivities.

"This is the best event I've been to since coming to Schofield," said Pfc. Godwin Oblitey, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 325th Brigade Support Battalion. "I hope to be to many



Sgt. Jacob Louwse, an analyst with 25th ID Plans and Analysis, catches a wave on the surfing simulator during the Single Soldiers Holiday Dinner at Schofield's Tropics Community Center, Dec. 24.

more events like these."

According to Sgt. Danielle Colson, Hawaii Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS) president, these events allow single Soldiers and Soldiers away from their families to get out of the barracks and interact with the community and become a family of single Soldiers.

"It allows single Soldiers to be single Soldiers," she added.

"[The dinner is] good not only for the single Soldier but my family is ten-thousand miles away and Christmas sucks when you don't have family [here]," said Staff Sgt. Cheyenne Saho, 25th Replacement Detachment.

Some of the evening's main activities included a surf contest on a video game simulator, a Texas Hold'em tournament and an impromptu dance contest. The dance contest began when a few Soldiers took turns showing their moves on the dance floor, and escalated to an all out dance "battle."

Attendees received a T-shirt and a ticket for a door-prize drawing and every Soldier who stayed won a present. Presents ranged from inexpensive movies to an iPod.

"I thought this would be a good way to help out," said family member Cheryl Carr-Wilson, who volunteered to help at the dinner. "Volunteering is great we need to give back to the community otherwise you don't have anything."

Volunteers from BOSS, Morale Welfare and Recreation, Island Paintball, East Coast Productions, as well as the staff at the Tropics, helped make this a memorable event said Shanee Giltner-Baptista, Tropics manager.

"I just heard for the eighth time that this was one of the best Christmas parties on base," Giltner-Baptista said.

## Deployed families get extra Christmas toys

Story and Photo by  
**DARLENE MARSHALL**

Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation Deployment Programs

In the spirit of giving, a nonprofit organization based out of California made its mission to deliver toys to children of U.S. Army Hawaii Soldiers who are currently deployed.

The Toys for Troops' Kids organization was created in 2003 by the California Republican Veterans of America Veteran's Club. To recognize the extreme sacrifices deployed parents in the armed serv-

ices make during the holidays, the organization strived to provide toys to children of service members in the California area.

Based on the success of their 2003 year, the Toys for the Troops' Kids Organization has since expanded their support to Arizona, Hawaii, Nevada, and Washington. In 2006, U.S. Army Hawaii received its first shipment of toys from the organization and distributed them to the children affected by the

**SEE TOYS, B-5**



Soldiers and Lunapuni students and faculty pose with Santa during the Lunapuni Elementary School Holiday Program, Dec. 19.

## 94th AAMDC spreads holiday joy

Story and Photo by  
**SGT. CHRISTOPHER J. ROBERTS**

94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER — 'Tis the season for giving, and this holiday season the open hearted troopers of the 94th Army Air Missile Defense Command did just that.

The unit's Soldiers and family members donated a total of 176 volunteer hours during the holidays. Activities ranged from donating toys to feeding the homeless, to singing to veterans in the center for aging and children hospitalized at Tripler Army Medical Center, to providing assistance to the Linapuni Elementary School Christmas program. Soldiers and family members also donated food, time and gifts.

The 94th AAMDC chaplain team, consisting of Chaplain (Col.) Vance P. Theodore and Sgt. 1st Class Russell A. Matteo, chaplain's assistant, organized the events, which spanned more than a week:

- The unit began the holidays, Dec. 14, with a macaroni and cheese donation drive and run. The run was canceled due to inclement weather, but the spirit

was still there. More than 260 boxes of mac & cheese and canned goods were collected and distributed to the Wheeler Army Air Field YMCA to assist military families during the holiday season. Needy military families also benefitted from the more than 220 toys the unit collected during its Toys for Tots drive.

- Five days later, Dec. 19, the unit participated in the Lunapuni Elementary School Holiday Program. Six Soldiers, including two chaperones, volunteered for this field trip. At the same time, volunteers took part in the River of Life Mission. Here, ten Soldiers and four family members distributed presents and served food to more than 200 homeless people in Chinatown.

- The next day, Dec. 20, the 94th AAMDC collected 50 plastic shoe box-sized containers filled with candy, games and toys, and delivered the containers to children who were hospitalized over the holiday season at Tripler Army Medical Center's pediatric ward. Also that night, a combination of 23 Soldiers and family members volunteered to spread the holiday spirit Christmas caroling.

# Army Hawaii community bids aloha to two generals

Mixon thanks two leaders for their devotion, service

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

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS – Friends, family and honorary guests gathered at Sills Field to bid farewell and also welcome two highly respected brigadier generals of the 25th Infantry Division (ID), Dec. 17.

Maj. Gen. Benjamin R. Mixon, commanding general, 25th ID, recognized Brig. Gen. Francis J. Wiercinski, outgoing deputy commanding general (support), and Brig. Gen. Robert B. Brown, incoming deputy commanding general (support), at the event.

Wiercinski, who also served as the deputy commanding general (support) for Task Force Lightning in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08, will leave Schofield Barracks to assume his new role as deputy commander of U.S. Army, Pacific, at Fort Shafter.

Mixon commended Wiercinski for his hard work and dedication during the 25th ID's most recent deployment and wished him and his family well at their new assignment.

"As I see it, we were successful because we had leaders like Frank Wiercinski on our team," Mixon said. "I was truly blessed to have the greatest team of all-star Soldiers ever assembled to enable me to command this division during 15 months of combat; and Frank was a star on the all-star team. Frank, thanks for all you have done for me, our Soldiers, our



From left to right, Brig. Gen. Frank Wiercinski, Maj. Gen. Benjamin Mixon and Brig. Gen. Robert Brown salute while the national anthem plays during a farewell ceremony for Wiercinski. Brown replaced Wiercinski as the 25th Infantry Division's deputy commanding general for support.

nation and the mission we did in Iraq. There is no way that I can express it in words today other than to let you know you have my deepest gratitude for your service."

Wiercinski, whose first assignment was with the 25th ID in 1980, has deployed in support of Operation Just Cause, Panama and Operation Enduring Freedom in

Afghanistan. Before departing Schofield Barracks however, he paid tribute to his Tropic Lightning family as he addressed the crowd.

"It was an honor in 1980; it is a greater honor in 2007," Wiercinski said. "The 25th has written tales of glory, we can always add another story and I am just so

proud I was part of that next story."

Wiercinski's wife Jeanine was also honored for her hard work and contributions in assisting support groups for Soldiers and their families.

"Earlier we recognized Jeanine for her work in the community, particularly the

Hui O' Na Wahine and also I should point out with the Red Cross, [family readiness groups], and numerous other groups," Mixon said. "She provided excellent advice and assistance to those groups and made a difference in our community. Jeanine, thank you very much for your untiring support to our Soldiers and their families."

Mixon also recognized Brown as the incoming deputy commanding general and provided him and his family a warm welcome.

"We gain another great Soldier in the tropic lighting team," Mixon said. "He is a perfect Soldier to come into the division at this time as we continue to prepare our units to return to fight in the war on terror. Welcome to you and your family, we look forward to serving with you over the next couple of months."

Brown, who has previously served with the 25th ID, has deployed in support of Operation Uphold Democracy, Haiti, Operation Joint Forge, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Speaking to guests at the ceremony, Brown paid tribute to the 25th ID's rich history and his appreciation for again joining such a time-honored division.

"Patty and I are absolutely thrilled to be back in the Tropic Lighting division, the best division in the Army," Brown said. "We really look forward to helping write the next chapter in the great history of this division and it is just an incredible honor to be here among these magnificent Soldiers."



#### 4/Today

##### **Eight-Man Soccer League**

The Sports Office at Schofield Barracks is now accepting applications for teams to compete in the 2008 Intramural Soccer League. Active duty Army units within the geographical limits of Hawaii may each enter one team.

Entries, which are due Jan. 4 at 4 p.m., can be sent to U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii, Sports Fitness and Aquatics Office, Stop 112, Building 556, Kaala Community Activity Center. Entries may also be faxed to 655-8012. Call 655-0856/0101 or visit [www.mwrarmyhawaii.com](http://www.mwrarmyhawaii.com).

**Football Bash Clinic** — Current and former NFL, university, and high school players and coaches

will be conducting the 3rd annual Football Bash Clinic, Jan. 26, at Aliamanu Military Reservation (AMR) Field.

Meet players from the Pittsburgh Steelers, Denver Broncos, Philadelphia Eagles, Miami Dolphins and Jacksonville Jaguars, to name a few.

The \$40 cost includes a T-shirt, snack, drinks and gift bag. Registration is today through Jan. 23, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., at the following locations: Bennett Youth Center (Schofield Barracks), AMR Youth Center and Fort Shafter Youth Center. Late and walk in registration will be accepted on a space-available basis.

Call 655-6465, Bennett Youth Center, or 836-1923, AMR Youth Center. Visit [www.armyhawaii-outhsports.com](http://www.armyhawaii-outhsports.com).

#### 8/Tuesday

##### **Armed Forces Bowling Championships**

— Come watch the best of the best compete and cheer on your team Jan. 8-11, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Schofield Barracks Bowling Center. Call 655-0573.

a.m.-2 p.m. Call Ron Pate at 589-2646.

##### **Great Aloha Run Training Workshops**

— Runners participating in the upcoming Hawaiian Telcom Great Aloha Run are invited to train in a series of free workshops directed by Dr. Christiane W. Christ at Kapiolani Park Bandstand at 7:20 a.m. every Sunday prior to race day.

Training is progressive and spans over a total of nine weeks. Training groups are divided into runners, joggers, walkers and run-walkers. Each workout is comprised of a warm-up, training run/walk, stretching, cool down and question & answer session. Training and health topics include: how to train injury-free, how to fuel for great workouts, how and when to train for endurance and speed, how to recover from training, what to wear for the race, and the logistics for the race.

To learn more about the training workshops, call Dr. Christ at 943-0309. For all Great Aloha Run inquiries, call 528-7388 or visit [www.greataloharun.com](http://www.greataloharun.com).



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

#### 5/Saturday

##### **Tennis Fund Raiser**

— The United Cerebral Palsy Association is hosting its annual doubles tennis tournament for players at the 3.0-4.5 levels at the Central Oahu Regional Park, Jan. 5, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Entry fee (\$25) includes food, beverages and goody bags. Call 532-6744, or visit [www.ucpahi.org](http://www.ucpahi.org).

#### 6/Sunday

**Bob and Ron's 5K** — Run Bob and Ron's 5K at Kapiolani Park, Jan. 6. Online registration has already closed. Late registration is \$20 for members, \$30 for non-members and \$35 for registering the morning of the race. Packet pick up is at the Running Room, 819 Kapahulu Avenue, Jan. 5, 10

# Religious center christened

Over the holidays

STAFF SGT. CRISTA YAZZIE,  
U.S. Army Pacific Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER — The Fort Shafter Religious Activities Center, a new nondenominational religious center, was officially opened Christmas Eve with a cutting of a ceremonial ribbon and a candlelight service.

Brittany Elizabeth Shaw, 11, daughter of Master Sgt. Nathan and Lisa Shaw, cut the ribbon, ushering applause and smiles from the audience. Also participating in the ceremonial ribbon cutting were Lt. Gen. John M. Brown III, commander, U.S. Army, Pacific, and Fort Shafter Installation Chaplain (Col.) Hanson Boney.

Boney presented the new center, Building 344, as "an ecumenical center for all faiths allowing all free access and exercise of their public and personal faith." Brown officially named it the Fort Shafter Religious Activities Center.

"As we dedicate this place, we remember all Soldiers, past and present, who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the freedoms we enjoy, especially in our great land, the freedom of religious expression," Boney stated in his opening prayer.

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Robert Powers, U.S. Army, Garrison, Hawaii, spoke during the opening.

"May our joining here this evening as people of many faiths and backgrounds, standing united in prayer, continue in this blessed circle of love as this building becomes a place for all to strengthen our faith," said Powers.

After the ribbon cutting, attendees partic-



Photo Courtesy of U.S. Army, Pacific, Public Affairs

ipated in a candlelight Christmas Eve Christian nondenominational service inside the center.

For more information about the Fort Shafter Religious Activities Center, call 438-0934.

## Toys: Donation makes holidays brighter for kids

CONTINUED FROM B-3



Soldiers sort and unload more than 2,000 toys which were donated to children of deployed Soldiers.

large deployments of the 25th Infantry Division, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, and several other smaller units.

This year, the organization provided more than 2,000 toys for children of deployed Soldiers with the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team and the 9th Mission Support Command. In coordination with the rear detachment commands, children affected by deployment in Samoa and outer islands also received toys in hopes to make the holiday season a little brighter.

For more information on the Toys for Troops' Kids organization and how to donate, visit [www.toysfortroopskids.org](http://www.toysfortroopskids.org). For more information on Family and MWR deployment programs, visit [www.bluestarcardhawaii.com](http://www.bluestarcardhawaii.com).