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Brothers in arms

Two brothers go their separate ways when one joins the Army. Four years later they meet in Iraq.

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South Town Hall

The Oahu South Community town hall meeting is Wednesday, at 6:30 p.m., at the Aliamano Military Reservation Chapel. Call 438-6147.

Wounded Warrior

The Soldier and Family Assistance Center will be renamed to Na Koa Puuhonua (Warrior Place of Refuge) at 2:30 p.m., Feb. 5, at Grant Hall (Building 692), Schofield Barracks.

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Splat attack

MWR's Paintball Hawaii opens with a bang and a mess of color at Wheeler Army Air Field, Saturday.

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The 58th Military Police Company forms up one last time, Jan. 12, before making the trek to Iraq to support Operation Iraqi Freedom.

58th MP Co. departs for Iraq

Story and Photo by
SGT. STEPHEN PROCTOR
17th Public Affairs Detachment

HELEMANO MILITARY RESERVATION — The 58th Military Police (MP) Company's parade field here is usually dark and silent on a Saturday night. However, the field was swathed by the yellow glow of portable stadium lights and the hum of generators filled the air, Jan. 12, as sad, but proud family members wished Soldiers well in their upcoming deployment to Iraq.

Members of the 58th MP Co. will head to the Diyala Province where they will train

Iraqi police and support maneuver operations, said 1st Sgt. Michael Cosper, the 58th MP Co's first sergeant.

"We've got about eighteen Iraqi police stations that we'll go into," said Cosper. "We will assess those stations, address any shortcomings, assist [the Iraqi police] in correcting those [shortcomings]... and train them on how to be police officers."

The work will be long and difficult, but Soldiers said they are ready for the mission.

"I know I'm going to be hot over there," said Spc. Marcus Burks, "but I'm looking forward to the experience."

Spc. Nicholas Kraft echoed similar sentiments.

"I want to get through it as safely as possible and get back home," he said.

Kraft's wife Sara agreed: "I'm upset that he's going, but he has a job to do. Hopefully he'll come home safe."

Coming home safe shouldn't be a problem for the 58th MP Co., Cosper said.

"This unit is more than prepared to go," he said. "We have trained almost nonstop for the last twelve months, we spent two months at the National Training Center... and we're more than ready to go. More than ready."

Schofield Soldier killed in action

25TH INFANTRY DIVISION
PUBLIC AFFAIRS
News Release

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — The Department of Defense announced Saturday the death of a Schofield Barracks Soldier who was supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Spc. Jon M. Schoolcraft III, 26, of Wapakoneta, Ohio, died Jan. 19, in Taji, Iraq, of wounds sustained when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device.

Schoolcraft was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Combat Brigade Team.

He joined the Army in June 2001 and was assigned to Schofield Barracks in June 2005.



Schoolcraft III

New system integrates pay and personnel

SGT. SARA MOORE
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The Army is preparing to launch a new pay and personnel system next year that will streamline personnel processes and integrate the active duty, National Guard and Army Reserve components, an Army representative for the new program said recently.

The Army Defense Integrated Human Resources System (DIMHRS), which is part of a Defense Department initiative, will be implemented Oct. 1, at all Army installations and within all service components, Army Col. Patrick

Devine, program director of DIMHRS, told online journalists and "bloggers" during a conference call.

DIMHRS is a commercial product that will take the pay and personnel data from all three components of the Army and put it in a single database accessible online 24 hours a day. A key feature of DIMHRS is that it integrates pay and personnel systems, which means that when a personnel action is taken, the system automatically will trigger any associated pay change, Devine said.

DIMHRS goes toward solving the problem of multicomponent

units, or those units made up of Soldiers from the active duty, National Guard and Army Reserve, Devine said. In the past, these units had to deal with six different personnel systems and three pay systems, he noted, and DIMHRS will consolidate those into one system.

A big benefit that DIMHRS will give National Guard and Army Reserve Soldiers is continuity of pay when they are mobilized, Devine said. In the current environment, National

Guard Soldiers go through five different sites from mobilization to deployment and have to complete paperwork and be certified at each location, he said. When DIMHRS is launched, all military pay will be handled in the one system and coordinated with personnel data, to avoid problems.

"In a DIMHRS environment, it's one record per Soldier for military

SEE LAUNCH, A-7



Army to retire BDUs for Army Combat Uniform

ELIZABETH LORNE
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The Army's Deputy Chief of Staff for G-1 (Personnel) announced this month that the final wear-out date for the Army Battle Dress Uniform and Desert Battle Dress Uniform will be April 30 for both active duty and reserve component Soldiers.

The Army began phasing out the woodland and desert-patterned uniforms June 14, 2004, with debut of the digital-patterned Army Combat Uniform (ACU).

"Our Army is always looking to constantly improve on everything we do, both on and off the battlefield," said Sgt. Maj. Katri-

na L. Easley, uniform policy sergeant major at G-1. "We took a look the combat usability of what was once a good uniform, and based upon feedback from the field, decided to improve it and fix the many problems reported. There were at least 20 changes made and the result is the current ACU.

"Response has been fantastic. Soldiers have adapted well to the new uniform and they tell us they truly appreciate the improvements that were made. This uniform was designed by Soldiers, for Soldiers."

All brown T-shirts, black combat boots and green and black jungle boots, woodland and desert-camouflage caps, olive-drab-green name and U.S. Army tapes, subdued-olive-

green shoulder-sleeve insignias and the black rigger belt and web belt with open-faced black buckle will also become obsolete April 30.

Active duty and reserve component Soldiers can continue to wear the black-knit cap and the black micro-fleece-knit cap with the cold-weather woodland-camouflage field jacket until Sept. 30.

The Army Reserve Officer Training Corps wear-out date for these items is April 9.

According to Easley, there haven't been any official surveys to determine how many Soldiers still have the BDUs or Desert BDUs, but she said it's probably hard to find many who aren't wearing the ACU.

Millions receive cost-of-living increases for Veterans Affairs benefits

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
News Release

WASHINGTON — Millions of veterans and eligible family members will see their disability compensation, pension and survivors' benefits increased as the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides an annual cost-of-living increase for key benefits.

"This increase ensures that those veterans who have earned this benefit for incurring a disability in defense of our country receive payments that keep pace with today's cost of living," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. "VA is committed to the needs of our veterans and their families. We owe America's defenders no less."

A recent law signed by President Bush provides a 2.3 percent increase in disability compensation and survivors' benefits. Eligible veterans and family members will see this increase starting in their January 2008 checks.

The VA spent more than \$337 million in Hawaii in 2006 to serve more than 102,000 veterans who live in the state. That same year, 17,527 veterans and survivors received disability compensation, dependency and indemnity compensation or pension payments in Hawaii.

Under the veterans' disability compensation program, tax-free payments will generally range from \$117 to \$2,527 per month, depending on the degree of disability. Special payments up to \$7,232 per month apply to the most severely injured veterans.

Also, pension disability benefits will be increased by the same percentage and be effective on the same date. The maximum annual rate for permanently and totally disabled veterans or veterans over age 65 can range from \$11,181 to \$18,654, based on household income and whether

veterans are in need of help with activities for daily living.

This increase also applies to survivors of veterans who died in service or from a service-connected disability. Dependency and indemnity compensation, survivors' benefit payments can range from \$1,091 to \$2,499 per month.

Survivors of wartime veterans receiving death pension are also entitled to an increase. The maximum annual payment rate for a surviving spouse can range from \$7,498 to \$11,985. Benefits under this program are intended to bring an eligible spouse's income to a level established by law.

Under each benefit program, additional allowances may be payable for helpless, minor or school-age children. For more information about VA benefits and services, go to VA's Web site at www.va.gov or call 1-800-827-1000.

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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21 days since last fatal accident

Number represents fatal accidents as defined by Army Regulation 385-10, which is inclusive of all active component U.S. Army units and personnel. Current as of 1/23/07.

25th CAB changes its command 'wings'

Story and Photo by
STAFF SGT. TYRONE MARSHALL JR.
25th Infantry Division Public Affairs

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — The reins of command changed for the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB), also known as "Wings of Lightning," during a ceremony at Sills Field, Jan. 17.

Maj. Gen. Benjamin R. Mixon, commander, 25th Infantry Division, hosted the ceremony as Col. Mike Lundy assumed command from Col. A.T. Ball.

Mixon recognized the 25th CAB's achievements during the recent deployment to northern Iraq.

"Simply put, I can say without hesitation, that the success achieved by Task Force Lightning in Iraq is, in large part, due to the actions of this brigade and its Soldiers," Mixon said. "Under the dynamic leadership of Colonel Ball, they prepared for deployment and went to the National Training Center (NTC), conducting one of the largest deployments of an aviation brigade to the NTC in recent history."

The Tropic Lightning Division commander described the brigade's performance under Ball's leadership as having "a vigor and aggressive spirit unmatched by any other combat aviation brigade."



Command Sgt. Maj. Roger Kingston (left), brigade command sergeant major, passes the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade's colors to Col. A.T. Ball, while Maj. Gen. Benjamin R. Mixon (right, foreground), commander, 25th Infantry Division, and Col. Mike Lundy, incoming commander, look on during the unit's change of command ceremony at Sills Field, Jan. 17.

"I credit the superb and hard-charging leadership of Colonel A.T. Ball, along with the outstanding Army aviators and Soldiers you see on the field, with breaking the back of the enemy resistance in Task Force Lightning's area of responsibility," Mixon said. "You have led this brigade magnificently." Ball thanked his family, friends, mentors,

support staffs and commanders before addressing the heart and soul of the brigade. "To the warrant officers, NCOs and Soldiers of the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, it is you that I have the most respect and appreciation for ... you are the pride of your generation — the next 'greatest generation' and you continue to

prove it with each passing day." The outgoing commander's leadership and camaraderie was not lost on his Soldiers and staff, especially his noncommissioned officers.

"He's one of the most intelligent people I've ever worked around," said Command Sgt. Maj. Roger Kingston. "Very innovative, [he] thinks way outside the box and he understands all these complex platforms that we use in aviation and integrated them to meet the division commander's intent."

The CAB's senior enlisted Soldier continued to describe Ball's work ethic and demeanor.

"He's very personable and his love and care for the Soldiers mirrors the same way I feel," said Kingston. "So it's been a joy to work with someone that understands it's not about rank or privilege; it's about responsibility."

When asked what he would remember most, Sgt. Josh Sneed, who worked directly for Ball as the brigade command group NCOIC, cited an intangible aspect of Ball's character.

"A lot of people don't see it, but just working with him, he's got a great sense of humor," said Sneed.

SEE CAB, A-7



Travel policy benefits families

GERRY J. GILMORE
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, — Military families now can travel on Defense Department-owned or contracted aircraft in Space-Available status without sponsors when their service members are deployed for 120 days or more, thanks to a recent policy change, a military official said.

Before the change, which became effective Dec. 6, family members of military personnel could only travel unaccompanied from an overseas location to the continental United States or travel within an overseas theater of operation, said Air Force Lt. Col. Michael Holmes, with the office of the assistant deputy undersecretary of defense for transportation policy.

The previous policy also restricted travel to just one round trip during the military sponsor's deployment period, Holmes said.

The intent of the previous policy, Holmes said, was to allow military families stationed overseas to return to the United States, where an extended family support structure could assist them, during their military member's deployment.

The new policy does not restrict travel just to families' homes of record within the United States, Holmes said. Spouses and dependents can fly Space-A in Category 4 unaccompanied to and from the states to overseas locales, within the U.S., and with-

in or between overseas locations, during the deployment time period, he said.

"We have a significant number of military personnel whose spouses and extended families may not reside in the continental U.S.," Holmes explained.

Military families can save considerable money by using Space-A flights instead of commercial airlines, Holmes said. However, family members under age 18 must be accompanied by an eligible parent or legal guardian, according to Defense Department documents explaining the new policy.

Family members using Space-A transport under the new policy also require a verification letter signed by the military sponsor's commander verifying the service member's deployment, according to Defense Department documents.

The Space-A travel program is a privilege, not an entitlement, and travel is not guaranteed, Holmes said. The privilege is extended to military family members in recognition of their support to the mission being performed by their sponsors and to enhance quality of life for service members and their families, according to Air Force Air Mobility Command documents.

LIGHTNING SPIRIT

Three 'R's can turn any hardship into an accomplishment

CHAPLAIN (CAPT.) ED WILLIS
Schofield Barracks Deputy Community Chaplain

One of my favorite childhood stories is the true story of a man named Poon Lim. A Chinese merchant marine, Lim set sail on the British merchant ship the Ben Lomond. On Nov. 23, 1942, the Ben Lomond was torpedoed and sunk by a German U-boat. What ensued was a heroic tale of survival, leading to record-setting 133 days at sea on an 8-foot square life raft.

The first thing Lim did was resolve to stay alive. He had to stay alive for hours afloat in the rough sea with nothing but a life vest. Then, he spotted the small life raft,



Willis

swam to it and climbed aboard. He rationed out his food and fresh water and figured that if he ate four biscuits and drank a few gulps of water a day, he could stay alive for about a month. Three times rescue seemed imminent. Once, a freighter passed by and later a U.S. Navy patrol plane buzzed his raft, but neither offered any assistance. Later, another U-boat surfaced but left him to

his fate rather than killing him.

These were the loneliest times for Lim, but rather than be discouraged, his resolve to stay alive only deepened. He decided he could only count on himself and that he would keep himself alive until he floated to land.

I find that many people have a difficult time maintaining such resolve when going through hard times. It is easy for them to give up. Give up on a career. Give up on a marriage. Give up on their dreams and ambitions or even give up on life itself.

The first step to surviving difficult times is to resolve to endure the hardship.

The second thing Lim did to survive was to be resourceful. When his food ran low, he took apart his flashlight and pounded the copper wire into a fishhook. He caught fish using pieces of biscuit for bait, and used pieces of fish to catch subsequent fish. He made a knife from a biscuit tin and cut the canvas off of his life vest to make a funnel to catch rainwater. He performed many other creative tasks to refashion what he had so he could acquire what he needed to survive.

We need to avail ourselves to whatever

SEE SPIRIT, A-7

Voices of Lightning: What adage or parental advice do you carry with you today?



"Honesty is the best policy, my dad used to always tell me."

Roxanne Chuck
AMCSS,
Fort Shafter



"Always listen to your kids, no matter what, even if they are wrong. Listen."

Pfc. Kari Lewis
USARPAC STB



"Always try to do the right thing."

Sgt. 1st Class
William
Northcut
8th TSC



"If you're good at what you do, you don't have to tell everybody. People automatically see it."

1st Lt. Tracey
Powell
A. Co., TAMC



"Don't be a fool; if someone offers you money, take it."

Spc. Andrea
Walsh
8th TSC

2nd Brigade takes charge of Taji area

SPC. AARON L. ROSECRANS

2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — The past week marked a significant change around the Taji area just north of Baghdad. New units have officially taken charge of the area of operation. The 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT), 25th Infantry Division (ID), officially took the reins from the 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, during a transfer of authority ceremony, Jan. 15.

Throughout the past 15 months, the 1st Bde., 1st Cav. Div., worked hard to create a secure environment for the local leaders and the Iraqi government by helping to rebuild essential services and bonds between leaders in the area.

Evidence of this progress was shown Jan. 10, when local leaders held a third installment of the Northwest Baghdad Regional Security Summit at the Sheik Support Center.

Col. Paul E. Funk, II, commander, 1st Bde., 1st Cav. Div., said when he and his brigade arrived in the area, it would have been impossible to hold a security summit where the local leaders could meet together and talk about security

in the area and the future of Iraq.

Col. Todd B. McCaffrey, commander, 2nd SBCT, 25th ID, congratulated Funk and his brigade for a job well done in the Taji area.

McCaffrey said he plans to continue to build a more secure environment for the government of Iraq and the local leaders to establish some stability in the region. In turn, the stable environment will allow for the Iraqi Police and the Iraqi Army to take over more of the operations that are currently supported by coalition forces.

An example of McCaffrey's confidence in the area's security, he went on a patrol through the Taji market, Jan. 14, and took the opportunity to talk to shop owners about their businesses.

Along with making the area stable, McCaffrey said he plans to bring more essential services, in an effort to improve quality of life for local Iraqi citizens.

Among other 2SBCT units holding transfer of authority ceremonies were 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment; 2nd Bn., 14th Inf. Regt.; 1st Bn., 27th Inf. Regt.; and Brigade Support Battalion.



Sheik Sabah, local leader of Hor al Bash, and Col. Todd McCaffrey, commander, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, discuss essential services during McCaffrey's personal visit, Jan. 12.

2nd Brigade begins dialogue with local sheik

Story and Photo by

SPC. AARON L. ROSECRANS

2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

TAJI, Iraq — In a continuing effort to reach out and build stronger relationships with local leaders, Col. Todd B. McCaffrey, commander of the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, made a personal stop to visit Sheik Sabah, local leader of Hor al Bash, a community outside Baghdad.

This trip was mostly just a meet and greet, but McCaffrey and Sheik Sabah discussed topics like essential services and traffic in the area.

The major essential service Sheik Sabah brought to the discussion was bringing electricity back to the community. The power lines were damaged a while back, but the community replaced the broken parts. The only thing that needed to be done was to have the lines hooked back up.

McCaffrey said if the local leaders could provide the supporting documentation from the government of Iraq, he would be happy to help them reattach the main power lines. The subject was one of the key topics discussed during the third installment of the Northwest Regional Baghdad Security Summit held Jan. 10.

"Right now, we have created a window of opportunity for the Iraqi government," McCaffrey said during the summit. "All they need to do is walk through that window and take advantage of this situation."

Reinstalling the power lines to Hor al Bosh would be another step toward improving the quality of life for the Iraqis of that area.

Brothers meet in Iraq after four years apart



Spc. Aaron L. Rosencrans | 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

Sgt. Michael Shaw (right) and his younger brother Spc. Ronald Shaw prepare a humvee for a quick reactionary force mission, Jan. 5. The Shaw brothers have been separated for the past four years but were reunited for a short time in Iraq, when their deployments overlapped.

Call of duty separates and then reunites two brothers

SPC. AARON L. ROSENCRANS

2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — Two brothers chose different paths after high school, but wound up in the same place. The first joined the Army to see the world, while the other went off to college to study the world.

Years after they said their goodbyes in their hometown of West Frankfort, Ill., their paths crossed here, 6,692 miles away, in Baghdad. Now, after being separated for more than four years, Sgt. Michael Shaw, field artillery specialist, 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, finally met up with his brother, Spc. Ronald Shaw, also a field artillery specialist, B Company, 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team.

“There’s a point ... where you have to step up and do something for your country, I chose field artillery ... [and] it’s been one of the most rewarding things I’ve ever done.”

*Spc. Ronald Shaw
2-11th Field Artillery Regiment*

“It took a lot of planning for me to meet my brother here when he arrived,” said Michael, “but my first sergeant and commander were very helpful in getting me to the landing zone to meet him when he arrived in country.”

Ronald said he was very surprised and overjoyed to hear his brother’s voice behind him as he picked up his baggage after landing in Baghdad.

“It is hard for me to describe how I felt when my big brother was waiting for me,” Ronald said. “All I can say is, I was extremely happy to see him after so many years.”

The brothers said this wasn’t the first time the family had multiple family members serving in the military simultaneously. They had two uncles who served as mortarmen together, and the call to serve the U.S. seemed to be felt the same



Staff Sgt. Jon Cupp | 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

Brothers Sgt. Michael Shaw (left) of 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cav. Div., and Spc. Ronald Shaw, 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, both field artillerymen, share in a Christmas dinner at Camp Taji, Iraq, Dec. 25.

throughout the generations.

“There’s a point and time where you have to step up and do something for your country,” said Ronald. “As it turns out, I chose field artillery, like my brother. It’s been one of the most rewarding things I’ve ever done.”

The two brothers laughed when they thought about how the Army was the reason for their separation and reunion.

“I thought it was ironic how he joined the active Army, and how it separated us in the beginning,” said Ronald. “Now, it has brought us together here.”

The brothers’ reunion was short lived, however. Ronald’s unit replaced Michael’s, so, the two brothers said they were spending as much time as possible together before they parted ways again. Both said they sacrificed sleep and personal time to

ensure they had ample time to catch up and say their goodbyes again.

Michael, the elder of the two, seemed to be looking out for his younger brother by ensuring Ronald was prepared to take control of his quick reactionary force mission.

Michael said he felt he should stick around during his brother’s deployment, just so he could have more of an influence on Ronald’s safety. The two brothers agreed that working close to each other in the future would be one of the best gifts they could receive.

“In field artillery, there are not too many duty stations you can be assigned to,” said Michael. “So maybe one day we will be lucky enough to be assigned to the same post, under different units. That would be nice.”



Retired Iraqi Gen. Georges Sada poses for a picture following a prayer breakfast at Schofield's Nehelani, Jan. 17.

Sada thanks Soldiers for their service and sacrifices

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

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Retired Iraqi General Georges Sada, a respected military commander during Saddam Hussein's reign in Iraq, spent the day telling his story to Soldiers here, Jan. 17.

Sada's morning began at a Nehelani prayer breakfast held in his honor. He spoke at a leader professional development conference later that morning.

Maj. Gen. Benjamin Mixon, commander, 25th Infantry Division, introduced Sada and said, "This is a live view of someone who has, as they say, been there and done that."

Though a former Iraqi air force general and advisor to Saddam Hussein, Sada told his audience that sending American troops to war was justifiable.

His opinions are outlined in his book, *Saddam's Secrets: How an Iraqi General Defied and Survived Saddam Hussein*.

Sada said he wanted to talk to U.S. Soldiers so he could describe Saddam's regime and the evil Saddam was building and preparing to expand. Sada said invading Iraq was the right move at the proper time.

"Only God knows what he [Saddam] was going to do," said Sada.

Sada also discussed some topics addressed in his book. One of the most controversial testimonies in the book deals with Saddam's elusive stockpile of weapons of mass destruction while he was in power. Sada said the weapons were removed only days before the coalition invaded in 2003.

"I never set out to write a book about these things," Sada wrote in his book. "I was only persuaded to undertake this project after a series of speaking engagements in America. ... I have decided that such a book may help the people of my country and shed new light on our situation" (*Secrets*, page 18).

Sada strongly believes great things are happening in Iraq.

"Time will only tell," he said. "But remember, all lives we have lost there, whether Americans or Iraqis, they were the sacrifices for a great cause and a great reason: to liberate a country from an evil dictatorship regime, and liberate twenty-seven million people. The Iraqis will never forget that for all their life," Sada said.

Sada's visit had a positive impact on the audience.

"I was really interested in what he had to say," said Spc. Jacob Mitchell, cavalry scout, A Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment. "It gave me an insight on why we're doing this war."

Mixon summed up a main point of Sada's visit: "Sada has explained today how important it is to finish this mission."

Only time will tell how the Iraq nation will develop. But for one former Iraqi general, who has asked Soldiers not to leave, the U.S. presence has already proven to be worth the fight and created hope for an entire country.

Soldiers honor Martin Luther King's legacy

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

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Few seats in Sgt. Smith Theater fell empty at a celebration in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. here, Jan. 17. Photographs of King in the foyer of the theater revived memories of the man who worked for racial equality and civil rights for the majority of his life.

Guest speakers lined the first row as Staff Sgt. Bernadine Holloway, 45th Sustainment Brigade, began welcomed Soldiers and civilians.

"Martin Luther King Junior left a lasting legacy," said Holloway. "Today, we celebrate the principles for which he fought."

King dedicated his life to equality and civil rights. At 33, he pressed the case of civil rights with President John F. Kennedy, and at 34, he captivated the nation with his "I Have a Dream" speech. King won the Nobel Peace Prize at the age of 35.

At 39, his life was cut short. King was assassinated, leaving behind a legacy of



Hundreds of Soldiers gather at Sgt. Smith Theater, Jan. 17, to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy of peace.

hope and inspiration that continues through today.

Guest speaker Chaplain (Col.) Hanson Boney preached King's ideals, stating that "a man of faith is a man of action." Afterward, another guest speaker, retired Iraqi Maj. Gen. Georges Sada, addressed the crowd.

"I hope the people of Iraq will use King as an example of how to live," said Sada. "To use the weapon of love to produce peace."

Sada praised the men and women of the armed forces for their work in Iraq, stating everyone should be proud of the service the U.S. provides the people of Iraq.

"You have fought and sacrificed," said Sada. "With your help, twenty-seven million of my people are free and on the right course of action for the peaceful dreams of Martin Luther King Junior to come [to fruition]."

A movie followed Sada's speech, providing a visual perspective of King's life and actions.

"The ceremony articulated the proper message of King in a way everyone could understand," said Master Sgt. Sophia Mendoza, 9th Regional Readiness Command. "It's about exerting yourself to make a change."

The crowd fell silent as Sgt. 1st Class Janice Miller, 45th Sus. Bde., sang "Precious Lord." The song was a favorite of King's and was sung at his funeral.

"We wanted to make sure Soldiers were aware of the contribution of King to the make-up and diversity of America," said Sgt. 1st Class Willie Harris, 45th Sus. Bde. "Today, we all came together to celebrate a man of great action."

ESL classes bridge language, cultural gaps for spouses

Story and Photo by
KYLE FORD
Staff Writer

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Imagine not being able to read the directions on an aspirin bottle or not knowing enough of the language to buy a cup of coffee.

Several dozen family members find themselves in this situation when they marry a U.S. Soldier, but the English as a Second Language (ESL) program, is designed to address this issue.

"They get here, and just as they get settled, their husbands get deployed. They don't know the language or anyone, so it's hard," Bonnie England, ESL instructor, explained.

The goal of the ESL class is to help students cope with the language and with cultural differences. Army Community Service (ACS), in partnership with Wahiwa Community Schools, offers Level 1-3 English language programs. The programs are aimed at people with little or no knowledge of English.

In the beginner classes, students learn the basics of English, such as introductions, money and sentence structure. The curriculum is focused on basic life skills, according to Charlyn Sales, program manager, Relocation, Readiness, Information and Reference.

"Most of our students understand English; they just want to be able to speak it well," Sales added.

Most linguists will attest that the most difficult part of learning a language is



Bonnie England, English as a Second Language instructor, gives Ari Toft, a family member from Thailand, one-on-one help at a ESL class, recently.

attempting to speak well. The second most difficult aspect is listening.

"It is easy to read and write, but hard to

listen or speak," said Lorena Trujinno, family member from Columbia.

"Normally, we have five to seven fam-

ily members regularly attending the course," Sales said. "There is a mixture of different languages, but mainly we serve

Hispanic language people. But there are also Asian people, from China, Korea and Laos."

"I think the most interesting language we had was a woman from Africa who only spoke Swahili," England said.

The students definitely appreciate knowing someone is available to help them navigate the English language and culture.

"I like teaching this class because they just appreciate it so much," England said. "They appreciate the help, and they work very hard to learn."

Ari Toft, a family member from Thailand, has been in the class for three weeks. Before she came to the ESL class, she only knew a little English.

Toft believes her English has improved, and she likes the way England helps students understand.

ACS resources are part of a multilevel language program, including beginner, intermediate and advanced. Currently, ACS offers a class Saturdays, from 9-11:30 a.m., but is looking to offer Monday and Wednesday classes this spring.

"We have a lot of spouses with differing ranges of English skill levels," Sales said. "If spouses are beyond the beginner level, they are referred to Wahiwa adult education."

Other facilities offering ESL include the Armed Services YMCA on Wheeler Army Air Field, Waipahu and Kapolei complexes for families on the leeward side, Moana Loa High School offers an adult education program for the south end.

News Briefs

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

25 / Today

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

160th Recruiting Team — The 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) recruiting team is looking for the Army's best Soldiers to join its elite forces.

The recruiting team is conducting a briefing at the 2-25th Aviation Regiment

Headquarters, Wheeler Army Air Field, Jan. 25, at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Briefings will include information on the 160th's mission, equipment, training, personnel assessment and selection. Family members are welcome to attend.

Call (270) 798-9819 or e-mail recruiters@soar.army.mil for more information.

30 / Wednesday

25th ID Relinquish of Command — Lt. Gen. John M. Brown III will host a relinquish of command ceremony honoring the departing 25th Infantry Division (ID) commander, Maj. Gen. Benjamin R. Mixon, and the interim 25th ID commander, Brig. Gen. Mick Bednarek, at Schofield's Sills Field, Jan. 30, at 10 a.m.

Oahu South Town Hall — The next U.S. Army Garrison, Oahu, Townhall Meeting for the Oahu South community will be held at the Aliamanu Military Reservation Chapel, Jan. 30, at 6:30 p.m. Call 438-6147.

Locality Pay Proposal — There is a briefing on the 2007 locality pay proposal from 9-10 a.m., at Bldg. 1554, 9th Ready Reserve Component Assembly Hall, Ft. Shafter Flats. Charles Grimes III, deputy associate director, Performance and Pay Systems, Office of Personnel, Management, Washington, D.C. and author of the 2007 Locality Pay Proposal to Hawaii is presenting.

31 / Thursday

Parking Lot Closure — The parking lot adjacent to the Fort Shafter Youth Center, Building 505, will be closed through Jan. 31 for repaving. Call 438-9281.

February

1 / Friday

USARPAC Change of Command — Lt. Gen. John Brown III, commander, U.S. Army, Pacific, will relinquish command to Maj. Gen. Benjamin Mixon at Fort Shafter's Palm Circle, Feb. 1, at 10 a.m.

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

4 / Monday

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

6 / Wednesday

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

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

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

Ongoing

Office Change — The Commercial Solicitation/Private Organization Office has transferred from U.S. Army Garrison, Oahu, to Directorate, Family & Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR). DFMWR is located at Building 547, 350 Eastman Road, WAAF. Hours of operation are 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Candy Cole, Management Control Branch, 655-0009.

Green to Gold — The Army Green to Gold Program is seeking qualified enlisted Soldiers who are interested in attaining their commission while completing their baccalaureate or master's degree. A program briefing is the last Wednesday of every month.

The current application window will be open until April 1, 2008. Call the University of Hawaii Army ROTC Warrior Battalion at 956-7766, or e-mail gblt@hawaii.edu.

Politics: Some actions prohibited

CONTINUED FROM A-2

in local nonpartisan political activities as long as they are not in uniform and the activity does not require government property or resources, interfere with official duties or imply government involvement.

However, they must refrain from participating in political activities while in uniform or while wearing official insignia, according to Curry, and avoid activities prejudicial to the performance of military duties or likely to bring discredit on the service.

Soldiers on active duty and Army civilians are prohibited from engaging in the following political activities:

- Using one's official authority to influence or interfere with an election;

- Soliciting votes for a particular candidate or issue and soliciting political contributions from others.

- Running for the nomination or as a candidate for election, to a partisan political office or holding such political office to include state or local civil office.

- Participating in partisan political management, campaigns and conventions or making speeches before a partisan political gathering, including any gathering that promotes a partisan political party, candidate or cause.

- Attending partisan events as an official representative of the armed forces or serving in any official capacity as a sponsor of a partisan political club.

- Displaying large political signs, banners or posters on private vehicles.

- Promoting political dinners or fundraising events, distributing partisan political literature, or conducting a political opinion survey under the auspices of a political partisan group.

- Participating in any radio, television or other program or group discussion as an advocate for or against a partisan political party, candidate or cause.

- Making a contribution to, or receiving a contribution from, another member of the armed forces or a federal civilian employee for the purpose of promoting a political objective or cause, giving speeches, writing articles or providing public comments, which contain political material in one's capacity as a service representative.

(Editor's Note: Chris Rasmussen writes for the Fort Jackson Leader.)

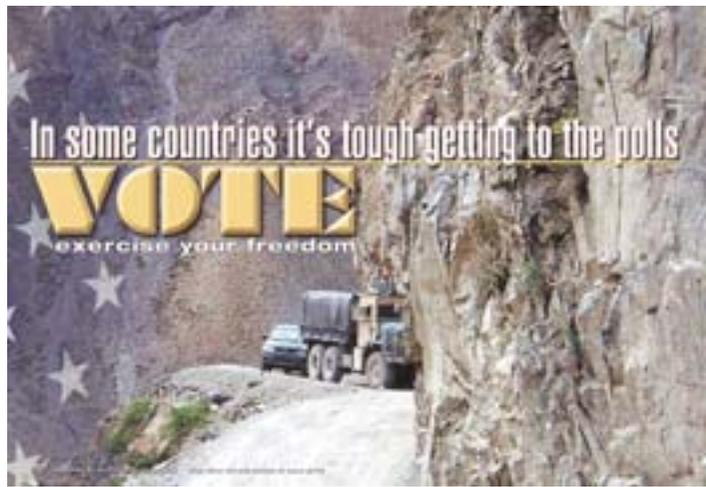


Photo Courtesy of U.S. Air Force

Although there are restrictions on service members and federal employees when it comes to political activities, all are encouraged to participate in the political process and vote.

Launch: Users can now make changes in system

CONTINUED FROM A-1

personnel and pay, so all that information is shared and it further expedites his entitlements and getting his compensation," Devine said.

A unique aspect of DIMHRS is that it will allow Soldiers to access their records and make certain self-service changes, such as a change of address or requesting a personnel action, Devine said. In this way, every Soldier will be a user of the system, and all supervisors, including Army civilians who supervise Soldiers, will be required to know the system so they can process leave requests, awards and evaluations, he said.

To prepare for the implementation of this new system, the Army is launching an ambitious training program designed to reach all installations, Devine said. The training team starts by briefing senior leadership on the program, he said, then moves to battalion- and brigade-level leadership, and then briefs human resources personnel, who

will be using the system the most.

The Army is also making distance-learning materials available for DIMHRS, and will be training Soldiers to be instructors on the system, Devine said. The DIMHRS Web site, at www.armydimhrs.army.mil, also will have all the training materials available to Soldiers, he said.

On the WEB
Learn more about the new system at www.armydimhrs.army.mil.

The Web site will include other helpful materials, such as a universal translator to help with commercial terms Soldiers may not be familiar with and workforce readiness packages that describe how each action was done under the old system and how it will be done under DIMHRS.

The Air Force will launch DIMHRS in February 2009, and the Navy has not set a date for implementation.

CAB: Lundy joins 'Wings of Lightning' family

CONTINUED FROM A-2

During the ceremony, Mixon welcomed Lundy, a former 25th ID commander, back to the command team.

"Colonel Mike Lundy is no stranger to high-performing units," said Mixon. "The Army could not have selected a more qualified aviator and leader to take charge of this great brigade."

Likewise, Lundy's Soldiers certainly don't anticipate any drop in performance.

"I believe he will continue to build on everything that Colonel Ball has started here," said Kingston. "I think we'll see him build on the training aspects of Soldiers. He'll have more time to train them."

Lundy spoke briefly during the ceremony and expressed his gratitude as he rejoined the Tropic Lightning family.

"I am honored and humbled and assure you the brigade will be ready when called," Lundy said. "Finally, to the Soldiers of the brigade - I am humbled to be counted among your ranks again. You epitomize the very best in Army aviation. You're combat-proven warriors, focused on a sole purpose, which is to provide lethal and agile aviation support to the Soldier on the ground, so he can survive, fight and win."

Spirit: Attitude makes odds favorable for success

CONTINUED FROM A-2

resources we have to get through our hard times. The Army has resources that can help us with anything we might be going through. Martial difficulties, financial difficulties, depression, work stress, education, addiction recovery - you name it and help is out there. Being resourceful and getting the help you need will indeed ensure that you will get through your difficulties.

The last thing Lim did to survive was to be resolute. He refrained from drinking seawater when he was out of fresh water. He refrained from eating too much at a time and prematurely exhausting his food supply. He also did what was right to keep himself alive. He swam daily to keep his body in

shape. He kept his mind active with his many survival projects. He even forced himself to drink the blood of a shark he caught to stay hydrated because he had been out of fresh water for sometime. (Yes, he caught a shark!)

Being resolute helped Lim make decisions that no doubt ensured his survival by avoiding things that would have been bad for him and by doing the positive things he needed to do to stay alive.

It is especially hard to be resolute when we are in difficult times. It is easy to turn to excessive drinking, substance abuse, gambling, impulse spending or many other illicit activities to escape the pain of our hardships. Also, it is difficult to do the right things. We find all kinds of excuses as to why we can't

do the right things we need to do to get out of a crisis. However, being resolute to do the good things we need to be successful, and not the things that will prevent us from being successful, will ensure we will get through our difficulties victoriously.

Eventually, Lim did make it to shore. In an astounding 133 days, he crossed the Atlantic Ocean and was in relatively good health when he was finally rescued. He went on to fame and fortune; his survival techniques have been published and been made protocol in the British Navy.

Lim survived his ordeal by being resolved, resourceful and resolute. We, too, can get through whatever difficulties life may bring us if we choose to follow in his example. Peace.

PAU HANA

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

"When work is finished."

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 2008

Players sprint toward safety during a game, Saturday, at Paintball Hawaii's grand opening.



Splat attack

Paintball Hawaii brings color to Wheeler

Story and Photos by
CHRISTINA DOUGLAS
Staff Writer

WHEELER ARMY AIR FIELD — In the game of chess, players move strategically across the board, taking out their opponents one by one. But put those players on a field — with paintballs racing at 285 feet per second from markers shooting 12-14 rounds per second — and the game of chess is now paintball. In this game, however, instead of moving from one spot on the board to another, players dart between inflatable barriers as a means of staying on the field.

More than 50 members of the Hawaii Army community and paintball enthusiasts lined up here, Saturday, for the grand opening of MWR's new paintball course, run by Paintball Hawaii.

The diverse crowd of participants included everyone from father-son duos to co-workers and friends, but everyone could agree on one common theme — the love of the game.

"It gets your adrenaline going," said Dave Shoffner II. "Once you get

the feel of the game, you don't ever want to stop."

Shoffner has been playing paintball for the past six years with his two brothers and father, Maj. Dave Shoffner, 25th Infantry Division deputy chaplain.

"This is what we're all about," Shoffner II said. "We love paintball."

That same love of the game is what led Roland Manahan, owner and founder of Paintball Hawaii, to make paintball his career. Manahan started playing paintball as a child in the woods of his hometown. Years later, while serving in the Navy, he needed an outlet from the active duty environment. "I'm not a golfer, so this is my golf," said Manahan.

What started as Manahan's "golf" turned into a passion. Fifteen years of competitive paintball and two world championship games later, Manahan decided to spread his passion here, with his first Paintball Hawaii location in Kaneohe.

"The first day we had four people in the whole place ... and I was one of those people," said Manahan.

Since then, the tides have turned in Manahan's favor.

"Now, we can have thirty, sixty, to one hundred people



Yeong Lee (right) and Sgt. Don Madrid, 209th Aviation Support Battalion, load up on paintball ammunition before heading to the field at the grand opening of Paintball Hawaii, Saturday.

come through in a day," he said.

However, Manahan's not stopping there. This year he's hoping to take paintball to a whole new level with two, and soon to be three, top-of-the-line fields at Wheeler.

"Out of all the paintball fields here in Hawaii, this is by far the best," said Layne Choi, who has competed in paintball leagues and tournaments for the past three years. "They run it like a tournament here every day." Sgt. Larry Russian, licensed

Paintball Hawaii is located off of Lauhala Road, Wheeler Army Air Field, next to the baseball fields. Hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5-9 p.m.; and Saturdays and Sundays, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. The fields are open for regular play, physical training reservations, league and youth (age 10 and older) play. Equipment demonstrations and instructors are available. Players are welcome to bring their own paint and equipment, or purchase paint and rent equipment on site. Call 343-3929, or visit www.paintballhawaii.com for more information.

practical nurse, 8th Forward Surgical Team, was thrilled about the new facility.

Before the Wheeler opening, Russian drove from his home in Mililani to the facility in Kaneohe. Now he only drives 10 minutes for his paintball fix.

"It's nice to see paintball spreading," said Russian. "Hopefully more people will start getting involved."

Manahan said one common misconception about paintball has kept people from joining in; he hopes to change this misconception.

A lot of people feel paintball is dangerous, but people should try it before they comment on it, said Manahan, who has made safety his top priority.

With an abundance of certified referees, safety briefings and strict rule enforcement, Manahan has made it clear that his facility will not only be a fun, but most importantly, safe environment for everyone.

"I've seen parents take their kids out here, father and son, even mother and daughter," Manahan said. "This is a family-type atmosphere. That's how we built our business."



Above — Paintball Hawaii owner Roland Manahan gives a safety briefing before the first game begins.

Left — Referees check a player's equipment before the game, Saturday.



29 / Tuesday

Hearts and Cards — Make your Valentine's Day cards Jan. 29, 6:30-8:30 p.m., at the Arts and Crafts Center, Schofield Barracks. The \$10 fee includes instruction and supplies for six cards. Registration is required. Call 655-4202.

30 / Wednesday

Blue Star Card Casino Night — Come lounge and relax with fellow Blue Star Card holders. Enjoy games, activities and prizes at Blue Star Card Casino Night, Jan. 30, 6-9 p.m., at the Nehelani, Schofield Barracks. Take home a free, Blue Star Card casino cup while supplies last.

Free child care is available. Call the Recreation Activities Office for reservations, or e-mail Elizabeth.thunstedt@us.army.mil.

31 / Thursday

Dogs, Dogs, Dogs — Meet working, service, therapy and reading education assistance dogs, Jan. 31, 4 p.m., at Sgt. Yano Library, Schofield Barracks. This event is a kick-off for the library's Read to the Dogs program, which will run from February through May.

Children who are able to read on their own are invited to register for a 15-minute session to read to a dog. Research shows this type of program improves reading skills. Call 655-8002.

Autism Communications Training — Amy Wiech, a board-certified behavior analyst, is offering training for parents of children with autism, Jan. 31 and Feb. 7, 6-9 p.m., at Army Community Service (ACS), Schofield Barracks.

Class will focus on teaching communication skills to children with autism and other developmental disabilities. Call 655-4777 for registration.

February

23 / Saturday

Kolekole Jam 2 — Don't miss the best, free concert of the year, Feb. 23, at Sills Field, Schofield Barracks. "Montgomery Gentry" and "Bowling for Soup" are already confirmed, with more names on the way.

Stay tuned to Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) publications for further details on special offers and chances to win reserved seating for this great event. Call 655-0112.

Ongoing

Youth Art Contests — Keiki are invited to enter a youth art contest now through March 31, at Sgt. Yano Library, Schofield Barracks. Keiki ages 5 and under can pick up coloring sheets from any MWR Army Hawaii library.



Stand and be recognized

Top — (from left to right) Brig. Gen. Raymond Mason, 8th Theater Sustainment Command (TSC), presents a plaque to Col. Allen Jones, 8th Military Police Brigade commander, Sgt. 1st Class James Meyers, 8th MP Bde. career counselor and Command Sgt. Maj. Freddie Brock. The 8th MP Bde. earned two plaques, one for exceeding the retention mission goals for 2007 and the second for exceeding the retention glide path for the first quarter of 2008. (Courtesy Photo)

Bottom left — Col. Carroll Diebold, 62nd Medical Brigade Mental Health Consultant, received the Bronze Star Medal of Achievement at Camp Victory, Iraq. Diebold received the award for simultaneously serving at the Multinational Force-Iraq and Multinational Corps-Iraq Mental Health consultant and his dedication to the men and women of the armed forces in Iraq. (1st Lt. Priya Rednam | Task force 62nd Medical Brigade Public Affairs Office)

Bottom middle — Brig. Gen. Mark MacCarley, deputy commanding general, 8th TSC, presents a certificate to Lakisha Canady-Toussaint, 8th Special Troops Battalion (STB). Canady-Toussaint was instrumental in creating a family readiness group (FRG) for the 8th STB. She prepared care packages for deployed Soldiers, assisted in preparing monthly newsletters for family members, and enabled the creation of a unit FRG fund-raiser to establish an account.

Bottom right — Brig. Gen. Mark MacCarley, deputy commanding general of the 8th TSC, presents a certificate to Hayley Violand, 408th Military Intelligence Company, 500th Military Intelligence Brigade. Violand planned and organized a company level organizational day in August, which boosted morale in the rear detachment. She also volunteered at the Hickam USO to ensure service members and their families were taken care of as they awaited travel to various destinations. (Courtesy Photo)

to enter a youth art contest now through March 31, at Sgt. Yano Library, Schofield Barracks. Keiki ages 5 and under can pick up coloring sheets from any MWR Army Hawaii library.

Keiki ages 6 and up must submit their interpretation of a book in any medium. All submissions must be turned in to any MWR Army Hawaii library no later than March 31.

Call Sgt. Yano Library at 655-8002, Fort Shafter Library at 438-9521 or Aliamanu

Military Reservation (AMR) at 833-4851.

Pacific Teen Panel — Teens in grades 9-11 have the opportunity to learn leadership and public speaking while representing Fort Shafter, Tripler and AMR in monthly teleconference/video teleconference (VTC) calls with other teen panels in the Pacific such as Japan, Alaska and Kwajalein.

Teens are encouraged to volunteer at least eight hours to the program, prepare and conduct briefings, and maintain good

grades in school.

Teens must be registered at CYS. Call 833-0920.

4H & Boys and Girls Clubs — The AMR Teen Center has a variety of social and leisure time recreation activities through local Boys & Girls Clubs and 4H (Health, Head, Hands, Heart) Clubs, including cooking, digital festivals, fine arts exhibits and photography contests. Call 833-0920.

Wai Golf Course Multipurpose Recreation Facility, Jan. 26, 3-4:30 p.m. No dance experience is required. Call 624-9490.

30 / Wednesday

Fort Shafter Health Fair — Check out the Health Fair at the Fort Shafter Physical Fitness Center, Jan. 30, 9-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-4 p.m. Flyers and brochures will be available on topics including cholesterol, blood pressure, nutrition, bone density, tobacco cessation, massage therapy and dermatology. Free body fat scans and door prizes will also be available.

The first 100 people to enter will receive a free Gatorade water bottle. Call Sam Sakorafas at 438-8668.

February

1 / Friday

\$5 Bag Sale — Check out the Fort Shafter Thrift Shop for a variety of great bargains at the \$5 Bag Sale, Feb. 1, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. E-4 and below get one bag free. Pass the word along and come early for the best selection. Call 842-1074.

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 / Tuesday

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

The festivities will include live entertainment on multiple stages with jazz and blues, a Brazilian samba parade, and strolling entertainers performing throughout the marketplace. Participating restaurants will offer food and drink specials as part of their regular menus.

Admission is free. Call 566-2337 or visit www.alohatower.com.

Troops to Teachers

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

7 / Thursday

Wahiawa Toastmasters — The Pineapple Wahiawa Toastmasters Club meets the first and third Thursday of each month at the Sgt. Yano Library, Schofield Barracks, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Call 622-0169, or visit <http://pineapple.free.toasthost.us/index.html>.

8 / Friday

Sunset on the Beach — Enjoy live entertainment, food, crafters and more at the Queen's Surf Beach, Waikiki, Feb. 8-9. This Pro Bowl-themed weekend kicks off with the movie "The Game Plan," Feb. 8, and Pro Bowl entertainment, Feb. 9.

Food booths open at 4 p.m., and the movie starts at 6:30 p.m. Call 923-1094.

"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 & general manager. Upcoming concerts in the series include the "New Traditionalists," Feb. 8, \$30; "The Brothers Cazimero," March 14, \$35; and "Holunape," April 25, \$30.

All tickets are subject to a \$3 theatre restoration charge after Jan. 1 (\$2 until then). 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 St. Call 528-0506, or visit www.hawaiitheatre.com.

Ongoing

Waikiki Aquarium Volunteers — Residents are invited to make a difference by joining the Waikiki Aquarium's volunteer team. During their weekly two-hour shift, volunteers explain different habitats and species within the exhibits to visitors at the Waikiki Aquarium. They share information about Hawaii's marine life and provide an opportunity to learn about the importance of conservation.

Volunteers receive extensive, hands-on training from the expert staff, as well as continuous education about Hawaiian marine life. Call 440-9020.

Polynesian Dance — Na Malama Polynesian Dance Studio in Ewa Beach has open enrollment Saturdays in hula, Maori, Tahitian and Samoan dancing. Drummers and musicians are welcome. Call 271-9403.

Strollerstrides — Are you a mom looking to get into shape? Join other moms just like you on your journey to fitness. 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., Monday and Wednesday at Kapolei Regional Park. Call 358-7335.

Halau Enrollment — Halau Kawaiianika has adult kane and wahine classes in ancient and modern hula at 7 p.m., Thursdays, at Makakilo Recreation Center. The first class is free. Call 672-4848.

Mambo Lessons — Salsa Queen presents lessons in New York style mambo at the Aloha Activity Center, 725 Kapiolani Blvd., Studio C101, Sundays, 3-4 p.m. Call 387-8064.



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)
- Protestant 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 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. — Mass
- 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, 656-4481

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

This Week at the MOVIES Sgt. Smith Theater



I Am Legend

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

The Mist

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

Enchanted

(PG) Saturday, 2 p.m.



The Golden Compass

(PG-13) Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday, 7 p.m. Thursday, 7 p.m.



Photo Courtesy of Army Hawaii Family Housing

Family members take their turn on the taiko drums at Aliamanu Military Reservation's first ever cultural festival, which was held at the newly constructed community center, Saturday.

AMR housing's cultural fest makes a lasting impression

KIMBERLY LEHANO
Army Hawaii Family Housing

ALIAMANU MILITARY RESERVATION — Army Hawaii Family Housing (AHFH) held its first cultural festival for the South Region at the newly constructed community center here, Saturday. Nearly 500 residents attended the fun-filled day of culture, food and entertainment.

Residents feasted on food samplings from around the world, in addition to the standard fare of complimentary hot dogs, chips and water. Residents also took part in cultural activities, such as making ti-leaf skirts and lei and folding traditional Origami crafts.

Cultural culinary delights included lumpia, kim chee, mandoo, Chinese rice cakes, crispy gau gee, sushi, mochi, poke, and even a mini-Hawaiian plate with kalua pig, rice and lomi salmon. Residents tasted food samples, tried different cultural activities and spoke with representatives from various military services, with military life consultants, and from Morale Welfare and Recreation's Schools of Knowledge Inspiration, Exploration and Skills.

When asked if she would attend another cultural fest, resident Rajesh Lobrecht replied, "Absolutely, it exposes us to the Hawaiian culture, especially the Hawaiian food."

The day's festivities were nonstop. Entertainment began with a powerful performance from Kenny Endo's Taiko Center of the Pacific. The taiko drumming amazed AHFH employees and residents alike.

The Chinese Lion Dance Association of Hawaii performed and awed children. Keiki delighted in the tradition of giving money to the lions, which is said to bring good luck.

Next, "The Brown Boys," with Hoku-award winning singers Eric Lee (Na Kama) and Rodney Bejer (Island Rhythms, Kaala Boys), sang a blend of contemporary, rock and Hawaiian contemporary music.

Los Amigos Ballet Folk Lorico Dance Hawaii stunned the audience with a singer small in stature but not in voice, plus Mexican folklore dancing.

The grand finale was a spectacular Polynesian revue that ended with a fire-knife dance performance that left everyone speechless.

Following the performances, residents tried their skills at the various cultural dance and instrument stations.

"Everything was great," AHFH resident Kathey Rucker said. "The staff was nice, and the food was good. The activities for the kids were enough ... job well done."

Bluegrass Hawaii invites families to 'pick in the park'

Story and Photo by
KYLE FORD
Staff Writer

AIEA — Speckles of light play through the trees while traveling the long winding road up the mountain. One begins to wonder if this is the right place when abruptly the park sign comes into view.

Getting out of the car, the twangy sounds of fiddle, banjo, mandolin, bass and guitar drift across the park from a secluded area.

Believe it or not, this was the scene last month at Keaiwa Heiau Park. Bluegrass is alive and well everywhere and Hawaii is no different than the rest of the world touched by the earthy sounds pioneered by Bill Monroe and his Bluegrass Boys.

Bluegrass Hawaii sponsors monthly jams all over Hawaii and advocates folk music of all genres. Musicians, listeners and bluegrass aficionados are invited to enjoy the music and good company of the monthly jam.

"We usually get between fifty to a hundred people at the jams," said Caroline Wright, founder and president of Bluegrass Hawaii, which began the first jam in May 2003. "Since that first jam, we have spread to jams on the Big Island, Maui and Kauai, as well as Oahu."

There is quite a bit of crossover, people who play classic bluegrass, country, folk and Celtic music all come out for the jam.

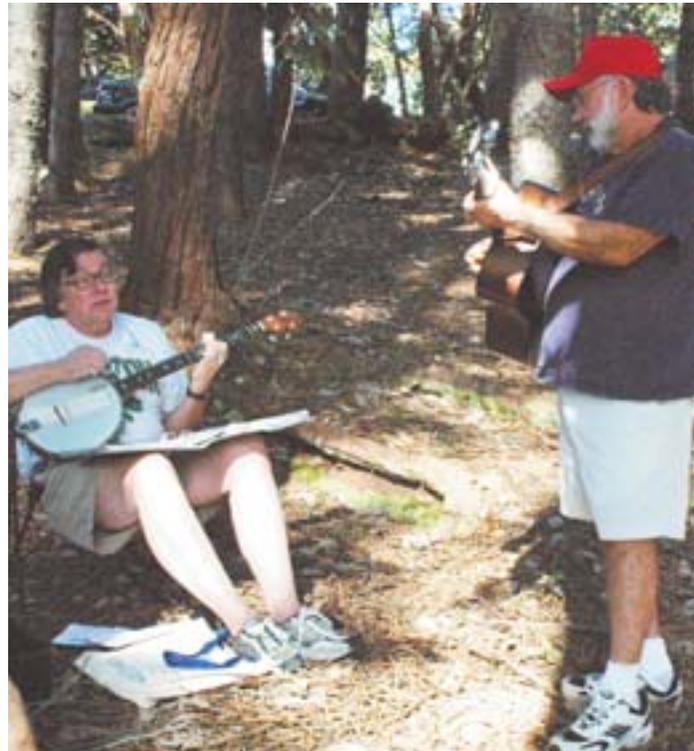
"I had a guy come out to a jam with tears in his eyes," Wright recounted. "He said, 'I'm so glad I found you, I've been in Hawaii for years and all I did was pick in my room.'"

Wright called music an international language and said it's so interactive that anyone can sing and strum and instrument.

Sam Hayakawa, a mandolin player from Japan agreed, and said every university in Japan has a bluegrass band that plays together.

Additionally, members of "The Saloon Pilots," a working bluegrass band that opened for Winona Judd often come and share their skills with players.

"Whenever I go somewhere, I find the



A small group plays at the Bluegrass Hawaii Jam at Keaiwa Heiau Park.

For more information on folk and bluegrass music in Hawaii, visit www.bluegrasshawaii.com.

musicians," said Warrant Officer 4 Loren Sampson, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade. "Then I ask who plays acoustic instruments? Which usually weeds out about seventy-five percent of the people. Then after, that we see what we can work out."

"I came out because I wanted more people to play with and there aren't that many people around who play bluegrass," said Sampson, who's been playing off and on since he was 16. "But you really need the people to play with and get better."

He found out about the events by "doing the old Google search" and discovered Bluegrass Hawaii Web site. The site contains information on upcoming bluegrass music events in Hawaii, as well as being a forum for musicians looking for Celtic and old-time music forums. There are even links to Contra dancing venues.

The next Bluegrass Hawaii pickin' in the park jam begins at 12:30 p.m. at Kakaako Waterfront Park in Honolulu. Look for Bluegrass Hawaii banners and canopies on the Diamond Head (eastern) side of the park, and listen for the pickin'. For directions and more information visit the Bluegrass Hawaii Web site at bluegrasshawaii.com.



26 / Saturday

Football Bash Clinic – Current and former NFL, university, 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 ended Wednesday. Late and walk-in registration will be accepted on a space-available basis at the following locations: Bennett Youth Center (Schofield Barracks, 655-6465), AMR Youth Cen-

ter (836-1923) and Fort Shafter Youth Center. Visit www.army-hawaiiyouthsports.com.

Hike – Enjoy stunning views of the shore and glimpses of whales as you hike the path to the historical Makapuu Lighthouse, Jan. 26, at 10 a.m. To register, call the Recreation Activities Office at 655-0112.

28 / Monday

USAG-HI Racquetball – The U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii, Sports Office is hosting a racquetball contest, Feb. 11-15, at Schofield's Martinez Gym. The entry deadline is 4 p.m., Jan. 28. Call 655-9914.

Ongoing

Paintball – Check out the new paintball facility at Wheeler Army Air Field, just off of Lauhala Road next to the baseball fields. The facility features three lighted fields

for day and evening play. It's open for regular play, league and youth play, private parties and physical training (PT) reservations.

Hours of operation are Tuesday and Thursday, 5-9 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Rental equipment is available, and you can bring your own paint or buy it there.

Instruction is available for those new to the sport. Call 343-3929, or visit www.paintballhawaii.com.

Little Ninja Classes – Parents or guardians, bring your 3- to 5-year-olds to Child and Youth Services (CYS) to learn basic Tae Kwon Do skills. At these classes, children will improve their motor and communication skills, learn to focus, and build confidence and socialization skills.

Children must be enrolled in Schools of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills (SKIES) or be a current member of CYS. Call SKIES at 655-9818.

Ladies Golf Clinic – Ladies, looking to improve your golf game? Come to a free ladies golf clinic the first Saturday of every month, 2:20 p.m., at the Leilehua Golf Course driving range. Call 655-4653.

100-Mile Run/Walk & 50-Mile Swim Clubs – Record each mile you run, walk or swim and win incentive prizes. Stop by any Army physical fitness center or swimming pool to pick up a log sheet. Call 655-9914.

All Army Sports – Soldiers interested in applying for Department of the Army-level sports competitions must submit applications with their Army Knowledge Online (AKO) account at <https://armysports.cfsc.army.mil>. Faxed copies are no longer accepted by the DA Sports Office. Call 655-9914 or 655-0856.

Sharks Youth Swim Team –

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

Volunteer Coaches – Interested in volunteering to be a Youth Sports coach? Contact your nearest youth sports director today. Call 836-1923 for AMR; 438-9336 for Fort Shafter/Tripler; 655-6465 for Schofield; or 655-0883 for Helemano Military Reservation.

Volleyball & Racquetball 101 – Learn basic skills and techniques from experienced instructors, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30-10 a.m., at Martinez Physical Fitness Center. Courts will be open for free play across the street from the facility. Call 655-4804.

Karate Classes – Children ages 5 and over can learn Do Shudokan karate at these physical fitness centers: Aliamanu, Fort

Shafter, Helemano or Schofield's Bennett Youth Center.

All youth students must be CYS members, and the cost is \$35 per month. A discount is offered for two or more family members.

Adults 18 and older can learn Do Shudokan karate at the Aliamanu Physical Fitness Center, Mondays and Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m. Cost is \$40 per month. Call instructor Joseph Bunch at 488-6372 or 265-5476.

Racquetball Ladder Challenge – The Fort Shafter Physical Fitness Center is hosting a Racquetball Ladder Challenge, now through March 31. Military and their family members, civilians and contractors who work on an Army installation on Oahu are eligible.

Divisions include co-ed, open (Level A) and novice (Level B). Entries will be accepted until the end of the challenge. Call 438-1152 or stop by the front desk at Building 665.



Send sports announcements to community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

27 / Sunday

Hike Oahu – Join the Hawaiian Trail & Mountain Club (HTMC) on its next hiking event beginning at Tripler Army Medical Center and ending at Koolau crest, Jan. 27. This 12-mile hike is for advanced hikers. Call 263-8330.

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

Hikers meet at Iolani Palace, mountainside, at 8 a.m. Bring lunch and water on all hikes; wear sturdy shoes as extra caution may be required on some trails.

Hikers must keep all trails and lunch sites clear of clutter, and treat trees and plants with care and respect. Firearms, pets, ra-

dios and other audio devices are prohibited on all hikes. Visit <http://htmclub.org> for more info.

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 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 train-

ing workshops, call Dr. Christ at 943-0309. For all Great Aloha Run inquiries, call 528-7388 or visit www.greataloharun.com.

Sharon's Ride, Run, Walk – Participate in the fight for epilepsy awareness at Kapiolani Community College, Jan. 27, at 7 a.m. Sharon's Ride, Run, Walk for Epilepsy is a family-oriented, fund- and awareness-raising event that offers a challenge for experienced athletes as well as a fun day for amateurs. Participants are encouraged to bring their families, pets, bikes or wheelchairs.

Cost and distance varies. Visit www.sharonforepilepsy.org, or www.active.com.

31 / Thursday

Harold Chapson 8K – Run the Harold Chapson Memorial 8K at Kapiolani Park, Feb. 3, 7 a.m. Online registration ends Jan. 31.

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

February

2 / Saturday

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

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

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

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

10 / Sunday

Valentine's Biathlon – Participate in a biathlon with your special someone at Ala Moana

Beach Park, Feb. 10, 7 a.m. This event will include a 2.5-mile run and 800-meter swim. Visit www.hawaiiswim.com.

16 / Saturday

Swamp Romp – Register now for Swamp Romp, the muddiest run on the island of Oahu, which takes place Feb. 23. This event is approximately five-miles through various types of terrain. Participants must register in teams of six.

Cost is \$120 per team. Online registration closes Feb. 16 at 4 p.m. Visit www.mccshawaii.com/cgfit.htm, or call 254-7590.

Ongoing

Wrestlers Wanted – Hawaiian Championship Wrestling seeks new members. Persons should be at least 6-feet tall, weigh 250 pounds or have an above average muscular build. Sports background is preferred. Call 676-8107.

Wahine Sailors – The Wahine Sailors seeks new members. Call for meeting place and times. Cost is \$35 per year or \$5 per sail.

All levels are welcome. Call 235-8392.

Fleet Feet – Faerber's Flyers women's running club invites women of all ages and skill levels to join them at the University of Hawaii track at Cooke Field. The club meets Wednesdays from 5:15-7 p.m. Cost is \$50 per year. For more information, call 277-3609.

Bike Hawaii – Join Bike Hawaii's professional nature guides and explore Oahu from the rainforest to the reef.

Packages can include downhill biking, waterfall hiking, and sailing off Waikiki with exclusive access to a remote Hawaiian rainforest. Meals are included.

To schedule your adventure, or for more information, call 734-4214, toll free to 1-877-682-7433, or visit www.bikehawaii.com.