

HAWAII ARMY WEEKLY

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What's Inside



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News briefly

Campbell nominated for Pentagon position; Brown named as replacement

Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld announced Tuesday that the President has nominated Lt. Gen. James L. Campbell for reappointment to Headquarters, Department of the Army as the Director of the Army Staff. The appointment is pending Congressional approval. Campbell has served as the commander of U.S. Army Pacific since Nov. 4, 2002.

Rumsfeld also announced that the President has nominated Maj. Gen. John M. Brown III for appointment to the grade of lieutenant general with assignment as the commander of USARPAC.

The appointment is pending Congressional approval.

Maj. Gen. Brown has served as the Commanding General, U.S. Army Alaska since 2002.

Warrant Officer Branch Changeover Ceremony

Warrant officers will begin wearing their branch insignia during a ceremony at 2:30 p.m. today at Sills Field on Schofield Barracks.

Golden Knights Seek Volunteers

The U.S. Army Parachute Team, "Golden Knights" are currently accepting applications to attend their annual Assessment and Selection Program in September. A downloadable version of the application is available on the Golden Knights' Web site www.armygoldenknights.com. To become a Golden Knight, applicants must have a minimum of 150 freefall parachute jumps, a flawless civilian and military record and volunteer to become Airborne qualified. Applications are being accepted until July 30, packets can be sent to the U.S. Army Parachute Team P.O. Box 70126, Fort Bragg, NC 28307. For more information, call 396-4800.

Deployment Town Hall Meeting

Soldiers who are deploying and their family members can have questions about the deployments answered at a Deployment Town Hall Meeting at 6:30 p.m. July 20 at Sgt. Smith Theater on Schofield Barracks.

All-Army Sports Application deadline

The application deadline for the following All Army level sports are: Marathon (men and women) - July 16; Rugby (men) - July 16; Taekwondo (men and women) - July 17; and Soccer (men) - Aug. 12. Updated application forms (DA Form 4762-R, Jan 01) are available at all Army Hawaii fitness centers. Submit applications to the USAG-HI Sports Office (STOP 112), Kaala Rec Center, Bldg. 556, Schofield Barracks. For more information, call 655-9914/085.

Bobcats 'run the gauntlet' in Afghanistan

Staff Sgt. Twana Atkinson
 CJTF-76 Public Affairs Office

FORWARD OPERATING BASE RIPLEY, Afghanistan – Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment departed Forward Operating Base Ripley recently to conduct combat operations north of Deh Chopan.

The Soldiers endured a two-day convoy through rough terrain to establish a forward operating base by force in an area with known Taliban presence.

The night before the mission, Lt. Col. Terry Sellers, the 2nd Bn. 5th Inf. Rgt. commander, prepped the leaders during a motivational speech. Afterwards all the leaders took part in a prayer for all the Soldiers going out on the mission.

The morning of the operation the Soldiers were in good spirits and confident in their leaders and the mission.

"This is what we signed up for," said Staff Sgt. Ralph Mendez, the 2nd Bn. 5th Inf.

Rgt. aid station noncommissioned officer in charge. "We are here to do our job."

Infantrymen, medics, civil affairs specialists and mechanics were among the team of Soldiers supporting the fight to rid Afghanistan of Taliban militants and to help rebuild Afghanistan.

"I'm here to provide medical assistance to all the Soldiers, Marines and Sailors for these missions," said Mendez. "We are all here to do our job no matter what conditions we face."

As the Soldiers gathered around for their convoy brief, minutes before they had to move out, there were no sad, scared faces in the crowd. These Soldiers knew there was a possibility of being ambushed during the next several days, yet stood in the crowd with confidence.

"We are going to run the gauntlet with the Taliban tomorrow," said Sellers. "We are ready for the fight."

The troops began their con-

See "Bobcats" Page A-8



A Soldier from 2nd Battalion., 5th Infantry Regiment searches a cave during a mission in Afghanistan.

Staff Sgt. Twana Atkinson



Registration drive for overseas voters begins

By Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample
 American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – With the November general elections coming up, the Defense Department has designated July 4-10 as Overseas Citizens Voters Week to get eligible DoD personnel stationed abroad registered to vote.

Polli Brunelli, director of the Federal Voting Assistance Program, said in a Pentagon Channel interview that the objective is to get overseas voters involved in the electoral process and to stress the importance of registering to vote.

She said throughout the week voting assistance officers at overseas military installations, U.S. Embassies and consulates will hold registration drives and other activities to get people to vote. She noted the emphasis will also be placed on mailing regis-

tration forms back in time to meet local and state deadlines.

Brunelli said DoD citizens overseas should register to vote as early as possible because each mail system is different in countries outside the United States.

"Depending on whether their registration forms or ballots are traveling through international mail, or whether they are traveling through APO or FPO mail, they should allow a couple of weeks for the registration forms to get to local election officials, Brunelli said. "And local election officials need time to send those ballots back."

Brunelli said that the Fourth of July was the perfect time to begin the drive because of the patriotism associated with the holiday.

More information about overseas voter registration can be found on the FVAP Web site, www.fvap.gov.

Runners show 'freedom is never free'



Spc. Daniel P. Kelly

As part of a 4th of July celebration, more than 1,200 runners took part in the "Freedom Is Never Free" 10k run on Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan. More than \$20,000 was raised for families of injured service members.

TV show gives local Iraqis chance to interact with leaders

Spc. Sean Kimmons
 25th ID (L) Public Affairs

KIRKUK, Iraq – After years of being smothered by media restrictions by Saddam Hussein's regime, Iraqi people are now exposed to a variety of internal and external information sources.

An unbiased source of information comes from the U.S. funded Iraqi Media Network, which replaced the old Iraqi media network into a modern media organization for the Iraqi people.

In Kirkuk, IMN established the Kirkuk TV station. This station, like other IMN stations, passes along local and national news and entertainment to the Iraqi people.

Kirkuk TV has recently aired a live talk show program that allows Iraqis to discuss local issues with local leaders via telephone.

Local Iraqi and Coalition leaders participate on this talk show dubbed "Political Conversation."

Initiated by the Information Operations cell of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, the talk show provides leaders the opportunity to eliminate rumors and limit confusion citizens may have in the Kirkuk area.

It is also a way for leaders, especially on the Iraqi side, to earn the confidence of the



Spc. Sean Kimmons

Lt. Col. Eric Schacht, executive officer for 2nd BCT and Kirkuk's chief of police General Turhan Yussef joined together on the show to display that Coalition Forces are still in Iraq even after the Transition of Sovereignty and will continue their partnership with the Iraqi Security Forces. Sarwa Slahaldin (far left) videotapes the Political Conversation show on July 1.

local Iraqi populace.

There were two primary reasons for starting the show, according to Maj. Bill Southard, chief of the Information Operations cell.

"One part was to legitimize the Iraqi government and the other was to provide information to the Iraqi people," he said.

Because of Saddam's

extensive use of false information, Iraqi people are still hesitant to believe anything from the Iraqi media. This was Southard's main reason to create a talk show that would be aired live.

"I wanted this [live] talk show so Iraqi people could see their leadership, ask them questions and make their own educated decisions

on what's going on in their future," Southard said.

The recent Transfer of Sovereignty was the primary topic of discussion for the first two episodes of Political Conversation.

Kirkuk Coalition Provincial Authority coordinator Paul Harvey and Kirkuk Governor Abdul Rahman Mustafa were the

guests for the inaugural show on June 25. Most of the questions they answered pertained to the June 28 Transition of Sovereignty.

On the second show, 2nd BCT executive officer Lt. Col. Eric Schacht and Kirkuk's chief of police General Turhan Yussef joined together July 1 to display that Coalition Forces are still in Iraq even after the transition and will continue their partnership with the Iraqi Security Forces.

"I think it's good to get this show kicked off as we turn over sovereignty," Schacht said after the July 1 show. "Eventually, we want this show to go more into a format of Iraqi leaders talking to their public."

Besides working with the Kirkuk TV station, the 2nd BCT Information Operations cell helps spread the Coalition message through local newspapers, weekly press conferences and media advisories.

"We are doing everything in our power to inform the Iraqi people of all the good things such as projects, security and economic development within the Kirkuk province," Southard said. "Also, we are trying to get local Iraqis involved with the national, regional and local governments."

The Hawaii Army Weekly welcomes letters and commentaries from readers. To submit call the editor at 655-4816 or e-mail editor@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

The deadline for articles is the Friday prior to the week of publication. Send all articles in Microsoft Word or text format.

OPINION & COMMENTARY

Most Iraqis appreciate U.S. help – contrary to news

Commentary

Bonnie Murphy
Army News Service

BALAD, Iraq – I'm appalled at the "news" as it's reported from Iraq.

Just as disturbing is the lack of knowledge a lot of people have about what's really going on, why we're there, and what it's really like. I'd like to set the record straight.

My job as an environmentalist is primarily the protection of the environment and the disposal of Department of Defense-generated hazardous wastes. I volunteered to go to Iraq, and last December I was selected to set up the first disposal operations in the forward deployed area.

I have been stationed at Balad Air Base, Logistical Support Area Anaconda, since Dec. 28. On several occasions, my work has taken me to Baghdad. I extended my initial tour from 120 days to 155 days, and June 7 I went back to Baghdad for six more months.

Ninety-five percent of the Iraqi people want us there, and it's only a handful of insurgents with weapons who are attacking our bases, convoys and troops. The older generations say that although they may never see the freedoms we're trying to bring to their country, they know their children will enjoy the rights that we take for granted in this country.

I've had the opportunity to meet and speak with day laborers coming on Anaconda. They are grateful for the work and pay they receive. Men have taken my hand with tear-filled eyes and thanked me because they can now provide for their families -- something they couldn't do when Saddam was in power. I've met engineers, pilots

and well-educated men who, for the first time since Saddam took office, are returning from self-imposed exile to their homeland and are able to find work on our many U.S. bases.

Before I left Balad, I was able to coordinate the donation of \$3,500 of hospital disinfectant and dental amalgam to the local hospital from the DRMS inventory of excess property. Our Balad team of doctors and medics make regular scheduled visits to the surrounding communities to provide medical care and assistance to the people and teach new technologies to Iraqi medical personnel.

People are being taught field sanitation and hand-washing techniques to prevent the spread of germs. About 400,000 children have now received up-to-date immunizations. And 100 percent of the existing hospitals are now open and staffed, compared to 35 percent before the war.

On behalf of my organization, the Defense Logistics Agency, and its partner, Army Materiel Command, we're sponsoring a local secondary school. We've received \$65,500 of Saddam's money to completely rebuild the school. Our school is only one of 11 schools being sponsored by different units on LSA Anaconda. School attendance is up 80 percent, and for the first time girls are allowed to attend classes.

Our facility engineers and Seabees are rebuilding outdated sewer lines and constructing a new water treatment plant that will serve the entire area. This is being done in every major city. More than 4.5 million people have clean drinking water for the first time.

We're updating and constructing new power plants throughout the country. Now the entire populace receives twice the electric power it did before the war. More than 400,000 people have telephone service for the first time.

The port of Uhm Qasar was renovated so grain can be off loaded from ships faster. Farmers are being educated on better methods, and new technologies are being introduced. Local contractors working on our bases are, for the first time, able to receive lubricant oils, and hydraulic and brake fluids for their equipment.

The newly formed Iraqi Civil Defense Force trains on LSA Anaconda. The teams work and learn side by side with our Soldiers, and they are proud to be learning from us and eager to help in the battle against the handful of insurgents making life miserable in Iraq. Every day our troops are finding buried weapons and chemicals that must be disposed of. The dangerous chemicals pose a threat to the environment, health and safety of, not only the Iraqi people but, the world if they were to come into the wrong hands.

I've met some wonderful Soldiers serving in Iraq. As a nation, we should all be proud and supportive of the mission, Operation Iraqi Freedom.

I believe in my job, my country, and I want my grandchildren to always be able to enjoy their freedoms. That's why I'm going back.

(Editor's note: Bonnie Murphy is a Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service employee who volunteered to go to Iraq in December. Prior to her work at Balad Air Base, LSA Anaconda, Murphy worked for DRMS out of its headquarters in Battle Creek, Mich. DRMS is a field activity of the Defense Logistics Agency. Murphy was awarded the DLA Employee of the Second Quarter for the work she has performed in Iraq. She recently decided to extend her tour in Iraq until January. At the time she wrote this commentary, she was home on leave in Florida attending her daughter's high school graduation.)

'Rocket Man' up to old antics

Commentary

ISG Robert Jennings
Co. A, 1st Bn., 21st Inf. Bgt.

KIRKUK AIR BASE, Iraq – This week we witnessed the first step for this country's new beginning, the transfer of power from the Coalition Provisional Authority to the Iraqi interim Government. The transfer was supposed to take place on June 30, but instead was completed on June 28.

We had been getting reports of planned violence prior to the transfer so the decision was made to hold the ceremony early with just a handful of people in attendance. All of us here hope this country can turn itself around and become self sufficient in a short period of time. They have appointed some very capable people to get things started until the national elections in January.

Since the transfer it has been relatively quiet throughout the city. We increased our presence in the city to deter our hidden enemy from showing his face. Yes, we have had the occasional burst of automatic fire or artillery rocket heard from the rooftop observation posts, but nothing out of the ordinary that would lead us to believe there was any sort of coordinated uprising or attack.

June 28, 2200 hours – Two rockets are heard launching from the riverbed about 700 meters from the patrol base. One explosion is heard in the direction of the airbase.

The "Rocket Man" is back. There have been quite a few prisoners released from Abu Gahrib prison the last few weeks, some from the Kirkuk area. Ever since the large release, we have seen spikes in violence across the country leading some to believe they are at it again.

Daytime rocket attacks have increased in our area over the last two or three weeks, one of which landed less than 50 meters from where I parked my HMMWV two

minutes after impact. No injuries because it skipped across the parking lot and down the street. We haven't seen daytime rocket attacks in some time.

In the upcoming weeks we hope to continue to work with local police and communities in cleaning the garbage back off the street. We can only hope they are not able to inflict many casualties along the way.

As we close on the six month mark of our deployment, it is time to reflect on the people that have supported and kept us informed on things back home.

Myrna Bein, mother of Spc. Charles Woolwine. She has been able to work through the pains of her son and still provide personal and medical information concerning our injured Soldiers. Without your regular emails, we here in Iraq, would have been guessing as to the condition of our comrades.

Barbara Sanders, wife of Spc. Kevin Sanders. She has spearheaded an organization that collects clothes and toys by donation. We have received more than 20 large boxes which we try to evenly distribute throughout the city.

Sgt. Wes Cleland, rear detachment at Schofield Barracks for Alpha Company. He has volunteered much of his time to assisting family members back in Hawaii. He is also the go-to guy when we cannot handle an administrative situation from here. He will soon be departing for school and will be sorely missed by all of us.

And last but not least, all the veterans past and present. Because of your sacrifices, our country is the model of democracy.

So when you're having your 4th of July barbeques, enjoying the freedoms that the men and women of this country have laid their lives down for, thank a veteran. Because of them, you have an Independence Day.

Jon Prehn, Vietnam Veteran and close friend of mine who has been sick the last few months; rest, recover and I'll see you when I return old friend.
God Bless and Aloha.

Voices of Lightning

What on-post activities are you participating in this summer?



"I plan to go to the pool everyday and hang out with my friends."

Ashton Cooney
Family Member



"I'm going swimming and bowling."

Elizabeth Hancock
Family Member



"I plan to go to the pool and go bowling."

Elizabeth Hargrave
Family Member



"I'm going to the pool."

Austin Long
Family Member



"I want to play and go to the pool."

Neva Shea
Family Member



"I plan to play with my friends and go to the pool."

Alicia Toole
Family Member

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TRANSFORMATION

MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE



Stryker vehicles are eight wheel drive with a central tire inflation system and run-flat tires – the tires can be shot out and the vehicle can still run on them.

The Infantry Carrier Vehicle, one of ten variants of the Stryker vehicle, can carry a nine-man infantry squad and its gear along with a two-man crew.

Robust armor protection shields Soldiers from small arms fire. Add-on armor stops rocket propelled grenades before they can actually impact the vehicle

The Stryker can sustain speeds in excess of 60 mph with a range of up to 300 miles.

2nd Brigade to transform into Stryker Brigade Combat Team

By Staff Sgt. Bradley Rhen
Editor

The Army approved a Stryker Brigade Combat Team for Hawaii Wednesday, putting to end three years of speculation, environmental studies and debate.

When it returns from its current Operation Iraqi Freedom deployment, the 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the 25th Infantry Division (Light) will begin the transformation into a more lethal fighting force, capable of deploying anywhere in the world in 96 hours.

Lt. Gen. James Campbell, commander of U.S. Army Pacific, made the official announcement Wednesday at Fort Shafter. He said he signed the final record of decision to transform the 2nd Brigade to become a SBCT after reviewing the final Environmental Impact Statement, reading 2,000 concerns from the citizens of Hawaii who voiced their opinion during the public comment period, ensuring that the proper mitigation measures are in place or are planned, and then weighing the added effectiveness, readiness and protection for Soldiers the SBCT will bring to the Army.

"We owe [Soldiers] the best possible training, the best possible equipment and the best possible technology not only to do their jobs for their country, but to protect their lives, and the Stryker Brigade does exactly that," Campbell said.

Hawaii's SBCT will be the fifth of six planned SBCTs. The first two are based at Fort Lewis, Wash., and there will also be one each in Louisiana, Alaska and Pennsylvania.

Only one is currently operational, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, based at Fort Lewis, and it is currently deployed to Iraq.

The Army's second SBCT – 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division – recently underwent its operational capabilities evaluation. It is expected to be certified by the Department of Defense as operationally ready sometime this summer, and will eventually replace 3rd Bde., 2nd ID in Iraq.

WHY A STRYKER

When Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990, the United States and its coalition partners responded by sending thousands of troops to the



Sgt. 1st Class Gary Ogilvie

A Stryker Mortar Carrier exits an Air Force C-130 Hercules at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif., in April 2003. Stryker vehicles can be transported by C-130, C-17 or C-5.

region. Eventually Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm defeated Iraq and liberated Kuwait.

However, many of the units that were sent to the region were heavy armored units based on Cold War strategy and took weeks, if not months, to get to the Middle East. Former Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric Shinseki as one of his first actions after taking office in 1999 announced that the Army would transform so that would never happen again.

Based around the 19-ton, eight-wheeled Stryker vehicle, SBCTs are designed to bridge the gap between the Army's heavy and light units. The Stryker can be deployed by C-130, C-17 or C-5 aircraft, and be combat-capable upon arrival in any contingency area.

Lt. Col. Gerald Schmitz, 25th ID (L) deputy chief of staff for transformation said the SBCTs are designed to give the Army a capability that it doesn't currently have.

"That is to bridge the gap between the light force, like the current 25th Infantry Division, and the heavy force equipped with tanks and Bradleys, like the 4th Infantry Division or the 1st Armored Division," he said. "It's a force that's more rapidly deployable, more tactically mobile, more tactically lethal and has significantly increased visibility of what's going on on the battlefield."

Before this transformation process, the Army was based on the World War II model, with heavy

divisions and light divisions, Schmitz said.

"We needed something that was a little more strategic and mobile," he said.

The vehicles have robust armor protection, can reach speeds in excess of 60 miles-per-hour, have parts commonality and self-recovery abilities, and also have a central tire inflation system. In other words, the tires can be shot out and the vehicle can still run on them.

SBCTs have about 3,600 personnel and include three infantry battalions, a cavalry squadron, an artillery battalion, a support battalion, a military intelligence company, an engineer company, a signal company and an anti-tank company. Traditional infantry brigades are only organized with these capabilities for large training exercises or for war. In the SBCT, these units train together year-round.

The Stryker vehicle has 10 variants that include the Infantry Carrier Vehicle, Mobile Gun System, Anti-Tank Guided Missile Vehicle, Reconnaissance Vehicle, Fire Support Vehicle, Engineer Squad Vehicle, Mortar Carrier Vehicle, Commander's Vehicle, Medical Evacuation Vehicle, and a Nuclear Biological and Chemical Reconnaissance Vehicle.

IMPACT ON HAWAII

The Hawaii SBCT will have a significant impact on both Oahu and the Big Island. The SBCT will bring about 800 additional Soldiers and about 300 more tactical vehicles to the state.

There are 28 construction projects tied to the SBCT, including several range complexes at Schofield Barracks and Pohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island. The new ranges will facilitate the type of training the SBCT will need to conduct.

There are plans to construct roads that link Schofield Barracks to both Helemano Military Reservation and Dillingham Military Reservation. Drum Road, which connects HMR to the Kahuku Training Area, will also be improved.

On the Big Island, the road from the port at Kawaihae to PTA will be improved so vehicles that are transported to the island on ships can easily make it to PTA.

"The purpose of those road proj-

ects is to get a majority of our military traffic – tactical wheeled vehicle traffic – off the civilian highways and give us access to these training areas so we don't disrupt the traffic flow," Schmitz said.

The Army is also looking to purchase about 1,400 acres of land next to Schofield Barracks and about 23,000 acres on the west side of PTA.

As far as concerns that the SBCT will damage the environment, Schmitz said the Environmental Impact Study that was developed over the last couple years to address the SBCT coming to Hawaii has taken into consideration all the environmental impacts. As a result, the Army has developed a number of mitigation measures that will be put in place that will help mitigate the things that might be impacted by the SBCT.

At Wednesday's announcement, Campbell said the Army has spent more than \$50 million in Hawaii over the past five years on environmental and cultural mitigation.

"In the same spirit of commitment to this environment... we are prepared to spend up to \$40 million over the next five years to mitigate any environmental impact in the fielding and training of the Stryker Brigade Combat Team," Campbell said.

Despite all the precautions, Schmitz believes there is a misunderstanding of what the Stryker actually is. He thinks a lot of people have the perception that the Stryker is similar to a tank or Bradley, which are track vehicles.

"They have this image of tanks and Bradleys rolling across the open terrain and tearing up roads," Schmitz said. "In fact, really the Stryker is a troop transport vehicle more than anything. It's another form of moving Soldiers on the battlefield, offering greater protection than what they have right now."

Schmitz believes that once people actually see a Stryker and understand its mission, they will have a different impression of what the Stryker is.

PROVEN IN COMBAT

Two Soldiers from the SBCT that is currently deployed to Iraq where on hand at Wednesday's announcement. Sgt. Benjamin Herman, a team leader from Company C, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, and Spc. Christopher Hegyes, a scout from Troop C, 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, spoke with reporters to help dispel some myths and give first-hand accounts of the Strykers' performance in combat.

Herman, who was accustomed to the life of a light infantryman, said the best thing about the Stryker is the transportation it provides.

"You get to the fight fresh and ready to fight," he said. "You're not humping 25 or 30 miles and getting worn out."

Both Soldiers also touted the vehicles to move to a conflict quickly, and most importantly, quietly. They said Iraqis call them "Ghost Riders" and "Ghost Soldiers" because they show up and deploy their Soldiers with little noise or warning.

"We would show up and kick in their door and that's when they

would know we were there," Herman said.

Schmitz said everything he has heard about the Stryker vehicles' performance in combat has been positive. He said the Stryker vehicle has proven its worth in protecting Soldiers, and the units in Iraq have taken no fatalities because enemy attacks.

In addition to the vehicles' armor, the vehicles in Iraq have been fitted with a cage that protects it from rocket propelled grenades.

"That extra protection has been overwhelmingly positive for the Soldiers," Schmitz said.

Hegyes can attest to the protection afforded by the Strykers. His vehicle was hit by an IED and he was the only Soldier to be injured, a wound to his leg.

Herman and Hegyes both said they haven't seen any problems with the Strykers and that the positives far outweigh any negatives.

STABILITY IN A TIME OF UNCERTAINTY

Once the 2nd BCT returns from Iraq next year, it will move quickly into transformation. After it's recovery from the current deployment is complete, it will go through nearly two years of training on the new equipment and tactics.

Stryker vehicles will start arriving in the summer of 2006 and the SBCT should be operational in 2007.

There are a number of options and bonuses being offered for Soldiers to reenlist to be a part of the SBCT, Schmitz said. One of the biggest incentives, he said, is stabilization for about two years. While the rest of the Army will continue to deploy to support operations around the world, Soldiers of Hawaii's SBCT will be stabilized until the unit becomes operational in 2007.

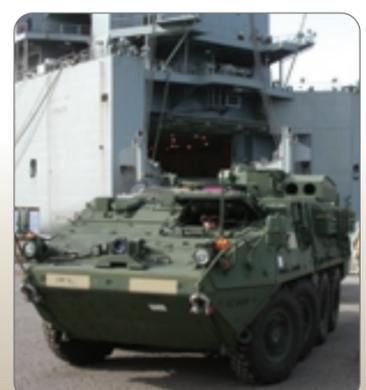
"Those Soldiers who come back will either get out of the Army, or they'll PCS to another organization," Schmitz said. "If they PCS to another organization, say the 10th Mountain Division or the 101st or any one of our other Army divisions, there's no guarantee that six months later they won't be back in theater somewhere."

Those who are part of the SBCT will be stabilized in Hawaii for about two years and most likely will not deploy anywhere other than training exercises.



Spc. Clinton Tarzia

Soldiers of Company B, 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division patrol a street in Samarra, Iraq, on Dec. 15, 2003. The cage around the vehicle is designed to stop rocket propelled grenades before they hit the vehicle.



Sgt. Jeremy Heckler

A Stryker Anti-Tank Guided Missile vehicle is driven off of USNS Sisler during ship offloading operations at the Port of Kuwait Nov. 12, 2003.

Briefs

Concerts at Crossroads Coffeehouse - Local Jazz artist BeverlyB will be in concert with her band at 7:30 p.m. July 23 at the Crossroads Coffeehouse. Recording Artist Greg Dahl will be hosting his final concert on the island, with his full band, at the Crossroads Coffeehouse, Aug. 6 at 7:30 p.m. Crossroads Coffeehouse is held every Friday at the Ka'ala Recreation Center on Schofield Barracks. The events is free and open to everyone. For more information, call 655-9355.

Deployment Survival Night - A Special night for spouses and families of deployed Soldiers will be held July 27 at the AMR Chapel. Come and learn how to check the oil, windshield washer fluid, tire pressure and much more. Bring your car and talk to car care folks to show you how to inspect your vehicle. For more information or to make reservations, call at 839-4319.

American Red Cross Medical Assistant Program - The program provides selected student volunteers with knowledge and hands on training to competently assist in medical office procedures and potentially compete successfully for employment. This is not a certification program. Applications will be released and accepted through July 16. Applicants should have two letters of recommendation included with application. Applications will be available at the Red Cross Office located on the third floor of the Aloha Center, Bldg. 690 on Schofield Barracks. Applicants must be at least 18 years old; possess a valid military ID card and be entitled to Tri-Care Health Benefits; be willing to partici-

pate in all learning activities to include rotations through all clinic areas along with introduction to phlebotomy; have at least eight months remaining on the island at the beginning of the course; and successfully complete CPR for the professional rescuer. Training will begin in September and end in March. This program requires a significant amount of volunteer hours and a serious commitment to the staff and patients at the Schofield Barracks Medical Clinic. For more information, call 655-4927.

MLS Soccer Camp - The Hickam Air Force Base/Pearl Harbor American Youth Organization is sponsoring a summer soccer camp by Major League Soccer Camps from July 12-16 on Hickam Air Force Base. Registration is open to boys and girls ages 5-18. Session times and fees vary by age. Go to www.aysoregion188.org for more details and to register on-line. For more information, call 834-5645 or e-mail smithn013@hawaii.rr.com.

AYSO Fall Youth Soccer Registration - American Youth Soccer Organization Hickam/Pearl Harbor Region 188 will hold the final registration for fall youth soccer on July 31 from 2-6 p.m. at the Hickam Air Force Base BXtra. Registration is open to boys and girls ages 4-18. Season runs August through early November. Registration fee is \$55. Proof of age required for first time registrants. Pre-register Online at www.aysoregion188.org. For more information, call 834-5979 or e-mail registrar@aysoregion188.org.

FBI Recruitment - Learn about careers in the Federal Bureau of Investigation by attending a career seminar from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. July 16 at the Pearl Harbor Fleet and Family Support Center,

Sears Portrait Studio customers thank troops with Scrapbooks project

To demonstrate the heartfelt appreciation that America's families have for U.S. troops stationed in Iraq, Afghanistan and other parts of the world, Sears Portrait Studio is creating hundreds of hometown scrapbooks featuring portraits of customers, families and friends. Scrapbooks will be distributed for Thanksgiving to troops in all branches serving overseas.

Free studio sessions and four free 3x5 portraits of one pose are being offered from July 17 through July 23 to consumers who want their portrait included in a scrapbook and specifically mention the "Thank Our Troops" scrapbook project. The offer is available at all of the more than 900 portrait studios in the U.S. and Puerto Rico.

After July 23, every customer who makes a purchase through Aug. 15 also will receive four free 3x5 portraits of one pose by mentioning the "Thank Our Troops" scrapbook project. A studio locator is available at www.searsportrait.com.

Customers can contribute one of their 3x5 portraits for the scrapbook and write a short message to appear alongside their portrait. Portraits of children, adults, families, or small groups of up to 12 people will be available by appointment and walk-in.

Military Family Special - As an additional "thank you" to troops and their families in the U.S., Sears Portrait Studio is offering free portrait sessions and 20 percent off all in-studio and online portrait purchases through Dec. 31 to customers who show their military ID at the portrait session.

Bldg. 193, Room 205. To make reservations, call 473-4222. For more information on future seminars, call Special Agent Kal Wong at 566-4488.

Vacation Bible School - Lava Lava Island - Where Jesus' Love Flows will be held July 19 - 23 from 9 a.m. to noon each day. Join us for a fun-filled week learning about Jesus' love. There will be Bible studies, music, drama, crafts and snacks. Children 4 years - just finished 6th grade may participate in this week of activities. To register, go to the AMR Chapel anytime and fill out a registration form. The VBS registration table is on the downstairs lanai (there are signs leading the way) and has directions posted. For more information, call 833-8175. The Chapel is located at 1790 Bougainvillea Loop on

Aliamanu Military Reservation. Teenage and adult volunteers are still needed. There will be Crew Leader Training July 14 from 1:30 - 4 p.m. at the chapel. We will provide child care during VBS for the volunteers' children. Children must be registered with the STACC Site Office. Call 833-5393 for more information.

Apheresis Center Open - The Schofield Barracks Apheresis Center, located in Bldg. 679, is open for collections. Apheresis (cell separation) is a specialized automated blood collection method. The center is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and appointments can be made by calling 433-8810/6195. Contact the Apheresis Center for more information, a demonstration or to schedule

an appointment. The Tripler Army Medical Center Mobile Team visits the center on select Fridays to collect whole blood donations. Contact the center for dates and times.

OCS Selection Board - The September 2004 Department of the Army Officer Candidate School Board has been cancelled. The next HQDA OCS Selection Board is scheduled to convene the week of Jan. 24, 2005. Soldiers who wish to be considered by this selection board must submit their applications through command channels to Military Personnel Division, DA Boards Section, Trailer #14, Room 4, (located on Ayers Avenue) Schofield Barracks between Nov. 1 and 18. The Installation Structured Interview Panel will convene Dec. 6 to interview qualified applicants. Specific interview dates, times and location will be provided to individual applicants. Eligibility criteria and application procedures are outlined in AR 350-51. The education requirement to apply for OCS is a minimum of 90 semester hours and verified by the Education Center. For Soldiers who do not possess a baccalaureate degree, a Scholastic Aptitude Test (850 or higher) or American College Test (19 or higher) not older than 6 years is required. Soldiers without a secret security clearance must provide a memorandum signed by the Division Security Officer stating a secret security investigation has been received and initiated by Defense Security Service. If interested in applying for OCS, provide original and three copies of completed application packet to our office by Nov. 18. An OCS information packet can be picked up at Trailer #14, Room 4. For more information, call Nan Lucero at 655-4511 or Corinne Queja at 655-

1845. **Thrift Shop Closure** - The Hui O' Na Wahine Thrift Shop on Schofield Barracks will be closed for cleaning during July. It will reopen Aug. 3 and will resume its Tuesday and Thursday schedule. The thrift shop is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays and the first Saturday of the month. Consignments are accepted from 9 a.m. to noon. For more information, call 624-3254.

EFMP Summer Pool Parties - Exceptional Family Member Program families from all services are invited to attend a free summer fun program designed to meet their special needs. Army Community Service EFMP will be hosting an afternoon of fun at the AMR pool from 1 to 5 p.m. July 16, and at Schofield Barracks pool from noon to 4 p.m. Aug. 14. Hot dogs, salads, ice cream, shaved ice, pinatas and much more will be available. EFMP enrollment and advanced registration is required. Reservations must be made through your service's EFMP coordinator by July 12 for the AMR party, and Aug. 9 for the Schofield Barracks party. Army EFMP families must call 655-2303 or 655-2324 for reservations. For more information, call the Army EFMP manager at 655-2303.

OIF/OEF apparel and memorabilia - AAFES-Schofield Barracks Main Exchange is now offering official OIF and OEF apparel and memorabilia of the 25th Infantry Division (Light). Selection includes T-shirts, hats, stickers, flags, pins, yellow ribbon car magnets, mouse pads, playing cards and more. Support our men and women of the 25th ID (L) and Schofield Barracks and shop the Schofield Main Exchange. It is open daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, call 622-1773.

USARPAC commander visits Soldiers in Afghanistan

By Spc. Daniel P. Kelly
CJTF-76 Public Affairs Office

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan - Soldiers of the 25th Infantry Division (Light) serving in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan got a visit from the commander of U.S. Army Pacific the week before their Independence Day weekend.

Lt. Gen. James L. Campbell said his main purpose in coming to Afghanistan was to see Soldiers.

"First and foremost, I came to visit all these wonderful Soldiers and thank them for what they're doing for our country," Campbell said. "You can do it through communication, you can do it through letters, and e-mails and video messages, but it sends an entirely different signal if you stand and tell a young man or woman thank you for serving our country. That's why I came here."

Campbell visited Provincial Reconstruction Teams, Forward Operating Bases and other essential missions during his week-long stay.

"The thing that is most impressive to me was that, to a man and to a woman, everyone believes in the mission, everyone buys in and everyone is committed to that mission," he said. "With that kind of great momentum going for you, you're going to be very, very successful."

Campbell was not surprised when Soldiers from Hawaii were called upon to serve in the War on Terror.

"When you look at the demands placed not only on our Army, but all of our services, there's a lot going on right now that's very, very important to our nation, and I think that we all are going to be part of that," he said. "So when the forces in the Army in the Pacific were called forward, we were ready to do the mission."

Campbell said families could rest assured their loved ones are in good hands.

"I had pledged earlier that the way we would take care of their spouses, their husband, wives, moms, dads and children, is that each Soldier is trained to do his or



Spc. Daniel P. Kelly

Lt. Gen. James Campbell, commander of U.S. Army Pacific, talks with Sgt. Stephanie Wallace, HHC, CJTF-76, July 3 during his visit to Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan.

her job," Campbell said. "From what I have seen here the last week in Afghanistan, each Soldier does know how to do their job, and they're doing it in an extraordinary fashion."

Campbell noted PRTs run by Soldiers in Afghanistan were

extraordinary.

"I was very impressed, because there were young men and women who were working outside of their trained skill set, yet by persevering, they were coming up with solutions to complex problems," he said. "It was just very impressive to

watch them in action and how they connected with the people around that PRT. It's a very powerful signal that we're sending."

"Reconstruction is not an overnight business," Campbell added. "It takes a lot of hard effort in building trust and confidence, and the PRTs are doing a lot of that for us."

Campbell said Soldiers of the "Tropic Lightning" Division will continue to make Afghanistan a better place.

"The Soldiers in the Army of Hawaii, the 25th Infantry Division (Light) and other elements with Hawaii, will continue to make improvements," he said. "Whether that's the mission, whether that's the living conditions ... every man and woman is committed to making this better for those who replace them."

Campbell said he hopes to also visit USARPAC Soldiers who are currently serving in Iraq.

"If I can (visit) I certainly will," he said. "When and if I'm allowed to do that, I will jump at the chance."

Task Force Bronco Soldiers improve Afghanistan school



Photo by Spc. Claudia K. Bullard

Pvt. Malorie Alonz (left) and Spc. Kenneth Norris teach an Afghan youth a new handshake during a break in a school reconstruction project at New Salo Kalay. Getting out of Kandahar Air Field meant new experiences and stronger ties for team members.

By Spc. Claudia K. Bullard
105th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

NEW SALO KALAY, Afghanistan – For members of Maj. Daniel Wilson's S-4 shop, serving in Afghanistan means working mainly within the confines of Kandahar Air Field making sure that 3rd Brigade Combat Team, Task Force Bronco has everything they need. So when the opportunity to improve conditions at a local school presented itself, Wilson and nine members of his team jumped at the chance to 'get outside the wire.'

The team's mission was to build a wooden floor and benches for a one-room school at New Salo Kalay. The children had been sitting on a dirt floor with few school materials. Wilson, moved by their situation, wrote a letter home to obtain supplies from friends and family.

Wilson, who said he believes Soldiers need an opportunity to understand why they're here, said both parties benefit from the project. Not only do the students get some badly needed improvements to their school but his Soldiers get a chance to make a stronger connection with local people.

"My Soldiers sit inside all day," said Wilson who stressed that though their work is vitally important, it is sometimes hard to see how it affects the Afghan people. "Their morale tends to drop. Getting them out doing a project like this reminds

them what they are here for."

Once on the ground the team was greeted warmly by village elder Hay Atullah and teacher Agha Jan. A gentle-spoken young man in his twenties, Jan said he gave up teaching for three years during the Taliban's harsh rule. Through the team's interpreter, Jan said he was "feeling very good" about the improvements. "Our government is so poor," said Jan. "We are very appreciative."

Jan said during the Taliban rule there was no education in English and science and that children "got an education inside the house" from the father. The unity of villages was affected because of the cancellation of classes. Afghan schools are much like schools in rural America which are often a center point for the community. "We're really glad you are here," said Jan. "We are glad the Taliban is gone."

With the help of the village men, the team unloaded materials and equipment. Capt. Marek Ludyjan and Sgt. Jonathon Swigert set up the generator and a compound miter saw while Afghan men and children gathered to watch Spc. David Fifeld cut the lumber.

Pfc. Sara Grotke, who was sitting with a group of boys pulling nails from their packaging, said she understands that her work in the S-4 shop is essential to mission accomplishment but was eager to volunteer

because she felt like she was actually "doing something." Grotke, previously out with a line unit to search villages, said this mission was strictly to win hearts and minds. "The other mission I went on was more tactical. We searched for anti-tank weapons, RPG's and so forth. This time we're getting to know the villagers. Last time the village men were all in one place waiting for us to search their village. They were pretty tense. The difference here is these villagers are getting to know us."



Photo by Spc. Claudia K. Bullard

Spc. David Fifeld, who was part of volunteer team that performed a reconstruction project at New Salo Kalay school near Kandahar, prepares to cut lumber to be made into benches. The students were sitting on a dirt floor before the team built a wooden floor and seats.

Nearby Lt. Jason Johnson, assistant S-4, was building benches. "I was quite happy to come," said Johnson. "I was glad to get out here and do something positive." He said this day would be well spent in terms of getting the S-4 shop to see the big picture. "It definitely gives us a sense of purpose. I don't think they feel they're just pushing paper anymore."

While the Soldiers were working on the school, Wilson met with village elders. In an inner courtyard that lay between the school

and the village mosque, Atullah invited Wilson to drink Chai. Chai is a hot tea flavored with sugar and spices and commonly served to guests in Afghan villages. Wilson conversed with Atullah through an interpreter about daily life in the village and under the former Taliban rule. Atullah said his village didn't have many modern conveniences but they have a strong love for one another.

Spc. Kenneth Norris, whose job was providing security, said, "It's amazing how happy they are and how happy the kids are. Norris, who was home on leave recently said there is too much negative press associated with the U.S. intervention. "I heard people say, 'what are you doing over there? You don't belong there.' It's not true. We're here to make things better."

Pvt. Malorie Alonz, who pulled security with Norris, said she was nervous at first about going outside the compound. During the visit she said, "I'm really glad I came." Alonz commented that the impressions Soldiers have of Afghans should be formed by meeting them, not by hearsay and news reports. "Just sitting inside our office all of the time I think sometimes we can get the wrong idea about the people here. They are really no different than we are."

Wilson, Swigert, Ludyjan and Sgt. Charles Duncan laid the last of the decking for the school room floor.

Johnson, Sgt. 1st Class Michael Noye, S-4 non-commissioned officer in charge, were pushing to get the last of the benches made. A few Afghan men, an interpreter and an Afghan National Army Soldier joined in. The heat was excruciating but the team's morale ran high. Soldiers from the Afghan National Army pulled security for the team.

Wilson and Jan, obviously pleased, surveyed the completed floor and benches and made plans for future improvements. The team intends to bring mats, school supplies, and paint for the walls in the very near future.

Although the project had taken longer than expected, the villagers would not let the team leave without lunch. U.S. Soldiers and villagers sat side-by-side for their meal. A long cloth was spread on the floor in the guest house and rice, okra and stew were served along with the traditional bread. There was a realization that everyone was in this together.

Noye later said accomplishing this project shows that coalition forces care and keep their word. "We aren't the greatest carpenters in the world but I think they saw we put our sweat and hard work into it. We are planning to go back and finish the girls' side." Noye said, "We wanted to contribute something," said Noye. "We do the logistics thing pretty well but you can't really see the results. This you can see."

Tropic Lightning troops move into FOB Ripley

Staff Sgt. Twana Atkinson
CJTF-76 Public Affairs Office

FORWARD OPERATING BASE RIPLEY, Afghanistan – Soldiers from the 25th Infantry Division (Light) recently moved into the dusty, hot bowl of F.O.B. Ripley near Tarin Khovt to help provide a better future for Afghanistan.

The Hawaii-based Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, who are used to fine beaches and warm waters, now have to deal with the dry, hot and desolate land of southeastern Afghanistan.

Cold drinks, shade, clean clothes, and hot chow are all the things that these Soldiers have learned to do without during their tenure at F.O.B. Ripley.

“It’s a lot better here now than before,” said Lt. Col. Phillip Carey, the Tarin Khovt Provincial Reconstruction Team commander. “We have done a lot of building up here since the F.O.B. was set up (by the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit).”

Soldiers set up the PRT back in April as a means to provide security and reconstruction to the local Afghans.

“There was nothing but many miles of sand when we first got here,” said Carey. “Now, we are getting a lot of things to make life seem a lot easier.”

Now the camp is equipped with permanent structure showers, a mobile kitchen truck and tents.

For the past two and a half months, the Marines living at F.O.B. Ripley have been using two-man pop tents for shelter. In the near future, plans are to build eight-man tents with air-conditioners. Soldiers were surprised and elated when some of the newer tents received air conditioning units.

“It’s nice to get away from the heat and dust from time to time,” said Pfc. Michael Hotz, a 2nd Bn. 5th Inf. Regt. infantryman. “It’s getting better here as we go along.”

Daily sand storms and temperatures in the 100’s don’t make life easy or comfortable for the Soldiers, but lit-



Staff Sgt. Twana Atkinson

An Afghan "dust devil" wreaks havoc on Forward Operating Base Ripley in southern Afghanistan as Soldiers and Marines prepare to take on remnants of the Taliban.

tle improvements have been a great help.

“We just got hot chow for breakfast and dinner here,” said Spc. John Akin, a 2nd Bn. 5th Inf. Regt. infantryman. “Now, at least we have something to look forward to everyday.”

Troops also have to endure daily servings of Meals Ready to Eat. Many Soldiers have come to know the contents of their favorite M.R.E.s by heart.

“The Spaghetti M.R.E. is my favorite, because it comes with cheese,” said Akin. “But, I really like the new milkshakes that come in the boneless pork chop (M.R.E.).”

For the Soldiers to have clean clothes they have to wash them out by hand during their allotted time for personal hygiene or travel to Kandahar to use the laundry facilities there.

Although the Soldiers and

Marines at F.O.B. Ripley don’t have many of the comforts of home life, they seem to find ways to keep up the morale.

“Since the MKT (mobile kitchen trailer) is here now, we try to go there at least twice a day to enjoy some cold drinks every once in a while,” said Staff Sgt. Wade Smith, a 2nd Bn. 5th Inf. Regt. infantryman.

F.O.B. Ripley has quickly become one of Combined Joint Task Force

76’s premier forward operating bases in southern Afghanistan.

The Soldiers and Marines sacrifice the daily comforts of life at home hoping to establish a sense of security to the local Afghans and to kill or capture all Taliban remnants in the area.

“When I see the children here I want to do something for their future,” said Smith. “They didn’t chose their life, but we can help better theirs and their children’s lives.”



2nd Lt. Yovana Cardenas

Sgt. Gaviola, an engineer from the 84th Eng. Bn., uses a level on a construction project.

'Outlaws' outside the wire

By 2nd Lt.
Yovana Cardenas
84th ECB (H)

During the second to last week of June, the Outlaws of Company A, 84th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy) have been busy continuing to conduct operations at both Logistical Support Area Anaconda and CEA Jaguar. This operation demonstrates how the Outlaws are able to adapt to any situation that may arise and continue to work together to carry out the mission.

The Vertical Deuces Wild platoon continues to work on the Military Intelligence Gazebo at LSA Anaconda. While the Horizontal Groundbreakers and Vertical Roughriders platoons conduct operations at CEA Jaguar.

Although the days are getting hotter every day, the Groundbreakers platoon, in conjunction with a Horizontal platoon from the 116th CSE, continue operations during the daytime hours. They are down range during two shifts, fighting the dust and getting dirty while performing their operations. Most of the time they come back from operating their equipment straight to the showers because they are covered in dust.

This week they started work on a 10.5-mile perimeter road. They performed cut and fill operations to make the road smoother and more passable for vehicles traveling along the road. This process has been completed by pouring an



2nd Lt. Yovana Cardenas

A Soldier from the 84th Eng. Bn. uses a bulldozer to move dirt during the construction of a perimeter road at LSA Anaconda in Iraq.

average of 65, 20-ton loads of watered and compacted gravel. In addition, they have completed a one-mile berm to keep fragments off the road.

Despite the increase in the temperature, the Vertical Roughriders platoon has been busily working 24-hour operations to build the 38 housing units in a timely manner. The scope of work has increased and they will also be turning two of the housing units into shower and bathroom facilities. This week Soldiers have been efficiently cutting lumber, pounding nails, and building both doors and windows. In addition to utilizing their carpentry skills, the Roughriders have also started doing electrical wiring for the light and air condition units that each housing unit is designed to possess.

One of the set backs the Roughrider platoon has encountered is the lack of materials to finish the housing units. However, the Roughriders have managed to overcome this obstacle and constructed as many housing units possible. They currently have completed construction of 35 housing units, however 12 of these units do not have a roof system because of the shortage of material, which should be arriving the following week. Some of these housing units have windows and electrical wiring completed and the others should have these tasks completed within a week. The platoon will continue to work on the available tasks while they wait for the rest of the materials to arrive.

While the Groundbreakers platoon continue to break ground and the Roughriders pla-

toon continue to use their skills to build housing units, the maintenance section has been a valuable asset to the whole Jaguar operation. They have been responding to all vehicle problems that occur downrange with the horizontal equipment as well as fixing any vehicle that breaks down during convoys. The contact and wheeled teams composed of various Soldiers have managed to fix and bring back to mission capable status about 90 percent of the vehicles with problems. On a day-to-day basis, the fueler operator, Spc. Jackson performs his role of refueling all the Horizontal platoon's vehicles, as well as the generators and light sets being used by the Vertical platoon for night operations. Pfc. Roman has been maintaining all the generators used to power the air conditioning units in the tents and wood working tools used by the Vertical platoon. Despite the busy work schedule the maintenance section has encountered, Pfc. Smith has managed to make time to display his welding skills. He has boosted the morale of the unit by building a squat rack for the weight room as well as a pull up bar, so Soldiers can enjoy workout sessions a little more.

Overall, operations being conducted at both LSA Anaconda and CEA Jaguar are running smoothly and once again the Outlaw family is demonstrating their technical and tactical proficiency.

25th Trans. Co. Soldier receives Purple Heart

by Staff Sgt. Bradley Rhen
Editor

Three days shy of a month after arriving in Iraq, Sgt. Christopher McIntosh found himself providing security for a convoy from Camp Speicher to LSA Anaconda.

The date was April 20, and McIntosh was manning a MK19 automatic grenade launcher in the rear Humvee in the convoy. The next thing he knew, he was lying on the back of the vehicle and looking up at the sky.

"I didn't hear when the IED went off," he said. "My ears were ringing, and I was holding onto the gun and trying to stand up, but I couldn't because the blast blew my legs from underneath me."

As he was lying on the back of the truck, he started praying. He could hear the guys on the ground asking, "gunner, are you all right?" He didn't answer them, so they jumped up on the back of the truck and saw him.

"I didn't see how bad the injury was - I was just trying to make sure all my body parts worked, moving my toes and everything," he said.

After being stabilized by a medic, they found out that a Medevac helicopter couldn't come to their location. Instead, they had to drive about four miles to a nearby camp. Although the trip

wasn't too long, McIntosh said the ride was bumpy and painful.

McIntosh suffered a broken bone in his left elbow and had a football-sized chunk of flesh and muscle torn out of his thigh.

For his injuries, McIntosh received a Purple Heart July 1 at Schofield Barracks.

Col. Dave McKenna, commander of U.S. Army, Hawaii presented McIntosh the medal and said McIntosh has paid in blood, sweat and tears in service to the country.

"Sergeant McIntosh stands a symbol of bravery and courage and is a reminder that freedom isn't free," McKenna said.

McIntosh said at first he didn't think much of getting a Purple Heart, but then he found out his mother could see him get it. He said his mother has never seen him receive an award from the Army.

"My mother came here and I was all happy," he said. "I wasn't going to let them present it to me in the hospital."

With mom in town, McIntosh has been enjoying plenty of home cooking. The Jamaica native said he lost more than 60 pounds since joining the Army.

Despite his injuries and Army-inspired weight loss, McIntosh said he plans to re-up in the near future.

"I'm ready to reenlist," he said, "but my wife thinks I'm crazy."



Staff Sgt. Bradley Rhen

Col. Dave McKenna, commander of U.S. Army, Hawaii, pins a Purple Heart on Sgt. Christopher McIntosh, 25th Transportation Company, July 1 at Schofield Barracks.

Expanding the terror database in Iraq



Spc. Sean Kimmons

Staff Sgt. Jamie Carver, the intelligence analysis sergeant for TF 1-21 INF, fingerprints a released detainee on the BAT system June 29.

Spc. Sean Kimmons
25th ID (L) Public Affairs

KIRKUK, Iraq – Similar to how American police officers can obtain criminal records by running a name through a computer system is how Army intelligence units in Iraq are keeping tabs on released detainees.

It is called the Biometrics Automated Toolset system, which Army intelligence units use to collect distinct characteristics of ex-detainees and record their crimes before they are released into the general public.

Intelligence teams from Task Force 1-21 Infantry and Company B, 125th Military Intelligence Battalion, gathered biometrics of seven ex-detainees during a mission at Kirkuk's Iraqi Police headquarters building June 29.

The major characteristics they received from the ex-detainees were their fingerprints and a mug-shot.

Staff Sgt. Jamie Carver, the intelligence analysis sergeant for TF 1-21 INF, said fingerprints and a photo are always acquired in these missions. This is because if an ex-detainee is captured again, it will be easier to track down their history.

"If we ever arrest or apprehend these guys again, we will have them in a database," Carver said. "The more evidence we have on these guys, the better chance we have to put them away for a long period of time."

Information gained from these BAT systems is shared to several classified databases, so various intelligence, law enforcement and border control agencies can access it.

The idea behind the BAT system and its attached scanners is to "register" Iraqi ex-detainees, then to alert law enforcers when one of them tries to enter the country. It is a database of terror suspects.

Once a week, Carver, 1st Lt. Adrian Castro, the tactical intelligence officer for TF 1-21 INF, and the Co. B, 125th MI Bn. intelligence team register an average of 10 ex-detainees.

Bobcats

From A-1

convoy through the city of Tarin Khawt. The locals filled the streets as the military vehicles rode through. Children ran to the vehicles giving thumbs up and chanting positive messages supporting the military's presence.

The Soldiers traveled rough rocky terrain through mountains to get from one checkpoint to another. The terrain was so difficult that the convoys were stopped often by tire blowouts or mechanical failures.

On their way to their temporary F.O.B. site, the Soldiers stopped in villages to provide medical assistance to the local people and search any caves for enemy or munitions.

"We want to let them (Afghans) know that the coalition forces are going to be around for a long time," Sellers said.

Children and the male elders gathered around the convoy voicing their ailments and wanting to try snacks out of the Soldiers' Meals Ready to Eat.

Although these Soldiers were traveling on the same route that militants ambushed a U.S. military

unit only weeks before, they rode through the mountains ready for the fight.

Finally, after reaching a mountaintop, the battalion commander's vehicle got a flat tire. Since nightfall was approaching, Sellers decided to keep the entire convoy in that location overnight.

There were continuous reports during the night of militants in the ridgeline north of the Soldiers' bivouac site.

Throughout the night the Soldiers kept the temporary location guarded with continuous patrols. Artillery troops fired warning shots to show the militants a strong presence.

The next morning before first light, the Soldiers lined up to continue their convoy to get a head start on any militants in the area.

The long convoy weaved and winded through narrow valleys, while Soldiers anticipated the possibility of coming face to face with the enemy.

After passing through the danger area, the convoy was halted again by another mechanical failure. While the convoy was stopped, a female local national approached

a vehicle in the front of the convoy and began conversing with the Soldiers. With the help of interpreters, the Soldiers were able to foster good relations with the villagers.

While talking to the Afghan woman several Afghans were spotted near the end of the convoy.

"There are three guys approaching the end of our convoy riding motorcycles and several were spotted in the tree-lines spying on our convoy," a Soldier said over the radio.

A few moments later, Black Hawk helicopters flew over the area and the men disappeared into the tree line.

Finally, after a two-and-a-half day convoy, the Soldiers made it safely to their F.O.B. site without enemy contact.

After a short rest, the Soldiers were ready to continue their mission. They prepared to operate out of their temporary base by going out into the surrounding areas to search for any Taliban remnants.

"We are going to come in here and make the Taliban organization ineffective to set the conditions for a better government for the Afghan people", Sellers said.

Tropic Lightning Band set to deploy to Afghanistan and Qatar

By Sharee Moore
Assistant Editor

The 25th Infantry Division (Light) Band stands apart from many other Army bands because it will perform a double duty in support of the War on Terror.

"Our band is unique in that we deploy for troop morale and still come back and continue our musical missions here," explained Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jesse Pascua, bandmaster and company commander.

One part of that two-fold mission begins in mid-July through late August when the band deploys to Afghanistan and Qatar. The 25 ID (L) Band will return to Schofield Barracks before deploying to Iraq from November through January.

"Major General Olson's intent was to make things as normal here as possible while the troops are deployed. We want to keep the families' spirits high and give them a sense of normalcy. We go there (overseas) to give the troops a taste of home," said Pascua.

At home, the band performs during receptions, change of command ceremonies, public relations concerts and parades. Most recently, members marched during the King Kamehameha Parade and the Aloha Week Festival Parade.

"We're gearing up for the deployment right now, but still have a lot of performances, including the 4th of July where we'll be playing the '1812 Overture' complete with cannons," said Pascua.

Spc. Carlos D. Salas, a member of the brass quintet describes the upcoming deployment as a unique experience. "Especially being in the band, which is not something many musicians get to do, or expect to do. It's exciting," Salas said.

"I look forward to doing my part in

this whole campaign. I'll do whatever I can do to help out," Salas added.

Pascua made it clear that the band is not just another musical group playing for the troops – they're Soldiers too. "Gearing up" consists of weapons qualification and other Soldier training in addition to band practice each week.

"Within the base camp it is secure, but we will be prepared for anything that happens. We'll be carrying weapons, musical instruments and body armor," Pascua explained.

According to the 25 ID (L) Band bandmaster, just how does the band measure up to the celebrity performers recently welcomed by the troops?

"Morale, Welfare and Recreation has done great things in getting the big names there. The Army bands are just as good as those acts and sometimes we rival the best bands out there," Pascua said with a wide grin.

"Practically everyday will be filled with some type of performance either for troops or in the dining facility. Also, we'll do some receptions for the command over there especially for Major General Olson," said Pascua.

On the public relations front, Pascua asserted that the Army of One campaign has its eye on the band. Also, in an effort to show the war through the eyes of an Army musician, some band members plan to submit journals for possible features in national music publications.

Traditionally, as troops walk down the gangway after a deployment, the 25 ID (L) Band welcomes them with the sounds of home. In August and again in January it will be their turn to be greeted by the woodwinds and brass.

"We're always there when they get off the planes. It gives you a feeling of pride to have an Army band playing for you instead of you always playing for the troops," Pascua said.



Sharee Moore

Chief Warrant Officer Jesse Pascua, bandmaster and company commander for the 25ID(L) Tropic Lightning Band, conducts music during band practice July 2.

COMMUNITY & SPORTS

Spectacular
days good to
celebrate origins



Photos by Staff Sgt. Bradley Rhen

A salute battery from 1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery Regiment of the Hawaii Army National Guard fire their cannons during the 1812 Overture.



A Soldier stands on stage with a replica of the first American flag during "The Flags We Follow" presentation.

Background – Fireworks light up the sky over Sills Field.

By Spc. Len Cutler
Staff writer

The Hawaii community turned out en masse to celebrate America's independence at Schofield Barracks Sunday at the Fourth of July Spectacular on Sills Field.

Not only Soldiers and military members turned out for the event – local supporters and civilians came out for the fun and sun, and the chance to celebrate America's birthday.

"It's just great to come out here and be around the Soldiers and let them know we appreciate the job they're doing," said civilian Scott Weeks, who made the trip to Schofield Barracks from

Aiea. "Those guys are risking their lives to give people a chance for freedom, and that's what the Fourth of July is all about."

Attendees enjoyed food and drinks, games, music, and much more at the day-long festival. Local business JN Chevrolet was on hand to show their support and raffle off a new car.

Nationally-acclaimed singer Sandi Patty, who has won five Grammy awards over the course of a career that has seen her perform for the President of the United States, was on hand to entertain the crowd and show her support.

"I just want to thank each and every one of you for what you

do," said Patty. "And for the Soldiers in Iraq right now – come home safe."

The event was capped off with the largest fireworks display to ever grace Oahu's shores, which elicited 'oohs' and 'aahs' from the crowd from beginning to end.

"It was awesome," said Aaron B. Fidlefia, 9, and his brother Alex, 10. "The big ones were really cool. They filled up the whole sky."

An estimated 45,000 people took part in the festivities, according to the Army's Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

A young visitor takes a ride on a carousel.



Floats N' Flicks and National Kids Day – Child and Youth Services is hosting a National Kids Day event to recognize and honor children and their role in our society and its future. In conjunction with Floats N' Flicks, families and children can enjoy hands on activity booths, youth demonstrations, contests, swimming, games, air jumpers, hot dogs and a movie for families to enjoy together. Join the fun on July 24 from 5 - 7:30 p.m. at the Aliamanu Military Reservation Community Activity Center and Pool. And on July 31, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Tropics, Building 589 on Schofield Barracks (this one is not in conjunction with the Floats N' Flicks Program.) For more information call 655-8628.

Aliamanu New Temporary Library Hours – Effective July 12, Aliamanu Library hours are as follows: Monday and Tuesday 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Saturday 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. The library will be closed on Fridays. Call 833-4851 for more information.

Aiea Loop Trail Hike – Hikers aged 10 years and older can participate in a 4.75 miles varied terrain hike on July 18 beginning at 8 a.m. Transportation will leave the Tropics on Schofield Barracks or the Fort Shafter Physical Fitness Center at 8 a.m. Cost is \$5 with transportation (limited seat available) or \$3 without transportation. Deadline to register is by noon on July 15. Register at the Schofield Barracks Health and Fitness Center or the Fort Shafter Physical Fitness Center. Call 655-8007 or 438-1152 for more information.

Child and Youth Services Fee Increase – The Department of the Army has issued new fee policies and guidelines for Army Child and Youth Services, which include Child Development Centers, School-Age Programs, Family Child Care, Middle School/Teen Programs and Team Sports. Patrons can expect to see an average 5 percent increase in their fees beginning September 1, 2004 in compliance with the Department of Army Guidance. For more information contact your nearest Child and Youth Services facility.

Na Koa Aina Golf Tournament – Play 27 holes of Golf during this benefit golf tournament on August 13, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at Leilehua Golf Course. Participants have an opportunity to win over \$20,000 worth of prizes, to include mainland trips, inter-island trips, dinners for two, golf clubs and much more. The entry fee is \$115 for active duty, Reservists, National Guard or military retirees. \$125 for DoD employees, and \$135 for individual or corporate persons. All proceeds help to fund a holiday dinner for enlisted Soldiers and their families. Last year's tournament raised enough funds to provide 1,300 young families with holiday dinners. Completed applications and payments must be made by August 13. For applications visit Leilehua Golf Course or stop by Army Community Service, Building 2091 on Schofield Barracks. Call 655-2400 for more information.

Patriotic Magnetic Ribbons for Sale – The Schofield Barracks and Fort Shafter Arts and Crafts Centers are selling an assortment of patriotic magnetic ribbons. Large ribbons are \$4 and small ribbons are \$2.50. Call 655-4202 or 438-1315.

Yu-Gi-Oh Tournament – Youth of all ages can participate in a Yu-Gi-Oh Tournament July 10 and August 14 at the Tropics, Schofield Barracks, beginning at 11 a.m. Cost is \$5 and each contestant will receive Yu-Gi-Oh merchandise. Tournament will be conducted by Toyriffic. Call 655-0002.

Teen Baggers – Are you currently a Child and Youth Services member? Are you 16 years old? Are you attending school? Do you have a current military I.D. card. Then you can become a teen bagger at the Schofield Barracks Commissary. Call 655-0451 for more information.

Spouse's Night Out – This free adults-only program at Army Community Service on Schofield Barracks is designed to get spouses out of the house every Thursday night from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. to have some fun. On July 15 participate in Beginners Sewing, How Living Healthy Habits Can Ease your Reunion (2 of 4), Deployment Support Group for FRG Leaders with Dr.

Faran, Natural Health and Wellness, Learn to Use a Web Camera, and Quilting. On July 22, Beginning Hula Lessons, How Living Healthy Habits Can Ease your Reunion (3 of 4), Natural Health and Wellness, Learn How to Use a Web Camera, and Quilting. MWR Blue Star Card holders will receive free child care from 6 - 9 p.m. by reservation only at Peterson Child Care Center. Call 655-3929 by noon of the Tuesday prior to each Thursday event to make your child care reservations. Child care reservations can be made two weeks in advance. Pre-registration for classes is required, call 655-2736.

Summer Reading Program – The Sgt. Yano Library on Schofield Barracks, the Fort Shafter Library and Aliamanu Library have fun filled Summer Reading programs for July. Balloon Monsoon will be at the Fort Shafter Library on July 13, Sgt. Yano Library on July 14 and Aliamanu on July 15 at 3 p.m. For information call your nearest library.

Schofield Barracks Teen Center Temporarily Moves – The teen center has temporarily moved to a new location in the back of the Bennett Youth Center on Schofield Barracks. The youth center is located at 9090 McMahon Road. Hours for the teen center until July 23 are as follows: Monday - Thursday 1 - 8 p.m. Friday 1 - 11 p.m. and Saturday 11 a.m. - 11 p.m. Call 655-0451 for more information.

Tropics, Schofield Barracks Upcoming Workshops – On July 19 participate in Kite Making from 10 a.m. - Noon. Cost is \$1.50 for all supplies and is open to all ages. On July 21 Yo-Yo Making is from 10 a.m. - Noon. Cost is \$3.50 for all supplies and is open to all ages. Call 655-0002 for more information.

R&R Deployment Specials – Soldiers returning from Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom will receive 50 percent off regular cottage rates at Piliiaau Army Recreation Center in Waianae or 30 percent off all room categories, dining and entertainment events of your choice at the Hale Koa Hotel in Waikiki. For Piliiaau reservations

call 696-6783 to make reservations today. Eligible Soldiers must have a copy of their leave orders. For Hale Koa reservations call 955-0555 or visit www.halekoa.com. Eligible personnel must mention at time of reservations that they will be using the R&R or Leave Program.

Upcoming Craft Classes – The following classes are being offered: Youth Art at Fort Shafter on July 10 and 24 from 10 a.m. - noon and Mosaic Glass at Fort Shafter beginning July 10, four Saturday sessions, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. cost is \$30. Participate in Photo Fun - take a Polaroid picture of your child and frame it with whimsical decorations on July 14, 10 - 11:30 a.m. at Schofield Barracks Arts and Crafts Center, cost is \$12 per child. The Fort Shafter and Schofield Barracks Arts and Crafts Centers have several other classes available. For information call 438-1071 or 655-4202

Tennis Lessons – Participate in tennis lessons every Wednesday evening at the Schofield Barracks Tennis Complex. From 7 - 8 p.m. beginners and intermediate level players ages 6 - 14. The cost is \$10 per session. From 8 - 9 p.m. beginners and intermediate teenagers and adults. Cost is \$12 per session. Classes are ongoing. Private lessons are available by appointment. Call 284-7986 for information.

Auto Craft Early Bird Special – From the 1st to the 15th of every month receive a safety inspection for only \$10. Vehicles with tinted windows will cost \$15. Call your nearest Auto Craft Center for more information. Fort Shafter, 438-9402 or Schofield Barracks, 655-9368.

Tee Time Policy Change – For a limited time, the call in for tee time policy has changed. Weekdays and weekends at Nagorski Golf Course and weekdays only at Kalakaua Golf Course are as follows. Priority A and B can call in seven days in advance beginning at 10 a.m., priority C and D can call in seven days in advance beginning at 12 p.m. and friends of MWR can call in five days in advance. Call Nagorski at 438-9587 or Kalakaua Golf Course at 655-9833 for information.

Tropics July Specials – Buy any breakfast sandwich or burrito and get potato rounds for an extra \$.50. Buy two slices of pepperoni or cheese pizza with a soda for \$5 or one slice of pepperoni or cheese pizza for \$2. Or choose the taco salad for \$5. Call 655-0002.

Teen Employment Workshop – Teens will learn how to apply and interview for employment and how to write a resume without employment experience. Classes will be held on July 7, 10:30 a.m. - noon at the Barracks on Schofield Barracks. To register call 655-0002. Or go to the Aliamanu Teen Center on July 21 from 10:30 a.m. - noon. To register call 833-0920. Youth must be current CYS members.

Flag Football Clinic – Gain an understanding of flag football and skilled players can work on their techniques before the start of the season at the next clinic. Clinic is open to youth born in the year 1988-1998. Register from July 13 - August 10 at the nearest Army Youth Center. The cost is \$12 and includes a T-shirt. The clinic date is August 28, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Bennett Youth Center Field on Schofield Barracks. Call Aliamanu 833-5393, Schofield Barracks 655-6465 or Fort Shafter 438-9336.

Exceptional Family Member Information – Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) Support Group for parents and children is held every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. at the Aliamanu Chapel and the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 6 p.m. at Army Community Service on Schofield Barracks. EFMP Family Summer Pool Parties are scheduled for July 16, 1 - 5 p.m. at Aliamanu Pool and August 14, 12 - 4 p.m. at Schofield Barracks pool. EFMP Enrollment is required and reservations are mandatory by calling 655-2303. Free American Sign Language Classes are also offered on Monday and Wednesday until July 26. Call 655-2303 for more information.

Play and Win: Golf for Food and Fun – Get a team together every Tuesday from 2 - 4 p.m. and come on out for a round of golf at Nagorski Golf Course on Fort Shafter. Receive a 9-hole green fee, foursome platter of pupus, pitcher of beverage, and entry into the lucky door prize for \$15 per person. Answer the "Golf Question of the Week" correctly and win a Nike Door Prize. Get a hole in one and win a "Golf Digest's 2004 Club of the



SGT SMITH THEATER

TODAY
Troy
7 p.m. (R)

SATURDAY JULY 10
Break'in all the Rules
2 p.m. (PG-1)

SATURDAY JULY 10
Troy
7 p.m. (R)

SUNDAY JULY 11
Godsend
7 p.m. (PG-13)

MONDAY JULY 12
Closed

TUESDAY JULY 13
Closed

WEDNESDAY JULY 14
Closed

THURSDAY JULY 15
Closed

HICKAM MEMORIAL THEATER

TODAY
The Day After Tomorrow
7 p.m. (PG-13)

SATURDAY JULY 10
Shrek 2
2 p.m. (PG)

SATURDAY JULY 10
The Day After Tomorrow
7 p.m. (PG)

SUNDAY JULY 11
Shrek 2
7 p.m. (PG-13)

SUNDAY JULY 11
The Day After Tomorrow
2 p.m. (PG-13)

MONDAY JULY 12
Closed

TUESDAY JULY 13
Closed

WEDNESDAY JULY 14
Raising Helen
7 p.m. (PG-13)

THURSDAY JULY 15
Raising Helen
7 p.m. (PG-13)

July 9 - 15

HACN TV2 Schedule

Morning		Evening	
6:00	Sign on	6:00	Community Focus
6:25	Bulletin Board	6:20	OEF Deployment photo Montage
6:30	Cardio Kickboxing	6:30	Families in Transition
7:00	Fit for Life	7:00	OEF Deployment Ceremony
7:30	Bulletin Board	7:30	OEF Deployment Luau
7:40	Voting 04' Assist Program	7:54	OIF Photo Montage 2
7:42	MG Olson Afghanistan	8:00	Helicopter Introduction
7:50	OIF Photo Montage 6	8:22	MG Olson Afghanistan
8:00	Pentagon Channel	8:48	OIF Photo Montage 5
9:00	Pentagon Channel	9:00	ASAP Smoking Part 1
10:00	Honor to Serve	9:24	Bulletin Board
10:30	VATV	9:30	ASAP Smoking Part 2
11:00	US Army Safety Message	10:00	The History of Army AVN
11:46	OIF Photo Montage 2	10:44	OEF Deployment Photo Montage
		11:00	US Army Safety Message
		11:50	NFL
Afternoon		Overnight	
12:00	Pentagon Channel		
2:00	Dash N Grab		
2:15	Hurricane Safety	12:44	Pentagon Channel
2:30	ASAP		
2:34	Voting 04' Assist Program		
2:37	Shamu Top 10		
4:00	Pentagon Channel		

Getting wired:

Changes are coming to Hawaii public school education

By Wayne Yoshino
School Liaison Officer

What do you think of smaller class sizes in kindergarten through second grade, full-time student activity coordinators in each high school, and more math textbooks in our schools? These are just a few of the incentives that will benefit state public schools, thanks to the recently-passed Hawaii State Legislature Senate Bill 3238.

The changes have been long overdue according to Hawaii Sen. Norman Sakamoto, one of the chief architects of the bill.

"The single most important focus and the common denominator of every proposal in this bill is raising student achievement," Sakamoto said. "There has been much discussion and debate surrounding public education reform this session, all with the common refrain; change is not option-

al, it is a must."

According to the Hawaii Department of Education Superintendent's Update, the significant changes brought on by the bill are: conversion to a weighted student formula, in which funding is distributed to the schools based on specific needs of their students, with special needs students receiving greater funding than students without special needs; mandatory establishment of school community councils at each school, which will play a role in setting each school's academic and budget priorities; and a provision to have no less than 70 percent of all education operating funds expended at the school level.

Another highlight of the bill is a state commitment funding information technology. Schools that are not IT friendly will get "wired" over the next few years and computer labs are being planned for them. Computer upgrades

are being projected for schools that have their labs in use.

The bill calls for adoption of a uniform school calendar beginning with the 2006-2007 school year. Other features of the bill include:

- Principal accountability and responsibility
- Establishing a national board
- Certification incentive program for teachers
- Enhancing teacher education
- Reducing the bureaucracy that hampers the Department of Education's effectiveness
- Defining and assigning accountability

For copies of the bill, go to Web site www.capitol.hawaii.gov; select "Bill Status & Docs," type "SB3238" in the text box then click on "go." For questions, contact the School Liaison Office at 655-2414.

25th ID (L) Airman says Army leadership 'impressive' since Vietnam



Spc. Daniel P. Kelly

Maj. William C. Pemberton, who is assigned to the Joint Logistics Center at Bagram Air Field, served with the 25th ID (L) during Vietnam.

By Spc. Daniel P. Kelly
CJTF-76 Public Affairs Office

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – Soldiers serving in the Army are in a new era compared to Vietnam. Although the Army's stop loss has effectively taken away some Soldiers' freedom to leave the Army when they wanted to, the majority of Soldiers in the Army today came into an all-volunteer force.

One Airman serving with the Joint Logistics Center at Bagram Air Field was with the 25th Infantry Division (Light

during a time when many Americans didn't have a choice whether or not they would fight in war, and he says the Army has changed for the better because of the all-volunteer force.

Maj. William C. Pemberton used to be a private first class in the Army during Vietnam, and now he's a commissioned officer in the Air Force. Pemberton says Army leadership has changed a lot since he came into the service in 1967.

"The worst part about Vietnam was the leadership," Pemberton said. "If

you had a platoon leader that lived long enough, then after six months he was rotated out and they brought another one in."

Pemberton said this tore unit cohesion and morale apart.

"The stability of leadership was almost void," he said.

Pemberton said an all-volunteer force and great leadership is winning the War on Terror.

"Everybody's here because they want to be," he said. "You cannot have a good working team unless people want to be part of that team."

The "Tropic Lightning" team impresses Pemberton by the way Soldiers serving in Operation Enduring Freedom are well trained and have a long-standing union between each other, unlike that of Vietnam.

"When I was in Vietnam, all that we did was go to Basic Training, Advanced Individual Training and then we were off to the war," he said.

Pemberton is impressed on how far the Army has come as a whole, and is especially happy serving with the 25th ID (L) in wars of different eras.

"The 25th now has an advantage over what we had back then because you have an entrenched leadership," Pemberton said. "You have leadership here that's worked together, that's trained together, and now they're doing their job together, and that is impressive."

Lightning spirit

The Lighthouse That Never Was

Commentary

Chaplain (LTC) Donald W. Eubank
Fort Stafer community Chaplain

Have you ever seen, either in person or in pictures, the magnificence and beauty of the great lighthouse that leads ships safely from the wide open seas of the Mediterranean into the Suez Canal?

No, you haven't. The reason why you've never seen that lighthouse is that it was never built. It's an incredible story of few people know, and it gives each of us encouragement to hang on to our dreams for great accomplishments, even when we might feel those dreams lie in ashes at our feet.

It was 1854. Ferdinand de Lesseps had a great dream of building a canal that would unite the Mediterranean and Red Seas. French sculptor Frédéric-Auguste Bartholdi was visiting Egypt at this time, enjoying the majesty of the pyramids and monuments of Egypt's historic past. Bartholdi met de Lesseps and was enthralled by de Lesseps' dream and plans to build the Suez Canal. Bartholdi immediately began to dream of building a great lighthouse at the mouth of the Suez Canal, and he shared his dream with de Lesseps. The two men agreed this would be the "capstone" piece for the Suez Canal, and Bartholdi began to plan, draw, and build scale models of the lighthouse.

Bartholdi attempted to raise funds to build his lighthouse, but to his great sorrow, no one was willing to contribute. The lighthouse was to be a statue of a great lady, holding a lighted torch, symbolizing the light and truth of the virtues of Christianity being brought to the Middle East. Bartholdi watched the Suez Canal open in 1867—without his lighthouse. He returned to France greatly disappointed, a broken man. His dream was dead.

At least he thought it was dead. Shortly after Bartholdi returned to France, officials of the French government contacted him. France was planning to give a gift to the United States to commemorate the alliance between these two nations during the American Revolution from 1775 to 1783. Officials in the French government had heard about and seen models of Bartholdi's great lighthouse, and believed this would be the perfect gift for the United States. The French government acted quickly, and commissioned Bartholdi to design a sculpture to com-

memorate their national alliances on the centennial of the American Declaration of Independence.

Bartholdi lived to see his dream, once dead, come alive again. On June 17, 1886, the great lighthouse-statue arrived in New York Harbor. By now you have figured out that Bartholdi's great lighthouse is: The Statue of Liberty—a lighthouse statue that almost never was. Bartholdi never really let go of his dream, even when it seemed all was lost.

What about us and our dreams for our world, our families, our country? What dreams has God put in our hearts that, because of circumstances, tough times, or personal failures, we are ready to let die? If Bartholdi were here today, he would probably admonish us: "Don't let go of your dreams."

Keeping our dream alive is very, very important. The Bible says that people need to dream, or they will die. Do you know that half of the first book of the Bible is about a young man named Joseph who was a dreamer? As a young teenager, Joseph dreamed about his future and his family. But at 17, he was sold into slavery, and taken away from his family for 22 years. But Joseph never let go of his dreams, and at age 39, he saw his dreams come true—his family reunited and saved from a great famine.

What then, about your dreams? Maybe your dream is to become a scientist, and find the cure to diseases, or perhaps you wish to become a national leader in public service, helping to preserve peace and justice in our country. Your dream may be to lead soldiers, or to become the Command Sergeant Major of the Army. Maybe you are an Eagle Scout, and you dream someday of being a Scout Leader and of leading young Boy or Girl Scouts into honorable and character building activities and lives. Or perhaps you've always wanted to play a musical instrument, learn to paint, or build your own home. Whatever your dreams are, don't let go of them.

It's clear from the Bible that God gives dreams to instill in each of us a desire to pursue excellence, virtue, and honor. One scripture says, "without a dream (vision), people perish." That ancient truth could be a "carrot" or a warning, depending on which way you accept its wisdom.

The next time you see or think about a lighthouse—especially that Great Lady in New York Harbor, remember Auguste Bartholdi and his dream. Remember your dreams too; never let go of them, and you too may see them come!

ArmyOnline

www.25idl.army.mil

25th Infantry Division (Light)
and United States Army, Hawaii



Spouse's Spotlight

Mom manages five kids and a thriving business



Courtesy Photo

The Squire family from left to right: Dawn, Williard IV, Kayley, Lt. Col. Williard Squire III, with Sibongiseni Pierre Joshua "PJ" on his lap, and Sydney holding Veronica.

By Sharee Moore
Assistant Editor

More than 25 sickly babies lived in the orphanage with only one worker to care for their needs. It was hopeless for most of the children, but for two babies, hope came in the form of the Squire family.

"We knew from our first date that we would adopt," began Dawn Zec Squire. "We wanted to adopt out of Africa, but the doors were closed. In December 1999, our hearts were really touched.

"A lady who connected me, a World Bank researcher, was not very optimistic. She said the only way we would adopt

is from a Mother Theresa orphanage," said Squire.

The Mother Theresa orphanage typically will only adopt children into Catholic homes, and the Squire family is Protestant. Armed with that information, they decided to research other options.

"The next fall, in 2000, we proceeded with a Japanese adoption which ended up falling through in April 2001," said Squire. The family dug their heels in again when they heard that an agency in the States was doing adoptions out of South Africa.

The agency recommended that the Squires complete paperwork for two children so

if they decided to adopt again, the process would be shorter. It didn't quite work that way.

The agency called and said, "We have a referral for a little girl, but there's a toddler little boy who needs a home, too," said Squire. Dawn and her husband, Lt. Col. Williard S. Squire III, the Division G2, called a family meeting with their 3 children, now 17, 15 and 6.

"It was important from the very beginning that we have an intercultural family, so it was important that they have someone they could connect with," explained Squire.

The whole family supported the decision and "by

August 26, 2001 we had a little boy (21 months) and a little girl (8 months). We knew it was a God thing. There were so many pieces that fell into place," said Squire before listing the reasons for her assertion.

"The South African adoption was going to be triple the price of the Japanese one, but things just fell into place," said Squire as she wiped tears away.

"We had been shorted \$200 in COLA per month for the last two years. The underpayment of cost of living allowances were repaid in one bulk payment and a local bank approved a loan for \$6,000 to go toward the children's medical payments.

Going in, the Squires knew their babies would be sick. The Army helped them prepare for it.

"Before the children were legally ours, the Army doctors at Camp Zama, Japan were extremely supportive," explained Squire. The doctors gave the family a full briefing on what health problems to expect and gave antibiotics, which the Squires gave the children on sight.

"They were very sick with upper respiratory problems. But they were free of HIV, Hepatitis and Tuberculosis or the U.S. wouldn't have issued Visas," Squire said.

"When we first saw (our daughter) she was fitting in clothes for a two month old and (our son) was 12 months delayed. At eight months, she couldn't roll or sit up, but by 14 months, she was running on the playground.

"The Army was wonderful in getting us the money to get them treatment. I was able to access top of the line physicians in Pennsylvania for him. Therapists would come to the house and give our son exactly what he needed when he needed it. He still gets speech and occupational therapy," said Squire.



Courtesy Photo

A stained glass replica of the 25th ID(L) insignia created by Dawn Squire.

Outside of the younger children's health concerns, "We've had challenges dealing with just the normal family issues of being a large family. And I've identified that and gone through the chaplain's system in dealing with it," said Squire.

Other challenges included the fact that the children were brought into the family only three weeks before 9-11. "We had a lot of stressors and he was head of security for Camp Zama after 9-11 and he wasn't as accessible as we would have liked," said Squire.

"The three biggest things that helped us persevere once we brought (the children) home on those nights when we were thinking 'what have we done?' was first on December 18, 1999 when we began sending e-mails about adoption, and (our son) was born December 15, 1999.

"Second, both children were in the Mother Theresa orphanage and they allowed us to adopt even though we are not Catholic.

"Third, it's usually a five month (adoption) process from South Africa. Ours took three months from May to

August 2001 ...If the adoption process was a little longer we wouldn't have been able to travel or get there because the place was on the same street as the World Trade Center.

In addition to managing her motley crew, as Squire describes her family, she also manages her stained glass business, Morning Light Glassworks, at home.

"I began the stained glass business at Fort Polk which is where I really dug in with my faith. It was either that or really lose it. He was gone 21 days out of every month for two years," explained Squire.

She creates and sells original stained glass designs and has four part-time workers. "What we really enjoy is working with clients to make something really meaningful for them and their family", Squire said.

Their biggest sellers are colorful crosses and beaded, stained glass friendship slippers. "Monetarily, I think we're going to turn a corner and make money for the family this year," Squire said happily.

Squire offered two suggestions for coping with the deployment and other stressors. "Take advantage of PWOC, which is Protestant Women of the Chapel. If my husband is my rock, then they are my beach. That is where I go to soak it all in".

Also, "Know your priorities. When you start feeling like you're running on a treadmill. Stop and evaluate. When I'm feeling out of control, I have to say, wait a minute, I need to focus less on business and more on family or I need to do my Bible study because I didn't put God first in my day," Squire concluded.

(Editor's Note: If you or someone you know has a unique story to share, we want to hear from you! E-mail editor@hawaiiarmy-weekly.com or call 655-4816 or 655-8728)