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Community bids 'A hui hou'



Dogging the competition

Army military working dogs show best in several categories of K-9 contest

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PFC. DURWOOD BLACKMON
25th Infantry Division Public Affairs Office

25th Infantry Division Soldiers deploying in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom eclipsed Sills Field, Schofield Barracks, as they were honored at a deployment ceremony held July 7.

Just before 2 p.m., Soldiers from various units of the 25th Infantry Division marched onto the field as proud family members and honorary guests looked on.

This deployment of troops to northern Iraq is the second largest since the Tropic Lightning Division deployed to Vietnam in 1964.

In a show of support for troops, several distinguished visitors joined the division commander at the ceremony. Maj. Gen. Benjamin R. Mixon, commanding general of the 25th ID, addressed everyone at the ceremony expressing his appreciation and admiration for his troops and their families.

"The Soldiers on the field in front of you, and those who will deploy under my command, are ready for the mission. They are experts in their warrior tasks, they are prepared for their mission, and I am so very proud of them.

"These Soldiers have been equipped with the most modern weapons and protective equipment available. I have no doubt they have the best equipment, they are the best trained, and they are absolutely the best Soldiers in the world," said Mixon.

"A large force from the Pacific Rim and other locations will merge in Iraq to carry out their mission. The area of operation that the 25th ID and our counterparts will take control over is a vast portion of northern Iraq. We will deploy about 7,000 Soldiers to Iraq," Mixon explained. "The Division will command and control a brigade combat team from 1st Cavalry of Fort Hood, Texas; a Stryker Brigade from Fort Lewis, Washington; along with five Iraqi Army Divisions," he said.

Mixon also lent perspective to the difficulty of the division's upcoming tasks once they arrive in Iraq.

"The Tropic Lightning Division will be responsible for an area north of Baghdad seven times larger than the Hawaiian island chain. Our forces will be working with and training the Iraqi forces to take over responsibility for their security. This is the key element of the strategy for the next year, and we will be successful," said Mixon.

Hawaii's governor also spoke on behalf of



Clockwise, from top — During their pass in review, Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Richard A. Cody waves to the crowd and 25th Infantry Division Soldiers, as Maj. Gen. Benjamin R. Mixon, commanding general of the 25th ID looks on; Sgt. Maj. Jerry Taylor, division command sergeant major cases the division colors in preparation for

deployment; Mixon leads his Soldiers on a 4.8 mile deployment run; unit colors fly in the breeze as Soldiers stand at parade rest during the deployment ceremony; and Hawaii Governor Linda Lingle gives encouraging words of support to Tropic Lightning Soldiers. About 7,000 Soldiers will deploy to Iraq.

the people of Hawaii during the ceremony. "To all of the 25th ID Soldiers, and especially to their families, it's a great privilege for me to be here today to join you on this field," said Gov. Linda Lingle.

"As you prepare once again to go to Iraq

to support our country's mission and to continue our global war against terror, you are the heroes of our America. I know you've trained hard, and I am confident you're going to do an outstanding job," she said. Lingle continued, "Soldiers, Hawaii is

proud of you and you will always be one of us. We will pray for you everyday, for your safety and for a successful deployment. Thank you for your service to America."

SEE DEPLOY, A-11



Principal Norman Minehira discusses concerns with Col. Timothy Ryan, rear detachment commander, during an open dialog on education, Monday.

Hawaii DoE administrators dialogue with military

Story and Photos by
AIKO BRUM
Managing Editor

Although most 25th Infantry Division units that regularly partner with Hawaii public schools will deploy to Iraq in the weeks ahead, Army Hawaii's Military Partners in Education program will still thrive. Rear detachment units will provide continued support for projects at partnered schools, according to division leaders.

Maj. Gen. Benjamin R. Mixon, commanding general, 25th ID, hosted 11 administrators — most of whom run on-post public schools at Schofield Barracks and Wheeler Army Air Field — and assured the principals, central complex superintendents and one military/Department of Education (DoE) liaison that they would enjoy

continued adopt-a-school support.

The hour-long, open dialogue further provided the commander the opportunity to briefly address some education concerns raised at a May 23 special town hall meeting and to present several thousand bookmarks to principals as part of the division's Good Neighbor Joe gecko.

The colorful Good Neighbor Joe gecko has become a symbol of community pride. He was first breathed into life in 2005 by Tropic Lightning leaders wanting to invigorate community spirit.

The icon now touts the division and U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii's commitment to the local environment and housing areas, as well as their pledge to live in harmony with host Hawaii communities.

SEE SCHOOLS, A-11

Joint Venture Education Forum aids education of military youth

MEGAN STAHL SMITH
Staff Writer

To help military family members adapt to the changes of moving to a school in Hawaii and then thrive in the single district system once they have arrived, Adm. Dennis Blair, then commander of U.S. Pacific Command (USPACOM), and then Superintendent Paul LeMahieu created the Joint Venture Education Forum (JVEF) in 1999.

"We continue to find negative perceptions of [schools by] people coming into the Hawaii community, and we continue to try to change that," said Lt. Col. Kenneth Serun, military/Department of Education liaison, when explaining the purpose for JVEF.

The forum includes a transition center for incoming students; school liaison officers for each branch of the military; and an increase in resources such as updated textbooks, computers, better playgrounds and maintenance on school buildings. The goal of JVEF is to create a learning environment in which children of military personnel and civilians can prosper in a public school setting and achieve high, local test scores in comparison to national scores.

At the annual meeting held July 6, more than 300 military leaders and public school educators met to discuss accomplishments and review goals of the forum. Rear Adm. Van Afford, chief of staff, USPACOM, encouraged attendees to commit to the program.

"Educating our children is not an option; it's a responsibility," Afford said.

Leslye A. Arshet, deputy under secretary of defense for Military Community and Family Policy, promoted helping new students thrive in the school system.

"Students who are challenged feel successful," she said. "One of the current goals for the JVEF is to open up gifted and talented programs, so that parents are allowed to enroll their children in such programs immediately upon entering the island's school system."

Representatives from various areas of

For more on the Joint Venture Education Forum, visit www.pacom.mil/jvef.

JVEF reported on the previous year's happenings and discussed upcoming goals. Harold K. L. Castle Foundation, a charitable organization that distributes an average of \$7 million in grants annually, spoke about needed involvement from the community — both military and civilian communities.

D'Olier said, "Public education is the business of businesses, it is the business of the military, and it is the business of military families."

As the meeting neared its close, military personnel who volunteered in the school system during the 2005-2006 school year received recognition. Volunteers represented various branches and ranks, but all had committed their personal time to mentor Hawaii's students. They received certificates and congratulatory lei from Lt. Gen. John Brown III, commanding general of U.S. Army, Pacific, and Superintendent of Hawaii Schools Patricia Hamamoto.

As JVEF progresses, those involved hope to find more ways to make the transition into the Hawaii public school system a positive experience for all military youth.

We want to hear from you...

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

If you have newsworthy ideas or stories you'd like to write, coordinate with the managing editor at 655-4816, or e-mail editor@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

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

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

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Military Police dog teams fetch honors at competition

25th MP Bn.'s working dogs have their abilities tested at weeklong event

Story and Photos by
CHRISTA B. THOMAS
25th Infantry Division Public Affairs

Fourteen members of 25th Military Police Battalion's four-legged forces ushered in the dog days of summer at Schofield Barracks played host to the 15th Hawaiian Islands Police K-9 Competition June 26-30.

The five-day competition tested the abilities of 20 working dog teams from around Oahu in areas of aggression, explosives and narcotics detection, scouting and basic obedience.

Within those five categories, recognition was given to the first, second and third place finishers. A "top dog" award is given to the team scoring the highest in all areas, excluding scouting.

Five judges from an array of working dog units and agencies were responsible for scoring the event.

"Judges are looking for how productively the team works together in timed events," said Staff Sgt. Curtis Thomas, 25th MPB military working dog (MWD) plans and training noncommissioned officer. "Judges are observing the handler's control over the animal, how obedient the dog is, and how the dog exhibits changes in behavior."

Fourteen MWD teams represented the Army, two from the Air Force, and four Honolulu Police Department teams competed.

The competition, which was started in 1980 by a group of handlers at Naval Station Pearl Harbor, has evolved into an island-wide competition.

In the aftermath of Sept. 11, 2001, the competition halted, but was revitalized this year at the urging of Lt. Col. Tony Carr, of the 25th Military Police Battalion commander.

"Initially, 46 teams from around the islands including the [Federal Bureau of Investigation; Transportation Security Administration; Honolulu Police Department]; the Sheriff's Department; and all branches of the military - showed interest in compet-



Military Working Dog Brent, a 6-year-old German shepherd, apprehends Staff Sgt. Casey Stevens, the decoy, in the aggression portion of the competition.

ing," said Carr. "It's always good to see who is the 'best of the best.'" However, mission requirements, such as RIMPAC, Bayfest and the operational tempo of most of the agencies prohibited many teams from competing, he said.

On the first two days of the competition,

the dogs were judged on sniffing out explosives and narcotics. The scouting trials, which were held Thursday, tested the dogs' ability to locate a "suspect" and the dog's reaction to the person afterwards.

SEE K-9, A-3

Combat stress gets attention very early

DONNA MILES
Army News Service

WASHINGTON - Soldiers who undergo the most intense, realistic training before deploying to combat tend to experience the fewest associated mental health problems, the Army's surgeon general told Pentagon reporters during a round-table session last week.

Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Kevin Kiley said troops returning from combat deployments demonstrate that preparation helps steel them for the stresses they inevitably face.

The Army's emphasis on what Kiley called "battle-minded training" recognizes basic facts about combat, he said.

"It's hard. It's dangerous. It's scary," Kiley said. And by preparing for those realities, Soldiers are more prepared when they're exposed to them, he added.

Regardless of what some headlines might lead people to think, most Soldiers don't have mental health problems during or after their deployments.

"When our Soldiers return home, most will experience a brief readjustment period and a successful home transition," Kiley said. "The majority of troops are, and will remain, mentally healthy."

Kiley acknowledged, however, that deployments - particularly those which expose troops to prolonged combat - put heavy stressors on even the most healthy troops. Some will need short- or long-term counseling.

Early diagnosis and treatment is the key to keeping these symptoms in check, he said. Toward that end, the Army provides its members mental health support that begins before they deploy and continues throughout their deployment and after they return home.

LIGHTNING SPIRIT

Talking is all about communication

CHAPLAIN (MAJ.) JON N. HOLLENBECK
316th Signal Brigade, Fort Shafter

I thought it might be good to talk about communication, because connectivity between people is our, a chaplain's, line of work.

Our mission is to ensure that military and civilians can communicate through a variety of different mediums - reliably and securely - in this vast region of the Pacific, in order to safeguard our freedom.

God is in the business of communicating, too. In the opening sentences of the first chapter of the first book of the Bible, Genesis, we are told God "spoke," and all things came into being. The ultimate creative act was a result of communication. We join in that creativity when we reach out to each other and connect.

Later in Holy Scripture, we are told that God communicated to us through great prophets, like Isaiah or Jeremiah. Finally, in the Christian tradition, we communicate directly to God through the incarnate Son. Religious teachings in Judaism, Islam, Buddhism and the other great world religions support and emphasize this same point: God constantly reaches out to speak with you and me, and his reaching out is an act of edification. Something good comes out of the exchange.

Importantly, communication is a two way street. Dialogue is important.

Our response to God's initiative, we call prayer. There is no set of rules here, except maybe sincerity. Some folks talk to God out loud; some do it quietly.

Some use formal prayers written in books; some pray extemporaneously. Some pray at

scheduled times, and others do it sporadically. Many like long prayers, while a few pray a simple phrase or word.

Usually, prayers include several elements. An invocation is meant to literally "get God's attention," although that's more for our benefit, since I doubt the Almighty is preoccupied elsewhere.

We usually offer words of praise and adoration to tell God how good he is. Again, that's more for our benefit, since I imagine God doesn't suffer from low self-esteem.

Hawaiians use the word "Mahalo" a lot. It means "thank you." Offering words of thanksgiving for all that we are and all that we have is an integral part of prayer.

Confession is a part of the process, too. Let's face it, no one's perfect.

Then there's asking for things for others or ourselves; petitions. Most of our prayers are long on the petitions, even though God knows what we need (not want), even before we ask.

The bottom line is that communicating with God is a major part of being healthy, and after all, we are communication experts. So here's some common tips:

- Eliminate or reduce noise. Find a quiet place or time.
- Watch for feedback and listen. Don't spend all the time talking.
- Repetition is good. Remember the Parable of the Importunate Widow.
- Know what you want to communicate. Reflection as preparation is good.
- Analyze your attitude toward God. Do you have self-imposed barriers?
- Be yourself. Find your own style.

52 days since last fatal accident

Soldiers, as your daily reminder to be safe, place a "red dot" on your wristwatch. Remember, a division training holiday will be awarded for the first 100 consecutive days with no accidental fatalities.

Be safe. Tropic Lightning!



As of 7/12/06

Voices of Lightning: What memories of Hawaii will sustain you through deployment?



"The first day arriving on the island. ... The memory sustain[ed] me during deployment."

Pfc. Terron Bonnet
E. Co, 2/6 CAV Logistics



"The pretty landscape and the highlight of it."

Pvt.2 Amy Moring
58th MP Co. Military Policeman



"The calmness of Waimea Bay."

Spc. Richard Copeland
B Troop, 2/6 CAV Crew Chief



"Watching turtles at North Shore."

Pfc. Leonard D. Jackson
E. Co, 2/6 CAV Radio Communications Security



"... The tropical weather."

Spc. Stephen C. Kimbrough
536th Maintenance Co. Radio Repairer

K-9: Experienced dogs worth half million dollars

CONTINUED FROM A-2

On day five, the public caught a glimpse of Hawaii's most highly-trained canines and their handlers during the aggression and obedience portions of the competition.

In the aggression trials, judges look for controlled aggression in three tests that demonstrated the degree of control the handler had over the unleashed dog and the dog's response to that control.

In the first test, the "stand off," the dog is expected to sit still until given a "sic" command, and then is supposed to sprint toward the decoy. The handler yells "out!" and the dog is supposed to back off and not jump or bite the decoy.

Staff Sgt. Mark Thomas and 6-year-old MWD Brent took the field for the first aggression test. Thomas gave the "sic" command and MWD Brent coursed like lightning across the field— instantly closing the decoy's 50-yard head start. Thomas yelled "out" and MWD Brent stopped on a dime. In a defensive crouch, just inches away from the decoy, MWD Brent elicited gasps and "aah's" usually reserved for magicians and circus stars.

In the second test, dogs were allowed to bite the decoy's padded arm and come off instantly when the handler gave the out command. In the final test, dogs acted as

escorts for their handlers and a prisoner.

Working dogs train anywhere from three months to a year. Training is rigorous and exacting. Potential military working dogs and their handlers train at the Department of Defense Military Working Dog School at 341st Training Squadron, Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. The school trains more than 525 handlers and 300 dogs annually for government agencies and the Federal Aviation Administration.

"It's always good to see who is the 'best of the best.'"

*Lt. Col. Tony Carr
25th Military Police
Battalion Commander*

A trained military working dog is worth about \$35,000. An older, more experienced dog can be worth nearly a half million dollars.

Not all dogs qualify as military working dogs although a variety of breeds have served in the military, including Rotweilers, Dobermans, Giant Schnauzers, Labradors, and Pit Bulls. Today's military dog is primarily one of three breeds: Dutch shepherd, German shepherd, and Belgian Malinois.

The Hawaiian Islands Police K-9 Competition wrapped with an awards ceremony. The top finishers were:

• Explosive detection

- 1st – Sgt. Rodolfo Martinez and MWD Cris – USA
- 2nd – Sgt. Craig Lawyer and MWD Bojar – USA
- 3rd – Sgt. Kenneth Rosenthal and MWD Ringo – USA

• Narcotics detection

- 1st – Sgt. Mike Unruh and MWD Bastar – USA
- 2nd – Staff Sgt. Thomas Burns and MWD Barry – USAF
- 3rd – Officer Herman Hose and working dog Ika – HPD

• Scouting

- 1st – Staff Sgt. Casey Stevens and MWD Alf – USA
- 2nd – Sgt. Rodolfo Martinez and MWD Cris – USA
- 3rd – Sgt. Craig Lawyer and MWD Bojar – USA

• Obedience/Obstacle course

- 1st – Staff Sgt. Thomas Burns and MWD Barry – USAF
- 2nd – Spc. Christopher Hallisy and MWD Rico – USA
- 3rd – Spc. Rebecca Tieszen and MWD Kora – USA

• Aggression

- 1st – Staff Sgt. Nicole Candies and MWD Leo – USAF
- 2nd – Sgt. Rodolfo Martinez and MWD Cris – USA
- 3rd – Staff Sgt. Casey Stevens and MWD Alf – USA

Top Dog honors went to Air Force Staff Sgt. Thomas Burns and MWD Barry.

Right — Staff Sgt. Mark Thomas and his partner, 6-year-old MWD Brent escort decoy suspect, Staff Sgt. Casey Stevens. As escort, the dog must stay alert to protect its handler and retrieve a suspect in the event of escape. Working dogs can inflict fear in an aggressor in ways even an armed human often cannot.



Flying a family affair for local chief warrant officer

SPC. STEPHEN PROCTOR
U.S. Army, Pacific, Public Affairs

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE — After a long and varied Army career, a local chief warrant officer has it good.

He “pinned” four. He is a pilot for Victory, the Army’s only Gulfstream C-20F, and he has family close at hand. In the Victory’s hangar here, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Chris Sorrell, safety officer, U.S. Army Priority Air Transport, Pacific Flight Detachment, was promoted to chief warrant officer 4 by Lt. Gen. John M. Brown III, commander, U.S. Army, Pacific, July 2.

“It isn’t common for aviators to hit chief warrant officer four,” said Brown after pinning Sorrell. “This is the exception, and I’m proud to be a part of it.”

Sorrell added, “Pinning four always seemed like the peak of a chief’s career ... and I’m really proud of this.”

It took the aviator a long time and a great deal of work at several jobs to hit that peak.

Sorrell got into the Army as a material storage and warehouse specialist and went through three other jobs, ending with counterintelligence agent. He then was ready for a change.

“I saw that officers seemed to have a better life,” said Sorrell, “so I submitted a packet to become a warrant.”

When he joined the Army, he had aspirations of flying, but there were no openings. So, four jobs later, he seized the opportunity and became a helicopter pilot, and eventually a fixed wing aircraft pilot.

True-to-form, Sorrell became ready for another challenge and submitted a packet to be one of

seven pilots on Victory’s crew.

“It was another challenge,” he said, “and it’s a great job. I get to do a lot of traveling, and it’s really fun to fly.”

It appears the challenge of aviation may be genetic. Sorrell’s sister, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Trina Sorrell, the safety officer for A Company, 3rd Battalion, 25th Combat Aviation Regiment, flies Black Hawk helicopters in Hawaii.

“He started flying first,” said Trina, “and it looked like fun, so I decided to try it out.”



Sorrell

Moving around so much, it takes some work for Soldiers to live near family, especially when family members are in the military, too.

“When I heard he was coming out here to fly Victory, I worked it out to get here too,” Trina Sorrell explained. “It’s really awesome to be out here together; we get to spend a lot of time together.”

Her brother added, “The kids really like spending time with their aunt, and it’s been good for my wife too.”

His wife, Bobbi Sorrell, agrees. “After 21 years in the Army, we’re finally near family,” said Mrs. Sorrell. “Having Trina around has been great ... she’s become my best friend. We do everything together, and she’s been a great role model for my kids.”

At the peak of his career, Sorrell is a pilot for the only plane of its kind in the Army, and he has family stationed near by. Life doesn’t get much better for a Soldier, he said.

Victory, crew return from desert

Story and Photo by
SPC. STEPHEN PROCTOR
U.S. Army, Pacific, Public Affairs

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE — Leaving behind the desert dust and sand from runways throughout the Middle East, the plane Victory taxied slowly to the hanger here July 2, where families and friends eagerly awaited the equally excited crew to exit.

As the Army’s only Gulfstream C-20F, the Victory is normally on standby as the private plane of the commander of U.S. Army, Pacific. But for 110 days, Victory got its wheels dirty, deploying to Qatar. The plane and crew flew missions for U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Enduring Freedom (OEF).

“We logged over 500 hours flying people between several countries to support OIF and OEF,” said Chief Warrant Officer 5 Jim Leach, the operations officer.

Maj. Winfield Adkins, commander, U.S. Army Priority Air Transport, Pacific Flight Detachment, added, “We flew combatant commanders, governors and congressmen through the OIF and OEF area of operation, and made a significant contribution to CENTCOM.”

Conditions in the desert were not ideal, but Victory and the crew accomplished their mission.

“The desert sand and 115-plus degrees were difficult on the plane and the crew,” said Leach, “but we did a good job. We were almost always on time, and there were no incidents or accidents.”

Adkins added, “At 110 days, we were the first to provide safe, reliable transport for such a long period of time.”

Along with accomplishing the mission, the deployment was a learning experience for Soldiers.

“I enjoyed working in the joint environ-



Sgt. 1st Class Angelo Villavicencio, the United States Army Priority Air Transport – Pacific Flight Detachment 1st Sgt., returns from the 110 day deployment to his fiancé Heather Reader.

ment,” said Staff Sgt. Luis Vareleaseade, a flight steward. “It was a great opportunity to see how other branches of the service work.”

Still, no matter how well the deployment went, no matter how much was gained and learned, Soldiers said the best part for them was getting home.

“I’m glad to be out of the sun,” said Vareleaseade.

Leach added, “This is the first time Victory has seen shade since we left.”

With his son perched happily in his arms, Adkins added, “We’re proud of what we did over there ... but now I’m psyched to be home.”

Hawaii reservists to benefit from Reserve AFAP

Three from 9th RRC voice issues from local reservists

JANICE CRAWLEY

9th Regional Readiness Command

FORT SHAFTER FLATS — The Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) is the Army's way of ensuring that everyone's voice can be heard. Its purpose is to improve the quality of life for all members of the Army by presenting a forum to raise issues and voice concerns to Army leadership.

Annually, the Army AFAP allows Soldiers, family members, retirees and Department of the Army civilians and surviving spouses an opportunity to influence their standard of living by stating what's working and what's not working.

The process solicits issues from the community. These issues can be of local interest or may have Army-wide impact. Those that can be resolved locally are resolved locally, and if those with broader scope are prioritized and sent forward in the AFAP cycle.

As part of that cycle, the Army Reserve held its AFAP conference in Houston, Texas, last month. The theme was "Army Reserve Actions, Changing for the Well-Being of Soldiers and Their Families."

The annual gathering highlighted concerns generated at Army Reserve units throughout the world and provided an opportunity for 57 delegates, 24 of whom were Army Reserve teenagers — as well as other Soldiers, family members, volunteers, retirees, military technicians (Mil-Tech) and Department of the Army (DA) civilians from Army Reserve Commands — to come together and influence the well-



Courtesy Photo

Lt. Gen. Jack C. Stultz (center), commanding general, U.S. Army Reserve Command, responds to issues presented at the Army Reserve AFAP in Houston while C.R. Lee Ratliff Jr. (left), director, Army Reserve Family Programs, takes some follow-up notes.

being of the Army Reserve family.

Delegates discussed issues submitted from their units and communities. They decided which issues were currently the most important to the welfare of the Army Reserve military family. Then those primary issues, along with recommendations to resolve them, were briefed directly to the Chief of Army Reserve (CAR), Lt. Gen. Jack C. Stultz.

Representing Fort Shafter Flats' 9th Regional Readiness Command (RRC) were Sergeant 1st Class Sharon Kuniyoshi from the 411th Engineer Combat Battalion and Shardae Marbley, daughter of Sergeant 1st Class Glen and Sharleen Acierto, who served as a youth delegate. Janice Crawley, Reserve

AFAP program manager here, also attended.

More than 600 issues have been raised



Visit www.arfp.org/afap06 or contact Janice Crawley, Reserve AFAP program manager, at 438-2243.

during the past 20 years through the AFAP process, which have resulted in 98 changes to legislation, 141 DA or Department of Defense policies and regulations changes,

Top Five Army Reserve Issues

- 1) Protection against derogatory credit for Soldiers and families.
- 2) Perceptible loss of jobs for returning Reserve Component Soldiers.
- 3) Military technicians' dual status retirement.
- 4) Tricare coverage options for dual military families.
- 5) Medical benefit point of contact for Reserve Component Soldiers and families.

Top Two Youth Issues

- 1) Mentoring programs for Army Reserve youth.
- 2) Army Reserve regional teen panels.

Top Five Mobilization and Family Support Strengths

- 1) Family programs/AFAP process and conference.
- 2) Military OneSource Web site (counseling, information and referral).
- 3) Pre-mobilization briefings.
- 4) Caring for deployed Soldiers (tied for fourth).
- 4) Army Reserve teen involvement

and 162 improvements to programs and services.

About 52 percent of AFAP issues benefit all of DoD.

AFAP is a year-round process. Its door never closes, so individuals and units can submit issues or have a say in how the Army does its business at any time.

Locally, to make their voices heard, reservists should complete an Issue

- with decisions concerning Soldiers and their families (tied for fourth).
- 5) Increase in pay.

Top Five Mobilization and Family Support Challenges

- 1) Educating and communicating with families.
- 2) Families not receiving updated and timely information from the unit/command.
- 3) Cross-leveled Soldiers and families are not being supported by the gaining command.
- 4) Demobilization process.
- 5) Civilian awareness (tied for fifth).
- 5) Medical and dental (Tricare facility locator, post-mobilization, medical hold) (tied for fifth).

Top Four Most Valuable Services

- 1) Family readiness groups.
- 2) Medical and dental care.
- 3) Military OneSource Web site.
- 4) Mobilization and deployment readiness support

Submission Form and submit it to the 9th RRC AFAP program manager. Forms can be picked up at Building 1557 on Pass Street, Fort Shafter Flats; they can be downloaded from the 9th RRC Web site home page under "Notices" or visit www.arfp.org and then follow links through "Download Center, AFAP, AFAP Issue Submission Form and Procedure."



O'Reilly

Spc. Mike Alberts | 3rd Brigade Public Affairs

Final tribute

Maj. Gen. Benjamin R. Mixon, commanding general, 25th Infantry Division, presents Yuko O'Reilly, widow of honorary 27th Infantry Regimental Sgt. Maj. Hugh F. O'Reilly, with a ceremonial flag. O'Reilly was laid to rest in Schofield Barracks' cemetery July 11.

O'Reilly's life inspired generations of Wolfhounds and his legacy of giving to the Holy Family Home orphanage in Osaka, Japan continues to this day.

News Briefs

Send news announcements to community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com, at least two weeks prior to event.

Deployment Breakfast — The Knights of Columbus (K of C), a charitable men's organization, is hosting a brunch to honor deploying Soldiers and their families. The brunch is July 16, 11:30 a.m. at the Schofield Main Post Chapel. The brunch is free for Soldiers and is being funded by the K. of C. Call 655-9460 for more information.

Volunteer Recognition — The Quarterly Volunteer Recognition will be July 28, 2 p.m. in the Command Conference Room.

Military Idol — Soldiers, put your singing talent to the test in the 2006 Military Idol competition. Applications are being accepted through July 28 at Tropics. Military Idol performances will begin August 9. Look for more information to come and call 655-8522 for additional details.

RIMPAC 2006 — The Biennial Rim of the Pacific Exercise 2006 continues through July 27. Local residents should expect additional sea and air activity throughout the exercise. Bellows Beach, normally open to the public Friday afternoon through Sunday evening will be closed to public access July 21 through 26 for amphibious operations.

Motorcycle Rodeo — The Installation Fire and Safety Office hosts an all-military motorcycle rodeo July 28 at Wheeler Army Airfield to underscore the importance of motorcycle safety. The event starts at 9 a.m. and will feature vendor displays; categorized competitions; a team safety ride; and a 60-mile scavenger hunt. The rodeo is open to DoD ID card holders.

Road Closure — Wright-Smith Avenue between Benjamin Franklin Court and Nathan Hale Court will be closed through to July 28. A new road intersection will be constructed for the Menoher Road extension. For more information, call 624-8201.

Troops to Teachers Program — Troops to Teachers is a federally-funded program that

provides resource support for military members choosing teaching as their next career. For more information on how the TTT program can benefit you, visit the Education Center, Schofield Barracks, room 209, the first Tuesday of each month, from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.; call Bryan Miller at 587-5580; or email hawaiiitt@notes.k12.hi.us.

To the Colors — In the morning and evening when *To the Colors* is played, all traffic will stop between Cadet Sheridan and Trimble Roads, and Humphries Road and Kole Kole Ave. to pay respect to the Colors.

CLEP Exams — College level preparatory exams are available free to active duty, Reserve and National Guard, and \$75 for others. Family members of Reserve, National Guard, and Coast Guard may take the tests free, but must pay a \$20 administrative fee. Tests are given three times a day on the following schedule:

- Hickam AFB, Mondays and Wednesdays;
- Pearl Harbor, Tuesdays and Thursdays;
- Kaneohe, Fridays

Reservations for testing can be made by calling Hickam, 422-1032; Pearl Harbor, 422-0079; or Kaneohe, 254-4133.

Ongoing

‘Project Gratitude’ now helps many cope

INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT AGENCY
News Release

FORT SHAFTER — The Pacific Region Joint Service Family Support Network (JSFSN) is sponsoring a new community outreach program called “Project Gratitude” that is helping military service members and their families connect with resources to help them cope with personal and family matters before, during and after deployments.

The first event July 1 drew more than 3,000 military personnel and their families to the Neal Blaisdell Center in Honolulu. The event featured more than 40 exhibitors showcasing resources ranging from educational opportunities and health care to banking, job training, veterans’ benefits, post traumatic stress and sleep disorders, as well as family support and enrichment programs.

“It was fantastic to see such an outpouring of support for our military men and women and their families,” said Laura Davidson, JSFSN program analyst for the Pacific Region of the U.S. Army Installation Management Agency (PARO IMA). She and other staff members participated in the event, which was sponsored by the Hawaii Office of Veteran Services and the Army Reserve.

The JSFSN booth was manned by family support staff from all branches of the military and provided one-stop shopping for Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard families. Brochures offered information on various family program offices and veterans centers throughout the Hawaiian Islands and Guam.

The JSFSN is funded by the Office of the Secretary of Defense. The PARO IMA Army Community Service program serves as the lead federal agency for collaboration throughout the Pacific Region.

“Many military service members, particularly those in the National Guard and Reserves, do not live in family housing areas and are not aware of all the support services that are available to them,” Davidson explained. “We were very pleased with the response; people were grateful to have so much information available in one place.”

The JSFSN began in Hawaii in 2005 as a part of a pilot project. Its success has helped ensure funding that will enable it to conduct future events. Currently, it holds bi-monthly meetings that provide opportunities for JSFSN members to network.

The network provides opportunities to explore collaborative approaches and share information.

Engineers make history with Atoll implosion

82nd, 29th Eng. blow up eyesore on Marshall Islands

Story and Photos by
SPC. DAVID HOUSE
17th Public Affairs Detachment

KWAJALEIN ATOLL, MARSHALL ISLANDS — At a remote Army base in the middle of the Pacific — 2,100 miles from home, Soldiers from Schofield Barracks’ 82nd Engineer Company and Fort Shafter’s 7th Dive Detachment, 29th Engineer Battalion, found themselves on the island of Kwajalein preparing to make history by imploding a building, July 7.

“The Army has demolished buildings in the past, but this was the first time on record that a controlled and precision blast was used to take down only what we needed and to leave everything else around it intact,” said 1st Lt. Charles Denike, 7th Dive Detachment executive officer.

Minimizing cost, noise and collateral damage was paramount in this mission to



In a matter of seconds, with precision timing, speed and minimal expense, specific parts of the Atolls’ Pacific Bachelor Quarters go down as rubble. It will be replaced by a new Kwajalein Atoll Headquarters building.

demolish a 75-room building known as the Pacific Bachelor Quarters, originally built in 1952.

“There were many hurdles to clear, and we ironed them out by working with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, the U.S. Army Technical Center for Explosives, and the Department of Defense Explosives Safety Board,” said Denike. “Back in January we came out to examine the building, to see if we could tackle this project. There were not any Army regulations as to how to do this, so we studied a lot of the civilian world companies and their practices of imploding buildings.”

“In the past, buildings like this would have been demolished by purely mechanical means,” said Capt. Jonathan Johnson, 82nd Engineers commander. “But due to the nature of the area, the local inhabitants and the surrounding buildings, using explosives proved to be faster, less expensive and less of a disturbance.”

What made this special was that this

SEE IMPLOSION, A-9



Members of the 82nd Engineer Company fill sand bags in preparation for the Pacific Bachelor Quarters building demolition at Kwajalein, Marshall Islands, July 7.

Implosion: Demolition provided needed training

CONTINUED FROM A-1

building was located directly adjacent to one building and within 60 feet of another. The Kwajalein plan started with a complete gutting of the interior of the building, to include items such as walls, fixtures and plumbing.

“Within a week the building had been gutted out and prepped for the demo,” said Sgt. Edgar Jimenez, a diver with the 7th Dive Detachment. “We [the dive detachment] combined our construction and demolition skills along with the environmental impact process to prep this building for take down.”

Some 84 columns were embedded with two sticks of dynamite within them, totaling 95 pounds. Once detonated, 11 sequences of explosions then strategically took out key structural points of the building.

“What [is] left is a pile of rubble that will be more manageable to remove by mechanical means, such as with bulldozers,” said Denike.

The day of the explosion was anticipated by many, as the un-



1st Sgt Rodney Heikkinen (right) observes Sgt 1st Class Christopher Green as he preps a stick of dynamite for use in the demolition. Both men are from 7th Dive Detachment, 29th Engineer Battalion.

known effects shut down most of the island.

“Most of the surrounding area had been taped off, and businesses were closed,” said Corrine Brown, Kwajalein Range Services information technology specialist.

“Even the Internet had been shut down, as we were concerned that

if there were any after-effects it might take down our equipment.

“Being isolated out here,” she continued, “it could take weeks to get it [the Internet] back up and running if parts were damaged, so we decided it is better to be safe than sorry and to take the computers offline for a bit.”

When the time came, the outgoing commander was on hand to flip the detonation switch.

“The two previous commanders and I have tried to remove this building, and I am glad it is gone as one of my final acts as the installation commander,” said Col. Beverly Stipe, commander, U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll. “This building has gone from the ugliest to the most beautiful building in a matter of seconds, and now we can begin constructing the new United States Army Kwajalein Atoll Headquarters in its place.”

Although it took seconds to bring down the structure, it will take weeks to properly separate and remove the remaining debris. That task will be handled by members of the 82nd Engineers.

“This has been great training and a chance for the younger Soldiers who might not have been able to get this type of opportunity before,” said Sgt. RJ Eugin from the 82nd. “We worked with the dive guys, and they walked us through the explosive part, but getting into the mechanical demolition is what we are after. It’s the real engineering work.”

Schools: Partnerships, support will continue

CONTINUED FROM A-1

Bookmarks distributed to administrators at Monday's open dialogue boasted diverse Good Neighbor Joe messages such as "Good neighbors help create great neighborhoods" and "Pick up trash around your area." Division and garrison leaders said the bookmarks are just a small, but important measure to inspire children.

Open-dialogue on education

The bulk of the hour-long dialogue, Hawaii DoE and military leaders briefly listed and discussed top concerns of military families who have children in public schools. As well, Mixon spoke frankly about traumatic events such as combat casualties that will surely impact children.

Administrators said their schools have crisis response mechanisms in place to readily meet emotional needs of students. "We've had a number of training workshops," said Leilehua High School Principal Norman Minehira regarding preparation for the division's deployment. "All of our schools have additional support in case of loss of a Soldier."

Still, 25th ID and garrison leaders emphasized the military can further partner with educators to assure that lines of communication remain open and maximum support and resources are quickly made available to aid schools and families before, during and after deployment.

Mixon explained, "We [military families] have adjustment issues, so teachers must be aware of that. Resources such as child psychologists at Tripler are available to



Central Complex Superintendent Patricia Park (left) gives serious thought to comments captured by Cherise Imai, DoE liaison.

help; they are in place and professionals can run an hour or two workshop."

He added, "We deal with casualties very deliberately because we don't want to make mistakes. Part of the challenge in our global information age, children may hear something that happens in the news, and all this tension and worry builds up."

Wheeler Middle School Principal Brenda Vierra-Chun and Army Acting Director of Youth Education Tamsin Keone explained that both a single point of contact and phone trees of contacts worked well when the division previously deployed.

Garrison Commander Col. Howard Killian stressed Army community resources will do anything required to help and aid communication.

Before dismissing, Army personnel and DoE administrators vowed to continually address Joint Venture Education Forum

On The WEB Get school news at <http://doe.k12.hi.us>.

and town hall meeting concerns.

"Our focus right now is to work two ends of the spectrum: advocacy for special needs children and gifted and talented programs," said Killian. "I suspect at about six months that we will ask the superintendent to come back and give us an update."

Several principals piped in that misperceptions abound regarding textbooks and standards, and Mixon emphasized that parents must engage their schools.

"It concerns me, the perception of parents," said Hale Kula Elementary School Principal Jan Iwase. "We need to be more proactive in getting information to them."

Principal Joe Lee of Wheeler Elementary added, "The challenges are great. ...Teachers are becoming more aware of standards. All of us are going to continue to do better," he stressed. "School data is on the Web site. It's not hidden in any way."

Deploy: Governor Lingle, chief of staff honor troops

CONTINUED FROM A-1

Veterans, family and friends lined the bleachers as other prominent leaders such as the Army vice chief of staff, and U.S. Army, Pacific (USARPAC), commanders thanked assembled troops for all their hard work and dedication.

As the ceremony continued, the sun relentlessly beat down on Soldiers standing at parade rest. Without warning, however, one of the ceremony's speakers approached the podium. With one word, he drew loud cheers from the troops.

Gen. Richard A. Cody, vice chief of staff, U.S. Army, gave the command, "Rest!" It allowed Soldiers to relax for a few moments while in formation.

"I don't get many chances to be in charge of formations, but when given the chance, I like to take charge," said Cody.

In addition to winning the Soldiers' appreciation, Cody acknowledged all of their hard work and efforts.

"It's a tremendous sight to see the Soldiers of the 25th Infantry Division — Americans — guardians of the Pacific — trained and ready to deploy. I salute you.

"You all have chosen to serve our nation. You stood up for America. You honor yourselves, your families and your Army. I know a hero when I see one, and standing here now is an entire field of heroes," Cody stated emphatically.

USARPAC Commander Lt. Gen. John M. Brown III echoed the thanks and many sentiments of other guest speakers.

"It's an honor to be here and thank you for your professionalism, your determination and your example. You have overcome every obstacle to obtain battle readiness. Each of you marches in the footprints of heroes," said Brown.

"Now it's your turn to write another page in Tropic Lightning history. I know you are ready, and you will write your pages of history with courage, integrity and honor. America's best is standing on the field today," he concluded.

"It's a tremendous sight to see the Soldiers of the 25th Infantry Division — Americans — guardians of the Pacific — trained and ready to deploy. I salute you."

*Gen. Richard A. Cody
Vice Chief of Staff*

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Mixon encouraged family and guests to mingle with his Soldiers.

"This ceremony was interesting," said Pvt. Robert Ziesemer, Delta Company, 3-4th Cavalry. "We are ready, and I am anxious to get over there and get the job done."

After the roar of voices dwindled and the ceremony concluded, Soldiers gathered at the Nehelani, Schofield Barracks, for a deployment luau, which featuring food, prizes and entertainment for civilians, military and their families.

Swimming with *sharks*

North Shore Shark Adventures offers dunks in the ocean with sharks

MEGAN STAHL SMITH
Staff Writer

HALEIWA – The experience of swimming with gray reef, Galapagos, sandbar and hammerhead sharks – ranging from 5 to 15 feet in length – may be just a short boat ride away.

North Shore Shark Adventures offers adventurous explorers the opportunity to swim with some sharks off the North Shore during its daily tours.

Captain Joe Pavsek began the tours five years ago, after seeing all the sharks that crabbing boats were attracting during the years when letting their nets down, feeding the sharks scrumptious scraps.

Now, even with the crabbing industry having fizzled out, sharks still flock to the area three to four miles off the coast of North Shore.

Pavsek has expanded to two boats since he began the business and offers two-hour-long tours, on the hour, seven days a week, weather permitting. He said winter is the best time to go.

Where Shark Adventures is docked out of Haleiwa marina, explorers can sign up for either boat tour. Adventurers can view sharks from vessels or thrill seekers can go down into the water, in a safety cage, for an up-close and personal experience with sharks.

Before climbing into the cage, voyagers are given masks and snorkels. Once inside, they are in for the experience of their lives as the cage rocks about in the ocean – among as many as 18 sharks at a time.

Being separated by only metal bars and Plexiglas, thrill seekers can move about the cage, snap underwater photos and watch sharks as they munch on fish being thrown from the boat.

When going down into the shark's habitat, adventurers will see how sharks interact with one another and with various tropical fish that swim casually around the cage and ocean waters.

A recent visitor to the 400-foot-deep waters, Lt. Jon Padgett of the USS Pasadena, Pearl Harbor, enjoyed his tour led by Capt. John Melino.

"Oh, it was a great time. It was awesome," said Padgett. "I'd highly recommend it."

Traveling the three to four miles out to the sharks also discourages sharks from coming up to shore in search of food. Sharks have become accustomed to circling the boat upon hearing the common noise of the motor, Pavsek said, and he wants people to understand that, "We're not feeding them. We're not sustaining them."

"It's a snack," Pavsek said of the fish that is thrown into waters during his tours. That way the sharks do not become dependent on humans for their food, he explained.

Pavsek does not believe that sharks are dangerous by nature, though he agrees they have a bad reputation. He's thankful that he's never experienced any accidents or mishaps in his seasoned adventures, and he places safety as his number one priority.

All of the tour guides he hires are certified captains (by the U.S. Coast Guard) and personally trained by Pavsek. While out on the seas, his crews keep in touch with the Coast Guard to stay aware of adverse conditions, or in case assistance is needed.

Because of the captain's emphasis on safety precautions, swimmers of all ages are able to take tours in the cage. Guests ranging from 3 to 96 years old have climbed in for the shark encounters or viewing from onboard vessels.

Lt. Jon Padgett | USS Pasadena, Pearl Harbor

Once in the ocean on a North Shore Shark Adventures tour, guests are able to experience the thrill of swimming with sharks just inches away.

Destination: North Shore Shark Adventures

Location: Slip #35 at the Haleiwa Small Boat Harbor

Reservations: Call Shark Adventures at 228-5900

Advance tickets: All MWR, IIT & ITR offices on military installations

Cost: Advanced tickets for military are \$85



Megan Stahl Smith | 25th Infantry Division

Above — Adventurous swimmers on the tours are able to go out into the ocean in the protective cage for an up close and personal experience of swimming within inches of sharks.

Below — Those daring enough to go underwater with the sharks climb back onto the safety of the boat to tell of their encounters with the sharks.





July

Today

Mongolian Barbecue — Select your favorites from a large variety of meats and vegetables and we will grill them to your liking. Join us tonight from 5 to 8 p.m. for Mongolian barbecue, cooked outside in front of Nehelani.

Cost is 65 cents for each ounce, and reservations are recommended. For more information, call 655-4466.

5 O'clock Shadow — Country music fans will enjoy a live performance by the band 5 O'clock Shadow tonight at Tropics. DJ music will begin at 7 p.m. and the band performs 9 p.m. to midnight. Cost is \$5 and you must be 18 years old and over to attend. For more information, call 655-5697.

Teen Social — Join friends for an evening of fun at the Schofield Barracks Teen Center social and the Aliamanu Teen Center Masquerade social from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Listen to music and dance, play games or participate in contests. Admission is \$3 for members and \$4 for nonmembers.

15 / Saturday

Floats and Flicks — Richardson Pool, Schofield Barracks is hosting the annual Floats and Flicks celebration, July 15. Come enjoy fun pool activities during the day and relax with an evening showing of "Cheaper by the Dozen 2" on Sills Field. The pool opens at 11 a.m. and the movie will begin at dusk. Cost is \$1 per person and free for Blue Star Card holders and active duty Soldiers. For more information, call 655-0111 or 655-0112.

Parents Night Out — Leave your kids with Child and Youth Services (CYS) at the Peterson or Aliamanu Child Development Centers on tonight for Parents Night Out, and then enjoy a nice night out on the town.

Children enrolled in Parents Night Out must be registered with the Child and Youth Services Registration Office no later than noon, July 14. Reservations are first-come, first-served. For more information, call 655-8313.

18 / Tuesday

Teen Center Social — Come to the Aliamanu Military Reservation teen center for a Pajama Palooza Social. Cost is \$5. Call 833-0920 for more information.

21 / Friday

Seafood Bucket for Two — Seafood lovers can dig into a variety of seafood, including shrimp, crab, clams and mussels at Nehelani, tonight from 5 to 8 p.m.

Cost is \$24.95 for two and includes a pitcher of your favorite beverage. For reservations or more information, call 655-4466.

Teen Center Social — Come to the Aliamanu Military Reservation teen center for a Summer Blowout Dance. Cost is \$5. Admission is \$3 for members and \$4 for nonmembers. Call 833-0920 for more information.



Richard Termine | Sesame Workshop

Fuzzy logic

Elmo and his red, fuzzy father will star this summer in an effort to teach young military children and their caregivers how best to handle a parent's deployment in a program called "Talk, Listen, Connect: Helping Families Cope with Military Deployment." Sesame Workshop, the makers of "Sesame Street," will launch the program as a DVD kit. Performed in English and Spanish, it will not air on television but will be distributed free to schools, child care programs and family support centers — thanks to a gift from Wal-Mart stores and other sponsors.

Jeanette Betancourt, vice president for content design at Sesame Workshop's education and outreach division, said an analysis of the resources available to help children with this problem exposed a need.

"We found that although there was a wealth of information around deployment, it seemed to be targeted much more to children that were more schoolage, less so, materials that involved young children — preschool — and then even less so, Spanish language materials."

The kit is the result of analysis done by the workshop with support from the New York State Office of Mental Health and the Military Child Education Coalition. Focus groups composed of families with deployed members made up a large part of the study, Betancourt said.

The kit covers all phases of deployment — from pre-deployment to homecoming — and the unique challenges each phase poses.

(Editor's Note: Information compiled from article by Paul X. Rutz, who writes for the American Forces Press Service.)

24 / Monday

Teen Center Lock-in — Teens are invited to the Ultra Zone lock-in at the Aliamanu Military Reservation teen center, July 24 to 25. Call 833-0920 for more information.

27 / Thursday

Texas Hold'em Tournament — Show off your poker skills at the Texas Hold'em tournament, July 27 at Tropics. For more information on the tournament, call 655-8522.

28 / Friday

Hawaiian Luau Lunch Buffet — Taste a traditional Hawaiian style feast today from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Hale Ikena on Fort Shafter, or 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Nehelani on Schofield Barracks. Cost is \$9.95 per person.

Call the Hale Ikena at 438-1974 or the Nehelani at 655-4466 for lunch buffet reservations or information.

Military Idol — Active duty Soldiers, come show off your singing talent in the 2006 Military Idol competition. Applications are being accepted through tonight at Tropics. Military Idol performances will begin August 9. Look for more information to come and call 655-8522 for additional details.

19 / Wednesday

Theater Auditions — The audition team from Disney Entertainmen Productions will hold another round of auditions for Disney's "Aladdin." Auditions July 19, 11:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.; and July 20, 11:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. and 6:15 – 9 p.m. in the Ballet Hawaii Studios at Dole Cannery Mall.

Sign up both days beginning at 10:30 a.m. Auditioners should bring a photo and a resume. For more information, or for specific appointments, call 732-7733 or visit www.DisneyAuditions.com.

22 / Saturday

Shooting Fair — The Hawaii Rifle Association presents the Shooting Sports Fair, July 22 and 23, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Kokohead and Shooting Complex. There will be events for all ages and food available for purchase.

The free event will showcase the activities available at the complex. Exhibits include archery, Civil War black powder rifles, antique and modern military, and cowboy action.

The complex is on Kalaniano'le Highway, between Hanauma Bay and Sandy Beach. For more information, call 271-8117.

Art Festival — The Haleiwa Arts Festival Ninth Annual Summer ArtFest will feature 127 visual artists; live entertainment; storytellers; art demonstrations; and children's art activities. The free event is July 22, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; July 23, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Hale'iwa Town on North Shore.

Steak Night — Enjoy a sizzling steak cooked on the grill with garlic mashed potatoes, rolls, and vegetables at the Nehelani. Dinner will be served from 5 to 8 p.m.

Cost is \$11.95 for top sirloin steak and \$14.95 for Porterhouse steak. Children's pricing is available. For additional information, call 655-4466.

Teen Center Trip — The Aliamanu Military Reservation teen center is hosting a trip to the Ice Palace for all teens. Meet at AMR at 6 p.m. For more information, call 833-0920.

Ongoing

SKIES Payment Plan — SKIES Unlimited is offering a new payment program for families enrolling their children in the Schools of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration, and Skills classes. Families can now enroll their children for a full semester and pay month by month. For more information, call 655-8380 or 833-5393.

SKIES Registration — Children and youth who register for instructional classes

and off post discounts through SKIES Unlimited only need to enroll in SKIES and do not need to enroll with CYS. Parents need to complete a one-page application, and show proof of your child/youth's age. There is a one-time enrollment fee of \$18. To enroll in SKIES, visit the CYS Registration Office at Schofield Barracks, building 556 (655-8380) or at Aliamanu, building 1782 (833-5393).

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

Classes include "Intro to Piano and Composition;" "Intro to Guitar and Ukulele;" "Intro to Voice;" "Intro to Percussion;" and "Rock School." Discount cards can be picked up at the Child and Youth Services registration offices. For more information, call 655-5525.

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

Outdoor Recreation Rentals — Outdoor recreation can supply all your party needs, including tables; chairs; canopies; inflatables; and even a dunk tank for the kids. Not having a party? Going camping instead? Outdoor Recreation has all the gear, from tents and coolers to stoves. Outdoor Recreation is open everyday, except Tuesday. Call 655-0143 for more information.

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

Visit Tropics in building 589 on Schofield Barracks. Call 655-0002 for more information.

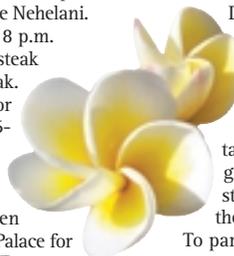
Waianae Beach Live Entertainment — Unwind over the weekend at Waianae Beach with live entertainment, every Saturday from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. and Sunday from 6 to 10 p.m. Call 696-4778 for more information.

RecTrac Registration — The Department of the Army has instituted a tracking system for Morale, Welfare and Recreation to better serve its customers, monitor usage and assist in obtaining funding support programs. Scanners will be installed to read bar codes on the ID card of eligible patrons.

To participate in MWR programs, patrons must complete this free registration process. The process takes less than five minutes.

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

MWR Happenings — For more information about MWR activities, programs and facilities, pick-up a copy of "Discovery" magazine, available at the Schofield Barracks Commissary, Fort Shafter Post Exchange, Aliamanu Shoppette, Tripler mauka entrance, any MWR facility, or the MWR Web site at www.mwrrhawaii.com.



you produce a quart of saliva each day or that there are more than 250,000 sweat pores on the soles of your feet? These are just a few of the intriguing (and slightly disgusting) factoids taught at Bishop Museum's latest national traveling exhibit, Grossology: The (Impolite) Science of the Human Body. Discover why your body produces the mushy, oozy, crusty, scaly and stinky things it does.

Grossology will be on display in the Castle Memorial Building through Aug. 27.

Protestant Women of the Chapel — A place to find laughter, hope and friends. Join our summer session on Tuesdays, now through August 15 at the Main Post Chapel from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in Room D-9. Free on-site childcare is available by reservation. For further information, call 206-8504.

ACS Volunteers — Free childcare at an hourly rate is provided for up to 20 hours per week for those who volunteer with ACS. Volunteering offers job experience and flexible hours. For more information, call 655-4227.

Please Kokua — Fisher House at Tripler needs the following products: paper plates, plastic spoons and forks, styrofoam cups, paper napkins, paper towels, toilet paper, and HE (high efficiency) liquid laundry detergent. If you are able to help, call Ave Porter at 433-1292 or 561-7423.

Cub Scout Pack 183 — Join the Webelos at Wheeler Army Air Field for fun and

SEE COMMUNITY CALENDAR, B-3

HACN TV2 Schedule

5:00	Call to Duty - Boots on the ground
5:05	Army emergency relief
5:06	After the storm
5:14	What's down the drain
5:18	Safety message CG Brown
5:37	Hurricane safety storm alert
5:37	Coqui frog invasion in Hawaii
6:00	Sign on
6:25	Army emergency relief
6:26	Bulletin board
6:56	After the storm
7:19	Safety message CG Brown
7:24	What's down the drain
7:33	Lightning Rumble 4
7:37	Deployment message CG Mixon
7:42	Hurricane safety storm alert
8:01	Hurricane awareness
8:06	Hawaii Army Report
8:31	Safety message CG Brown
8:37	Call to Duty - Boots on the ground
8:42	I give my heart to you
8:48	Bulletin board
9:19	Community focus
10:00	Call to Duty - Boots on the ground
10:04	Army emergency relief
10:05	Hurricane safety storm alert
10:25	Hurricane awareness
11:00	Call to Duty - Boots on the ground
11:03	Safety message CG Brown
11:08	Deployment message CG Mixon
11:13	Hurricane awareness
11:17	Hawai-Hidden beauty & danger
11:55	Safety message CG Brown
12:01	Call to Duty - Boots on the ground
12:05	Hawaii Army Report
12:30	Community Focus
12:37	Army emergency relief
12:38	Bulletin board
1:08	Deployment message CG Mixon
1:13	After the storm
1:35	Coqui frog invasion in Hawaii
1:55	Lightning Rumble 4
2:07	Deployment message CG Mixon
2:17	What's down the drain
3:00	Safety message CG Brown
3:06	Call to Duty - Boots on the ground
3:10	Hurricane awareness
3:14	What's down the drain
3:22	Mau - the Magic Isle
3:44	Deployment message CG Mixon
3:48	I give my heart to you
5:00	Safety message CG Brown
5:05	Army emergency relief
5:07	Hurricane awareness
5:15	Pentagon Channel
5:55	Safety message CG Brown
6:00	Hawaii Army Report
6:26	Community focus
6:32	I give my heart to you
6:38	Call to Duty - Boots on the ground
6:42	After the storm
7:04	Hurricane awareness
7:07	Deployment message CG Mixon
7:13	Bulletin board
7:43	Army emergency relief
7:44	Lightning Rumble 4
7:48	Coqui frog invasion in Hawaii
8:08	Safety message CG Brown
8:13	Call to Duty - Boots on the ground
8:17	Hurricane safety storm alert
8:36	What's down the drain
8:45	White face
8:59	Safety message CG Brown
9:04	Bulletin board
9:34	Call to Duty - Boots on the ground
9:34	Army emergency relief
9:39	Lightning Rumble 4
9:44	Deployment message CG Mixon
9:46	After the storm
10:11	I give my heart to you
10:17	Call to Duty - Boots on the ground
10:21	Hurricane awareness
10:24	Bulletin board
10:55	Coqui frog invasion in Hawaii
11:15	Safety message CG Brown
11:19	Call to Duty - Boots on the ground
11:23	Hurricane safety storm alert

Overnight
Pentagon Channel
Because of hardware failure, Tv2 Programming maybe interrupted during daily scheduled programming, HACN TV2 - Your Command Channel

This Week at the MOVIES Sgt. Smith Theater



X-Men: The Last Stand
(PG-13)
Friday, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, 7 p.m.



Over the Hedge
(PG)
Saturday, 2 p.m.
Sunday, 2 p.m.



The Da Vinci Code
(PG-13)
Saturday, 7 p.m.
Thursday, 7 p.m.

The theater is closed Monday & Tuesday.

community calendar

Send calendar announcements to community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

15 / Saturday

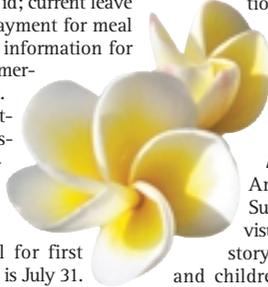
"Movin' Out" — Billy Joel's wildly popular stage play "Movin' out" comes to Blaisdell Concert Hall September 8-17. Ticket sales begin July 15 with special military discounts offered on selected performances. Purchase tickets at the Blaisdell box office, Ticketmaster outlets, charge-by-phone at 877-750-4400, or visit www.ticketmaster.com.

18 / Tuesday

Solomon Classroom Assignments — Solomon Elementary School schedule pick up is July 18 - 20, from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Parents should bring photo id; current leave and earnings statement; payment for meal account payment; contact information for the child's physician; and emergency contact information.

All forms must be completed to receive a classroom assignment. A make-up "session for schedule pick up is July 28, from 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

The first day of school for first through fifth grade students is July 31. Kindergarten parents, please refer to orientation schedule. For more information, call 624-9500.



Club offers affordable weekly condos to DoD ID cardholders

LUKE ELLIOTT
Army News Service

WASHINGTON – Department of Defense (DoD) ID cardholders are eligible for discounted weekly condominium rentals at 3,500 resorts in 80 countries worldwide.

Provided by Morale, Welfare and Recreation and sponsored by Resort Condominium International (RCI), the Armed Forces Vacation Club (AFVC) offers space-available condominiums for \$299 a week.

The program gives Soldiers and DoD employees affordable accommodations in condominiums that would otherwise go empty, according to Verlin Abbott, RCI director of AFVC.

While the program provides low-cost accommodations to vacation resorts across the globe, Abbott stressed that the condos are "space available" only.

"Don't expect to go to Virginia Beach on the Fourth of July. Go about this with the same approach as a space-A hop [flight]," Abbott said, adding that the best time to search for a condo is 45-55 days out.

For such high-demand areas as Hawaii, Las Vegas and Key West, users rarely see openings un-

til a couple of weeks out, especially during peak seasons.

For each reservation booked using a post identification number, the installation MWR program receives \$25 from the club.

"This money helps add to welfare and recreation programs for Soldiers," said Elvira Franco, manager of the Information, Ticketing and Registration Office at Fort Bliss, Texas.

"I'm often asked, 'What are the dues?'" said Abbott. "If you're wearing a uniform, you've already paid your dues. We hope all Soldiers get a chance to take advantage of the program – they deserve it."

On The WEB For more information visit the Armed Forces Vacation Club Web site at www.afvclub.com.

The AFVC is available to active duty and reserve members, adult military family members, military and DoD retirees and their families, DoD civilians, foreign exchange service members on permanent duty with DoD, school teachers with DoD, 100-percent disabled veterans, and some contractors working on military installations.

(Editor's Note: Luke Elliott writes for The Monitor at Fort Bliss, Texas.)



Megan Stahl Smith | 25th Infantry Division Public Affairs

Money-minded commissary shoppers Sgt. Jeremy Cover of 2nd Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment, and his wife, Spc. Kim Cover, take advantage of bulk packaging on items such as bottled water at the Schofield Barracks commissary.

Commissary club packs offer deep discounts

CARRIE WILLIAMS
Defense Commissary Agency

FORT LEE, Va. – Buying in bulk at the commissary can earn shoppers enormous savings.

While the "greater volume, greater savings" philosophy has always had followers, particularly among big families, commissary shoppers, too, are discovering the benefits of "club packs" in increasing numbers.

Commissaries began selling popular products in bulk three years ago, and sales have gained momentum ever since. Club packs allow customers to stock up on the products they know they need all the time – things like canned goods, paper products and cleaning supplies – and save money in the process.

Buying in bulk makes even greater economic sense as the cost of gasoline rises.

"If you can combine household errands and make fewer trips, it's

bound to lessen the amount of money you spend on gasoline each month," said Patrick Nixon, chief executive officer and acting director of the Defense Commissary Agency. "Offering customers a chance to buy selected products in bulk at the commissary means bigger savings."

Increases in sales of club packs of as much as 30 percent from year to year shows that customers are satisfied with the club pack program.

"The club packs offer shoppers the opportunity to buy more of the products they want at greater savings," said Nixon. "Keeping more money in their pockets translates into customer satisfaction."

Commissaries carry, on average, 100 to 150 club pack items covering a wide variety of products. A majority of the commissaries sell at least some of the club packs, even overseas stores. Variety is limited by store size and customer needs.

The program owes much of its success to item selection. Club pack

selection includes the most popular products people want to buy with top sellers including water, toilet paper, paper towels and sanitizing wipes.

A common thread among the commissaries that sell a high volume of club packs is the effort that goes into keeping the most popular ones, such as diapers and paper towels, in constant supply. Store directors are quick to point out the importance of keeping the club pack variety fresh, with a new mix of products for each season. Many stores also have special sections for the packs.

With the potential for savings on gas and groceries, what's not to like about club packs? Best of all, customers don't need to purchase a membership to buy in bulk at the commissary. The only "club" commissary customers need to join is the American military – active duty, Guard and Reserve, retirees and their families.

Community Calender

From B-2

learning the Boy Scout way. The pack meets Mondays at 7 p.m. at the Camp Stover Community Center.

Boys, grades 1-5, or ages 6-10 are eligible to join. For more information, call 624-2722, 457-5816, or via e-mail at john-stoor@hawaii.rr.com.

Boy Scout Troop 24 – Incoming Boy Scouts or interested boys who have completed

the 5th grade are invited to join our troop. Meetings are Mondays, 6:30 p.m. at the Scout Hut on Schofield Barracks.

For more information, call 683-0463 or email scouterulmen@hotmail.com

Employment Orientation

– Take the first step in landing the job you want. Get employment information on federal, state, private sector and staffing agencies. Use the reference materials, job listings, computers, etc. that are available the Army Community Service

employment resource area.

Workshops are Fridays, 9 – 10:30 a.m. at ACS Schofield Barracks, building 2091. Call 655-4227 to register.

Community Calendar Briefs

– Do you have announcements of upcoming events, sports or activities that you would like to post in the Hawaii Army Weekly? If so, email your information to community@hawaii.armyweekly.com at least two weeks in advance of your event or activity.





Send community announcements to community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

July

17/July

Globetrotters Basketball — Registration concludes today for the Harlem Globetrotters Summer Youth Basketball Camp, scheduled for July 17 – 21.

Globetrotters, along with a coach, will teach kids, ages 6 to 16, basketball fundamentals and important life skills at Bloch Arena, Naval Station Pearl Harbor.

Children ages 6 to 10 will have camp 9 a.m. to noon; kids ages 11 to 16 will have camp from 1 – 4 p.m.

Cost is \$50 per participant and open to any military affiliated or DoD family member. Register at the Youth Sports Office, Building 3456 on Main Street.

23/Sunday

Golf Tournament — The Hawaii Army Museum Society hosts its 25th annual golf tournament at Leilehua Golf Course, July 23.

An afternoon of entertainment is planned and will be emceed by local celebrities Kirk Matthews and Linda Coble.

Registration is closed for this event, but the public is invited to attend. All proceeds from the tournament will benefit the Hawaii Army Museum at Fort DeRussy.

For more information, call 223-8838.

10K Volksmarch — The Menehune Marchers are sponsoring a 10K Volksmarch (walk) July 23 at Hoomaluhia Botanical Garden.

The walk is free and walkers may start anytime between 8 a.m. and noon.

Award and volksmarch credit, if desired, are available for a nominal fee. For more information, call Maria at 261-3583 or visit the Web site at www.ava.org/clubs/menehunemarchers/.

Valve Cover Racing — The Aloha Stadium Swap Meet is hosting a Valve Cover Racing Series during its regular Swap Meet line up.

The series consists of monthly trial races on July 29, and Aug. 19, with a championship race slated for Sept. 3.

Cars will be built in the style of the old Pine Wood Derby racers and raced down a 60-foot drag racing track.

Contact the Aloha Stadium Swap Meet at 486-6704.

Ongoing

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

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

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



July

Today

Globetrotters Basketball — Registration concludes today for the Harlem Globetrotters Summer Youth Basketball Camp, scheduled for July 17 – 21, the Globetrotters, along with a coach will teach kids, ages 6 to 16 basketball fundamentals and important life skills at Bloch Arena, Naval Station Pearl Harbor. Children ages 6 to 10 will have camp 9 a.m. to noon; and kids ages 11 to 16 will have camp from 1 – 4 p.m. Cost is \$50 per participant and open to any military affiliated or DoD family member. Register at the Youth Sports Office, building 3456 on Main St.

Youth Basketball Pick-up — Military youth, ages 9 to 17, are invited for a game of pick-up basketball, each Friday through July 21, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Aliamau Military Reservation (AMR) Physical Fitness Center gym.

Pick-up games are for fun only, and participants are to reflect good sportsmanship. Food, drinks, gum, fighting and swearing in the gym are prohibited.

Youth sports staff will be on duty during open play; however, 9-year-old participants must be with a sibling at least 12 years old. For more information, call 836-1923.

Mini Flag Football — Register now through July 18 for the Army Mini Sports Flag Football program.

The program, open to children born in 2001 and 2002, covers the basic skills of flag football and is a parent participation program.

The program will run July 25 through Sept. 14 and will be held at Bennett Youth Center Field and the Aliamau Military Reservation Football Field.

For more information, call 836-1923 (AMR), 438-9336 (Fort Shafter), 655-0883 (Wheeler), or 655-6454 (Schofield).

15/Saturday

Hawaii Championship Wrestling — Come watch Hawaii Championship Wrestling at the Tropics, July 15. Doors will open at 6 p.m. and matches start at 7 p.m.

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

16/Sunday

Bowling Tournament — A “5 Game, No Tap” tournament will be held at the Schofield Bowling Center, July 16. Check-in will be at 1 p.m., and the cost \$20. Call 655-0573 for more information.

25/Tuesday

Flag Football and Cheerleading — Registration begins today for Youth Sports flag football and cheerleading. This program is open to youth born between 1990 and 2001.

Cost is \$45 for flag football and \$60 for cheerleading (\$20 if you already have a uniform).

For more information, call 836-

1923 (AMR), 438-9336 (Fort Shafter), 655-0883 (Wheeler), or 655-6454 (Schofield).

Ongoing

Water Aerobics — Enjoy a new and exciting workout at Richardson Pool. July classes will be held Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and Tuesday and Thursday from 5 to 6 p.m.

There is a \$2 fee per class or a punch card is available for \$15.

Water aerobics provides a safe and effective exercise alternative that improves your overall level of fitness without stress on the joints. For more information, call 655-1128.

101 Days of Summer — Students, kindergarten through twelfth grade are invited to the Fort Shafter and Schofield bowling centers through Sept. 4 to bowl their way through the “101 Days of Summer.”

Each day of the summer, participating students can receive one free game of bowling for each paid game. Free games can be played any day from opening until 5 p.m.

Grand prizes include a trip for four to an “Aly & AJ” concert and a private movie screening of “How to Eat Fried Worms” for one lucky winner and 100 guests.

Other prizes include a portable DVD player, iPod shuffle, video games and prizes from the Schofield and Fort Shafter bowling centers.

For more information, call 655-0573 (Schofield) or 438-6733 (Fort Shafter).

Volunteer Coaches — Volunteer soccer coaches are needed for Youth Sports soccer. For more information or to volunteer, call 836-1923 (Aliamau Military Reservation Youth Sports) or 438-9336 (Fort Shafter Youth Sports).

Hatha Yoga — Relish the traditional approach to yoga that aids relaxation, and strengthening and lengthening muscles. Techniques can be modified based upon an individual's skill level.

Sessions will be held Wednesday at 5 p.m. and Saturdays at 8 a.m. at the Schofield Barracks Health and Fitness Center. Call 655-8007 for more details.

Hawaii Academy Trampoline and Gymnastics Classes — SKIES Unlimited is partnering with Hawaii Academy to offer a military discount program for trampoline and gymnastics programs.

Hawaii Academy offers a variety of programs including parent-tot and preschool classes; an essential skills program; flexibility, fitness and gymnastics programs; special education programs; and trampoline and power tumbling programs.

Discount cards can be picked up at the Child and Youth Services registration offices. For more information, call 655-5525.

Cosmic Bowling — We turn off the lights and turn on the fun. It's bowling with a twist.

Cosmic Bowling is held every Wednesday at Wheeler Bowl. Cost is \$1.50 per game and \$1 for shoe rental. Call 656-1745 for more information.



Andersen Ross | Getty Images

Female doctor performing ultrasound on pregnant woman

Tricare enhances benefits for maternity ultrasounds

TRICARE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY

News Release

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

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

According to Dr. (Col.) John Kugler of the Tricare Office of the Chief Medical Officer, "Because an obstetric ultrasound is not a simple procedure, and may be an involved process, as of April 4, 2006, we changed the policy to have Tricare cover medically necessary maternity ultrasounds separate from the global delivery fee."

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

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

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

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

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



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

Are generic drugs safe?

DR. DAVID N. TORNBERG
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for
Clinical and Program Policy

(Editor's Note: Tricare Management Activity hosts "The Doctor Is In" column at DoD's Military Health System Web site: <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/press-room>.)

In a word, yes, generic drugs are safe.

All generic drugs in the United States must go through the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) rigorous approval process to make sure they are chemically identical to the brand-name drug. The truth is that generics give you the same medicine and the same results as their brand-name counterparts.

Same medicine, same results

The FDA requires pharmaceutical companies prove that the generic drug contains the identical amount of the active ingredient and works the same way as the brand-name drug. The pharmaceutical company also must manufacture the generic drug under the same strict quality guidelines as a brand-name drug. Plus, the FDA scientists, chemists and microbiologists reviewing generic medicines must have the same qualifications as those reviewing the brand drugs.

Sometimes the generic manufacturer may not be allowed to use the same color or shape be-



Tornberg

These are only cosmetic differences that in no way impact the safety or effectiveness of the generic version.

Just as safe, but for a lot less

Buying generic is completely safe and will save you money at the pharmacy counter. Generic drugs cost much less than the brand-name version. When you buy generic drugs, your copay is only \$3 – that's one-third of the \$9 copay for brand-name drugs. I would like to encourage you to ask for the more affordable generic drugs when filling prescriptions at your local pharmacy.

The Defense Department's long-practiced mandatory generic drug policy requires pharmacists to fill your prescriptions with a generic drug, if one is available. TRICARE will fill prescriptions for brand-name drugs that have a generic equivalent if your prescribing physician establishes medical necessity for using the brand-name drug. If you have a prescription



for a drug that has no generic equivalent, your pharmacist will give you the brand-name drug at the brand-name copay.

Why are generics so cheap?

Brand-name drug companies develop new drugs under patent protection, giving them the sole right to sell the drug. When the patent expires, generic drug companies may submit a shortened new-drug application to the FDA for approval to market an equivalent product under its chemical, or "generic," name. Under the shortened new-drug application process, the generic drug manufacturer does not have to repeat expensive research on ingredients or dosage forms that are already FDA-approved. This saves the pharmaceutical company time and money – and they pass the savings along to you.

Tricare is committed to meeting your health care needs, and you can help us help you. By using generics, you will enjoy a safe and less expensive alternative to brand-name drugs. Buying generics saves you money today and helps Defense Department's save money, ensuring the future of the Tricare benefit.

25 YEARS AGO

1981

• **July 2**, Fort Shafter public affairs announced that the Hawaii Area Exchange would make shoulder marks, that is shoulder boards, available. As well, the women's gray-green uniform blouses would be made available at the Fort Shafter Post Exchange in good supply and a variety of sizes.

• **July 9**, Army officials were announcing a new handgun to replace the M1911A .45 caliber pistol and the .38 caliber revolver then in use. The new weapon would be the XM9, a 9mm handgun,

then the first major change in U.S. weaponry in more than 50 years.

• **July 9**, Headquarters Company led softball league standings with a 14-0 record.

• **July 12**, The Tropic Lightning Band provided "Music Beneath the Stars," during a concert at the General's Loop. Selections featured hits from the 60s, including the theme from the film "Close Encounters of the Third Kind."

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