

# HAWAII ARMY WEEKLY

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## Co. B, 65th Eng. Bn. receives deployment excellence award



Combat engineers from Co. B, 65th Eng. Bn. pose for pictures with the official party after receiving the Chief of Staff Deployment of Excellence Awards Tuesday in Washington, D.C. (Left to Right) Maj. Gen. Brian Geehan, Maj. Gen. George Bowman, Sgt. Moses Sonera, Lt. Gen. Claude Christianson and Staff Sgt. Grachya Kazanchyan.

By Sgt. 1st Class Marcia Triggs  
*Army News Service*

WASHINGTON – Staff Sgt. Grachya Kazanchyan and Sgt. Moses Sonera longed to be in Iraq blowing things up with their unit, Company B, 65th Engineer Battalion. But because of injuries they had the opportunity to accept the Deployment of Excellence

Award on behalf of their unit. Company B was one of 23 units that were recognized Tuesday in Washington D.C., for their innovative deployment initiatives. The engineer company shared first place in the small unit, operational deployment category with Company C, 121st Signal Battalion, 1st Infantry Division, Kitzingen, Germany.

"I didn't do anything specifically to earn this award," said Kazanchyan, a combat engineer. "The boys in Iraq who spent long hours preparing for the deployment earned this award."

Kazanchyan and Sonera deployed to Kuwait and into Iraq in January. However, they

See "Engineers" Page A-8

## Iraqis to manage all ministries before transfer

By Gerry J. Gilmore  
*American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON – Iraqis will assume management of all national government ministries before Wednesday's transfer of sovereignty, the Coalition Provisional Authority's chief spokesman said June 21.

"Nearly 60 percent of the Iraqi government is already transitioned to sovereignty," Dan Senor told reporters at a Baghdad news conference. And, he noted, Iraqi officials are slated to assume control of the remaining ministries by the end of the week.

With nine days remaining before the transfer of power, Iraqis now run 15 of the 26 national government ministries, Senor pointed out.

Iraqi-managed ministries, he said, currently include: foreign affairs, health, education, public works and municipalities, oil, science and technology, agriculture, displacement and migration, culture, water resources, industry and minerals, planning and development, youth and sport, environment and transportation.

After June 30, Senor said, coalition consultants working with the ministries would provide only technical assistance as determined and requested by the Iraqi government.

About 1.3 million Iraqis now work for the national government, Senor noted. "By the end of this week, all of them will be reporting to Iraqi supervisors and Iraqi ministers," he pointed out, "several days before the June 30 handover."

All of Iraq's provincial governments are now up and running, Senor said, and about 90 percent of Iraq's municipalities have operating

See "Sovereignty" Page A-8

### News briefly

#### Safety Fair

The Fort Shafter Military Police Battalion and Tripler Army Medical Center Community Health is sponsoring a Safety Fair from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. today at the Aliamnu Military Reservation Fitness Center. All are welcome. For more information, call Sgt. 1st Class Edward Joslyn or Sgt. 1st Class Dailey at 833-2232.

#### Community First Aid and Safety

The American Red Cross Schofield Barracks is offering training in Community First Aid and Safety. This course covers adult, child and infant CPR along with first aid training. The course will be held 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday at the Red Cross located on the third floor of the Aloha Center, Bldg. 690 on Schofield Barracks. Cost is \$28. Register at the Red Cross Office by June 25 to hold a space. For more information, call 655-4927.

#### 4th of July Spectacular

The 33rd annual 4th of July Spectacular will take place at Sills Field, Schofield Barracks on July 4. There will be a 5K Fun Run beginning at 9 a.m., and a Children's 1-mile Fun Run beginning at 10 a.m. There will be food booths, a games and rides midway, crafts and new products bazaar and a vintage military car show beginning at 10 a.m. The Opiki Pickers, Kaala Boys, Da Braddahs, Tani Lynn and Jordan Segundo will perform on the Oceanic Stage between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. On the Main Stage, Tino and the Rhythm Klub will perform at 4:30 p.m. and internationally-known vocalist Sandi Patty will perform at 5:45 and 7 p.m. The 25th ID (L) Band's "1812 Overture" will begin at 7:45 p.m. Fireworks with music by 25th ID (L) Band will begin at 8:30 p.m. From 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., visitors can enter to win a new Chevy S-10 Pickup truck. The event is free and open to the public. For more information visit the MWR Web site at www.mwrarmyhawaii.com.

#### Commissary Closure

The Schofield Barracks Commissary will be closed on July 4 for Independence Day. Normal business hours will resume July 5. For more information, call Linda Cuomo at 655-5066.

#### Warrant Officer Branch Changeover Ceremony

Warrant officers will begin wearing their branch insignia during a ceremony at 3:30 p.m. July 9 at Sills Field on Schofield Barracks.

## Stryker program gets environmental award

By Joe Burlas  
*Army News Service*

WASHINGTON – Program Manager – Stryker just got an award normally given to Army installations.

Lt. Gen. Joseph Yakovac, military deputy to the assistant secretary of the Army for Acquisitions, Logistics and Technology, presented the Secretary of the Army Environmental Excellence Award in a Pentagon ceremony June 17.

"We are not only responsible for being good stewards of taxpayers money, but good stewards of the environment," Yakovac said. "It's not glamorous, but we need to save the world for future generations' use."

The citation for the award credited Project Manager – Stryker with establishing an interagency environmental management team that significantly reduced the hazards materials used in building the Army's newest combat fami-

ly of vehicles and other environment-friendly features designed into the vehicles.

Examples include a design that catches spent shell casings and another that traps fluids that are normally released to the environment.

Additionally, the team created processes that eliminate many uses of chromium and cadmium in the production, fielding and repair in the first halon-free crew explosion protection system.

Less use of hazardous material in the Stryker means less risk to the warfighters who use the vehicle, according to the citation. It also means less of a hazardous waste burn to the installations where the Stryker is operated and maintained, it said.

Col. Dave Ogg, Stryker project manager, accepted the award from Yakovac.

"While I may be getting the credit, winning this award was truly a team effort," Ogg said.



Soldiers from 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division dismount a Stryker vehicle during the unit's certification exercise at the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, La., May 21, 2003.

## Soldier knocks down language barrier for TF 1-27 INF leaders



Sp. Sean Kimmons, TF 1-27 INF translator, speaks with an Iraqi man who has just been released from Abu Ghraib in Baghdad June 14. Leaders of the task force wanted to welcome the former detainee back home and had Elmerly translate their conversation.

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

FORWARD OPERATING BASE MCHENRY, Iraq – The Arabic language is an obstacle many Soldiers have to overcome to accomplish their missions here in Iraq.

Contracted translators help ease this problem by allowing Soldiers to communicate with the Iraqi people on a daily basis.

Spc. Ramy Elmerly is sort of a contracted translator. He is able to interpret the Arabic language, but unlike contracted translators he was first contracted by the Army as an infantryman.

Born in Egypt, Elmerly, an infantryman with Task Force 1-27 Infantry, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, assists leaders of the task force in their everyday meetings and humanitarian missions as an infantryman, translator and cultural adviser.

Lt. Col. Scott Leith, TF 1-27 INF commander, frequently has Elmerly by his side during his missions and knows how vital it is to have one of his Soldiers be able to speak

the local language.

"To have an American Soldier as an interpreter is an asset that most people don't have," Leith said. "[Iraqi people] are more willing to talk to a Soldier than they are to [a contracted] interpreter, especially if it's an interpreter from a different ethnicity."

Elmerly, 34, left Egypt in 1994 and moved to Los Angeles. Following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, he thought it was his duty to serve the United States and joined the Army.

About a year and a half later, Elmerly was stationed at Schofield Barracks, where he received deployment orders for Iraq.

"I loved it," Elmerly said when he first heard of the deployment. "I had a feeling that I would be helpful somehow and I would be able to use my language. That's one of the reasons I joined the Army."

Maj. Jeff Butler, TF 1-27 INF operations officer, found out about Elmerly's linguist capabilities before deploying and gave him his first mission as the task force's trans-

lator.

"He let me put Arabic statements on a board and teach them to the guys in the S-3 shop," Elmerly said. "I then made a little card for the Soldiers that had Arabic words like, good morning, thank you and please."

Since then, Elmerly has been an integral part of the task force as it continues its missions here.

Elmerly recounted one mission with Company A when he caught a translator interpreting the wrong information.

"One interpreter was lying to Alpha Company and he didn't know I could speak the language," Elmerly said. "When I started talking to him in Arabic, he was surprised and looked at me and said 'you speak Arabic?'"

His most memorable mission was when he traveled by helicopter to Abu Gharib prison in Baghdad to transport a local sheik back home. The sheik was detained from supposedly bad intelligence by an Iraqi informant seven months ago.

See "Barrier" Page A-8

# OPINION & COMMENTARY

Friday

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June 25, 2004

## Alpha Co. continues to press, corner enemy

**C**ommentary

**1st Sgt. Robert Jennings**  
Co. A, 1st Bn., 21st Inf. Rgt.

KIRKUK AIR BASE, Iraq – 14 Jun o-dark early – A large portion of Alpha Company rolled out of the gate in support of a larger mission.

We have been conducting some of these missions to catch the really bad seeds in the community. The end result was: the target was wounded severely, a lot of ammunition expended, one friendly slightly wounded.

We have continued to press and corner the enemy this week. We are finding fixing and destroying them where they live, work and try to relax. They are figuring out that 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry, Gimlets are not a force to take lightly. Over the last month we have emptied this town of a lot of trash in preparation for the June 30th handover.

16 Jun 0811 hours – Automatic fire is heard a couple hundred meters from the patrol base. Immediately the reports are coming in from our Observation Posts. We notified the police and sent them to the location. Within minutes, a squad was mounted and rolling out the gate. At the scene one man was killed and another injured.

The man killed was identified as the Oil Company Security Chief and his body guard was the one injured. This seems to be the new tactic of our cowardly enemy. He has shifted his focus away from coalition and is concentrating on his own countrymen that work with coalition forces.

On a higher note, we were able to finally open a refurbished school in Amu Shabi. Before the contractors came, the building looked more like an



Cpt Todd Moe

**Soldiers from Co A, 1st Bn., 21st Inf. Rgt. continue to practice medical training during their deployment. Here Pfc. Michael Mullen, gives Pfc. Earnest Wentworth an IV as Staff Sgt. Eric Guffey looks on.**

empty storage room than a school. Three weeks of hard work from the citizens and we were able to hand over the repaired school. In a world of killing and vying for power, this is a small victory. I've said it before and I you will continue to hear it from me; "The children are the future. What we do now will pay heavy dividends in 10 years."

Everything here seems focused toward June 30th. What many people are failing to realize is that we are not leaving July 1. This is an interim government. I wish they would change the name to practice government. As we get closer, the majority of the country is embracing the idea. It's the former regime garbage and radical extremists that seem to be causing most of the problems. We continue to gain information on them, and they continue to send more people to town. Eventually I think there going to understand it's not happening here.

But I think the most frustrating thing for the U.S. forces here is the Abu Ghraib situation. On one hand you have over 300,000 Soldiers that have served honor-

ably in this country for the last 16 months. Then on the other, you have a few buffoons who wouldn't know what the word honorable means if they were tied to it naked.

Yes, these Iraqi men were bad seeds, but each Soldier is taught in basic training the rules of the Geneva Convention, let alone have some common sense on what is right or wrong. I have yet to hear or read where these so called "Soldiers" have admitted any wrong. All you hear is how nice they are and how they would help you out if you needed it. I'm sorry, but to me this is unacceptable behavior. In my opinion, they deserve everything they get.

But the fallout does not end there. If you watch the news you've seen prisoners being released from Abu Ghraib as a gesture of good will. Well, the same guys you see on the television smiling and waving are the same garbage that was thrown in there for attacks against coalition forces. It took coalition forces the last 16 months to round up and incarcerate these guys and is now going to cause us to use the next 16 months putting them back in.

Hopefully the new jail will be ready soon, I'm sure there will be a bed waiting for them.

This week meet Spc. Jacob Baggett, an M-240 Machine Gunner for 2nd platoon. He is from Dalton, Ga., and has been in the Army for 20 months. He has also pulls duties as a Rifleman for 2nd Squad, 2nd Platoon when no machine gun is needed.

Baggett says when he got here he was expecting the worst.

"The first couple of months my expectations were met," Baggett said. "It seems like there was rockets or mortars every night. But lately things seem to be calming down. The people are starting to clean up the city and things seem to be moving in the right direction.

"There are some things that still get to me sometimes, like when a person gets in the line of fire that wasn't suppose to be there," Baggett added.

I asked Baggett what the most enjoyable part of the deployment has been.

"When Bravo Company came over and took our posts for a few hours," he said. "It was nice to have the whole company together for the first time in five months. I have a lot of friends in the other platoons that I haven't seen for a while."

Baggett said not understanding the language has been the most challenging part of the deployment.

"You have someone come up to you and you can't understand anything they're saying," he said.

He finished his interview by saying hi to his dad David in Dalton and his mother Sherrie Cummings in North Richland Hills, Texas.

"I love you, miss you," he said.

God Bless and Aloha  
(Editor's note: Jennings is the first sergeant for Co. A, 1st Bn., 21st Inf. Rgt. and is currently deployed to Iraq. He writes a weekly column for the Honolulu Star Bulletin.)

## Flag Day left blowing in the wind

**C**ommentary

**Spc. Jason L. Johnson**  
Fort Myer, Va.

The wind dances around her unwavering colors, flying proudly in the sky. Her stars shine amid a field of blue, a glimpse of freedom can be seen in those stars and stripes, the ones guiding America through history.

The American flag has a history dating back to June 14, 1777, when Congress designed the official standard for Old Glory. The tradition of Flag Day was believed to have started in a Wisconsin public school in 1885 by BJ Cigrand, who arranged for his students to celebrate Old Glory's birthday.

Soon after, the New York public school board made June 14 their celebration for Flag Day and it wasn't until President Harry Truman signed an act of Congress Aug. 3, 1949, making June 18 National Flag Day.

Two hundred and twenty seven years later, she flies with 13 stripes and 50 stars. Standing the test of time through America's depressions, the Civil War, military conflicts and an ever-changing world.

But who is left to know of her history when this years National Flag Day was brushed aside and became no different then any other day for school children?

There were no ceremonies or special assemblies conducted at school, said an elementary school assistant principle in Arlington County.

When other local schools were contacted, a pattern emerged as response after response was the same--nothing.

So what will children know about our nation's proud colors in the years to come?

If I were to ask a child in school 'Who made the first flag,' I would be afraid to hear the answer, which would undoubtedly cite some pop-star icon like Hilary Duff or Ashton Kutcher.

Will they even know what Old Glory is?

While it is mandatory in most elementary schools to hold a moment of silence and recite the Pledge of Allegiance, what good is it to recite an allegiance to a flag and a country you may know nothing about?

(Editor's note: Johnson is a staff writer for the Pentagon newspaper at Fort Myer.)

## Voices of Lightning

*What do you like best about the new Army Combat Uniform?*



"Without seeing it in person, I'd have to say that the new pockets are a good idea."

**Master Sgt. Randy Dalton**  
Headquarters,  
Pacific Air Forces  
Airlift propulsion  
superintendent



"The velco is handy. Accessing your pockets will be a lot easier too."

**Sgt. Frederick Wilkes**  
25th Infantry Division  
(Light) Rear Det.  
NBC NCO



"Seems like these uniforms will be a lot easier to deal with, in terms of sewing. You won't have to take it in to get patches and nametapes put on anymore."

**Spc. William Lassiter**  
536th Maintenance Co.  
Mechanic



"The design looks like it will help keep Soldiers from getting hit and improves their performance in the field."

**Sgt. Jonathan Ricafrente**  
U.S. Pacific Command  
Programmer



"The pockets on the sleeves should make it easier for Soldiers to get to their gear."

**Sgt. Carlotta Ivey**  
516th Sig. Bn.  
Admin NCO



"There's no ironing, which will cut down on the costs for Soldiers."

**Pfc. Chris Richmond**  
442nd Inf. Rgt.  
Gun truck driver

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# TF 1-27 INF honors Army, unit on Wolfhound Day

Story & Photos By Spc. Sean Kimmons  
25th ID (L) Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE MCHENRY, Iraq – The early morning sun glared down on hundreds of Task Force 1-27 Infantry “Wolfhounds,” as they stood in formation to commence Wolfhound Day with an award ceremony here June 14.

“What a better way to start the 229th birthday of the Army than with an award ceremony in a combat zone,” Lt. Col. Scott Leith, commander of TF 1-27 INF, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, said at the beginning of the Purple Heart and Soldier commendation ceremony.

During the ceremony, as part of Wolfhound Day – a day for task force Soldiers to celebrate and honor the 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, Leith spoke of how the Wolfhounds have played a part in the Army’s long history.

“We were formed in 1901 – interestingly during the Army’s 127th year of service,” Leith said.

Leith went on to give examples of the battalion’s tours that took them around the world to the Philippines’ Insurrection in 1902, Army of Pacification in Cuba in 1907, to chasing Poncho Villa on the Mexico border in 1913, Siberia in 1919, Philippines and Japan in 1945, Korea in 1950, Vietnam in 1966 and currently in Iraq.

“Now with the Army 229 years old, where are the Wolfhounds?” Leith asked. “Once again, 229 years later, the Wolfhounds are deployed.

“Now you and your actions are part of that heritage,” Leith said.

Concluding the ceremony, company elements headed over to a long, thick rope to begin the competitive segment of Wolfhound Day.

Forty Soldiers of one company element battled another 40-Soldier element in an event that got adrenaline pumping and unit pride jumping.

After a successful bout against Headquarters and Headquarters Co. and a time consuming victory against Bravo Co., Alpha Co. emerged as the winner.

Pfc. Josh Coombs, a radio transmission operator for Alpha Co., said the final bout felt like a 10-minute struggle.

“I just wanted to get that rope across,” Coombs said. “Eventually we wore them down and won.”

In between bouts, a marksmanship competition with M16 rifles and M9 pistols was held. The event had six Soldiers from each company element knock out 50 push-ups and hit targets from 25 meters away.

Alpha Co. came out victorious once again and won the Wolfhound Day guide-on streamer.

“The purpose of today was to build esprit-de-corp among the Wolfhounds,” said Maj. Daniel Hurlbut, executive officer for TF 1-27 INF. “We try to do a Wolfhound Day as many times a year as we can.”

It was even more important to have all these events occur on the Army’s birthday, Hurlbut said.

“With the Army’s birthday and being deployed it was significant to reinforce the traditions of the Army and celebrate the proud history of the Wolfhounds and the Army.”

“Also, it’s an excuse to have a big competition and shoot some bullets,” Hurlbut said.

At the end of Wolfhound Day, the Soldiers were treated to a huge cake topped with decorations and two Wolfhound symbols, as a tribute to the Army’s birthday.

Spc. Terrance Booth, Capt. Steven Flores, Staff Sgt. Christopher Hendry, Sgt. Jeremy Rogers and Spc. Michael Silva each received a Purple Heart during the ceremony.



Staff Sgt. James Burciaga (left), a squad leader with Co. A, TF 1-27 INF, receives some motivation from a screaming Staff Sgt. Hejoon Chung (right), also a squad leader with Co. A, TF 1-27 INF, in the championship tug-of-war bout against Bravo Co. as part of Wolfhound Day.



A Soldier with TF 1-27 INF participates in the marksmanship competition.

Left: TF 1-27 INF Soldiers salute the colors during the Purple Heart and Army Commendation Medal ceremony as part of Wolfhound Day June 14.



Above: 1st Sgt. Fidelito Ordonio, first sergeant with Co. A, TF 1-27 INF, throws his arms up in the air as he celebrates his company's tug-of-war victory.

Below: 1st Sgt. Fidelito Ordonio, first sergeant with Co. A, TF 1-27 INF, cuts into a cake celebrating the Army's 229th birthday June 14.



Right: Soldiers of Co. A, TF 1-27 INF, huddle around their guidon after earning the Wolfhound Day streamer.



## Briefs

**Community First Aid and Safety** - The American Red Cross Schofield Barracks is offering training in Community First Aid and Safety. This course covers adult/child/infant CPR along with first aid training. The course will be held 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday at the Red Cross located on the third floor of the Aloha Center, Bldg. 690 on Schofield Barracks. Cost is \$28. Register at the Red Cross Office by June 25 to hold a space. For more information, call 655-4927.

**25th Military Police Battalion Change of Command** - Lt. Col. Tony Carr will assume command of the 25th MP Bn. from Lt. Col. Sabrina Webb at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Sills Field, 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](http://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, 2004. packets can be sent to the U.S. Army Parachute Team

P.O. Box 70126, Fort Bragg, NC 28307. For more information, contact Golden Knight Administration Office at 396-4800.

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

**Commissary Closure** - The Schofield Barracks Commissary will be closed on July 4 for Independence Day. Normal business hours will resume July 5. For more information, call Linda Cuomo at 655-5066.

**American Red Cross Medical Assistant Program** - The purpose of the program is to provide 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 from July 1 - 16. Applicants should have two letters of recommendation included with application. Applica-

## Pit Bulls to be banned from Hawaii Army installations

Effective Dec. 1, 2004, American Pit Bull Terriers, Staffordshire Terriers and Staffordshire Bull Terriers, commonly known as "Pit Bulls," will no longer be allowed on any Army post in Hawaii.

Those residents on Army installations in Hawaii who currently have animals of this breed will be allowed to retain those pets until they DEROS., unless a directed pet removal is issued by the commander of Oahu Base Support Battalion.

Transfer of ownership of this breed of animal from one resident to another resident resulting in the pit bull remaining on installation past the original owner's DEROS is prohibited.

The prohibition of this breed of domestic animal will not affect the access of the prohibited animal for treatment at Veterinary facilities located on Army installations in Hawaii.

For more information, call Cathy Ballie at OBSB at 655-5270.

tions will be available at the Red Cross Office located on the third floor of the Aloha Center, Bldg. 690 on Schofield Barracks. Applicant must be at least 18 years old; possess a valid military ID card and be entitled to Tricare health Benefits; be willing to participate 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.

**Thrift Shop Closure** - The Hui O' Na Wahine Thrift Shop on Schofield Baracks will be closed for cleaning during the month of 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. Volunteers are still needed. For more information, call the Thrift Shop at 624-3254.

**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, 2004. The Installation Structured Interview Panel will convene Dec. 6, 2004 to interview qualified applicants. Specific interview dates, times and location will be provided to each individual applicant. 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. Ensure to take test in sufficient time, allowing at least 3 to 4 weeks to receive results prior to packet submission deadline. 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.

**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-

# Army partners with GM for safety video

By Courtney Hickson  
*Army News Service*

WASHINGTON - As Soldiers return home from deployments and begin driving their personal vehicles again, the Army Safety Center has partnered with General Motors Corp. to produce a video to help them adjust.

The video is supposed to be shown to all Soldiers by July 4 as part of the Army's "Be Safe" campaign, said J.T. Coleman, the command information manager at the U.S. Army Safety Center.

Motor vehicle accidents were the leading cause of

non-combat deaths among Soldiers last year. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld has charged that the number of accidental deaths be cut by 50 percent for all of the armed forces by May 2005.

The Army turned to GM to help in getting a message of safe driving out to all Soldiers. The partnership with GM was created to get an aggressive message out to all soldiers said Coleman. The video was exclusively made for the Army by GM. It was shot at Fort Campbell, Ky., and then presented to the Army to make copies for all the

Soldiers. It shows former Mississippi State Trooper Capt. Peter Collins speaking to Soldiers about how to be a safe driver.

So far more than 6,000 videos, primarily in DVD format, have been copied by the Army and sent out. It is being shown on transports returning from Iraq, at Army bases all over the world and is available on the Internet. Coleman said last week alone the Safety Center received 2,000 copies and had shipped out 1,700. The Internet version can be viewed in real time or download and viewed at a later date.

Additionally, it is available to all the spouses and children of Soldiers in an attempt to look at the whole Soldier and his or her family. The program takes into account all the aspects of a Soldier's life, Coleman said.

"Safety has to be personal," Coleman said.

The target of this campaign has been the 19-to-24-year-old male, but there is an attempt to reach all young Soldiers. According to Safety Center statistics, the time these Soldiers are most at risk is the last 6-12 hours

as they return to base from a three-day pass.

"We are trying to protect our most valuable asset, our sons and daughters, and have them realize the effect they have on others," he said.

Brig. Gen. Joseph A. Smith, the director and commanding general of the Army Safety Center, and members of his staff, visited with GM to learn more about their health and safety policies last week. They experienced the advanced driver training that GM

offered. The program can be repeated at any Army base in conjunction with the Army's other safe-driving programs.

GM started a safe-driving program for its employees in 1995. It is geared towards highlighting safe-driving practices, including wearing seatbelts, avoiding driving while intoxicated or while suffering from fatigue.

For more information on the "Be Safe" campaign, or to watch the video, go to <http://safety.army.mil>.

# 115th MI Group names top NCO, Soldier

By Staff Sgt. Michael Brock  
115th MI Group  
Public Affairs Office

The top noncommissioned officers and junior enlisted Soldiers competed for the title of 115th Military Intelligence Group NCO and Soldier of the year June 10-11.

The competition took the top NCO and junior Enlisted Soldiers from the 406th Military Intelligence Company, 407th Military Intelligence Company, 408th Military Intelligence Company, 409th Military Intelligence Company and Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment on a grueling two-day competition at Schofield Barracks.

Events included Common Task Testing, Land Navigation, Physical Fitness Test, Soldiers Board and a mystery event and more.

The 10 Soldiers did their best, but in the end, only two could win.

In the end, Sgt. Matthew R. Lavery of HHD and Spc. John M. Bazal of 409th M.I. Co. were named NCO and Soldier of the Year for the 115th Military Intelligence Group.

"All of the Soldiers did there best and in the end, one point separated first and second place for the NCO of the year," said Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph J. Paul, 732nd Military Intelligence Battalion command sergeant major. "It was a really close competition."

"The competition was challenging but fun," Bazal said. "There was cooperation between the contestants but we still had that competitive edge."

"I didn't expect to take first, but I knew I would be able to be competitive," Lavery said. "I went in with the attitude that I would do my best but never expected that I would be at this point."

All of the Soldiers had their strengths and weaknesses throughout the competition.



Staff Sgt. Michael J. Brock

**Spc. John M. Bazal, 115th M.I. Group Soldier of the Year, applies camouflage during the Common Task Testing portion of the Soldier of the Year Competition.**

"I knew I was solid in land navigation," Lavery said. "CTT was up in the air."

While Bazal stated he was stronger in the board process while weaker in physical fitness.

Day one started off with a physical fitness test in the morning followed by the common task testing.

"I had a hard time with the PT test," Bazal said. "I didn't do as well as I wanted to."

After common task testing, came the mystery event. The mystery event consisted of a four-mile rucksack march with dummy weapon and a 35-pound rucksack in one hour or less.

But that wasn't the end of the mystery event. After the Soldiers crossed the finish line they had to sing the Army song in front of about 40 Soldiers from the battalion.

"The ruck march was pretty hard starting at three o'clock in the afternoon after a PT test,"

Bazal said. "But it was fun; we all started giving high fives at the turn around point."

The mystery event was followed by the essay portion in which the Soldiers were asked how they could improve safety by decreasing privately owned vehicle accidents by 50 percent over the next two years. All of the responses had one thing in common; junior leaders need to get involved in the safety process.

Day two started out with the NCOs in the formal board and the Soldiers doing the land navigation portion then switching in the afternoon.

"I knew going into land navigation that I was in third place," Lavery said. "I also knew that there was a 22 point spread between the NCOs."

The last person to enter the board was Bazal.

"I went into the board thinking I would win," Bazal said. "If I didn't, it would break my concentration."

After Bazal finished with the board and the NCOs returned from the land navigation course, all the Soldiers were brought back into the board room to announce the winners.

"When I got back, the points for the board were up and I started doing the math in my head to see how I did," Lavery added. "I then realized that I won by one point."

Both Soldiers feel honored and humbled at the same time about being named NCO and Soldier of the Year.

"I don't feel like I am better than any other Soldier in the battalion," Bazal said. "The battalion is filled with exceptional Soldiers. It's a matter of taking risks and putting yourself out front."

"The quality of the NCOs helped show the quality of the companies," Lavery said. "All the units were represented well."

The two Soldiers will now compete for the INSCOM Pacific NCO and Soldier of the Year competition.

# Pentagon fields 100K Army Campaign Plan CDs

By Joe Burlas  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON – Army senior leaders have the same concerns of Soldiers about multiple and long unit deployments, but they're letting Soldiers know that changes to lessen those concerns are on the way.

The Army sent out 100,000 compact disks with multimedia briefings known as the Army Campaign Plan to inform active-duty, Reserve and National Guard Soldiers, and their families, that the Army is significantly changing while it is at war.

"We are an Army at war, supporting a nation at war -- this is not business as usual," said Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston. "If you look at in the long-term, that isn't going to change. The good news is that we're going to grow our deployable combat forces by 30 percent."

But that growth of modularizing the Army – going from 33 combat brigade teams to 48 brigade-sized units of action – is going to take some time, said Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker in one of the three video presentations on the Army Campaign CD.

The three videos target separate audiences – Schoomaker addresses the active Army; Lt. Gen. James Helmly, chief of the Army Reserve, talks to Reserve troops; and Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard, and Maj. Gen. Schultz, director of the Army National Guard, address Guard Soldiers.

In addition to the videos, the campaign includes slide presentations for each of the audiences and an additional brief for family members. Preston said that a single briefing wouldn't work as the active force, Army Reserve and Army National Guard all had separate issues that impact them.

The briefings are for officer and enlisted leaders down to company-level so that they can chain-teach.

"There is big interest out there about what does transformation mean," Preston said. "I tell Soldiers that is about predictability and stability for you and your family."

In addition to modularity, the active Army video and briefing discuss Force Stabilization. The initiative is about Soldiers being based at one installation for most of their careers, rather than moving from fort to fort every two to three years. It also includes assigning Soldiers as a unit at the same time for a three-year period.

There are several advantages to Force Stabilization, Preston said: unit readiness is increased as Soldiers have the stability of working with the same team members and same leaders, rather than constantly losing people due to a Cold War era individual replacement system; though Soldiers will likely deploy several times in a career, spouses know the community and can keep on working in a career instead of having to starting all over again in a new job with the constant moves the older system required.

"There are some concerns about getting stagnant or not getting the right positions needed for promotion by staying at the same installation," Preston said. "We recognize those concerns and are working to ensure that those concerns do not turn into issues."

Preston said he had spent seven years in one unit at one point during his 29-year career with no ill effects. He said that he has many friends who have spent their entire career with the XVIII Airborne Corps and advanced through the ranks at the same rates with their contemporaries who constantly moved from fort to fort every two to three years.

The biggest issue for the Army National Guard is modularizing into mirror combat formations with the active force while continuing to fulfill each unit's state militia mission, according to the Army Campaign Plan briefing.

For the Army Reserve, the issue is becoming more expeditionary while reducing the number of units in order to man the remainder at 100 percent with Soldiers fully qualified to deploy.

"As the Army grows, we can make some other changes to do something about deployments -- maybe cut them to nine months or maybe back to six," Preston said.

# JTF Wings links ground forces in OEF

by Sgt. Frank Magni  
17th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – For ground forces spread throughout Afghanistan, one aspect remains constant: if they are getting supplies, transportation or close air support, chances are it is coming from a rotary wing aircraft.

The country's mountainous terrain and unimproved roads make ground travel a slow process, so Combined Joint Task Force-76 relies heavily on the support of Joint Task Force Wings.

Controlling all conventional-force aviation operations within Afghanistan, JTF Wings is made up of U.S. Army active duty, Reserve and National Guard units, as well as two Marine squadrons. Using its variety of aircraft to support the entire gamut of Operation Enduring Freedom missions, the 2,000-person task force is constantly engaged in operations.

"We first give the ability to lift Soldiers and equipment and deliver them anywhere they are needed in the battlefield," said Lt. Col. Frank W. Tate, JTF Wings operations officer. "We move the bulk of supplies from the major hubs (airfields) to the smaller fire bases."

Primarily using the Army CH-47 Chinook, UH-60 Blackhawk and the Marine CH-53 Sea Stallion on "ring flights," aircraft are linking the forward operating bases with troops, transportation, supplies and even medical aid.

"We have nine aircraft that conduct medical evacuation operations everywhere in the country," said Tate. The MEDEVAC unit balances

between the needs for military and civilian casualties.

JTF Wings commander, Col. B. Shannon Davis, said the MEDEVAC mission not only saves lives, but also shows the local population we care about them.

"We transport injured Afghans every day and have saved many lives in the process," he said.

Tate said the support JTF Wings provides also extends into the combat arena. In fact, air assaults and close air support are operations the task force conducts almost daily.

"We have both Army and Marine Corps attack helicopters that provide close combat attacks in support of our infantry and Marines on the ground," said Tate.

But using Army AH-64 Apache and Marine AH-1 Cobra helicopters does more than provide firepower to the ground forces. Many times it keeps the peace, said Davis.

"The AH-64 is quite an intimidating platform," he said. "When the (anti-Coalition militia) see it out there, they know that aircraft being in the air is so mobile we can cross any ridgeline, we can cross any river at a moment's notice. Many of (the ACM) have seen the business end of this aircraft, so when the AH-64 is in the area it really brings a calm to things."

With nearly half of JTF Wings made up of U.S. Army Reserve and National Guard troops, effectively supporting ground forces required extensive preparation before coming to Afghanistan.

"That is a significant number (of U.S. Army Reserve and National Guard)," said Tate. "It made the training leading up to coming here very important."



Pfc. Chris Stump

**Marine crew chiefs check their CH-53 Sea Stallion at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan, after a ring flight to Bamian Province. The Marines are assigned to Marine Helicopter Squadron, one of the elements of JTF Wings, which provides aviation support to CJTF 76.**

Training for the mission in Afghanistan is essential because, in many ways, the conditions in Afghanistan are some of the most challenging in the world, said Tate.

"Joint Task Force Wings' primary challenge is not the enemy, the primary challenge is the environment," he said. "This is a tremendously difficult environment to fly in because of the high altitudes, high temperatures and high

winds. In addition, you have the heavy dust conditions as well."

He said with the increased heat and increased altitude, rotary wing aircraft have decreased power and capabilities than the same aircraft at sea level. With this in mind, training then focused on a condition aviation personnel call "high, hot and heavy," said Tate.

JTF Wings, without the

luxury of all its components being stationed in the same location in the United States, came together at Fort Rucker, Ala., for one segment of training. There, pilots were instructed by subject matter experts on the conditions they would face in Afghanistan. They also used flight simulators to better prepare them for this deployment.

Pilots also attended a high-altitude aviation training school in Gypsum, Colo., run by full-time Colorado National Guard pilots. HAATS is specifically designed to train military pilots for methods in managing their aircraft's power.

"At the school, pilots use vanilla aircraft that are much less powerful than the one they use daily," said Davis. The aircraft lacked many of the navigational instruments found on updated military aircraft.

"You have to use all the elements and skills you have been taught over the years to make successful approaches and landings," he said. "The point of the school is, if pilots can fly these low-powered aircraft in high altitude conditions, they can fly the more powerful aircraft we have to a much safer degree."

Aside from the collective training, many of the units prepped in their local areas.

With a high percentage of Joint Task Force Wing's units coming from the 25th Aviation Brigade in Hawaii, those units took to the Pohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island of Hawaii. With an altitude over 6,000 feet, a warmer climate, heavy wind and dust, the conditions closely matched what pilots would encounter in Afghanistan.

Tate said some of the Task Force's continued success

comes not from the preparation by the units, but by the military as a whole.

"The military recognized years ago that (all the services) had to start working together," said Tate. "Here in Afghanistan you are starting to see the benefit of years of joint preparations. More common terminology, more common systems and more common equipment allow us to work together without the major hiccups."

He said Army and Marine aircraft flying in the same formations is offering advantages to JTF Wings.

"We don't have the power alone, as one force, but together we can get any mission accomplished, anywhere," said Tate.

He said the Marine CH-53s provide longer flight time than any other aircraft in the task force. "They can carry more fuel and also have the ability to do air-to-air refuel. That gives a capability that we would otherwise not have."

As JTF Wings continues its mission in Afghanistan, Tate said success will come from not only the pilots, but all of the service members supporting their mission.

Command Sgt. Maj. Alfred Alexander, JTF Wings command sergeant major said all Soldiers are aware of the mission and its challenges.

"They know that we cannot let the environment inflict damage on us," said Alexander. "Already I have seen that the Soldiers have integrated well to the conditions."

Although it is early in their mission as a joint task force, Davis said he has seen nothing but success.

"I think we all know that we play a vital role to the success of CJTF-76 mission," he said.

# Soldiers soon to get side protection on body armor

By Joe Burlas  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Deployed troops will soon start getting side protection for their Interceptor Body Armor, thanks to the efforts of Program Executive Office Soldier.

The IBA Deltoid Extension was one of dozens of pieces of equipment PEO Soldier officials showed off to the Pentagon press corps during a media briefing June 14.

In the two years since the organization stood up, it has researched and fielded or is in the process of researching more than 350 pieces of equipment -- everything from boots to parachutes to new rifles -- in order to save Soldier lives, improve their quality of life and increase their effectiveness on the battlefield, said Brig. Gen. James Moran, PEO Soldier executive officer.

"Outfitting Soldiers is just as important as (acquiring) a major piece of equipment," Moran said.

At about 16 pounds, IBA is lighter than the 25-pound Vietnam-era flack jacket it replaced and it offers better protection, Moran said. The Deltoid Extension will add about another five pounds and protects the sides of the ribcage and shoulders.

However, the extension comes with a price for the Soldier. Moran explained that it can limit movement and block air from circulating under the body armor -- decreasing the Soldier's ability to cool off in a hot environment.

"Everything we do is a balance," Moran said. "We want all Soldiers to come back without any injuries.



PEO Soldier photo

**A Soldier test fires an XM8 carbine rifle. If the XM8 passes its remaining tests and the decision is made to buy it, the Army will likely purchase about 8,000 next fiscal year to equip two units of action.**

At the same time, we want them to be combat effective. Nothing can be made to be indestructible."

Despite the weight of IBA, Moran said he has no doubt that the new body armor has saved lives. In the past 18 months, the Army has purchased about 300,000 full sets of IBA.

The current Army budget buys 50,000 Deltoid Extension sets this fiscal year, all of which will be shipped to selected troops by the end of September, according to Col. John Norwood, program manager for PEO Soldier--Equipment. The Army plans to request enough funding

in next year's budget to equip all 132,000 Soldiers in the Central Command area of operations with the extension.

"We have a clever enemy, an adaptable enemy, so we must be clever and adaptable," Moran said.

Another piece of equipment PEO Soldier showed

off is the Microclimate Cooling System now in use by Army aviation flight crews. The system is a liquid-filled vest worn next to the skin that is connected by a flexible tube to a 12-pound box that circulates the coolant. A quick disconnect allows users to move around the aircraft as nec-

essary and a rheostat allows users to control the coolant temperature.

PEO Soldier tests of the system have demonstrated that flight crews can increase flight times from 1.5 hours in a hot environment to about five hours, Moran said.

The third piece of equipment PEO Soldier demonstrated was the XM8 rifle. While the XM8 still faces four more formal tests before the decision is made whether to buy it, Moran said the Special Forces Soldiers and other troops who have tried it out all said they want it now.

There are three variants of the XM8: a light version with a collapsible stock and a 9.5-inch barrel, a standard version with a 12-inch barrel and a designated marksman version with a 20-inch barrel. While a longer barrel means greater weight, it also means greater accuracy over greater ranges and a higher rate of fire, Moran explained.

In addition to being lighter than the M16 and M4 rifles, the XM8 has the advantage of being easier to maintain with significantly lower problems with stoppages. The first XM8 tested fired 15,000 rounds without cleaning or lubrication without a first misfire, said Col. Michael Smith, program manager for PEO Soldier-Weapons.

The last new type of rifle the Army has bought was the M16 in the 1960s, Moran said.

If the XM8 passes its remaining tests and the decision is made to buy it, the Army will likely purchase about 8,000 next fiscal year to equip two units of action, Moran said.

# Schofield Barracks' Fernandez Hall rededicated

By Spc. Len Cutler  
Staff writer

The 25th Infantry Division (Light) and U.S. Army, Hawaii family took a few minutes to honor one of their own Monday afternoon, at a rededication ceremony for Fernandez Hall.

Led by Col. Michael McBride, U.S. Army, Hawaii chief of staff, the ceremony highlighted Fernandez's example for today's modern warrior. McBride said the Warrior Ethos, adopted by the Army earlier this year, was something that earlier Soldiers, like Fernandez, already believed.

"As we enter the distinguished halls of Fernandez Hall each day, we are reminded of the ultimate sacrifice of one of our fallen comrades, Specialist Daniel Fernandez, a distinguished 25th ID (L) Medal of Honor recipient," McBride said. "He lived the Soldier's Creed and did so with a Warrior Ethos. We need look no further than to him for inspiration in our daily lives as a Soldier."

Fernandez Hall, which is now home to the headquarters of the 25th ID (L) and U.S. Army Garrison - Hawaii, was originally dedicated 29 years ago, on June 19, 1975. At Monday's rededication, a new plaque detailing Fernandez's achievements was unveiled.

"As we replaced the original faded plaque with a new plaque, we felt it appropriate to pause and reflect on the life and duty of Specialist Fernandez," McBride said. "All those who call Fernandez Hall their workplace were invited to participate in this rededication and to rededicate themselves in honor of his gallant service."

McBride noted that although the building was dedicated as Fernandez Hall, many still know it as "Building 580." He's hoping to change that, he said.

Fernandez was an infantryman with Company C, 1st



Staff Sgt. Bradley Rhen

**The new plaque at the bottom of this photo was unveiled Monday during the rededication of Fernandez Hall.**

Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment (Mechanized) when he was killed in action on Feb. 18, 1966, in the Republic of Vietnam.

Fernandez lost his life when his patrol was ambushed in Cu Chi. Fernandez, part of a four man team, was attempting to rescue a wounded Soldier that had been pinned down. The group was attacked with a grenade, and Fernandez, according to the official citation, "realizing there was no time for the wounded sergeant

or the other men to protect themselves from the grenade blast, Spc. Fernandez vaulted over the wounded sergeant and threw himself on the grenade as it exploded, saving the lives of his four comrades at the sacrifice of his life."

The building was originally built in 1939, and its first occupants were a signal company, an ordnance company and a quartermaster detachment. After World War II, it was the home of a cook's and baker's school.

## Engineers

From A-1

both had returned to Hawaii because of injuries they sustained in a rocket attack March 30 at Kirkuk Air Base.

"This is not an amateur sport," said Lt. Gen. Claude Christianson, chief of the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for logistics, G4. "Deploying requires an amazing amount of competence and coordination to move units by road, rail, sea and air."

In its fourth year, the awards program looked at units that deployed or those who supported deploying units from Dec. 1, 2002 to Feb. 10. Within that two-year period the Army redeployed more than 111,500 Soldiers back to their home stations from war fighting missions.

Christianson said that deployment

## Sovereignty

From A-1

councils.

"And so, the gradual sovereignty process that we've pursued is not just limited exclusively to the national government," Senor explained. "It is also thriving at the provincial and municipal levels."

Additionally, Iraqis will be conducting most of the training for Iraq's new armed

forces, from now on.

Army Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt, deputy director of operations for Multinational Force Iraq, told reporters at a Baghdad news briefing June 21 that 843 Iraqi army officers, including 11 women officers, graduated this week from a military course conducted in Jordan.

That course is the second and final of its kind, Kimmitt explained, and is part of the

excellence is measured in a variety of ways including training, preparation, organization and innovation.

"I appreciate that the Army's higher echelons recognize even the smallest units for their readiness, but I never thought about deploying as a competition," Kitizingen said. "It's just something that you have to do to get ready for war."

Anyone who works for the Army, both military and civilian should have deploying in their job title, said Maj. Anthony Arthur, executive officer for 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood Texas.

Arthur's unit won first place in the large unit, operational deployment category. "In order to win wars and protect our nation, we must be able to go anywhere in the world at a moment's notice," he said.

U.S.-coalition program to train and equip the new Iraqi armed forces.

The newly graduated class of Iraqi officers, the general said, "completes officer training for the Iraqi army's three programmed divisions."

Future Iraqi officer and initial enlisted entry training, Kimmitt noted, "will now almost entirely be conducted by Iraqi army trainers."

## Barrier

From A-1

"It made a great impact on him that somebody is talking in Arabic to him and telling him, your family misses you and everyone is telling us how important you are to their community," Elmerly said of the conversation with the sheik.

Overall, Elmerly said he has enjoyed his job of being able to speak his first language and serve his country at the same time. One of most important messages that he

helps relay to the Iraqi people is the Coalition's purpose here.

"I help get the point across that we are not here as occupiers but as liberators," Elmerly said.

Leith believes it's less difficult for Elmerly to get this message out to Iraqi people than it is for other interpreters.

"I think it's easier for him to be effective because he is seen as an American Soldier," Leith said. "And I'm not wondering whether it is translated correctly or not because he is part of the task force."



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Get ready for a wild time at the Honolulu Zoo

A new habitat gives this Gharial crocodile something to smile about at the Honolulu Zoo.

By Joy Boisselle  
Staff writer

Lions and tigers and Gharials, oh my! The Honolulu Zoo has these animals and 1,147 more just waiting to get up close and personal with more than 1,000 daily visitors.

Located in Kapiolani Park at the end of Waikiki, Diamond Head-side, the 42-acre zoo is the only zoo in the United States located on royal lands given to the people of Hawaii in 1876.

Touted as the best zoo within 2,300 miles, the Honolulu Zoo features a beautiful park-like, almost botanical garden setting. Zoo Director, Ken Redman, said, "There are a lot of reasons to come to the Honolulu Zoo. The zoo offers an opportunity to escape from the concrete, step into a different, natural world, and mingle with exotic creatures."

Some of those exotic creatures include species on the brink of extinction, such as the Golden Lion Tamarin monkey or the rare Hawaiian Goose or Nene.

There are numerous endangered species at the zoo as well such as the Sumatran Tiger and Asian Elephant. And then, there are the animals that no zoo could be without like the giraffe, zebra, and rhinoceros. Redman explained, "We concentrate on tropical species and we have a wide

variety of birds, reptiles, mammals, and amphibians." The zoo hosts over 350 species of animals.

Although too humble to proclaim any exhibit one of a kind, Redman noted that the African Savanna exhibit ranks as one of the best and is a "must see" area of the zoo.

"The trend today is to exhibit animals in their geographic area and this exhibit is our first effort towards the modern zoo concept. We want to get rid of the cages and replicate the animal's natural environment so they will behave as they do in the wild," he said.

The new Gharial crocodile exhibit in the Asian Tropical Rainforest is an excellent example of zoo living at its best. The exhibit is completely cageless, featuring a small waterfall and pond, bordered by marsh grasses and other natural vegetation. The three females and one male currently residing at the zoo are native to India.

Redman's hope is that the new exhibit will help the crocodiles to reproduce, a feat never accomplished outside of their native country.

The Honolulu Zoo has something for everyone - young and old. There is plenty of shade and as it is a medium-size zoo, it can easily be seen in the course of a few hours. Many visitors

picnic on the lush lawns or just sit on the many benches scattered throughout the park.

For those not wanting to bring food, there are many food and snack stations. There is also a Children's Zoo that offers a "hands on" experience for younger visitors and a gym area that offers parents a chance to take a break while their children burn off even more energy. Finally, there is a well-equipped souvenir shop at the main entrance.

One of the best features of the zoo is the Hale Ho'ike, or Houses of Information scattered throughout the grounds. Knowledgeable zoo employees staff these stations and offer information to the passer-by on nearby animals and attractions. The curious visitor receives a pain-less education free.

There are many ongoing programs at the zoo. One program is the Wildest Show in Town, which is held every Wednesday evening and features concerts by award-winning local musicians.

Another is the Junior Zoo Keeper Program that offers children ages 5 to 11 the opportunity to experience life behind the scenes at a zoo.

Cost of admittance is \$6 for adults (13 and up), \$1 for children (5-12), and children younger than 5 get in free. Kama'aina rates are \$4.

The zoo is open from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily. Redman recommended visitors come early as the animals tend to be more active when it is cool.



Left: Stretching those monkey bones, a white-handed gibbon surveys the 42-acre zoo from a lofty perch.



At the Honolulu Zoo, natural habitat exhibits create the feeling of being within arm's reach of some of nature's most unique creatures.



Turtles, enjoying the year-round tropical weather, line up to delight visitors at the Honolulu Zoo.



Brilliantly-hued flamingos stand ready to welcome visitors at the Honolulu Zoo entrance.



# Spouses guests of honor at Army Ball

By Capt. Kathleen Turner  
Public Affairs Officer

Celebrated under the somber shadow cast by a nation at war, this year's ball marking the 229th birthday of the U.S. Army was undiminished in spirit or magnitude by the absence of more than 10,000 Schofield Barracks Soldiers.

To the contrary, many among the more than 900 Soldiers, family members and friends of the Army in Hawaii who attended proclaimed the annual fete the best in recent years and an occasion to treasure in lifetime memories.

Appropriately themed the "Yellow Ribbon Ball" and hosted by U.S. Army Pacific in the Ilikai Hotel on Waikiki, spouses of deployed Soldiers were the special guests of honor for the evening.

Approximately 220 Army spouses attended the ball courtesy of the generous support and donations from local businesses and individuals throughout Hawaii.

A major contributor was the Association of the U.S. Army Hawaii Chapter. AUSA solicited the support of the local businesses and individuals to sponsor tables for spouses to attend for free.

"By sponsoring tables, they were adopting spouses for the evening," said George Vickers, Hawaii state president of AUSA. "This was a small token of our appreciation for the great job they're doing."

"The sponsor-paid tickets, child care and transportation enabled spouses to attend the ball who otherwise wouldn't of had the opportunity to attend," said Paula Lundy, wife of Lt. Col. Michael Lundy, 1st Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment commander.

Army Community Service

assisted in the effort of providing a special, cheerful evening by providing free transportation and child care for the spouses who attended the ball.

"Spouses looked at the ball as a way to spend the evening together. This is a great opportunity to go out and have some fun," said Eileen Godinez, chief of Army Community Service. "The bus transportation and child care was the icing on the cake."

"Our spouses really felt like they were the guests of honor" said April Pedersen, wife of Col. Dick Pedersen, commander of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team.

Filled with traditions, pomp and ceremony, the ball also provided a time of remembrance of those absent. The thoughts of participants were with Soldiers from the 25th Infantry Division (Light), the customary sponsor of the Army Ball, and the other Soldiers who are currently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

A video message from Maj. Gen. Eric T. Olson, commanding general of the 25th Infantry Division (Light) and Combined Joint Task Force 76, and Command Sgt. Maj. Franklin G. Ashe wishing the Army a Happy Birthday was a feature of the evening's entertainment.

Olson and Ashe addressed the mission in Afghanistan and the great work Soldiers from Hawaii are accomplishing in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Soldiers and spouses danced into the night to the music from the Tropic Lightning Band, led by Chief Warrant Officer Jesse Pascua. The Yellow Ribbon Ball was one of the last performances for the band before deploying to Afghanistan in July.



Lt. Gen. James Campbell, Maj. Gen. Ron Lowe, Pvt. 2 Summer Phillip-Channels and Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Farley prepare to cut the birthday cake at the Army Birthday Ball June 17 in Waikiki.

Capt. Kathleen Turner

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Email your photo, a brief description, name and phone number to  
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# 'Helping Hands' gets kids ready to learn

Morale, Welfare and Recreation  
News Release

A program of Helping Hands Hawaii, a non-profit organization Since 1998, Hawaii's children have been provided needed school supplies through a partnership between U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Mrs. Maggie Inouye and Helping Hands Hawaii.

In support of deployed military personnel, 2004 Ready to Learn will support military youth 4 years old through youth entering 12th grade. Family income will not be considered for our military families with a deployed parent.

United States Army Garrison, Directorate of Community Activities, Child and Youth Services, and Youth Education

Support Services will assist Army families with applying and receiving school supply kits, valued at \$25 each.

Families need to visit the MWR Website [www.mwrarmy-hawaii.com/schoolkits.htm](http://www.mwrarmy-hawaii.com/schoolkits.htm) to fill out a Family Application Form. Family and youth information will be used to order school supply kits for each individual family.

Families are requested to ensure all requested information is provided, to include family contact information. Forms that are not completed can not be used and the family will not receive their kit.

Families will be notified by the YESS office when kits have arrived and the area pickup points which an adult family member must use to pick up their kit(s).

The deadline to complete applications is July 7. Information forms coming in after this date will not be forwarded to Senator Inouye.

Families who are unable to access the MWR Web site should e-mail [salisburys@shafter.army.mil](mailto:salisburys@shafter.army.mil), fax 655-2263 or call 655-2414 to request and receive a copy of the request form. For assistance, call 655-2414.

## Monthly Deployment Town Hall Q & A

By Joy Boisselle  
Staff writer

The following is a recap of questions and answers presented during the Town Hall meeting held June 15 at the Sgt. Smith Theater on Schofield Barracks.

Prior to the question and answer period, briefers delivered short information briefings on Space Available Travel, the Adopt-A-Platoon program, and the upcoming 4th of July Spectacular.

**Q. Is there a plan for Helemano Military Reservation to receive a gas station and Burger King?**

A. Yes, there is an initiative being looked at for these facilities to eventually be at HMR; however, the actual time frame is several years from now.

**Q. How do we establish a web site for family readiness groups?**

A. FRG newsletters and other FRG information is available at [www.25idl.army.mil](http://www.25idl.army.mil). Contact

Ed Aber-Song at the Public Affairs Office at 655-4376 to post FRG materials.

**Q. How many times a year can someone travel on a Space Available Command-Sponsored letter?**

A. As long as the letter is current, travel as many times as you like. Letters are current for 60 days from the date of issuance.

**Q. Can we travel Space A in CONUS without our sponsor?**

A. If traveling from Hawaii to CONUS, you must make sure your final destination is where you request to go. For example, if you fly to Travis AFB and still want to continue on via MAC, you must have stated so at your original point of exit. If not, you will have to fly commercial from Travis.

**Q. Can we fly with our sponsor in CONUS?**

A. Yes.

**Q. What do I need to travel Space A without my**

**sponsor?**

A. You must have a military ID card if you are 10 years old and older, a command sponsor letter (available from your Rear Detachment), and you must be stationed overseas. Hawaii is considered an overseas assignment.

**Q. I am the spouse of a deployed Soldier, what is my Space A category?**

A. Right now, all spouses of military members in Hawaii are Category 5, Dependents traveling alone without sponsor. The command has submitted a request to change the category from 5 to Category 3, ordinary leave. This would improve the chances of travel for spouses in Hawaii.

**Q. When do we sign for Residential Community Initiative (RCI) leases?**

A. Now. You may go to your Community Center and pre-sign leases prior to the actual change over from government to private housing. All leases must be signed before the actual switch occurs.

**Q. We still have serious problems with speeders over by the golf course. What can be done?**

A. If possible, get the license plate number and give the information to the MP Desk Sgt. The chain of command will be notified. We know about the problem and will check it out.

**Q. Have any studies been done for changing speed limits around post?**

A. Yes, most areas on post are limited to 25 mph with some posted exceptions.

**Q. With RCI taking over housing needs, is Self-Help still available?**

A. Yes, Self-Help is still available, however, when RCI takes over, Self-Help will no longer be available. All work requests and needs will be handled through your Community Center.

**Q. Recently, a car on two jack stands was being worked on in a parking lot near a popular playground. Is this allowed?**

A. Vehicle work in and around housing areas is limited to minor repairs. Please contact your residential Area officer to report any violations. If it is a weekend and a safety issue, contact the MPs.

**Q. Is it possible to get more Saturday slots for child care?**

A. We are working on hiring additional staff. We are always hiring. If we get the extra staff, we will be able to increase the slots.

The next Town Hall will be held July 20 at 6:30 p.m. at the Sgt. Smith Theater.

Heard any rumors, unable to attend the next meeting, too shy to ask your questions? Questions may be submitted in advance to Col. Mike McBride, U.S. Army, Hawaii chief of staff, via email at [mcbriedem@schofield.army.mil](mailto:mcbriedem@schofield.army.mil).

At a minimum, you will receive a complimentary response to your query, and in most cases, your questions will be used to jumpstart the question and answer period at future Town Hall Meetings.

# FRGs send care packages to deployed Soldiers

By Sharee Moore  
Assistant editor

Your assignment is to shop for enough food and toiletries to fill almost 100 care packages. But, there are three conditions:

You'll only have a five-person crew; you'll need to raise the money yourselves; and you'll have to do it two more times this year.

That's exactly what 725th Main Support Battalion Family Readiness Group Leader Laura Migliore plans to do.

So far, their five-woman team has sold almost 8,000 "Support Our Troops" magnets in four months. They just mailed out their first batch of care packages and are gearing up for round two.

"We've been selling magnets for several months and the proceeds go to the Soldiers," said Migliore.

The motivation behind this enormous goal isn't workaholicism either.

"Sometimes it's hard for family members to keep up with care packages, so we make sure no one goes forgotten," said Migliore, wife of Capt. Jason Migliore now deployed to Afghanistan.

"We plan to continue throughout the year and with the proceeds that are left over at the end of the year, we'll throw a welcome home party," added Migliore.

A timer buzzed in the background signaling that the chocolate chip cookies

were ready. Home-baked cookies are one of many comfort items the deployed 725th MSB Soldiers can expect in their care packages.

Instant lunches, candy, corn nuts, fruit snacks, beef jerky and more will be included.

"It's just something to make them feel pretty," said Migliore as she laughed.

Soldiers from 725th MSB are deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq, so in addition to the personal care packages, the FRG sends each region tailored packages for their Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

Video games, fitness mats and movies are only a few of the items the FRG plans to send. "I don't expect them to bring those things back when they come home. I expect them to be left behind for the Soldiers who replace them," said Migliore.

The Bronco Support isn't the only FRG who have rallied together in support of deployed troops.

Company B, 1st Battalion, 62nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment's FRG claims to be the first group to launch the "Support Our Troops" magnet frenzy.

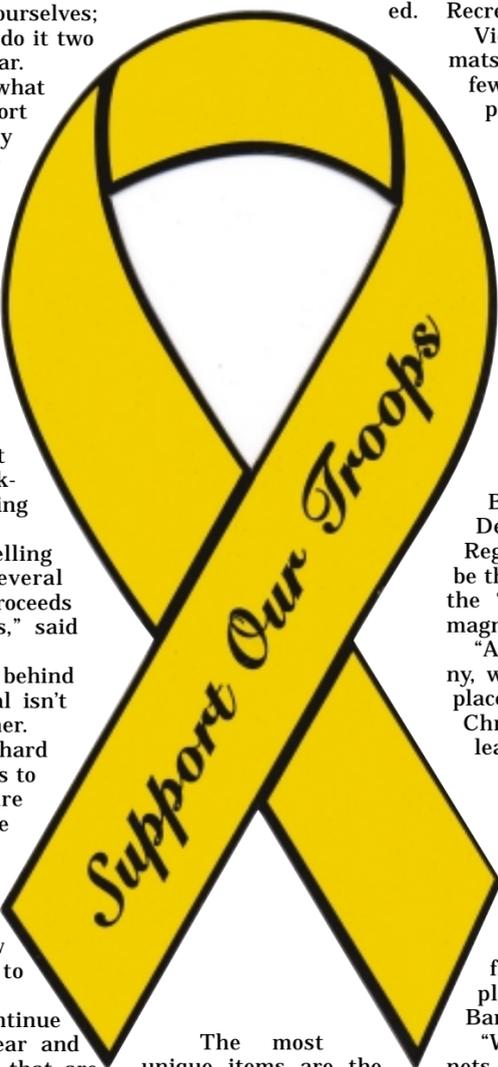
"According to that company, we were the first order placed from Hawaii," said Chrystal Simpson, FRG leader.

"Our first order was for 250 magnets. We bought them to see how well they would sell. Oh, they went!" Simpson exclaimed.

Simpson said their first fund raiser took place at the Schofield Barracks Post Exchange.

"We sold over 1,000 magnets since December," said Simpson. "We took it down to three or four ladies who carried the magnets around. It was easier to keep track of the sales that way."

"We saved approximately \$2,500 and we sent care



The most unique items are the desert colored bandanas that stay cool for two to three days at a time. The women even customized the female Soldiers' packages with hair scrunchies and foot scrubs.



Laura Migliore, wife of Capt. Jason Migliore, sorts items for care packages for Soldiers of 725th MSB in her home June 17.

packages to every Soldier in each platoon for the whole battery," said Simpson.

Since the fundraising began, each platoon obtained a sponsor through the Adopt-A-Platoon program headed up by George Vickers at the Association of the U.S. Army.

"They have a lot of support through that so, now

we're saving for a welcome home party," said Simpson.

For Father's Day, the group made crafts with a 4th of July theme on them.

"We put red, white and blue suckers in the packages. It's just something small just to let them know they're appreciated," added Simpson.

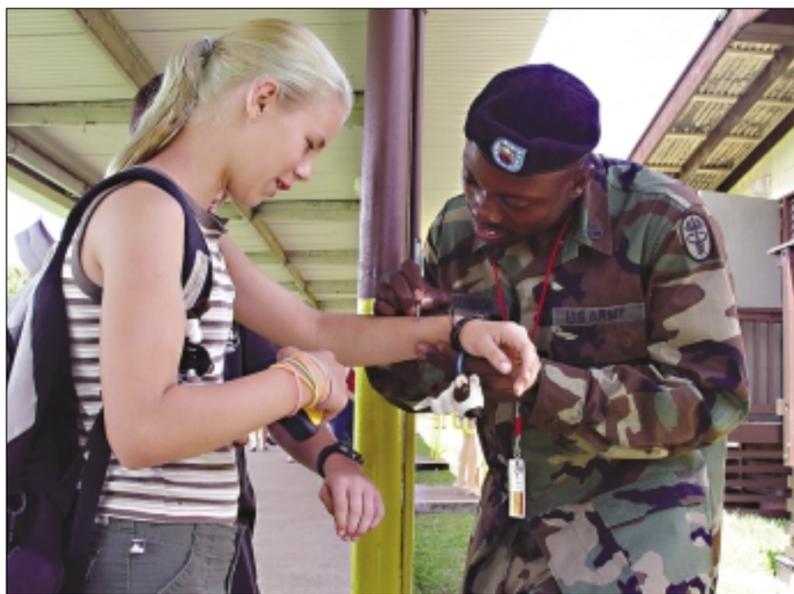
(Editor's Note: For more

information about 725th MSB's FRG, contact Laura or Maria at hqa725frg@hotmail.com. For information about Co. B, 1-62 ADA's FRG, contact Chrystal at chrystal@netzero.com. For information about the Adopt-A-Platoon program email gvickersg001@hawaii.rr.com.)

## Soldier a celebrity?

Staff. Sgt. Peerman Brandon, Pohakuloa Training Area's chief medic, honors seventh grade student Memri Henry's request for his autograph during a recent visit to Keaau Middle School on the Big Island. A group of PTA Soldiers, led by Sgt. Maj. William L. Calhoun, visited the school and presented certificates of achievement to several outstanding student scholars and athletes.

Bob McElroy



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



# Honolulu merchant donates cigars to deployed troops



Staff Sgt. Bradley Rhen

Joe Hilton, owner of Cigar Cigar in Honolulu, packs up cigars that were donated to be sent to deployed troops.

By Staff Sgt. Bradley Rhen  
Editor

When one thinks of care packages, items such as snacks, cookies and personal hygiene products usually come to mind.

Hoping to send something that deployed troops can use to relax, if just for a few minutes, a Honolulu merchant is sending hundreds of cigars to troops deployed to Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Joe Hilton, owner of Cigar Cigar at 1125 S. King St. in Honolulu, recently donated more than 500 cigars to be sent to Soldiers from the 25th Infantry Division (Light) and U.S. Army, Hawaii who are deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. There are nearly 10,000 Hawaii-based Soldiers currently deployed to those two countries.

Hilton said he felt support for the troops was dwindling, especially with the recent problems at Abu Ghraib prison.

"My heart was always with the military and I wanted to support our personnel in some way," said Hilton, who was in the Army from 1968-1970 and served at Tripler Army Medical Center.

He said he posted a message on the Web site [www.cigarfamily.com](http://www.cigarfamily.com) to see if anyone was interested in donating cigars to deployed troops.

"I got a pretty good response, and right away, people started sending me boxes," he said. "I didn't want to intrude on anyone. I said, 'send me the stuff that's good quality that you know you're not going to smoke,' because a lot of guys accumulate."

Hilton said he also asked some cigar manufacturers if they would like to donate any, and several did.

"The response was overwhelming. I got over 1,500 cigars donated."

Hilton said he wanted to send them something that would put a smile on their faces and give them a chance to relax.

"Just give them a little bit of sunshine," he said. "And just to let them know that we're thinking of them, that we appreciate what they're doing. Because believe me, whoever is stationed in Iraq or Afghanistan is going above and beyond."

Hilton said he's hoping the troops who receive the cigars will get a break at the end of their duty day to smoke them. He said the cigars can last anywhere from 40 minutes to two hours each depending on how they're smoked.

"The one message that I'd like to extend is that whoever is over there receiving these, they're given with love, and with respect," Hilton said. "I don't ever want those guys to feel that people at home forgot about them, because nothing could be further from the truth. We all appreciate the sacrifice that they're giving."

# Lightning Spirit

Homefront battleground: Loneliness

By Chap. Capt. Clint Black  
65th Engineer Bn.

Lonely? There may be people all around you—you're not actually alone. But you don't have to be alone to feel lonely.

It's like eating in a restaurant full of people by yourself. Paul Reiser (*Mad About You*) noticed about this how "you try to look busy. You bring a newspaper, and you read it extremely thoroughly.

Things you don't even care about —"Ooh look, the weather in Utah is apparently unseasonal." And, maybe worst of all, there's nobody who will tell you when you have food on your face!

John Milton observed, "Loneliness was the first thing God's eye named not good." Did you know that? God actually created men and women for each other, for relationship, as a way to overcome loneliness. In other words, one of God's initial creative acts was that of marriage (do I need to add between a man and a woman here!?!).

Military marriages and families face great stress, especially during these times of separation. So, we must have a plan when we face today's military realities. What will you do to help overcome your times of loneliness? Here are a few suggestions:

First, acknowledge your pain. Don't pretend that everything is normal (sure, life must continue—especially when you have children, but things aren't "normal"). Talk to a friend, attend an FRG meeting, a town hall meeting, talk to a chaplain or a counselor, find someone to whom you can acknowledge your pain. Naming your feelings

in the presence of someone who cares validates your very real feelings, and is the first step in being able to continue living and growing during the separation.

Secondly, believe in the strength of your commitment. If you are not certain of your commitment to each other, personally take responsibility and commit yourself fully to your mate, your marriage, and your future.

There is power in commitment. However, this may initially require forgiveness as resentments may have created barriers in your relationship. Forgiveness is necessary for any relationship to grow. You may never forget an action or an attitude, but you can choose not to seek revenge or not to hold it over the other's head or not to bring it up in every conflict.

Choosing to forgive strengthens the power of your commitment, and being able to believe in your commitment will help you combat loneliness during days of separation.

Finally, confess your need for others. Sometimes we hold on to the fantasy that marriage will meet all our relational needs. That simply is not the case. Even if married partners never find themselves separated, they continue to have relational needs beyond that which their partner can provide.

Women need other women; men need other men; we both need the help and input others provide.

Remember, God designed us for relationship. As we focus on our marriage commitments and allow others to support us, we will sense the reality of God's redeeming relationships, both human and Divine.