

HAWAII ARMY WEEKLY

Vol. 34 No. 22

Serving the U.S. Army community in Hawaii

June 3, 2005

What's Inside

Commentary.....A-2
 News Briefs.....A-4
 Deployed Forces.....A-7
 MWR.....B-2
 Sports.....B-9

Army reveals design of its new Combat Action Badge

Army News Service
 News Release

The new Combat Action Badge will be available in clothing sales stores soon

WASHINGTON — The Army announced May 27 the design for the Combat Action Badge, which has been approved by Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker, Army chief of staff.

According to its authorizing language, the CAB, which features both a bayonet and grenade, may be awarded to any Soldier in the following categories:

- Performing assigned duties in an area where hostile fire pay or imminent danger pay is authorized,
- Personally present and actively engaging or being engaged by the enemy,
- Performing satisfactorily in accordance with the prescribed rules of engagement.

The award is not limited by one's branch or military occupational specialty.

"Warfare is still a human endeavor," Schoomaker said. "Our intent is to recognize Soldiers who demonstrate and live the Warrior Ethos."

"The Global War on Terrorism and its associated operations will be the first era of conflict considered for this award," said Lt. Col. Bill Johnson, Human Resources Command chief of military awards. "September 18, 2001, is the effective date for the new award. That is when President Bush signed Senate Joint Resolution 23, authorizing the use of military force against those responsible for the recent attacks launched against the United States."

The CAB will go into immediate production and should be available late this summer or early fall through unit supply and military clothing sales stores.

(Editor's Note: For more information, visit U.S. Army Badges at the Institute of Heraldry homepage: <http://www.tioh.hqda.pentagon.mil/badges/United-StatesArmyBadges.htm>.)



Memorial Day Services

A-9



School Partnerships

A-10

Honolulu Zoo

The Honolulu Zoo is the place to be Saturday, beginning at 10 a.m., for Military Appreciation Day. USO-Hawaii, in cooperation with the City and County of Honolulu, the Honolulu Zoological Society and the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, is inviting all military personnel and families with military ID cards to enter free.

The first 5,000 will receive a free picnic lunch; all can enjoy lots of music and keiki activities.



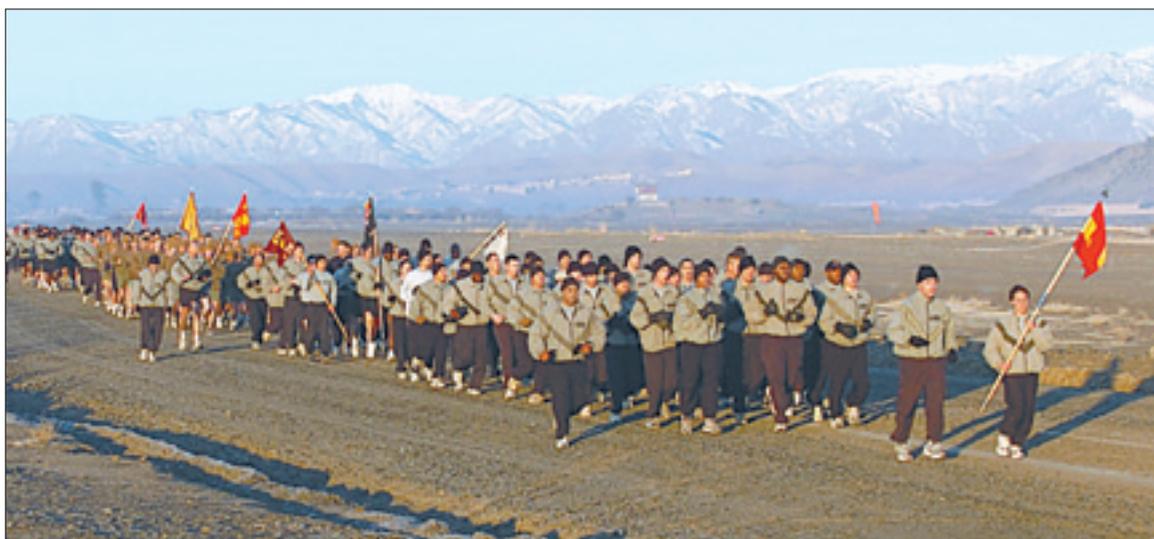
Tarlavsky's North Shore Triathlon

B-1

AUSA Golf

The Association of the United States Army will host its AUSA Welcome Home Golf Tournament at Leilehua Golf Course, today at 12 p.m.

For more details, contact Sgt. Maj. Baumgartner at 655-4700.



Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Combined Task Force Thunder, leads other units participating in the Great Aloha Run, Jan. 30, at Forward Operating Base Salerno, Afghanistan.

CTF Thunder to redeploy

Remaining division units in Afghanistan prepare to redeploy to Hawaii next week

Story and Photos by
 Staff Sgt. Bradley Rhen
 CTF Thunder Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SALERNO, Afghanistan — After a year in Afghanistan, the Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Combined Task Force Thunder, are preparing to redeploy to Hawaii.

The headquarters is currently conducting a relief in place with 1st Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, and relinquished control of eastern Afghanistan during a transfer of authority ceremony Wednesday.

Initially, the headquarters wasn't even slated to deploy. While nearly the entire 25th Infantry Division (Light) received deployment orders to either Iraq or Afghanistan in late 2003, HHB was left out.

That situation changed when a decision was made to stand up a new brigade in Afghanistan, and Division Artillery was tabbed as the headquarters.

More than 100 people from the headquarters deployed to Afghanistan June 2004, and since then, it has run one of the largest and most diverse commands in Afghanistan.

For the last year, CTF Thunder oversaw Regional Command East, which covers 16 provinces in eastern Afghanistan along the country's border with Pakistan.

The task force included infantry battalions from the active Army, Marine Corps and Army National Guard. It also included eight provincial reconstruction teams, with a ninth currently being stood up.

Sgt. Roger Amposta, a fire direction specialist for CTF Thunder, is one of the Soldiers who will be returning in the beginning of June after a year in Afghanistan.

The 26-year-old native of Cavite, Philippines, spent the deployment working in the brigade headquarters at FOB Salerno. In addition to tracking the brigade's artillery assets, he also helped to track air support.

Before deploying, Amposta was strictly artillery,

See "Thunder," page A-7



Col. Gary H. Cheek, commander of CTF Thunder, places a Sergeant Audie Murphy Club medallion around the neck of a new inductee.

'Blacksheep' snatch top award for aviation maintenance excellence

Story and Photos by
 Spc. Cheryl Ransford
 17th Public Affairs Detachment

Being the best of the best is something military units around the world strive for every day. However, one aviation maintenance unit here proved to be truly the best in the military and were awarded the Chief of Logistics Excellence Award for fiscal year 2005.

Company C, 25th Aviation Regiment (Aviation Intermediate Maintenance), won first place in the small warehouse category, after several years of finishing as runner up.

The award was even more prestigious this year because the company was competing against warehouses from all branches of the military, not just the Army, as in the past.

See "Award," page A-6



Sgt. Missy Maye (left), issuing/receiving noncommissioned officer, assists Pvt. Thomasine Roberts, issuing/receiving clerk, both of Co. C, 25th Avn. Rgt. (AVIM), with a part that needs to be processed into the system and distributed to one of their customers. The unit was awarded the Chief of Logistics Excellence award for having the best warehouse Army-wide.

A boot of a different color now walks about post

1st Lt. Lindsey Dane
 Contributing Writer

In preparation for the new Army Combat Uniform's replacement of the Desert Camouflage Uniform (DCU) and Battle Dress Uniform (BDU), the Army has recently announced the option of wearing the desert/hot weather boots with the Battle Dress Uniform.

Footwear is typically the hardest part of any uniform to break in. However, this new change has both pleased many and confused several others.

Many were unaware of new regula-

tions until some Soldiers spotted another on post sporting the new look.

Spc. Nicolas Ghigliotty found himself to be the bearer of the news to numerous Soldiers, both noncommissioned officers and officers alike, when he broke his desert boots out of his closet from hiatus since returning from supporting Operation Enduring Freedom with Combined Joint Task Force 76, this past October.

"It made some people angry when I showed them the regulation," he said. "Some people said to me that it looked gaudy or unprofessional; another just said that it was outrageous," explained Ghigliotty, a G-1 personnel

services clerk in the 25th Infantry Division (Light).

"People even asked me why I was trying to be different," he continued. "I just enjoy wearing the brown boots; they're ten times more comfortable by the end of the day."

"I think it is a great idea. The Army wants flexible, adaptable Soldiers and leaders," said Command Sgt. Maj. Franklin Ashe, the 25th Infantry Division (Light). "If we have Soldiers that think that they can go against an Army policy or regulation change, just because they don't like it or don't think it looks good — or because it looks different — then they have a

personal problem and need to reevaluate their attitudes.

"We all have more important things to worry about or work on than brown boots with the BDUs as well," the command sergeant major continued. "Everybody needs to remember that this is an Army policy change, and regardless of personal opinions, brown boots are authorized with BDUs."

"I will be wearing mine for a couple of days next week to set an example for all of the Soldiers who still don't get it or understand," Ashe emphasized.

See "Boots," page A-11

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

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

OPINION & COMMENTARY

Lightning Spirit

Some things 'rock steady'

Chaplain (Capt.) Clint Black
2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment

School's out. Whew!

But, no one seems to be breathing too deeply this year because, at this point, nothing is slowing down.

Army families seem accustomed to a "high-speed" lifestyle with 12-month deployments, children in school, sports and other activities, requests for orders, permanent change of stations, lifecycles, clearing the central issuing facility, shipping household goods, final outs and more.

Deep down, many of us wonder, "will this ever end?"

Bob Dylan once sang, "The times, they are a-changin'," and we know how right he was.

The Army is "transforming." Schofield Barracks is undergoing an incredible transition, and many of us are caught in the middle.

"Change" is certainly one of the few "constants" in our lives, so how will any of us remain sane through it all?

I believe there are some things that "rock steady" when everything is changing.

First, God. Period.

God does not change. At different places and times in history, we humans have said that God has changed. In the 1960s, one philosopher, Frederick Nietzsche, even said that "God is dead ... and we have killed him."

But people the world over live changed lives and attribute their transformations to a God who is very real and personal.

God is alive and God is at work in our world today. God will never change.

Another unchanging constant is God's love, mercy and forgiveness. God is truly an ever-patient parent waiting with open arms for the return of his children.

We are God's children, and God is always quick and ready to receive us into his arms with mercy and forgiveness. God's love reaches beyond all our faults. God's love never fails and will never end. God is waiting even now to share his love with us.

And, finally, in the midst of a changing present and an uncertain future, God's Word never changes. Heaven and earth will eventually pass away, but the word of our God remains forever.

We can read it and trust it. God's word will always be a reliable "light" to shine upon the turbulent paths we are walking.

In our world of transformations, transitions and changes, I find comfort in the unshakable and unmovable foundation God gives me through faith.

Reach out to God and you'll find that God is reaching out to you.

Bush touts strength of democracy

Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Iraqi insurgents fear democracy, and that is why they are attacking innocent people in that country, President Bush said during a White House news conference Tuesday.

Bush said he is confident that Iraqi troops will be "up to the task of defeating the insurgents."

More than 40,000 Iraqi security forces — 10 army battalions and 11 Special Police battalions — have deployed in and around Baghdad to disrupt the ability of anticoalition forces to field car bombs and improvised explosive devices.

May was a deadly month for coalition forces and innocent Iraqi civilians. Press reports indicate that insurgents killed about 700 Iraqi civilians in an intimidation campaign.

"What the insurgents fear is

democracy, because democracy is the opposite of their vision," Bush said. "Their vision is one where a few make the decision for many, and if you don't toe the line, there's serious consequences."

The Iraqi government is "plenty capable" of dealing with the insurgents, Bush said.

Coalition forces are helping train and equip the Iraqi military and police, and the United States will continue with that effort.

The Iraqi government calling up the 40,000 troops to deal with the insurgency is a positive sign, not only militarily, but from a political standpoint as well, the president said.

"It's a sign that ... the Iraqi leaders understand they are responsible for their security ultimately, and that our job is to help them take on that responsibility," Bush said.

Bush said he is pleased with the progress in Iraq, but said it is

important to continue to the end of the mission.

"Because a free Iraq is in our nation's long-term interests," he said. "A democracy in the heart of the Middle East is an essential part of securing our country and promoting peace for the long run."

A free, stable and democratic Iraq will set a powerful example in the Middle East, Bush said.

The Iraqi government must continue on its path toward peaceful, democratic self-rule. The government must now write a constitution, hold a referendum and elect a government under the new constitution.

"We, of course, will help them, as will many countries around the world," Bush said.

Bush also said an Amnesty International report accusing the United States of setting up a new system of gulags is "absurd." The report criticizes U.S.

detainee operations in Afghanistan, Iraq and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

"The United States ... promotes freedom around the world," the president said. "When there's accusations made about certain actions by our people, they're fully investigated in a transparent way. It's just an absurd allegation."

Bush said there is one thing that both he and the terrorists agree on — the power of democracy.

"The problem is that I not only see the benefits of democracy, but so do the terrorists," he said. "That's why they want to blow people up, indiscriminately kill in order to shake the will of the Iraqis or perhaps create a civil war or to get us to withdraw early."

"That's what they're trying to do, because they fear democracy," he said.

Military is 'busy, very busy, but healthy'

Petty Officer 3rd Class John R. Guardiano
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The U.S. armed forces are in good shape, and military personnel well understand and believe in what they are fighting for overseas, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Air Force Gen. Richard Myers said Sunday.

"They know what this is all about in terms of this effort against violent extremism," Myers told Bob Schieffer on the CBS News program "Face the Nation." "They're proud of what they're doing; they understand the importance of the mission. We see that in their cards and letters home, their e-mails home and their phone calls."

Myers noted that he gave the commencement address to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., the previous day. The 2005 Class entered the academy just prior to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the Pentagon and World Trade Center.

"They experienced the nation going to war, and 911 of them graduated yesterday," Myers said. When "you look in their eyes, shake their hands, talk to them ... they understand what their purpose is and what they must do for this country."

All of the West Point graduates, he observed, raised their "right hands and swore to defend and support the Constitution of this country. So I think the state of our military is very, very healthy — busy, very busy, but healthy."

2005 is Myers' last year of formal military service. He steps down Sept. 30 after having



Leslie Gordnier

"The Class of 9-11" (so dubbed by "Time" magazine) celebrate with the traditional hat toss after being commissioned during U.S. Military Academy Class of 2005 graduation exercises, Saturday. Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs, addressed the West Point graduates.

served 40 years in the Air Force and four years as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"I am very thankful," he told Chris Wallace on "Fox News Sunday."

"I'm proud to wear the uniform and proud to have served with some really great Americans."

Myers paid homage to U.S. military per-

sonnel, both stateside and overseas, who are "defending our freedoms and our friends' and allies' freedom around the world."

"I'll leave my position knowing that there's a whole group of folks coming along that are dedicated to this country, to our freedoms, and to ensuring that those freedoms endure as long as they possibly can," he said.

Voices of Lightning: "What do you want to be doing 10 years from now?"



"I see myself finished with school and having started to work on my dream job in animations."

Spc. Jonathan Cinka
Btry. A, 1-62 ADA
Advenger Crew Member



"...Retired from the Army, and getting my business started."

Staff Sgt. Ken Hargrave
1st Bn., 21st Inf. Rgt.
Squad Leader



"...Working for the Central Intelligence Agency and serving as a minister."

Staff Sgt. Carol Bartell
13th Military Police
Military Police Officer



"...Going back to the civilian life and finishing my college degree in Business Administration."

Spc. John Chamroeun
Replacement Detachment
Radio Repairer



"...Stay in the Army Reserve and obtain my Forensics Pathologist degree in Arts."

Pfc. Kristopher Scott
13th Military Police
Military Police Officer

The Hawaii Army Weekly is an authorized newspaper and is published in the interest of the U.S. Army community in Hawaii.

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The Hawaii Army Weekly is printed by The Honolulu Advertiser, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Government,

HAWAII ARMY WEEKLY

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The Hawaii Army Weekly is published weekly using the offset method of reproduction and has a printed circulation of 15,300.

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Miles' legacy impacts Warrior brigade

Banach stands ready to write "the next chapter" for brigade

Story and Photo by Sgt. Sean Kimmons
Editor

"[You are] Warriors on the plains of Leilehua," Col. Lloyd Miles, outgoing 2nd Brigade commander said referring to the formation of Soldiers on Sills Field, Schofield Barracks, as he relinquished his command to Col. Stefan Banach here, May 25.

"Hundreds of years ago on this location under the constant gaze of the Waianae Mountains, ancient Hawaiian Warriors would conduct their rituals as they prepared for war," Miles said as part of his remarks. "So, it seems appropriate that we hold this ceremony, a gathering of 'Warriors,' on the same ground."

A humble Miles focused his remarks on the thousands of 2nd Bde. "Warriors" he spent more than a year with in Iraq.

"Ladies and gentlemen, I wish you could have seen these Soldiers just once in Iraq," Miles said about the Warrior Soldiers. "If you could have seen them just once, then you would be able to understand the immense pride that I feel."

"You could have seen their steadfast courage during the battles in the cities or their distinctive reactions during hundreds of rocket attacks and roadside bombs ... you could have seen the tears they shed and the way they honor their fallen comrades ... and the compassion they showed to the Iraqi people," Miles said.

Miles continued by saying to the troops, "Because of your service, someday a new generation of Iraqis will tell their children and grandchildren about the American Soldier."



(From left to right) Incoming 2nd Bde. commander Col. Stefan Banach, Maj. Mike Davey, and outgoing commander Col. Lloyd Miles perform an inspection of troops during the brigade's change of command ceremony, May 25.

They will tell them about how you defended them and enabled a desperate people to smile, dance and hope again."

Miles led the more than 3,200 in the 2nd Brigade Combat Team through an extended Operation Iraqi Freedom II rotation that included important combat and stability missions for the Transfer of Sovereignty and Iraq's first free Election Day.

"In Iraq, Col. Miles led full-spectrum counterinsurgency operations in support Operation Iraqi Freedom by executing literally [thousands] of combat patrols throughout [his] area of operations," said Maj. Gen. Eric T. Olson, commander of the 25th Infantry Division (Light) and U.S. Army, Hawaii. "Col. Miles is an extremely confident and selfless team player. He had that reputation coming into command, and he [added on to] that reputation in Iraq,"

Olson added.

Under Miles' command in Iraq, the Warriors engaged the enemy in more than 60 direct fire actions, conducted more than 13,200 patrols, 23 battalion operations, 250 company operations, seven battalion air assaults and much more.

Long before the Iraq deployment, though, the first challenge for Miles as the 2nd Bde. commander was to support a critical deployment of the 1st Battalion, 14th Inf. Regiment, "Golden Dragons" to Bosnia.

Then, there were multiple deployments throughout the Pacific, which included Thailand, Singapore, Guam, Philippines, India and Japan.

"The footprints of Warrior Brigade Combat Team Soldiers are all over the Pacific, and that's a good thing," Olson said.

"The Global War on Terrorism is a world-

wide fight, and there are terrorist organizations all over the world," Olson continued, saying, "but part of the reason they are not as active in the Pacific is because of the tremendous exercises that you all conducted in the Pacific."

Banach comes in as the new 2nd Bde. commander who will guide the Warriors through a Stryker Brigade Combat Team transformation.

Olson said he could not have picked a more accomplished Warrior than Banach to take this brigade as it transforms, and, at the same time, preserve the essence of the infantry fighting force supported by the great combat arms, and combine that with the mounted brigade combat team.

"Many of the character traits that made Col. Miles a successful commander are deeply vested in Col. Banach," Olson said. "I've known him since he was a company commander and a hero of Desert Shield and Desert Storm."

Banach said he looks forward to the upcoming challenges and collectively writing the next chapter in the rich history of the Warrior brigade in the years ahead.

"It is an honor to have been selected to command this great organization and it's a privilege to lead these remarkable Soldiers that are standing before us," Banach said.

Miles leaves Hawaii to become an executive officer on the U.S. Southern Command staff.

"Serving as your commander has been an honor and will always be a highlight in my career," an obviously emotional Miles said to the formation of Warriors. "You were strong when I was weak, and your loyalty and humor carried me through the most difficult days of my command."

"For the rest of my life, I will always be able to say that once upon a time I stood among Warriors on the plains of Leilehua."

'Aim High' inactivates for third time, but could see recall

Spc. Cheryl Ransford
17th Public Affairs Detachment

With a history that spans more than 200 years, the oldest unit in the 25th Infantry Division (Light) will be inactivated Sept. 15 to meet the changing needs of the Army and air defense.

In recognition of the inactivation, a ceremony was held May 25 at Schofield Barracks. With friends and family present, Lt. Col. Stephen Christian, 1st Battalion, 62nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment commander, cased the battalion and regimental colors.

The 1st Bn., 62nd ADA Rgt., has fought in eight wars, earning 47 campaign streamers and a Navy Presidential Unit Citation.

Dating back to April 27, 1798, when Capt. Callendar Irvine's company of artillerymen was organized, Soldiers of the battalion have been fighting for the rights of our country with courage and pride.

The first letter designation and campaign streamer as Co. K, Corps of Artillery, Northern Division, was earned following the War of 1812.

In the years to follow, 23 more campaign streamers were added for service in the Mexican, Indian, Civil and Spanish-American Wars.

In November 1950, the unit was sent to fight in the Korean Conflict, earning 10 campaign streamers and a Navy Presidential Unit Citation.

Following the Korean Conflict, the unit had a brief period of inactivation; after which, the unit was moved to its final home at Schofield

Barracks. Here, it was armed with the Avenger system.

Now, as the face of war changes, the battalion has seen its final conflicts for this era.

"Although the unit is inactivating, it could still see combat again in the future," said Christian. "Since the unit is inactivating and not deactivating, the unit could be reactivated should the need arise down the road."

In 2004, 1st Bn., 62nd ADA Rgt., deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

As combat multipliers throughout both regions, the battalion added another success story to its long history.

"This unit has a long and prestigious history," said Sgt. Frederick Robinson, squad leader, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Bn., 62nd ADA Rgt. "It makes me extremely proud to know that I have had the opportunity to be a part of that history by adding another chapter."

As the Soldiers return from Iraq and Afghanistan, they are faced with the knowledge that they will be moved to new locations based on the needs of the Army.

"Some of the Soldiers will be relocating to the newly formed 94th Army Air Missile Defense Command, Fort Shafter, Hawaii, while others will (remain) at Schofield Barracks and be reassigned to division headquarters, unit of action or Striker Brigade," said Christian.

Although changing units and

locations can be stressful, Soldiers are viewing the changes in a positive light.

"This is an opportunity for those Soldiers who want to change their occupational skill or experience other things and go to different locations a chance to do so," said Sgt. Kinney Sannicolas, section sergeant, 1st Bn., 62nd ADA Rgt.

While those Soldiers remaining in the Army will find new military families to be a part of, being in a unit that's being inactivated means different things to different people.

"Knowing the battalion is inactivating is a bittersweet moment for me," said Christian. "I have spent 11 years with the 62nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment. It is a sad day to see the regiment inactivated. However, it is an indication that positive change is happening within the air defense branch of the Army."

Although change is good, a change of this magnitude can sometimes bring out the emotional side of Soldiers.

"Being able to be a part of this unit has given me the opportunity to get to know my fellow Soldiers on a personal level," said Sannicolas. "We have been able to become a family. We truly depend on each other every day — not only at work, but also when someone needs strength to get through hard times."

The inactivation has also brought about a time of reflection within the unit.

"During the deployment, I gained a greater appreciation for the willingness of Soldiers to do anything



Sgt. Frank Magni

An Avenger weapon system fires a Stinger missile during exercise Blazing Skies at Pohakuloa Training Area in 2002.



1-62 ADA Courtesy Photo

Soldiers from 1-62 ADA set up an overwatch position in Baiji, Iraq.

asked of them, and the significant sacrifices the Soldiers and their family members make in support of our nation," said Christian. "These Soldiers were asked to deploy doing a job they weren't trained to do. ... They went out there and did exceptionally well."

Upcoming Leadership Changes

Compiled by Public Affairs Office
25th Infantry Division (Light)
and U.S. Army, Hawaii

The 25th Infantry Division (Light) and U.S. Army, Hawaii, community is invited to attend the multitude of change of command ceremonies taking place in June and July. Each will be preceded by an awards ceremony, 15 minutes prior to the change of command, and will be held (unless otherwise noted) at Sills Field, Schofield Barracks.

(Editor's Note: Information listed is subject to change.)

June 3, 9 a.m.,
115th Military Intelligence Brigade
Col. Lukefahr will redesignate command.

June 6, 10 a.m.,
125th Signal Battalion
Lt. Col. Bevan Daley will relinquish command to Lt. Col. Anthony Farris.

June 6, 2 p.m.,
Brig. Gen. Bernard S. Champoux,
outgoing assistant division commander
(support), will be honored in a Flying V
ceremony.

June 7, 10 a.m.,
1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment
Lt. Col. David Miller will relinquish
command to Lt. Col. Robert M. Mundell.

June 7, 2 p.m.,
2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery
Lt. Col. Joseph R. Connell will relinquish
command to Lt. Col. Stephen Myers.

June 8, 10 a.m.,
1st Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment
Lt. Col. Michael D. Lundy will relinquish
command to Lt. Col. James Barker.

June 9, 10 a.m.,
2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment
Lt. Col. Walter Piatt will relinquish
command to Lt. Col. Drew Meyerowich.

June 9, 2 p.m.,
325th Forward Support Battalion
Lt. Col. James Hess will assume
command.

June 13, 10 a.m.,
25th Aviation Brigade
Col. B. Shannon Davis will relinquish
command to Col. Arthur Ball.

June 14, 10 a.m.,
2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment
Lt. Col. Michael McBride will relinquish
command to Lt. Col. Michael Browder.

June 14, 2 p.m.,
3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery
Lt. Col. Clarence Neason will relinquish
command to Lt. Col. Jack Pritchard.

June 15, 10 a.m.,
Division Artillery
Col. Gary Cheek will relinquish command
and 25th Field Artillery Detachment and
Battery F, 7th Field Artillery, will inactivate.

June 15, 2 p.m.,
30th Signal Battalion
Lt. Col. Lynne Daley will relinquish
command.

June 16, 10 a.m.,
556th Personnel Services Battalion
Lt. Col. Patrick M. Rice will relinquish
command to Lt. Col. Bruce Jenkins.

June 21, 10 a.m.,
125th Military Intelligence Battalion
Lt. Col. James D. Lee will relinquish
command to Lt. Col. Patricia Frost.

June 22, 10 a.m.,
3rd Brigade
Col. Richard Pedersen will relinquish
command to Col. Patrick Stackpole.

June 24, 10 a.m.,
2nd Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment
Lt. Col. Terry Sellers will relinquish
command to Lt. Col. Malcolm Frost.

June 24, 2 p.m.,
Defense Information Systems Agency,
Pacific
Col. Gilbert A. Griffin will relinquish
command to Col. Charles D. Dean

June 28, 9 a.m.,
516th Signal Brigade at Palm Circle,
Fort Shafter
Col. Brian J. Donahue will relinquish
command to Col. Edric A. Kirkman.

June 28, 10 a.m.,
725th Main Support Battalion
Lt. Col. Derek S. Smith will relinquish
command to Lt. Col. Aimee Kominiak.

June 29, 10 a.m.,
25th Infantry Division (Light)
and U.S. Army, Hawaii
Maj. Gen. Eric T. Olson will relinquish
command to Brig. Gen. (Promotable)
Benjamin R. Mixon.

June 30, 10 a.m.,
65th Engineer Battalion
Lt. Col. Andrew V. Jasaitis will relinquish
command to Lt. Col. Bryan Truesdell.

July 6, 10 a.m., Fort Shafter,
29th Engineer Battalion
Lt. Col. Steven Miles will relinquish
command to Lt. Col. Christopher Benson.

July 7, 10 a.m.,
225th Forward Support Battalion
Lt. Col. Flem B. Walker Jr. will relinquish
command to Lt. Col. Charles Gibson.

July 8, 10 a.m.,
Pohakuloa Training Command
Lt. Col. Fred S. Clarke will relinquish
command to Lt. Col. Kimberly A. Rapacz
at the PTA Headquarters Building.

July 11, 10 a.m.,
Brig. Gen. Francis J. Wiercinski, incoming
assistant division commander (support)
will be honored in a Flying V ceremony.

July 12, 10 a.m., 125th Finance Battalion
Lt. Col. Domenico Rossi will relinquish
command to Lt. Col. Roosevelt
Corpening.

July 14, 10 a.m.,
84th Combat Engineer Battalion
Lt. Col. Jeffrey Eckstein will relinquish
command to Lt. Col. Richard Toy.

News Briefs

Protestant Women of the Chapel — The Schofield Barracks PWOC welcomes all military wives to its weekly Bible study and time of fellowship. A seven-week summer session called "Women of Faith" will run beginning June 21 through Aug. 2 at 9 a.m. in Room D-9 of the main post chapel.

This fellowship is an opportunity to make new friends and participate in the book and scrapbook clubs. Free, prearranged child care and a supervised home-school room are provided. For more information, contact Effie at 624-8251.

Road Closings — McCornack Road (from Cadet Sheridan Road to Hewitt Street) will be closed beginning June 17 through December 2006. Kolekole Avenue (from Cadet Sheridan Road to Hewitt Street) will be closed beginning June 22 through June 2007.

These road closures are needed to construct new family housing quarters. For more information, contact Albert Matute at 748-8200.

NSPS — A video highlighting the design process of the National Security Personnel System — the new civilian personnel management system that goes live in July — is now available for viewing. The 17-minute video, entitled "NSPS: Towards a Mission-Centered Workforce," also includes commentary from several participants in current demonstration projects in the Department of Defense.

All civilians and military supervisors are encouraged to review the latest about

NSPS. To access the video, go to <http://cpol.army.mil/library/general/nsps/>, and then click on the video title.

Operation Tribute to Freedom — The Operation Tribute to Freedom (OTF) Web site is a Department of the Army program designed to honor Soldiers, especially those returning from Operations Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Noble Eagle.

OTF identifies opportunities that give the American

public a chance to salute the individual Soldier and to better understand his or her military experience. The Web site provides a weekly list of feature story and recognition opportunities for Soldiers and members of the Army family.

OTF officials coordinate requests or put the interested party in contact with the reporter or event coordinator. Either way, Soldiers get a chance to tell their story to a wider, or even a national, audience.

To be added to the distribution list, send e-mail with "Subscribe" in the subject line to <http://www.army.mil/otf>.

The Wave — All are invited to attend the "Crave the Wave" service, Sunday at 10 a.m. at the Fort Shafter dining facility. Lunch will be provided following the service.

For more details, call Chaplain (Capt.) James Lester at 438-1816.



Robert Pennybacker

Extraordinary woman

Reserve Brig. Gen. Coral Wong Pietsch, chief judge advocate at U.S. Army Pacific at Fort Shafter, was among women leaders honored by the YWCA of Oahu in the 30-minute television special "Strong Alone, Fearless Together," Thursday evening on KHON. The documentary highlighted inspiring stories of four extraordinary women. It "honors diverse women leaders and their accomplishments as a means to encourage the leadership potential in us all," said Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui, president and chief executive officer of the YWCA Oahu. Pietsch is the highest ranking Asian-American woman in the U.S. Army and the senior civilian attorney for USARPAC. The YWCA mission is to empower women and eliminate racism.

115th MI Soldiers sail the high seas

Story and Photos by
 Ensign Anastacia Visneski
Coast Guard Cutter Jarvis

HONOLULU — The U.S. Coast Guard Cutter (CGC) Jarvis departed Honolulu May 9 en-route to Asia. This deployment is the first test of a cooperative effort between Canada, Japan, China, South Korea, Russia and the United States to enforce fisheries regulations.

Communication can be difficult in operations that involve so many different languages, so the Coast Guard turned to the U.S. Army for help.

CGC Jarvis requested specialists from the 115th Military Intelligence Battalion, based out of Schofield Barracks on the west side of Oahu. The 115th is a group of linguists specializing in a variety of languages such as Thai, Japanese and Russian.

Pfc. Baokuei Lu and Spc. David Reed, both from Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 115th MI Bn., stepped up to the plate and volunteered for the job to travel with Jarvis.

Lu, who is originally from Fujian, China, has only been in the Army since early 2004, but he has already proved a valuable asset to the Coast Guard. He has been translating for Chen Zhen Guo, a fisheries officer embarked on Jarvis for the Peoples Republic of China. They have been planning enforcement procedures and boarding tactics.

Lu is also prepared to hail and stop Chinese vessels detected as fishing with drift nets that are banned by international agreement. Lu



A small boat approaches the CGC Jarvis boarding team for the law enforcement demonstration.

speaks Mandarin, Cantonese and Fujianese, and he said he is prepared to open up his dictionaries if the Jarvis comes across an unusual dialect.

Reed, originally from Brownwood, Texas, specializes in Korean. The Jarvis will first use his skills during a training engagement in Incheon, Korea. Afterward, the ship will embark a Korean Coast Guard officer who will represent his country in the international enforcement effort.

Reed's linguistic skills will be necessary not only to work with the Korean officer, but also to hail any Korean vessels. Reed has been translating boarding questions and learning Korean nautical and fishing terms to prepare.

The two Soldiers are experiencing the open sea and



Standing Out in a Sea of Blue — Soldiers Spc. David Reed (left) and Pfc. Baokuei Lu, both linguists, report for duty in a rare assignment with the Coast Guard.

learning about the seamanship required aboard a 378-foot long cutter, not something the average Soldier gets to experience.

As they gain their sea legs

with the weather growing a little rough, both have joined the salty ranks of Sailors who have crossed the international date line on the rolling Pacific Ocean.



Lt. j.g. Scott Korljan advances during the law enforcement demonstration of a U.S. Coast Guard run boarding.

Award

From A-1

"The inspection team not only looks at the organization of the warehouse but also at the standards for training and customer service within the unit," said Chief Warrant Officer Soon Nix, Co. C, 25th Avn. Rgt. (AVIM), accountable officer. "During the inspection, the inspectors were especially impressed with how well we manage a heavy workload and still maintain above-standard training for the Soldiers."

The Soldiers at the Class IX (repair parts issuing/receiving) warehouse are responsible for ensuring all broken parts needing repairs get to the proper location and for ordering new parts for those items that are unable to be repaired. They deal specifically with aircraft parts, supporting the UH-60 Blackhawks, CH-47 Chinooks and OH-58D Kiowa Warriors based at Wheeler Army Air Field.

When new or repaired parts are received at the warehouse, Soldiers are responsible for distribution to the correct customers.

"Once the parts are received back at the warehouse, we have 24 hours to get the parts to the customer since the parts are needed for the aircraft to be operational," said Maye.

But just doing their duties isn't what caused the company to be recognized as the best.

Due to deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, the unit was lacking personnel and many aircraft were also deployed.

"Since most of the aircraft from 25th Aviation Brigade were deployed, there were only six aircraft left in Hawaii for us to support," said Nix. "However, there was still a lot of work for the Soldiers to do."

Even though there were limited aircraft with a small crew, the Soldiers in the warehouse took on extra duties to ensure the overall mission was still accomplished.

"Everyone had to take on extra duties to ensure everything remained at the same level," said Staff Sgt. Andres Toledo-Vera, Co. C, 25th Avn. Rgt., turn-in section sergeant. "The hard work from all the Soldiers and the motivation of every one to be the best is what got us to where we are today."

This mission was especially hard since more than 50 percent of the personnel were deployed to Afghanistan, leaving less than a dozen Soldiers to maintain parts for the aircraft remaining in Hawaii. But standards never dropped.

"It was a lot of hard work for everyone," said Maye. "To improve the work flow with so many people gone, we had to improve time management and the organization of parts in the warehouse, so everyone knew where everything was."

With units still relying on Co. C, it was sometimes difficult to make changes within the warehouse.

"The Soldiers came

a level that wouldn't have allowed us to receive this great honor. They are the ones who make sure everything runs smoothly and deadlines are met."

While this isn't the first award the unit has received, it is still important to improve and try to better the unit as whole, she said.

"It has been five years since we were awarded first place," said Nix. "It makes me very proud of the Soldiers in my unit and the work they do."

The award has made many of the Soldiers more aware of just how hard they worked during the last year.

"It is amazing that such a small warehouse that didn't have full personnel could still be able to not only accomplish the mission, but also stand out above all the other warehouses in the Army," said Maye. "This is a huge honor for everyone involved. Not only at a unit level, but on a personal level."

"The Soldiers made this happen. Without everyone working above the standard, this wouldn't have been possible."



Bob McElroy

Placing finishing touches

Mike Garcia, a mason with San Juan Construction checks to see if a piece of masonry will fit on the base of the sign in front of the new Pohakuloa Training Area Headquarters and Range Operations facility. The masonry is designed to replicate the native lava rock found in the saddle region where PTA sits. Garcia, who has worked as a mason since 1978, said he's done all of the masonry on the new facility. He's also done work on military buildings on Diego Garcia and Kwajalein Atoll.



Spc. Cheryl Ransford

Pvt. Liliana Soto, issuing/receiving clerk, counts washers that were received at the warehouse to ensure that the proper number were delivered.

Thunder

From A-1

but now can call for close air support. He said the whole deployment was a good learning experience, particularly when it came to doing things he hadn't done before and working with other units and services.

"Even though, sometimes, you might get into an argument ... when it comes to the job, people always come together," he said.

This was the first deployment for Amposta, who spent the previous two-plus years in Korea and volunteered to move to Hawaii so he could deploy.

"I was in Korea for two and a half years and I was ready to deploy, and I said, 'yeah, I'll go to Hawaii. It doesn't matter to me that they're deploying,'" he said.

Calling the deployment an "eye opener," Sgt. Allison Urbatsch, a human resource specialist for CTF Thunder, said it taught her to be grateful for what she has.

The 23-year-old, Rock Springs, Wyo., native said one of the highlights of the deployments was going out on five combat patrols with the infantry. During these patrols, she would guard and search Afghan females since the local culture prohibits male Soldiers from doing so.

"It was fun," she said. "It was a different world out there, different from staying at camp."

Urbatsch said before deploying, she hoped she would get the opportunity to do something like that, but she never thought she actually would.

"Overall, I'm glad it's over with, but it was a good experience, and it made me realize we should be grateful for what we have," she said.

For Capt. Eric Johnson, commander of HHB, the deployment involved more than most. He arrived in country on April 25, 2004, as the commander of Battery A, 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, then became



Spc. Luke Bauer, a medic from HHB, CTF Thunder, listens to an Afghan child's heartbeat during a Cooperative Medical Assistance mission Jan. 18 in Sadak, Afghanistan.

a brigade plans officer at CTF Thunder for three months before assuming command of HHB.

He spent a month in Ghazni, two months in Tarin Kowt, two months at Bagram Airfield and the rest of the time at FOB Salerno.

Johnson, 31, and a native of Port Huron, Mich., said although it was an exciting year, he's ready to head back.

"As with anything that lasts this long, you're sad to see it end, but you're happy to see it over," he said. "We're excited to go home, but we're excited to finish the mission strong and hand the mission over to the 82nd better than we found it."

More than 5,500 25th ID (L) Soldiers deployed to Afghanistan, including the division headquar-



Col. Gary H. Cheek (center), commander of Combined Task Force Thunder, and Command Sgt. Maj. Edmund Murrell (right), CTF Thunder command sergeant major, walk with Capt. John Sego, commander of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, and a member of the Afghan National Army during a foot patrol Nov. 5, 2004, in Sehla, Afghanistan, in Paktika Province.

ters and 3rd Brigade, but DIVARTY remains the last division unit in the country.

For Urbatsch, watching the rest of her fellow Tropic Lightning Soldiers leave helped her to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

"It was nice to see them leaving because I knew it was a step in the right direction for us that we were on our way out too," she said.

Johnson said it's a special honor to be the last unit from the 25th ID (L) in Afghanistan, espe-

cially considering the complexity of the mission it had to perform here.

"This unit was notified late of its deployment after most of the division had either been deployed or was in the midst of deploying, and to bring it back after doing what we've done here is a great honor," he said.

After a year performing a unique role in Afghanistan, DIVARTY will soon reach the end of the road in more sense than one. The unit will be deactivated

within weeks of returning to Hawaii.

As the 25th ID (L) moves toward a more deployable, brigade-centric unity, DIVARTY, along with the 25th Field Artillery Detachment and Battery F, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, will be deactivated June 15 during a ceremony at Schofield Barracks.

"As is appropriate for an artillery unit, we're definitely going out with a big bang," Johnson said.

SAFAC triage line drastically increases aid

The local number is a first in the Army to deal with the mental stresses of combat-related duty

By 1st Lt. Terrence Burke
Contributing Writer

The lesson that the Army must take better care of Soldiers and their families is being learned during the current Global War on Terrorism. In response, the 25th Infantry Division (Light), in collaboration with Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC) has developed the Soldier and Family Assistance Center (SAFAC), designed to provide mental health assistance to redeploying Soldiers and their families.

Trained professionals provide access to tailored assistance programs based on the needs of the individual.

Pitched as a triage line (655-6600), the center offers an approach that is a first in the Army — to decrease the stigma of battlefield stress on Soldiers and families with community outreach, plus offer a centralized way of getting them the help that is needed.

Since starting this approach, the result has been a 300 percent increase in military and their families receiving assistance per day, said Dr. (Col.) Michael Faran, chief of the SAFAC.

When Soldiers and families members call the 24-hour number, a trained clinician greets them, ready to listen and evaluate what the caller is describing. Armed with a wall of contacts, the clinician connects the Soldier or family member with the correct clinic.

The center itself is divided into several clinics: Soldier Assistance, Marriage and Family Counseling, Substance Abuse Program, Chaplain Assistance, Adult Family Member Assistance, Child/Adolescent Assistance, Group Therapy, and Social Work.

The SAFAC centralizes communication in all clinics, so the approach has increased the capabilities for helping families right here on Schofield Barracks.

While most services aren't recent creations, the Child/Adolescent Assistance Center is a new development from the SAFAC. Currently staffed with two child psychiatrists, the clinic is able to assist military children who need help adjusting to a recent deployment.

Follow-up services ensure that children get the care they need on Schofield Barracks in dealing with their anxiety, instead of deferring to TRICARE and Tripler.

"We are bringing it [the help] to the people" said surgeon Dr. (Lt. Col.) Thomas Rogers with the 25th ID (L).

Stress is an expected part of a deployment for both the Soldier and their families. Despite this accepted fact, there is still an aversion to receiving the help that is needed before it manifests in ways such as domestic violence and substance abuse.

At its core, the SAFAC is

succeeding in de-stigmatizing this aversion by offering trained and experienced clinicians and reaching out to the community to talk about mental health.

Similar efforts in the community have had great results.

The SAFAC is not just a triage line number or a way to group clinics dealing with mental health, but a community outreach. For example, school-based mental health initiatives were also launched to mirror the center's goal of helping military spouses and children.

With services located in four military community schools, mental health

issues can be identified early, evaluated by trained professionals, treated and, possibly, even prevented.

To deal with the real possibility of a parent being a wartime casualty, a prisoner of war, or missing in action, crisis plans are established. Teachers are instructed how to deal with responses to a tragedy, and resources are readily provided to school administrators to assist students.

With this proactive way of dealing with potential problems that are unique to military children, the results have been encouraging," Faran explained. Absenteeism has dropped

SAFAC Hotline
655-6600

along with referrals to special education — both precursors of a possible underlying mental health condition, he added.

Besides statistical evidence, the community has responded by asking for the program to be expanded to additional schools.

It doesn't just stop there

Until recently, despite knowing that families are affected by deployment, no real efforts had been made

to study these factors. The 25th ID (L), TAMC, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, and the Veteran's Assistance National Center for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder have now teamed up to study, treat and try to reduce the effects of a deployment on the family.

The deployment cycle is being examined to identify where potential stresses could occur, ranging from issues of dual-military households and single parent families, from the time of departure to the reunification of the family.

This study will benefit the SAFAC and school-based mental health initia-

tives by providing needed feedback to make services available that the community needs.

The 25th ID (L) family

The SAFAC is designed to constantly evaluate what the community needs and where it wants services. Family readiness groups and unit commanders are providing the key element of that feedback, relaying issues as they develop.

Schofield Barracks and TAMC are raising the bar by caring for military families and identifying where mental health initiatives can be brought to the community.

ArmyOnline

www.25idl.army.mil

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



Fallen Soldiers remembered at Schofield

Joy Boisselle
Staff Writer

Remembering those who died fighting for our freedom is the nation's duty on Memorial Day, and that duty was met with honor and respect at the Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony held Monday at the Schofield Barracks Post Cemetery.

Miniature flags adorned the gravesites, and the flag flew at half-staff. An honor guard stood ready to render a 21-gun salute and a lone bugler waited to honor those departed Soldiers with an emotion-inspiring playing of "Taps."

Awaiting the ceremony start, family members and guests walked slowly among the graves, bearing flowers or simple lei for loved ones.

Guest speaker at the ceremony was Col. Howard Killian, commander of U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii.

"Thank you for joining me on this most solemn of national holidays as we pause to reflect and honor those members of our armed forces who gave their lives in service to their country," he said. "It is a privilege to help recognize the many who answered a higher calling — service in the cause of freedom."

Calling it a "special opportunity" to remember those who answered their country's call to arms, Killian continued, "Not because they loved war, but because of their genuine desire to help preserve liberty, justice, equality and the right of everyone to live in a world free from tyranny and fear."

"Today, we are once again a nation at war. Today, we are engaged in a Global War on Terrorism with adversaries who have declared war on our way of life."

"Our Soldiers understand that this is a struggle we must win. And to date, twenty-nine 25th Infantry Division (Light) Soldiers have sacrificed their lives so that others can enjoy the freedom too many of us take for granted," he said.

Reflecting on the indomitable spirit of the American Soldier, Killian concluded his remarks saying, "They personify loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage."

Also attending the ceremony was Brig. Gen. "Mick" Bednarek, assistant division commander for operations. Asked to reflect on the ceremony in light of the current world situation, he said, "There is no question that



Staff Sgt. Valerie Phearse

Visitors to the Post Cemetery on Schofield Barracks honor a fallen Soldier with a flower lei on Memorial Day.

this is a different ceremony, a different context today because we have so many people deployed.

"We have lost Soldiers, we've given Purple Hearts for our 25th Infantry Division Soldiers and the same thing for our 29th Brigade Combat Team and the Hawaii National Guard," he explained. "So, it is absolutely more personal for families, loved ones, relatives, and all Americans, regardless of where you live."

Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Bruce Roberts added, "If you ask a young kid, to them this is just a day off, but it's more than that. Today, we commemorate all the service and the ultimate sacrifice of our Soldiers in all wars."

Following Killian's remarks and a moment of silence, Don Cook and Joe Thomas representing the Order of the Purple Heart and placed a wreath at the cemetery's flagpole, as did Killian and Roberts.



Staff Sgt. Valerie Phearse

Soldiers raise the U.S. flag at the Post Cemetery to pay tribute to Memorial Day.

Memorial Day origins are hazy at best

Compiled by Joy Boisselle
Staff Writer

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in the nation's service. There are many stories as to its actual beginnings, with more than two dozen cities and towns laying claim to being the birthplace of Memorial Day.

Officially proclaimed on May 5, 1868, by Gen. John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, Memorial Day was first observed on May 30, 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery.

President Lyndon Johnson officially declared Waterloo, N.Y., as the birthplace of Memorial Day in May 1966, but it is difficult to prove conclusively the origins of the day.

The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873. And by 1890, all of the northern states recognized it.

The South refused to acknowledge the day, honoring their dead on separate days until after World War I when the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war.

Since Congress passed the National Holiday Act in 1971, Memorial Day is now celebrated in almost every State on the last Monday in May.

School kids get a taste of the military

Story and Photos by
Spc Dijon Rolle
17th Public Affairs Detachment

May 25 was a big day for 11-year-old Savanna Baltero. The fifth grader and nearly 300 of her classmates from Helemano Elementary School took the opportunity to meet some very special friends for the very first time.

Baltero was one of several children from kindergarten through fifth grade, who wrote letters to deployed Soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"I was excited because I couldn't wait to see what my pen pal looked like," said Baltero. "It was really cool to finally meet him. I just wanted to tell him 'thank you' for protecting us. I hope that my letters showed him support and gave him courage."

Baltero's pen pal, Sgt. Darran Procter, Company C, 125th Signal Battalion, shared similar feelings.

"It was great to have the kids' support," said Procter. "I have a 9-year-old daughter, so receiving the letters and the mail kinda' hit close to home, and it was inspiring for all of us."

The pen pal program was a part of the battalion's Partnership in Education with Helemano Elementary School. For nearly a year, the children and Soldiers corresponded with one another. Each child was assigned one to two pen pals. The day of the visit, children wore nametags bearing the name of their "Soldier pen pal."

Members of the 125th Sig. Bn. invited the group to visit their headquarters to say "thank you" for the many letters and care packages they sent during the deployment.

In addition to meeting their pen pals, children participated in a variety of "Soldier stations" set up outside of the battalion headquarters. Each station allowed students to participate in a hands-on task



Students from Helemano Elementary School practice their low-crawling skills during a visit to the 125th Sig. Bn. headquarters on Helemano Military Reservation, May 25.

such as donning a protective mask, applying a field dressing and tossing a training grenade.

Children participated in physical training sessions and other activities designed to give them a taste of military life.

"I think it's been a great experience for both the kids and the Soldiers. It touches the heart," said Chaplain (Capt.) Carron Naber, 125th Sig. Bn. chaplain who helped to coordinate the children's visit. "We wanted to do something special for them to let them know how very much we appreciated all their support ... before, during and after our deployment."

In the past, 125th Sig. Bn. Soldiers donated school supplies, books and their time to the school and its students.

"This was great," said Lorraine Tamashiro, Helemano Elementary vice principal. "This is some-

thing that the children will always remember, and it's another way that the local community and the military can continue to interact with one another."

Tamashiro added that teachers plan to create a special bulletin board and fill it with all of the pictures from the day's visit. The board will compliment the collection of video clips and other photos Soldiers sent children during the unit's deployment.

Helemano teachers said they hope to continue their partnership with the 125th Sig. Bn. Soldiers, and would like to start a similar pen pal program with Hawaii National Guard members.

"It meant a lot to know that these kids took the time to write us," said Staff Sgt. Evans Jean-Pierre, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 125th Sig. Bn., who said he still has his letters.

"It was like they truly

understood that what we were doing was valuable ... even at such a young age. They kept us in their prayers, and we appreciated that."



Sgt. Ronald Clobridge, Co. C, helps a student from Helemano Elementary School adjust a piece of body armor.

Boots

From A-1

sized. Fiscal year 2006 is the starting point for the Army Combat Uniform or ACU, when it will be officially a part of the clothing bag for those receiving uniforms as issue. It is scheduled to be available in all military clothing stores in April 2006.

The "wrinkle free" ACU replaces both the temperate and enhanced-hot weather BDUs and the DCU as an organizational clothing and individual equipment item. The uniform is has already been fielded in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom during several deploying in February 2005.

If Soldiers enjoy the idea of not having to polish their boots any more, the wear and care of the ACU goes one step beyond. Policy advises against ironing and notes that Soldiers will not starch the ACU under any circumstances.

The use of starch, sizing and any process that involves dry cleaning or a steam process will adversely affect the treatment and durability of the ACU uniform, which is why these items are not authorized.

So, when does the bad part come in? There are those who can see that steps towards an easier-wear uniform and boots are a step away from one they believe is one of the Army's longest traditions — a neat appearance in uniform.

"I know Soldiers who already have the 'who cares' attitude when it comes to their appearance," said Spc. Amanda Griffin, S-1 personnel assistant in charge of the 30th

Signal Battalion/DOIM. "You'll see the difference in Soldiers, in having less responsibility, in not having to polish their boots anymore.

"I think that the boots will just ensure less responsibility about their appearance and discipline," Griffin added. "They may be more comfortable, but I think they will also be making it easier for Soldiers to lower their standards."

In addition to wearing hot weather and temperate boots, the following items, which are part of the ACU ensemble, are also now authorized for immediate wear with the BDU or DCU: the Rigger belt, the moisture wicking T-Shirt (tan) and green socks.

The date is yet to be determined when wearing of current BDU/DBDU accessories (such as the black belt with the open-faced black buckle, other variations of boots like green or black jungle boots and the historical brown T-shirt), as we know them today, will be a thing of the past. As well, black boots, which the Army has known and loved for so long, will still have their place for the time being.

Current policy in Army Regulation 670-1 that authorizes airborne, air assault and military police personnel to wear the all-leather black boots with their service uniform (Class A and B) remains unchanged, as well as wear with the Class A uniform during special military functions such as military balls.

Black boots are still authorized for everyday wear with the BDU until the transition to ACU is finally complete.

(Editor's Note: Guidance for this article can be found in ALARACT Message 078/2005.)



Soldiers rustle Ka'ala field day

Story and Photos by
Spc. Cheryl Ransford
17th Public Affairs Detachment

WAHIAWA — Students at Ka'ala Elementary School took a break from their studies May 26, when they participated in a field day here.

Soldiers from the 225th Forward Support Battalion, which is partnered with the school, joined the students, participating in face painting, games and sports.

By taking part in activities, the Soldiers are not only building relationships with the community, but also showing the students that Soldiers know how to have fun.

"By having the Soldiers out for these activities, it gives the students a different view of the military," said Sheree King, Ka'ala Elementary School activities coordinator. "Some of the children here only see the local culture. With the Soldiers participating, it gives them a chance to interact with new people and find out about jobs different from the ones their parents have."

The 225th FSB has been actively involved with the school for many years, which gives the Soldiers a feeling of accomplishment by helping out. Along with impacting kids, Soldiers are also indirectly impacting local families.

"When we come to the school, the kids go home and tell their parents about what they did that day," said Capt. Ted Capra, 225th FSB, assistant operations officer. "It shows the parents that the military cares about the kids."

With 42 Soldiers participating, the day was not just fun for the kids, but a huge help for school officials.

"Without the help from the military, these activities wouldn't be as successful as they are," said King. "While they provide a unique opportunity for the kids, they also help with manpower for the activities. They are a huge help."

With the unit deployed, the activities were changed due to Soldiers not being able to set up their stations and provide escorts for students.

The field day activities used to be so much more hands-on for the kids, said King.

"Before the unit deployed to Iraq, we would have six stations that were set up



A Soldier with Headquarters and A Company, 225th FSB, comes to the aid of the girls' team during the game of "Clean Up the Backyard."

by the unit and six stations that were set up by us," she said. "The stations set up by the Soldiers would include communications, vehicles and [physical training] with the students. It was a good experience for the students. Since most of them don't have parents in the military, it gave them a chance to see what the military does and how they communicate with each other while they are out on missions."

But even without the vehicles and pushups, kids had a day full of fun.

"My mom is in the Navy, so it is great to be able to see the armed forces having fun," said Chance Murray, a fifth grader. "They work a lot and don't have a lot of time to play. By coming out here, they get that chance."

Along with being able to have fun with the kids, Capra feels the experience is about more than playing games.

"I feel it's important for the Soldiers to realize that there are rewards for their sacrifices," he said. "Along with that, it is important for the children to see that Soldiers are more than just pictures on the TV."

The Soldiers of 225th FSB spend time at the school throughout the year providing campus beautification and tutoring, as well as helping each year with field day activities.

"The Soldiers are a huge help around the school," said King. "The kids get excited when they come and always learn



Sgt. Tony Jackson, Headquarters and Company A, 225th FSB, encourages students playing basketball.

something, whether it be through tutoring or improving the school. The Soldiers make the effort not for themselves but for the well-being of the kids."



Living life

Tarlavsky's North Shore Triathlon

to the fullest



Spc. Cheryl Ransford
17th Public Affairs Detachment

WAIALUA — More than 400 competitors turned out for Tarlavsky's North Shore Triathlon, Saturday at Mokulea Beach Park here, the largest in the history of the more than 10-year-old event.

In the past, the triathlon was known as simply the North Shore Triathlon, but the contest renamed and dedicated to the memory of a fallen Soldier, Capt. Michael Y. Tarlavsky, who competed regularly.

Held every year over the Memorial Day weekend, the event is all-ages and includes a 400-meter swim, 10-mile bike ride and three-mile run, all along Oahu's scenic North Shore.

"I love the North Shore and I love triathlons," said Timothy Marr, of Mililani, who finished the triathlon first, coming in at 49 minutes, 20 seconds. "You never know what's going to happen once you cross the starting line."

Maj Norman Weeks



Photos Courtesy of Trish Tarlavsky

The grueling and muddy Swamp Romp at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, was a favorite of Tarlavsky.

Fallen Soldier packs 90 years of life into just 30

By Joy Boisselle
Staff Writer

Capt. Mike Tarlavsky loved his wife Trish, his son Joey, his entire family. He loved the Army that he proudly served for eight years, and he loved his country.

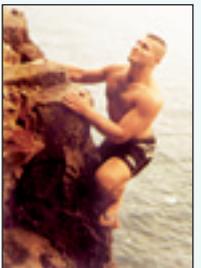
Most of all, Mike loved life.

That life was cut short on Aug. 12, 2004, when Mike's unit, the 5th Special Forces Group based at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, came under heavy grenade and small arms fire in the city of An Najaf, Iraq. On that day, Mike was fatally wounded leading the men he loved in defense of the country and values he cherished.

Perfect is the word Trish uses most when describing her husband, his life and their life together.

"He was more than just one thing; he was absolutely the perfect husband, the perfect father and the perfect Soldier," she recounted with pride, "He never sat on the couch talking about doing anything, he just did it.

"Mike packed 90 years of life into 30 short years here on earth," Trish said. This is his story as seen through her eyes.



Tarlavsky rock climbs in Maui.

Young Mike

Michael Yury Tarlavsky entered the world in Riga, Latvia, on May 10, 1974. Five years later, he and his family immigrated to the United States, eventually settling in Clifton, N.J. There, Mike the immigrant began to live the American dream, first by becoming a U.S. citizen at the age of 11.

He excelled in school and sports. An exemplary athlete, he was a championship swimmer setting numerous state records and competing in the New Jersey Junior Olympics. He attained the highest honor in boy scouting, the Eagle Scout, and was an active volunteer in his community.

Young Mike had two dreams: one, to go to college, and two, to become a Soldier.

"Mike was born in a country that didn't allow the freedoms we have here, Trish said, "And, it was important to him to give back to the country that had given him freedom. That's why he wanted to be a Soldier."

The Army

Mike fulfilled both dreams simultaneously by attending Rutgers State University on a Reserve Officers Training Corps scholarship and enlisting in the National Guard. He graduated in 1996 with a degree in physical medicine and received his commission as an active duty second lieutenant in the infantry.

He served his first assignment in Korea, followed by

Above — As the sun rises, competitors start the three-mile run of the triathlon along the North Shore after completing the 400-meter swim.

Right — Competitors begin the 10-mile bike race portion of Tarlavsky's North Shore Triathlon, Saturday. The triathlon consists of a 400-meter swim, a 10-mile bike ride and a three-mile run.



Spc. Cheryl Ransford



Sgt. Stephanie Carl

A female competitor pushes out her stride as she races for her bicycle at the top of the beach.



Sgt. Stephanie Carl

Above — Tricia Tarlavsky enters the bicycle staging area to take off on the second leg of the triathlon

Right — Male competitors cross the finish line to the 400-meter swim and race up the shore to mount their bicycles.



Sgt. Stephanie Carl

MWR Briefs

Serving America's Army in Hawaii

JUNE 3 / Today

Salute the Troops Concert — Enjoy the last night of live, local entertainment at the Tropics on Schofield Barracks as part of this concert series. Visit at 8:30 p.m., with no cover charge, and listen to great entertainment.

Patrons can enjoy drink specials and food from MacGregor's Market. Also, guests can visit the Tropics and register to win a sport utility vehicle sponsored by JN Mazda. Finalists are selected at each concert event, and the vehicle will be awarded at the June 10 "Right Arm Night" at the Nehelani. Visit the Tropics, or call 655-0002 for more information.

Fourth of July Picnic Sites — MWR is currently accepting reservations for picnic sites at Kaala Community Activities Center, Room 101. Cost is \$60 for a 20 x 20 area on the perimeter of Sills Field.

These areas are the only areas where cooking on grills will be authorized. Call 655-0112 or 655-0110, or stop by to reserve your site today.

Texas Hold'em Tournament — The deadline to enter the Texas Hold'em Tournament is today by 5 p.m. Applications are available at the Martinez Physical Fitness Center on Schofield Barracks.

This tournament will take place from Tuesday through Thursday, beginning at 6 p.m. Card sharks can register to play or just come watch, but only the first 128 who register will play. Active duty personnel have first priority.

First and second place winners will receive trophies and the opportunity to play in a celebrity charity tournament in July in Waikiki. Call 655-4804 or 655-0900 for more information.

4 / Saturday

Honolulu Zoo — Today only, admission to the zoo is

free to all military ID card holders. The first 5,000 can also enjoy a free lunch on the zoo lawn.

Free transportation is being offered to the zoo, courtesy of Army Hawaii Family Housing and Morale, Welfare and Recreation. If you'd like a lift to the zoo, call 655-0112; however, seating is limited. Reservations close today.

6 / Monday

Summer Reading Club — This summer, children ages 6 to 12 are invited to "Flip Over Books" at their Army library. This free program will run for five weeks beginning June 13 and features special weekly programs and reading incentives.

Registration and packet pick up begins today at your nearest Army library.

Steak Night — Enjoy a sizzling steak cooked to perfection on the grill outside Reggie's and in front of the Nehelani, which comes complete with a tossed salad, baked potato, rolls and vegetables.

This entrée will be served from 5 to 8 p.m. Cost is \$11.95 for adults. Call 655-4466 for more details.

8 / Wednesday

Fund-raising Opportunities — Units and family readiness groups that are interested in fund-raising at the Fourth of July event are encouraged to attend a meeting today at 9 a.m., at the Kaala Community Activities Center, Room 101.

For more information, call 655-0110.

Stained Glass Class —

Back by popular demand, learn beginning foil or lead techniques at the Stained Glass Class at the Arts and Crafts Center, Schofield Barracks. Four sessions will be held on Wednesdays beginning June 8, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Cost is \$40 plus supplies, and payment is required at the time of registration. Class size is limited, so register today. Call 655-4202 for more details.

10 / Friday

Right Arm Night — Enjoy a delicious Polynesian



Courtesy of Mindy Chesnut

Paying respect

Ian Chesnut, a Webelos Scout from Hickam's Pack 197, places lei on the grave of a Medal of Honor recipient, Sunday at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Punchbowl. Overall, more than 300 scouts, 30 from Pack 197, volunteered to honor America's fallen heroes. "The boys learn respect for their nation," said Wolf den leader Chad Cornelius. Boys 6 to 10 years old, military kids from Aliamanu Military Reservation, Fort Shafter, Pearl Harbor and Hickam Air Force Base are members of the pack, which makes their efforts truly joint, explained cub master Doug Persons. Call 449-4201 for more on scouting, or visit www.hickampack197.org.

luau buffet at the Nehelani on Schofield Barracks, June 10 beginning at 4 p.m. Plus, gather for great local entertainment by lively performers and win prizes and more.

A Mazda Tribute from JN Mazda will be the grand prize giveaway at this event, so get your tickets now. Cost is \$5 in advance or \$7 on June 10.

Patrons must be 18 years or older to attend; no children will be allowed. Call 655-4466 for more information.

Stamping and Scraping — Make your own

Father's Day cards with rubber stamps and fun papers, but bring enough photos for two album pages. Create your unique "Welcome Home" layout from 9:30 to

11:30 a.m. at the Schofield Arts and Crafts Center.

Cost is \$5 plus supplies. Call 655-4202 to preregister.

11 / Saturday

Latin Night — Come dance the night away to Latin music at the Tropics from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Enjoy the sounds of DJ Richie "Salsa" Sanchez.

Cost is only \$2 at the door. Call 655-0002 for more details.

Hawaiian Railway Society Tour — Enjoy a 90-

minute, fully narrated train ride beginning in Ewa to Kahe Point and back, and be transported back in time as the conductor passes along historic sites of interests and beautiful views of the ocean. Transportation will be

provided from the Schofield Commissary and the Fort Shafter Physical Fitness Center for this tour. However, reservations must be made by June 9.

Cost with transportation is \$8 per person and \$1 for children under 2. If you would like to attend and do not need transportation, cost is \$6 per person and children under 2 are free.

Sign up to join the fun at the Schofield or Fort Shafter Information, Ticketing and Reservations (ITR) offices. For more information, call 655-0112 or 655-0110.

14 / Tuesday

Summer Daze at Tropics — Beginning today until July 21, visit the Tropics to participate in a variety of weekly activities beginning at 2 p.m.

Tuesday features a Slam Dunk Party of basketball games and contests where you can earn points towards prizes to be awarded at the end of the month. Every Wednesday participate in outdoor games and contests, and every Thursday enjoy making and taking home creative, summer craft projects using natural materials and art supplies.

All activities are free and designed for children 18 and under. Call 655-8522 for more details.

15 / Wednesday

Taco Wednesday — Enjoy all-you-can eat tacos, burritos, Spanish rice and much more at Reggie's from 5 to 8 p.m. Cost is \$8.95 per person. Call 655-4466 for more details.

18 / Saturday

Parent's Night Out — Leave your kids in the competent hands of Child and Youth Services and delight in a nice night out on the town. Reservations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis at the Resource and Referral Office.

Children enrolled in Parent's Night Out must be registered with the office no later than Wednesday at noon, prior to the event, each month. Call 655-8313 for more information.

Yu-Gi-Oh Tournament — Join the duels at the Tropics when registration gets

underway at 1 p.m. Play will begin at 2 p.m.

Cost for this tournament is \$6 and includes Yu-Gi-Oh merchandise. Prizes will be awarded. Call 655-0002.

19 / Sunday

Father's Day Brunch — Take dad out for a delicious Sunday brunch at the Hale Ikena on Fort Shafter from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., or the Nehelani on Schofield Barracks from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Enjoy a variety of breakfast, main entrée and dessert selections.

Call the Hale Ikena at 438-1974 or the Nehelani at 655-4466 to make reservations.

Father's Day Buffet — Bring dad to the beautiful Waianae Beach Club from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. for a wonderful breakfast buffet, or treat dad to a scrumptious dinner buffet anytime from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Call 696-4778 for more information.

ONGOING

Dollar Days at Wheeler Bowl — Play for \$1 a game and \$1 shoe rental, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Wheeler Army Air Field bowling alley. Call 656-1745 for more information.

Kinderpop Kindergarten — This transition class for preschoolers and kindergartners includes getting-along activities, story time, learning and singing songs, nursery rhymes, letter and number writing, tracing, counting and much more.

It's open to children entering kindergarten in the year 2005 - 2006. This readiness class will be held July 11 through 15 from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Cost is \$65, and space is limited. Registration is first-come, first served. Call 655-5314 for more details.

Fast Gifts — A new inventory of affordable island crafts is available at the Schofield Barracks Arts and Crafts Center such as colorful wood and woven mirrors, floral and fish designs, ukulele towel racks, recipe boxes and more.

For more details, call 655-4202.

Community Calendar

JUNE 3 / Today

Call for Volunteers — The Muscular Dystrophy Association is searching for 10 male volunteers to work one-on-one with children and adults at YMCA Camp H.R. Erdman, June 22 through 29. Activities for campers and their counselors will include swimming, horseback riding, music, arts and crafts, talent shows, entertainment, movies and camp fire.

If you have a deep desire to make a difference in someone's life, join the team as a camp volunteer. You will receive training that includes wheelchair techniques and emergency procedures. For applications and more information, contact the health care services coordinator at 593-4454.

4 / Saturday

Honolulu Zoo's Military Appreciation Day — Lions will roar, monkeys will howl and parrots will soar when the Honolulu Zoo opens the gates Saturday, June 4 at 10 a.m., for Military Appreciation Day. The place to be is where the wild things are.

USO-Hawaii, in cooperation with the City & County of Honolulu, the Honolulu Zoological Society and the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, is inviting all military service-connected per-

sonnel throughout Oahu with valid military ID cards for free. Also, the first 5,000 military ID card holders will receive a free picnic lunch.

Face painting, animal mask coloring, a feed-the-animals game and a hands-on skull/bio-fact table — great kid-oriented stuff — will be happening all day long. A Marine Forces Pacific Band ensemble, a blessing and a hula halau performance will kick off activities at 10 a.m., followed by the presentation of colors at 11 a.m., and a formal program with the mayor and other dignitaries, plus mega musical entertainment from 11:30 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Military ID card holders can park free at Kapiolani Community College; a free shuttle bus service will operate from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., to and from the Zoo.

For more details, contact Doug Carlson at 330-3449 or Bill Brennan at 527-6928.

Iroquois Point Collection Drive — The Iroquois Point Cooperative Preschool is proud to present its first community "Hawaii 5-cent Collection Drive," June 4. In order to raise funds for new classrooms, parents from the nonprofit preschool will be collecting cans, glass and plastics at the community center from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Participation from the public is encouraged. Drop off items at 5100 Iroquois Ave. For more information, call 499-1279 or 722-1314.

9 / Thursday

Winning Resumes — Learn how to write a mas-

terpiece of a resume when the Army Community Service sponsors a Resume Writing Workshop, June 9 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Building 2091. This workshop will provide you with skills to create effective resumes for public and private sector jobs.

The importance of cover letters and tips on following up with your resume will also be discussed. To register, call 655-2400.

11 / Saturday

Homeownership Month — June is National Homeownership Month, and the Honolulu Board of Realtors is celebrating by hosting several homeownership awareness activities, including Community Homebuyer Fairs and the second annual Hawaii Habitat for Humanity Build-A-Thon.

As part of the commitment, HBR will participate in several Community Homebuyer Fairs to educate the community about the homebuying process, including how to choose a realtor, shop for a home and qualify for a mortgage. The Community Homebuyer Fairs will take place from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturday, June 11, at the Waipahu Filipino Community Center, and Saturday, June 25 at Farrington High School Cafeteria. A third fair will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 9 at Windward Mall.

For more information on upcoming activities, call 732-3000.

Boy Scouts Traveling Tour — A selection of Norman Rockwell masterpieces featuring the Boy Scouts of America will be on display at the Kahala Mandarin Oriental Hotel, June 13 and 14, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., daily. Entry is free and open to the public; however, parking is additional.

The traveling exhibit celebrates the 95th anniversary of Boy Scouts and the 75th anniversary of Cub Scouts. Now in its tenth year, the 2005 National Endowment Tour pays tribute to the decades of scout-

ing as seen through the classic illustrations of Norman Rockwell.

14 / Tuesday

Keiki Care — Catch this two-day class on June 14 and 15 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., which is designed to help with interviewing techniques, basic child care skills, discipline strategy and age-appropriate toys and activities. As well, CPR and first aid certification will be provided.

These classes are designed for ages 11 to 17. Those 13 and over who have successfully completed the program are eligible to go on the Certified

HACN TV2 Schedule

Morning	6:30	What's Down the Drain	6:30	What's Down the Drain
6:00	Sign On	6:38	Community Focus	
6:30	Gallery of Heroes	6:53	Welcome Home	
7:00	Bulletin Board		Redeployment Montage 5	
7:30	What's Down the Drain	7:00	NFL: Man's Greatest	
7:43	Welcome Home		Adventure	
	Redeployment Montage 5	8:00	What's Down the Drain	
7:49	Welcome Home	8:07	Safety Video	
	Redeployment Montage 4	8:11	Welcome Home	
8:00	Hawaii Army Report		Redeployment Montage 4	
8:33	Army News Watch	8:17	Welcome Home	
9:00	Pentagon Channel		Redeployment Montage 5	
10:00	Welcome Home	8:22	Oahu Aloha Begins	
	Redeployment Montage 5	8:30	NSPS What to Expect	
10:08	Maui the Magic Isle	9:43	Welcome Home	
10:30	Bulletin Board		Redeployment Montage 5	
11:04	Gallery of Heroes	9:49	Dash and Grab	
11:37	Hawaii: Hidden Beauty	10:00	NFL: 100 Greatest Tackles	
11:55	Welcome Home	10:48	What's Down the Drain	
	Redeployment Montage 4	10:55	Welcome Home	
12:00	Hawaii Army Report		Redeployment Montage 3	
12:33	Pentagon Channel	11:00	Bulletin Board	
Afternoon		11:46	Welcome Home	
2:00	After the Storm		Redeployment Montage 5	
2:23	Bulletin Board	Overnight		
2:54	NSPS What to Expect	6:00	Hawaii Army Report	Pentagon Channel
4:00	Pentagon Channel			

Baby-Sitter List for families looking for child care assistance.

Enrollment is limited and preregistration is required. Cost is \$40. For more details, contact the Armed Services YMCA on Wheeler at 624-5645.



Sgt. Smith Theater

Today
Sahara
7 p.m. (PG-13)

Saturday
Sahara
7 p.m. (PG-13)

Sunday
King's Ransom
7 p.m. (PG-13)

Wednesday
King's Ransom
7 p.m. (PG-13)

Thursday
Sahara
7 p.m. (PG-13)

The theater is closed Monday & Tuesday.

Vet Clinic hosts first annual Pet Fair



Hector Marquez (left) sprints to a finish line to get a better score on an obstacle course with his dog Dameona, while Haku (right) returns a ball to his trainer during a retrieving contest.



Spc Juan Jimenez

By Rebecca Jochen
Contributing Writer

To the delight of many military pet owners at Schofield Barracks, the Veterinarian Treatment Facility here hosted its first-ever Pet Fair on May 27. Plentiful information about animal care, numerous contests and free goody bags all contributed to a successful event, said organizers.

The fair ended the clinic's "Best of Friends Best of Health Week" and was inspired by National Pet Week, which takes place in early May. The clinic's goal was twofold: to help pet owners care for their pets and to let the military community know that the VTF is available for pet care.

"Our main mission is to take care of the military working dogs, and it is a bonus that we get to take care of the pets [of the military community]

as well," said Sgt. Francisco Vaca, a veterinarian assistant at the VTF.

The VTF offers routine vaccines and blood work for pets, as well as for privately owned horses in the area. These services are offered for a nominal cost, with no examination fee.

Pet owners who participated at the fair received awards in several categories: best photo, pet and owner look-alike, obstacle course and much more. Prizes included free grooming and care at the VTF for up to 12 months, and numerous raffles determined winners for other prizes, including a doggie duffle bag, back packs and gift certificates.

Besides prizes, possibly the real crowd pleaser was the military working dog demonstration by 4-year-old Kora, a German shepherd.

Kora and her handler Sgt. Amy Cunningham showed the crowd how military working dogs are trained to seek out drugs, help apprehend a suspect and protect their handlers.

"As a K-9 [officer], our only backup is our dog," said Sgt. John Bell, a member of the K-9 Narcotics team who helped with the demonstration. Both sergeants showed how Kora could attack a suspect at the first sign of aggression towards her handler. "Everything is a game to them," Bell added, "Kora doesn't know it is a suspect she is attacking; to her she is just winning the game."

The vet clinic is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, and closed for lunch from noon till 1 p.m. Pet owners can also walk-in, with no appointment, on Tuesdays. The third Wednesday of every month, the clinic is open late, from noon to 8 p.m. (The clinic is closed for dinner, the third Wednesday from 4 to 5 p.m.)



Sgt. Amy Cunningham

A Soldier conducts training with a military working dog.

Are there benefits to owning a pet?

By Rebecca Jochen
Contributing Writer

"They are just fun to have around!" said Capt. Emily Gocke-Smith, officer-in-charge of the Schofield Barracks Veterinary Clinic, regarding the benefits of acquiring a pet.

Other reasons Gocke-Smith cited are for companionship, to teach children responsibility, to encourage exercise (when walking dogs) and to protect self and property.

"Any animal that can give affection and love back is rewarding to own," said Karen Hashimoto, an animal behavioral specialist who specializes in helping owners train their dogs. "[However,] eighty percent of this job is 'people' training," she added.

The first rule of training any pet dog is to have fun with training.

"Make it fun for both you and the dog," Hashimoto explained. "Offer lots of verbal praise, treats and rewards. No one wants to work hard for punishments."

The ideal time to begin training dogs is when they are six to eight weeks old, but it's important to not separate a puppy from the mother too early.

"Puppies learn much of their social behavior from their mothers, and the longer they are together, the longer they have to learn the rules of how to act," explained Hashimoto.

Training is an effort that requires consistency, patience, preparation and love, but it is worth it, she added. Training develops a stronger bond between the owner and animal.

(Editor's Note: For more details on pets, adult and puppy training, or basic obedience classes, contact Karen Hashimoto at 382-4789.)

Did You Know?

Military working dogs are usually between the ages of one to three years old when they are trained. They serve until they are about 10 years old, the typical retirement age.

Generally, German and Dutch shepherds, and Belgian malinois, are the most common breeds that serve as military working dogs, and they are bought from breeders all over the world. Each is specifically bred for police service.

Military working dogs are only trained with positive verbal reinforcement, and the use of toys instead of treats as rewards for their good work.

Tarlavsky

From B-1

an assignment to Hawaii and the 25th Infantry Division (Light). Mike served with A and C Companies, 2nd Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, and it was here in Hawaii that he honed his zest for life, adventure and excitement.

"Mike had an adventurous spirit. He was always going, going, going," Trish said.

Mike tried every outdoor activity imaginable: hiking, kayaking, snorkeling, sky diving, rock climbing, rappelling and scuba diving, subsequently becoming a dive master.

Another passion was running. Mike expressed that passion by participating in biathlons, triathlons and marathons across the United States. According to Trish, his goal was to run a marathon in every state, and at the time of his death, he had completed 10 marathons, including the New York City and Boston Marathons.

Another dream became a reality when Mike served with the 25th ID (L). Always looking for the next challenge, he accepted a sought-after assignment in the Army's elite Special Forces.

He successfully completed the qualification course and returned to Hawaii for a life-changing vacation enroute to Fort Campbell, Ky., and the 5th Special Forces Group.

The perfect match

Mike loved Hawaii and perhaps it is fitting that he would find his "soul mate" in the tropical paradise. On Feb. 23, 2001, a chance encounter at the Aloha Towers brought Mike face to face with Capt. Tricia Fernandez, also a former 25th ID (L) Soldier.

Mutual friends introduced them, and although Trish says "sparks weren't flying," she knew she wanted to get to know him better.

"I noticed him right away, I could see him from across the room, and he had the biggest smile on his face," Trish recalled. "He had the most beautiful, amazing smile."

That evening, Trish invited Mike and the mutual friend to Molokai for a day of scuba diving. As luck would have it, the mutual friend backed out of the trip, and the rest they say is history.

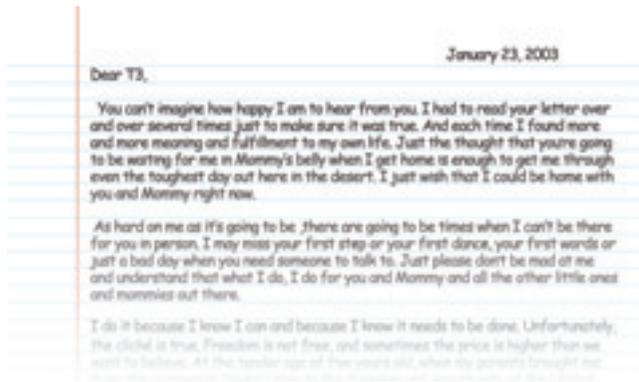
Mike extended his leave to get to know Trish better, and when he left for Fort Campbell, Trish received flowers with a simple note attached: "Will you go out with me?"

The couple dated a year before tying the knot exactly one year from the date they met. What was supposed to be a surprise visit for Trish's birthday became a fairytale Hawaii beach wedding on Feb. 23, 2002.

Mike and Trish planned the event in four days with every detail attended to, including the perfect North Shore setting, white dress, bridesmaids and groomsmen, and, of course, family and friends from all over.

Then there were three

Where marriage might settle most couples down, the Tarlavsky's marriage seemed to energize them even more. Separated by duty for the first six months — Mike at Fort Campbell, Trish in Hawaii — eventually, the couple did establish a home together outside of Fort Campbell in Clarksville, Tenn.



2003 saw Mike deployed and Trish facing deployment as well. "I discovered I was pregnant as I was getting ready to deploy; Mike was deployed at the time and I sent him an e-mail from the baby. I called him T3, Tiny Tadpole Tarlavsky," recounted Trish with tears forming in her eyes. "Mike's e-mail response to the letter was absolutely perfect and an amazing gift. The letter to Joey is Mike in a nutshell, and it's



Photos Courtesy of Trish Tarlavsky

The "T3" letter (above) and her husband's adventurous spirit — from their wedding day (left) to rock climbing with son Joey (above left) — are poignant memories that Trish holds close.

almost as if he knew..."

Mike returned home when Trish was five months pregnant and delivered Joey himself a few months later on Sept. 23, 2003. He was able to spend the next nine months in relative normalcy building a family with Trish and his newborn son, Joseph Michael.

In July 2004, the normalcy ended as the call of duty came once again. Mike deployed to Iraq on July 15. Less than a month later, he was killed in the line of duty.

Since his death, Mike has been honored in many ways. The governor of New Jersey proclaimed Aug. 24, 2004, a day of mourning and recognition for Mike's life. At Fort Campbell, a plaque bearing his name sits at the foot of a tree planted in his honor.

Perhaps, this past Memorial Day weekend, the most fitting tribute of

all occurred.

Through Trish's efforts and that of athletic event coordinator Chris Gardner, more than 400 athletes from around the world gathered to take part in the renamed "Mike Tarlavsky North Shore Triathlon," Saturday. Planned as an annual event, the competition was held along the beaches of the North Shore, an area of Hawaii Mike loved best.

"Mike was the epitome of the athlete, and this just fits. It's Mike," said Trish. "Mike did everything in life and he never wasted a moment," she continued with emotion ringing in her voice.

"I get up every day and try to live my life like Mike did."

Maybe, living life to the fullest is the most fitting tribute of all to Mike.

Military teens lead the way at local graduations

A small, yet representative group of graduating Army 'brats' set high standards that all other high school students should emulate

By Joy Boisselle
Staff Writer

High school graduation is a rite of passage for most Americans. And so it is tonight as the 2005 graduating classes as Leilehua and Mililani High Schools prepare to enter the world of adulthood.

Among the more than 1,700 seniors at these schools, 81 are children of military families stationed at Schofield Barracks.

"Army Brats" would certainly be one-dimensional and only part of the story. They are student leaders, talented musicians, gifted athletes and scholars. All affected their schools in various positive and lasting ways.

Over the years, Army families have expressed concerns about the well being of their children, especially regarding education. Frequent deployments of parents, a high operational tempo, normal duty station changes and transitioning to new schools, all have added to parent worries.

Parents can rest easier now,

thanks to programs implemented at schools aimed at addressing the needs of the military child. But perhaps, the words of the graduating seniors themselves can do more to set parents' minds at ease.

Graduating seniors of military families not only succeeded at their schools, they thrived and set standards of excellence in many areas. Perhaps the real question is, Did these students succeed in spite of being a military child or because of it? Their stories speak for themselves.

Take Shannon Killian, daughter of Col. Howard and Carolyn Killian.

Shannon will graduate tonight from Leilehua as one of four valedictorians — not an easy feat for any student. But consider that Shannon accomplished this honor in spite of moving every year to a new high school.

Shannon attributes her success to her parents and her faith.

"My parents set an awesome example for me to follow; my Dad is very successful and my Mom is an amazing woman," she said, adding, "I just want to strive to be like them."

"Every year, I was exposed to something different, new people and cultures. I don't think being military was something I had to overcome; actually, it was a blessing and provided me with many opportunities."

For a parent's viewpoint on suc-

cess, Carolyn Killian advised, "Set an example, and keep a close family. Know where your child is, what they are doing ... give them enough leeway to experience life and what it has to offer, but be there for them to fall back on."

Scott Ardis, son of Master Sgt. Jeff and Teresa Ardis, will also cross the stage at Leilehua tonight. Scott participated in athletics and school clubs, but he was heavily involved in the school's Reserve Officer Training Program.

Scott attributes his success to his parents, teachers, ROTC and the discipline he learned along the way.

"I have no complaints about being a military brat," he said matter-of-factly. "And, I don't think it was a neg-

See "Graduates," page B-6

Shannon Marie Killian

School/GPA: Leilehua H.S., 4.0



Life after H.S.: Killian will attend Auburn University in Alabama. She plans on pursuing orthodontic dentistry as a career and she wants to play an active role in a Catholic service organization.

On being a military child: "I have been influenced by the military lifestyle, and it's helped me get over my insecurities and learn to adapt and be more open-minded."

Douglas Edward Griffith

School/GPA: Leilehua H.S., 4.1



Life after H.S.: Griffith will attend Whitworth College in Washington. He plans on pursuing a double major in pre-medicine and vocal music. Long term, he would like to be a pediatrician and teach voice.

On being a military child: "Often the worst part of being a military kid is also the best part. I can't deny it is stressful, but I have learned valuable lessons in interacting with new people and adapting to new situations. It was all worth it."

Steven Lee Wilson

School/GPA: Leilehua H.S., 3.5



Life after H.S.: Wilson joined the Army reserve and will attend basic training this summer. Upon his return, he will attend Leeward Community Col-

lege where he will study television production.

On being a military child: "I was neither helped nor hindered by being a military child. But, you have to learn to make transitions and change with them."

Scott T. Ardis

School/GPA: Leilehua H.S., 3.7



Life after H.S.: Ardis will attend Norwich University in New York. He plans on pursuing a degree in "War and Peace" and joining the Army as a commissioned officer

after graduation.

On being a military child: "Being a military brat is just a lifestyle. Moving is hard, but I don't think it is a negative. I really gathered an appreciation for what my dad does to serve his country."

Taneka Stephens

School/GPA: Mililani High, 3.9



Life after H.S.: Stephens will attend Hawaii Pacific University on a four-year academic scholarship. She plans on pursuing a degree in psychology.

On being a military child: "It made me stronger and helped me adapt to new people and situations."

Solomon May Day



Master Sgt. Terry Anderson

Students of Mrs. Steele's first grade class leap into the air during their performance for more than 1,000 spectators at Soloman Elementary School's "Freedom and Friendship" May Day celebration, May 27.

Graduates

From B-5

ative at all."

If anything, Scott focused on the positive aspects of the military lifestyle.

"I never really thought that moving was hard, and I looked at it as different opportunities to see more places and gather more information."

Scott's dad is understandably proud of his son, especially since Scott will one day follow in his military footsteps.

"I think the military lifestyle helped Scott grow. I am most proud of him as a person. He is goal-oriented and works toward the goals he set," said Master Sgt. Ardis.

Steven Lee Wilson, son of Chief Warrant officer Kenneth and Valorie Wilson, will also graduate this evening. He joined the Army reserve before graduation to earn money for college and will attend basic training this summer. Wilson's passion, however, is television production and drama — areas he will study while attending Leeward Community College here in Hawaii.

"I owe my success to my mom and my own determination," reflected Steven. "My advice to others is to hit the books hard, but also have fun and friends."

Douglas E. Griffith is another graduation standout. Doug, son of Col. James and Nancy Griffith, epitomizes the all-around student. Active in sports, music, clubs and academics, Doug not only participates, he excels.

He is most proud of his recommendation for Leilehua's most prestigious award, "The Mighty Mule." And, although not selected, the recommendation is a testament to the respect others have of his capabilities and impact at the school.

"I think my success is more because of being military rather than in spite of," he explained. "Quite often the worst part about being a military brat is also the best part," he added, citing leaving old friends and making new ones as an example.

At Mililani High school, only 17 of the graduating seniors come from military backgrounds. One of those 17 is the success story — Taneka Stephens, daughter of Master Sgt. Troy and Sue Stephens.

Profiled in an article earlier this year, Taneka was involved in nearly every aspect of her school, including student government, choir, drama, sports and academics. Her success earned her an academic scholarship worth more than \$46,000 to Hawaii Pacific University.

Sue Stephens said, "Whatever Taneka does, she does well. Being a military kid has made her stronger and has exposed her to many different kinds of people."

She continued, "Have high expectations, show your kids the path they need to take to succeed, let them find themselves, and then back them 100 percent." Taneka said, "My best advice to other military teens is to be true to yourself and be your own person."

Green thumbs of Ka`u High take on PTA

Story and Photo by Bob McElroy
PTA Public Affairs

POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA — Seven months after their first visit here, students from Ka`u High School Future Farmers of America (FFA) returned and continued their greening of this dry, dusty area.

In October 2004, 12 students spent two days here and planted hundreds of Native Hawaiian plants in the training area, and along a portion of the new Saddle Road. During last week's visit to PTA, eight students planted 330 Native Hawaiian plants in front of the new Consolidated Command and Range Control building.

The native plants will bring some needed greenery to the landscape and complement the new building's Hawaiian-inspired design.

The students laid straw coconut blankets (composed of straw and coconut fiber) on the bare soil to help prevent erosion. According to Dave Faucette, PTA's integrated training area manager, the blankets should last about two years before they need to be replaced.

Faucette said the students planted several varieties of native shrubs: Naio, Bidens or Ko'oko'olau, Dodonea or A`ali`I, and Chenopodia or Aweoweo. They also planted a

native grass called Lovegrass, which has no known Hawaiian name.

"What they did would have taken me two weeks to do by myself, and they [the students] did it in five hours," said a delighted and grateful Faucette regarding the work the Ka`u students performed.

Ka`u High School Agriculture teacher and FFA advisor Terence Moniz said that the Bidens shrubs his students planted came from the school's greenhouses. Months ago, his students gathered the seeds at PTA, and then they germinated and nurtured them until they were ready to be planted outdoors.

Moniz said that his students have more native plants growing in the school's greenhouse, but they aren't ready to go into the ground. These plants (Chenopodia, Mamane and Dodonea) were all grown from seeds the students gathered at PTA last October.

Although his group was smaller this time out, Moniz had the same goal as the first visit to PTA, to get his students interested in a career. Moniz cast his eyes to the future in hopes of sparking specific interests in agriculture, plants and the FFA.

Moniz may have achieved that goal in the case of junior Robyn Zumwalt, who after her visit to PTA in October 2004, she changed her



Ka`u Middle School Social Studies teacher Lia Jones (left) and eighth-grader Kekoa Manini plant a Chenopodia or Aweoweo plant in front of the new PTA Consolidated Command and Range Control Building.

career plans.

"She got so [excited] from the last trip. She was interested in CSI stuff [crime scene investigation], but now she's into plants," Moniz said. "This is what she wants to do."

Moniz added that Zumwalt plans to participate in Forestry TEAM (Tropical Ecosystem Agri-Forestry Management) training at Hawaii

Community College in Hilo this summer.

According to the program brochure, TEAM teaches students to actively manage threatened native forests and regenerate Native Hawaiian ecosystems. Moniz said that this is the first time the program was offered to high school students. Zumwalt was one of only two high

school students selected for the six-week program.

The Forestry TEAM offered scholarships and they selected her, Moniz said proudly.

Another student who has benefited from FFA membership is senior Janet Mahiai, who will graduate from Ka`u High School today. In addition to learning about plants, Mahiai said she's happy to have accomplished something meaningful with the FFA.

Like Moniz's groups earlier visit to PTA, this visit was sponsored by the Big Island Bird Hunters Club (of which Moniz enjoys membership) and supported by Faucette. The Bird Hunters and Faucette have completed considerable out plantings work at PTA and built bird-watering stations.

"If it wasn't for Steve Hurt and the Bird Hunters, and Dave [Faucette] too, we wouldn't be able to do this," Moniz said.

Hurt, president of the Big Island Bird Hunters Club, said his group was happy to sponsor the Ka`u FFA students because such trips "...open vistas for them to see."

"Our purpose is to educate and be good neighbors and work with people," said Hurt. "It's win-win for everyone," he added, explaining that working with students gives him deep-personal satisfaction that needs to be experienced to explain.



JUNE
3 / Today

Fourth of July 5K Run and Fun Run — Entry forms and fees for the Fourth of July runs are available now at the Schofield Health and Fitness Center, Schofield Barracks.

Cost for the 5K is \$17 with T-shirt and \$10 without, if you register by June 15. From June 15 through 25, the entry fee is \$22 with T-shirt and \$12 without. The day of the race, entry is \$27 with T-shirt and \$14 without.

The children's one-mile fun run is free; however, T-shirts may be purchased by June 25 for \$8.

Registration on race day begins at 7 a.m. For more information, call 655-8789.



Summer Camp — If you're interested in meeting new people, going on field trips and having loads of fun, then the Middle School Teen Summer Camp is just what you're looking for.

Registration is being accepted now at Resource and Referral for the June 13 through July 8 camp.

Cost is only \$25 per week

and a waiver is required. Call 655-0451 for details.

6 / Monday

Sports Night — Every Monday evening from 4 to 9 p.m., watch satellite sports, ESPN and more, while enjoying a special sports bar menu at Reggie's.

Call 655-4466 for more information.

9 / Thursday

Bike Festival — Attend a bike safety clinic, enter bike contests and learn about the latest in bicycles for youth at the Tropics from 2 to 4 p.m.

Door prizes will also be available; call 655-0002 for more details.

ONGOING

Swim Club — Record each mile you run, walk or swim and win incentive prizes in the 100-mile run/walk and 50-mile swim clubs. Runners will receive a pair of Thorlo running socks, and swimmers will receive goggles.

Stop by any Army Physical Fitness Center or swimming pool to pick up a log sheet.

Cardio Kickboxing — A new cardio kickboxing class is now available at the Fort Shafter Physical Fitness Center. This class is offered every Tuesday and Thursday from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., and its cost is \$2 per class.

Get a 12-class punch card for \$11. Call 438-1152 for more information.

Summer Learn to Swim Program — Learn to Swim takes participants level by level from their first step into the water to relative ease and proficiency with standard swimming skills. Registration for all levels is currently being accepted at Richardson Pool, Schofield Barracks, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Unit	Wins	Losses	Pct.
East Division			
407th MI	2	0	1.000
HHC, 25th ID (L)	2	0	1.000
40th QM	1	1	0.500
JAG	0	1	0.000
58th MP	0	1	0.000
HHC, 2nd Bde.	0	2	0.000
West Division			
Co. C, 725th MSB	2	0	1.000
Co. B, 65th Eng.	2	0	1.000
HQ & A, 725th MSB	1	1	0.500
Co. B, 225th FSB	1	1	0.500
HHC, 84th Eng.	0	2	0.000
556th PSB	0	2	0.000
North Division			
HHC, 1st Bn., 14th Inf.	3	0	1.000
Co. A, 1st Bn., 27th Inf.	2	1	0.667
Co. B, 1st Bn., 27th Inf.	2	1	0.667
Co. A, 1st Bn., 14th Inf.	1	2	0.333

Cost is \$40 for nine, 45-minute classes, and registration is first-come, first-served. Call 655-9698 to confirm your spot.

The Tripler, Helemano and Aliamanu pools will also hold Level I and other courses. Registration at these locations will begin in June. Call the pool nearest to you for more information.

Golf for Food and Fun — Get a team together any Tuesday from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Nagorski Golf Course on Fort Shafter, and then play golf for only \$15 per person.

Cost includes a nine-hole green fee, a foursome platter of pupus, a pitcher of beverage, a lucky door prize entry and a chance to win other prizes.

Call 438-9587 for more information.

Intramural Bowling —

Intramural Softball Standings

Unit	Wins	Losses	Pct.
South Division			
Co. D, 1st Bn., 25th Avn	2	0	1.000
Co. A, 125th Sig.	2	0	1.000
Btry. C, 2nd Bn., 11th FA	1	1	0.500
Trp. A, 3rd Sqdn., 4th CAV	1	1	0.500
Co. C, 25th Avn.	1	1	0.500
HHC, 125th Sig.	0	2	0.000
Women's Division			
3rd Bn., 7th FA	1	0	1.000
58th MP	0	0	0.000
TAMC	0	0	0.000
205th MI	0	1	0.000
71st Chem.	0	0	0.000
225th FSB	0	0	0.000

(Standings are current as of May 31.)

MWR is seeking teams from units, sections or directorates in the Fort Shafter area for intramural bowling. Call 438-6733 if you're interested.



Richardson Pool — The pool on Schofield Barracks is open Mondays through Fridays for active duty physical training from 6 to 8 a.m., and for open swim from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Also, enjoy open swim on the weekends from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call 655-1128 for more details.

Water Exercise Class — Participate in this class at the Richardson Pool, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$2 per class, or you can purchase a punch card for 10 classes for \$15. Call 655-9698 for more details.

Spinning Class — Spinning is the newest group exercise class available at the Health and Fitness Center on Schofield Barracks. Patrons can hop aboard deluxe "Revmaster" stationary bikes under the tutelage of certified instructors, and then be guided by imagery to "climb hills," "sprint" or take in the "scenery" for a challenging workout.

Call 655-8007 for more information.



JUNE
3 / Today

Pool League — If you're a pool shark and want to test your skills with the best, keep watch for The Association for Pool (TAP) league that is coming to Schofield Barracks and offering all military the chance to compete in international amateur billiard contests.

When competition gets underway, you'll have the opportunity to prove your mettle, plus win money and prizes, so sign up your team today and get into the action.

Look for posters touting TAP around post. Call for details at 1-888-MWR-ITAP, or e-mail daniel.houck@us.army.mil.