

# HAWAII ARMY WEEKLY

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# 'Chalk 68' returns

Story and Photos by  
Sgt. Stephanie L. Carl  
17th Public Affairs Detachment

More than 130 Tropic Lightning Soldiers, labeled "Chalk 68," were greeted by friends, family and division leaders early Sunday morning at Martinez Fitness Center, the last of the 25th Infantry Division (Light) to redeploy from Afghanistan.

The Soldiers represented five different units serving since June 2004 as part of Combined Task Force Thunder in eastern Afghanistan.

"You had what may have been the toughest mission in theater," said Maj. Gen. Eric T. Olson, 25th Inf. Div. (L) commander, to the redeploying Soldiers. "You had to build a regional command from scratch and conduct command and control and operations in the toughest part of the country."

Included in the group of redeploying Soldiers was the headquarters element of Division Artillery, which made up Regional Command East, based out of Forward Operating Base Salerno, Afghanistan. The artillerymen took on a nontraditional role in this deployment, with the headquarters element providing command and control over all maneuver elements in the regional com-



See "Chalk 68," page A-9 Friends and family members wave flags and banners welcoming their redeployed Soldiers, Sunday.



## In Cambodia

Thanks to a U.S. Army humanitarian assistance mission, people and commerce are flowing freely in Pailin Province. A-5

## Transition Cycle Support

is easing the clearing process for multitudes departing division and military service. A-6



## Army Divers

29th Engineer Battalion dives side-by-side with Navy combine assets for joint operation. A-7

## Transformation

will facilitate operating in the joint environment of the future. A-11



## The Honolulu Zoo

celebrated military service members and their families, Saturday, with bands, hula, interactive activities, picnic lunches and, of course, the prime attraction — diverse zoo creatures. B-1

## Hurricane Kits

should be close at hand during the season, which runs from June through December. B-3

## The Army Ball

will celebrate the 230th birthday of Soldiers. Join festivities at Hawaii Hilton Village on Thursday, June 16, at 6 p.m. B-4

## 'Flying V' farewells Champoux

Unique to Tropic Lightning, this division ceremony is a tribute to commanders

Joy Boisselle  
Staff Writer

The 25th Infantry Division (Light) and U.S. Army, Hawaii, honored departing Brig. Gen. Bernard S. Champoux, assistant division commander (ADC), support, in a "Flying V" ceremony held Monday at Sills Field, Schofield Barracks. Maj. Gen. Eric T. Olson, commander, 25th ID (L) and USARHAW, presided over the day's event.

"This has been a tremendous time for the 25th Infantry Division (Light) and United States Army, Hawaii. If you pick any 'couple-year' time in this division's history, the past couple years have seen more dramatic change — change for the better — than we've ever seen.

"It is no coincidence that these two years run exactly in line with the time period that Brig. Gen. "Bernie" Champoux has been a part of this command," Olson said.

Distinguished guests included retired Gen. Frederick C. Weyand, former Army chief of staff; Lt. Gen. Wallace C. Gregson, commander, U.S. Marine Forces, Pacific; and Lt. Gen. John M.

Brown III, commanding general, U.S. Army, Pacific (USARPAC).

Unique to the division, the Flying V ceremony consists of brigade commanders and colors down to battalion level, posted in a V-shaped formation. The observance is similar to the more familiar change of command ceremony and a tribute to the in- and outgoing general officer division leadership.

"In terms of our history, this is a perfect day for this ceremony; we are once



Spc. Cheryl Flansford

The many units of the 25th Inf. Div. (L) stand tall as the colors are retired at the end of the Flying 'V' ceremony June 6 at Schofield Barracks.

again a command that is whole in terms of the 25th ID (L)," said Olson, as the colors of the division unfurled in the light breeze. "It is a fitting way to bid farewell to a preeminent warrior [Champoux] and his family," he pointed out to the 68th flight of division's redeploying Soldiers who arrived at Schofield, Sunday.

During his two-years with the division bachelors supports the strategy initiative ensuring housing entitlements for single Soldiers can be met and all permanent unaccompanied personnel housing facility categories match the identified permanent party housing requirements.

In March, the Army authorized single staff sergeants to live off post and provided the Installation Management Agency with \$250 million to repair the Army's most deficient barracks under the Barracks Improvement Program, Aslim said.

Geographical bachelors in all rank categories will transition to local com-

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## New '5-25' campaign aids IED awareness

Multi-National Corps - Iraq  
Public Affairs  
For Army News Service

CAMP VICTORY, IRAQ — Improvised explosive devices are the number one killers of America's sons and daughters serving in Iraq, and the Joint IED Defeat Task Force at Camp Victory recently kicked off an information campaign in an effort to increase IED awareness and save lives.

The "5-and-25" campaign, as it is called, is designed to increase IED awareness and reduce the effectiveness of the mountain of makeshift bombs being produced by insurgents.

Officials say the deceptive devices account for more than half of the coalition deaths that have occurred since the start of the Iraq war in March 2003.

Efforts to date have reduced the IED casualty rate by more than 45 percent during the period of April 2004 through February 2005 — but that is not seen as enough.

"IEDs are our number one killers here," said Eric England, who works at the Iraq headquarters of Joint IED Defeat Task Force at Camp Victory. The task force is responsible for developing innovative ways to rid the country of IEDs.

The deadly devices are considered a highly effective means of killing people

## Policies change for geographic bachelors

Soldiers entitled to basic allowance for housing at the "with dependent" rate, who are voluntarily separated from their family members, are no longer authorized assignment to permanent party barracks in the continental United States, Hawaii and Alaska. The policy does not apply to overseas locations.

Aslim said this change comes at a time when the Army is making numerous changes in the way it houses single Soldiers via the Holistic Barracks Strategy approved by the Secretary of the Army in January.

The housing change for geograph-

ic bachelors supports the strategy initiative ensuring housing entitlements for single Soldiers can be met and all permanent unaccompanied personnel housing facility categories match the identified permanent party housing requirements.

See "New Policy," page A-9

See "5-25," page A-9

## Lightning Spirit Treasure your gifts

Chaplain (Maj.)  
Beth M. Echols  
45th Corps Support Group

The roads of Schofield Barracks are alive with the energy of hundreds of Soldiers and family members regaining fitness after a long year of deployment and separation.

What a wonderful gift it is to return to the island and rejoice in the beauty of paradise, but how tragic it would be if the gift were squandered by dangerous decisions.

Last week marked the 30-year anniversary of the death of the man whom many claim to be the greatest distance runner in American track history: Steve Prefontaine hailed from the great state of Oregon, by way of Coos Bay.

He was deemed too small to be an athlete. Nonetheless, within his lifetime he held 14 American records from the 2000 meter to the 10,000 meter.

He broke the four-minute mile nine times. He represented the United States at 21 years of age in the 5,000-meter race at the ill-fated Munich Games that brought the heartbreak of terrorism to the world stage.

His fairy tale life would end in tragedy May 30, 1975, following a widely successful track meet that he had organized.

Some suggest the single car collision that cost "Pre" his life was the result of alcohol. Regardless, the promise of a bright future ended.

In five more days I will turn in the duty chaplain phone, and my stint will end here. Each time I assume the responsibilities of standing watch for the heartache that may enter our community, I am reminded of another young man, Jason, who ended his life in a single car collision — driving too fast following an evening spent with friends.

It is a gift to be back with family and friends in paradise. I pray we will use that gift well in the days ahead.

The apostle Paul wisely understood, "Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it." *1 Corinthians 9:24*

"To give anything less than your best is to sacrifice the gift."  
— Steve Prefontaine,  
*American Distance Runner*

# Fallen comrades, unit memorialized

Sgt. Sean Kimmons  
Editor

The "Gimlets" of 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, dedicated two infant cedar trees and a stone memorial during dedication ceremonies in front of their headquarters on Schofield Barracks, May 31.

Both trees were dedicated to two fallen comrades killed in Operation Iraqi Freedom II; the stone memorial honored the entire task force that served 13 months in Iraq.

A cedar tree is displayed on the Gimlet's regimental crest and commemorates the unit's actions in the Civil War, so the present unit thought it would be appropriate to plant cedar trees to symbolize two Gimlets who paid the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq — Staff Sgt. Todd E. Nunes and Spc. John D. Amos II.

"We thought planting the two cedar trees was a way to signify Amos and Nunes. As the two trees continue to grow, people will continue to remember them," said Lt. Col. Mark Dewhurst, commander of 1st Bn., 21st Inf. Rgt.

Amos, an infantryman with Company C, was pulling security near Demonstration Square in Kirkuk on April 4, 2004, when a suicide bomber's car exploded 40 feet from him.

The explosion eventually took the life of Amos and injured eight other Soldiers. Amos was the first 2nd Brigade Combat Team Soldier to be killed by hostile action in Iraq.

On May 2, 2004, Nunes and his squad from Co. A were conducting a mounted patrol in the city of Kirkuk. While on that patrol, the convoy was attacked by an improvised explosive device and small arms fire, leaving



Spc. Juan Jimenez

**Soldiers unveil the 1st Bn., 21st Inf. Rgt. stone memorial, which honors the Gimlet task force, including two fallen comrades. The cedar trees that are dedicated to Staff Sgt. Todd E. Nunes and Spc. John D. Amos II are to the left and right of the memorial.**

Nunes dead and 10 others wounded.

The names of these two Soldiers are imprinted onto a plaque that is fastened to the stone memorial. The stone memorial, which rests in front of the cedar trees, also pays tribute to the G20-Gimlet task force that served to build a democracy, transfer sovereignty and support the first free elections in Iraq.

Twenty-nine of those Gimlets were wounded while serving in Iraq.

"The Gimlet name is etched in blood in the city of Kirkuk," said Staff Sgt. Santiago Frias, a squad leader with Co. B, 1st Bn., 21st Inf. Rgt., who was one of four Soldiers chosen to unveil the

memorial during the ceremony.

Frias, along with Staff Sgt. Timothy Pollock and Sgt. Israel Burks, was wounded in a firefight with insurgents March 2004.

"I was on a patrol and we got ambushed," Frias said. "I got hit in my shoulder, my right thigh, my back and left arm, [but] we fought our way out."

When Frias first deployed to Iraq, he had the feeling he would not return back home, he said. And as he fell under enemy fire that day, his prediction seemed to be coming true.

"I wanted to die in the field of battle with my Warrior brothers, not like a coward who ran," Frias said about his

loyalty to his squad. "I wasn't gonna let some coward shoot one of my squad members and take off down an alley, because I didn't want to come back here and hand another flag to a mother or wife ... I would rather not come back [at all]."

The stone memorial that sits quietly within the company of cedar trees outside the headquarters significantly honors the dedication and sacrifice of Frias and many other Gimlet Soldiers.

"The rock doesn't have any intrinsic value, but when we set a plaque on it, it does give a value of remembrance," Dewhurst explained.

"We can never forget," Frias said.

## New law impacts SGLI coverage, premiums

Donna Miles  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Defense and Veterans Affairs officials are ironing out details of programs that will expand benefits provided through the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance.

The \$82 billion supplemental legislation signed into law by President Bush May 11 increases maximum SGLI coverage to \$400,000 and provides payouts of up to \$100,000 for service members with traumatic injuries, explained Stephen Wurtz, the VA's deputy assistant director for insurance.

The increased SGLI coverage will take effect Sept. 1, and the so-called "traumatic SGLI" benefit Dec. 1. Wurtz said the legislation directs that both benefits will be retroactive to Oct. 7, 2001.

Traumatic SGLI benefits will be retroactive for troops who have lost limbs, eyesight or speech or received other traumatic injuries as a direct result of injuries received during Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom. The benefit does

### SGLI Changes

- Increases maximum coverage to \$400,000
- Provides payouts of up to \$100,000 for traumatic injuries
- Increased coverage takes effect Sept. 1; "traumatic SGLI," Dec. 1
- Retroactive to Oct. 7, 2001
- No charge for retro premiums
- All will see a likely increase of \$1 for the traumatic SGLI benefit
- Maximum coverage — \$400,000 vs. the current \$250,000 — will increase premiums \$16.25 to \$26
- Coverage is currently available in \$10,000 increments, but as of Sept. 1, increments will increase to \$50,000
- Troops with family members (dependents) must get spouse approval to purchase less than the full amount of SGLI

not apply to service members suffering from disease.

The retroactive coverage increase is payable as a result of deaths in either

operation, or under other conditions prescribed by the secretary of defense, Wurtz said.

Service members enrolled in the SGLI program will notice an increase in their premiums when the increases take effect. The traumatic SGLI benefit will be rolled into the basic SGLI program and will likely cost about \$1 a month, Wurtz said.

Troops opting for maximum SGLI coverage — \$400,000 vs. the current \$250,000 — will see their monthly premiums increase from \$16.25 to \$26, Wurtz said. This is based on the rate of 6.5 cents per \$1,000 of insurance coverage.

SGLI coverage is currently available in \$10,000 increments, but as of Sept. 1, the increments will increase to \$50,000.

Because the rates have not changed, service members who retain \$250,000 or less coverage will see no increase in their premiums, Wurtz said, except for the \$1 "traumatic SGLI" premium.

While these expanded benefits will be provided retroactively, affected service members won't be charged retroactive payments, he said. DoD will

absorb that cost.

In a new twist introduced through the supplemental legislation, troops with family members must get their spouse's approval to purchase less than the full amount of SGLI coverage. In the case of members who are not married, notice will be provided to the designated beneficiary when the member purchases less than the maximum coverage.

The new traumatic SGLI benefit is designed to provide "a quick infusion of cash" for cash-strapped families of troops recuperating from traumatic injuries received in the line of duty, Wurtz said.

Compensation will range from \$25,000 to \$100,000, and is designed to help families of severely wounded troops leave their homes and jobs to be with their loved one during recovery.

"These families incur a lot of expenses, and this is designed to help them financially," Wurtz said.

VA staff members are continuing to consult with DoD to write regulations, and Wurtz said, "lots and lots of details have been worked out."

VA will continue to oversee and control the SGLI program.

## Voices of Lightning: "What is your idea of a hero?"



"...Someone who is humble and goes above and beyond like the Soldiers who gave their lives for freedom."

**Sgt. Marcus Gersten**  
2nd Bn., 27th Inf. Rgt.  
NBC NCO



"Teachers. They influence kids in many ways and their job is not easy."

**Capt. Andrew Sescilla**  
3rd Sqdn., 4th Cav. Rgt.  
Platoon Leader



"...Anyone that puts their life on the line for someone else."

**1st Lt. Gerard Baletto**  
1st Bn., 294th Inf. Rgt.  
Platoon Leader



"...Someone who gives all they have to achieve their goal or to finish a mission, knowing that they may die. That's my idea of a hero."

**Spc. Jeffrey Kosaka**  
1st Bn., 294th Inf. Rgt.  
M249 SAW Gunner



"...Someone indestructible because that person would be willing to do anything."

**Sgt. Oralia Orgetel**  
25th Trans. Co.  
Squad Leader

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## Flying V

From A-1

sion, Champoux served as the assistant division commander for operations; commanding general, U.S. Army, Hawaii; deputy commanding general, Combined Joint Task Force 76 in Afghanistan; and finally, as the assistant division commander for support.

"It is an extraordinary case where an assistant division commander will serve two full years with a division — only in the most demanding of times will this happen — and the times have been demanding, and they demanded a man of Bernie Champoux's talents," reflected Olson.

Olson continued, "Everything that had to do with combat operations in Afghanistan, Bernie Champoux touched. He is an absolutely superb operator. He was a tremendous success ... through all those demanding times exactly when we needed him to be."

Olson identified four qualities that he said epitomized Champoux: expertise and experience, loyalty, courage, and his coaching and mentoring skills contributed not only to Champoux's personal success, but also to that of the Soldiers with whom he served, Olson explained.

Olson concluded his remarks saying, "I speak for every single one of us who served with you in this command ... We will miss those



Spc. Cheryl Ransford

**Champoux (center) receives congratulations after receiving the Legion of Merit award from Olson (left), prior to his Flying 'V' ceremony June 6. His wife Mary Sue (right) received an award for public service.**

qualities, we will miss those contributions, but we are grateful for what you have done for this division and this command at a time when we needed you most."

Taking the podium, Champoux thanked those who contributed to the success of the division in Iraq, Afghanistan and on the homefront.

From commanders to staffs, to company and platoon-level Soldiers, he spoke of the remarkable contributions and sacrifices of all who served under the toughest of conditions.

"The most vivid and enduring impression I had was the leadership I witnessed at

every level, in every environment. I saw and heard about courageous and fearless leadership in combat, leaders out front leading by both their example and resolve, leaders who never turned away from personal danger, who knew most battles would be won by intellect, moral courage, and will," Champoux said.

Of Maj. Gen. Olson, he simply stated, "I am glad of every moment I served with him ... I am proud I worked with a committed, principled, fearless and selfless leader whose character and integrity ripples through this command."

He spoke of both the Army

and civilian community support throughout the deployment.

"At every critical point in our nation's history, there are those who step forward to provide the leadership and character that win our nation's wars, that win on the battlefield, that maintain our sense of focus, that unite our community ... that care for our families when we can't. It's the result of your character and leadership, and your example.

"The impact is so substantial, it is immeasurable, and can never be properly thanked," Champoux said.

With many "thank you's" behind him, Champoux ended his remarks saying, "I don't possess the wisdom to know why, but my sense is your motivation is captured in one of my favorite quotes, 'Not for fame or reward, Not for place or for rank, Not lured by ambition, nor goaded by greed, But a simple obedience to duty.'"

In an awards ceremony prior to the Flying V, Olson awarded Champoux with the Legion of Merit. His wife Mary Sue Champoux received the Commander's Award for Public Service.

The Champouxes depart the division for Washington, D.C., where he will serve in the Office of Congressional and Legislative Liaison.

## Coin presentation



Maj. Nathan Rainey

**Lt. Col. Steve Miles, commander of the 29th Engineer Battalion, presents Mayor Mufi Hannemann a coveted battalion coin in appreciation of the mayor's support of the battalion — the "mappers, mariners and divers of the Pacific" — at Fern Elementary School, June 2. Fern Elementary, which is celebrating its 80th anniversary, is the battalion's adopted school in the Military Partners in Education Program.**

## Upcoming leadership changes

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 all will be held at Sills Field, Schofield Barracks, unless noted otherwise.

(Editor's Note: All information is subject to change.)

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, 2 p.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 Kominia.

June 29, 10 a.m.  
25th Infantry Division (Light) and U.S. Army, Hawaii  
Maj. Gen. Eric T. Olson will relinquish command to Maj. Gen. 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.  
29th Engineer Battalion at Fort Shafter,  
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

**Mass Re-enlistment** — All are welcome to attend the massive re-enlistment ceremony that will take place on the USS Missouri Battleship, Saturday from 9 to 11 a.m.

Lt. Gen. John Brown, commander of U.S. Army Pacific will re-enlist service members aboard the historical landmark, affectionately called the Mighty Mo.

Interested Soldiers should contact their respective career counselors immediately to participate in this event. For more details, contact Master Sgt. William Walker, chief of Retention Operations at USARPAC, at 438-1123.

**OCS Selection Board** — The next Department of the Army Officer Candidate Selection Board is scheduled to convene the week of Sept. 12; however, Soldiers who wish to be considered by this selection board must submit their applications through command channels to the Directorate of Human Resources, DA Boards Section, Building 750, Room 130 (located on Ayers Avenue), Schofield Barracks, beginning Monday and no later than July 1.

The Installation Structured Interview Panel will convene July 18 to interview qualified applicants. Specific interview dates, times and locations will be provided to each individual applicant. Eligibility criteria and application procedures are outlined in AR 350-51.

The education requirement to apply for OCS is a minimum of 90 semester hours, verified by the Edu-

## Gifts for giving



Sharon Mulligan

**Maj. Gen. Stephen D. Tom (second from right) deputy commanding general of U.S. Army, Pacific, accepts a Combined Federal Campaign presentation check for \$30,710.17, June on behalf of the "One Team" from Renee S. Acosta (right), president and chief executive officer of Global Impact, for family support and youth programs at Fort Shafter. Also participating in the presentation is area CFC chairman Lt. Col. Andrew M. Horton (second from left) U.S. Pacific Command, and Ernie Albano, Installation Management Agency, Pacific Regional Office. Global Impact is the Department of Defense-appointed Principal Combined Fund Organization for the Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas.**

cation Center. For Soldiers who do not possess a baccalaureate degree, a Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT, 850 or higher) or American College Test (ACT, 19 or higher), not older than six years, is required. Also, Soldiers without a secret security clearance must provide a memorandum signed by the division security officer stating a secret security investigation has been received and initiated by Defense Security Service.

Applicants should ensure they allow sufficient time, at least three to four weeks, to receive results prior to the packet submission deadline. Provide the origi-

nal and three copies of your completed application packet; pick up packets in Room 130 of Building 750.

For more information, call Ms. Nan Lucero at 655-4511.

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

The reason for these road closures is to construct new family housing quarters. For more information, con-

tact 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 and 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 listing 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 of the Web site, send e-mail with "Subscribe" in the subject line to <http://www.army.mil/otf>.

# Army helps link Cambodian communities

Sharon Mulligan  
U.S. Army, Pacific

Thousands of people in rural Cambodia no longer fear the rainy season.

For up to seven months out of the year, some communities in Pailin Province were virtually stranded — cut off from access to markets, medicine and basic services. Now, thanks to a U.S. Army humanitarian assistance mission, people and commerce are flowing freely.

During the rainy season, the only means of traversing the swollen Phum Koi River was either by foot, on a small wooden pedestrian bridge, or by traveling hours out of the way to reach a place to cross in a vehicle.

As part of the recent humanitarian assistance mission, U.S. Army, Pacific, engineers worked with local Cambodian construction and support contractors to build a new concrete bridge to connect surrounding communities year-round.

“The Phum Koi Bridge is but one example of the critical importance of infrastructure development and improvement to Cambodia’s future,” said Ambassador Charles A. Ray, U.S. ambassador to Cambodia. “This new 90-meter concrete bridge fills a void that hampered the ability to move goods and services across the river. Though many large trucks were capable of transiting the river during the dry season, few, if any vehicles, crossed the river during the rainy season.”

Previously to cross in a vehicle, people were forced to drive for long distances because of the absence of a bridge. For example, the commute from Pailin to Battambang alone is between a two-and-a-half- to five-hour drive on very rough roads.

The quality of life for thousands of people has been improved through this one humanitarian assistance mission, said Maj. Robb Husbands, 412th Engineer Command (Forward), Hawaii, operations officer with the assistant chief of staff for Engineering, USARPAC.

By helping to improve the lives of

others, the Army can build and strengthen relationships, he explained. These relationships foster cooperation and help build ties that may allow for increased access and further missions in the future.

The Phum Koi Bridge now connects people living in the provinces of Pailin and Battambang. Built to U.S. Department of Transportation standards, the Phum Koi Bridge is able to accommodate different types of personal and delivery vehicles that need to cross the river.

Also, the construction is particularly significant because its span of 90 meters makes it the largest bridge built in Cambodia through the Pacific Command’s Theater Security Cooperation Program, of which humanitarian assistance is just one part.

Cambodia is located on mainland Southeast Asia, between Thailand to the west and north, and Vietnam to the east. Pailin Province is located in the northwest of Cambodia, along the border with Thailand. It is about 300 kilometers from the capital city of Phnom Penh.

The new bridge will help poor people living in the area, said Gen. Sem Sovanny, chief of Engineers, Royal Cambodian Armed Forces.

“It will help them reach medical services and greatly improve their living conditions and access to this area,” he said.

USARPAC and the 412th take projects like this one from the “cradle to the grave.” According to Husbands, USARPAC is essentially the project manager for missions such as this one. USARPAC personnel work with host country teams to determine the requirements, needs and site location.

“We plan, design, provide quality assurance and work with the host country to develop these projects,” said Husbands. “Once complete, we turn the projects over to the communities for their use.”

Planning for construction missions takes many months and involves coordination with various United States and foreign government agencies. Husbands said the whole process

for this project took about a year and a half, with an actual construction time of seven months.

In addition to increased access the bridge now provides communities, it also enables de-mining operations to be conducted in areas that were previously unreachable.

“The Phum Koi Bridge is more than cement and rebar; it is a living testimonial to the U.S. government’s commitment to furthering Cambodia’s development, and its impact will reach far beyond simple economics,” said Ray.

“The rate of mine and unexploded ordnance casualties in Pailin Province is the third highest in Cambodia,” explained Ray. “Last year’s casualty rate in Cambodia was the highest since 2000. In an effort to combat this significant problem, the U.S. government continues to fund the Cambodian Mine Action Center’s de-mining efforts in Pailin as it has since 2000.

“It is our hope that the Phum Koi Bridge and the access it provides to markets and public services will lead to a reduction of mine and unexploded ordnance casualties in Pailin.”

To highlight the importance of the bridge to the community, more than 4,000 people attended the dedication ceremony in mid-May. USARPAC engineers also attended the ceremony, during which a marker was unveiled that will stand as an enduring tribute to the men and women who helped make the bridge possible.

The bridge was officially dedicated May 12.

Also during the ceremony, Husbands was awarded the Certificate of Friendship Decoration of National Construction from the Royal Government of Cambodia. This award was presented to him in appreciation for the improved quality of life the bridge will help bring to the surrounding communities.

“It makes you feel good to look back at the end of a mission and know that you’ve helped a lot of people,” said Husbands.



Maj. Pat Stogner

**Maj. Robb Husbands, 412th Engineer Command (Forward), Hawaii, takes a moment to pose for a picture in front of the newly constructed Phum Koi Bridge in rural Pailin Province, Cambodia. In the background, community members fill the bridge as they begin enjoying the greater access to markets and services it now provides.**



Maj. Robb Husbands

**USARPAC engineers work with local Cambodian construction and support contractors to build a new 90-meter concrete bridge in rural Pailin Province, Cambodia.**

# Transition Cycle Support makes exit from Schofield much easier

1st Lt. Terrence Burke  
Contributing Writer

As stop loss gets lifted, "aloha" will mean goodbye for several-thousand service members and their families stationed at Schofield Barracks. To facilitate this mass exodus clearing the 25th Infantry Division (Light), the Division of Human Resources has developed Transition Cycle Support.

The purpose of TCS is to streamline the clearing process. Soldiers now get the predictability of what it takes to clear Schofield Barracks, and supporting agencies control the flow of transitioning Soldiers they can support.

Unit S-1 offices are informing transitioning service members who are 90 days away from their DEROS to attend the TCS briefing.

Usually held every other Thursday at Sergeant Smith Theater, the briefing is where Soldiers pick up their orders and get informed on

the 25th ID (L) clearing process. Various agencies that support the clearing process are on hand to answer any questions and schedule all appointments, that day, based on a priority method.

Lt. Col John Cooper, Division Human Resources, said this process gives Soldiers the predictability they need during transition. With briefings getting everyone on the same page, he explained, agencies can better assist service members.

"Now you aren't going all over post to just make an appointment," said Staff Sgt. Wilson Warren who liked the streamlined process.

Warren is ready to make a permanent change of station move this month. When he completed his TCS briefing,



Spc. Cheryl Ransford

**Soldiers pack initial issue items before going back to Replacement Detachment. At right, Pfc. Jarrett Kaminsky packs his ruck sack, at center Pvt. Mark Bradford rolls his sleeping mat.**

he knew when he was going to CIF and Transportation, and he knew when his household goods would be picked up. As well, Warren said he benefited from other TCS information.

"Once you leave, you know

exactly what they are expecting," he explained.

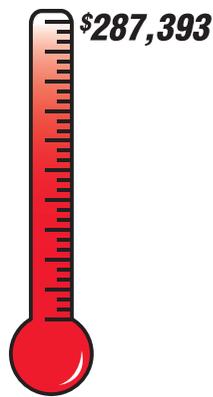
With CIF setting the standard and providing information in black and white, Warren added, turning in equipment should go much more smoothly.

## Adjusting the color guard



Sgt. Stephanie L. Carl

**Sgt. 1st Class John K. Johnson (right) adjusts Sgt. John McNevin's (center) arm during color guard rehearsal for the 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, change of command and the Division Artillery deactivation. The Soldiers will present the colors during the change of command, which is scheduled to take place Tuesday. They will also participate in the Division Artillery change of command, which is scheduled for Wednesday.**



## AER campaign wraps exceeding projected goals

1st Lt. Josh Walter  
2005 Army Emergency Relief Campaign Coordinator

The 2005 Army Emergency Relief campaign ended successfully, raising a whopping \$287,393.57 — which exceeded this year's goal of \$240,000 by 19 percent.

Exceeding the goal was a tremendous feat, considering the large number of Soldiers in transit either redeploying or on block leave throughout the entire campaign.

"This year's official AER personnel were extremely aggressive and diligent in tracking down all Soldiers throughout Hawaii," said Jackie Torres, AER officer and counselor.

Major commands worked especially hard to contact 100 percent of their personnel, and smaller units also contributed some of the highest average donations per assigned Soldiers. As well, Army retirees throughout Hawaii always make substantial donations toward AER, and this year was no exception. Retirees mailed in

14 percent of collected monies.

All monies donated to AER go directly to Soldiers and their families. Last year, for example, the Hawaii AER office approved \$367,000 in loans and grants from collected contributions. Most loans and grants go toward emergency travel and emergency privately owned vehicle needs.

Being an AER unit project officer is no easy job. The unit project officer tracks down every Soldier in his or her unit, takes responsibility for all of

the unit's donation slips, continually promotes the campaign, and maintains reports.

Every year, the AER campaign is made a huge success by the caring nature of the U.S. Army Soldier — a "Soldier helping Soldiers."

The Army Community Services financial readiness manager, Georgianna McAnany, reminds Soldiers in need of emergency assistance to contact ACS at 655-2400.

# Army and Navy dive to execute mission

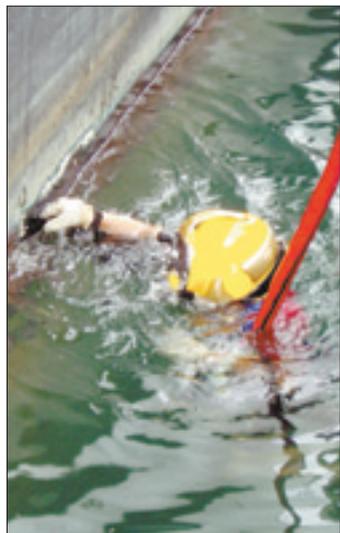
Capt. George A. Mitroka  
7th Engineer Detachment (DIVE)

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE — The 7th Engineer Detachment (Dive), 29th Engineer Battalion, 45th Corps Support Group (Forward), was recently tasked to support the impending deployment of the 163rd Transportation Company by performing a ship's husbandry mission on Logistic Support Vessel 5, one of the two Army LSVs assigned to the 29th Engineer Battalion stationed at Bishop Point here.

The ship has been running routine missions from Oahu to the Big Island, but was in need of a cleaning from growth on the entire hull, keel coolers and running gear.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Glenn A. Spence, skipper of the LSV-5, knew that a thorough cleaning of the hull could increase the efficiency of the ship by 10 to 15 percent, by helping the ship steam without the extra drag of barnacles and sea life that can accumulate underneath the waterline over time.

The tricky part of this mission came with the realization that the 7th Engineer Detachment's diving gear was to be on a ship en route to Australia for exercise Talisman Saber — a joint and combined operation involving the Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit (MDSU) stationed at Hickam AFB; Aus-



Courtesy Photo

**Sgt. Christopher Foster of 7th Engineer Detachment (Dive) scrapes barnacles off the LSV-5 at the waterline, with a paint scraper tool.**

tralian Navy Divers (Clearance Diving Team 4) from Perth, Australia; and Australian Army Divers from their schoolhouse at Sydney, Australia.

As part of the train-up for the exercise, however, both U.S. diving commands agreed to work together to build a working relationship prior to the deployment.

The ship's husbandry mission proved to be that opportunity for both Army and Navy Divers to log some extended diving time together.

Chief Jason Deatrick of MDSU Training N7, and Staff Sgt. Jonathan Larrew of 7th Engineer Detachment, collaborated a plan for each diving detachment to complete the ship's husbandry mission.

For the sake of convenience, the Army provided divers and the hull scrubbing gear; the MDSU provided the air system, umbilicals, divers and "hats" for the diving. The MDSU headquarters is located, literally, within walking distance of the piers where the LSV-5 is docked.

What happened next would make any joint commander proud. From May 16-20, Soldiers and seamen of both detachments dove side-by-side underneath the LSV-5 to prepare the vessel for its wartime mission downrange.

Normally, equipment used by a sister service raises learning curves and slows mission accomplishment until understanding is achieved. But in this case, both Army and Navy divers receive training from the same schoolhouse located at the Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center at Panama City, Fla.

In fact, divers from both communities oftentimes take the same classes at dive school. They



Courtesy Photo

**GM2 (DV) Danny O'Brien (MDSU) points out some of differences on the Navy dive console to Spc. Edgar Jimenez of 7th Engineer Detachment (Dive).**

rarely get a chance, however, to dive together when they return to their units in the field.

This mission proved to be one of those rare opportunities when both commands could combine assets, divers and supervisors in support of a truly joint operation.

The 7th Engineer Detachment (Dive) deployed 10 divers alongside 60 divers from MDSU in support of Talisman Saber '05, a monthlong deployment starting the first week of June.

With continued emphasis on joint environments for future operations, this exercise will give both diving communities valuable experience.

The 7th Engineers are eager to work with different diving communities in hopes of sharing and learning from Navy and Australian counterparts. They are particularly looking forward to working with underwater tools, demolitions, limpet identification and other diving techniques.

# Nurse's quest for citizenship takes Iraq detour

Les Ozawa

Tripler Army Medical Center

HONOLULU — May will be a month to remember for Ines Sanchez.

Not because she is a student in the Obstetrics-Gynecological Nursing Specialty Course at Tripler Army Medical Center. Not because she is a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps. And not because her duty assignment is in Hawaii.

Sanchez is all that, but on one particular Wednesday afternoon in May, she became a U.S. citizen, along with more than 100 other applicants in a crowded, downtown federal courtroom here.

Sanchez' quest for citizenship began in August 2003, when she filed an application for citizenship in San Antonio, Texas. A month after filing her application, she was sworn in as a U.S. Army officer. Her application had to wait until she returned from a yearlong deployment to Iraq.

In January 2005, Sanchez resumed her quest in Texas, submitting new fingerprints and new documents to show she was an U.S. Army officer.

After being assigned to Hawaii and

enrolled in the Tripler nursing course, Sanchez reported to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) office, Honolulu, in February.

April 5, an USCIS officer interviewed Sanchez about the documents in her file and about details in her personal life. She then had to pass a three-part test to determine her fluency in English and her knowledge of U.S. history and government.

Then May 4, in a solemn ceremony witnessed by her friends, peers and instructors of the nursing course, Sanchez became a naturalized U.S. citizen.

"The citizenship ceremony was very meaningful to me," said Sanchez. "It became much more so when the judge presiding over the ceremony expressed his gratitude to those of us who served in the military in Iraq during wartime."

"Except for my sister who witnessed this event," Sanchez said, "my parents and siblings were not there physically. But, deep in heart, I know they were with me to celebrate my joy."

"However, I was blessed to have my Army family with me," Sanchez continued, "My OB-GYN instructors, classmates, and



Photo Courtesy Ines Sanchez

**"We're all Americans now" — 1st Lt. Ines Sanchez (front row, left center) celebrates her newly minted U.S. citizenship with friends, students and instructors of the Tripler OB-GYN Nursing Course at Tripler Army Medical Center.**

my battle buddy and best friend, whom I share my happiness. It could not have met in Iraq ... attend the ceremony and to been better than that."

**Have a great photo?**

Submit it to

**HAWAII ARMY WEEKLY**

for consideration for publication

Photo must have Army content. Email your photo, a brief description, name and phone number to [editor@hawaiiarmyweekly.com](mailto:editor@hawaiiarmyweekly.com)

## Fort Shafter welcomes new Pacific Region IMA director

Installation Management Agency  
Pacific Region Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER — The Secretary of the Army has approved Stanley E. Sokoloski for permanent selection to the Senior Executive Service and as the director, Installation Management Agency, Pacific Region, here.

Sokoloski had been serving as a limited term SES with the Pacific Region.

"His proven leadership,

tremendous experience at the IMA Region, multiple major commands and installation level and personal values in caring for Soldiers, civilians and their families," said Maj. Gen. Ronald L. Johnson, director of the Installation Management Agency in Washington, D.C., "are just what is needed to take IMA to the next level."



Sokoloski

The Installation Management Agency is a major component of the Army's initiative to transform into a more effective and efficient force. The IMA is a field operating agency established by the Secretary of the Army Oct. 1, 2002.

"The IMA represents a commitment to our Soldiers, to improve living and working conditions on our

installations to follow through with dedicated resources and to achieve an enhanced standard for Soldiers and family members," said Sokoloski.

"I am honored and humbled to have been selected to lead this great Pacific Region team to improving the quality of life for our Soldiers and family members."

The Pacific Area Regional Office, or PARO, of the Installation Management Agency oversees installa-

tion management of all Army installations in Alaska, Hawaii, Japan and Kwajalein. Establishment of the IMA brought together all installation support services under one umbrella to promote optimal care and support of Soldiers and families.

*(Editor's Note: For more information about the Installation Management Agency, contact Stewart Diamond, Pacific Region Public Affairs Office, at 438-6352.)*

## Chalk 68

From A-1

mand, while each of the batteries conducted missions such as presence patrols, security for reconstruction projects, and humanitarian assistance projects.

Included in the returning group were Soldiers from 25th Inf. Div. (L) military police units. These MPs were attached to the regional command to provide security and stabilization along the Pakistan border. Now, that their mission in Afghanistan is over, the Soldiers from RC East are ecstatic to be back in tropical Hawaii with their friends and family.

"I don't mind being with the last group to come home," said Sgt. Farrell Frickey of 125th Military Intelligence Battalion. "[The deployment] was a great experience for me, but now I'm glad to be home."

Frickey had a surprise welcome by his wife, Sarah, and their 2-month-old son, Dwayne.

"I'm so glad we were able to be here," said Sarah. "We were supposed to be in Georgia, but really wanted to be here to welcome him home."

Now, Frickey will focus on making up for lost time with his family and reintegrating with the rest of his unit.



Spc. Cheryl Ransford

**Staff Sgt. Andrew Farr, 125th Sig. Bn., talks to his wife, Jolynn; son, 5-year-old Kaember; and daughter, 2-year-old Arianna.**

Other redeploying Soldiers are looking forward to the same things, and their families are equally excited as the deployment presented challenges for some military spouses.

"I missed having an adult to talk to, a friend," said Jolynn Farr, wife of Staff Sgt. Andrew Farr, 125th Signal Battalion. "Really, I missed everything."

Farr said he can't wait to get back into the swing of things and spend time playing with his two children, Kaember, 5, and Arianna, 2. The couple are also planning a family trip to

the "Big Island," where they will make up for lost time.

The deployment was equally hard on children who were separated from their deployed parents.

"I missed playing dolls with my daddy," said 4-year-old Mikaela McCarson.

Mikaela's father, Capt. Michael McCarson, deployed in December as the commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Division Artillery. His wife Allison heads the battery's family readiness group, and knows all too well how hard it is to be separated. Her husband spent



Spc. Cheryl Ransford

**Marites Migos (center) and her daughters, 3-year-old Georgia (left) and 2-year-old Fiona, wave flags as they wait for their father to arrive.**

a year in Korea, and she learned quickly how helpful FRGs can be.

"It was hard raising two little kids on my own," she said. "But I had wonderful support from my military friends and family."

While the FRG provided great support during the deployment, McCarson said she's extremely happy to have her husband home safe.

Some Soldiers like McCarson spent six months deployed, but many of the redeploying Soldiers were deployed for a year or longer. All made tremendous progress in

Afghanistan.

Soldiers of CTF Thunder tackled an especially challenging role. During Afghanistan's first democratic elections that took place last October, CTF Thunder helped secure the Pakistan border. It also coordinated with government officials to operate rapid response teams in each of the large cities throughout the region.

The task force also played an important role in the reconstruction side of Operation Enduring Freedom. CTF Thunder was the higher headquarters for Bamian Provincial Reconstruction Team, the only PRT with a non-U.S. commander. It was also responsible for the opening of Sharona PRT, the only PRT to be commanded by a Marine.

These two accomplishments alone demonstrated the diversity of the task force and its accomplishments.

"Our regional command changed when we took over last June," said Sgt. Maj. Eugene R. Brewer, acting brigade command sergeant major and operations sergeant major. "We were responsible for three infantry battalions, nine PRTs and 16 provinces. We had the largest area of operations in Afghanistan."

"And when we left, we left positive impact on the mission and a positive impression (on the people of Afghanistan)."

## 5-25

From A-1

because they can quickly be set up anywhere and be set to blow at any time. They have been disguised as virtually everything from tree trunks and dead animals to bicycles and pregnant women.

Royal Australian Air Force Group Capt. David Stockdale, deputy chair of the IED Working Group at Multi-National Corps - Iraq, said there is no limit to what insurgents will use for IEDs.

Stockdale, who serves as the equivalent of a colonel in the American Air Force, has been actively working the issue of IEDs and their effects since arriving in Iraq a few months ago.

"The IED is one of the most dangerous threats to coalition forces," Stockdale said. "To mitigate their effects, we wanted to put



together an information campaign that would make the IED reaction drill a normal part of daily activities for the coalition forces."

Egland said several different counter-IED organizations were already delivering good messages and possible solutions out there, but with no real emphasis or impact to the troops who needed it the most. The working group, deputy-chaired by Stockdale, represents a cross-section of coalition forces formed as a result

of this issue.

To push information to troops anywhere and at any time trends change. The working group assembled a small team of designers to brainstorm effective ways to get the word out. The first idea also seemed the most obvious one to start the campaign - military publications.

Task force members agreed they needed some common thread to tie all the messages together - like a logo.

"The [designers] suggested we needed to have [a logo] that everybody recognizes," said Lt. Col. Theodore Martin, field team leader, Joint IED Defeat Task Force-Iraq,

"[and] 5-and-25 became that logo."

"This seemed appropriate because 5-and-25 means awareness," said Master Sgt. William Johnson, one of three designers. "Five-and-25 means checking the area around you for a threat. Every time you stop outside a secure area, you always should check. Not checking could get you killed."

More specifically, 5-and-25 requires that troops look for anything out of the ordinary within a five-meter radius of their vehicles, according to counter-IED policies. If halted long enough, forces should then exit their vehicles and conduct a 25-meter sweep

around their position.

Halting for as little as four minutes can prove costly.

Besides the recognizable 5-and-25 logo getting printed in military publications, the campaign will also produce messages to other outlets that could potentially reach as far away as the Department of Defense and Afghanistan.

Included in the laundry list of ideas are bumper stickers, flash screens on Web sites, stress balls and even Frisbees, according to Martin.

Whatever the means, Stockdale said the message must stay focused with one purpose: to save lives.

## New policy

From A-1

community housing through attrition whether caused by permanent change of station orders, renovations being made through BIP, deployment, or for the convenience of the government as determined by the local command, Aslim said.

The local on-post Housing Services Office or the Community Housing Relocation and Referral Services is ready to assist Soldiers in securing affordable and safe off-post properties whether they choose to rent or purchase homes.

# Wounded veterans to benefit from 'VET IT'

Samantha L. Quigley  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Veterans Affairs Department and Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC) leaders took a step Monday toward helping severely injured service members transition to civilian jobs.

VA Secretary R. James Nicholson and Walter Reed commander Army Maj. Gen. Kenneth L. Farmer Jr. signed a memorandum of understanding at the Army medical center for the VA to offer vocational training and temporary jobs at its Washington headquarters.

"What we're doing I think is making good on President Lincoln's promise to care for them who have borne the battle," Nicholson said. "It's only natural then, it seems to me, that the VA and Walter Reed should ink a partnership like VET IT, which taps into this inexhaustible supply of our young service members' optimism and 'can-doism' that they're imbued with."

This agreement, Farmer said, establishes a partnership between VA's Office of Information Technology and Walter Reed's Education Services Division.

Service members recovering at WRAMC from traumatic injuries will receive the training and jobs. Farmer said more than 800 veterans on medical hold at the center could benefit from this program.

"From the outset, we have taken the approach that there is much more to care and caring of these Soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines than the extraordinary clinical care [at WRAMC]," Farmer said. "As amazing and cutting edge as that care is, and as far as that care goes in restoring their health and their physical functions, there is more to restoring lives."

The VET IT program already has 35 alumni, 15 of which currently have full-time jobs with the VA.

"Our aim was to assist these young disabled service members with training, with the hopes of moving them into new careers in the Department of Veterans Affairs to take the reins as we begin to retire," Jennifer Duncan, a management director in VA's Office of Information Technology said.

VET IT has worked so well that there are plans to expand it. Run by volunteers, the program has been so successful because it is



Courtesy Photo

At WRAMC on Monday, VA Secretary R. James Nicholson (sitting left) and Army Maj. Gen. Kenneth L. Farmer Jr., WRAMC commander, sign an agreement that gives severely wounded service members such as (from left) Matthew Braiotta, Eric Franklin and Tristan Wyatt, the opportunity to receive training through the VA while they are recuperating.

personalized for each veteran.

Matthew Braiotta, a pioneer in the VET IT program and a recent VA hire, is grateful for the opportunities. He was an Army scout with the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment and had planned to make the Army a career, when he was hit with a roadside bomb in Iraq.

Braiotta said that the program has kept him from ending up, as he put it, dogging it out in college or in a dead-end job.

"I didn't know what was going on in my life," he said. "[Without VET IT] I'd probably be at home not getting very far, very fast, and that's not the Army way."

Farmer praised the VA for its leadership role in training and hiring veterans.

Farmer noted what VA is saying is, "We put our money where our mouth is. We lead by example."

# 'Statues of Servicemen' immortalizes fallen troops

Steven Donald Smith  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — A nationwide project is under way to pay lasting tribute to fallen service members in their hometowns.

The "Statues of Servicemen" campaign is an effort to immortalize American service members killed in the war on terrorism by creating a bronze statue of their likeness and then placing those statues in the hometowns of those fallen service members.

"These statues will be placed in city and town halls and government buildings throughout the United States to memorialize the brave men and women who have given their lives in the war on terror," said Sam Patterson, national

SOS project director.

The organization began in March 2004 as "Survivors of Servicemen," with the goal of bringing attention to the trauma inflicted on the families of those killed, and to highlight the financial distress faced by many military families.

The group began selling "Wear Camo" wristbands to raise money for families who lost loved ones. The wristbands were so successful that they decided to use the proceeds to fund the statue campaign, Patterson said.

The first statue was unveiled in Shelbyville, Tenn., on April 22 with the bust of Marine Corps Pfc. Daniel McClenney. He was killed on June 24, 2004, when his unit was ambushed while patrolling Afghanistan's moun-

tainous Konar province.

The ceremony took place at the Shelbyville Court House, where the Nashville Marine Corps Reserve unit provided a 21-gun salute, and McClenney was posthumously awarded the Silver Star.

McClenney's commanding officer, Lt. Col. Julian D. Alford, presented the medal to McClenney's father, Randy McClenney.

Regarding the statue, Randy McClenney said, "I am sure my son would have been deeply touched by your gift to his family and the city of Shelbyville."

The second statue, this one depicting Marine Capt. Brent Morel, was unveiled in Memphis, Tenn., on May 21.

Morel was killed in Iraq on April 7, 2004, when insurgents ambushed his platoon while they escorted a convoy in the Anbar province. He was awarded the Navy Cross and is nominated for the Medal of Honor.

"I know that what he was doing was noble and right. It was what he had been trained to do and something he chose to do," said Brent's father, Mike Morel.

SOS is working with parents and spouses around the country to memorialize more troops.

"The human psyche is eased in times of deep sorrow by remembering and attempting to make tangible lives that are lost," Alford said. "Memorials serve this purpose. Memorials make our remembrance palpable."



The bust of Marine Capt. Brent Morel is part of "Statues of Servicemen" campaign.

# Transformation to prep Army for joint forces

By Jennifer J. Albert  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Soldiers will continue to train with members of other services as the Army works to transform its training and to improve its ability to work in a joint environment, Pentagon training experts said last week.

“Training transformation is about making sure that we are focused on training the way we actually fight,” said Dr. Paul W. Mayberry, deputy under secretary of defense for readiness. “That is, as a joint team with the other services, as part of a joint multinational force, with interagencies such as the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security and intergovernmental agencies such as county and local police.”

## Transformation goals

He said one of the Department of Defense’s transformation goals is ultimately to create a more joint force to meet the needs of the combatant commander and that transforming DoD training is a key element to achieving that goal.

As Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom continue, the demands are that we have an armed force that is flexible and adaptable, said Mayberry.

The Army’s 2004 Posture Statement said one of the Army’s goals for transformation is to provide relevant and ready land power for combat commanders in a joint force.

Mayberry said training transformation is a means by which the Army can accomplish that objective.

“Maintaining a ready current force today and achieving a transformed future force tomorrow requires a shift in the way units train for joint operations,” according to the posture statement. “Our Army’s Training Transformation Initiative, which supports the June 2004 Defense Department Training Transformation Implementation Plan, provides dynamic, capabilities-based training and mission rehearsal in a joint context.”

## Transformation foundations

Three capabilities form the foundation for training transformation: One, the Joint Knowledge Development and Distribution Capability (JKDDC); two, the Joint National Training Capability; and three, the Joint Assessment and Enabling Capability, Mayberry said.

Combatant commanders, through these capabilities, will receive better prepared forces that will be more aligned with their joint needs.

## Joint Knowledge Development and Distribution Capability

Mayberry said the JKDDC is designed to be a library of training courses available through various online outlets that can be taken “just-in-time” or when a Soldier is assigned to a unit in which the training is required.

Future joint force leaders must strive to reach new joint education and training standards by continually improving individual knowledge, skills, and abilities to achieve desired effects in decisive operations, according to the DoD Training Transformation Implementation Plan.

For example, cultural and language training is being implemented into current Army deployment workups, said Mayberry. The incorporation of foreign speakers is

being done to be able to present answers to tactical level problems to the individuals.

The Army, through its force rebalancing efforts, has begun taking individuals with field artillery backgrounds and sending them Fort Dix, N.J., for military police training, said Mayberry. There is not a great deal of demand for field artillery currently so those individuals are being cross-trained to fill the need for military police.

“This will meet the drive of individuals managing their own careers and focusing on self development,” said Mayberry. “It will also get individuals cross-trained

in other areas to broaden the base for which they deploy.”

## Joint National Training Capability

The Joint National Training Capability will provide the ability for all the services to participate in real-time, simulated training, said Mayberry.

“The idea is to make service specific events more joint in character,” said Mayberry. “We can’t have everyone in one place at one time. This will give them the means to plug into the event from their home station.”

Mayberry said the JNTC will give command staffs and units a live, virtual

(person in a simulator) and constructive (computer-generated) environment that will eventually be available globally.

Active and Reserve component members from all services will be able to train in this realistic venue. Eventually, it will incorporate a larger training audience that includes coalition partners and Federal, state, local and nongovernmental agencies, also noted Mayberry.

## Joint Assessment and Enabling Capability

The last facet, Joint Assessment and Enabling Capability, focuses on the process of anticipating and evaluating the development

of the training transformation.

This process includes the use of performance assessment tools, techniques, policies and metrics, in support of national security requirements, according to the DoD transformation plan.

It will give leaders the guidance necessary to achieve transparency between training and operations and ultimately making the force more adaptable.

The Army’s posture statement indicates the objective is to increase the ability to think and act jointly, and to provide Soldiers with the latest and most relevant techniques,

procedures and equipment that will make them successful on the battlefield.

Training transformation improves joint force readiness by enabling personnel to think in terms of the joint concepts and build upon service education and training, said Mayberry.

“As the Army goes through its modularity, its modernization and fielding its future combat systems, training transformation must really be ahead of that to be sure these training enablers are in place,” said Mayberry. “We must support future concepts from a joint perspective and not just from a single service perspective.”

## A DAY AT THE



Sean Holguin, son of Sgt. Oscar Holguin, of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, points at a goat's eye in the petting zoo.

Spc. Cheryl Ransford

## USO-Hawaii joins Honolulu to host Military Appreciation Day at zoo

Spc. Cheryl Ransford  
17th Public Affairs Detachment

WAIKIKI — Monkeys, elephants and rhinos curiously gazed at military Ohana strolling the grounds of the Honolulu Zoo, Saturday, when the City and County of Honolulu, the United Service Organizations-Hawaii, and more than a dozen businesses and organizations hosted Military Appreciation Day.

More than 5,000 military kane, wahine and keiki, as well, returned equally bemused stares to diverse creatures and joined hands-on activities celebrating all things

military.

"We want to honor our military personnel and their families for their tremendous commitment to serve, and especially for the sacrifices so many of them have made in the past two years," said Herman "Butch" Finley, USO-Hawaii president.

To begin the day, the U.S. Marine Corps Band held a rousing concert, followed by a blessing and a hula halau performance by the Palefuiono Samoan dance group.

At 11 a.m., the Marine Corps Color Guard presented the colors and City and County of Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann, and other dignitaries, provided remarks.

"By having this event here today, it gives us a chance to say

'mahalo' for all you do on behalf of our country and Hawaii," said Hannemann.

"Events like what has been put together today show the community's gratitude and appreciation for your service," said Brig. Gen. Vernon Miyagi, Hawaii Army National Guard commander, who followed Hannemann. "You have made great sacrifices and this is our way of thanking you."

At the conclusion of speeches, families moved about the zoo, snapping photos of elephants, monkeys and other animals on display. Plenty of time remained to paint faces, color animal masks, play feed-the-animal games and tackle hands-on skull and biography fact tables — all of which made the day something special for everyone.

"Events like this give service members something to do," said Navy Lt. Pete Brotherton, Float Training Group, Middle Pacific. "Many

military personnel don't get a lot of time to spend with their families, and this allows them to get out and spend the whole day having fun spending time with each other."

Possibly, youngsters enjoyed festivities the most.

"Today is great," said 11-year-old Chance Murray. "My mom is in the Navy, so we don't always have a chance to do stuff like this. By coming here, we are able to spend time together and have fun."

### The Honolulu Zoo

is located at 151 Kapahulu Ave. The zoo is open, daily, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Admission is \$6 for adults (13 and older), \$1 for children (6 to 12), and free to keiki 5 and younger.

Call the zoo at 971-7171.



Pfc. Roger L. Nelson

A komodo dragon takes flight from the attention of onlookers.



Spc. Cheryl Ransford

Spc. Cheryl Ransford

Above — Service and family members take a ride on the choo choo train traveling around the zoo at a leisurely chug to show the many attractions at the zoo.

Top — The Marine Forces Pacific Band performs in concert for more than 5,000 service members and their families during Military Appreciation Day activities.



Spc. Cheryl Ransford

Asemgul Bekesheva, Pearl City High School Keiki Club, paints finishing touches of stars on Caitlyn Reme.



Spc. Cheryl Ransford

Youngsters in the Palefuiono Samoan dance group perform a traditional samoan dance.

# MWR Briefs

Serving America's Army in Hawaii

JUNE 10 / Today

**Right Arm Night** — Enjoy a delicious Polynesian luau buffet at the Nehelani on Schofield Barracks, today beginning at 4 p.m. Then, 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. Tickets will be available for \$7 at the door.

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

**Fourth of July Picnic Sites** — Morale, Welfare and Recreation 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.

**11 / Saturday**  
**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.

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.

**Latin Night** — Come dance the night away to Latin music at the Tropics from 10

p.m. to 2 a.m. Enjoy the sounds of DJ Richie "Salsa" Sanchez.

Enjoy no cover charge. Call 655-0002 for more details.

**13 / 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.

Pick-up a registration and packet today at your nearest Army library.

**"Finding Nemo" Party** — Make reservations for the "Finding Nemo" party beginning June 13, and enjoy ocean activities, a variety of games and contests, make-and-take crafts, treats and prizes at the Tropics.

The Finding Nemo party is scheduled for June 28, and costs \$2 for supplies and refreshments. For more details, call 655-0002.

**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.

**Ronald McDonald** — The golden clown will be visiting all Army libraries beginning today as part of the Summer Reading program. Children can visit with Ronald McDonald on the following dates beginning at 3 p.m.: Fort

## Traveling Tour



A selection of Norman Rockwell masterpieces featuring the Boy Scouts of America will be on display at the Kahala Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Monday and Tuesday, 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 scouting as seen through the classic illustrations of Norman Rockwell.

Shafter on June 14, Schofield on June 15 and Aliamanu on June 16.

**15 / Wednesday**  
**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 (ending June 29) 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.

**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 compe-

tent 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.

**21 / Tuesday**  
**Balloon Monsoon** — Part of the Summer Reading program, Balloon Monsoon begins today at your nearest library. Children will enjoy watching Balloon Monsoon on the following dates beginning at 3 p.m.: Fort Shafter on June 21; Schofield, June 22; and Aliamanu, June 23.

Call your closest library for more details.

**Youth Summer Games** — Youth are invited to play a variety of games and win prizes at the Tropics beginning at 6 p.m.

Cost is \$5 for two slices of pizza and a drink. Call 655-0002 for more information.

**23 / Thursday**  
**Arts and Crafts Sale** — This annual sale will begin today at the Fort Shafter Arts and Crafts Center, Building 339. Browse through quilts, woodcrafts, pottery, jewelry, stained glass, ceramics and much more.

This sale will be underway June 23 - 24 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on June 25. Call 438-1071 for more details.

**24 / Friday**  
**Hawaiian Luau Lunch Buffet** — Taste a traditional Hawaiian style feast from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the

Hale Ikena at Fort Shafter, or at the Nehelani on Schofield Barracks. Cost is \$9.95 per person.

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

**27 / Monday**  
**Seafood Bucket for Two** — For seafood lovers, dig into a variety of seafood including shrimp, crab, clams and mussels in a bucket with selected side dishes and a pitcher of beverage at Reggie's. Stop by between 5 to 8 p.m. and enjoy this delicious dinner for two for only \$19.95.

**ONGOING**  
**Children's Music Classes** — SKIES Unlimited is offering the following classes during its summer session: music, piano, vocal training, flute, recorder, guitar and ukulele.

Classes are offered at Bennett and Aliamanu Youth Center. Call SKIES Unlimited for age requirements in classes, as well as for costs and times, at 655-2413.

**Youth Sponsorship** — Are you interested in being a youth sponsor and assisting in planning hail and farewell socials, assembling welcome packets and more to welcome new youth to Hawaii?

Become a youth sponsor today by calling 655-2263.

**Armed Forces Vacation Club** — Take advantage of the Armed Forces Vacation Club, a space-available program that offers Defense Department-affiliated personnel and their relatives the opportunity to take affordable condominium vacations at resorts around the world for only \$259 per unit, per week (seven nights).

Complete details and reservations can be made online at [www.afvclub.com](http://www.afvclub.com).

## Community Calendar

JUNE 10 / Today

**"Roadhouse" Premier** — Catch the Hawaii premier of "Roadhouse" today beginning at 6:30 p.m. at Hawaiian Waters Adventure Park. Mega other events will be underway up until midnight.

Sponsored by the International Bodyboarding Association, "Roadhouse" is considered this year's most anticipated bodyboarding movie.

Admission is \$15 at the door and includes feature exhibitions by some of the world's top board professionals, live entertainment, more than \$500 in prize giveaways and autograph sessions. Call 674-9283 for more details.

**12 / Sunday**  
**The Wave** — All are invited to attend the "Crave the Wave," an exciting worship service that meets each Sunday at 10 a.m. at the Fort Shafter dining facility. Come fellowship and enjoy some coffee or soda. For more details, call Chaplain (Capt.) James Lester at 438-1816.

**14 / Tuesday**  
**Keiki Care** — Catch this two-day class on Monday and Tuesday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., 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 be listed on the Certified 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.



**Battleship Missouri** — The Battleship Missouri Memorial will offer completely free admission to all active duty, reserve and retired U.S. Army personnel, and Army family members will enjoy a 50-percent admission throughout the month of June, in honor of the U.S. Army's 230th birthday observed on Monday.

The Army Birthday Special also includes 10-percent off retail purchases at the memorial's Victory Store, which recently introduced a new inventory of World War II 60th anniversary commemorative items ranging from coins to T-shirts.

Regular admission to the Battleship Missouri Memorial is \$16 per adult and \$8 per child ages 4-12. Military and kamaaina (local residents) rates are \$10 per adult and \$5 per child. With the Army birthday special, immediate family members of Army personnel with ID cards will enjoy \$5 per adult and \$2.50 per child admission rates.

Guided tours are additional. For more information, call 973-2494 or visit the memori-

al's Web site at [www.ussmissouri.org](http://www.ussmissouri.org).

**Free Computer Training** — Army Community Service offers free introductory word processing computer training for spouses seeking employment. Training is conducted on five consecutive Tuesdays from 8:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Spaces are limited, so don't delay in calling 655-2400 to register.

**16 / Thursday**  
**Best Ranger Competition** — The Military Channel will take viewers behind the scenes of one of the most grueling and difficult competitions being held today: the U.S. Army's Best Ranger Competition, the ultimate Army Olympics showcasing the incredible physical and mental endurance of elite real-life warriors and world-class athletes.

This three-part special will be broadcast on Thursday, June 16, from 8 to 11 p.m. (EST/PST). Check your local cable television lineup for Hawaii times.

**Aquarium After Dark** — From 7 to 9 p.m., discover if fish sleep, sea snails snooze or weedy sea dragons doze on a guided flashlight tour through the Waikiki Aquarium. Minimum age is 5 years for this tour; youngsters must be accompanied by an adult.

Preregistration required and admission is \$10 for adults, \$7 for children.

**Moonlight Mele** — Bishop Museum's Lawn Concert Series, presented by Bank of Hawaii, kicks-off on June 16 with Na Hoku Hanohano Award-winning Maunaloa. Doors will open at 6 p.m. and the concert will begin at 7 p.m.

Concert-goers are encouraged to arrive early for optimal seating and to visit the museum's exhibit galleries that will be open until 7 p.m.

Admission is \$15 for the general public and \$5 for children 4-12 years of age. Call 847-3511 for tickets and information, or visit [www.bishopmuseum.org](http://www.bishopmuseum.org).

**18 / Saturday**  
**Delta Sigma Theta** — The Hawaii Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., will host a Step Show and Party for its annual scholarship fund-raiser on June 18 at the Banyans on Pearl Harbor. Come out and see which Greek will take home bragging rights as the best steppers.

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. until midnight; tickets cost \$25. Contact Tenia Just-Bourgeois at 271-1534, or visit the Web site at [www.Hawaiideltas.net](http://www.Hawaiideltas.net).

**Square Dancing** — The Hawaii Federation of Square Dance Clubs invites all members of the military to join in on the fun of Community Square

Dancing, June 18 and 25 at the Manana Community Park, Waimano Home Road, Pearl City from 7 to 9 p.m. Also register for a new 10-week class beginning July 2.

New square dancers are introduced to the basic fun moves of folk dance; no experience is required. Singles, couples and families with teens are welcome.

Admission is free, and casual attire is OK. "Even real men can square dance." Call David Lemon at 456-8465 for more details.

**Taiko Festivities** — The exciting sounds of Japanese Taiko drums will kick off "Rhythm of the Islands," a festival featuring percussion instruments from Hawaii's plantation cultures starting at 10 a.m. on June 18 at Hawaii's Plantation.

Festivities will include greeting newly crowned Miss Hawaii 2005 and performanc-

es by the Honbushin International Drummers, the St. Louis High School Philippine Heritage Club (on Filipino kulintang gongs) and other cultural groups.

Plentiful food vendors will be available, and festival admission is free with ample on-site parking.

The plantation village will remain open for regular touring. Admission rates for guided tours of the historic village range from \$4 youth (ages 4 - 11), \$7 kamaaina and military with ID, \$10 seniors (62-plus), and \$13 adults. For more information, visit [hawaiiplantationvillage.org](http://hawaiiplantationvillage.org).

See "Calendar," page B-5

HACN TV2 Schedule	
Morning	Evening
6:00 Sign On	6:00 Hawaii Army Report
6:30 Gallery of Heroes	6:30 What's Down the Drain
7:00 Bulletin Board	6:38 Community Focus
7:30 What's Down the Drain	6:53 Welcome Home
7:43 Welcome Home	Redeployment Montage 5
7:49 Welcome Home	7:00 NFL: Man's Greatest Adventure
8:00 Hawaii Army Report	8:00 What's Down the Drain
8:33 Army News Watch	8:07 Safety Video
9:00 Pentagon Channel	8:11 Welcome Home
10:00 Welcome Home	Redeployment Montage 4
10:08 Maui the Magic Isle	8:17 Welcome Home
10:30 Bulletin Board	Redeployment Montage 5
11:04 Gallery of Heroes	8:22 Oahu Aloha Begins
11:37 Hawaii: Hidden Beauty	8:30 NSPS What to Expect
11:55 Welcome Home	9:43 Welcome Home
Redeployment Montage 4	Redeployment Montage 5
12:00 Hawaii Army Report	9:49 Dash and Grab
12:33 Pentagon Channel	10:00 NFL: 100 Greatest Tackles
	10:48 What's Down the Drain
	10:55 Welcome Home
	Redeployment Montage 3
	11:00 Bulletin Board
	11:46 Welcome Home
	Redeployment Montage 5
<b>Afternoon</b>	
2:00 After the Storm	
2:23 Bulletin Board	
2:54 NSPS What to Expect	
4:00 Pentagon Channel	
	<b>Overnight</b>
	Pentagon Channel

**This Week at the MOVIES**

**Sgt. Smith Theater**

*Today*  
Amityville Horror  
7 p.m. (R)

*Saturday*  
Amityville Horror  
7 p.m. (R)

*Sunday*  
A Lot Like You  
7 p.m. (PG-13)

*Wednesday*  
A Lot Like You  
7 p.m. (PG-13)

*Thursday*  
Amityville Horror  
7 p.m. (R)

The theater is closed Monday & Tuesday.

# Preparedness is key to survival in hurricane

Joy Boisselle  
Staff Writer

Hurricane season, which runs from June 1 through Dec. 31, is nothing to worry about in the Hawaiian Islands. Right? Wrong.

In September 1992, Hurricane Iniki devastated the islands with damages totaling \$2.4 billion, \$31 million on the island of Oahu alone. And, though mostly in inland locales, U.S. Army, Hawaii installations, including Schofield Barracks and Fort Shafter, suffered damage as well.

Hurricanes are dangerous storms mainly due to destructive winds, heavy rains and abnormally high tides and waves they produce. Experts cannot predict when a hurricane will occur, but they can judge the likelihood of storm development based on meteorological data.

For this reason, experts agree on at least one thing — the best defense against a hurricane is preparedness.

Information on hurricanes approaching the islands is available from several sources. Radio and television stations will air information gathered from the National Weather Service located in Honolulu.

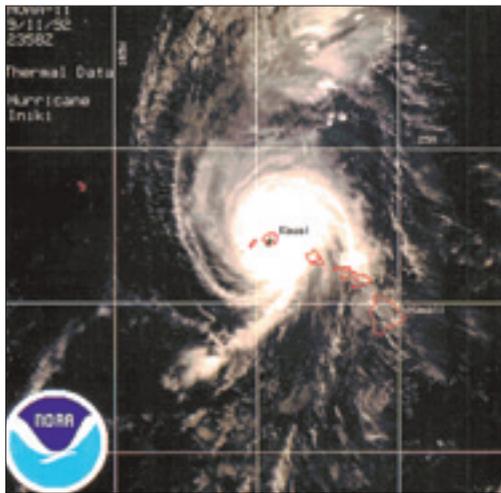
Schofield Barracks HACN TV-2 also will broadcast information on actions residents need to take, supplies needed and current evacuation instructions.

Shelters open as the need arises, so do not evacuate unless instructed to do so.

The time to prepare for a hurricane is not when landfall is imminent. The time to prepare is now.

An emergency ready kit is the first step to hurricane survival.

In addition to the "Ready Kit," experts recommend that a three-day supply of nonperishable foods be stocked in the home. Cars should have at least a half-tank of gas as pumps require electricity to operate and power may not be available.



Courtesy Photo

**Forecasters tracked the progress (above) of Hurricane Iniki in 1992, which caused destruction throughout several islands (below).**

Finally, every family member should know the steps to take in the event a hurricane hits.

Knowing your shelter location, who will gather the ready kit, who will feed and water your pets before leaving the home (pets are not allowed in shelters) and who will lock the door and ensure everyone is accounted for could mean the difference

between life and death. Yours, so don't be caught unprepared.

For questions regarding hurricane preparedness at Schofield Barracks, call 655-8985; in the Fort Shafter area, call 438-6996.

Call the Oahu Civil Defense Agency at 523-4121 to get information about shelters outside military installations.



## Emergency Readiness Kit

- Enough sack-lunch type food for two meals
  - Three-day supply of baby food (if applicable)
  - One gallon of water, or one canteen per person
  - Soap and hand towels
  - Toiletries
  - Toilet paper roll and/or sanitary napkins
  - Diapers
  - Two pairs of socks/underwear per person
  - One jacket or rain coat
  - One blanket
  - One utility knife with folding tools
  - Flashlight and extra batteries
  - Battery lamp and extra batteries
  - Plastic eating utensils
  - First aid kit with bandages, disinfectant, scissors, tape, gauze and the like
  - Sewing kit
  - At least \$50 cash
  - Cigarette lighter or matches
  - Extra glasses
  - Radio, battery powered
  - Insurance policies
  - Immunization records
  - Prescriptions
- Upon Leaving Home**
- Assemble the family
  - Leave a note with the time, destination and phone number for those absent
  - Secure residence by locking windows and doors and wedging sliding doors
  - Take emergency ready kit
  - Provide shelter for your pets since they aren't allowed in shelters
  - Shut off electricity and gas
- Upon Returning Home**
- Exercise caution and look for the following:
    - Structural damage
    - Electrical short circuits
    - Gas leaks
    - Broken water lines
    - Contaminated food and water
- (Editor's Note: The Oahu Base Support Battalion compiled this listing of recommendations.)*

# Dancing the night away

Engineers celebrate the centennial

Capt. Van P. Isra  
84th Engineer Battalion

Engineers capped off "Engineer Week" with their 2005 Pacific Engineer Ball, the last week in May.

Held at the Nehelani Banquet and Conference Center at Schofield Barracks, the theme for this year's ball was "Centennial of Service," which recognized engineer support in the Pacific throughout the last century.

Brig. Gen. Robert L. Davis, commanding general of the Pacific Ocean Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, hosted more than 425 friends of the engineers. Maj. Gen. Randal R. Castro, U.S. Army Maneuver Support Center and commandant of the Fort Leonard Wood U.S. Army Engineer School served as guest speaker.

2005 festivities gathered all engineer battalions in Hawaii: the 84th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy), the 29th Topographic, 411th Eng. Cbt. Bn. (H) and 65th Eng. Bn. (Light), along with engineers from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District.

Evening activities



Staff Sgt. Juan Garcia

Several engineers were awarded the Bronze De Fleury medal.

included the traditional toasting and punchbowl ceremony. Then eleven distinguished honorees were awarded the De Fleury Medal, named in honor of Francois De Fleury for his exemplary leadership, courage and service to the Engineer Corps. During the Revolutionary War, Defluey led an assault that captured the British flag at Stony Point, N.Y.

Tadahiko Ono received a silver De Fleury medal for

his 40-plus years of exemplary and selfless service.

Additionally, 10 honorees received the bronze De Fleury medal: Maj. Blace Albert, Command Sgt. Maj. David Clark, Maj. Dominic Sparacio, Maj. Adrienne Eckstein, Lt. Col. Jeffrey Eckstein, Sgt. 1st Class Robert Horton, 1st Sgt. Frederick Wardlow, Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Wellman, Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Craig and Maj. Jack Hafner.

In 1901, the Chief of Engineers established the Board of Engineers and Artillery Officers to study Oahu's defense requirements. Lt. Slattery arrived to do construction of coastal defense significant projects in the Hawaiian islands. From this early study, the first construction of sea coast fortifications and light houses around the Pacific began.

## Soldiers celebrate 230 years

All in the Tropic Lightning community are welcome and invited to celebrate the U.S. Army's 230th birthday, Thursday at 6 p.m., at the Hilton Hawaiian Village in Waikiki.

Tickets cost \$50 per person and funds are due in advance. Dinner and entertainment are included.

Get tickets from your unit representative or chain of command. If your unit does not have a ticket representative or you are not in the Army, contact the Division representative, 1st Lt. Jared Elliss, at 655-4809.

Tickets must be purchased by Monday.

Provide information regarding meal choice and seating when purchasing tickets.

The uniform for this occasion is formal dress uniform or formal evening attire.



# 'Dash 'n Grab' gives away \$1,492 in groceries

Candace Godfrey  
Morale, Welfare and Recreation

For the fifth time since last March, the Schofield Barracks Commissary's "Dash 'N Grab" contest gave local active duty



Xiomara Walker and husband Tony select meats from the meat counter.

families the opportunity to dash up and down grocery aisles to grab free groceries, May 26.

Three participating finalists — Sgt. Jon Emery, Regina Hale and Xiomara Walker — were selected at random by Morale, Welfare and Recreation for this quarterly Dash 'N Grab event.

No finalist walks away empty handed at this event; three-, two- and one-minute sprints net groceries.

A question and answer period determined who received how many minutes in the spree. After the Q&A, Emery netted the three-minute prize, Walker two minutes and Hale one.



Photos by Ruben Moreno

(From left to right) Contestants Tony and Xiomara Walker, Donald and Regina Hale, and Sgt. Emery and wife Jamie show their bounty as lucky shoppers in the most recent "Dash 'N Grab" giveaway.

In the six total minutes, contestants dashed and grabbed \$1,492 dollars worth of groceries.

The occasional commissary Dash 'N Grab event was originally created by MWR as a

deployment activity for spouses who remained in Hawaii during their Soldier's deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. The event is only one of numerous MWR activi-

ties created to appeal to the spouses and show them that the Defense Commissary Agency and MWR care for and support families.

Dash 'N Grab is currently sponsored by Army Hawaii Family Housing and it is funded through August 2005.



Regina Hale makes mad dashes for meats.

A possible contract renewal is being discussed.

The next commissary Dash 'N Grab is scheduled for Aug. 25; however, potential participants must complete an entry form and place an application in an entry box located at the Commissary, at Army Community Service or at the Tropics on Schofield Barracks.

The Dash 'N Grab giveaway is open to all active duty Soldiers and their family members.

## Calendar

From B-2

### 19 / Sunday

**Reef by Day** — From hermit crabs to sharks, the Waikiki Aquarium gets up-close and personal with Hawaii's underwater world with a full slate of summer activities and programs.

Catch "Exploring the Reef by Day," June 19 from 8 to 10:30 a.m., and spend the morning discovering sea slugs, collector crabs, spaghetti worms and other animals the low tide could reveal.

Minimum age for this tour is 5 years; youngsters must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration is required and admission costs \$10 for adults, \$8 for keiki.

### 20 / Monday

**First Aid Class** — The American Red Cross Schofield Barracks Service Center is holding a class for Standard First Aid/Adult CPR, plus Child and Infant CPR. The class will run on June 20, 22 and 23 from 6 to 9:30 p.m.

Cost is \$39 and includes the study book; call 655-4927 to register.

### 21 / Tuesday

**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 is an opportunity to make new friends and participate in book and scrapbook clubs. Free, prearranged child care and a supervised home-school room are provided.

For more information, contact Effie at 624-8251.

### 25 / Saturday

**Certified Babysitters** — Do you want to be an American Red Cross certified babysitter? The Red Cross is holding a babysitter's training class on June 25 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost is \$35 and includes the study book; however, minimum spaces available.

Call the Schofield Barracks Red Cross office at 655-4927 to register.

**Homeownership Month** — June is National Homeownership Month, and the Honolulu Board of Realtors is hosting several homeownership awareness activities, including a Community Homebuyer Fair.

Catch the next fair June 25 at Farrington High School Cafeteria. A third fair will be held July 9 at Windward Mall. For more information, call 732-3000.

# Wheeler serves up bits of Hawaiian culture

Local middle school hosts its first-ever gathering to hail redeployed Soldiers and farewell graduating eighth graders

Mary Rice  
Wheeler Middle School

WHEELER ARMY AIR FIELD — More than 500 students, parents, administrators and staff attended the Wheeler Middle School “Aloha Ceremony” held here May 27.

The two-part event served to bid a fond aloha to graduating eighth graders and also welcomed home redeployed Soldiers, particularly those with students at the school.

“The faculty and staff unanimously voted to host this very special ceremony to honor all of our military heroes and to also recognize our eighth graders, as

their days in middle school come to an end,” said Principal Brenda Chun, adding a “special thank you” to the school’s military partner, the 25th Aviation Brigade, for its unwavering support of the school.

Also in attendance were military and community leaders. Col. Howard Kilian, garrison commander, U.S. Army Hawaii, presented Chun with a garrison coin. He thanked her for Wheeler Middle School’s support of military families and complimented her and her staff for their efforts to make Wheeler Middle School a school of choice for military families stationed in Hawaii.

Clayton Fujie, deputy

superintendent of the Hawaii Department of Education, commended Wheeler Middle School for its efforts in maintaining a successful partnership with the military.

The Aloha Ceremony had all the makings of an authentic luau — a traditional pig roasting; “magical” entertainment provided by magician, Kaulana; Tahitian dances performed by WMS students; and even a Hawaiian hula show, performed by the “Maohi Nui,” a professional dance troupe with ties to WMS teachers Maureen Matilla and her daughter Kumu Agnes Matilla.

Kumu Agnes Matilla, a WMS Hawaiian studies teacher, spent hours instructing students on the basics of Tahitian dance. Many parents commented on the student performances, especially how the students embraced this unique aspect of Hawaiian culture.

The evening culminated with an exotic fire dance that captivated the audience.

“The food, dancers and the overall organization of the event was very well done,” said Gretcia Hernandez, a graduating eighth grader, who appreciated being recognized in such a memorable ceremony.

Her parents, Sgt. Jaime



Ana Sena

**Above and Below — Wheeler Middle School students perform native Tahitian dances during their “Aloha Ceremony” held May 27 at Wheeler Army Air Field.**

and Janice Hernandez, said the program really brought families together. They were pleased that WMS had taught students to experience the local Hawaiian culture.

“The program was wonderful,” said Judy Rossi, parent of eighth grader Dominic. “I was surprised to see such a high-caliber performance, and I am glad that the eighth graders were made to feel so special.”

Another parent, Marion Edwards, whose husband (Spc. Arthur Edwards) was deployed this past year,

said, “We are glad we decided to come to the ceremony. The students did an awesome job.”

The Edwards’ daughter Shaniqua is also an eighth grader at Wheeler.

Ana Sena, parent of seventh grader Audry summed up the feelings of many who attended the first Aloha Ceremony.

“This was wonderful,” she exclaimed. “We love this school, and they have

showed us how much they love us.

“What a great tribute to our Soldiers, families and our kids.”



Suzanne Horton

Students perform under a rainbow-filled sky.

**ArmyOnline**

[www.25idl.army.mil](http://www.25idl.army.mil)

25th Infantry

Division (Light)

&

United States

Army, Hawaii





JUNE  
10 / 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 Wednesday.

From Wednesday through June 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 for \$8 until June 25.

Entry forms for both runs are available at all Army fitness centers. Registration begins at 7 a.m. on race day. For more information, call 655-8789.

**11 / Saturday**  
**Hawaii Championship Wrestling** — Watch the champions wrestle at the Tropics tonight and again on June 25. Doors will open at 6 p.m. and the event will begin at 7 p.m.

Cost is \$5 for ages 12 and up, \$3 for ages 6-11 and free for children 5 and under. Call 655-0002 for more details.

**13 / Monday**  
**Summer Junior Golf Program** — The Junior Golf program begins today at Leilehua Golf Course. Applications are currently being accepted. Call 655-4653 for more information.

**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.

## ONGOING

**BMX Track** — Boys and girls of all ages and adults are invited to join the fun at

the BMX track located at Wheeler Army Air Field. Practice hours will go from Mondays through Thursdays at 5 to 7 p.m., and races will take place every Saturday beginning around 5:30 p.m.

Yearly membership fee is \$45; to participate in competitions is only \$9. Visit [www.wheelerbmx.com](http://www.wheelerbmx.com) for more details.

**Richardson Pool Programs** — The following programs are offered at Richardson Pool: Summer Learn to Swim, spring board diving, Learn to Swim, and a Tropic Water Exercise class.

Call the pool at 655-9698 for more information on programs offered.

**Run/Walk/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 swim-

## Staying fit



Spc. Juan Jimenez

**Major Adrian Gogue with the DISA-Pacific at Wheeler Army Air Field runs on a treadmill at Martinez gym, Schofield Barracks.**

ming 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

The camp and clinics are not designed for beginners.

The weeklong clinics and camp package includes a reversible jersey, shorts, T-shirt and top-level instruction, plus awards and prizes.

University of Hawaii men and women's basketball players and other popular sports athletes will surprise youth with guest appearances.

Cost for the Guard Clinic is \$65; the Post Clinic, \$65; and the Camp, \$150. Funds from the camp play a critical role in building strong foundations for youth and communities.

Inter-City programs strive to help youth understand the importance of self-development and encourage

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.

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.



JUNE  
10 / 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-1TAP, or e-mail [daniel.houck@us.army.mil](mailto:daniel.houck@us.army.mil).

JULY  
2 / Saturday

**Ewa Beach Patriot Run** — It's official; this run is now an annual event, and organizers have already begun to prepare for the second round. State House Representative Kymberly Pine, who represents Ewa Beach, Puuloa and Iroquois Point communities in District 43, invites the district and surrounding community residents to the Annual Patriot Run, to be held July 2 at 8:30

a.m.

This event will honor all men and women of the armed forces — past and present — and bring the community together to celebrate being American. As well, the other goal is to promote healthy active lifestyles in the community.

The run/walk will be a one or three-mile course around the Ocean Pointe community. Other activities planned include jump roping and relay racing contests for keiki, and free health screenings for those who are young at heart.

Additionally, raffles will net great prizes, food and T-shirts to commemorate the event.

This event is free, but T-

shirts must be purchased for \$10. Make checks out to Hale Pono Boys and Girls Club of Ewa Beach.

AUGUST  
4 / Thursday

**Basketball Camp** — Intermediate or advanced play level youth in grades seven through 12 are invited to participate in the 2nd Annual Inter-City Programs and 94 Feet of Game Basketball Camp, at the Manoa Valley Recreation Center in August.

The Guard Clinic is scheduled Aug. 4 from 1 to 4:30 p.m.; the Post Clinic on Aug. 5 from 1 to 4:30 p.m.; and the Camp itself from Aug. 8 through 11 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

them to take advantage of education as it revolutionizes their lifestyles for generations to come.

For more information, contact founder and former University of Hawaii and NBA basketball star Phil Handy at (916) 419-3136, or e-mail [ninety4ftofgame@aol.com](mailto:ninety4ftofgame@aol.com).

## ONGOING

**Local Sports Calendar Briefs** — Do you have sports announcements of upcoming events or activities you'd like to post in the Hawaii Army Weekly? If so, e-mail your information to [editor@hawaiiarmyweekly.com](mailto:editor@hawaiiarmyweekly.com) at least two weeks in advance of your event or activity.

# Schofield clinic will offer school sports physicals

Public Affairs Office  
Tripler Army Medical Center

HONOLULU — Mark your calendars for Saturday, July 9, the date when Schofield Barracks Family Practice Clinic will be hosting its annual School Physical and Sport Physical Exam Day for TRICARE Prime patients enrolled at Schofield Barracks.

Appointments will last about an hour, said Lt. Col. Heather W. Hansen, chief of the clinic, and she gives recommendations to make appointments run smoothly:

- Have your child's immunizations checked and updated at the Immunization Clinic before July 9.

The Immunization Clinic is in Building 682 and is open the following hours on a walk-in basis: Mondays, 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 2:30 p.m.; Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7:30 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3:30 p.m.; Wednesdays 7:30 a.m. to noon; and Fridays, 7:30 a.m. to noon and 1 to 2:30 p.m.

A parent must accom-

pany children under 18.

- Parents should bring their child's immunization records, TRICARE cards, military IDs, medical cards, and whatever form specific schools want the staff to fill out (as part of a school registration packet).

The Clinic provides copies of the Hawaii Department of Education Form 14 if a parent doesn't have one from his or her child's school.

- Dress children in shorts and T-shirts for physicals. Bring only the child needing a physical to the appointment.

- If a TB skin test is completed July 9, remember that your child must come back to have it read and entered into his or her record by July 12, at the latest.

TRICARE Prime patients enrolled at the Schofield Barracks Family Practice Clinic may call 433-2778, extension 141, to book appointments. Patients with questions may call 433-8153.

# Soldiers tee to AUSA golf

Organizers applaud military who are keeping the flame of freedom alive

Master Sgt. Terry Anderson  
Public Affairs Office  
25th Infantry Division (Light)

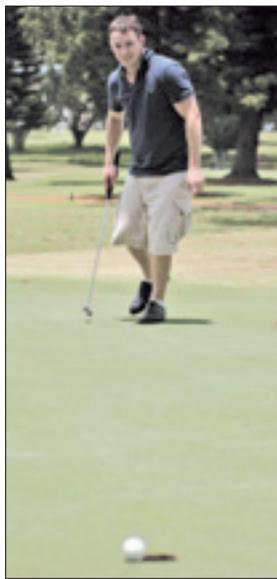
WHEELER ARMY AIR FIELD — Leilehua Golf Course is a world away from the rigors of life in Iraq and Afghanistan but it became the ideal setting for more than 150 recently redeployed troops to participate in the Association of the United States Army "Welcome Home" Golf Tournament for a few hours, June 3.

Capt. Eric Choy returned from Afghanistan in March and has played in several 25th Infantry Division (Light) golf tournaments. He says he can't remember a larger turnout.

"It's a good chance for people to get their games back after being gone a year," said Choy, a Division Chemical officer. "I think the turnout has a lot to do with the work that was done behind the scenes with AUSA and all the sponsors. The turnout has been immense."

"It just goes to show you that our troops are starved for golf. They've been gone a long time and they deserve it," said George Vickers, Hawaii AUSA President. "They're going to have a great day."

Officials from AUSA, Tom's Golf Shop in Wahiawa, and other sponsors were looking for a good way to welcome home the troops returning from deploy-



Photos by Spc. Cheryl Ranford

Patton Nix (left), a platoon leader with 27th Infantry Regiment, watches as his ball just skims the edge of a hole during the tournament, while Joe Riddle, a sergeant with 21st Inf. Rgt., putts at the 9th Hole.

ments to Iraq and Afghanistan, and to say thanks to the Soldiers from U.S. Army, Hawaii, for their hard work while the Division was deployed.

The Division Chemical Office worked hand in hand with AUSA and other sponsors to organize the 'Welcome Home' golf tournament.

The 84th Engineer Battalion 2A team — consisting of Sgt. Jose Cano, Sgt. Raymond Kinne, Spc. Patrick Collins and Spc. Benjamin Harrison — won the 18-hole "best-ball" competition.

Participating Soldiers took home prizes such as golf bags, outdoor grilles, golf balls, hats and many

other items.

Maj. Gen. Eric T. Olson, commanding general of 25th Inf. Div. (L) and USARHAW, dusted off his golf clubs as well. He told troops to have a good time, but to remember that there are still many troops defending our country in harm's way.

"This day is to say thanks to Soldiers from U.S. Army, Hawaii, and don't ever forget that we have thousands and thousands who are still serving over there ... of our comrades in arms," Olson said.

Event organizers set up a chipping contest, won by Sgt. 1st Class Bernie Polaha; a putting contest, won by Sgt. 1st Class Cisco

Almodovar; and handed out prizes for the longest drive, the closest to the pin, and the most accurate drive.

Vickers said the golf tournament was a way for sponsors to show their appreciation to a generation of Soldiers who are keeping the flame of freedom alive.

"These Soldiers are the best in the world," emphasized Vickers.

"I was a Soldier for 27 years in a different war, but I can tell you I've never seen better Soldiers ... better trained, with better attitudes than these guys and gals today.

"And that's from the very bottom to the top," he added.

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