

HAWAI'I ARMY WEEKLY



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INSIDE

War 'right decision' Bush says

JOHN J. KRUZEL
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — President Bush reflected on the triumphs and tragedies of the Iraq war Wednesday, five years after the U.S. ousted Saddam Hussein and roughly one year after a troop surge helped to tamp down violence there.

In the midst of what he referred to as an "understandable debate" over the merits of war and the prospects of U.S. victory, Bush expressed confidence in Operation Iraqi Freedom during a speech at the Pentagon.

"The answers are clear to me," he said. "Removing Saddam Hussein from power was the right decision, and this is a fight America can and must win."

Five years ago, tens of thousands of U.S. troops aided by "the most effective and precise air campaign in history" poured across Iraq's border to topple Saddam's ruthless dictatorship, Bush said.

Since then, 12 million Iraqis have defied terrorism and cast votes in free Iraqi elections.

"The liberation of Iraq took incredible

skill and amazing courage," he said. "And the speed, precision and brilliant execution of the campaign will be studied by military historians for years to come."

Meanwhile, however, progress in Iraq was undermined by al Qaeda attacks against innocent civilians, a harbinger of the bru-

SEE BUSH, A-7



Dump diving

The 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team removes IED materials from a junkyard near Camp Taji, Iraq

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Building bonds

643rd Engineers and the Directorate of Public Works team up to make Schofield shine

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Celebrating Women's History

Celebrate Women's History Month featuring a guest speaker who was shot down while deployed at OIF — Tuesday at Ft. Shafter & Wednesday at Schofield Barracks

See Community Calendar, B-2



T. Anthony Bell | Fort Lee Public Affairs

I'll have the fish

FORT LEE, Va. — Team Hawaii's Spc. Sumauang Cesar cuts a red snapper, March 6. Cesar won a gold medal in the Armed Forces Junior Chef of the Year event of the 33rd U.S. Army Culinary Arts Competition here, March 1-15. See next week's *Hawaii Army Weekly* for more chef coverage.

Latest and greatest Soldier equipment shown off at Schofield

PEO Soldier to display gear at post exchange

PROGRAM EXECUTIVE OFFICE SOLDIER
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

News Release

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — The latest advancements in U.S. Army Soldier equipment and weapon systems will be showcased by members of the Army's Program Executive Office (PEO) Soldier at Main Post Exchange here, Tuesday-Thursday.

The visit is part of a PEO Soldier Force Modernization Roadshow that will also stop in Fort Richardson and Fort Wainwright, Alaska, and in Fort Lewis, Wash.

PEO Soldier designs, develops, procures, fields and sustains virtually everything the Soldier wears or carries. By viewing the Soldier as part of an integrated system, PEO Soldier ensures that the Soldier and everything he or she wears or carries works together for maximum efficiency and effectiveness.

By ensuring Soldiers receive the best and most advanced equipment available in the shortest possible timeframe, PEO Soldier helps maintain the Army as the best-equipped, best-protected and most lethal force in the world.

The Roadshow features several items that are new to the Army inventory. Highlights include the following:

- Interceptor Body Armor, including the Improved Outer Tactical Vest (IOTV), the most

up-to-date body armor available. The IOTV is lighter than the previous vest and features a quick-release handle.

- Thermal Weapon Sights enable Soldiers to see deep into the battlefield and penetrate obscuring, day or night.

- The Army Combat Shirt is a flame-resistant, moisture-wicking garment that provides heat stress relief and improves comfort when worn under the Interceptor Body Armor.

- M110 Semi-Automatic Sniper System is an antipersonnel sniper rifle designed to function in a target-rich environment.

- The Land Warrior Ensemble is designed to provide unprecedented tactical awareness and significant improvements in lethality, survivability and mobility to dismounted Soldiers and units engaged in the close fight.

- The Air Warrior System provides the Soldier advanced life support, as well as ballistic and chemical protection.



www.peosoldier.army.mil

The PEO Soldier Force Modernization Roadshow is designed to educate Soldiers and their families on the latest and greatest in Soldier equipment, from weapons and clothing to the best in ballistic protection, as well as to collect feedback on gear that Soldiers are currently using.

Army grows to support operations in Pacific Theater

U.S. ARMY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMAND
News Release

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. — The Army intends to prepare a Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (SPEIS) to analyze alternatives for implementing growth and realignment of its forces to support operations in the Pacific Theater.

This action is intended to posture the Army to support its national defense and security missions well into the 21st century.

The SPEIS will assess the capacity of Army installations and their ability to accommodate new units as part of Army growth and force structure realignment to support operations in the Pacific Theater.

Alternatives in the SPEIS could include stationing of additional combat support or combat service support units or new support brigades.

The primary installations that will be evaluated in the SPEIS are Schofield Barracks and Fort Shafter in Hawaii, and Fort Richardson and Fort Wainwright in Alaska.

Each of these locations could receive 1,000 or more additional Soldiers as part of alternatives being examined.

In addition to these installations, impacts from stationing actions will be assessed at training sites in Alaska and Hawaii. Environmental analysis for Continental United States (CONUS) installations was conducted previously in the Army's Programmatic EIS for Army Growth and Realignment, which the SPEIS incorporates by reference.

Viable alternatives include those that are best able to meet Army unit requirements for

training ranges and maneuver space, housing and office space, maintenance and vehicle parking, and Soldier and family quality of life (for example, schools, gyms and medical facilities).

In addition, viable alternatives include those that meet the operational mission requirements of the U.S. Pacific Command. The proposed action will require the Army to balance strategic, sustainment and environmental considerations with evolving world

SEE GROW, A-7

Army Emergency Relief 2008 campaign runs through April 25

Story and Photo by
MOLLY HAYDEN
Staff Writer

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — As the 25th Infantry Division Band played the Army Song at the Nehelani, Friday, more than 80 Soldiers and family members celebrated the kick off of the annual Army Emergency Relief (AER) campaign. The campaign, which began Monday, runs through April 25.

Attendees at the kickoff praised the program and offered personal testimonies of assistance they re-

ceived.

"This program helped me more than I could have expected," said Staff Sgt. Raymond Hibbert, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry. "I needed to get back to the mainland to spend time with my family and they provided the financial support to do just that."

Hibbert explained the mental anguish associated with experiencing a family hardship and realizing his finances would not allow him to visit his family during troubled times. AER provided the perfect fit to assist Hibbert in his time of need.

"It allowed me to pick myself up and move on with both my personal life and my Army duties," said Hibbert.

Brig. Gen. Raymond V. Mason, commander, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, said AER has already helped many members of the military ohana this year and urged Soldiers to support and raise awareness of the campaign.

"You are giving to something bigger than yourself by supporting this cause," said Mason. "You

SEE AER, A-7



Brig. Gen. Raymond V. Mason addresses Soldiers and family members on the importance of supporting the AER campaign during the kick off rally at Schofield Barracks, Friday.



Volcano vacation

Kilauea Military Camp offers exclusive opportunities for service members

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We want to hear from you...

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

If you have newsworthy ideas or stories you'd like to write, coordinate with the managing editor at 656-3155, or e-mail editor@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

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

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

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3 days
since last fatal accident

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One hour can make a difference in world

ARMY HAWAII FAMILY HOUSING

News Release

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — On March 31, 2007, 2.2 million people and 2,100 Sydney businesses turned off their lights for one hour, Earth Hour, to bring awareness to greenhouse gas reduction.

This year at 8 p.m., March 29, cities around the world will turn their lights off to show it is possible to take action on global warming.

Army Hawaii Family Housing would like to encourage families to join this effort by turning off their lights. Also, to make Earth Hour 2008 an even greater success, below are a few suggestions to get you started from earthhour.org.

At home

Switch to compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs to save money and reduce emissions. Lighting accounts for around 5 percent of household greenhouse gas emissions, and CFLs use 75 percent less energy than an equivalent incandescent bulb.

Turn appliances off while not in use. Unplug any appliances like mobile phone chargers, TVs, microwaves and MP3 players, which are not being used and are on standby. In Australia, appliances on standby consume up to 10 percent of a consumer's electricity bill.

Turn off anything that doesn't need to be on. A good rule is to turn off anything not being used. When you leave a room or leave

the house, turn off your lights or appliances like the TV or computer.

Use less hot water, which is not only a good water saving tip, but also saves electricity, too. Spend one minute less in the shower.



At work

Get off standby power. Speak to your office manager about turning off any equipment at work that is not being used, including computer screens, photocopiers and printers, particularly when you leave at night.

Turn off lights at the end of the working day. Before you leave work, remember to turn off any lights in your workspace and your computer.

Remember to unplug your mobile phone or laptop charger when it's not in use.

Find out what's happening in your workplace. Ask about your company's emissions reduction policies and find out what's already happening. Look for ways to reduce energy use in your workplace and encourage improvements.

Encourage your organization to have measurable emissions reduction targets. Switching to green power, reducing and offsetting energy use and travel, and incorporating this into all areas of the business are critical to this process.



Molly Hayden | Pacific Media Publishing

Donating bone marrow

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Sgt. 1st Class Chris DeVoss, left, listens as Sgt. 1st Class Jorge Cruz explains the procedure for registering to be a bone marrow donor, Friday. The weeklong campaign brought thousands of Soldiers and family members together to sign up for a chance to save a life.

Origin and cure of evil is in the Bible

CHAPLAIN (MAJ.) LINDA NORLIEN

25th Combat Aviation Brigade Chaplain

The Soldier couldn't have been more than 25 years old and his rank was specialist. He was a member of a combat stress recovery group I led at another post.

He told about the day his vehicle was blown up by a rocket propelled grenade (RPG), how he was injured, and his buddy was killed.

The most traumatic part of the event was certainly the death of his friend. However, there was one other image he said he would never be able to erase from his mind. The image frozen in his mind was the look on the insurgent's face as he aimed the RPG at him and fired.

The Soldier said he did not think he would ever understand the look on the shooter's face that seemed at the same time to be both hatred and delight. This Soldier had experienced one characteristic of the depth of the evil humans are capable of, and he was still suffering from that experience months later.

I believe the Bible explains both the origin of this evil and the cure. The explanation of evil and consequent suffering begins with a God, who is intellectual, loving and relational. It begins with creation in the book of Genesis.

The first three chapters record how God created everything that exists, including the first man and woman. They tell, too, that God created these humans in his own image.

The humans were fully sentient beings — able to reason, love and choose. They were the highest created beings of all that God had made, able even to relate to him.

Because they were like God but subordinate to him, God gave them one restriction within his beautiful garden that they needed to faithfully obey.

The Bible does not record how long this wonderful life of loving submission and friendship with God lasted before the devil succeeded in tempting them to disobey. What we do know is that all of life radically changed when they did.

Their personal relationships with God and with each other were severed. They had trusted God; now they feared him. They had been close to God and to each other; now they were distant from both. They had mutually submitted to God; now they blamed each other.

The sin of disobedience separated these first two people from God and would have left them and their offspring forever alienated from him. God was holy and just, so he could not overlook their sin.

His holiness required him to judge this evil. Humans were never all-powerful or divine, and they could never have restored the relationship themselves.

Not only would humans forever be the ones who disobeyed, but sin entered their hearts and lives

in such a way that more disobedience would certainly result.

God was the only one capable of restoring their relationship with him. He was also the

only one who could restore the broken soul of each of the people, freeing them from the power sin now had in their lives.

God's redemption plan included taking their sins and the sins of all who would come after them upon himself. He was the only one who was sinless and already worthy of heavenly glory and eternal life.

If God's activity with people had stopped in the garden, evil and suffering would have become the inevitable state of every human's life. If the people had remained forever distanced from God, we would all be pitifully lost forever.

The darkness would have become forever darker with no hope of redeeming light. The kind of evil we experienced Sept. 11, 2001, would have been normal. Young Soldiers would have known no other experience but that same look of bitter delight in actions of terrible evil.

However, God did not stop his involvement with his creatures. Instead, he completed the "bridge" that was broken between himself and people. He sent his son miraculously to join the human race, and when people took his human life, God raised Jesus from the dead.

In his death, Jesus offered himself as a substitute for everyone who will recognize his sacrifice and humbly repent of evil. Jesus offers forgiveness from sins of the past, but he does even more that is equally vital to our souls: Jesus breaks the power sin has over every person who surrenders himself or herself to God in body, mind and soul.

God, in the loving act of his son Jesus, answered the need of justice with his overwhelming love for people. In the face of such love and sacrifice, we can only bow in humble adoration and service.

Lord, we are yours, live and reign in us. Amen.

God, in the loving act of his son Jesus, answered the need of justice with his overwhelming love for people. In the face of such love and sacrifice, we can only bow in humble adoration and service.

Lord, we are yours, live and reign in us. Amen.

Survey of wounded warriors indicates medical care is good

77 percent of wounded warriors say military health care system is doing all it can to help them

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

News Release

WASHINGTON — The majority of severely wounded warriors say the military health system is on the right track, and is doing all it can and should to provide their care, a new Zogby International survey shows.

The poll of 435 service members wounded in Iraq or Afghanistan shows 77 percent are satisfied the military health system is doing all it can to meet their health care needs, and nearly 60 percent said their trust and confidence in the system has increased since they began receiving medical treatment for their wounds.

The poll was conducted Feb. 27 and commissioned by the Tricare Management Authority, the Defense Department office that manages the Tricare military health plan. The polling firm Zogby International has been tracking public opinion since 1984 in North America, Latin America, the Middle East, Asia and Europe.

A wide majority across all age groups agreed the system is doing all it should to meet their needs. Among men, 78 percent agreed, while 69 percent of women said the system is doing all it should.

Service members home longer from their deployment were more likely to feel the military health system was doing all it should be doing to meet their needs. Among those who had been home six months or less, 64 percent felt the system was doing all it could. But 84 percent of those who had been home between 19 and 24 months, and 93 percent of those who had been home 25 to 36

months were more pleased with the health care they were receiving, saying they thought the system was doing all it should be doing.

The survey shows that, while a majority of all age groups were satisfied with and confident in the military health system, the older the service member, the more satisfied he or she was. Among those 18 to 35 years old, more than half said their trust and confidence in the system was improving. Fifty-nine percent of those 35 to 44 years old and 79 percent of those ages 45 to 54 said the same.

Service members who had returned from deployment within the last six months were least likely to feel their trust and confidence in the health system had increased, but trust and confidence grows over time, and then dissipates somewhat among those home longer than three and a half years.

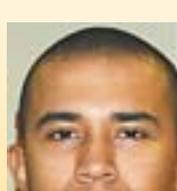
Those surveyed were all members of "warrior transition units" who required at least six months of complex medical care. The units, established in June, were designed to more effectively deal with such health care needs. The warrior transition units were created after media reports of poor conditions for some injured Soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

When asked whether they believed conditions had improved since those widely publicized reports, 71 percent said they think the military health system is now on the right track, while 10 percent said it is not, and another 19 percent said they were unsure.

Among enlisted personnel, 69 percent said they think the military health system is on the right track since the Walter Reed reports, compared to 76 percent of officers who said the same thing.

A majority of the injured service members said their expectations for recovery have increased since they returned from their deployments.

Voices of Lightning: What is your fondest Easter memory?

 <p>"The first time I gave my son a chocolate bunny."</p> <p>Col. Michael Albaneze USARPAC</p>	 <p>"I like getting dressed in my Easter dress, going to church, and the Easter egg hunt afterwards."</p> <p>Pfc. Jessica Jeffries 8th STB</p>	 <p>"Dressing up in my new Easter outfit."</p> <p>Spc. Will Ramos 8th STB</p>	 <p>"Going to church and afterwards enjoying an Easter egg hunt and eating lots of chocolate."</p> <p>Staff Sgt. Rashita Adams 8th TSC</p>	 <p>"Drawing a bunny in the third grade."</p> <p>Staff Sgt. Luis DeJesus 8th STB</p>
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Distance can't stop NCO from keeping promise

OIF

Father and daughter run together from miles apart

Story and Photo by
SGT. JEROME BISHOP
2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — Keeping a promise can sometimes be an insurmountable task, especially when a person is thousands of miles away. However, one Multinational Division–Baghdad Soldier made sure he'd keep a promise to his daughter in Hawaii.

Before the Soldiers of the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, received notice of deployment to Iraq, Sgt. Maj. Berk Parsons told the eldest of his three children, 16-year-old Emily, he'd participate in a school run with her, March 4.

Parsons serves as the operations sergeant major for the 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment.

Every year, Emily's high school sponsors a run to promote fitness.

"They call it the 'Hurricane Run' because the school's mascot is the hurricane," Parsons said. "When she asked me to run it with her this year, I said no prob-



Sgt. Maj. Berk Parsons (front), runs alongside several of his Soldiers, March 4, during the 2.5-mile "Hurricane Run" at Camp Taji, Iraq, while his 16-year-old daughter, Emily, runs simultaneously in Hawaii as part of a school activity. Parsons serves as the operations sergeant major for the 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd SBCT.

lem, that is, until I realized where we were going to be."

Since the day he made his promise, Parsons has deployed with his unit to Camp Taji, where 2-11th FA Regt. runs

the Base Defense Operations Command.

Dismayed that he couldn't run next to his daughter, Parsons came up with an idea that ensured he would keep his promise.

"I told her I would run the same distance and at the same time she was running in Hawaii, but I would run here," he said.

Although the time difference meant Parsons would be running at 9 p.m., he still set out to make the 2.5-mile run in conjunction with his daughter's run at 10 a.m. in Hawaii.

"It felt great [knowing my father was running as well] and kept me going," Emily wrote in an e-mail. "Just the fact that we did this run together was enough for me."

Despite the 10,500-mile difference between the two, the bond of running together lifted their spirits.

"Even though we're not physically together, we know we're thinking about each other, so I guess, in spirit, we're hanging out," said Parsons.

To support his daughter even more, Parsons extended an invitation to run to his Soldiers. Those who could jumped

at the chance to take part.

"He just sent out an e-mail explaining the story with him and his daughter, asking for volunteers, so I replied automatically saying I'd love to support him," said Sgt. 1st Class Billy Jacobson, senior human resources sergeant, 2-11th FA Regt. "I wanted to support my brothers here in combat. I could work 24 hours and run with him still."

Parsons was thrilled to have support from Soldiers in his battalion.

"I thought it was pretty cool since these guys work long days ... they don't get refit, and they don't get a break," Parsons said. "They wanted to be a part of [the run], and it shows the kind of teamwork we have."

While military life can't always guarantee parents will be present for big events in their families' lives, the Parsons family made sure the best efforts were made to do the next best thing.

"My daughter is 16 now, and her daddy's been a Soldier all her life, so there's been a few things I've missed," Parsons said. "But we make a concerted effort so I can be there for something."



Capt. Ron Geronimo | 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

Babies for children

BAGHDAD — Capt. Joe Dumas, intelligence officer with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Squadron, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, talks to local schoolchildren while handing out donated Hawaiian dolls, March 4. The dolls were donated by Allen Hoe in Hawaii. Hoe's son, 1st Lt. Nainoa Hoe, was killed Jan. 22, 2005, in Mosul. Nainoa Hoe was a member of the 25th Infantry Division. Since 2005, more than 30,000 dolls have been donated to schoolchildren in Iraq.

GoI representatives visit Tarmiya

SGT. JEROME BISHOP

2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — Members of the Government of Iraq (GoI), along with members from the Multinational Division–Baghdad (MND-B) Provincial Reconstruction Team, took the first steps in reuniting the people of Tarmiya with the government sworn to serve them at a meeting, March 10.

Sobei Mashabani, the head of the rural services committee for the GoI, made the first visit by a government official to Tarmiya in more than eight months to attend a meeting of sheiks, to discuss issues such as security, rec-

onciliation and essential services.

"They hosted a meeting here to talk about the needs and the issues in Tarmiya," said Col. Richard Welch, chief of the reconciliation program, MND-B. "Sheik Jassem invited all of the tribal leaders and various government officials to talk to the provincial council about what they need."

Jassem and Mashabani took to the floor several times to address the audience, which consisted of more than 50 sheiks from the Tarmiyah area, and discuss issues of importance to local leaders.

"Mashabani was pleading to the people about how important it

is to bring security," Welch said.

"He said all this sectarian violence and personal hatred that ripped Iraq apart in 2006 has to stop, and it has to stop with us — the people in the community."

Mashabani's speech was one of hope. He said he hopes the Iraqi people can go back to their homes and be safe. He wants the neighborhoods back together.

The return of members of the GoI was in part due to the efforts of MND-B Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, "Warrior," 25th Infantry Division, and their predecessors.

Troops sweep junkyard for potential munitions

Five days of rummaging through the junkyard denies insurgents tons of bomb-making material

Story and Photo by

SGT. JEROME BISHOP

2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — Soldiers from 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team (2SCBT), along with members of the Iraqi Army (IA), began a five-day operation, March 11, to secure possible improvised explosive device (IED) parts from a junkyard near a vital route.

The operation's goal was to remove munitions available to enemy forces. Soldiers participating in the mission hailed from 2SCBT's 4th Platoon, B Company, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment.

"The bad guys tend to go to the junkyard and take a lot of empty rounds along with them," said Staff Sgt. Ralph Haney, squad leader, 4th Platoon, B Co. "It makes it easy for them to grab a couple, take them back to their houses, pack them full of explosives and put them back on the road."

Because of the danger empty canisters pose, 2SCBT and IA Soldiers "grab the majority of the ones that are easily accessible, so it makes it more difficult for [insurgents]," Haney said.

Along with the IA and 4th Platoon Soldiers, Explosive Ordnance Disposal technicians and



Sgt. Philip Dukett, infantryman, 4th Platoon B Co., removes a rusted mortar round out of a pile of scrap metal, March 11, at a junkyard north of Camp Taji, during a mission to remove usable munitions from the abandoned dump.

K-9 teams located, sorted and removed the empty munitions from the dump. While the majority of the rounds didn't contain explosives, they still

presented a danger to Soldiers and Iraqi Security Forces.

It was probably 95 percent empty rounds, said

1st Lt. Samuel Adam Miller, platoon leader for 4th Platoon, B Co.

"The main goal ... is to get this empty stuff so they can't take it and pack it full of explosives and use it against us."

What set this mission apart from similar missions, such as raids and searches that produce weapons caches, wasn't the amount, but the content, of the search.

"This is much more significant than a cache find because this junkyard has a lot of ordnance that's been produced but not filled," said Miller. "It's massive quantities of empty ordnance; whereas in a cache, you'll find much smaller numbers of rounds full of high explosives."

The Soldiers said their actions will save lives in the future.

"Our battalion has done a great job of locking down the roads so they can't hit us with IEDs, but we're in a lull right now," Miller said. "Right now, while they're being passive, we can start taking away their resources, so if they become more active, we've taken away a big chunk of stuff they could use against us."

Miller called the first day of the mission a success.

"Overall, we've located the big dumps of ordnance, which was one of our main goals today," he said. "We've located all the major stuff and we've taken a little piece of it away with us today as well."

Sol receive first month's pay in Abayachi

Story and Photo by

SGT. JEROME BISHOP

2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — Abna al Iraq or Sons of Iraq (SOI) volunteers gathered outside a crowded council building in the village of Abayachi to get their pictures taken and fingerprints cataloged in preparation for their first payday, March 2.

Soldiers from B Company, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, set up shop inside the local council building for three days, beginning Feb. 29, to process the SOI volunteers before they received their first payment.

The Soldiers planned for several months with town leaders for this first payday, said Capt. John Cooper, battalion adjutant.

SOIs will be paid to man checkpoints and provide road security.

With the newly negotiated contracts for payment, Iraqi citizens will be able to help their country in more ways than just pulling security.

"It restores confidence they may have lost in

the U.S. Army," Cooper said. "We're working with them, and we're having positive interactions with them, so we're building friendships and gaining allies."

Cooper also mentioned the economic growth that will come from the paychecks.

"Another way ... it helps the local populace is by stimulating their economy with cash that we pay them, anywhere from \$250 to \$350 a month," he said.

To complete the identification process, Soldiers also set up Biometrics Automated Tool System (BATS) and Handheld Interagency Identification Detection Equipment (HIIDE) stations. The two identification systems processed the Iraqi volunteers into government databases for future reference.

"We're now getting all their biometrics data, like a facial photo, iris scans and their fingerprints," said 1st Lt. James Grossman, the fire support officer.

The systems also provide SOI volunteers with authentic identification cards and validate their status in the organization.

After three days of processing and providing payments, more than 800 SOI volunteers were added to the system and received their first payment.

Soldiers said they felt a key factor in the success of the mission laid in the foundation of good organization.

"I think it went great," said Cooper. "The company had all the security they needed, they were searching people before they came in, and they kept things organized."

While Soldiers took the lead in completing the operation, Iraqi Security Forces provided key security measures and contributed considerably to the mission's success.

"We couldn't have done this without the help of the [Iraqi police] and the [Iraqi army] working outside at the check points," said Grossman.

After three days of waiting and two photos and 10 fingerprints later, more than 800 Iraqis went home with new friends, a secure job and a few more dollars in their pockets to get them by until their next payday.



Pfc. Robert Andexter (front left), 411th MP Co., 716th MP Bn., 18th MP Bde., photographs a Sons of Iraq (Sol) volunteer in the village of Abayachi, March 2. While Andexter takes photographs, Pfc. Jordon Schwehr (right), also with the 411th, scans the fingerprints of another Sol volunteer.

Saving lives on battlefield begins in classroom

Story and Photos by
SGT. BRYANNA POULIN

25th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs

WHEELER ARMY AIR FIELD – “Move it! Come on, your patient is bleeding. You need to get him out of here,” yelled an instructor to his students.

Moving fiercely and with as much strength as possible, Soldiers carried “wounded patients” across the grass, in an attempt to save their lives.

The 25th Combat Aviation Brigade brought to life the slogan “train as you fight,” during a weeklong Combat Lifesaver Course (CLS), here. Instructors simulated real-time battle conditions by tossing water balloons and squirting water guns.

Providing basic care is the ultimate goal of the CLS class. Combat lifesavers are the first responders on the battlefield – from administering intravenous fluids, treating a sucking chest wound, or bandaging wounds – they do everything they can to save a fellow Soldier.

However, students had to master techniques in the classroom as well as in the field.

“Soldiers can sit through one PowerPoint slide after another, but the real training comes when they can perform under pressure,” said Sgt. Juan Obregon, course instructor, Headquarters Headquarters Company, 25th CAB. Obregon is a combat medic who spent 15 months in Tikrit, Iraq.



Above — Spc. Jessica Hayes (left), a combat medic with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2-6th Cav. Regt., simulates a combat situation for Spc. Igor Rodriguez, E Co., 3-25th Avn. Regt. Rodriguez provides medical care for an injured patient. In the Combat Lifesaver Course, students learned first responder techniques for treating battlefield-related injuries.



Right — Pfc. Dean Shaffer, D Co., 2-25th Avn. Regt., drags his injured patient to safety during a combat simulation.

“We [CLS instructors] wanted the training to mirror what would happen in an emergency situation.”

The first part of the training began with a Pre-combat Inspection (PCI) of the CLS bag, followed by last-minute questions.

“Conducting a PCI of the bag is important because you don’t want to realize something is missing when the patient needs it at that moment,” Obregon explained.

Following the PCI, instructors belted out a thunderous “go,” and students low crawled to injured

patients while overcoming obstacles.

“We [instructors] filled up water balloons and tossed them at the students to imitate a combat situation,” said Spc. Jessica Hayes, combat medic, 2nd Battalion, 6th Cavalry Regiment. “The goal was to make the situation as realistic as possible.”

Spc. Igor Rodriguez, petroleum specialist with E Company, 3rd

Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment, enjoyed the real-world training.

“Between the water balloons and squirt guns [to imitate rain], I wasn’t sure what to expect,” Rodriguez said. “I had to think on my feet and under pressure. [It was] definitely great training.”

Spc. Jessica King, combat medic, HHC, 3-25th Avn. Regt., explained that although the pri-

mary objective of CLS is to train Soldiers on what to expect on deployment, Soldiers can still use CLS here in Hawaii.

“Although the 25th CAB isn’t downrange, we still continue training to gear up for the next deployment,” King said. “Whether it’s firing at the range or conducting physical training, a Soldier has to be ready for whatever situation arises.”

News Briefs

Send news announcements for Soldiers and civilian employees to community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

24 / Monday

Property Book Office – The U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii, Installation Property Book Office (IPBO) offers limited service from March 24–April 11 to convert from the Defense Property Accountability System (DPAS) to the Property Book Unit Supply-Enhanced (PBUSE).

The IPBO should return to posting hand receipt transactions April 14–18. For more information, call Dawn Mentor at 656-1586 or e-mail Dawn.mentor1@us.army.mil

25 / Tuesday

Finance Class – The 125th Financial Management Company’s Finance Operations Team will teach a quarterly Personnel Actions Clerk (PAC) finance class March 25–26 at the Schofield Barracks Education Center.

This class is designed to introduce the unit PAC, military or civilian, to Army finance issues and local operational policies and procedures. It also acquaints PACs

SEE NEWS BRIEFS, A-7

643rd Eng. Co. and DPW team up to improve post

Story and Photo by
2ND LT. SUSAN KNAPIK
 643rd Engineer Company

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — The 643rd Engineer Company and the Department of Public Works (DPW) recently completed a mutually beneficial partnership. The 643rd needed practice building with Concrete Masonry Unit (CMU) blocks and DPW had more than a few things that needed building.

The 643rd Eng. Co., part of the 84th Engineer Battalion, was looking for projects to prepare for its upcoming deployment to Thailand, where it will build four schools using CMU block. The company coordinated with DPW to construct an additional storage area to the Wheeler Army Air Field bowling alley, several dumpster enclosures on Schofield Barracks, and a range control office in the Kahuku Training Area.

As part of the field training exercise, DPW took care of identifying projects and purchased the materials. Soldiers assembled the bill of materials and provided the tools, equipment and a skilled and knowledgeable workforce for the tasks.

Members of first, second and third platoons each had a different project — 1st Platoon worked on the range control of-



Soldiers with the 643rd Engineer Company work together to build an 1,800 square-foot office for the staff of range control at the Kahuku Training Area.

fic, 2nd Platoon built dumpster enclosures and 3rd Platoon made the storage area.

At the Kahuku Training Area, 1st Platoon constructed a 1,800-square-foot office that will provide a central meeting area for range control staff.

"I am very proud of how our platoon came together and accomplished the mission," said Spc. Joseph Vinson.

This structure will benefit range control staff as they conduct range operations and medical evacuation procedures for the North Shore.

Around Schofield, 2nd Platoon built several 9-by-16-foot enclosures that house brown dumpsters. The platoon split into four teams, and each team prepared the areas, placed concrete pads and erected the dumpster enclosures.

Teams made their work fun by competing with one another to see which team could finish first.

At the Wheeler bowling alley, 3rd Platoon constructed a 600-square-foot addition to the backside of the building to provide additional storage space. Soldiers said they found the storage area to be a challenge, but overall, a good experience as they were required to cut the blocks

near the roof at several different angles and then install a roof with shingles.

"It was a challenging FTX," said Staff Sgt. Joshua Horton, 3rd Platoon. "Yet, it really honed our construction skills for the upcoming Cobra Gold Deployment."

The platoon also wrestled with the immense amount of rainfall, which severely hindered its ability to work with concrete and use certain equipment. Soldiers finished on time; however, they are currently awaiting the arrival of two customized windows that will complete the project.

Overall, Soldiers gained experience laying block in anticipation for Cobra Gold, and also helped DPW close out many jobs on its ever-growing list of work orders.

"I really enjoy my MOS [military occupational specialty], so it is very gratifying to drive through Wheeler and see the results of our FTX," said Pvt. Thomas Manion. "It is also good to know that our training will benefit the post."

Another major benefit of working with DPW is that the unit only spent a minimal amount of its own funds for this training event, as DPW absorbed cost of the materials. The Soldiers' training also saved DPW thousands of dollars in labor costs.

News Briefs

From A-5

with their duties and responsibilities in providing fast financial service to their Soldiers.

Commanders, first sergeants and any leaders are invited to attend. E-mail danielle.singley@us.army.mil or call 655-8933.

Women's History Month – Celebrate Women's History Month at the Hale Ikena, Fort Shafter, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Keynote speaker is Maj. Tammy Duckworth, director of the Illinois Dept. of Veterans Affairs.

26 / Wednesday
Women's History Month – Celebrate Schofield's Women's History Month at Sgt. Smith Theater, 10-11:30 a.m. Keynote speaker will provide an encore presentation.

West Point Admissions – Learn about gaining admission to the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, from 3-4:30 p.m., March 26, at Sgt. Smith Theater, Schofield Barracks.

The academy will give presentations on its admissions procedures, academic and athletic programs, cadet life and career opportunities after graduation. West Point consistently ranks as one of the nation's finest universities and produces the Army's best trained officers.

For more information, visit www.admissions.usma.edu/Soldiers or contact Maj. Jeffrey Coulon at 1-845-938-5780 or e-mail Jefrey.coulon@usma.edu.

April

1 / Tuesday

Green to Gold – The Army Green to Gold Program seeks qualified enlisted Soldiers interested in attaining their commission while completing their bachelor's or master's degree. A program briefing is the last Wednesday of every month.

The current application window will be open until April 1, 2008. Call the University of

Hawaii Army ROTC Warrior Battalion at 956-7766, or e-mail gbt@hawaii.edu.

2 / Wednesday

Post Exchange Meeting – The next Fort Shafter Post Exchange/Market meeting for the Oahu South community will be held April 2, 1:30-2:30 p.m., at the Aloha Center, Building S-330, 2nd Floor OSCD Conference Room #210C.

Call Rosey Stone at 438-6147 for more details.

15 / Tuesday

Town Hall – The next Oahu North Town Hall meeting, for residents of Schofield Barracks, Wheeler Army Air Field and Helemano Military Reservation, is April 15.

Meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. at Sgt. Smith Theater, Schofield. Dates are subject to change. Call 438-6996 for more details.

June

14 / Saturday

Patriot 5K – USVETS will host its annual Patriot 5K Walk/Run at Iroquois Point Island Club in Ewa Beach, June 14 at 5 p.m.

The nonprofit organization is hoping to register 1,000 participants to raise funds so more veterans can participate with USVETS, a Workforce Development initiative that helps homeless veterans become self-supporting.

For more details, call Ed Kialoa at 682-6051.

Ongoing

MICA Scholarships – The Military Intelligence Corps Association (MICA) Scholarship Program provides scholarships for individuals pursuing undergraduate degrees or technical certifications.

Applicants must be a current individual member of MICA or a family member of such.

Apply online at www.micorps.org. Applications must be mailed and postmarked no later than May 15. For more information, call Sgt. Maj. Kent Wheelock at 1-520-533-1174 (DSN 821-1174).

Bush: Cost of war necessary

CONTINUED FROM A-1

tality extremists would replicate in the U.S. if given the opportunity, the president added.

"We have watched in horror as al Qaeda beheaded innocent captives and sent suicide bombers to blow up mosques and markets," Bush said. "And they serve as a grim reminder that terrorists who murder the innocent in the streets of Baghdad want to murder the innocent in the streets of America."

The president conceded the war has been costly – both in terms of its price tag and human casualties. As of January, Operation Iraqi Freedom had cost \$416 billion, a Pentagon spokesman said.

Further, 3,988 U.S. service members have died in Iraq to date, and 29,395 others have been wound-

ed, according to the latest Defense Department statistics.

"No one would argue that this war has not come at a high cost in lives and treasure," the president said. "But those costs are necessary when we consider the cost of a strategic victory for our enemies in Iraq."

Before reaffirming his commitment to victory over extremism, the president expressed gratitude to troops around the world, and the families who carry the burden of their sacrifices at home.

"We're grateful to all the brave men and women of our military who have served the cause of freedom. You've done hard work far from home and far from your loved ones," he said. "We give thanks for all our military families, who love you and have supported you in this mission."

AER: Soldiers help others in need

CONTINUED FROM A-1

have already proven you can do that when you raised your right hand and joined this Army.

"We owe you a great debt," added Mason. "Be proud to be a part of this team and continue to grow with AER."

The campaign, entitled "Army Emergency Relief: Strength for Soldiers and their families," is a way to engage Soldiers and families and create better awareness of AER's programs, as well as to allow Soldiers to help fellow Soldiers by donating to the program.

AER was founded in 1942 to assist Soldiers and their families in need during World War II. Since the program's inception, AER has provided more than \$1 billion in financial assistance in the form of no-interest loans and outright grants. In addition, today's AER provides education and assistance in the form of scholarships to children and spouses of active duty and retired Soldiers, along with support to surviving families of fallen Soldiers, and grants to widows and wounded

warriors.

In 2007, AER provided more than 64,000 active and retired Soldiers and their families more than \$70 million in assistance Armywide. AER provided assistance for unexpected and financial stress, including travel, housing, car repair, utilities, medical expenses, funeral costs and disaster relief.

AER assistance is available to Soldiers and their family members, wherever they are located, and the amount of assistance is limited only by a valid need. Soldiers and families requiring AER assistance can contact their chain of command or go to the local AER office.

"We want to inspire our leaders to get the message of AER to their Soldiers and raise more awareness of what we can do for them," said AER campaign coordinator Maj. Curby Scarborough, Special Troops Battalion, U.S. Army, Pacific. "We want the Soldiers to understand exactly what the program does and utilize what we have to offer if they are in need."

"Use this program," stressed Capt. Robin Pulley, commander, 25th Replacement Detachment. "It is here to help you, the Soldiers."

Grow: Feedback is accepted until April 16

CONTINUED FROM A-1

conditions and threats to national defense and security.

All interested members of the public, federally recognized Indian tribes, Native Alaskans, Native Hawaiian groups, federal, state and local agencies, are invited to participate in the scoping process for the preparation of this SPEIS.

The scoping process will help identify possible alternatives, potential environmental impacts and key issues of concern to be analyzed in the SPEIS.

Scoping comments will be accepted until April 16, 2008.

Send all written comments and suggestions concerning this environmental impact statement to: Public Affairs Office, U.S. Army Environmental Command, Building E4460, 5179 Hoadley Rd., Attention: IMAE-PA, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21010-5401. Telephone: (410) 436-2556. Facsimile: (410) 436-1693. Send e-mail comments to PublicComments@aec.apgea.army.mil.

For more information, contact the Public Affairs Office at (410) 436-2556, during normal business hours (9 a.m.-5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday-Friday).

PAU HANA

Photo Courtesy of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park

Fresh lava flows out of the ground at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. Depending on current conditions, guests may view lava going into the ocean at Kalapana.

VOLCANO

Get away from it all at Kilauea Military Camp

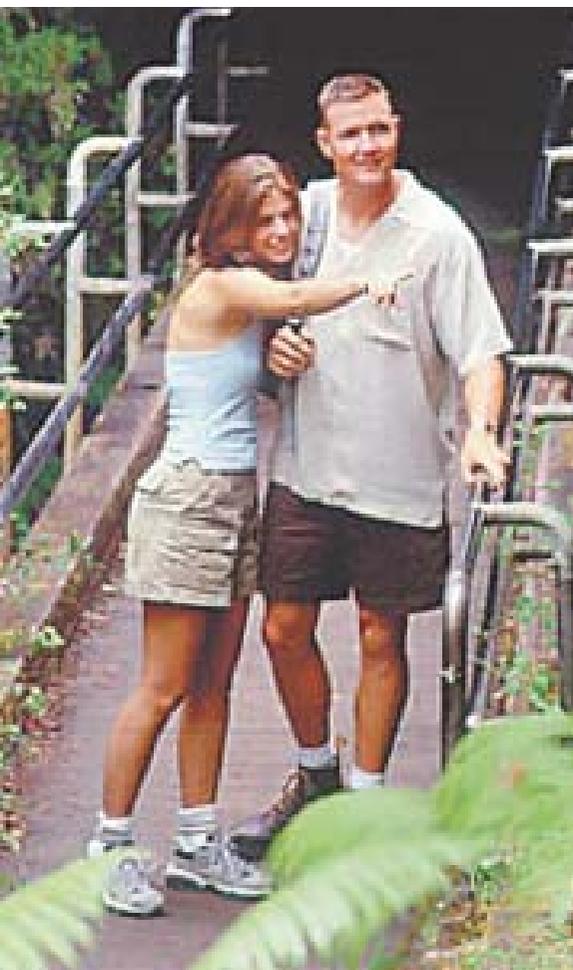


Photo Courtesy of Kilauea Military Camp

Big Island's top attraction provides a respite from everyday, city living on Oahu

KILAUEA MILITARY CAMP
News Release

VOLCANO, Hawaii – Explore the beauty and mystery of the active Kilauea Volcano on the Big Island of Hawaii, and you'll discover Kilauea Military Camp (KMC).

This tranquil, mountainside resort, built exclusively for service members and their guests, is located in the state's number one visitor attraction, the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.

At a 4,000 feet elevation, you'll experience cooler Hawaiian temperatures, but KMC has just the amenity to warm your heart and spirit, a fireplace.

Each of KMC's 90 comfortably appointed guest units features a fireplace, along with cable TV, a mini-refrigerator, microwave, coffeemaker and more. One-, two- and three-bedroom units are available; select units include a jetted tub and kitchen.

Numerous recreational opportunities abound at KMC and the Big Island. Enjoy KMC tours that highlight the island's popular attractions, nature walks within the park, as well on-camp activities such as tennis, bowling, basketball, biking, volleyball, multiplayer online games (MPOGs) and so much more.

KMC also offers a cafe, snack bar, lounge, general store, recre-

ation lodge, mini theater, bowling lanes, meeting rooms, dormitory, gas station, theater and chapel.

The latest addition to KMC's array of services is the Java Cafe, which proudly serves Starbucks coffee.

For great savings, fun and convenience, check out the Wild Ginger Room & Tour Package. This value-packed offer includes three nights' lodging, four KMC tours, most meals and Hilo Airport Shuttle. Other specials may be available throughout the year.

In addition, conferences, retreats, banquets and other functions may be arranged for groups of 20 or more people, to include guestrooms or dormitory accommodations, meals, chartered tours and transportation.

Rooms are available this month, so make your reservations today.

KMC is open to all active and retired armed forces, reservists, National Guard, family members, other uniformed service members, current and retired Department of Defense and Coast Guard civilians, and sponsored guests.

KMC rates start at \$67 per night, and reservations are accepted up to a year in advance.

Call direct from Oahu at 438-6707 or 1-808-967-8333.

Guests can make online reservations at www.kmc-volcano.com or e-mail reservations@kmc-volcano.com.



Photo Courtesy of Kilauea Military Camp

KMC offers 90 unique guest units to accommodate visitors.



Photo Courtesy of Kilauea Military Camp

All units are comfortably appointed with a fireplace, mini refrigerator, coffeemaker and microwave.

KMC is located within Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and within walking distance to the park's main sites, such as Kilauea Visitor Center, Volcano Art Center and Jaggar Museum. Just a couple miles away is the Thurston Lava Tube where lava once flowed through these underground channels hundreds of years ago.



Ryan Hanoa | Kilauea Military Camp

This time of the year, visitors can enjoy the snow-capped mountain peaks of Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa.



22 / Saturday

Family FunFest & ITR Travel Fair — Join the 14th Annual Fun Fest and Information, Ticketing and Registration (ITR) Travel Fair, tomorrow, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at Sills and Desiderio Fields, Schofield Barracks. Inflatable bouncers, pony rides, a petting zoo, food, games and much more will be provided. Call the Recreation Activities Office at 655-0111 or 655-0112.

23 / Sunday

Easter Sunday Buffets — Celebrate Easter Sunday with a buffet. Visit the Hale Ikena, Fort Shafter, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., or the Schofield Barracks Nehelani, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Cost is \$25 at the Hale Ikena (438-1974 or 438-6712) and \$23 at the Nehelani (655-0660 or 655-4466). Special pricing is available for children. Make your reservations today.

25 / Tuesday

Teen Job Fair — Youth are invited to participate in the Spring Break Teen Job Fair, Tuesday, 9 a.m.-noon, at the Aliamanu Military Reservation (AMR) Community Center, and Thursday, 9 a.m.-noon at the School of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills (SKIES) Unlimited, Schofield Barracks. Teenagers will learn how to complete job applications, write a resume, interview, and dress for success. Company representatives will also present information. Call 655-4227.

31 / Monday

Youth Art Contests — Keiki are invited to enter the Youth Art Contest now-March 31 at Sgt. Yano Library, Schofield Barracks. Keiki ages 5 and under can pick up coloring sheets from any FMWR Army Hawaii library. Keiki ages 6 and up must submit their interpretation of a book in any medium. Call Sgt. Yano Library at 655-8002, Fort Shafter Library at 438-9521 or Aliamanu Military Reservation (AMR) Library at 833-4851.

Information, Ticketing and Registration — Looking for tickets to area attractions? Visit Information Ticketing and Registration (ITR) at Schofield Barracks or Fort Shafter for your tickets to paradise.

A variety of tickets to luaus, cruises, whale watching adventures, Hawaiian Waters Adventure Park, Sea Life Park and much more are available for service mem-



Kyle Ford | U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii, Public Affairs

Finishing touches

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Trey Bruce, 10, paints a rabbit at the Spring Break Youth Art activity, Wednesday. The Arts and Crafts Center provides sessions specifically designed for keiki. Classes are Tuesday and Thursday for children ages 6-9, Wednesday and Friday ages 10-12 at Schofield Barracks, and Wednesday and Friday for ages 6-12 at Fort Shafter. Cost is \$12 per session. Call 655-4202 for more information.

bers, Department of Defense (DoD) civilians and family members.

Buy one, get one free specials are available for the Alii Kai catamaran sunset dinner sail and "The Magic of Polynesia" show, now-March 31.

Call the Schofield Barracks ITR office at 655-9971, the Fort Shafter ITR office at 438-1985, or visit www.mwrarmy-hawaii.com. Click "ITR Ticketing and Registration" for a full list of discounts at various attractions.

Ongoing

Active Parenting Class — Army Community Service's New Parent Support Program offers a one-day class for parents of children ages 1-4. Classes are held the first and third Monday of every month at ACS Room 1, Schofield Barracks, 9-11 a.m. Register at 655-1670.

Returning Library Materials — Deploying soon? Help the library staff by returning all borrowed materials before your departure. Doing so will save the staff time and make those materials available to others.

Call Sgt. Yano Library, Schofield Barracks at 655-8002, the Fort Shafter Library at 438-9521, or the Aliamanu Military Reservation (AMR) Library at 833-4851.

Paint It & Take It — Ceramic parties offer a unique way to celebrate get-togethers, coffees, children's birthday parties, showers or any occasion. Your Arts & Crafts Center provides a varied selection of ceramic

bisqueware to paint and take home.

Call 655-6330 at Schofield Barracks or 438-1315 at Fort Shafter.

Fort Shafter Thrift Shop — Browse the Thrift Shop for your holiday decor. Normal business hours are Tuesday and Friday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and consignment hours are 9-10:30 a.m.

Donations and volunteers are always welcome as the Thrift Shop is the main fundraising venue for the Fort Shafter Hui O Wahine Spouses club. All profits are donated to charities and scholarships in the military and local community.

Call 842-1074 or visit Building 342, Pierce St.

HMR Teen Lounge — The Helemano Military Reservation (HMR) Teen Lounge, located inside the HMR Youth Center, is now open Monday-Friday, 2-6 p.m.

If you are in grades 6-12, the Teen Lounge is the place to go after school. The lounge offers daily activities, including tournaments, sports, video games, crafts, games and volunteer opportunities. A nutritious snack is offered each day.

The program is free except for the annual CYS registration fee of \$18. Call 655-0451 or 653-0717.

Preschool Story Times — Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation (FMWR) Libraries have Story Time at 10 a.m., Tuesdays, at Fort Shafter (438-9521); Wednesdays at the Sgt. Yano Library, Schofield Barracks (655-8002); and Thursdays at AMR Library (833-4851).

Salvage Yard Auto Sales — Fort Shafter and Schofield Barracks salvage yards will be sponsoring sealed bid auto sales twice a month. Bidding will end on the first and third Saturdays of each month, and the highest bidder will be notified the following day.

A minimum bid will be marked on each auto that is for sale. For more details, call 655-9368 at Schofield Bracks or 438-9402 at Fort Shafter.

FMWR Happenings — To find out more information about FMWR activities, programs and facilities, pick up a copy of the "Discovery" magazine available at the Schofield Barracks Commissary, Fort Shafter Post Exchange, Aliamanu shopette, Tripler mauka entrance, or any FMWR facility.

Visit the FMWR Web site at www.mwrarmyhawaii.com.

Tropic Lightning — Enjoy a fast and hot lunch buffet, Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., at the KoleKole Bar & Grill, Schofield Barracks. Cost is \$8.95 per person. Call 655-4466.

4H & Boys and Girls Clubs — The AMR Teen Center has a variety of social and leisure time recreation activities through local Boys & Girls Clubs and 4H (Health, Head, Hands, Heart) Clubs, including cooking, digital festivals, fine arts exhibits and photography contests.

The Teen Center also offers Torch (Middle School Teen Council) and Keystone Clubs (High School Teen Council). Call 833-0920.

Community Calendar

Send calendar announcements to community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

March

25 / Tuesday

Shafter Women's History Observance — From the Revolutionary War to Iraq, women are making history, and U.S. Army, Pacific, invites you to celebrate Women's History Month at the Hale Ikena, Fort Shafter, March 25, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Special keynote speaker is Director of the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs Tammy Duckworth, who is a pilot, speaker of four languages, author, and member of the National Guard.

Duckworth lost both legs during a mission in Iraq in November 2004. She often testifies before Congress on veterans and medical care issues.

Call Sgt. 1st Class Gordon, 655-4797, or Master Sgt. Mendoza, 438-1600.

26 / Wednesday

Schofield Women's History Observance — The 25th Infantry Division hosts the Oahu North celebration of Women's History Month at Sgt. Smith Theater, March 26, 10-11:30 a.m. Catch the encore presentation by keynote speaker Tammy Duckworth.

West Point — If you have considered a career as an officer in the Army, learn about the U.S. Military Academy's admissions procedures, academic and athletic programs, cadet life and career opportunities March 26, 3-4:30 p.m. at Schofield's Sgt. Smith Theater.

West Point is consistently ranked as one of the nation's finest universities and produces the Army's best-trained officers.

For more information, visit www.admissions.usma.edu/Soldiers/ or call Maj. Jeffrey Coulon at 1-845-938-5780.

Nooma Night — A different live band plays each week at the Schofield Barracks Tropics for Christian single Soldiers and

Cause for Applause

Community honors stellar students

HONOLULU — Kelly Quinn, who participates in the Teen Program at Fort Shafter Middle School, was named the Boys & Girls Clubs of Army Hawaii 2008 Youth of the Year.

Kelly competed at the Hawaii State Capitol at Washington Place, March 7, with other Youth of the Year finalists from Boys & Girls Clubs on Maui and Kauai, and from Marine Corps Base Hawaii and Hickam Air Force Base.

As Youth of the Year, Quinn received a \$1,000 scholarship and ad-



Quinn



Rucker

Open House April 1, 6-8 p.m., at Hangar #229, Santos Dumont Road, across from the Fire Rescue Facility on Wheeler Army Air Field.

Glider and mission pilots, air crew search and rescue members, ground team search and rescue members, and cadet program leaders are wanted.

If you are ages 12-18 and interested in aviation, model rockets, or search and rescue missions, come check out the cadet program. Call Lt. Anthony Ferrera, 386-1374.

2 / Wednesday

Fort Shafter PX/Market Meeting — The next meeting for the Oahu South community is April 2, 10-11 a.m., at the Aloha Center, Fort Shafter, Building S-330, 2nd Floor Conference Room #201C. Any tenant of Fort Shafter is welcome to attend and address concerns.

11 / Friday

Romance Festival — The application deadline is April 11 to vie in the 2008 Hawaii Romance Festival. If you are engaged and ready to be married, the Matt Catingub Orchestra of Hawaii is looking for you. One couple from each branch of the active duty military in Hawaii will be wed during the Festival at the Waikiki Shell, May 9.

As part of their Back to Romance wedding, winning couples will receive one night's hotel accommodations in Waikiki; a private car service to and from the con-

Moanalua High School, was selected as the Army Hawaii Middle School and Teen Program winner in the Boys & Girls Club Fine Arts Exhibit.

His pencil drawing "Supporting the Troops" was sent forward to the club in Laguna Beach, Calif., for the Pacific Regional competition.

A part of Rucker's pencil drawing reads: "May no Soldier go unloved, May no Soldier walk alone, May no Soldier be forgotten, Until they all come home."

cert; an onstage wedding ceremony; flowers, photography and video for the ceremony; preferred seating during the concert; and a champagne breakfast in their room the following morning.

The orchestra will serenade couples onstage with special music arranged by the maestro just for this occasion. And the Back to Romance concert also features Motown legend Smokey Robinson, returning to Hawaii for the first time in two decades.

To be considered, couples must submit their love stories, in 300 words or less, describing their military romance. Stories can be e-mailed to teambecker@beckercommunications.com or faxed to 537-4990.

Participating service members should consult the Legal Assistance Office regarding gifts and endorsements.

Ongoing

Preschool Story Time — Parents and children ages 3-5 are invited to sing songs and read stories at Wahiawa Public Library, Wednesdays, at 10 a.m. Call 622-6345 for more information.

Car-buying Classes — Learn how to get the most vehicle for your money. Car buying classes are held on the third Wednesday of every month at the Schofield Barracks Army Community Service, Building 2091, 9-10:30 a.m. Call 655-4227.

Worship Services

Aliamanu (AMR) Chapel 836-4599

- Catholic Sunday, 8:30 a.m. — Mass Sunday, 9:45 a.m. — Religious Edu.
- Gospel Sunday, 11 a.m. — Sunday School (Sept.-June only) Sunday, 12:30 p.m. — Worship service
- Protestant Sundays, 9:45 a.m. — Worship Service Sunday, 11 a.m. — Sunday School (Sept. — June only)

Fort DeRussy Chapel 836-4599

- Catholic Saturday, 5 p.m. — Mass in Chapel (May-Aug.) Saturday, 6 p.m. — Mass on Beach
- Protestant Sunday, 9 a.m. — Worship Service

Fort Shafter Chapel 836-4599

- Contemporary Protestant Sunday, 9 a.m. — "The Wave" Worship

Helemano (HMR) Chapel 653-0703

- Contemporary Protestant Sunday, 10 a.m. — Worship Service & Children's Church

Main Post Chapel 655-9307

- Catholic Sunday, 9 a.m. — CCD & RCIA Sunday, 10:30 a.m. — Mass
- Collective Protestant Sunday, 9 a.m. — Worship Sunday, 10:30 a.m. — Sunday School
- Gospel Sunday, 10:30 a.m. — Sunday School Sunday, noon — Worship Service

MPC Annex, Building 791

- Chalice Circle Tuesday, 7 p.m.
- Islamic Prayers and Study Friday, 1 p.m.
- Buddhist 4th Sunday, 1 p.m.

Soldiers Chapel

- Catholic Friday-Saturday, noon — Adoration
- Liturgical Sunday, 10:30 a.m. — Worship

Tripler AMC Chapel 433-5727

- Catholic Sunday, 11 a.m. — Mass Monday-Friday, 12 p.m. — Mass Saturday, 5 p.m. — Mass
- Protestant Sunday, 9 a.m. — Worship Service

Wheeler Chapel 656-4481

- Catholic Saturday, 5 p.m. — Mass
- Collective Protestant Sunday, 9 a.m. — Worship Sunday, 9 a.m. — Sunday School

This Week at the MOVIES Sgt. Smith Theater



The Eye

(PG-13) Friday, 7 p.m.

The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything: A Veggie Tales Movie

(G) Saturday, 2 p.m.

Untraceable

(R) Saturday, 7 p.m.



Over Her Dead Body

(PG-13) Sunday, 2 p.m. Thursday, 7 p.m.

Mad Money

(PG-13) Wednesday, 4 p.m.

No shows on Mondays or Tuesdays.

'Oncology on Canvas' expresses emotions with paint

KEVIN DOWNEY

Tripler Army Medical Center Public Affairs

TRIPLER ARMY MEDICAL CENTER — Ricky Lumang's red tears are the pain of leukemia. Chemotherapy turns his smooth head a much darker shade against the choppy, crayon-colored blue sky.

In 9-year-old Rizelle Lumang's painting, she portrays her father's struggle with bone-marrow cancer. Her portrait was part of an art exhibit, March 7-8, entitled "Oncology on Canvas," Tripler's version of an international exposition encouraging those touched by cancer to relate their emotions through art.

"Oncology on Canvas" is an international art competition started 10 years ago by a commercial drug company for breast cancer survivors to express how they deal with their disease.

"It's amazing how my daughter expresses herself through painting, rather than telling me how she feels about my leukemia," said Lumang, a gas turbine technician and chief petty officer at the Pearl Harbor Navy Shipyard. "Coming here today to paint is a way of my family letting their emotions out that have been trapped inside."

Pat Nishimoto, adult oncology clinical nurse specialist at Tripler, is a member of the Oncology Nursing Society, which supported the event here and at five other Oahu-area hospitals this month. Nishimoto said she uses this event, in its second year at Tripler, as a step in her patients' therapy.



Photos by Jerry Quimby

Above — A family member paints her feelings onto a canvas. Pat Nishimoto, adult oncology clinical nurse specialist and event coordinator, said Tripler Army Medical Center's "Oncology on Canvas" is a way for those touched by cancer to express their emotions through art.

Right — Influenced by his cancer journey, Ricky Lumang paints with daughter Rizelle while his wife Marilyn looks over his shoulder at Tripler Army Medical Center, March 8.



"This is a chance for people to use their artwork to express their feelings about their cancer journey," she said while standing beside an extra large cancer mural of a serene Oahu coastline, painted by event participants. "It becomes a powerful healing experience because people can reflect on what it is like to go through this journey."

Nishimoto said she instructs participants to picture, with eyes closed, how they would describe their cancer experience without words.

"Then the magic happens," she said, eyes shimmering as she smiled. "It's so powerful how

deeply these patients and their family members can relate to each other simply by turning their emotions into art."

For Lt. Col. Brad Whitcomb, oncology doctor, the event helped provide perspective to a painful journey in which his personal and professional lives converged close to three years ago, he said.

His wife Mary had been diagnosed with an advanced form of breast cancer and passed away last August.

"Today is very important for me to bring my children here to cel-

brate my wife's life," Whitcomb said. "It also gives us a chance to express, good and bad, what cancer has brought to our lives."

With his art today, he said, he is focusing on how his life has moved forward.

"I'm painting something to express the positive in my life and how having wonderful people around me has helped, which is what my wife would have wanted," he said, before his daughter Alyse gave a sudden bear hug.

Voice quivering with emotion, 28-year Air Force veteran John

Culkin said he first came to this event last year to reconnect with his daughter when diagnosed with inoperable lung cancer after a long period of separation.

"[This event] is about the sharing of our journey and the love we have for our family, which is sometimes hard to talk about," said the 75-year-old retired command chief master sergeant, standing next to his daughter.

"Sometimes we're not able to talk about what we're going through every day," Theresa Culkin continued. "This program is

a way to come together and put down on canvas how we feel with other patients going through similar circumstances."

Nishimoto said she intends to make Tripler's "Oncology on Canvas" an annual event, and is scheduled to display the artwork from this year's exhibit in her clinic to inspire and support other cancer patients.

In July 2007, Tripler's oncology program received a commendation by the American College of Surgeons, ranking it among the best in the country.

Community Sports

Send sports announcements to community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

21 / Today

Torch Run – The 728th Military Police Battalion, Schofield Barracks, has held its version of the Troy Barboza Law Enforcement Torch Run, to raise funds for Special Olympics Hawaii, in Iraq. However, the public may still support runners. Visit the Web site www.firstgiving.com/nb.

23 / Sunday

Hike Oahu – Join the Hawaiian Trail & Mountain Club on a 10-mile, advanced hike to Malaekahana Ridge, Sunday. If you persevere, this long ridge trail above Laie will eventually get you to the Koolau summit, but most hikers get sidetracked by the lovely pools and the waterfall halfway up.

If you want to participate, register with coordinators Kris Corliss and Larry Oswald, 638-7268. The hike begins at 8 a.m., and a \$2 donation is requested of non-members.

Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Hikers meet at Iolani Palace, mountain-side. Bring lunch and water on all hikes; wear sturdy shoes, as extra caution may be required on some trails.

Hikers must keep all trails and lunch sites clear of clutter, as well as treat trees and plants with care and respect. Visit www.htmclub.org.

29 / Saturday

Paniolo Country Rodeo – Gunstock Ranch, 56-250 Kamehameha Hwy., Laie, will be hosting the largest rodeo North Shore Oahu has seen in years. Featuring traditional Hawaiian rodeo events like the Po'o Wai U, this event is sure to be special.

Unique to Hawaii rodeo and rarely seen, catch the country rodeo, March 29, 3-6 p.m. Serious competitors will try their hand at bull riding, roping, barrel racing, pole bending and even wild cow



Molly Hayden | Pacific Media Publishing

On the run

Spc. Antiwan Rayford, 540th Quartermaster Company, lines up for a run around the track in preparation for the upcoming Sprinter's Challenge. Soldiers and family members can show off their running prowess at the competition, April 25-27. The deadline for entries is April 19. For more information, call 655-9914.

milking.

Contestants from all islands are welcome. Bring the family down for good food, good fun, and lots of excitement. Admission is \$10 for ages 12 and up, \$5 for 3-12, and keiki under 3 are free.

Visit www.gunstockranch.com for more details, or 271-4445.

Iroquois Point Island Triathlon

– Come out and test your fitness at the Iroquois Point Island Triathlon at Ewa Beach, March 29-30. Children ages 7-15 can participate in

the youth triathlon March 29 at 2 p.m. The main triathlon for adults will begin at 7 a.m., March 30.

A 750-meter swim, 13-mile bike ride and 3.5-mile run comprise the triathlon. Register online at www.pacificsportsevents.com.

Baseball Card Day – March 29, just before the first pitch is thrown for Major League Baseball's 2008 season, a national pastime will be celebrated and revived

SEE SPORTS, B-5



31 / Monday

Racquetball Ladder Challenge – The Fort Shafter Physical Fitness Center hosts a Racquetball Ladder Challenge, now-March 31. Military, family members, civilians and contractors who work on an Army installation on Oahu are eligible to participate.

Divisions include coed, open (Level A) and novice (Level B), and entries will be accepted until the end of the challenge. Call 438-1152 or stop by the front desk at Building 665.

Ongoing

Physical Fitness Centers – Don't miss out on enhanced services at all Army Physical Fitness Centers, effective April 1, brought to you by the Army Family Covenant.

These enhanced services include extended weekend and holiday hours at Schofield Barracks and Fort Shafter Physical Fitness Centers, and at the Health and Fitness Center.

Hours of operation are now 6 a.m.-6 p.m., weekends and holidays. In addition, free towels and classes are provided to patrons.

Mom and Baby Yoga – Get fit with your baby at Mom and Baby Yoga, Wednesdays, 9:45 a.m., at the Health and Fitness Center, Schofield Barracks. Mats are provided, but moms should bring a small towel or blanket for their babies to lay on. Call 655-8007 to register.

Little Ninja Classes – Parents or guardians, bring 3- to 5-year-olds to Child and Youth Services (CYS) to learn basic Tae Kwon Do skills. At these classes, children will improve their motor and communication skills, learn

to focus, and build confidence and socialization skills.

Children must be enrolled in Schools of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills (SKIES) or be a current member of CYS. Call SKIES at 655-9818.

Ladies Golf Clinic – Ladies, looking to improve your golf game? Come to a free ladies golf clinic the first Saturday of every month, 2:20 p.m., at the Leilehua Golf Course driving range. Call 655-4653.

100-Mile Run/Walk & 50-Mile Swim Clubs – Record each mile you run, walk or swim and win incentive prizes. Stop by any Army Physical Fitness Center or swimming pool to pick up a log sheet. Call 655-9914.

Karate Classes – Children ages 5 and older can learn Do Shudokan karate at these physical fitness centers: Aliamanu, Fort Shafter, Helemano or Schofield's Bennett Youth Center. All youth students must be registered at Child and Youth Services (CYS); cost is \$35 per month. A discount is offered for two or more family members.

Also, adults 18 and older can learn Do Shudokan karate at the Aliamanu Physical Fitness Center, Mondays and Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m. Cost is \$40 per month. Call instructor Joseph Bunch at 488-6372 or 265-5476.

Belly Dance – Learn the art of belly dancing at the Health and Fitness Center, Schofield Barracks, every Tuesday, 4-5 p.m. Call 655-8007.

Paintball – Check out the new paintball facility at Wheeler Army Air Field, just off of Lauhala Road next to the baseball fields.

The facility features three lighted fields for day and evening play, and they are open for regular, league and youth play, plus private parties and physical training (PT).

Hours of operation are Fridays, 5-9 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Rental equipment is available, and you can bring your own paint or buy it there. Instruction is available for those new to the sport. Visit www.paintball-hawaii.com or call 343-3929.

Golf Till You Drop – Pay once and play as many holes as you want every Thursday at the Walter J. Nagorski Golf Course, Fort Shafter. This offer applies to walking or riding, but some restrictions apply. Call the Nagorski Pro Shop at 438-9587.

Sharks Youth Swim Team – Come join the Sharks Youth Swim Team. Applicants must be Level 4 or higher swimmers. Try-outs are held at the Richardson Pool, Schofield Barracks, Fridays at 3 p.m.

The club fee is \$35 per month. Call 655-9698.

Volunteer Coaches – Interested in volunteering to be a Youth Sports coach? Contact the nearest youth sports director today. Call 836-1923 for Aliamanu Military Reservation; 438-9336 for Fort Shafter/Tripler; 655-6465 for Schofield; or 655-0883 for Helemano Military Reservation.

Volleyball & Racquetball 101 – Learn basic skills and techniques from experienced instructors, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30-10 a.m., at Martinez Physical Fitness Center, Schofield. Courts will be open for free play across the street from the facility. Call 655-4804.

All Army Sports – Soldiers interested in applying for Army-level sports competitions must apply with their Army Knowledge Online (AKO) account at <https://armysports.cfsc.army.mil>. Faxed copies are no longer accepted by the DA Sports Office. Call 655-9914 or 655-0856.

Youth Dive Team Lessons – Spring board and platform youth diving lessons are available Monday-Thursday, 4-6 p.m., at Richardson Pool, Schofield. Cost is \$63 per month. Call 864-0037.

Lady Spartans finish on top

Story and Photo by
TRACY PRICE-THOMPSON
Contributing Writer

WHEELER ARMY AIR FIELD – With raised arms and a victorious grin, Alexis Johnson congratulated teammate Al-Nisa Vasquez as Wheeler Middle School's Lady Spartans completed their most successful basketball season in recent memory.

Led by seventh grade point guard Khaliyah Thompson, who averaged a team-high 14 points per game, the Lady Spartans finished 5-1 in Central District's middle school basketball league, March 1.

"My family has been involved with the Wheeler Middle School girls' basketball program for years," said Keisha Vasquez, Al-Nisa's mother. "We've never had such a winning record, or such a highly skilled coach before."

The Lady Spartans' performance both on and off the court illustrated Coach Gregory Thompson's basketball skills and instructional techniques.

As a former Division II college point guard and a certified Division III basketball referee, Thompson brought the team 20 years of basketball experience and proven techniques from more than a dozen mainland-sponsored coaching clinics. As an active duty master sergeant, he led European All-Army basketball teams to championship victories twice.

In addition to coaching the Lady Spartans, Thompson simultaneously coached Nanakuli High School's Lady Hawks and the Mililani Basketball Association's coed Lakers 14 and under teams during the 2007-2008 season.

"I have two passions in life," Thompson said. "Basketball and our nation's youth. Coaching enables me



Khaliyah Thompson of the Wheeler Middle School Lady Spartans dribbles up the court during the team's final game of the season, March 1. The Lady Spartans beat Aiea Intermediate School 23-15 and finished 5-1 for the season.

to give of my time and skills in ways that benefit the children of our community and teaches them the art of sportsmanship, teamwork and physical fitness."

Community Sports

From B-4

with National Baseball Card Day right here on Oahu.

Children, parents, collectors and anyone who loves baseball can come to Toys R Us and neighborhood hobby shops to receive free packs of mini-commemorative Major League Baseball cards as part of the day.

Visit www.mlb.com for more details.

Ongoing

Football League – The Hawaii Athletic League of Scholars (HA-

LOS) is signing up youth players for its upcoming spring football season. HALOS, a no-weight limit tackle football league for ages 9-14, is a nonprofit group that aspires to provide a high-quality experience for kids.

Visit www.myhalos.com, or call 620-8523 for more details.

Golfers Wanted – Are you looking for a golf group? Military or civilian golfers interested in playing golf on Sunday mornings at Leilehua Golf Course should call 347-8038 or 375-3322.

Tee time is usually before 8 a.m.

Jazzercise – Combine elements of dance, resistance training, Pilates, yoga, kickboxing and more in exciting programs for all fitness levels at Jazzercise Waikale.

Classes are held Mondays & Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at the Waikale Elementary School cafeteria. Call 674-1083.

TOPS – The Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) support group meets every Thursday evening at the Armed Services YMCA. Join others to share weight loss tips, discuss concerns and provide encouragement to each other. Call Cheryl at 696-4423.

Bike Hawaii – Join Bike Hawaii's professional nature guides and explore Oahu from the rainforest to the reef. Packages include downhill biking, sailing off Waikiki and more. Meals are included.

To schedule adventures, call 734-4214, or toll free 1-877-682-7433. Visit www.bikehawaii.com.