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Serving the U.S. Army Community in Hawai i ★ www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil/haw.asp

AFAP delegates balance initiatives

Delegates address quality-of-life issues and make recommendations

Story and Photo by
BILL MOSSMAN
News Editor

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS – Army Family Action Plan conference delegates were encouraged to find new ways to improve the quality of life for Soldiers and family members, while being cautioned to temper expectations regarding program funding, as garrisons deal with shrinking budgets.

That was the message coming out of the 2010 AFAP Conference opening ceremony, Tuesday, at the Nehelani Banquet and Conference Center, here.

The conference, comprised of delegates representing base operations, community and family services, force support and single Soldiers, ended Thursday.

The AFAP brief-out was tied in with the re-signing of the Army Family Covenant.

(See next week's Hawaii Army Weekly for more coverage.)

Delegates were asked to address quality-of-life issues facing Army personnel and to make recommendations to senior Army leaders, including Col. Matthew Margotta, commander, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii, as well as subject matter experts and community leaders.

SEE CONFERENCE, A-9

Col. Matthew Margotta, commander, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii, talks to a group of delegates and subject matter experts during the opening ceremony of the 2010 Army Family Action Plan Conference, Tuesday, at the Nehelani, Schofield Barracks.

INSIDE

'Wheels up'

Company E, 2nd Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, Task Force Diamond Head, maintain aviation assets downrange.

A-4

Women's History

The Women's History Month observance is a one-woman theatrical performance, "Writing Women Back into History," at Sgt. Smith Theater, Wednesday, 10-11:30 a.m.

A-8

Honolulu Festival

Bridging cultures

B-1

PT in the Park with Mickey

Join Mickey Mouse and friends, April 6, 6:30-7:30 a.m., at Bennett Youth Center Field on Schofield Barracks, for family exercise and a breakfast.

MWR Sports B-5

This issue

Footsteps in Faith	A-2
Deployed Forces	A-4
News Briefs	A-8
FMWR	B-2
Sports & Fitness	B-5

Sgt. Scott Brooks, 82nd Engineer Support Company, 65th Engineer Battalion, 130th Eng. Brigade, receives the Silver Star medal from Maj. Gen. Michael Terry, commanding general, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, during an award ceremony, March 10, at Schofield Barracks. Brooks received the award from his actions during deployment, June 25, 2007.

Engineer receives Silver Star for bulldozing VBIED breach, saving lives

Story and Photo by
SGT. RICARDO BRANCH
8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS – Soldiers of the 8th Theater Sustainment Command's 130th Engineer Brigade gathered to pay tribute and honor one of their own during a Silver Star Award ceremony here, March 10.

Sgt. Scott Brooks, 82nd Eng. Support Company, 65th Eng. Battalion, 130th Eng. Bde., 8th TSC, was awarded the Silver Star for his actions during his Operation Iraqi Freedom deployment.

Brooks was serving as a heavy equipment operator for the 618th Eng. Co., 82nd Airborne Division, when he was involved a firefight, June 25, 2007. Insurgents detonated a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device, blowing a large hole in the perimeter wall at Forward Operating Base Summerall, Iraq.

While the enemy was seizing the initiative, Brooks took well-aimed shots to stop the flow of insurgents attempting to enter the breach before sprinting to a bulldozer and moving debris and scrap metal as a stop-gap in the wall.

"I was working a dozer to push debris into a breach created by a VBIED," Brooks said. "There were people, Soldiers and Iraqis, lying about injured in harm's way, and another VBIED could come through the breach at anytime while I was busy moving things to block the hole."

The 25-year-old, Middleville, Mich., native woke up that morning ready to perform

SEE STAR, A-9

Puerto Rico birth certificates to be revoked July 1

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
News Release

Effective July 1, all birth certificates issued by Puerto Rico prior to July 1, 2010, will be invalid, according to a new Puerto Rican law passed earlier this year.

Affected Soldiers, civilian employees and family members will need to request issue of a new birth certificate following specific procedures.

There is a history of Puerto Rico birth certificates being used for common transactions that shouldn't require them, such as school enrollment, employment applications and youth sports registration.

These documents were often kept unsecured in schools, public offices, churches and other places without proper safeguards.

As a result, criminals have stolen sensitive data to obtain passports, immigration benefits or to traffic women and children.

For new accessions, certificates issued by Puerto Rico prior to July 1, 2010, will become invalid and may not be used to verify eligibility for enlistment into the Army, effective July 1.

The Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration fact sheet, recommends that only people who have a specific need for their birth certificate for official purposes, such as Army enlistment or passport, request a certificate.

SEE BIRTH, A-10

8th TSC officer wins MacArthur award

SGT. MAJ. TERRY ANDERSON
8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER – Gen. Douglas MacArthur once used the phrase "Duty, Honor, Country" in his famous farewell speech to the West Point Corps of Cadets.

These three words accurately describe the principles of one 8th Theater Sustainment Command Soldier, who received a Department of the Army-level leadership award, March 12.

Capt. Bryan Williams, aide-de-camp to Maj. Gen. Michael Terry, commanding general, 8th TSC, was one of 28 active and reserve component company-grade officers to earn the Armywide Gen. Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award.

The award recognizes company grade officers who demonstrate the ideals for which MacArthur stood – duty, honor and country.

It also promotes and sustains effective junior officer leadership in the Army by recognizing those officers who exhibit outstanding military performance, leadership and achievement.

"I was absolutely floored when Maj. Gen. Terry told me I had won," Williams said. "I didn't become a commissioned officer for the recognition; it's all about positively impacting the lives of Soldiers and their families."

Williams, a native of Redlands, Calif., enlisted in the Army in 1993, as a food service specialist and describes himself as the "classic case of

SEE AWARD, A-9

Courtesy Photo

Capt. Bryan Williams, aide-de-camp to Maj. Gen. Michael Terry, commanding general, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, poses with his wife, Mary Beth; and daughters, Elizabeth, left, and Bethany; following his promotion to Captain in March of 2007.

Family advocacy manager named social worker of year

Story and Photo by
BILL MOSSMAN
News Editor

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS – Whoever said nice guys always finish last has never met Cole Weeks.

As the Family Advocacy Program manager for U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii's Army Community Service, Weeks has developed quite a glowing reputation around these parts for his "too-good-to-be-true, but-honest-to-goodness-really-is" personality.

Since 2007, Weeks has administered and directed a program responsible for the prevention of domestic violence and child abuse, here and at Fort Shafter. He has not only competently expanded the breadth and scope of FAP, but done so while maintaining an "aw-shucks," good-guy image.

As a result, Weeks was selected as the National Association of Social Workers-Hawaii Chapter's Practitioner of the Year – an honor given to a NASW member who has made significant contributions to social work, and done so while embracing the organization's Code of Ethics.

Admittedly, this year's first-place finisher is still a bit "shocked" over the honor.

"I was not even aware that I was going to be nominated," said Weeks, who will receive his award at the chapter's annual awards ceremony March 29 at the Ala Moana Hotel in Honolulu.

"It was a really good surprise," he said. "I'm very honored to be recognized by my peers."

Arlene McCormack, FAP manager, Installation Management Command-Pacific, nominated Weeks for the award. She praised the former New Parent Support Program manager for bringing "all the right stuff" to

SEE FAMILY, A-10

Increasing sexual assault awareness

MIKE EGAMI
U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Public Affairs

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS – April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and U.S. Army-Hawaii Garrison's Family Advocacy Program is raising awareness and seeking to prevent sexual violence through the use of special events and public education, here.

The Department of Defense's theme for this year's observance is "Hurts one. Affects all ... Preventing sexual assault is everyone's duty."

"Sexual Assault Awareness Month is a time to provide broad visibility to sexual assault prevention within the USAG-HI community," said Cole Weeks, Family Advocacy Program Manager, Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, USAG-HI.

"Sexual assault is contrary to the Army ethos. Sexual assault is a crime and strikes at the heart of Army core values, potentially eroding mutual trust, endangering mission accomplishment and destroying individual lives," he said.

One out of every six women in America has been the victim of an attempted or completed rape in her lifetime, according to the 1998 Prevalence, Incidence and Consequences of Violence Against Women Survey, conducted by the National Institute of Justice and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The garrison campaign plan is aligned with the DoD campaign plan, and will focus on the effects sexual assault has on mission readiness or a unit's ability to deploy quickly and efficiently, which impacts competence to accomplish the mission and protect the security of our country.

A sexual assault can reverberate throughout a unit, degrading readiness by harming the life of the victim and the Army's ability to work as a team.

In the Army, a Soldier stands strong among other Soldiers bound together by values and sharing a sense of duty and loyalty amongst each other. The willingness to sacrifice for each other and never leave a fallen comrade is what makes a Soldier strong on the battlefield.

The Army's campaign "I. A.M. Strong" combats sexual assault by engaging Soldiers in prevention measures. The program is linked closely to Army values and the warrior ethos, knowing that core values demand Soldiers act, and that there are no passive bystanders.

I. A.M. Strong encourages Soldiers to intervene, act and motivate:

•INTERVENE when they see a threat to fellow Soldiers and prevent sexual assault

•ACT and take action to prevent sexual harassment

•Remain MOTIVATED to keep fellow Soldiers safe.

At USAG-HI, the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program focuses on education, prevention and victim advocacy, as does Army Community Service.

A 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week advocate is available to assist at 624-SAFE (7233) or visit www.sapr.mil/media/pdf/news/2010_campaign_info_for_sarcs.pdf.

Child Abuse Prevention and Sexual Assualt Awareness Month Events

Throughout the month of April, the following events are planned at Schofield Barracks, Fort Shafter and Tripler Army Medical Center:

- Child Abuse Prevention and Sexual Assault Awareness Month Proclamation Ceremony, **March 31, 2 p.m.,** *Kaena Community Center, Schofield Barracks*
- Child Abuse Prevention and Sexual Assault Awareness Month Schofield Barracks Food Drive, **April 1, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.,** *Schofield Barracks Commissary*
- Child Abuse Prevention and Sexual Assault Awareness Month Information Table, **April 12, 15, 23, 24, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.,** *Tripler Army Medical Center*
- Child Abuse Prevention and Sexual Assault Awareness Month Information Table, **April 6, 14, 22, 30, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.,** *Schofield Barracks PX*
- Denim Fridays – Step forward and take a stand against rape in your favorite denim, **April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30,** www.supportdenimday.com
- Unit Victim Advocate Self Care Session, **April 14, 8-10 a.m.,** *Yano Education Center, Room 214, Schofield Barracks*
- Child Abuse Prevention and Sexual Assault Awareness Month Fort Shafter Food Drive, **April 15, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.,** *Fort Shafter PX Market*
- "6 for 2: What's Your Measurement?" – A viewing of Oscar winner "Precious" followed by a 15-minute presentation, **April 16, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m.,** *Sgt. Smith Theater, Schofield Barracks*
- Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program's Unit Victim Advocate Meet and Greet, **April 20, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.,** *Kalakaua Community Center, Schofield Barracks*

Pfc. Ashley Armstrong | 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command Public Affairs

Job description

FORT SHAFTER — Col. Samuel Piper III, right, 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command chief of staff, describes the function of the 94th AAMDC and subordinate units to Lt. Gen. Katsuhiko Iwasaki, commander of the Northern Air Defense Force, Japanese Air Self Defense Forces, during a command brief, here, March 11.

FOOTSTEPS in FAITH

Finding joy in annoying things, like rain

CHAPLAIN (CAPT.) RANDY CURRY
728th Military Police Battalion, 8th MP Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command

Here in the "Aloha State," my favorite activity is riding around in my Jeep with the top down and the doors off.

That's how I've come to enjoy life in the islands – at least when it's not raining.

Who knew there could be so much rain in these parts? Not me. I mean it sure doesn't feel like paradise when I'm standing in formation in the rain at 6:30 in the morning.

Literally, that dampens my outlook on living in Hawaii.

Then again, without the rain we would not have the lush greenery, the tall palm trees, the fragrant flowers or the vibrant rainbows, right?

Many of us fall into the same pattern with the events in our lives and wind up complaining about "the rain."

Often, we put too much focus on the annoying, aggravating circumstances and frustrations these events cause.

Rain in Hawaii reminds me of Alanis Morissette's song, "Ironic." According to her, "rain on your wedding day," "a free ride when you've already paid," or "having 10,000 spoons when all you need is a knife," is all a bit ironic. But for many people, these things aren't ironic, they're just plain annoying!

Curry

When such things happen, we normally default to fussing, complaining and grumbling. Then, we pick up the phone, call a friend, and start the cycle again.

Our challenge, however, is to appreciate the circumstances we are in.

Are you a content person or are you a complainer? If you aren't sure, ask your spouse. Don't get me wrong, there are times when we have to challenge ourselves to improve, to move out of the situation we are in.

However, too often we find ourselves complaining about the one bad thing while ignoring the 99 other things that are good in our life.

In the Bible, Paul writes about surviving difficult times. Do you know what his difficult times were like? For one thing, he was a prisoner and, mind you, this wasn't a modern-day prison. He possessed no rights; he enjoyed no fairness.

However, during his confinement, he wrote this in Philippians 4:12-13: "I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength."

Know that God has not abandoned you in your circumstances. He has not banished you to this island like a reality show contestant. Be encouraged by what is written in Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

In life, whether you are getting wet when the top is down or pulling your hair out because the kids are screaming, remember that these circumstances won't last forever.

Your life is not made up of one bad thing; that one bad thing is a small part of your greater life.

So stop and see your aggravating moments with greater perspective. Know that God is with you, that you have an opportunity to grow, and that the bad times – like the driving rain – will eventually pass.

Courses ease NSPS to GS transition

NATIONAL SECURITY PERSONNEL SYSTEM

WASHINGTON – The National Security Personnel System Transition Office has developed two Web-based training courses to support employees during the transition from NSPS to the general schedule personnel system.

On The WEB

Visit the NSPS Web site at www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps.

While the courses address the various responsibilities of managers and supervisors, the content is useful for all employees to help them prepare for the transition.

Courses are described as follows:

1. "Classifying Positions under GS: A Primer for Supervisors" describes how positions are classified in GS.

The course covers supervisory roles and responsibilities associated with conversion from NSPS to GS, providing information via four unique lessons: "Classification in Context Introduction to GS Classification"; "Writing a Position Description"; and "Addressing Special Situations."

2. "Performance Management: A Tool to Achieve Results" provides techniques for conducting performance conversations; methods for setting clear performance goals; practical tips for creating a culture of giving and receiving feedback; steps for rating performance; and ideas for rewarding individual and team performance.

NSPS civilians working for U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii and Installation Management Command-Pacific are scheduled to transition to the GS system in August. NSPS civilians working for U.S. Army-Pacific are set to transition May 23.

(Editor's Note: Adapted from the National Security Personnel System Web site.)

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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Nondelivery or distribution problems in Army Hawaii Family Housing areas? If so, call 656-3155 or 656-3156.

66 days since last fatal accident

Number represents fatal accidents as defined by Army Regulation 385-10, which is inclusive of all active component U.S. Army units and personnel. Current as of 3/18/10.

Voices of Ohana

"How are you impacting the community?"

"By adopting two dogs from the Hawaii Humane Society."

Tracy Levay
Resource Management Office

"By lots of church work and working within the community"

John Little
Directorate of Emergency Services

"By ensuring the safety and welfare of residents and community by access control."

Capt. Florinda Reyes
Doyon Security Service

"Being here to protect and serve 24/7. That makes a positive impact, and it's a team effort."

Wheeler Fire Station #14
Fire Crew

Gates issues critical terms for 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' review

LISA DANIEL
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Defense Secretary Robert Gates has released the guidelines and parameters of a Defense Department review of the so-called "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law in preparation for its potential repeal.

The 10-month review is expected to include input from service chiefs and all levels of the force and their families, Gates said in a memo to Army Gen. Carter Ham, commander of U.S. Army Europe.

Ham was chosen to head the effort along with Jeh Johnson, the Pentagon's top lawyer.

Gates established the review Feb. 2, saying it would be critical to ensuring a smooth transition if the law that bans homosexuals from serving openly in the military is repealed, as President Barack Obama has proposed.

Gates

Gates and Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, have stated their support for the repeal.

The review should engage Congress, Gates said, as well as "key influencers of potential service members and other stakeholder groups."

It should also take into account the experiences of foreign militaries, he added.

"To be successful," Gates said in the memo, "we must understand all issues and potential impacts associated with repeal of the law and how to manage implementation in a way that minimizes disruption to a force engaged in combat operations and other demanding military activities around the globe.

> "To effectively accomplish this assessment, I believe it essential that the working group systematically engage the force."
>
> **— Robert Gates**
> Defense Secretary

"Should Congress take this action," he continued, "strong, engaged and informed leadership will be required at every level to properly and effectively implement a legislative change."

Gates directed that the review should:

• Determine how repeal of the law would affect military readiness, effectiveness, cohesion, recruiting and retention, and family readiness;

• Determine leadership, guidance and training on standards of conduct and new training, as well as appropriate changes to policies and regulations, including management, leadership, training and benefits;

Mullen

• Recommend appropriate changes to the Uniform Code of Military Justice;

• Monitor and evaluate congressional proposals related to the repeal;

• Monitor the work force climate and military effectiveness that support follow-through of a repeal; and,

• Evaluate issues raised in ongoing litigation related to "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

Gates said the review is necessary to "minimize disruption and polarization within the ranks, with special attention paid to those serving on the front lines."

It is due back to him by Dec. 1.

The review is to include input throughout the department and across services.

"To effectively accomplish this assessment, I believe it essential that the working group systematically engage the force," Gates wrote. "The participation of a range of age, rank and warfare communities in this study including families, in addition to active outreach across the force, is a critical aspect that will undoubtedly lead to insights and recommendations essential to the department's implementation of any change."

Noting the political nature of the law, Gates said it is "critical" that the review be conducted "in a professional, thorough and dispassionate manner."

'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' review seeks broadest input from troops

DONNA MILES
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – The Defense Department's review on the potential impact of repealing the ban on homosexuals serving openly in the military will solicit input from troops of every service and rank – as well as their families – through surveys, focus groups and social media tools, the team heading up the review has told Congress.

Jeh Johnson, the Pentagon's general counsel; Army Gen. Carter Ham, commander of U.S. Army Europe; and Clifford Stanley, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, informed the House Armed Services Committee, March 3, they seek to get the widest range of viewpoints from both within and outside the Defense Department as they conduct the review concerning potential repeal of the law commonly known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

Defense Secretary Robert Gates ordered the 10-month review in February to solicit views about a repeal, as well as the potential impact if Congress directs it.

He has also issued guidelines and parameters for the review, emphasizing the importance of ensuring that any change in the law is implemented in a way that minimizes disruptions in military operations.

Toward that end, the working group will focus its work on assessing any impact a repeal would have on readiness, recruiting, retention, family readiness and unit cohesion, Johnson said.

The working group conducting the review is a cross-section of the military, Ham told the House panel. Its members represent a wide variety of ages, ranks and military specialties, come from every service, including the Coast Guard, and serve in both the active and reserve components.

Navy Fleet Master Chief Petty Officer Scott Benning serves as the group's senior enlisted leader, with access to all group activities and a reporting chain that goes directly to Johnson and Ham, the general noted.

Both have asked every member of the working group to set aside their own views so they can conduct an objective, comprehensive review, Johnson told the House panel, "because frankly, that is, in my experience, the best way in which members of the U.S. military go about their work – if we are all asked to set aside our personal opinions and do the best we can at an objective and thorough analysis."

As its members engage in their review, they are expected to use a survey to get views from military members and their families.

However, acknowledging the importance of personal interaction, Ham said focus groups will be conducted as well, some targeting specific groups within the military.

With the department's new emphasis on social media, the working group will take advantage of these tools to ensure the broadest range of individuals, both within and outside the Defense Department, get their voices heard, Ham said.

Pentagon Press Secretary Geoff Morrell said during a recent Pentagon briefing that the working group's study will help to better prepare the department to act if Congress repeals or changes the law.

"Right now, we're not in the position to be able to offer any advice to the Congress on a legislative remedy to 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' if they wanted to pursue one," he said. "We just don't know enough about the impact."

Gates wanted to undertake the review, he added, "for our forces, for their families, for readiness, for recruiting, for retention, for all the potential consequences of a change in the law."

Finally, Gates said, "We are ... preparing ourselves for that possibility, and educating ourselves so that, if the Congress does choose to pursue a legislative remedy, we are able to inform that process in a more helpful way."

'Road Runners' keep aviation 'wheels up'

Deployed Forces

Story and Photo By
STAFF SGT. MIKE ALBERTS
25th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs
25th Infantry Division

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq – Fuel, oxygen and heat can be a dangerous combination, even in laboratory conditions.

In U.S. Division-North, Soldiers of Company E, "Road Runners," 2nd Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, Task Force Diamond Head, manage that combination in the most uncompromising combat environments, all while fueling and arming helicopters 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week.

According to Capt. Craig Buerstatte, commander, Co. E, his distribution company Soldiers handle the company's highest visibility mission.

"We are the task force's forward support company, and we have five totally distinct missions; however, our distribution section gets a lot of attention," Buerstatte said. "Our distribution section Soldiers operate at three locations: COB Speicher, and Forward Operating Bases Bernstein and Normandy.

"At Speicher, Soldiers are primarily involved in cold refuel, de-fuel and ammunition supply missions.

"At both FOB Bernstein and FOB Normandy, we're involved in what might be termed 'hot refuel' operations, where we maintain and operate two Forward Arming and Refueling Points, respectively.

Spc. Peter Webster (front) and Sgt. Eloyes Ratliff both assigned to Company E, "Road Runners," 2nd Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, Task Force Diamond Head, return to their fuel vehicle after refueling a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, near Tikrit, Iraq, Feb. 5.

"Hot refuel operations involve refueling a helicopter that is running, with blades spinning, where the pilots typically remain with the helicopter," Buerstatte said. "Cold refuel occurs when a helicopter is shut down and is generally without occupants."

Since the Road Runners rolled into Iraq in early October 2009, their distribution section has issued more than 450,000 gallons of fuel, which includes about 17,000 gallons from FOB McHenry in Kirkuk Province before it transitioned to another unit; 27,000 gallons from Normandy since it opened in March; 61,000 gallons from Bernstein; and more than 340,000 gallons from COB Speicher.

1st Lt. Chris Westrom is the distribution section platoon leader. The Chicago native is charged with supervising daily operations at all three fuel and ammunition distribution locations.

"Our mission is to support aircraft with fuel and ammo needs for each of the locations we operate," Westrom said. "The importance of that mission is obvious; helicopters cannot fly without fuel and ammunition.

"It's rewarding knowing that we are a vital part of the larger Task Force Diamond Head mission.

"It is also rewarding to me, knowing that my Soldiers understand the importance of what they do.

"They sacrifice for the mission in distant locations and do whatever needs to be done," Westrom said. "So far we've had great success, success that I attribute to having great noncommissioned officers."

Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Robinson and Sgt. Eloyes Ratliff are two of Westrom's NCOs. Robinson, a 19-year veteran on his fifth deployment to Iraq, is the distribution section platoon sergeant. Ratliff is one of his petroleum supply specialist team leaders. Both enjoy leading and training their younger Soldiers.

"I'm responsible for making sure our Soldiers are cared for and know their jobs," Robinson said. "I enjoy seeing them learning and becoming proficient at their jobs. When that happens, I know that they are confident about their work and that (we) have done our jobs."

"I attribute our success so far to the quality of our Soldiers," Ratliff added. "They want to learn and excel. Without that eagerness to do their job and to do it well, the mission fails."

Spc. Peter Webster, a truck driver cross-trained as a petroleum and ammunition specialist, is one of Co. E's newest Soldiers. The Daytona Beach, Fla., native has worked both cold refuel and hot refuel operations during deployment.

"In Iraq, we do the same thing as we do back home, but – to use a sports analogy – back home it feels like practice," Webster said. "When you get to Iraq, you feel like you are finally in the game. Of course, the mission is important wherever we do it, but out here it feels a million times more important. At the FARP for instance, I know that I must get that (helicopter) fueled up as quickly and safely as possible to get it back to its mission.

"If I don't get the helicopters fueled or armed adequately, there may be someone out there who needs helicopter support that may not get it," Webster said "I want that responsibility."

'Longhorns' provide valuable service for task force logistics

SGT. 1ST CLASS TYRONE MARSHALL JR.
25th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs, 25th Infantry Division

CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE WARRIOR, Iraq – While combat units are the key elements to fighting and winning wars, also critical is that these units learn to function in concurrence with their respective service support elements.

As the truism goes, "Tactics win battles, but logistics win wars."

The Soldiers of Troop E, 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, Task Force Lightning Horse, are the forward support element for their task force.

The "Longhorns" provide motorpool maintenance, food service support and run two Forward Arming and Refueling Points for more than 405 Soldiers and civilians.

"Our troop's primary mission is fuel and ammo support for the squadron," said Capt. Cameron Maples, commander, Troop E, 2-6th Cav, 25th CAB. "We primarily support the Kiowa Warriors with fuel and armament, as well as fueling Black Hawks and Chinooks when the (Marne) Express comes through here.

"We run the FARP out of Forward Operating Bases Warrior and McHenry. Our main mission is to offer support through our FARPs, but we also provide ground maintenance for the squadron," he continued.

For the complex mission it is charged with, Troop E has posted some impressive numbers that are far reaching throughout the squadron.

The motorpool has attained an operational rate of nearly 97 percent, and the troop has completed 32 services while compiling 4,500 hours of direct manual labor on vehicles and equipment.

Add the 24-hour, seven-day-a-week FARP operations, and the services and support the troop provides are undoubtedly critical to the task force, the 25th CAB.

"In the course of our mission, we provide all the Class I – the food," said 1st Lt. David Hernandez, executive officer, Troop E, 2-6th Cav, 25th CAB "We have the capability to feed all our troops.

"In addition, we support all ground maintenance," Hernandez said. "We do all repairs and services for all the vehicles in the squadron. We have more than 102 pieces of equipment right now.

"All of our missions are pretty important, but the most critical is the FARP," Hernandez said.

Staff Sgt. Patrick Grant is the platoon sergeant for the distribution platoon. He and his platoon leader are chiefly responsible for ensuring the FARP is running properly.

According to Grant, the FARP provides between 4,000 and 7,000 gallons of fuel per day.

The output for the two FARPs for both fuel and ammunition varies with the frequency of the task force's missions. However, Grant's team, can fuel every type of rotary wing airframe.

"We give them all the fuel and all the bullets they need to complete their mission," Maples said. "That's our main impact."

The Longhorns' distinct mission within TF Lightning Horse is a great source of pride to Maples, who recently took command.

"It's the largest troop in the squadron, and we don't have aviation officers or warrant officers," he said. "It's more like a traditional Army company.

"The Forward Support Troop here plays a major role in our current mission, and we're the only ones at Warrior, so we're doing it by ourselves," Maples added. "FARP is the money maker. It's an immense job for a small group of Soldiers, but the Longhorns are getting the job done."

2-159th ARB keeps 'flying tanks' downrange

Deployed Forces

Story and Photo By
STAFF SGT. MIKE ALBERTS
25th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs
25th Infantry Division

TAL AFAR, Iraq – The Apache helicopter is designed to survive heavy attack and inflict massive damage. Its technical array of flight, weapons, sensor and armor systems requires a team of aviation Soldiers to keep these "flying tanks" operational.

In the far reaches of northern Iraq, that team is Company C, 2-159th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, patrolling more than 200 kilometers of open desert along the Iraqi-Syrian border from Contingency Operating Location Sykes, near here.

"Our mission is to support the ground maneuver units in our area of operation," said Capt. John Landers, AH-64D Longbow pilot and commander, Co. C, 2-159th ARB, 25th CAB, 25th Inf. Div. "Basically, we assist Iraqi and U.S. ground forces with border security and reconnaissance along the Syrian and Iraq border to eliminate the smuggling of foreign fighters, terrorist facilitators and contraband."

To date, Landers' team has logged almost 3,000 flight hours and conducted more than 500 missions.

The unit accomplishes the mission not only with Co. C aircraft, pilots and air crew, but with an attachment of maintenance Soldiers from the battalion's aviation maintenance company.

Collectively, the group calls themselves Task Force "Whiskey" after its unit call sign, a purposeful effort to unify a group of Soldiers who operate in relatively austere conditions, and with aircraft – the AH-64D Apache Longbow – that demands collective attention.

According to Landers, TF Whiskey operates around the clock, launching multiple aircrafts each day.

"Operationally, we work with an aviation unit that doesn't have Apache aircraft," Landers said. "As a result, we rely on our own internal capabilities for our maintenance needs, and that's the biggest challenge.

"The team is performing phenomenally, and Soldiers are really staying on top of issues, being proactive, anticipating scheduled maintenance, and making sure parts are on hand," he said.

1st Lt. Gavin Scheibe is an Apache pilot and platoon leader, Co. C, 2-159th ARB, 25th CAB, 25th Inf. Div. on his first deployment. Besides his flying responsibilities, he oversees a platoon of pilots, air crew and aircraft maintainers.

"I have been enjoying being up north with such a close unit," Scheibe said. "Being separated requires you to jell.

"The flying has been challenging, but the fact that we have come together as a team so well has been the most rewarding aspect of the deployment so far. We've had a 100 percent mission launch rate, which shows that we've accommodated anything that has come up, and that's due to the hard work of the maintainers, maintenance test pilots and others who do everything they can to keep the helicopters flying," Scheibe said.

Launching an Apache helicopter is truly a collective effort.

Each launch requires two pilots, a crew chief and the watchful eye of one of the company maintainers.

Chief Warrant Officer John Bilton (left) standardization pilot, and Chief Warrant Officer Bruno Guzman, maintenance test pilot, both assigned to Company C, 2-159th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 25th Infantry Division, conduct pre-flight inspections of an AH-64D Apache Longbow helicopter prior to mission at Contingency Operating Location Sykes, near Tal Afar, Iraq, Feb 27.

Sgt. William Case is one of the flightline supervisors and an Apache armament, avionics and electrical systems repairer.

"Only through cooperation can we get things accomplished," Case said. "It's working together that has made us so successful from a maintenance standpoint. We've got real dedicated Soldiers up here that put in long hours, and we've pulled together not as individual units, but as Task Force Whiskey."

Sgt. Joey Correnti (background) 303rd Explosive Ordnance Disposal Battalion, demonstrates the rear mount on Spc. Joshua Rude, 74th EOD Company, during the final phase of the 45th Sustainment Brigade's Level 1 combatives class, March 4.

45th Sust. Bde. starts combatives

Story and Photo by
STAFF SGT. COREY BALTOS
45th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs, 8th Theater Sustainment Command

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS – The 45th Sustainment Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, is ensuring their Soldiers are meeting standards and the October 2010 deadline to have all Soldiers Level-1 combatives qualified by offering a Level 1 class once a month and a Level 2 class once a quarter.

Combatives is one of the 40 warrior tasks that all Soldiers must be proficient in, regardless of age or rank.

Unlike other tasks, combatives is not something that can be initially taught during sergeant's time training. Combatives is gradually reinforced once all Soldiers have reached the basic level of proficiency.

According to the Army combatives field manual, the combatives course teaches Soldiers how to protect themselves against threats without using their firearms, among other skills.

"Level 1 classes give Soldiers an introduction to fighting and allow them to see how it applies to everyday situations," said 1st Lt. Joshua Jones, 45th Special Troops Battalion combatives program officer-in-charge. "(The classes) also give them more confidence in themselves and their team."

The first Level 1 class was held Feb. 22-March 4, at Martinez Gym, here.

"This course was good," said Sgt. Jess Hawkings, A Company, 45th STB, 45th Sust. Bde, 8th TSC. "I will definitely take the combatives Level 2 course when it is offered."

561st Engineers prepare new troops for deployment at muddy combat outpost

SGT. RICARDO BRANCH
8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS – The Soldiers of the 561st Engineer Company, 130th Engineer Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command take any opportunity to train, teach and mentor their new troops for combat.

Accordingly, they jumped at the chance to further improve their engineer skills at East Range, March 9-12.

"Today's purpose is to help prepare the Soldiers for our annual field training exercise at Kahukus," said Capt. Kevin Siegrist, company commander, 561st Eng. Co.,130th Eng. Bde., 8th TSC. "This week, all the platoons are doing their own train-up in construction, learning how to operate their equipment, and helping their new Soldiers learn more engineering and warrior skills."

The Soldiers braved knee-high mud and rain showers to construct a makeshift combat outpost.

Platoons pushed out from here in various combat missions, including squad-based movement and reacting to situations at the entry control point.

"These tasks are important because they can be applied for any given situation when you are deployed," Siegrist said. "Our Soldiers will know how to properly construct a berm around an outpost, emplace security around a location, and utilize an ECP, from small-level events like today."

During the training, Soldiers reacted to vehicles and locals at the ECP demanding entry to the base or returning hostages for bribes, as well as reacting to ambushes on their patrols.

"The terrain engineers face is anywhere from deserts to mountains, like Iraq or Afghanistan," said Pfc. Joshua Hergesheimer, a heavy equipment operator with the unit. "We have to be prepared for any place we go. Any training will only benefit Soldiers, especially those new to the unit.

"We're rehearsing all this training, and the noncommissioned officers are really helping break it down well for us," Hergesheimer said.

Although rain pelted the Soldiers for a majority of the training, the Soldiers shrugged off the elements and "Soldiered on."

Hergesheimer put it best coming out of a woodline during a close ambush, "Any opportunity to start up our vehicles, get dirty and do what we came in the Army to do, is always a good day – this beats garrison work any time."

Pfc. Darnell Collins | 8th Theater Sustainment Command

A Soldier from the 561st Engineer Company searches a body during a close ambush exercise March 11, at Schofield Barracks' East Range.

Challenge goes out to tenants to help save energy, water

Story and Photos by
ROBIN HIBLER
Directorate of Public Works

WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD – U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii tenants are being required to step up their energy and water conservation efforts as audits are conducted at all Oahu posts.

Recently, U.S. Army-Pacific issued a memo making senior commanders accountable and requiring all levels of command to reduce energy and water use, to include during training, to the maximum extent possible.

In addition, participation in the USAG-HI Building Energy Monitor Program is required by all tenants, and general energy awareness training is being offered by the garrison's Directorate of Public Works.

To help determine where improvements can be made, energy audits are being conducted day and night, without prior notice, at all USAG-HI posts.

The energy assessments are the garrison's primary means of identifying where waste is happening. The common reasons found for energy waste are:

For more information on the Building Energy Monitor Program or to schedule energy training, call 656-3072 or e-mail robin.hibler@us.army.mil.

- Lights, window or small, split air-conditioning units are left on;
- Air-condition settings are too cold (Army Regulation 420-1 requires settings to be no cooler than 74 degrees);
- Doors and windows in air-conditioned spaces are left open;
- Broken or poorly adjusted sprinkler heads found in the landscaping around the building;
- Outdoor lighting is left on during the day;
- Use of small personal refrigerators (prohibited by AR 420-1);
- Computers or monitors are left on all day and night.

Waste identified that is not occupant-controlled, like photo sensors or out-of-adjustment timers that run lighting, are being assessed and turned into projects.

The Directorate of Public Works is conducting surprise energy audits on U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii installations to catch and correct energy waste. On the left, a propped door lets air conditioning escape. On the right, sprinklers water sidewalks and the street, instead of grass. A recent U.S. Army-Pacific memo requires all levels of command to reduce energy and water use to the maximum extent possible.

The DPW is assessing these projects and attempting to provide funding despite limited money and manpower.

In Fiscal Year 2007, USAG-HI spent about $45 million on utilities. Due to both an increase in usage by tenants and the skyrocketing oil costs in FY 2008, that figure grew to about $64 million in 2008, then dropped to $55 million in FY 2009.

As a result, USAG-HI's budget for utilities was over by several millions of dollars each of these years, with the ever-growing electric bill being the biggest culprit.

In FY 2008, the budget shortfall was $14 million; in FY 2009, it was $6 million.

Soldiers continue to be directly affected by this shortfall because money that could have been used on other Army projects, including quality of life programs meant to improve residents' lives, has instead been directed toward paying for soaring electric and water bills.

Chaplains issue call for Chile quake relief funds

ARMY NEWS SERVICE
News Release

WASHINGTON – The Army chief of chaplains has asked Soldiers and their families to again consider providing assistance to earthquake victims – this time for those in Chile.

A similar designated offering was collected from across the Army in January to provide relief for victims of the earthquake in Haiti. Then, Soldiers and their families donated $574,285 for relief to Haiti, with money being sent to the Red Cross to provide assistance.

The Army's chief of chaplains this week requested installation and medical center chaplains to hold a designated offering, no later than the weekend of April 11, for victims of the Chile earthquake several weeks ago. Chaplains will inform service attendees when the funds are being collected and designated for Chile relief.

According to the Office of the Chief of Chaplains, the designated offerings will be sent to the relief agency of the garrison's choice to help the Chile earthquake victims.

The nation of Chile, which is on the western shore of South America, was rocked by a magnitude 8.8 earthquake, Feb. 27. It is estimated nearly 800 Chileans died as a result of the quake – the nation's largest in 40 years. In 1960, Chile experienced a magnitude 9.5 earthquake – the largest quake in world recorded history.

The Haiti earthquake, though smaller on the Richter scale than Chile's, killed more than 150,000 in the Port-au-Prince area, alone. Survivors of that disaster are receiving more than half a million dollars from Army chapel donations to the Red Cross.

News Briefs

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

Today

Sewer Lines Smoke Testing – Smoke tests of the sanitary sewer system in the Lyman Road area will continue through March 19.

The affected areas on Lyman Road will be from the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team motor pool to Lyman Gate.

Smoke may travel upstream to Kaena, Solomon and Kalakaua communities. Residents may see smoke coming from vent stacks on buildings or holes in the ground, but the smoke is non-toxic, non-staining, has no odor, is white to gray in color and creates no fire hazard. Call 621-3098.

AER Kickoff Rally – The Army Emergency Relief kickoff rally is March 19, 10-11 a.m., at the Nehelani Conference Center, Schofield Barracks.

All brigade, battalion and unit commanders and command sergeants major, project officers and interested Soldiers are requested to attend. Call 655-7132.

Resale Lot – The Schofield Barracks Vehicle Resale Lot is relocating to Wheeler Army Air-Field, in the large parking lot near the Kawamura Gate entrance and the Helicopter/Aircraft Memorial, March 19–31.

The WAAF site will be the only authorized location to position vehicles for resale, effective April 1. To register vehicles, call 655-0497.

22 / Monday

Commissary Early Closure – Schofield Barracks' commissary will close four hours early to conduct a formal inventory, March 22. The store will open at 8 a.m. for early-bird shoppers and at 9 a.m. for regular shopping. It closes at 4 p.m.

24 / Wednesday

Women's History Month – The Women's History Month observance will be a one-woman theatrical performance, "Writing Women Back into History," at Sgt. Smith Theater, Schofield Barracks, March 24, 10-11:30 a.m.

Call 655-4797.

Orientation for New Employees – The next ONE training course is March 24, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., in the Post Conference Room at Schofield. ONE is a training requirement for all new garrison employees.

Call 655-5600.

29 / Monday

Road Closure – Devol Street, between Waianae and Kolekole Avenues on Schofield Barracks, will be closed for road surfacing, March 29-April 11.

Red Cross Office Closure – The Schofield Barracks Red Cross service center will close temporarily, March 29, until staff training can be completed.

To send or receive an emergency Red Cross message 24/7, call (877) 272-7337.

To request support for pre-deployment, rear detachment or Family Readiness Group briefings and presentations, call 257-8848.

April

1 / Thursday

Sewer Lines Smoke Testing – Annual sewer main smoke testing will be conducted April 1-2, on Aliamanu, from AAFES to the sewer pump station next to the skate park and baseball fields.

Although smoke testing will not be within the neighborhoods, smoke may traverse to nearby areas. The smoke is non-toxic, non-staining, has no odor, is white to gray in color, and creates no fire hazard. Call 621-3098.

Ongoing

West Point Recruitment – If you are interested in becoming a West Point cadet, contact DSN 312-688-5780 or Brian.Easley@usma.edu, for entry qualifications.

Congress hears Army won't field ineffective gear

C. TODD LOPEZ
Army News Service

WASHINGTON – There's still room for improvement with equipment that will be fielded to Soldiers as part of enhanced brigade combat team modernization, but equipment will not go to the field if it is ineffective.

Lt. Gen. William Phillips, military deputy to the assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology, told members of the House Armed Service Committee air and land forces subcommittee, March 10, that the Army wants to get technology to the Soldiers as fast as possible, but realizes some equipment that makes up Increment 1 isn't as ready as other equipment.

"We know that within those packages ... each item may not be as mature as the other items," Phillips said. "We are not going to field anything that is not suitable, effective, on the field of battle for our Soldiers."

The Army recently got approval from the Office of the Secretary of Defense to proceed with Low Rate Initial Production on one set of equipment.

Increment 1 systems include the Network Integration Kit, the Class I Unmanned Aerial System, the Small Unmanned Ground Vehicle, Urban-Unattended Ground Sensors, and Tactical-Unattended Ground Sensors.

Issues with some Increment 1 equipment include noise and sensor weight, for instance.

"Some of them are about almost twice the weight they should be," Phillips said of sensors in the package. He also said that the Class 1 Unmanned Aerial Vehicle has issues with noise. "It's a noisy system that we need to reduce the decibels on the field of battle."

Army Brigade Team Modernization Office | Courtesy Photo

A Soldier prepares to launch a Class 1 Unmanned Aerial Vehicle. On the battlefield, the UAV provides intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capablity and situational awareness.

"The current Class 1 UAV weighs about 17 pounds. It provides a hover-stare capability," he said. "Soldiers like this system; it provides great intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capability, great situational awareness of what's happening on the battlefield."

The Army will conduct more testing on equipment included in Increment 1, before moving ahead with plans to equip a second and third BCT with the Increment 1 equipment.

Courtesy Photo

Number 100

COLUMBUS, Miss. — The 100th delivery of the UH-72A Lakota light utility helicopter was celebrated at a rollout ceremony here at the American Eurocopter facility, March 11. The 100th Lakota aircraft will be deployed to Germany with the Army's Joint Multinational Readiness Center, becoming part of the unit's Combat Training Center and further expanding the Lakota's mission applications.

Conference: Suggestions lead to quality-of-life improvements

CONTINUED FROM A-1

"The task that you have been given is one that should weigh heavily on your shoulders," said Tracey Clark, volunteer corps coordinator, Army Community Service. "You have the opportunity to speak for your community and decide what improvements can be made."

Clark asked those in attendance not to take their assignments lightly.

She pointed to "great changes" that have occurred since AFAP began 26 years ago, with the implementation of more than 600 Armywide initiatives.

Locally, AFAP has produced and resourced several notable programs, including additional health and fitness classes, and a bus shuttle service that transports Army family teens between installations.

"These are all things that touched either our lives or someone very close to us," Clark said.

Despite their charge, delegates were told to be mindful of the limited amount of funds available.

Already, the garrison is facing an approximate budget shortfall of $29 million, and implementing new initiatives may only come at the expense of losing existing programs.

"You have got to be realistic with your desires and your expectations," Margotta told the approximately 60 delegates, subject-matter-experts, agency supervisors and senior Army leaders in attendance. "I know you're supposed to come up with ideas on how to make the community better ... (We want you) to give us your recommendations and suggestions.

"At the same time, I would ask you to consider what things may be a little bit less of a priority, which you may want to take away.

"There's no way we can provide more services than we do right now," Margotta added. "It's a matter of taking something else and weighing it against another program."

Margotta thanked the delegates for their dedication to their jobs.

"(AFAP) does work," Margotta said. "Just keep in mind that we may not be able to do all that you ask. But we'll certainly try. That's our commitment to you."

Star: Sergeant always was a hero to his family

CONTINUED FROM A-1

his duties during the 15-month military buildup to bring about change in Iraq. He never imagined, however, that he'd be helping save lives that morning.

"I had no idea I'd be involved in something like that," he said. "I was just doing what I had to do because people were hurt. You never ask to be involved in something like that, but when it happens, you just do what you have to do."

During the Silver Star ceremony, Terry hailed Brooks as a hero.

"These days we use the term 'hero' too loosely," Terry said. "Every time something goes on, we describe someone as a hero. However, there's no doubt that from the actions Brooks took in June of 2007, the only fitting definition is hero.

"Those of us who have been there often have to look deep down within ourselves and consider how we would react to a given situation, and there's no doubt that Brooks performed heroically," Terry said. "Sgt. Brooks came into our Army in 2004; he's part of the 9-11 generation, and you all here are that generation – the next greatest generation."

Close members of Brooks' immediate family were present for the occasion, including his wife, Kristen; sons Aiden, age 10; Conlan, 2; and Nolan, 1; his father, Robert; brother, James; and cousin, Sue.

"You all call him a hero for that day, but I call him a hero every day," his wife said.

Brooks enters the ranks of Silver Star heroes such as Gen. Douglas MacArthur, Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester, and Vice Adm. James Stockdale.

The Silver Star is the third highest military award for valor in combat given to any member of any branch of the armed forces.

"I'm really speechless, I have no words today to describe what this all means," Brooks said. "I'm really blessed because I must have had someone watching out for me that day."

Award: Ceremony to be held at Pentagon

CONTINUED FROM A-1

joining the Army for college money," although that has changed.

"I messed around after high school for a couple of years, then looked into the Army and saw that I could be a food service specialist and get college money, and thought 'this will be easy,'" Williams said. "I never planned on staying in, but I found out how much goodness there is of being in this culture of the Army."

His career in food service took him from Fort Lee, Va., to the White House, where he worked for Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush, and culminated as the dining facility manager for the Old Guard, at Fort Myer, Va.

"I was a sergeant first class at the time, and for some reason, I gravitated toward mentors that were commissioned officers," he said. "I modeled my behavior and thinking after those officers, and was drawn toward becoming a commissioned officer."

Williams completed Officer Candidate School and was commissioned as a quartermaster officer in November 2003.

He later assumed command of Distribution Company, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, in March 2008. Ten months of Williams' company command was spent in combat at Camp Taji, Iraq.

"Unequivocally, the most rewarding, challenging experience I've had not only in my career, but my whole life," Williams said about serving as a company commander. "I looked for ways to make things better somehow – changing policies, changing procedures – it doesn't get any better than knowing that everything you do can touch lives."

Williams, 37, says much of his success is based on the counsel and encouragement he gets at home. He met his wife, Mary Beth, while they competed on the All-Army Rugby team. They were married in 1999, and are the proud parents of two girls: Elizabeth, 10, and Bethany, 7.

"(Mary Beth) tackled me at rugby practice one day, and we couldn't stand each other," he quipped. "But our relationship grew as we got to know one another. Her support motivates me to lead troops with an elevated level of passion. Having my family share in my success makes it even sweeter."

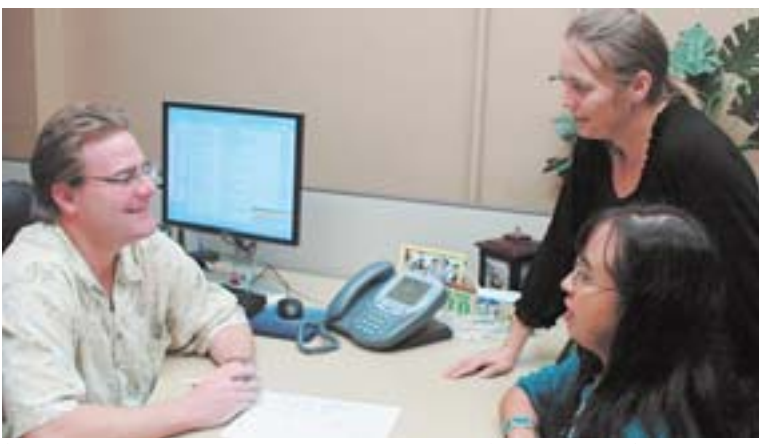
In addition to family support, Williams credits his faith as a key reason for his success.

"My first sergeant and I devoted our first act together every morning to praying for our troops and for each other to make wise decisions," he said.

Receiving a MacArthur leadership award is a life-changing event for an individual Soldier, but Williams says he also owes a lot of credit to close friends and co-workers.

"When I found out I won, I called my former first sergeant and best friend, Kenneth Reynolds, who was getting ready to deploy to Afghanistan," Williams said. "I thanked Maj. Jason Edwards, who nominated me for the award, and sent about 12 e-mails to people who have helped me along the way, thanking them for what we were all able to accomplish. It was a team effort, and I wanted to express that."

Williams and his wife will travel to Washington, D.C., in May to accept the Gen. Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award during a ceremony at the Pentagon.



Cole Weeks, Family Advocacy Program manager, meets with Leslie Garcia, seated, and Colleen Nutter, both Army Community Service FAP specialists on Schofield Barracks. Weeks was selected as the National Association of Social Workers-Hawaii Chapter's Practitioner of the Year.

Family: Inspiration to staff

CONTINUED FROM A-1

the job, which includes leading a team of about 30 staffers, not to mention the numerous Soldiers and family members who fall within USAG-HI.

Above all, she credited Weeks' leadership style, calling him a valuable asset in "building relationships and partnering with the military and the state agencies to maintain a successful and effective program."

"Cole is really good at galvanizing groups of people," McCormack said. "He's also a great role model for dads in our program. For those dads and their families in our program, they have to be OK with a social worker going into their home.

"Cole's personality is effective because he doesn't disrupt the process of gaining a family's trust," she continued. "He's got that ability to connect with people and put them at ease."

While his gift for earning the confidence of others deserves praise, colleagues say so does his knack for inspiring coworkers to constantly give their best.

Colleen Nutter, FAP specialist, said that Weeks places a tremendous amount of faith in his staff, allowing members "to play to their strengths" by involving them in decisions that help shape FAP.

In return, staff members reward Weeks for his belief in their abilities by working doubly hard to cultivate the program.

"He's really perfect for the job," Nutter said. "He's always calm and is always honest. He really believes in the program, and people believe in him. I'd say he's probably the best boss and mentor I've ever had."

Weeks said that his team works best when members are allowed to share ideas and use innate skill sets.

"We have excellent leadership here at the garrison, and they've allowed me a great deal of autonomy," said Weeks, whose responsibilities include serving as chairman of the Military Family Advocacy Coordinating Council, and leading an effort to establish a Wellness Center at Schofield. "I want to make sure that everyone (on the FAP team) is heard and feels involved."

Birth: New copies can be requested

CONTINUED FROM A-1

The new birth certificates cost $5, will be issued after July 1 and will have no expiration date.

Citizens will no longer be required to submit multiple, original copies of their birth certificates for common transactions in Puerto Rico.

Citizens born in Puerto Rico but residing elsewhere may obtain a copy of the new birth certificate by filling out an application form – on or after July 1, 2010 – from the Puerto Rico Vital Statistics Record office. Forms are available at: www.salud.gov.pr/Programas/RegistroDemografico/Pages/RequisitosparasolicituddeNacimiento.asp.

Army graduates latest master resilience trainers

SGT. 1ST CLASS GAIL BRAYMEN
First Army Division West Public Affairs

FORT HOOD, Texas – Approximately 200 Soldiers joined the ranks of the Army's first several hundred master resilience trainers, Wednesday, as they graduated from the Army's new Master Resilience Training program.

The 10-day course, held at First Army Division West headquarters on Fort Hood, was conducted in conjunction with another class of Soldiers at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, via video teleconference.

It was the fourth MRT session conducted to date, Armywide.

The first course, also using video teleconferencing, was held concurrently in Fort Jackson, S.C., and Philadelphia in November 2009.

"The overall goal (of Master Resilience Training) is to be more resilient, to be able to face an adversary, to go through something, and – on the other side of it – come out stronger," said Sgt. 1st Class Charles Barrow, a physical therapist stationed at Fort Jackson.

Barrow attended the pilot MRT program in August 2009 and became a facilitator, traveling to wherever courses are conducted.

As a facilitator, he helps Soldiers acquire life skills of self-awareness, self-regulation and optimism that will help the Soldiers cope with deployments and other personal and professional challenges.

MRT was developed in collaboration with the University of Pennsylvania and is part of the Army's Comprehensive Soldier Fitness program, which encompasses the five dimensions of strength: physical, emotional, social, family and spiritual.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. George Casey Jr. has said the goal is to have one master resilience trainer, per battalion, by the end of 2010.

The 61 new master resilience trainers graduating from the Fort Hood course represent both local units and units from Fort Bliss, Texas; Fort Sill, Okla.; Fort McCoy, Wis.; Fort Lewis, Wash.; and White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

Upon returning to their duty stations, they will lead and train other Soldiers on resiliency issues and teach life skills.

Soldiers in a Master Resiliency Training class at Fort Hood, Texas, interact via video teleconference with Soldiers at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, March 12. The 10-day MRT course, held at First Army Division West headquarters in conjunction with the Philadelphia class, is the fourth MRT session conducted so far Armywide.

HAWAI'I ARMY WEEKLY

PAU HANA

www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil/haw.asp "When work is finished." FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 2010

Honolulu Festival celebrates

Drummers from the Charle Morimoto Families group liven things up at the Honolulu Festival while performing Chikyu Karate Buyou and Eisa Taiko. In its 16th year, the Honolulu Festival was held over a three-day period, March 12-14, at various sites, including the Hawaii Convention Center, Ala Moana Center and Waikiki Beach Walk.

Pacific Rim cultural traditions

Story and Photos by
BILL MOSSMAN
News Editor

HONOLULU – With a world of possibilities at their fingertips, origami instructor Deb Pun Discoe and willing youngsters joined together at a cultural art booth inside the Hawaii Convention Center, March 12-14, working carefully but quickly to transform colorful pieces of paper into sculptures of animals and geometric shapes.

The results were interesting and, at times, awe-inspiring. There were cranes, swans, fish, star boxes and even a 3-D flapping bird.

But the best thing about the youngsters' efforts was the noticeable gleam in their eyes after discovering what they could do with a little bit of knowledge from a foreign culture.

"I've done this for more than ten years, sharing origami at convention centers around the country," said Discoe, the owner of a paper-folding business, Aloha Origami, and one of the instructors present at the OrigamiUSA exhibit. "And you know what? Origami is still meditative, therapeutic and so much fun, especially (for kids) when they see that they can turn pieces of paper into all kinds of art."

The sharing of origami, an ancient Japanese art form, was just one of many traditions on display during the 16th annual Honolulu Festival at various sites around Honolulu, including the Hawaii Convention and Ala Moana centers, and Waikiki Beach Walk.

Thousands of kamaaina (local residents) and island visitors attended the three-day celebration of the Pacific Rim, enjoying musical and dance performances on multiple stages, while immersing themselves in a variety of cultural traditions that promoted ethnic harmony between the people of Hawaii and the Asia-Pacific region.

The festival is "a place where the spectators can actually participate in the festivities by joining hands with the kamaaina to create the festival together," explained Keiichi Tsujino, president of the Honolulu Festival Foundation.

Aside from the origami booth, youngsters fished for a yo-yo, put on decorative kimonos, enjoyed photo sessions with anime characters, and tried their luck at baseball, basketball and fortunetellers' booths.

Meanwhile, adults sampled Asian and Polynesian cuisine, bought household items like Asian-style table lamps to spruce up their abode, or participated in a good 'ol roundup for the paniolo (cowboy) at heart.

Additionally, there were numerous musical and dance performances going on at the Hawaii Convention and Ala Moana centers.

While the Charle Morimoto Families and local ukulele wiz Taimane Gardner wowed audiences at the Festival Stage, March 13, for example, the Omiya Wind Symphony and Leilani Hula Studio entertained audiences at Oahu's largest shopping center.

For some visitors, the festival also represented the perfect opportunity to escape the cold weather of their far-off lands and bask in the sunshine of the Aloha State.

"We're thankful for the weather here," said Marcella Foster, education specialist with the Alaska Native Heritage Center, whose troupe of six members – three of whom are high school students – performed a mix of traditional and contemporary native Alaskan dances for spectators at the Convention Center's Festival Stage.

"When we left Alaska, it was six degrees," she explained. "But here, it's warm and beautiful."

The Honolulu Festival Foundation, a nonprofit organization established in 2000, administers festival activities and honors the culture, customs and traditions of Asians and Pacific Islanders through community outreach and charitable efforts.

Ukulele virtuoso Taimane Gardner strikes a statuesque pose while performing on the Festival Stage, Hawaii Convention Center, during the 16th annual Honolulu Festival, March 13.

Bottom left: Deb Pun Discoe, right, of Aloha Origami assists a pair of youngsters with their paper creations during the 16th annual Honolulu Festival, March 12-14, at the Hawaii Convention Center. In addition to the center, the event was held at the Ala Moana Center, Waikiki Beach Walk and Waikiki Shopping Plaza.

Bottom right: Buddhist monks from Koyasan Kongoryu Gasshodan chant their "goeika," or sacred poems, with the aid of handbells during the Honolulu Festival at the Hawaii Convention Center.

MWR Briefs

Serving America's Army in Hawaii

Today

A Chorus Line – Final shows of "A Chorus Line" play at the Fort Shafter Army Community Theatre, March 19-20, at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets cost $15 to $28 and are available online at www.armytheatre.com. This production may not be suitable for children under the age of 13. Call 438-4480.

Waikiki Party Bus – Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation is your personal chauffeur on a bus traveling to Waikiki, March 19, around 9 p.m. and returning to Schofield Barracks or Fort Shafter around 3 a.m.

Call 655-9971 or 438-1985.

22 / Monday

Chart Your Course – This workshop is for middle school and high school students and their parents to map out an academic plan for on-time graduation and to be more competitive in the college application process.

The course is March 22, at the Aliamanu Community Center, 6:30 p.m.

Call 258-5961 or e-mail schofieldp2p@yahoo.com.

27 / Saturday

NOAA Whale Count – Enjoy one of most unique benefits of living in Hawaii. Help the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration count whales during the annual migration, March 27, 7 a.m.–1 p.m.

Cost is $10 and includes round-trip transportation from Schofield Barracks.

Call 655-0143.

28 / Sunday

Read to the Dogs – Sit. Stay. Read. Is your child a dog lover? If so, they can read to dogs, March 28, 3:30-4:45 p.m.

Children who are able to read on their own can sign up. Call 438-9521.

30 / Tuesday

Earth Day Recycled Art Contest – Enter your art made of recycled materials to any Army library or the Schofield Barracks Arts & Crafts Center, now through March 30, to participate in April 22's 40th anniversary of Earth Day.

Post libraries will be hosting this 100-percent-recycled-art contest and is open to all ages. Call 655-8002.

Mark Brown | Army Hawaii Family Housing LLC

Cool students

WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD — Workmen install an air conditioner in a Wheeler Middle School classroom in early March. The air conditioners will provide a more comfortable environment for students, creating a more positive learning environment. The air conditioners also afford students the option to close classroom windows and doors, keeping distracting noises to a minimum. The installation of 34 air conditioners is the result of a meeting between Wheeler Middle School and Army Hawaii Family Housing partners: U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Commander Col. Matthew Margotta and AHFH Project Director Claire Ridding-Johnston.

Ongoing

Homeschool PE Classes – Army Youth Services offers physical education for the homeschooled child. Schofield Barracks, Helemano and Wheeler classes are Wednesdays, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. To register, call 655-6465.

Aliamanu and Fort Shafter classes are begining April 6, 10-11 a.m. To register, call 836-1923. Classes are subject to change based on registration numbers.

Finance Courses – Registration is open for Army Community Service financial readiness courses throughout April.

Courses include First Term Financial Training, Managing Your Checking Account, Money Management, All About Credit, Secrets of Car Buying, Understanding Insurance and Scams, and Advanced Investing. Visit www.acsclasses.com or call 655-4227.

Hawaiian Luau – The Pililaau Army Recreation Center hosts a luau the last Friday of every month at the Sunset Café.

Dinner begins at 6 p.m., and the entertainment starts at 6:30 p.m.

For a party of four or more, please R.S.V.P. at 696-4158.

State Vehicle Safety Check – Is your vehicle safety check about to expire? Stop by Auto Skills at Fort Shafter or Schofield Barracks for your state vehicle safety check.

These checks are performed on a first-come, first-served basis, no appointment necessary. Call Fort Shafter at 438-9402 or Schofield Barracks at 655-9368.

Tutor.com – The Department of the Army has contracted tutor.com to offer free, online tutoring to kindergarten through college prep students.

Tutor.com gives students access to live tutoring help 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The tutors are certified teachers, college professors, and graduate school students who provide tutoring services in all grade levels of math, science, English and social studies. This is a wonderful resource available at no cost to Army families.

Call the School Liaison Office at 655-9818 or visit Army One Source, www.myarmyonesource.com/cyss_tutor.

Twitter – Follow Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation's mascot Eddie the Eagle on Twitter at www.twitter.com/FMWR_Eddie.

Family Child Care – Individuals interested in caring for children in their home should inquire with the Child and Youth Services Family Child Care Program. Benefits include free training, additional income and flexible hours.

Call 837-0236 or 655-8373.

Life Insurance Warning – Financial Readiness has seen an increase in false, deceptive or unfair life insurance sales.

Violations include selling door-to-door, soliciting Soldiers on post or during duty hours, and selling insurance to lower enlisted without assessing the Soldier's existing Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance benefits.

Soldiers should review their insurance contract with Army Community Service Financial Readiness to ensure the product they have meets their needs.

Call 655-4227.

Arts & Crafts – Join the Schofield Barracks arts and crafts center for creative fun making lei every Thursday, 12-2 p.m. All ages are welcome. Cost is $10.

Call 655-4202.

Outdoor Recreation Open House – Learn about all the exciting things going on at Outdoor Recreation every 2nd Saturday of the month.

There will be information on scuba, whale watching, surfing, water diver certification and much more.

Good at Dominoes? – Check out the U.S. Army FMWR 2010 Domino Tournament now through April 20, each Tuesday, 7 p.m., at the Nehelani on Schofield.

The tournament is available to all active duty, retirees or family members older than 18, with ID cards.

Call 224-4129 or visit www.mwrpromotions.com.

Worship Services

Additional religious services, children's programs, educational services and contact information can be found at www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil. (Click on "Religious Support Office" under the "Directorates and Support Staff" menu).

AMR:	Aliamanu Chapel
FD:	Fort DeRussy Chapel
FS:	Fort Shafter Chapel
HMR:	Helemano Chapel
MPC:	Main Post Chapel, Schofield Barracks
PH:	Aloha Jewish Chapel, Pearl Harbor
TAMC:	Tripler Army Medical Center Chapel
WAAF:	Wheeler Army Airfield Chapel

Buddhist Services
- First Sunday, 1 p.m. at FD
- Fourth Sunday, 1 p.m. at MPC Annex

Catholic Mass
- Friday, 9 a.m. at AMR
- Saturday, 5 p.m. at FD, TAMC and WAAF chapels
- Saturday, 6 p.m. a Hawaiian-style Mass (May-Aug. only) near the Army Museum (FD)
- Sunday services:
  - -7:30 a.m. at WAAF
  - -8 a.m. at AMR
  - -10:30 a.m. at MPC Annex
  - -11 a.m. at TAMC
- Monday-Friday, noon at MPC and TAMC

Gospel Worship
- Sunday, noon at MPC
- Sunday, 12:30 p.m. at AMR

Islamic Prayers and Study
- Friday, 1 p.m. at MPC Annex
- Saturday and Sunday, 5:30 a.m., 6, 7 and 8 p.m. at MPC Annex

Jewish Shabbat (Sabbath)
- Monday, 6 p.m. at PH (Bible Study)
- Friday, 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, 8:15 a.m. at PH

Orthodox Divine Liturgy
- Sunday, 9 a.m. at TAMC

Pagan (Wicca)
- Friday, 7 p.m. at MPC Annex

Protestant Worship
- Sunday Services
  - -9 a.m. at FD, FS, MPC, TAMC and WAAF chapels
  - -10 a.m. at AMR and HMR

Community Calendar

Send announcements to community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

Today

Art and Essay Contest – The Armed Services YMCA's annual art and essay contest invites students in grades 1-12 to write an essay about "My Military Hero."

Entries must be postmarked no later than March 19.

Winning entrees will be displayed in a number of locations in the Washington, D.C., area, and winners will be recognized at a luncheon on Capitol Hill. Entry forms are available at www.asymca.org.

20 / Saturday

Furniture Auction – The Children's Alliance of Hawaii will host a furniture auction to raise much-needed dollars for its programs that support Hawaii's sexually abused children.

The unique estate pieces include armoires, vanity and side tables, dressers, beautifully handcrafted doors, art pieces and much more.

There are no reserve prices or minimum bids on any item.

Items will be available for preview at 1215 Hunakai Street, Honolulu. Bids will be accepted on March 20 and 27, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Bidding will close at 5 p.m., March 28, and winners will be announced during a reception, 5-6 p.m.

Call 599-2955, ext. 227.

25 / Thursday

Ask the Commander – The "Ask the Commander" tapings continue this month in front of the Fort Shafter PX, March 25, 3-4 p.m.

Future dates include April 29 at the Schofield PX, May 27 at the Fort Shafter PX, and June 24 at the Schofield PX.

27 / Saturday

Auto Show Military Two-Fer Day – Buy one admission and get the second free, with valid military IDs, to the International Auto Show at the Hawaii Convention Center, March 27. Visit www.motortrendautoshows.com/honolulu/generalinfo.jsp.

Earth Hour – On March 27, 8:30 p.m., people around the world will come together to call for action on climate change by turning off their lights for one hour.

The movement symbolizes that by working together, we can make a positive impact in this fight, protecting our future and that of future generations. Visit www.myearthhour.org/home.

Easter SeaHunt – Families are invited to Waikiki Aquarium, March 27, 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m., for games, crafts, visits with the Easter Bunny and access to exhibits and galleries.

A shuttle will be available at the Waikiki Elementary School, 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

Admission is free for children of Friends of the Waikiki Aquarium families, family plus and grandparent memberships. The fee for individual, senior and non-members is $10. Fish pond tickets are $2. Registration is available at www.waquarium.org/news-events.asp.

Celebration of Differences – Come to Washington Middle School, 1633 South King Street, Honolulu, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. for Maile's Dream celebration, which raises awarness for Apert syndrome. Admission is free and there will be entertainment, games and food, with proceeds going to Easter Seals Hawaii.

31 / Wednesday

Military Scholarship Night – Are you interested in becoming a military officer, or would you like more information on military scholarships? Attend Military Scholarship Night at Waipahu High School, March 31, 6–9 p.m.

Military service academies and ROTC representatives will provide up-to-date information on each respective program's benefits and requirements.

For more information, call the Air Force 781-7529 or 956-7734; Army 391-9417 or 956-7766; Coast Guard 522-8264, ext. 280; Navy 781-1339; or the Marines 864-2799.

Scholarship – Applications for the Hui O' Wahine and the Hui O' Na Wahines scholarships and grants are due March 31.

The Schofield Barracks spouses clubs give scholarship and welfare money every year to deserving students and organizations.

Scholarships are available for graduating seniors and for continuing education. Grants are given to organizations that support military families and the surrounding community. Grant awards are dependent upon substantial need and the amount of money available.

Visit www.huispirit.com or visit www.schofieldspousesclub.com.

Ongoing

Newcomers Welcome – The Protestant Women of the Chapel meets every Tuesday, 9 a.m., at the Schofield Barracks Main Post Chapel Annex, room 212. Join for food, fun and fellowship.

Free child care available with R.S.V.P.

Contact valeriepwoc@me.com or 753-3584.

MyCAA – The Department of Defense is resuming the Military Spouse Career Advancement Account.

Military spouses currently enrolled will be able to receive tuition assistance.

Until new accounts can be created, Military OneSource Spouse Education and Career Consultants will continue to be available to provide education and training, career exploration, assessment, employment readiness, and career search assistance.

Call 655-4444.

Lent and Holy Week – The chapel schedule for Lenten and Holy Week has been issued. Stations of the Cross are every Friday during Lent, at 5:30 p.m., at Aliamanu. Additional chapel services include the Christian Seder and the Service of Darkness.

Call 836-4599, 655-9307, 655-9355 or 656-1384.

Special Olympics Volunteers – Volunteers are needed to assist with the Special Olympics-Hawaii, Central Honolulu Competitions.

The track and field competition is April 17, 6:30 a.m., at Stoneman Field, Schofield Barracks. The softball competition is May 1, 6 a.m., at the Wheeler Army Airfield softball fields.

Lunch and a T-shirt will be provided. No experience is necessary.

E-mail carasohi@aol.com (include your name, T-shirt size and event preference), or call 943-8808, ext. 114.

Hawaiian Music Festival – Tickets are now available for the Na Hoku O Hawaii Music Festival, May 27-30, at the Hawaii Convention Center.

Tickets prices vary by events and date purchased, visit www.nahokufestival.com.

Give A Day, Get A Disney Day – Disney is celebrating the spirit of giving by inspiring people to volunteer a day of service to a participating organization in their community.

Disney will give a free one-day admission to a Walt Disney World or Disneyland theme park. Call Army Volunteer Corps 655-4227, e-mail tracey.clark@us.army.mil or visit www.disneyparks.com. Tickets are limited and participants must be at least 6 years of age.

Hawaiian Culture – The Umeke (vessel) Ka'eo (knowledge) class focuses on the ukulele. Participants are encouraged to bring their own ukuleles.

The eight-week series is held every Wednesday, from 6-8 p.m., at the Schofield Barracks Army Community Service building. Children ages 6 and up are welcome to participate.

Call 655-4227.

This Week at the Movies

Sgt. Smith Theater

Call 624-2585 for movie listings or go to aafes.com under reeltime movie listing.

The Wolfman

(R)

Fri., March 19, 7 p.m.
Wed., March 24, 7 p.m.

Alvin & the Chipmunks 2

(PG)

Sat., March 20, 4 p.m.

From Paris With Love

(R)

Sat., March 20, 7 p.m.

The Tooth Fairy

(PG)

Sun., March 21, 2 p.m.

The Book of Eli

(R)

Thurs., March 25, 7 p.m.

No shows on Mondays or Tuesdays.

Fort Shafter Library rededication features Army family hula

Story and Photo by
MIKE EGAMI
U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER – The Fort Shafter Library staff celebrated the completion of a three-month renovation project in a festive setting, here, March 10.

Kahu (Reverend) Kaleo Patterson presided over an audience of library staff members, parents, children and special guests, while he performed a Hawaiian prayer and ti leaf blessing.

A special hula program, a dance form accompanied by chant or song, was performed by Soldiers or spouses of active duty Soldiers stationed at Schofield Barracks. It was their first public performance after only a few weeks of classes together.

"To bring together a group of women, teach them traditional hula, experience the Hawaiian culture and grow together as a hula halau (dance group) was an unbelievable experience with many 'chicken-skin' moments," said Annelle Amaral, native Hawaiian liaison for U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii.

Several months ago, the garrison's Native Hawaiian Liaison office and Army Community Service joined forces to offer military families a Native Hawaiian lecture series at the Sgt. Yano Library, Schofield Barracks.

The success of that hands-on series led to the hula classes.

"We are so excited about learning the Hawaiian culture through hula," said Carolyn Simmons, halau member. "We are eager to learn more about the culture and arts and crafts. It is an experience that I will take with me and teach my family long after we leave Hawaii."

Being a member of a hula halau encourages fellowship, trust and everlasting friendships. The members work together to design, sew their hula skirts and tie-dye the tops they wear.

The hula presentation was a highlight for Sgt. 1st Class Dwayne Simmons, a member of the 25th Infantry Division band, whose wife was getting ready to dance.

"I am so excited for Carolyn as she prepares to show me what she has learned in just a few weeks," he said. "I am proud of her and know she will do well with her new friends."

The class was taught by Kumu (teacher) hula Ladd Hele Loa, a fourth generation Kumu hula from the Beamer family, a family long recognized for their Hawaiian hula and music.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the traditional untying of the maile lei was done and Patterson welcomed everyone to the renovated library with, "E komo mai (welcome)."

Major library improvements included the removal of ceiling fans and window air conditioning to install a new, central air conditioning system. Double-pane energy efficient windows also replaced the older jalousie windows.

"Tour our renovated facilities and view the improvements done to make your visits more pleasurable," said Donna Sviantek, Fort Shafter librarian.

Annelle Amaral (center) Native Hawaiian Liaison, performs with an Army hula halau (hula group) comprised of Soldiers and spouses, at the Fort Shafter library rededication, March 10.

Kilroy creates melodies with local military musicians

Story and Photo by
BLAIR MARTIN
Hawaii Navy News Contributing Writer

HONOLULU – The Oahu hard rock band, Kilroy, who plays all original rock songs, is comprised primarily of active duty and former military service members, choosing to blend their musical talents, while juggling hectic work schedules or deployments, with hopes of breaking into the Oahu music scene.

"Being part of Kilroy is a lot of fun, and we all hope to be able to make something out of it," said bass guitarist and Army veteran Todd Anthony. "The [band] has taken us places we've never been, to stages we've never thought possible, and we've met hundreds of people who are just like us."

The band members scramble to meet after duty hours and fit in two practices a week, plus three-hour-set shows.

The band formed in 2009, when lead guitarist Richard Barber, the only non-military band member and writer of much of the band's original music, started looking for seasoned musicians interested in a jam session.

"Writing songs is my way of making sense of the world," he explained. "The music is a vehicle to deliver that message."

Completing the fusion of sound, Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Claude Paddock, from Special Operations Center, Pacific Command, joined the band as drummer, along with Navy Chief Warrant Officer Doyle Purdy, from Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station, Pacific, on lead vocals and guitar.

Members of the hard-rock band Kilroy members include: (left to right) Richard Barber, lead guitar, vocals and song writer; Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Claude Paddock, drummer; Navy Chief Warrant Officer Doyle Purdy, lead vocals, rhythm guitar and songwriter; and Army veteran Todd Anthony, bass guitar and vocals.

Anthony, now working in civil service after an 11-year career in the Army Ranger Regiment, as well as in the 10th Special Forces Group, said the common military background helped him and other band members "click" during initial band rehearsals.

"I love being part of a team," he said. "You listen to a lot of music while in the military. I was in the infantry, so every time we were on a Blackhawk or jumping from a plane, we had our music."

Upcoming Shows

March 19, 7 p.m.,
at Snapper's in Waikiki
March 26, 8 p.m.,
at Brians in Honolulu
March 27, 9:30 p.m.,
at Sand Island R&B Club

Visit www.kilroymusic.com.

Anthony also suggested the name "Kilroy," which is an expression and icon adopted by U.S. servicemen during the WWII and Korean War-era.

Legend has it that service members would doodle the phrase "Kilroy was here" on the walls where they were stationed or visiting.

The name stuck, and the common theme of military service continues to resonate with the band members.

"(Kilroy) has a historical value to it that represents a little of who we are and what we do," Purdy said.

Purdy said the skills he has gained from his 24-year naval career have helped him effectively juggle his responsibilities to the Navy and the band.

"I am on duty 365 days a year," Purdy said. "The experience I have gained through the military helps me assist other band members in managing band dynamics like scheduling, practices and promotions.

"Not only am I committed to my [day] job, I apply the same level of commitment to all I do, and that includes Kilroy," Purdy said.

Paddock has been drumming since he was five years old, and although making music has always been a part of his life, it does not always complement the constant demands of being an active-duty Airman.

"It makes it extremely difficult to commit to a band," he said of his 18-year Air Force career. "I have been hesitant over my career to join a band because deployments and temporary duties force time away from the band, and that makes it hard.

"The last thing you want is to get a band rolling and then you get a snap deployment or TDY that takes you away for an extended period of time," he said.

Kilroy is working toward a CD release in June before Paddock's upcoming permanent change of station move in July.

Purdy, who is stationed in Hawaii for at least another three years, said the immediate plans for the band are to continue booking venues, especially at local military installations.

He said the band is scheduled for a show in May at Schofield Barracks' Tropics Recreation Center, and the group is talking with Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, and Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

"This is the return of original hard rock and roll music," Purdy said. "We have our own unique blend of sounds with old school influence."

(Editor's note: Lacey Justinger, Pau Hana editor, contributed to this article.)

Staff Sgt. Corey Baltos | 45th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs, 8th Theater Sustainment Command

Ready, set, jump

HALEIWA — Maj. Miguel Torres, 303rd Explosive Ordnance Disposal Battalion, 45th Sustainment Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, waves kids onto a blow-up slide at Sunset Beach Elementary School's family fun day, Saturday. Sunset Beach Elementary is partnered with the 303rd EOD as part of the Army's school partnership program.

SFAC provides tools, refuge during recovery process

LACEY JUSTINGER
Pau Hana Editor

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS – The Soldier and Family Assistance Center or Na Kao Puuhonua, the Warrior Place of Refuge, is a one-stop shop for the Warrior Transition Battalion Soldiers and families here to fulfill their vital mission – to heal.

"We support the Soldiers and families as much as possible in the healing process by creating an inviting home-away-from-home experience that sets them up for success," said Hank Cashen, SFAC director.

The SFAC opened in 2008 and supports more than 260 active duty, Reserve and National Guard Soldiers and families who are assigned to the Schofield Barracks WTB.

About 60 percent of these Soldiers will return to military duty after recovering from injuries, with the remainder converting to veterans in the civilian community.

"We assist the Soldier and family through the transition from the Army to the community environment," Cashen said. "We help them market themselves and translate military skills into civilian jobs."

The SFAC partners with several organizations to have counselors and liaisons on hand for education; finance; Veterans Affairs; military benefits; social services assistance; Army Career Alumni Program; Child and Youth Services; and Army Community Services.

"The commanders are really supportive of the program," said Beverly Svenaga, SFAC education counselor.

Child and Youth Services can supply free child care during medical appointments or for respite care. The social services coordinator provides one-on-one stress or anger management. Soldiers are connected with VA before medical review boards to ease the transition. ACAP assists with job searches, resume building and preparing for or hosting job fairs. Education advisors help Soldiers and family members pursue educational goals, especially with the onset of the new post 9-11 GI Bill.

> For additional information, call the Soldier and Family Assistance Center at 655-7171.

"This is a one-stop shop in a family atmosphere to help locate the answers and offer as many opportunities and sources as we can, to help the Soldier fulfill his or her interest and abilities," Cashen said.

WTB Soldiers have complex medical issues that require more than six months of treatment and case management.

"The SFAC is a good partnership between the ACS, Installation Management Command and the Medical Command," he said. "We're part of ACS so garrison provides the support and facilities so we can support the WTB Soldiers and families during the recovery process."

The SFAC amenities include several plasma televisions; a DVD player with surround sound; game consoles; a pool table; a pingpong table; an Internet café; fitness equipment; a library; children's play areas; massage chairs; a relaxation room; a keyboard; and an on-site chaplain.

The SFAC receives donations from community support groups to facilitate supplies for Super Bowl or New Year's Eve parties; healthy snacks for Soldiers and families utilizing the center; and leisure time activities like books, movies toys and games.

SFAC art depicts hope, homecoming in the healing process

LACEY JUSTINGER
Pau Hana Editor

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS – Cindy Manga donated an oil painting to the Soldier and Family Assistance Center, here, entitled "Coming Home" to show her appreciation of the support her husband received after redeployment.

"The SFAC offers every aspect of what Soldiers and families need to survive in wake of the repercussions of what the Soldier saw and did," Manga said. "SFAC does a lot of good work taking care of Soldiers and families, and I wanted to help them get the attention they deserve."

Manga hadn't painted in 25 years but was motivated to honor the Soldiers and the SFAC.

It took one month for her to research and create the painting.

"It is a real tribute to the SFAC," said Gordon Takeshita, director, Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, under which the SFAC falls. "She used her talent as an artist to depict a Soldier coming home, uncertain as to his future. Through the assistance of the SFAC and all the programs that support our wounded warrior, he is now able to visualize a bright future with his family."

With a father who served in three wars and a grandfather who served in two, Manga is no stranger to the effects a war has on the Soldier and the family.

Manga said her childhood and her father's life wouldn't have been as hard if he had a support network like the SFAC to help him fight his demons. He felt he couldn't discuss his issues with his family, but he could talk for hours with other service members, according to Manga.

"War doesn't stop for the families," Manga said. "There are more casualties then what is on the battlefield.

"I can see how my children's life will be better since the SFAC gave my husband the tools he needed to survive what he saw and experienced."

Courtesy Photo

Hank Cashen, left, accepts the painting "Coming Home" that Cindy Manga, right, created and donated to the Soldier and Family Assistance Center to show her appreciation of the care her husband and family received there, March 10.

Her husband, Sgt. 1st Class Leonard Manga, was injured in Iraq and returned to the Warrior Transition Battalion here.

His wish for the painting was that it would be universal; that anyone looking at it could relate. So Manga painted the service member facing away from the viewer.

The Soldier has no designated ethnicity or distinguishing characteristics, and the family at the end of the road could be a mother or father, husband or wife, son or daughter, brother or sister, or friend or cousin.

"When a Soldier first walks into the SFAC, they will know they are going to be OK, that they'll be getting answers," she said. "I want the painting to convey hope, homecoming and that things are going to get better."

In the painting, Manga portrays the Soldier already holding the keys to life in his hands, but the SFAC will assist him down his path of knowing how and which door to open.

"She painted this from her heart," said Elaine Kono, SFAC finance counselor. "It was a gift for us and art therapy for her. I can see a new gleam in her eye and an uplifted spirit."

The SFAC supports WTB active duty, Reserve and National Guard Soldiers and families during the long-term recovery process with counselors, tools, programs and recreation activities in a relaxing home-away-from-home setting.

Family care plan policy will encompass more military families than ever before

ELAINE WILSON
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – The Defense Department's family care plan policy will expand in the coming months to encompass a wider population of military parents.

The new policy will require military parents with custody of children from a previous relationship to file a family care plan, said Army Col. Shawn Shumake, director of the Pentagon's office of legal policy.

The requirement already is in place for dual military couples and single parents with custody.

Family care plans are used to ensure dependents are cared for while the service member is away for an extended period of time for training, a deployment or a remote assignment.

The document includes everything from designation of temporary guardianship to arrangements for financial and logistical support, including relocation and medical care.

While the family care plan always has been a required and useful planning tool for dual-military couples and single parents, the lack of inclusion of blended families represented a "gaping hole" in the policy, Shumake said, prompting the first policy update since 1992.

"What we're trying to do is put these service members in the best possible position before they leave," he said.

In recent years, Shumake said, he has seen an increase in custody disputes involving blended families that mostly arose from a lack of prior coordination.

> For help drafting a family care plan, visit www.militaryonesource.com or www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil.

The deploying parent may designate guardianship to the step-parent, for instance, only to have the biological parent intercede while the custodial parent is gone. The biological parent has every right to custody of that child, he explained, unless extenuating circumstances exist.

This situation can put a deployed parent in a tough, stressful spot while far from home.

"The worst possible thing is when things come to a head while the service member is gone," Shumake said. "The service member is going to be overseas, and that biological parent is going to pop up and be able to walk away with that kid."

Requiring service members with a blended family to have a family care plan will help the families anticipate and solve some of these potential problems early on.

Although the family care plan isn't a legally binding document, the service member would be able to take the plan to court and petition for a court order to enforce it.

Service members who anticipate that they won't be able to reach an agreement with or trust the non-custodial, biological parent to abide by the order, should visit their legal assistance office so they understand the legal ramifications of not involving the biological parent.

The new policy also will address potential deployment deferment in extreme cases.

"We have no interest in ripping a service member away from a child and sending the service member to Iraq or Afghanistan," he said. "No commander is going to want that to happen."

When the service member can't piece together a family care plan in extenuating circumstances, the commander has the option of separating the service member from service.

The new policy also details commanders roles in advising service members of the risks involved with designating a nonviable guardian or leaving a biological parent out of the equation.

"We want to mitigate or avoid the problems before they happen," he said. "Deployments are stressful enough without the added worry of care for your children back home."

Deadline nears for Comprehensive Fitness Global Assessment Tool

Mandatory resiliency survey incorporates Soldiers' and families' physical, emotional, social, spiritual strengths and weaknesses

ALEXANDRA HEMMERLY-BROWN
Army News Service

WASHINGTON – Soldiers need to complete the Global Assessment Tool, part of the Armywide holistic initiative focused on building resilience – Comprehensive Soldier Fitness – by May 31.

Commanders must ensure all Soldiers have completed the mandatory, confidential 240-question survey, Army officials said.

Incorporating physical, emotional, social, family and spiritual strength, CSF was created to enhance performance and build Soldiers' resilience.

GAT helps work toward resilient Soldiers by forcing them to take a closer look at their emotional health and what can be improved.

Defined as the "ability to grow and thrive in the face of challenges and bounce back from adversity," resilience for Soldiers is essential in an environment of persistent conflict, said Brig. Gen. Rhonda Cornum, director of the CSF program.

Traditionally, the Army has invested much into ensuring troops are physically fit, but this program touches all the dimensions of an individual's personal development.

"Resilience is the ability to both go through adverse experiences without letting it negatively affect you, and also the ability to bounce back faster," Cornum said.

She should know.

One of only two female Soldiers taken prisoner during the Persian Gulf War, Cornum survived a helicopter crash and captivity to later go on to write a book, become a urologist, earn a Ph.D., and be promoted to the rank of general.

Cornum stressed that not every Soldier is the same; each has unique experiences and needs.

She gave the example of a tennis ball. Most tennis balls when thrown against a wall will bounce back, Cornum explained.

But some, if they are low on air or have been left outside in the weather, won't. CSF is geared toward giving Soldiers as much "bounce" as possible, she said.

"We are giving everybody the opportunity to realize their maximum potential," Cornum explained.

Also tied into CSF is the Master Resilience Trainer program. Currently housed at the University of Pennsylvania, plans are underway to begin a branch of the school at Fort Jackson, S.C., in April, for 150 students at a time.

With 622 MRTs already certified, the end-game plan is to have every drill and platoon sergeant qualified as MRTs.

Short-term, Cornum said the goal of one MRT per battalion in the Army will be achieved by the end of this fiscal year.

Department of the Army civilians and military family members are not being left out of this comprehensive approach – versions of GAT and the MRT program have been created for those people supporting Soldiers, and will be implemented in the near future.

Domino tourney may lead to World Championship in Vegas

ROB MCILVAINE
Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command
Public Affairs

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – The Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command is hosting the first-ever U.S. Army Domino Championship, through April 24 at 30 garrisons, including Schofield Barracks.

The victorious team will win an all-expense-paid trip to Las Vegas to compete in the 2010 World Domino Championship, with the chance to take home a part of the $40,000 cash prize purse.

The tournament meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Nehelani on Schofield, and is available to all active duty, retirees or family members older than 18, with ID cards.

There is no entry fee and weekly prizes will be awarded.

"I track the other garrisons, and with the scores I have seen here in Hawaii, we're doing alright," said Eddie Garcia, a veteran who volunteered to coordinate the competition at Schofield Barracks.

"Dominoes are a challenge of concentration with an opponent," he said. "Like everything in life, you need to conquer challenges and be all that you can be, just like in the Army."

The team with the highest overall score, after six games, from across all the garrisons, will participate in the nationally televised ESPN competition in Las Vegas, May 26-29.

That team will compete against 18 other countries: Austria, Azerbaijan, Barbados, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Germany, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Panama, the Dominican Republic, Russia, Spain and Venezuela.

"This program is the biggest event ever in the history of dominoes," said Ralph Paniagua, president of R. Paniagua Inc., who is sponsoring the tournament along with DominoesStars.com and Jim Beam Global Spirits and Wines.

"Thanks to our friends at MWR, thousands of young men and women will be exposed to the sport," he said. "This will mark a significant milestone for the sport of dominoes."

DominoUSA, the governing U.S. domino federation, established the match rules and guidelines to ensure the fairness and integrity of the contest.

"As president of the USA Domino Federation, I am very excited that this event will spread the word about dominoes to thousands of players," Manuel Oquendo said. "As a retired Army man, I'm hoping this will be very exciting for our Soldiers and their families to enjoy some down time playing dominoes."

The game of dominoes first came about, some think, when Hung Ming, a Chinese soldier who lived from A.D. 181 to 234, developed it to pass the hours during downtime.

The garrison-level competitions are taking place at the following locations; Anniston Army Depot, Ala.; Fort Belvoir, Va.; Fort Benning, Ga.; Fort Bliss, Texas; Fort Bragg, N.C.; Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico; Fort Campbell, Ky.; Fort Carson, Colo.; Fort Dietrick, Md.; Fort Devens, Mass.; U.S. Army Natick, Mass.; Fort Eustis, Va.; Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Huachua, Ariz.; Fort Irwin, Calif.; Fort Jackson, S.C., Fort Knox, K.Y., Fort Lee, Va.; Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.; Fort Lewis, Wash.; Fort Polk, La.; Fort Richardson, Alaska; Fort Riley, Kan.; Fort Stewart, Ga.; McAlester Army Ammunition Plant, Okla.; Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; Tooele Army Depot, Utah; White Sands Missile Range, N.M.; and Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz.

Garcia also teaches domino rules and regulations to beginners during the weekly meets at the Nehelani.

(Editor's note: Lacey Justinger, Pau Hana editor, contributed to this article.)

On The WEB

For further information and tournament rules and regulations, visit www.DominoUSA.org or www.VivaDomino.com.

For local tournament information, call 224-4129 or visit www.MWRpromotions.com.

Joe Kusumoto | Courtesy Photo

Spirit in motion

WHISTLER, British Columbia — Army retiree and double-amputee Andy Soule skis in the men's sitting competition. He won a bronze medal Saturday for the U.S. Paralympic Team in the 2.4km biathlon pursuit.

MWR Sports

20 / Saturday

Fresh Water Fishing Tournament – Test your fishing prowess with Outdoor Recreation's Fresh Water Fishing Tournament, March 20, 6-11 a.m. Cost is $20 and includes round-trip transportation from Schofield Barracks. Call 655-0143.

26 / Friday

Kualoa Ranch Movie Set and Jungle Tour – Enjoy all your favorite things about Hawaii in one afternoon, March 26, 6 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Experience a North Shore tour and enjoy the thrilling Kualoa Ranch movie set and jungle tour for $74 per person. Round-trip transportation is available. Call 655-0143.

April

6 / Tuesday

PT in the Park – Soldiers and families are invited to join Mickey Mouse and Friends, April 6, 6:30-7:30 a.m., at Bennett Youth Center Field on Schofield Barracks, for 30 minutes of aerobic exercise followed by a continental breakfast. Participants should bring a towel. Call 655-6465.

community Sports

Send sports announcements to community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

20 / Saturday

Walk to End Polio – Local Rotary and the Hawaii Post Polio Network will host the "Walk to End Polio," March 20, at Magic Island in Ala Moana Beach Park.

Check-in is at 7 a.m., and the walk starts at 8 a.m. Registration is $20, or $15 for students and military.

Fees are tax deductible and proceeds will benefit Rotary's Global Polio Eradication Initiative. Visit www.walktoendpolio.com.

26 / Friday

Commander's Classic – Registration for the quarterly golf tournament at Kaneohe Klipper Golf Course, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, is due March 26.

Tournament is held April 2. For Visit www.mccshawaii.com/golf.htm.