

HAWAII ARMY WEEKLY

What's Inside

- B-1 Briefs..... A-4, B-2
- DoD's Bird Bath..... A-5
- Hispanic Heritage..... B-3
- "Make a Difference" .. B-6

News briefly

New Microchip Policy for Pets

Effective today all cats and dogs kept on USARHAW installations are required to have an identification microchip implanted under their skin. The microchip ensures that lost pets can more easily be reunited with their owners. It is a relatively quick and painless procedure. Microchips are available at both Schofield Barracks and Fort Shafter veterinary clinics. Cost is \$17. For an appointment on Schofield Barracks, call 433-8532 or 433-8531. For Fort Shafter, call 422-2271.

Living History Day

The Tropic Lightning Museum on Schofield Barracks will hold a Living History Day from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. this Saturday. The event will be an interactive experience, and attendees can view historic weapons and insignia displays, vintage military vehicles, museum exhibits and interact with re-enactors in period uniforms and equipment. The 25ID(L) Band ensemble will perform from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be a showing of "From Here to Eternity" beginning at 10 a.m. and other war movies with Hawaii ties will be shown as time permits. For more information, call 655-0438.

Army Substance Abuse Program office moves

ASAP will move from building 698A to building 2091 this Monday. ASAP will be open for business the next day. Call Frank Lowd at 655-4655 for information.

Fire Prevention and Safety Stand Down Day

Will be held on Sills Field, Schofield Barracks Oct. 6 at 10 a.m. All military and families are invited to attend. There will be fire extinguisher training, games and bouncers for the children. Smokey the Bear and McGruff will make an appearance and AAFES, AT&T and T-Mobile will give away prizes at booths. There will also be a petting zoo. Call Mr. K. Whitford at 330-2479 for information.

Wheeler Middle School Town Hall Meeting

Town Hall Meeting will be held Oct. 14 at 5 p.m. at the Wheeler Middle School cafeteria. All military families are invited to address school concerns, the status of the Action Plan, and to discuss the School Community Council. Call Wayne Yoshino at 655-2414 for more information.

3-7 FA patrols on foot in Kandahar City

By Spc. Claudia K. Bullard
105th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

KANDAHAR CITY, Afghanistan – Horns blared and traffic jammed to a stop at a crowded traffic circle here Aug. 12.

Astonished residents watched from assorted automobiles, horse-drawn carts, bicycles and motorcycles as two patrols of Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment exited a convoy of Humvees and moved off at an easy pace – on foot and in the open – in Southeastern Afghanistan's most populated city.

"What is the problem today?" yelled an elderly man, a broad grin spread across his face, obviously delighted at the appearance of American forces on the street. "Why are you walking?"

Until now, walking patrols have been an unusual sight in this city, but with national elections

drawing closer, some U.S. forces in Kandahar have shed their heavily-weaponed, up-armored Humvees and are making their presence felt in a more one-to-one approach.

Lt. Col. Clarence Neason, 3-7 FA commander, said patrolling from the inside of a Humvee tends to obscure the "face" of U.S. forces and said he hopes the foot patrols will help build and solidify relationships with residents.

"When patrols are mounted, all you see are vehicles and a 'wave,'" Neason said, "but when the Soldier is on foot, you see him as a person."

Getting to know each other works both ways, he added. U.S. Soldiers can gain a better appreciation for the Afghan culture as well.

Capt. Brendan Raymond, A team leader, said he agrees Soldiers on foot

See "Patrol" Page A-3



SpC. Claudia K. Bullard
Capt. Brendan Raymond (right), 3rd Bn., 7th Field Artillery Rgt., pulls bean bag toys from his protective vest as Afghan children eagerly reach out their hands. Raymond and two of his team members, Sgt. Joshua Bone (center, on radio) and SpC. Mark McClain (background left), were part of a presence patrol in Kandahar City, Afghanistan.

TF 2-11 FA ensures tight security along Iraq-Iran border

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

CHOARTA DISTRICT, Iraq – Smuggling and terrorist activity have plagued the mountainous terrain along the northeastern border of Iraq and Iran in the past. To help eliminate these illegal operations, the Iraqi Border Police – now known as the Department of Border Enforcement – was established in July 2003 to patrol the border.

Border teams from Headquarters and Headquarters Service Company, Task Force 2-11 Field Artillery, head out on six-day border patrol missions from Forward Operating Base Kalsu to provide any needed support to the DBE inside 2nd Brigade Combat Team's area of operations.

On Sept. 20, Border Team 1 from HHS, TF 2-11 FA began their patrol mission when they conveyed to the Choarta District's DBE headquarters to receive an intelligence brief from the district commander. Team 1 is also responsible for the DBE in the Qala Diza District.

"We evaluate what their needs are and inspect border operations in the districts. We then report any intelligence back to our task force, who then passes it on to the brigade," 1st Lt. Drew Johnston, Border Team 1 leader said about his team's responsibilities.



Spc. Sean Kimmons
Staff Sgt. Daniel McKim, Border Team 1 NCOIC, inspects a bag of tea at a smuggling village along the border of Iraq and Iran on Sept. 21. Team 1 Soldiers and DBE guards were conducting a joint mission in search of illegal contraband in the area.

HHS, TF 2-11 FA has three border teams who support DBE units in five districts and 292 miles of Iraq-Iran border.

Following any intelligence briefs, border teams usually conduct joint patrols with the DBE guards in search of illegal activity along the mountainous regions. The rugged mountain roads take them through small farming villages and sometimes beside mine-infested fields left over from the Iraq-Iran War about 20 years ago.

In most cases, border teams stay overnight at random border control points within the districts, where they interact with DBE guards and monitor border surveillance.

While staying at the BCP Awi Curti, Soldiers from Team 1 and the DBE participated in a joint mission to observe a smuggler's village directly across from Iran.

To ease personal concern of illegal smuggling in the area, Staff Sgt. Daniel McKim, Team 1 non-commissioned-officer-in-charge, along with DBE guards questioned one of the land owners to get to the bottom of the issue.

A brief discussion later, McKim discovered that the smuggling operations at this particular village were legal, but may be illegal in Iran or at least taxed by customs officials.

See "Border" Page A-3

Hawaii Army family housing goes private

By Col. Howard Killian
Commander, U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii

U.S. Army, Hawaii operationally closed on a 50-year partnership with Actus Lend Lease today to form Army Hawaii Family Housing, LLC. Army family housing in Hawaii has passed a major milestone as it transitions to the Residential Communities Initiative.

What does that mean to the residents? Expect two major changes beginning today.

First, all family quarters have been privatized and the land it sits on has been leased to Army Hawaii Family Housing, or AHFH. This means that residents, who are required to sign a lease, are now responsible for paying rent. The rent for quarters is now equal to each Soldier's Basic Allowance for Housing or BAH. As BAH changes, so does the rent.

The first time Soldiers or spouses will see a transaction on the leave and earning statement will be Nov. 1, 2004. The signed lease gave AHFH permission to start a discretionary allotment equal to the amount of the Soldier's BAH.

The second change families will see is a new way of doing business. RCI relies on cash flow to start new construction and renovation. We want to provide well-maintained and attractive homes, so in the coming week AHFH will start to mow and trim the front and side yards. Mowing will start this Monday, and will be based on a seven to 14 day cycle, depending on the area and need.

Once the final mowing schedule for each community is finalized, it will be provided to the community manager who will, with the help of the community centers, notify the residents.

Additionally, neighborhood community centers will stock some of the same supplies that previously were available in the self-help stores. The self-help stores are now closed, but most maintenance is a phone call away as AHFH stands ready to fix or service your work orders.

These are just two of the more universal changes, so for more specific information, access the AHFH Web site at www.armyhawaiifamilyhousing.com, or contact your community center.

Also see the Town Hall Article in this issue of Hawaii Army Weekly. A new resident's guide will be available soon. It contains much more detail on living in your home and Army community.

82nd Airborne boosts security before Afghan elections

By Spc. Daniel P. Kelly
CJTF 76 Public Affairs Office

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – With Afghan democratic elections scheduled for Oct. 9, military leaders have sent additional troops to boost security and stability in the country.

More than 1,000 Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, began arriving in Afghanistan Sept. 22 to bolster the 17,000-strong coalition force.

According to U.S. Central Command officials, the 1st Bn., 505th PIR was deployed to meet a request for increased forces capability and requirements identified by the combatant commander.

This deployment is separate from the overall Operation Enduring Freedom Force Rotation. For example, Soldiers of the 25th Infantry Division (Light) from Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, are six months into their one-year force rotation, while the 82nd Airborne Division's rotation is specifically designed to increase security for upcoming Afghan elections, and its redeployment is unspecified.

"They're here to reinforce success," said Maj. Joe Gleichenhaus, planner for Combined Joint Task Force 76.

"Commanders continually evaluate the operational situation and will submit requests for forces to support ongoing operations here in

Afghanistan." The 82nd's Ready Brigade and the Division's Ready Force One are always on call to deploy within 18 hours to anywhere in the world.

Not since the 82nd was alerted to jump into Haiti has the DRF 1 been called upon on short notice. That all changed when 1-505th PIR was called to deploy to Afghanistan.

Within 48 hours, 1 Panther was ready to step into history, helping support the first free democratic elections in Afghanistan's history.

"I waited 32 years to be a part of history," said Maj. Gen. Eric T. Olson, commander of the 25th Infantry Division (Light) and Combined Joint See "82nd Airborne" Page A-3



Daniel P. Kelly
Soldiers of 1st Bn., 505th Parachute Inf. Rgt., 82nd Airborne Division arrive at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan, Sept. 22. More than 1,000 Soldiers from the 82nd Airborne Division deployed to Afghanistan to bolster security for the upcoming Afghan elections.

OPINION & COMMENTARY

Friday

A-2

October 1, 2004

Your vote counts

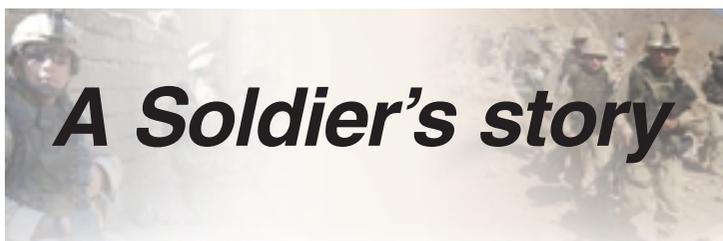
Commentary

Spc. Nicole Welch
Army News Service

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Time is running out to make your vote count to help decide who leads our country into the future. The 2004 November general election is just around the corner, and U.S. service members deployed overseas are encouraged to exercise their right to vote through absentee balloting, which is part of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act. Absentee ballots should be mailed no later than Oct. 15. In order to get an absentee ballot, troops can use the Federal Post Card Application, or send a written request for a ballot to the county, city, town or parish clerk. If the absentee ballot is not received in time to meet the Oct. 15 deadline, troops can also use a Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot if they meet the three criteria. First, the individual must be located overseas, second he must have applied for a regular ballot early enough that the request is received by the local election official at least 30 days before the election and finally, he must not have received the requested reg-

ular absentee ballot. The deadline for submitting the FPCA varies from state to state, but registered voters are urged to submit it at least 30 days before the election. Some states accept the on-line form of the FPCA, said 1st Lt. Phan Ton, Voting Assistance Officer for the 555th Engineer Company deployed to Iraq from Fort Hood, Texas. She said troops should visit their voting assistance officer for additional information about the requirements for their state. Service members are encouraged to exercise their right to vote, and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld designated the week of Sept. 3-11, as Armed Forces Voter Week to stress the importance of troops' input. Deployed troops are advised to research the issues and candidates they are voting for, and can gain more information through newspapers, magazines, various Web sites, and a hotline, Ton explained. Troops can call 1-800-438-VOTE and listen to recorded messages from candidates and information on the various ballot issues. Many Camp Victory South service members in Iraq understand the significance of each vote, and decided to voice their opinion this year even though they hadn't previously.

"While I didn't vote the last election, I plan to vote this year," said Spc. Amanda Webb, of Crawfordsville, Ind., a mail clerk with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, III Corps out of Fort Hood, Texas. "I've had time to focus on what kind of country I was living in and how it was being run. I believe everyone in our country has the right to vote to make a choice to implement changes, and that's the only way this country will get any better." "With the improvement in pushing for 100-percent contact of Soldiers to get a FPCA and a stronger, more prevalent VAO program, and a change in the military postal system, I feel that Soldiers are more confident that their vote will count for this year's election," Ton said. Ton also explained that from Soldiers she has encountered, most are interested in being involved in their military future, as well as their future as a U.S. citizen, and they are encouraging one another to vote. For more information about voting in the upcoming election, visit www.fvap.com, or contact your unit's voting assistance officer. (Editor's note: Spc. Nicole Welch serves with Multi-National Corps-Iraq Public Affairs)



A Soldier's story

Commentary

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

KIRKUK AIR BASE, Iraq – Sept. 21, 7:30 p.m. Two explosions are heard from the patrol base. I walked into the radio room and listened as reports came in from the rooftop observation posts in the city. Our head interpreter, "Mike," called the police to investigate. One of the observation posts reports it sounded like an RPG being fired. Soldiers on-call loaded their assigned trucks and prepared to move out. The police reported that an RPG was fired at a police outpost. No casualties because the missile missed and hit the building behind them. The Soldiers in the trucks were ordered to stand down and restage equipment. We are using the local police to take care of most of the fire fights and attacks when it's Iraqi-on-Iraqi violence. We try to stay in the shadows and observe their actions. This is new experience and trade for most of them. Our whole mindset behind putting them to the grind is when they can do all their duties proficiently unsupervised; there will be no need for American Forces here.

with no resistance or engagements to report. As we near both the elections in the U.S. and here in Iraq things may change. The insurgents here know that our elections are in a few months and may cause problems to bring the focus back on them. With the wide spread and instant media coverage of every U.S. Soldier injured or killed, it keeps these terrorists in the limelight where they like to be. This week meet 1st Lt. Micah Blais, 2nd platoon leader. He is from Wenham, Mass. and has been in the Army for two years. Blais said when he found out he was deploying, he envisioned a much more rural fight similar to Afghanistan's long range patrols and vast open areas. He said, "My initial reaction when we hit the ground was shock. It wasn't what I was expecting. The standard of living is so much different. What Iraqis see as important things in life are far different than what Americans do." He continued by saying, "Now that we've been here awhile, I see a far more structured society than when we arrived. It seems like more Iraqis are looking to take responsibility for the rebuilding effort." I asked Blais what has been the saddest thing he has seen here in Iraq. He said, "We were at the hospital on patrol one night and a pickup truck pulled up with an injured innocent bystander of a car bomb. This kid was about 18 and his mom was cradling him in the bed of the truck. It was heart-wrenching watching the mother's reaction after they pronounced him dead on arrival." I asked what the most rewarding thing he's seen. He said, "Watching the new Soldiers in the platoon develop. As we have gotten further into the deployment, they have been given greater responsibilities and have shown themselves equal to the tasks." He added, "Working with all my guys in the platoon has really been an honor." He finished his interview by saying hi to all his family and friends in Massachusetts. "Love you mom and don't worry dad my six is clear."

CJCS sends voting message

Commentary

Gen. Richard B. Myers
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

In this election year, you – our men and women in uniform – are stationed around the globe serving our Nation and defending democracy. We have both the responsibility and the privilege to participate in our democracy by exercising our fundamental right to vote. I encourage every eligible man and woman in uniform, as well as all family members of voting age, to join in the democratic process and cast your ballots. You will have the opportunity to vote, either in person or through absentee ballots, in primary, special run-off and general elections – no matter where you are stationed or what operation you are participating in. Recent elections have demonstrated the importance

of every absentee ballot. Your vote does count! The 2004 elections will determine our choice for president and vice president, 34 senators, the entire House of Representatives, and 13 governors, as well as thousands of local officials. I urge each of you to participate, starting with the primaries already underway and continuing through the general election on November 2nd. Most of you will be using the absentee voting process, which has never been easier than it is today. For those of us in the Armed Forces and our family members, starting the process is as easy as filling out and mailing the Federal Post Card Application. The FPCA is available from your Unit Voting Assistance Officer, who can also assist you with your state procedures. As members of the Armed Forces, we each have a responsibility to take part in determining our Nation's leadership. It's your future, vote for it!

Voices of Lightning

Why is it important to vote and do you vote?



"It is important to vote. You have no reason to gripe or complain if you didn't cast a vote for your candidate. I vote."

Brenda Vandegrift
Family Member,
retired Army



"It is important to vote for all the right reasons and so you have a say in what needs to be done [in our country]. I am deploying in January, so others can have the same benefits we do. Yes, I will vote."

Staff Sgt. Jayton Ruiz
29th BCT



"For me, it is your right to vote; it is all about exercising your American rights. I vote in general and primary elections."

Pete Magallones
Army Korean War Veteran



"It is important to vote so we get the right president. I vote, and it is important to vote for the person that represents you the best."

Sgt. Chris Ruff
29th BCT



"It is important to vote so you can have a voice to decide your leaders. If you don't vote, you can't complain. It is everyone's responsibility to vote. In our country, we take it for granted, in other countries, people are dying for the freedoms we have. I vote."

Sgt. 1st Class Stephan Dolic
725th MSB



"I don't want to vote because I am not sure which candidate to choose. But, if you don't vote, you can't grumble about the other guy winning."

Spc. Steven Chang
29th BCT

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

All editorial content of the Hawaii Army Weekly is the responsibility of the U.S. Army, Hawaii Public Affairs Office, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii 96857. Contents of the Hawaii Army Weekly are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or the Department of the Army. The Hawaii Army Weekly is printed by

The Honolulu Advertiser, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Government, under exclusive written agreement with the U.S. Army, Hawaii.

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

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political

affiliation, or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the printer will refuse to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts and supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of the Army, or The Honolulu Advertiser, of the firms, products or services advertised.

Commander
Col. Dave McKenna
Public Affairs Officer
Capt. Kathleen Turner
Public Affairs Chief/Editor
Staff Sgt. Bradley Rhen
Command Information Officer
Ed Aber-Song
Assistant Editor
Sharee Moore
Staff Writers
Joy Boiselle
Spc. Charles Hayes
Layout
Tony Vercelez

Editorial Office: 655-4816/8728
Fax: 655-9290

E-mail: e-mail the HAW direct at editor@hawaiiarmyweekly.com or ed.aber-song@schofield.army.mil
Address: Public Affairs Office
Bldg. 580, Stop 215
Schofield Barracks, HI 96857

Web site:
<http://www.251d.army.mil/haw.asp>
Advertising: 521-9111

Patrol

From A-1

make a strong statement about the security situation here.

"Kandahar is as safe as any other city," said Raymond. "We're not afraid to walk here."

Raymond frequently extended a hand to residents who left shops and houses to watch the Soldiers pass. Children followed closely on their heels begging for candy, giving the scene a festive atmosphere.

On this patrol Raymond and 1st Lt. Gianni Giannandrea, B team leader, also conducted final assessments of needs and security issues at two Voter Registration Centers, which have since closed.

Kandahar City was once the stronghold of Taliban leader Mullah Omar, emerged in 2001 from under a strict religious Muslim rule and is now preparing to participate in the country's first national elections. More than nine million citizens have registered nation-wide for the elections, representing more than 90 percent of the eligible public.

"I don't think we can dispute the fact that voter registration has gone beyond the imagination of any of the nay-sayers," said 3/7 Operations Officer Maj. David Flynn, adding that he doesn't feel the Taliban have any substantial influence in Kandahar City. This, Flynn said, is partly due to 3/7's continual presence in three assigned districts – Arghandab, Daman and Kandahar City.



Spc. Claudia K. Bullard

Capt. Brendan Raymond (right), 3rd Bn., 7th Field Artillery Rgt., leads members of his team on a foot patrol down a main thoroughfare in Kandahar City, Afghanistan.

Patrols work closely with Afghan National Police and maintain a daily presence working with village leaders and mullahs.

Outside a compound in far north-west Kandahar City, the two teams met and stood guard while Raymond and his interpreter entered to conduct an assessment of the VRC. Sitting in the shade of a wide porch Raymond asked Mirali, a young Afghan in charge of the VRC, about security

issues at the site. He closely questioned Mirali about threats, night letters, the appearance of Taliban and other Anti-coalition Militia and whether other security forces such as the Afghan National Police were ever available. Mirali reported no threats had been directed at him or his family and no Taliban or ACM had paid any visits.

Mirali said the center had been open since Feb. 29 and had registered 300

males and 200 females. Raymond asked Mirali if his pay was enough. Mirali shrugged saying, "Pay is not the first thing." Raymond made certain Mirali was familiar with the vehicles and uniforms of other coalition forces as well. Mirali said, "We can't tell whether you are Air Force or Army, but we know your mission is good."

Raymond's parting words were: "If the Taliban comes, tell them to call me."

Giannandrea also pressed VRC officials about threats or suspicious individuals they may have seen around the second site. Giannandrea and Raymond both double checked that officials had the correct number for the 3/7 Tactical Operations Center at nearby Kandahar Air Field. Each VRC is given a satellite phone with a number to the TOC which they can call in case of an attack on the site. Giannandrea said

if the TOC gets call from a VRC they can respond very quickly. The number is not a secret said Giannandrea. "We pass our number out to all villages, to as many people as we can."

Back on patrol, the Soldiers continue their face-to-face exchanges with local Afghans, returning greetings while staying vigilant. Staff Sgt. Omri Ibi said walking patrols allow the Coalition to make a genuine connection.

"This shows them that we are not bad," said Ibi, "that we're here for them for their welfare – that we're here to help. They'll never know until we reach out and touch them," said Ibi adding that's hard to do from a vehicle.

Neason hopes this personal connection along with successful elections will eventually help return economic stability to Kandahar City. He said he was told by a local Afghan that Kandahar City used to have cafes and other places where people could come together. Even though many Afghans donned traditional clothing at that time, many wore western attire as well. The women weren't shrouded in burkhas.

"I think Afghans want a stable and peaceful life and to be able to make a way for their children," said Neason adding that he intends to expand the foot patrols into outlying areas and possibly into the market places.

"Just coming by gives them an opportunity to see," said Neason. "The word will spread. People will look forward to that connection."

Border

From A-1

Smugglers stage at this village where they pack loads of goods, such as sugar and tea, and then transport the goods into Iran on donkeys.

"We went down there to check for any illegal items or contraband and to maintain relations with the guys along the border. If they hear or see anything illegal coming into Iraq, they'll hopefully notify the DBE," McKim said.

In addition to these types of operations, border teams often receive extra duties from higher echelons to complete while out on patrol missions. During a recent patrol mission, Team 1 was directed to scout out possible voting locations for the Iraqi election early next year.

To do this, Team 1 drove many hours through the mountainous terrain to see if certain village schoolhouses could support a bal-



Spc. Sean Kimmons

Kurdish children greet a Humvee from Team 1 during a joint border patrol mission within the Choarta District on Sept. 24.

lot voting site.

At the end of their long and tiring patrol missions, border teams travelled back to FOB Kalsu to rearm and refit. Four days later, border teams travelled out to the mountains again.

82nd Airborne

From A-1

Task Force 76, speaking to the Paratroopers of 1 Panther upon arrival at Bagram Air Field.

"When I joined at the end of the Vietnam War I felt like my country didn't need my service. Right now it needs yours. You all are making history," he continued.

The Paratroopers of 1 Panther said they are honored to help support the Afghanistan presidential elections.

This is a great mission to be a part of, said Staff Sgt. Randy Kramer, a squad leader with Company B.

"We are helping establish a democratic government to a country that has never seen freedom before," Kramer said.

Olson said the 82nd was called upon instead of another unit because they are "the best of the best."

"That is why we asked for you and that is why you are here," Olson said.

While CENTCOM will not discuss specific deployment

dates or durations, they said forces deployed in support of stability and security operations will remain in Afghanistan until released by the operational commander.

The additional requests for forces from the 82nd Airborne Division were reviewed at the highest level and validated to avoid any unnecessary deployment, according to officials.

(Editor's note: Pfc. Johnnie French, 82nd Airborne Division Public Affairs, contributed to this story.)

Briefs

Hispanic Heritage Festival – The 11th Annual Hispanic Heritage Festival will be held Oct. 9 at Kapiolani Park and Bandstand from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. There will be entertainment, food booths, arts and crafts specialty items, cultural displays and children's activities. This year also features the Annual Hispanic Family Health Fair presented with the Hispanic Center of Hawaii. Admission is free. Call 941-5216 or 285-0072 for information.

FBI Recruitment – Are you interested in a career with the FBI as a Special Agent? Learn about the FBI by attending the monthly FBI career seminar Oct. 7, 10 – 11 a.m. in building 690 (Aloha Center), 3rd floor conference room on Schofield Barracks. Call 655-1028 to register. Call Special Agent Kal Wong at 566-4488 for information about future seminars. Entry level salary is \$45,735 during academy training. After graduation salary is \$56,240 - \$61,045 including locality and availability pay.

The Welfare Committee of the Fort Shafter Hui O Wahine serving Fort Shafter, Tripler, AMR, and Camp Smith is currently accepting requests for financial assistance. In accordance with Hui's constitution, only requests submitted from charitable, educational or community organizations will be considered. Requests must include the organization's name, point of contact with phone number, and the amount of funds requested and how they will be utilized. Deadline for requests is Nov. 1, 2004. Distribution of funds will take place by Nov. 15, 2004. For more information contact Marcella Heilig at 833-1834. Mail requests to Fort Shafter Hui O Wahine, Welfare Committee, c/o Marcella Heilig, Hale Ikena: Building 710, Fort Shafter, HI 96858

Off-post Loaner Furniture Program Discontinued – The Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management discontinued the Army off-post loaner furniture program in Hawaii today. The on-post loaner program has not changed. Those who have loaner furniture and live off-post can continue to use the borrowed furnishings until the 90-day period is up or household goods arrive. No new issues of furniture or appliances will be granted for off-post residences. All incoming military are encouraged to bring washers and dryers in their household goods shipment. Contact the DPW Furnishings Section at 655-1131 or Kelli Wilson, community relations specialist, at 275-3122.

Fall Festival – A Fall Festival will be held at Hale Kula Elementary School, Schofield Barracks Oct. 23 from 10 a.m. to 2p.m., rain or shine. This family activity will include games, prizes, food, entertainment, silent auction, static displays and much more. Vendors, crafters, and FRGs wanted, booth price is \$20. Contact Andrea at 624-1110 for information.

Upcoming Red Cross Classes – American Red Cross Schofield Barracks will be offering the following classes: Infant and Child CPR, this Saturday, at the Red Cross Office from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Cost is \$30. First Aid, this Saturday, at the Red Cross Office 2 – 6 p.m. Cost is \$20. These classes are open to teens as well as adults. Also, the office will be staffed, part-time, by volunteers. Call before coming. If no one is available leave a

message and someone will get back to you. Call the office for registration or information at 655-4927.

Free Money for College – The Maj. Gen. James Ursano Scholarship Fund helps Army families with the costs of post secondary, undergraduate level education, vocational training, and preparation for acceptance by service academies for dependent children. Funds can be used for tuition, fees, books, supplies, and on or off campus housing. Eligibility: Applicants must be dependent children, stepchildren or legally adopted children of Army Soldiers on active duty, retired or deceased while on active duty or after retirement. The children of Gray Area Retirees are also eligible. Applicants must be unmarried for the entire academic year and be under age 22 on May 1 before the beginning of the academic year. Deadline is March 1, 2005. For more specific information about deadlines and documentation (students may apply online after Nov. 1) visit Army Emergency Relief on the Web at www.aerhq.org. Call (703) 428-0035 or e-mail education@aerhq.org.

Abuse Shelter Open – The Joint Military Family Abuse Shelter provides a safe comfortable environment for individuals and families experiencing abuse or the threat of abuse. The shelter offers the opportunity for victims to be understood, listened to and accepted, and gives them the time to learn about the dynamics of domestic violence and options to explore and the chance to develop a safety plan for the future. The shelter provides an environment for healing to begin. Shelter services include a safe place to stay, food, clothing and personal care items, transportation, child care, crisis counseling, information and referral, advocacy, education, safety planning, and a 24-hour shelter and crisis hotline. There are no charges for these services. Admission is open to all branches of service including all valid military ID card holders. Call the 24-hour crisis line 533-7125 for information or to talk to a support counselor.

New Thrift Store Hours for Schofield Barracks – Tuesdays, Thursdays and the first Saturday of each month the thrift store is open from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Consignments are taken from 9 a.m. - noon. On the third Thursday of each month the Thrift Store will be open from 3:30 - 7:30 p.m. Evening hour consignments are from 3:30 - 6:30 p.m. Volunteers are always needed. The thrift shop is in building 2107, behind Army Community Service on Schofield Barracks. For more information, call 624-3254.

English as a Second Language – This is a basic, adult education English course. The course is designed for beginners to those seeking to improve written and verbal communication skills. Classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30 to 11 a.m. The fall session begins Tuesday through Nov. 30. Enrollment is ongoing. Registration and a \$15 fee are required. Call for more information and for child care (limited slots for qualified personnel), the YMCA on Wheeler at 624-5645.

Waianae Veterans Day Parade – Begins 9 a.m. Nov. 6 at the Waianae Boat Harbor. At 10 a.m., there will be an hour of speeches and awards to veterans, and talks about the Soldiers currently deployed. There will be video taken of families and local community groups at this Hoolaulea, and there are plans to send copies of the videos to deployed Soldiers.

29th Engineers drive 29th BCT to war

By Capt. George A. Mitroka
29th Eng. Bn.

The 29th Engineer Battalion (Topographic) from Fort Shafter recently conducted pre-deployment driver's training for the 29th Brigade Combat Team, a Hawaii National Guard brigade mobilizing for deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. For the past six weeks, an eight-man team trained and certified more than 300 Soldiers from the 29th BCT in six courses that lasted from Aug. 19 – Sept. 26.



Courtesy photo

Wheeler to get DoD's only helicopter wash



Courtesy photo

A CH-47 Chinook helicopter delivers supplies to Soldiers during training. The DoD's only clear water rinse facility will be able to rinse sand, salt and other corrosives from the helicopter's body and rotors. When the facility is completed in January 2005, it will become DoD's first with these capabilities.

By Sharee Moore
Assistant Editor

The Department of Defense broke ground for its first joint service helicopter clear water rinse facility on Wheeler Army Air Field Sept. 21. It is the only system designed specifically for DoD helicopters.

Col. Howard Killian, commander of U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii said at the ceremony, "It is important to have this facility to ensure the safety of our helicopter crews by eliminating the corrosion that causes many flight safety problems.

"The clear water rinse feature will also save money on helicopter main-

tenance and increase readiness," he added.

For example, aviation crews operating in Southwest Asia work in environments with talcum-like sand that carries salt and other contaminants. The cool night air condenses the moisture inside the aircrafts, accelerating corrosion.

The new clear water rinse facility will help stop the corrosion until crews are able to return to their normal maintenance routines. The facility will help slow corrosion on Wheeler, too.

An Aviation and Missile Command Helicopter report states that aviation corrosion costs at Wheeler are approximately \$18 million each year with a growth

rate of 10 percent per year. The clear water rinse facility will go far to reduce the impacts on the environment.

There are several environmentally friendly technologies incorporated into the new system not readily seen by the naked eye.

Steve Carr, the AMCOM corrosion program manager out of Redstone Arsenal, Al., said, "This system filters and recycles water unlike the other filtration system on Wheeler."

A major feature of the wash is a unique filtration system that removes oil, hydraulic fluid, fuel, heavy metals and salt from the rinse water. Once this happens, the water is filtered back into Environmental Protection Agency potable

quality after each rinse.

The facility can rinse 20 helicopters per hour, 24 hours a day for a year. It can also electronically recognize each type of helicopter and activate the appropriate hose in response. It can even spray over the rotors on CH-47 Chinooks. It is the first system with this particular capability.

Col. Floyd Quintana, director of Department of Public Works said, "One of our goals here isn't just to provide Soldier's with the means to enhance their equipment, but to be good neighbors in the community and preserve natural resources."

Carr said the facility should be completed in January 2005.

25th ID Soldiers get combat decorations in Afghanistan

By Sgt. 1st Class
Darren D. Heusel
105th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

KABUL, Afghanistan – With "Old Glory" standing at attention and a lethargic sun setting slowly in the background, Maj. Gen. Eric T. Olson congratulated approximately 60 Soldiers from the 25th Infantry Division (Light) based out of Schofield Barracks in Hawaii for their participation in Operation Enduring Freedom.

Olson, a native of Wantagh, N.Y., and commander of the Combined Joint Task Force 76 in Afghanistan, had just presented the 25th ID (L) troops with their Global War on Terrorism Service Medals and shoulder sleeve insignias for former wartime service, during a Sept. 25 ceremony in the "Bomb House" courtyard here.

"You are changing the course of a nation. You are making history," Olson told the Soldiers, as Afghanistan readies itself for its landmark Oct. 9 presidential elections. "You are the ones who are going to make sure we have those elections. You are shaping a nation."

The 25th ID (L) arrived in Afghanistan in April, taking over the year-long security mission from the 10th Mountain Division out of Fort Drum, N.Y.

"We see the misery throughout Afghanistan and we care about the human condition," Olson said. "But we also care about the security of the United States of America and we are going to

change that by what we're doing here.

"What you are doing here is fighting an enemy that attacked our way of life on our own soil. What you have sworn to do is defend our nation against all enemies foreign and domestic. You swore to put your life on the line to ensure what happened three years ago on Sept. 11 doesn't happen again."

Olson went on to praise the 25th ID (L) Soldiers for their service and expressed his gratitude by saying, "You are getting high marks throughout the command. We are here at a critical time and we will make a difference for this nation and our nation.

"Thank you for your service, thank you for what you do. I thank God for the Tropic Lightning," added Olson, referring to the patch worn on the 25th ID (L) Soldiers' left sleeve that has a lightning bolt splitting a taro leaf, found on a popular Hawaiian plant.

Also on hand for the ceremony were Lt. Gen. David Barno, commander of Combined Forces Commander-Afghanistan; Col. Samuel H. Johnson, and director of the Joint Interagency Effects Group at CFC-A; and Sgt. Maj. Franklin G. Ashe, CJTF-76 command sergeant major.

Similar ceremonies involving 25th ID (L) Soldiers have taken place the past few weeks throughout Afghanistan, with the next one slated for today in Bagram.



Sgt. 1st Class Darren D. Heusel

Maj. Gen. Eric T. Olson, commander of the 25th Infantry Division (Light) and Combined Joint Task Force 76, presents a 25th ID (L) Soldier with a "combat patch" and Global War on Terrorism Service Medal during a ceremony Sept. 25 in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Mission recovery leads to mission success

Story and photos by
Sgt. Frank Magni
17th Public Affairs Det

FORWARD OPERATING BASE RIPLEY, Afghanistan — When coalition members embark on combat operations within Afghanistan, they do so behind a variety of preparations. Some preparations begin before the unit got to Afghanistan, but others start the moment they return from a mission.

Recovery for Company B, 2nd Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment "Bobcats" reached a new level of importance when they returned from an 18-day mission in the Oruzgan Province.

"There is so much to concentrate on when conducting operations you don't have time to think about whether you replaced that battery in your scope or cleaned your barrel," said Spc. Shay Humphrey, Co. B, 2nd Bn., 5th Inf. Rgt., team leader. "When we return from a mission, we immediately start preparing for the next mission

because we don't know when it will be."

Since the emphasis on recovery is paramount for the Bobcats, the battalion has developed timelines and procedures specific to Afghanistan.

"The conditions here are very different than Hawaii," said 1st Lt. Ryan Beltramini, Co. B., 2nd Bn., 5th Inf. Rgt., executive officer. "Not only are the conditions different, but performing in combat for extended periods of time is also very different than a training exercise."

The Bobcat's mission in Oruzgan varied from mounted and dismounted patrols. The conditions were at high elevation with temperatures reaching more than 100 degrees.

"At times this was the most physically taxing work I've ever done in the Army," said Staff Sgt. Travis Lloyd, Co. B, 2nd Bn., 5th Inf. Rgt., squad leader. "Our recovery not only focuses on equipment, but personnel."

In terms of equipment, the company focuses on weapons, night vision goggles and radios

within the first 24 hours of returning, said Beltramini. They inventory, clean and identify broken equipment, with the eventual goal of having all equipment ready for the next mission within 48 hours.

The unit also maintains and restocks collective unit equipment like medical and engineering supplies.

When maintaining their weapons, the Soldiers focus on rounds and magazines, said Humphrey.

"We unload the magazines and make sure there are no dents in the rounds," he said. "We also make sure the springs in the mags are relaxed and straight."

They also try to verify the zero on their weapons if there is extra time during recovery.

In terms of the conditions within Afghanistan, the dust poses the biggest challenge for the operation and recovery of all equipment, he said.

"The dust is so fine in consistency, it gets in all the nooks and crannies of our weapons," he

said. "We clean our weapons at least once a day in the field, but during recovery we concentrate on the hard-to-reach areas."

Personnel also get much needed recovery time immediately after returning from missions. Individual recovery ranges from sewing on buttons and repairing torn uniforms, to taking showers and getting haircuts.

"What we do here is just as important as what we do on a mission," said Beltramini. "Leaders just need to make sure it is done with the same intensity and attention to detail as on a mission."

Staff Sgt. Mike Larson, Co. B, 2nd Bn., 5th Inf. Rgt., reassembles his Remington H-70 shotgun during unit recovery after a mission in the Oruzgan province. Larson uses the shotgun primarily for breaching doors in cordon and search operations with Operation Enduring Freedom.



Aviator logs 10,000 flight hours, eclipses milestone

Capt. Jeffrey D. McCoy
1st Bn., 25th Avn.

It was a dark night in Udairi, Kuwait as I climbed into the cockpit of the OH-58D piloted by Chief Warrant Officer 5 Howard Fancher of Company C, 1st Battalion (Attack), 25th Aviation Regiment.

Moments before he arrived I had been scanning the horizon while waiting for him to fly in and pick me up. I remember thinking to myself, "this is the blackest night I have ever seen in my life!"

My unit, 1st Bn. (Attack), 25th Avn. Rgt., had just deployed from beautiful Hawaii to where I stood preparing to fly my night environmental qualification.

The flight would involve transiting the desert to a location where we could land in the dust for "brown-out" practice. The combination of the unknown environment paired with the white knuckle dust landings had put a lump in my throat.

I remembered thinking "Thank God I am flying with Howard tonight." Fancher was approaching his 10,000th flight hour and I was working on my 2,000th. A couple of minutes later Fancher's Kiowa Warrior buzzed into the traffic pattern and soon landed a few feet away from me.

His previous "student" got out and I took his place. As soon as I plugged my helmet in Fancher laughed and said "Boy am I glad to see you!" Apparently he had not been looking forward to taking out the less experienced pilot whose place I had taken on the flight schedule.

Nonetheless, I was not happy to hear those words because they solidified my concerns about the safety of the flight. I have to admit that in spite of any reservations, the flight went well and Fancher's innate ability to instruct took



CWO3 Chris Bryant

CWO5 Howard Fancher holds a certificate acknowledging his 10,000th flight hour over the course of his 32-year career. This is a rare occurrence in Army aviation.

over and I walked away an hour later feeling that I could safely operate in this environment.

Fancher enlisted in the delayed entry program July 6, 1972. He came on active duty later that same year as a private 2 on the "college option." Under this program, Howard would attend basic training then proceed straight into the Artillery Officer's Basic Course at Fort Sill, Okla.

He graduated second in his class and was commissioned a 2nd lieutenant July 6, 1973, and was assigned to Fort Sill in the 1-17th Field Artillery Regiment.

Fancher's passion was flying; however, not artillery.

He said, "have you ever had one of those things that you just knew you wanted to do?" I said "yes, flying." "Exactly!" He replied.

"My father was in the Air Force and I am especially fond of one photo, taken in 1960, of myself standing on the ladder of an Air Force F-102 in Misawa Air Base, Japan. My parents were so cool," Howard recalled.

"They took me out of school one day to see the U.S. Air

Force's aerobatic team, the Thunderbirds. Back then they were flying F-100's." That was it. That was the spark that gave birth to Fancher's 32-plus years of dedicated service to his country in Army aviation.

Fancher had done well in OBC and his class standing later afforded him the opportunity to attend U.S. Army Flight Training at Fort Rucker, Al. He started out in TH-55's and later moved on to the venerable UH-1, Huey.

"Everybody was a Huey pilot coming out of flight school in those days" he remarked. Fancher remembers his very first flight, known as the "Nickel Ride" which took place Sept. 22, 1975.

Upon completion of flight school, 1st Lt. Fancher was assigned to 1-17th Cavalry Regiment in Fort Bragg, N. C. as the squadron intelligence officer.

Relating his early experience as an aviator, Fancher recalled "I flew as a staff guy, which didn't afford me the amount of flight time and experience that I was hoping for, so I began to scrape together flights to make up for it. I remember flying nights, week-

ends and holidays."

Howard recalled one Easter Sunday when he volunteered to fly a chaplain down to Fort Stewart, Ga. for an Easter service. This was the beginning of the passion that would snowball into the amazing number of flight hours Fancher has accumulated today.

In 1980-81, Fancher began to see the handwriting on the wall for his career as a staff officer.

In a conversation with a friend he asked what he needed to do to become a warrant officer. He remembers copying the only document on post that had the instructions for reverting and then sifting through the

mountains of paperwork to complete the process.

Sept. 30, 1982, Capt.

Fancher resigned his commission and the next day was sworn back in as a warrant officer 1. WO1 Fancher was assigned to Fort Rucker, Al. as an instructor pilot in the Initial Entry Rotor Wing course.

Every decision Fancher has made in his career has been integral to the amount of flight time it would afford him. He chose the OH-58 because its operational readiness rate was the best in the Army. He chose to become an instructor pilot because he knew that career track flew more than any other.

I asked him why he pushes himself as hard as he does. He looked at me and smiled, choosing his words carefully and said "Have you ever heard of the movie tone newsreels that they used to show at the beginning of movies?"

I said yes. He said "I remember one in particular that they showed shortly after President Kennedy's inauguration where he said "Ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country!"

Those words spoke directly to Fancher and became his adopted credo. "I'm just trying to give something back." Fancher added. And give back he has.

He voluntarily accompanied my unit to Iraq for this combat

tour and has served with great distinction in the nine months we have been here.

Today, Fancher is a CW5 and has reached the pinnacle of his career. I asked what advice he would give to a young pilot, fresh out of flight school.

He beamed across the table at me and said, "keep your mouth shut and your eyes open." He also said the airframes may change and become more technologically advanced but we, the human element, do not.

He said "if you look back, you will see that we are having the same kind of [human error] accidents today that we were having 20, 30 years ago. It is important to learn from those mistakes and not repeat them and you can only do that by paying attention."

Lastly, I asked if he had any regrets and he said, "My only regret is the amount of time that I have spent away from home. I have a wonderful wife, Cathy, who will have been my wife of 25 years on the 23rd of August, 2004.

Fancher is an abundance of sage advice and wisdom and now, as he has eclipsed an epic milestone with his 10,000th flight hour, we are as proud of him as his family back home is. Howard Fancher is an Army Aviator, a true quiet professional. He's the kind of guy that I would like to be someday.

Thanks for giving back Fancher, we salute you.

Coalition forces give gift of sight to young girl

By Sgt. Jennifer Emmons
17th Public Affairs Det.

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan – Due to a vision impairment, Halema, a young Afghan girl, has never seen clearly.

The Soldiers of Task Force Pirate, who met Halema during one of their humanitarian assistance visits to Jildalek village in Central Afghanistan, saw her plight and decided they would do what they could to help.

“(The) last time we went out to the village, we were taking photographs,” said Chief Warrant Officer Layne Pace, Task Force Pirate safety officer. “We came back and saw the photograph of Halema – we later found out (that) was her name – and we noticed she had some severe eye problems.”

The Soldiers took the photo to the doctors at the 325th Combat Support Hospital at Bagram Air Base. From the photo, doctors were able to diagnose Halema with congenital esotropia.

“Congenital esotropia is just a bunch of big words that mean the eyes weren’t straight. They’re actually pointing at each other,” said Maj. Gregory Bramblett, 325th CSH ophthalmologist.

“It’s a common condition in children all over the world,” he said.

The surgery to correct this problem is relatively simple. But Afghans from the rural regions of the country do not have access to this type of medical care, said Bramblett.

Working with the ophthalmologist from the Egyptian Hospital here, the Soldiers decided to bring Halema to Bagram for an operation that would correct her eyes.



Video still by Sgt. Jennifer Emmons

Halema smiles for the camera from Bagram Air Base hospital shortly before surgery to correct her impaired vision. The surgery corrected her crossed eyes.

“The Egyptian hospital (staff) was very gracious and agreed to (house) her and (offered) the services of their surgeon on her behalf and agreed to do the surgery,” said Pace.

The Soldiers scheduled another trip to Jildalek to coordinate with the village elders and Halema’s family to bring her to Bagram for surgery.

“We were pleasantly surprised at how quickly they agreed,” said Pace.

But it was an easy decision for her parents.

“If no one does an operation on her, she will have this problem forever,” said Sher Mohammad, Halema’s father.

That same day, young Halema and her father came to Bagram with the Soldiers. After preliminary exams by U.S. and Egyptian ophthalmologists, the surgery was scheduled.

“What we do is adjust the position of the muscles to either weak-

en or strengthen them,” said Bramblett. “There are six muscles that move the eye. Her eyes are looking toward the center too much, so we take the ones in the middle, which move the eye, and we weaken those muscles so they won’t pull as hard. The goal is to get her eyes to be straight.”

On the day of surgery, Halema and her father, along with several Soldiers from Task Force Pirate, arrived at the combat support hospital. As the nurse prepared her for surgery, Halema held on to a Soldier’s hand, her face bursting into a smile.

The surgery lasted two hours and was considered a success.

“It is wonderful,” said Egyptian Dr. (Lt. Col.) Emad Gobr. one of the ophthalmologists who performed the surgery. “The procedure was done on both eyes at one setting and went very well.”

Eventually, with recovery time, Halema will have perfect vision. As the youngest child of six, this wouldn’t have been possible without the help of the coalition.

“We are happy that the Coalition Forces are helping her,” said Mohammad. “They will help her see. Her vision will get better and better.”

The people in Jildalek also appreciate what the Coalition forces are doing.

“Apparently the news of what we’re doing has spread throughout the village,” said Chaplain (Capt.) Mark Allison, Task Force Pirate chaplain. “They’re very pleased. They are very grateful.”

Halema is one of many Afghans to receive surgery from coalition medical professionals.

“These people return to their

homes after having surgery very happy,” said Gobr.

This helps the relationship between the Afghan population and Coalition forces, he said. As an eye doctor, Gobr performs surgery to restore sight to many locals.

“A lot of them have congenital cataracts and have never seen the world before,” said Gobr. “The first thing they see in the world (is) Coalition Forces helping them.”

The waiting list for surgery is more than four months long, said Gobr. But children have priority.

“I think this child who is only 6 or 7 years old will remember all her life and all her family will remember what the Coalition Forces have done for her,” he said.

Halema spent several days recovering before the Task Force Pirate Soldiers took her back to her home.

She left behind many coalition members with an even better understanding of the importance of their role in Operation Enduring Freedom.

“This whole experience started out by just finding a girl who was in need,” said Pace. “The whole thing turned out to be bigger than we thought it would. The U.S. hospital, the Egyptian hospital and the entire Task Force Pirate are extremely excited about helping this little girl.”

“But they’re not just excited over Halema, they’re excited about the whole idea of us being here and what we can potentially do for the people of Afghanistan. It’s not just the surgery, but it’s the entire humanitarian package, the entire aid we are providing.”

IRT preps Soldiers for deployment

By Spc. Charles Hayes
Staff Writer

Soldiers and civilians from the 25th Infantry Division (Light) and U.S. Army, Hawaii are still deploying in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. To better prepare them, they are required to go through individual readiness training before they deploy.

In the Army, individual readiness is the ability of a Soldier to deploy, within a certain amount of time upon notice, on operations, potentially in a combat environment.

These Soldiers will need to be able to perform the specific skills in which he or she has been trained. Individual readiness is the foundation on which military preparedness is based. Soldiers must maintain their basic soldier skills even in peacetime, including taking care of assigned equipment to be able to deploy quickly.

“The purpose of this training is to identify typical scenarios that could happen in a real world environment,” said Capt.

Robert Hoover, DISCOM assistant operations and training officer.

During IRT Soldiers will go through training such as convoy exercises, how to search personnel, search vehicles, and how to probe, identify, and mark for land mines and trip wires, both mounted and dismounted. They will also learn to search and clear buildings in a simulated urban environment.

Sept. 23 the Soldiers were getting a lot of training. Most of the training required hands-on from the Soldiers, including personnel, POV inspections and crawling in the dirt during the mine location and marking classes.

Convoy exercises included reacting to contact, where the Soldiers had to be prepared to dismount and take up a defensive position.

Infantry Soldiers are not the only ones who go through this training. Anyone deploying to support OEF and OIF receive the same training. While overseas, chances are very high that most Soldiers will have to do

jobs that may not be included in their duty description.

One such group in particular is the “Rat Patrol,” deployed to Afghanistan. The Rat Patrol is a group of Soldiers with different military occupational specialties, such as cooks, mechanics, medics, supply and communication specialists, who came together to conduct missions that are normally done by cavalry scouts and infantrymen.

Civilian contractors also go through the training.

With the rise in the number of attacks against civilian contractors, it is crucial that they know what to do when something goes wrong. Many contractors do not have prior military experience and, without the training, would not know how to react to an attack.

Ultimately, individual readiness is up to each Soldier. No one knows how ready Soldiers are and what he or she needs to work on. Soldiers need to constantly be working on individual soldiering skills. One day, it could save a life.



Spc. Charles Hayes

Sgt. Robert Landers demonstrates how to search for explosives during IRT Sept. 23. The training is designed to ensure the readiness of Soldiers and civilians deploying in support of OEF and OIF.

Safety stressed during combat zone PT

By Sgt. Frank Magni
17th Public Affairs Det.

AFGHANISTAN — The old Army adage of “We train as we fight,” has taken on a new meaning in regards to physical training in a combat zone.

Even with limited resources and time, PT remains fundamental for units throughout Afghanistan because of the unlimited amounts of positive effects provided on the battlefield.

But just like many activities in a combat zone, PT poses challenges to leaders in terms of safety.

One leader who works through the challenge of PT on the front lines is Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Dorey, noncommissioned officer in charge of the 125th Signal Battalion element working on Forward Operating Base Salerno. Even with the rigors of the everyday mission, safe PT hasn't taken a backseat in the unit — it has just evolved, said Dorey, an Army Master Fitness Trainer.

In fact, the PT his unit conducts in Afghanistan has many advantages over what they did at their home station in Hawaii. It has better prepared his Soldiers for the challenges of operating in Afghanistan.

“I have found that PT is much more (mission)-related here,” said Dorey.

That means the Soldiers are conducting PT that more closely reflects what they do during day-to-day operations.

For members of 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, also based at FOB Salerno, PT has become their daily mission in many ways.

“We are conducting dismounted patrols ranging from eight to 10 kilometers a day,” said Marine 1st Sgt. James Brooks, Headquarters and Service Company, 3rd Bn., 6th Marines.

With PT more closely related



Sgt. Frank Magni

Soldiers on Forward Operating Base Salerno, Afghanistan, run with weapons to diversify their physical training in a combat environment.

to, and sometimes becoming, the daily mission, its use in the combat zone has many different effects beyond maintaining a healthy body.

“As (leaders) we have to preach to our Soldiers to be combat-ready,” said Dorey. “We just use PT as one way to accomplish it.”

For Dorey's unit, formations to conduct push-ups, sit-ups and two-mile runs have been replaced by individual sections conducting regular ruck-marches, body-armor runs and litter-carry relays.

“We not only try to incorporate battle drills into our PT, but also the equipment we use in these drills,” said Dorey.

It is hard to measure or equate

the effects of the training, but Dorey knows Soldiers are better-prepared to carry a litter in the event of a rocket attack. The by-product for their efforts is the ability of service members to deal with the rigors of their day.

By practicing essential tasks during PT, they are also more conditioned to accomplish those tasks, he said.

While the line between battle drills and physical training blur in a combat area, some basic principles for preventing injury normally associated with physical training have become a part of the daily grind for the Marines conducting dismounted patrols.

“We always stretch before any

movement we conduct,” said Brooks. “Our main focus in doing this is to reduce injury, so more Marines are combat-ready.”

But, just as units take from their experiences in PT to enhance their daily mission, their operational experience can also enhance PT.

Maintaining situational awareness is key when conducting traditional PT on an FOB, said Brooks.

“You have to constantly stay aware of your surroundings when running, or even walking, on gravel roads,” he said.

Situational awareness is also key in terms of force protection.

“It is a requirement to run with a buddy in our unit,” said Dorey.

In addition to running with a buddy, they avoid desolate areas around their base, he said.

“We try to stay as close to the base's general population as possible, so that in case something happens either with enemy contact or injury, there is help close by,” he said.

While most FOBs have limited areas for running, sticking to a regularly used run route is one key to avoiding injury on non-paved roads.

“We try to run the same routes,” said Brooks. “Although this might get repetitive, we do this to stay aware of the problem areas.”

Hydration is one of the most important points both Brooks and Dorey stress to their troops, whether they are conducting PT or other activities.

“At this elevation and temperatures, Soldiers have to constantly drink fluids to stay healthy,” said Dorey.

He said drinking water is important because of the uniform that is required in Afghanistan.

“We don't have the luxury to take off our body armor or change uniforms,” he said. “So we have to compensate by drinking more water.”

While leaders take lessons from daily missions and apply them to PT and vice versa, safe PT is not a tremendous challenge as long as all leaders stay involved, said Dorey.

“You have to stay focused on why physical training is important, and not look at PT as a distraction, but one of the most critical tasks your unit does,” he said.

For coalition members who get enough PT through their daily mission, the goal remains simple.

“It is part of being a well-rounded (service member),” said Brooks. “If we are not out on a mission, we are in the gym. We always have to be prepared physically for whatever the mission has in store for us.”

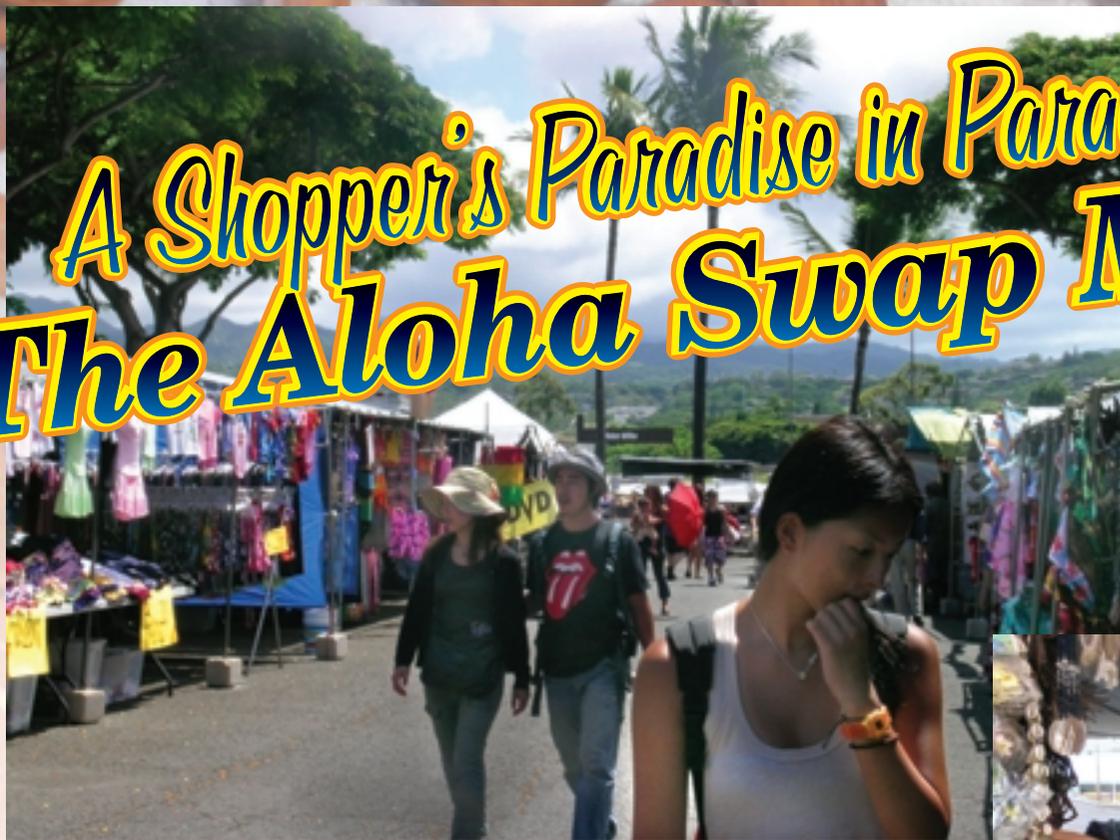
COMMUNITY & SPORTS

Friday

B-1

October 1, 2004

A Shopper's Paradise in Paradise The Aloha Swap Meet



Above: Shoppers stroll through the makeshift alley created by the 600 vendor stalls surrounding the Aloha Stadium.



Pam Herzig and visiting friend, Cindy Mathis, check out the "3 for \$5" bracelets.



Story and photos by
Joy Boisselle
Staff Writer

"Waikiki on Sale" is how Jeff Bareng, Operations Manager, describes the Aloha Swap Meet. Going strong for 20 plus years, the Aloha Swap Meet located at the landmark Aloha Stadium is more than just an everyday shopping experience. Every Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday, 600 vendors give or take a few, converge on the stadium to offer customers a one-of-a-kind shopping extravaganza.

"\$20 can go a long way here," said Bareng. "The Swap Meet has the best deals anywhere with a lot of variety. No longer a Swap Meet in the truest sense of the word, he said, "Most if not all vendors will bargain with customers. It is an Asian custom and the vendors are used to bargaining."

The staggering variety is evident during a stroll down the makeshift alleyways created by the vendor stalls. Leis, aloha wear, luggage, seat covers, and T-shirts of every size, shape, and color flutter in the warm ocean breeze from Pearl Harbor. What's more, specialty foods, like macadamia nut cookies, hot malasadas, nuts, and fresh fruits create a tempting array of sights and smells adding to the local island feel of the event.

Although some items can be found elsewhere in Hawaii, a number of items are exclusive to the Swap Meet, such as some artists' offerings and collectibles. Bareng emphasized, "If you do find things elsewhere, the price will definitely be more."

On Sundays, the event becomes even more eclectic. In addition to the already diverse mix, antique and collectibles vendors from across the island converge on Sections 11 through 13 to sell their wares. Old and new Hawaiian quilts, reproduction and original furniture, and a vast assortment of Hawaiian collectibles are all on display for the throng of shoppers.

30,000 to 40,000 bargain-hunters per week, a mix of tourists, locals, and military families, will pay the unbelievable fifty-cent admission fee to enjoy a day at the Aloha Swap Meet. Red Hill residents, Megan Clark, Veronica Whitehead, and

Susan Heard were among the early bird shoppers one Wednesday morning. Recommendations from the seasoned shoppers included bringing a friend with you, a cell phone to stay in contact, and a backpack with the following: sunscreen, hat, umbrella, and water.

"We are Christmas shopping today, but we come here all the time and we appreciate the quality," they said as they sorted through a rainbow-colored stack of sarongs bound for a lucky family on the mainland. Whitehead added, "Come early before it gets too hot."

Agreeing with the shoppers' assessment, Bareng commented with a laugh, "We have captured the market for shave ice." Utah tourist, Jim Young, sipping on a cherry shave ice, chuckled and said, "I did not expect the size of the meet. We are spending what money we have left."

Another local shopper, Pam Herzig said, "Everyone comes to the Swap Meet; it provides a taste of local culture, it's cheap, and there is everything you could possibly want right here." Herzig was at the Swap meet with visiting family from the mainland.

Some energizing changes are in store for the Swap Meet. Bareng said, "We will be adding more comfort stations, snack bars, and live entertainment."

"Entertainment will have a Hawaiian touch like hula dancers and ukulele players," he said, adding, "We want to create more excitement and a street fair atmosphere."

Have something to sell? Anyone can rent a stall for a \$10 flat fee and, according to Bareng, "be your own boss" for the day. He said it would be a great yard sale venue for military families as well as a place for the crafts person to display their work for a very low fee.

From Schofield Barracks, follow H-2 to H-1, Honolulu. Exit H-1 at the Halawa Heights Stadium exit and follow the stadium signs. The Swap Meet is open from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wed., Sat., and Sun. On football game days, the meet closes at 1 p.m. (For more information, call 486-6704.)



Colorful aloha wear is available in every shape and size.



The sights of the Aloha Swap Meet delight, tempt, and amuse.



Family Day in Waikiki – Tour the Honolulu Zoo and Waikiki Aquarium then choose from one of these activities: shop at Royal Hawaiian Shopping Center or the International Market Place, participate in surfing lessons on Waikiki Beach, or picnic and relax in Queen Kapiolani Park and more Oct. 16. Free transportation will be provided from the Schofield Barracks Commissary parking lot, departing at 8 a.m. Fees depend on the activities

chosen. Reservations required. Call 655-0111/655-0112.

Ala Moana Shopping Trip – Shop at over 240 stores and dine at one of the 70 restaurants offered at the Ala Moana Mall. Transportation will be provided on Oct. 19, departing from the Schofield Commissary at 9 a.m. and returning at 2 p.m. Reservations required. Call 655-0111/655-0112.

Are you interested in getting a massage? – Based on interest, a tour date will be set up and transportation will be provided. Call 655-0111/655-0112 if interested in this field trip.

Tropics October Food Special – Enjoy an Italian, ham, chicken salad, turkey, or roast beef sandwich with all the fixings for \$3.25. Add the soup of the day for \$1.50. Call 655-0002.

Spouse's Night Out – This free adults-only program at Army Community Service on Schofield Barracks is designed to get spouses out of the house every Thursday night from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. to have fun. On Oct. 7, Attitudinal Healing (1 of 6), Success Magic, Maintaining Long Distance Relationships, Create Your Own Family Web

Page and Quilting. At the Tropics enjoy Karaoke or Pamper Session. Children ages 6 and up are welcome to participate in Tropics activities. MWR Blue Star Card holders will receive free child care from 6 - 9 p.m. by reservation only at Peterson Child Care Center. Call 655-3929 by noon of the Tuesday before each Thursday event to make child care reservations. Child care reservations can be made two weeks in advance. Pre-registration for classes required, call 655-2736.

Fall Teen Camp – There's still time to register for week two of fall teen camp held Oct. 4 - 8. Daily field trips are as follows: Survivor Day, Battleship Missouri, Hiking and Beach, Pearl Harbor Skate Park, Sharkey's Theatre. Daily activities are 12 - 7 p.m. and costs \$25 per week. Waivers are required. Teens should bring a sack lunch daily. There are 42 slots available per week, register by calling 655-5314 or 655-0451.

Teen Read Week – From Oct. 18 - 23, it's Teen Read Week at the Aliamanu Library. All teens (12 - 18 years old) who borrow materials during the week will receive a treat. Teens who complete a reading interest

survey will receive a prize and a chance to win a poster from the American Library Association Graphics Catalog. Call 833-4851.

Blue Star Card Bowling Special – Blue Star Card holders can bowl for just \$1 a game at Schofield Bowling Center every weekday until 5 p.m. (excluding federal holidays). Call 655-0573.

Customized Engraving – Customize your special gift with an engraved message. The Schofield Barracks Arts and Crafts Center can customize any wood, plastic and metal items with your requested text or graphics. Photos, logos or names can also be put onto coffee cups, mouse pads and more. Call 655-6330.

Modeling and Mannerism Classes – Classes will be offered at Schofield Barracks and Aliamanu Youth Centers in October. Modeling Classes are open to youth 6 - 18 years of age and offers a full course on modeling employment, skin care and cosmetic application, basic level runway skills, intermediate level runway skills to include modeling with partners, advanced level runways to include modeling with props, poise, mannerism,

script reading and acting, learn about photo shoots, portfolio photos and promotional modeling contracts. Cost is \$495 for a 14-hour course. Must have at least four students enrolled to conduct the class. Call 655-6461 or 833-4932.

Free Tickets to Hawaii Theater – Military Appreciation Night Oct. 14 starting at 7 p.m. to the production of William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer's Night Dream." The performance is free and open to active duty, Reserve, retirees, their family members, DoD employees and their guests. Tickets are currently available to active duty Army personnel and their families at the Information, Ticketing, and Registration office on Schofield Barracks, building 556. Call 655-9971 for information.

Call Fort Shafter ITR, building 550, at 438-1985. Reservists, retirees, DoD employees and their guests may pick up tickets beginning Sept. 30. (Limit two tickets per DoD cardholder). Tickets are limited and will be distributed on a first come, first served basis.

Infant Play and Learn – Held every Tuesday morning, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at Army Community Service on Schofield Barracks for parents with infants 0 - 12 months old. Enjoy short learning sessions on various topics about growth, development and nutrition. Participate in enjoyable development activities during free play and circle time activities. Call 655-2400.

Join the New Teen Center – Are you between the ages of 11 - 18? If so, we have a place for you. The Schofield Barracks Teen Center now located in Kaala Community Activities Center, building 556, offers fun services designed especially for you. Call 655-0451.

Find Weekly Lunch Specials – Visit www.mwrarmyhawaii.com to find all the weekly lunch specials for all Army Bowling Centers, Golf Courses and Community Clubs. Can't decide where to eat? Just visit MWR online.

Family Readiness Group Assistance – Army Community Service offers a

new program. Five part-time Family Readiness Administrative Liaisons, or FRALs, have been hired to assist family readiness groups with newsletter production and battalion level Web pages on the Division Web site. FRALs can also assist with phone tree formats and resource information and referrals. FRGs are encouraged to use this new program. Contact 655-2734 for more information and to reach your assigned FRAL.

Mommy and Me Ceramic Painting – Choose from a variety of Halloween and Christmas items to paint with your child Oct. 7, 2 - 4 p.m. and Oct. 17 and 24 1 - 3 p.m. at the Schofield Barracks Arts and Crafts Center. Cost is \$18 per team, \$7 each additional child. Price includes all supplies and instruction. Call 655-4202.

Touchdown Golf – On Mondays, play nine holes of golf at Nagorski Golf Course on Fort Shafter and then watch the football game live at Mulligan's. Cost is \$20 per person and includes nine holes of golf with cart, four-ounce platter of pupus, a pitcher of beverage and chance to win cash prizes. Tee times from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. every Monday. Call 438-9587 for information.

Free Yoga Class – A free Introduction to Yoga class will be held at the Health and Fitness Center on Schofield Barracks every Thursday at 4 p.m. until Oct. 14. Call 655-8007 for information.

Spanish Collection at Library – Visit the Sgt. Yano Library on Schofield Barracks and view a new section of books and videocassettes in Spanish. The library now has books appropriate for children of all ages as well as a selection of recent adult fiction and paperback books by popular authors. Call 655-0145.

What's Happening at MWR – To find out more information about MWR activities, programs and facilities pick up a copy of the Discovery Magazine which is available at the Schofield Barracks Commissary, Fort Shafter PX, Aliamanu Shoppette, Tripler Mountain Side entrance and at all MWR facilities. Or visit the Web site at www.mwrarmyhawaii.com.



This Week at the MOVIES

SGT SMITH THEATER

TODAY
Collateral Damage
7 p.m. (R)

SATURDAY OCTOBER 2
U-GI-OH! The Movie
2 p.m. (PG-13)

Collateral Damage
7 p.m. (R)

SUNDAY OCTOBER 3
The Princess Diaries
2 p.m. (G)

U-GI-OH! The Movie
2 p.m. (PG-13)

HICKAM MEMORIAL THEATER

TODAY
Alien vs Predator
7 p.m. (PG-13)

SATURDAY OCTOBER 2
Finding Nemo
2 p.m. (G)

Alien vs Predator
7 p.m. (PG-13)

SUNDAY OCTOBER 3
Alien vs Predator
7 p.m. (PG-13)

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 4
Without A Paddle
7 p.m. (PG-13)

THURSDAY OCTOBER 5
Open Water
7 p.m. (R)



HACN TV2 Schedule | October 1-7

	Morning	
6:00	Sign On	6:00 Voting 04' Assist Program
6:30	Fit for Life	6:03 Community Focus
7:00	Bulletin Board	6:13 Living History Day
7:30	Shamu - The Bird Story	6:15 Bulletin Board
8:00	Pentagon Channel	6:47 Arm Values Respect
9:00	Pentagon Channel	6:53 OIF Photo Montage 3
10:00	ASAP-Fitness for Duty	7:00 NFL-Turf Talk 95
10:30	OIF Photo Montage 7	8:00 OEF Deployment Ceremony
10:46	Bulletin Board	8:30 OEF Deployment Luau
11:30	Hawaii Hidden, Hidden Danger	8:50 History of JAG
11:50	OIF Photo Montage 6	9:00 Anti Terrorism FP
12:00	Pentagon Channel	9:30 Oakland Army Base
		10:00 Youth Protection
		11:00 NFL- Greatest Games 77AFC
		12:12 Bulletin Board
	Afternoon	
2:02	Hurricane Safety	
2:21	Voting 04' Assist program	
2:28	OIF photo montage 2	12:46 Overnight
2:30	Shamu - Whale and Dolphin Story	Pentagon Channel
3:00	Shamu - Rhino Story	
3:40	Oahu - Aloha begins	
3:50	OIF Photo Montage 5	
4:00	Pentagon Channel	
	Evening	

USARHAW celebrates Hispanic Heritage

Story and photos by Sharee Moore
Assistant Editor

More than 200 Soldiers and civilians paid homage to the Hispanics continuing to make a difference in the nation at the Annual Hispanic Heritage Month luncheon on Wheeler Army Air Field Sept. 23.

The Hispanic Heritage celebration provides an opportunity to focus national attention on Hispanics' contributions to American society.

By presidential proclamation, the tribute and celebration stretches from Sept. 15 through Oct. 15 and includes "Dia de la Raza," or Columbus Day, and the independence days of seven Latin countries.

Sgt. Maj. Reglio A. Davidson of the Oahu Base Support Battalion and a Panama City, Panama native, was the guest speaker for the celebration.

"When you think about contributions and making a difference, I would be remiss not to mention the obstacles and barriers that (Hispanics) had to overcome.

"I can still recall being in Panama at the age of 12," Davidson began. At that time, both his parents left for the United States, leaving Davidson to care for the home, three siblings and his grandparents.

"I remember running a \$20 weekly budget and getting inspected every Sunday by my uncle, to make sure I was on track," Davidson said.

"Who would've thought that after all that ... I'd be here today in the U.S. Army addressing such a great audience?" He asked.

"And that's why I say, it is truly a great Army," he said, igniting the audience into a flurry of applause.

The luncheon, hosted by



Cecilmarie and Glorimar Lopez, two of the three members of the Puerto Rican Ballet of Hawaii perform during the Hispanic Heritage Celebration on Wheeler Sept. 23. Delilah Huertas-Macapagal is the third member of the dance group. Cecilmarie said that in the Puerto Rican culture, "Food and music bring everyone together."

30th Signal Bn., showcased professional performers like Arlene McArthur and her accompanists, the Hurtado de Mendoza Bolivian dance group, the Puerto Rican Ballet of Hawaii and "El Conjunto Tropical," a cultural band.

There was also a poetry recital, salsa dance, fashion show, ethnic displays and a slide show featuring well-known Hispanics.

The menu consisted of shredded pork, chicken enchiladas, chimichangas, Spanish rice and

beans, rice pudding and other popular Hispanic dishes.

Although many in the audience were ready for the fiesta, Davidson encouraged them to remember the true meaning behind the celebration.

"Hispanic heritage is more than the tasty sampling of dishes, the music, and the dancing. It is a way of reminding us of the importance of recognizing that it is okay to be different. It is okay to come from different walks of life and it is okay to speak a different language.

"When all fails, what matters most is how we value the differences that we each bring to our community and our nation to make us stronger," he concluded.

Hispanics' contributions to American society are varied and distinctive. From the American Revolution to the Global War on Terror today, Hispanics have risked their lives to defend the United States and the principles on which it stands.

By the end of the Civil War in 1865, almost 10,000

Mexicans had served in the regular Army of volunteer units. Two Hispanics received the Medal of Honor for their actions during that war.

There are 39 Hispanic MOH recipients and 25th Infantry Division (Light) Soldiers Spc. (4th Class) Daniel Fernandez, Cpl Benito Martinez and 1st Sgt. Maximo Yabes are among the honored.

Fernandez Hall and Martinez Physical Fitness Center on Schofield Barracks are only two of the places commemorating



David and Bolivia Hurtado de Mendoza model Bolivian clothing and perform cultural dances. The five member dance group are the children of Sgt. Ximena Hurtado de Mendoza of HHC DISCOM.

Hispanics on post today.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau statistics, as of 2003, there are approximately 39.9 million Hispanics in the U.S., making them the nation's largest race or ethnic minority.

Hispanics continue to make a difference in the community, at home and in the work force. Their accomplishments in business, health, science, education, athletics and other areas have reinforced this country's greatness.

Free Community Events Celebrating Hispanic Heritage:

- The Spanish Collection at Sgt. Yano Library on Schofield Barracks. View a new section of books and videocassettes in Spanish. Call 655-0145.

- The Hispanic Heritage Festival sponsored by the Hawaii Hispanic Chamber of Commerce at Kapiolani Park. Spend the day tasting food, entertainment and culture of the festival Oct. 9, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Call 398-3084.

The square circle visits Tropics at Schofield Barracks

By Spc. Charles Hayes
Staff Writer

Walking through the front doors, you notice something is very different. Where the dance floor was, is now a square wrestling ring.

Tropics and the Hawaii Championship Wrestling Organization hosted "Saturday Night Slam" on Sept. 25 at Schofield Barracks.

"The turnout really exceeded our expectations. We expected about 100 or so people and we actually had about 158 in the audience," said Denise Thomas, Tropics program manager. "We are looking to have more shows after the redeployment."

Local wrestlers from many different backgrounds came dressed in their costumes ready to perform and entertain the crowd. There were the villains and the heroes;

each putting up a great fight. The villains would taunt the crowd. Then the heroes would come in and get the audience on their feet as they wiped the floor with the villains.

The night started out with a tag team match and ended with a three-way hardcore match; where anything goes. The wrestlers used chairs, trashcans, canes, and even metal pipes as weapons. They were jumping off and even over the top rope. At times, the wrestlers even made it out of the ring and into the audience.

Watching all the action were kids ranging in ages from infants to teenagers and adults.

Nakota Valentine, 12, was one of the many young spectators at the event.

"The matches were crazy. They made it look so real. I would definitely come again," said Valentine.

"Big Daddy" Frank, a 45-year veteran, is one of HCW's most popular wrestlers.

"I love doing it for the people and we really appreciate them coming out to support us," said Frank. "This is a lot of fun, and I will continue to wrestle for as long as I can."

Despite the excitement, Frank issued a warning for spectators.

"I wake up most mornings with lower back spasms. This is a dangerous profession and should not be tried at home," Frank warned.

"Nightmare" jumps off of the top ropes aimed at Kaneala during the "Saturday Night Slam" at the Tropics Sept. 25.

Spc. Charles Hayes



Monthly Deployment Town Hall Recap

By Joy Boisselle
Staff Writer

The Deployment Town Hall meeting held Sept. 21 at the Sgt. Smith Theater, Schofield Barracks stayed true to the format established approximately six months ago. Short entertainment followed by formal updates followed by a question and answer period kept the meeting informative and under two hours. The following are the meeting highlights.

Entertainment - Following a video tribute to deployed Soldiers, the 25th Infantry Division (Light) Band made a reappearance having just returned from a short deployment to Afghanistan. Following the band was a salsa dance exhibition to remind attendees about the Hispanic Heritage Celebration held at Wheeler Army Airfield Sept. 30.

Operations - Calendar highlights for October showed the continued mobilization support of the 29th Brigade Combat Team, Hawaii National Guard and showed November as the beginning of preparation for redeployment of Soldiers supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. Redeployment plans include the reintegration, reunion, and reorganization of returning units in preparation for Division transformation efforts.

Retention - Master Sgt. William Walker, Division Retention Office, delivered a Stryker affiliation brief. He explained the process of affiliation and the benefits a Soldier could receive from affiliation with the Stryker Brigade. According to Walker, any Soldier can affiliate with the Stryker Brigade, some Soldiers could qualify for a \$5,000 to \$20,000 tax-exempt bonus, and Soldiers affiliating will be stabilized

through 2008. For more information, see your career counselor or call Walker at 655-8781.

RCI and Housing - The privatization of Army Family Housing is official Oct. 1. The organization's new name is "Army Hawaii Family Housing" and represents a partnership between Actus Lend Lease and United States Army Hawaii. New resident handbooks are available today and October is also the month that BAH collection for rent begins. Residents should contact their community centers for information.

Directorate of Community Activities - For information about upcoming events and program, pick up a copy of Discovery Magazine available all over post or go online to www.mwrarmy-hawaii.com.

Questions and Answers

When will I start paying rent?

Oct. 1. Residents activate basic allowance for housing (rent) by signing a lease, which includes; electricity, water, sewer, and renter's insurance.

What if my spouse is deployed?

A special power of attorney must be submitted with the lease.

What if I don't want to sign my lease?

You will need to contact the housing office and schedule a termination inspection or you will owe rent for the month of October.

Will my rental amount change?

Yes, if your BAH changes. You are responsible for informing Army Hawaii Family Housing of the change.

Why am I paying more for my home when the family next to me is a lower rank with the same style of home?

Homes are based on a

service member's rank and the number of dependents. Many grade categories share common housing communities. Upon promotion or an increase in dependents, residents can move at their own expense if quarters are available (as current Army policy states).

When privatization occurs, will I be required to move?

Most residents will not be required to move during their tour in Hawaii. If a resident must be relocated, due to construction the goal is to relocate them only once during their tour.

What will change of occupancy (turn around) be?

Change of occupancy standards will be similar to the current Army standards.

How will the Residential Action Office, RAO, program be affected?

The focus of the program will shift to concentrate on common community areas and services rather than the housing areas.

How will the mayoral program be affected?

AHFH will have a community representative program to obtain community residents feedback and share information.

Why won't ACTUS mow housing back yards as well as fronts and sides?

Funding is the main issue here. The contract is only for front and side yard mowing with the back yards maintained by residents. The new resident guides will explain yard standards with detailed maps of showing resident requirements. If you feel you have a unique situation regarding mowing, contact your community center for an assessment of the situation.

Now that self-help stores are no more,

where can we borrow yard equipment and is a class required prior to borrowing?

Your community center will have lawn mowers and equipment to borrow. No class is required, but if you need instructions on how to operate a piece of equipment, your community center representatives will instruct you.

I have bulk trash that needs pick-up, who do I contact?

Contact your community center for any questions pertaining to housing issues.

What is the law regarding cars and school busses letting children on and off busses? Cars must stop in all directions when a school bus is loading or unloading children.

Helemano Military Reservation access lights are not working, when will they be fixed?

These lights belong to the city and county of Honolulu, but we are working to have power restored.

Are special needs children allowed to participate in Child and Youth Services Programs?

A Special Needs Resource Team meets monthly to review files on a case-by-case basis. If the staff is able to accommodate a child's needs then authorization to participate is given. Contact the resource and referral Office for more information. The next meeting is Oct. 7.

Do all pets have to be micro-chipped under the new Oct. 1 policy?

No, only dogs and cats kept on USARHAW installations must be microchipped. Non-compliance can result in termination of on post pet privileges.

The next Town Hall Meeting is Oct. 19, 6:30 p.m. at the Sgt. Smith Theater.

Court martial results Aug. 23 to Sept. 10

Pfc. David C. Ramirez, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry, Rear Detachment, was tried by a special court martial at Wheeler Army Air Field on Aug. 23. Ramirez pled guilty to one specification of absenting himself from his unit without authority and one specification of missing movement through design. A military judge accepted Ramirez's pleas and sentenced him to confinement for nine months; reduction to grade private (E-1); forfeiture of \$795 per month for nine months; and a bad conduct discharge from the service.

Spc. Rodney E. Jackson, 3rd Bn., 7th Field Artillery, Rear Detachment, was tried by a special court martial at Wheeler Army Air Field Aug. 24. Jackson pled guilty to one specification of absenting himself from his unit without authority; three specifications of failing to be at his appointed place of duty; two specifications of violating a lawful order of a noncommissioned officer; and two specifications of wrongful drug use. A military judge accepted Jackson's pleas and sentenced him to six months confinement; reduction to private (E-1); forfeiture of \$795 per month for six months; and a bad conduct discharge from the service.

Pvt. Seth M. Wade, 2nd Bn., 35th Infantry, Rear Detachment, was tried by a general court martial at Wheeler Army Air Field Aug. 25. Wade pled guilty to three specifications of absenting himself from his unit without authority; one specification of missing movement by design; two specifications of violating the lawful command of a superior commissioned officer; and one specification of wrongful drug use. A military judge accepted Wade's pleas and sentenced him to 13 months confinement; reduction to private (E-1); forfeiture of all pay and allowances; and a bad conduct discharge from the service.

Pfc. Christopher J. Catron, 1st Bn., 14th Inf., Rear Detachment, was tried by a general court martial at Wheeler Army Air Field Aug. 26. Catron pled guilty to one specification of absenting himself from his unit without authority; one specification of missing movement through design; and one specification of wrongful drug use. A military judge accepted Catron's pleas and sentenced him to ten months confinement; reduction to private (E-1); forfeiture of all pay and allowances; and a bad conduct discharge.

Pvt. First Class Robert M. Horton, 58th Military Police Company, Rear Detachment, was tried by a Special court martial at Wheeler Army Air Field Sept. 7. Horton pled guilty to one specification of absenting himself from his unit without authority and one specification of missing movement through design. A military judge accepted Horton's pleas and sentenced him to be reduced to the grade of private (E-1); confinement for 250 days; and a bad conduct discharged from the service.

Pvt. Manuel A. GonzalezCordero, 71st Chemical Co., Rear Detachment, was tried by a general court martial at Wheeler Army Air Field 8 - 9 Sept. GonzalezCordero pled guilty to two specifications of wrongful drug use; one specification of drug distribution; one specification of wrongful introduction of drugs onto an armed forces installation; and one specification of assault with a deadly weapon. Contrary to his plea, an enlisted panel found GonzalezCordero guilty of making a false official statement, but not guilty of an additional specification of assault and intent to distribute drugs. The enlisted panel sentenced GonzalezCordero to 18 months confinement and a bad conduct discharge from the service.

Youth Sports Injuries: 10 ways to make America's playgrounds safer

• Make sure adult supervision is present at the playground - It is estimated that more than 40 percent of playground injuries may be related to inadequate supervision. Adults need to watch for potential hazards, observe children playing, intercede and facilitate play when necessary and be available in case an injury occurs.

• Guide children to play on age-appropriate equipment - Children are developmentally different. Therefore, equipment designed for children ages 5 to 12 is too big for children ages 2 to 5. Different playing areas for each of the age groups should be available and children should only play on their age-appropriate equipment.

• Survey the play area and make sure it is free of apparent hazards - When visiting a play area, first check to see that there

are no immediate hazards. Hazards range from broken glass or metal pieces lying around to playground design that creates congestion among the play equipment where children could collide or fall on each other. If the area is near a street or parking lot, make sure there is fencing to prevent the children from running in front of cars. Be sure that metal equipment is in shaded areas or has a protective surface to prevent burns.

• Check the playground surface for cushioned surfacing beneath equipment and its fall areas - Falls to surfaces are responsible for more than 70 percent of the injuries sustained on playgrounds. Improper surfacing is the leading cause of many of those injuries.

Hard surfaces such as asphalt, blacktop, concrete, grass, packed

dirt or rocks should not be used. A fall to those surfaces could be life threatening. Acceptable surfaces include hardwood fiber, mulch, pea gravel and sand. Other options include synthetic surfaces such as rubber tiles, mats or poured surfaces.

• Loose-fill surfaces may need to be pushed back underneath equipment for adequate cushioning if the material has been moved or pushed to the edge of the play area. Cushioned surfacing should be provided under all equipment and its fall zones.

• Examine equipment such as ladders, platforms, steps, swings and slides - Climbers and monkey bars have the highest incidence of injury on public playgrounds and need to be closely supervised. Check to see if steps on climbers are in good condition

and that handrails are present and have appropriate grip sizes for children.

Swings are the pieces of moving equipment that are most likely to cause injuries. For preventative measures, the following changes are suggested: remove animal swings; remove metal or wooden seats and replace with soft seats; make sure swings are on a separate framework rather than attached to other equipment. The fall zone should extend six feet to each side of the support structure.

Slides should be well anchored, have firm handrails for gripping and steps with good traction. There should be no spaces between the slide platform and the slide bed where strings from clothing could catch and cause strangulation. Make sure metal slides are shaded or covered to

prevent burns in hot sun.

If you have found problems that you have not been able to handle yourself, contact the administrator of the play area to suggest changes and point out problems. If an injury occurred, make sure to contact the administrator of the play area and report the injury, the condition of the play area at the time, and any factors that may have been related to the incident.

To report a product hazard or a product-related injury, write to the US Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, DC 20207 or call the toll-free hotline at 800-638-2772.

(Read article in its entirety on the National Program for Playground Safety Web site at www.uni.edu/playground/tips/general/inspect.html)

ACS workshops can make reunions better

By Sharee Moore
Assistant Editor

Army Community Service has scheduled a series of workshops to make spouses' reunions with their Soldiers more enjoyable. The workshops will feature lectures on a variety of topics beginning Oct. 13 – Nov. 10.

Most family members may not anticipate the emotional turmoil a reunion may bring to the surface.

"When the reunion date finally arrives you may find yourself overwhelmed with a mix of emotions – relief, hope, excitement, anxiety and even resentment or worry," said Eileen Godinez, Chief of Army Community Service.

"You may fear the possible loss of a connection with your spouse or wonder if the common bonds that held you together as a couple or family doesn't exist any longer," Godinez continued.

These feelings are completely natural. Of course, there is no way to predict what the reunion experience will be like, however, it can and should be a happy and joyous occasion if spouses prepare and properly plan for it.

"The adjustment or reunion period will not be easy for everyone and it will depend on several factors,"

explained Godinez.

"The ability to communicate with each other when the Soldier returns and the willingness to accept the changes that the deployment may have created," are two crucial steps.

It is also important for spouses to realize that since they have been separated from their Soldier for a long time, the experiences that each have encountered may create some challenges when they reunite.

It won't be easy for everyone to make that transition, however, there are many resources and programs available to help them.

ACS will be offering an array of free workshops and classes that will address topics relevant to the reunion challenges spouses may encounter. The lecture series will begin Oct. 13 featuring Victor Voth, Director of the Marriage and Family Therapy Center.

Voth will give a talk on "Putting the Welcome in Welcome Home," understanding issues about communication, role renegotiation and intimacy with a spouse. Other presenters include Dr. Michael Faran, Chief of Child and Adolescent Psychology at Tripler Army Medical Center who will address "Children and the Reunion," Oct. 27 and Dr. Payton Hurt will talk about "Mental Health Issues and the Soldier,"

Nov. 10.

The lectures will be held at the Nehelani Club on Schofield Barracks starting at 7 p.m. Child care is free, register by calling 655-3929. Reservations are not required to attend the lectures and everyone is welcome.

As the 25th Infantry Division (Light) and 2nd Brigade Combat Team prepare to return from Iraq next year, spouses should be thinking about how they will prepare for the big day and what will occur in the days and weeks that follow.

Some important questions spouses should be asking themselves are: Am I really ready for my reunion? Have I thought about what it will be like when my spouse finally comes home? Am I prepared to make the transition from being single or a single parent to being a complete family again?

Even if spouses answer each question with a resounding yes, "I encourage every spouse to attend the reunion workshops and training ACS will be offering to ensure they are educated, informed and prepared for the unexpected," Godinez concluded.

For questions about upcoming reunion programs please contact Army Community Service at 655-2400.

Hidden treasures: The Arts and Crafts Centers

By Rafi Grant
Contributing Writer

A regular Saturday morning at the Arts and Crafts Center on Fort Shafter reveals a group of young children sitting around a large table coloring Christmas balls.

They are preparing a special gift for a group of Soldiers currently deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq.

Tina, one of the numerous volunteers, specially dedicated to the children's program, is helping them to choose the right colors, hang the finished ones up for drying and then put them in little bags.

On one of the other big working tables, the stained glass group is working on extraordinary pieces of art. At the same time, in the pottery section, at the back of the center, a group of volunteers displayed pieces ready for glazing and firing.

It is a regular Saturday at the Arts and Crafts Center, however, it would not be regular if it wasn't for the volunteers.

About five years ago, the Fort Shafter Arts and Crafts Center was almost closed down when the government stopped funding. However, Col. Jim Winters and numerous dedicated volunteers managed to keep the center open.

Today, the center is run by about 20 to 25 volunteers managed by a director and one assistant.

There are many treasures to discover at the Arts and Crafts Center. Throughout the week, the center offers various classes, including basic jewelry making, ceramics, quilting, pottery and wheel throwing, and stained glass. Some say these crafts make perfect gifts for the upcoming holidays.

A special event at the center is the craft sale, organized twice a year. The sales event features distinct pieces of art provided by the volunteers, treasures rarely found in regular retail stores.

The event has become well-known for its uniqueness.

Ed Takahashi, a volunteer, explained that "the craft sales generate income necessary for the continu-



Rafi Grant

Tina Butler (center) helps two families as they color Christmas presents.

ation of a vital community program." The next craft sale is Nov. 18-20 and may be a good place to go for early Christmas shopping.

The Schofield Barracks Arts and Crafts Center is a treasure in itself as well. The staff and volunteers organize a variety of classes and workshops, including Frame-It-Yourself certification and Dark Room Photography.

Rachel Frank, a full-time employee there said, "I enjoy the friendly and warm atmosphere at the center and the company of caring colleagues and volunteers – especially since my husband deployed to Iraq."

The woodshop, run by volunteers, is a great way to get creative. The shop is well-equipped with all the machines and tools to construct projects from small shelves and rocking chairs to bedroom sets. A two-hour safety class is mandatory.

Alan Gamble, a volunteer, said "everybody is welcome in the woodshop; no experience necessary."

Both Arts and Crafts Centers offer numerous additional services, including custom picture framing and laser engraving. Moreover, youth birthday and ceramic painting parties are welcome, and the sales shops provide craft supplies and tools.

For more information or to register for the upcoming classes, call Rachel at Schofield Barracks 655-4202, or Marie at Fort Shafter 438-1315.

Discover the hidden treasures.

Tropics Parade of Pets fun and informative

Photo and story
by Joy Boisselle
Staff Writer

The Tropics Parade of Pets held Sept. 25 promised a day of light-hearted competition among four-legged friends and their owners.

Also present was the staff of the Schofield Barracks Veterinary Treatment Facility who did double duty as parade judges and subject matter experts for any questions concerning pet health and USARHAW regulations governing pet requirements.

A small turn-out didn't diminish the enthusiasm of competitors and spectators alike. Everyone left with a prize and certificates detailing their pet's particular prize-worthy attribute. Best in Show, Best Costume, Loudest, and Best trick were just a few of the top honors awarded by the judges.



Tony Haebig, presents Mango to judges Pvt. Martha Parker and Sgt. Travis Lausier at the Parade of Pets held at the Tropics, Schofield Barracks Sept. 25.

Schofield Community Chapel 2004 - 2005 activities

Chaplain (Cpt.) J. Andrew Riggs
Deputy Community Chaplain

It is that time of the year, again. It is time to come together to enjoy each other's company in fellowship and in the study of God's Word.

We are in full swing here with activities for young and old, men and women, families and Soldiers. You can find something available at the Schofield Barracks Main Chapel, Soldiers' Chapel, Helemano Chapel, and the Wheeler Army Air Field Chapel.

There are Bible studies, weekly family nights to include Bible clubs for keiki and adults, the monthly Deployment Survival Night at the main chapel, adult Catholic religious education, as well as the sacramental Bible clubs for children.

So much to choose from, so come and join us, we would love to have you. God has blessed us with so much. One of his greatest blessings

that He gives us is the opportunity for us to be in fellowship and community with each other.

With these activities, we have many opportunities to come together as a spiritual community to give each other comfort and support during these times in which so many of our own are deployed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Iraqi Freedom in Iraq.

•The monthly Deployment Survival Nights are great opportunities for families of both deployed and non-deployed Soldiers to come together for dinner and to participate in sessions designed to help all of us cope with the demands of being the family of deployed Soldiers. These are held the last Wednesday of each month at the main chapel beginning at 5:30 p.m.

•The weekly family nights began this month on all other Wednesday nights. We start with a dinner at 5:30 p.m. on the main chapel lanai.

After dinner, we break into bible club sessions separately for Protestant and Catholic children, bible studies for adults, and RCIA for catholic adults. Our gospel congregation also conducts children's choir practice following the Bible club sessions.

•Protestant Sunday School resumed in September at Schofield Barracks and Wheeler chapels. Catholic CCD resumed Sept. 26. Other RE programs include: the Protestant Women of the Chapel Tuesday at the main chapel from 9 – 11:30 a.m.; a men's Bible study each Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Soldier's Chapel; adult Bible studies Wednesdays during family nights; and youth groups for middle school 4 p.m. and high school 7 p.m. on Sundays.

Our chapels offer a full range of religious education to meet the many needs in our community and we'd love to have your family join us.

Lightning Spirit

You are #1 on God's chart

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.)
Donald W. Eubank
Fort Shafter Community
Chaplain

Have you ever heard a great song, poem, or speech, and thought, "Boy, I wish I'd thought of writing that!" It's a familiar feeling we all have when we hear great lyrics or music that make an positive impact on us.

In addition to such familiar favorites as "God Bless America" and "Easter Parade," Irving Berlin wrote, "I'm Dreaming Of A White Christmas," which still ranks as the #1 all-time best selling musical score.

In an interview just before his death, Berlin was asked, "Is there any question you've never been asked that you would like someone to ask you?"

"Well, yes, there is one," Berlin replied. "I'd like to be asked what I think of the many songs that I wrote that didn't become hits ... and my reply would be that I still think they are wonderful songs."

To Irving Berlin, it didn't matter that some of his songs didn't become popular. His songs came from his heart. And though most of Berlin's songs never became famous, he found satisfaction in knowing that when he wrote, he gave his best efforts.

When we do our best, we can have peace and confidence about our work ... whether others like it or not. But when we believe success is determined by applause, recognition, or fame, rather than our commitment and integrity, we're setting ourselves up

for disappointment.

Whether or not anyone else does, God knows when we give our best efforts. Just think about a clock hanging on the wall. The parts of the clock that do most of the work – the gears, springs, plates and wheels – are hidden behind the face.

The same is often true for you and I, and our efforts in our duties: Many times we work behind the scene, and, just like gears of a clock, our efforts escape notice. But we continue to give our best efforts because we know the importance of character and integrity.

What are you working for today? If it's for the praises and admiration of your co-workers, you may find yourself slighted. But if you're doing your best because you believe that's what God wants you to do, and you're finding joy from your commitment to Him, you're going to find real satisfaction in whatever you do.

God too, has an unshakable delight in what – and whom – He has made. He thinks each of His children are wonderful ... whether or not they're a "hit" in the eyes of others.

The prophet Jeremiah once wrote that God loves us with an "everlasting love" (Jeremiah 31:3).

So do your best and don't worry about what others think. God has the only vote that really counts.

God's value for you isn't based on your performance, but on His everlasting love for you!

"Make a Difference Day" is Oct. 23

By Cathie Henderson
Army Volunteer Coordinator
MADD Project Coordinator

"Make a Difference Day" is the nation's most encompassing day of community service. It is a celebration of neighbor helping neighbor. Individual citizens, non-profit organizations, agencies and companies all make an effort to sponsor volunteer projects throughout the local community in order to "Make A Difference."

This year's "Make a Difference Day" is set for Saturday, Oct. 23. This annual event created by USA Weekend magazine mobilizes millions of people each year. Last year we had more than 3,800 individuals from Hawaii's Army community spend the day volunteering in more than 100 projects throughout the island.

Some of the projects the Division helped with last year were: 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry assisted in the construction of one of the homes for Habitat for Humanity, Company C, 25th

Aviation installed an AH-1S Cobra Helicopter skid, and 325th Forward Support Battalion cleaned and did yard work at the Ronald McDonald House.

Organizations and units may either adopt a project on their own through community associations with schools, non-profit organizations, or neighborhood boards or they may request a project through the MADD coordinator. It is critical that units report the projects they will sponsor to the project coordinator to get credit with USA Weekend, the association sponsoring the overall MADD event.

Unit sponsorship of volunteer projects is the main effort of MADD.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Cathie Henderson at 655-2398. ACS is located at Army Community Service, building 2091, Schofield Barracks

Units and organizations are encouraged to support this worthy event, meet new friends and together we can "Make A Difference."

Hawaii Army Weekly Volunteer Writers Wanted



We're looking for volunteers to help cover Hawaii Army community news and write commentaries. Volunteer writers can be based in Hawaii or abroad. No newswriting experience necessary.

Email:

editor@hawaiiarmyweekly.com
Website:www.25idl.army.mil