

# HAWAII ARMY WEEKLY

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Serving the U.S. Army community in Hawaii

October 8, 2004

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## News briefly

### Hispanic Heritage Festival

The 11th Annual Hispanic Heritage Festival will be held Saturday at Kapiolani Park and Bandstand in Honolulu 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.

### Wheeler Middle School Town Hall Meeting

The 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.

### Army Hawaii Women's Volleyball Teams Wanted

Schofield Barracks, Helemano, WAAF, TAMC and Fort Shafter Active duty female Soldiers and wives of active duty Soldiers Army (battalion level) within the geographical limits of Hawaii are allowed to enter one team. All entries must be received by the USAG-HI Sports Office, building 556, Stop 112, Schofield Barracks, before close of business Oct. 18. First meeting will be at 1:30 p.m., Oct. 25 at the Ka'ala Recreation Center, building 556, Schofield Barracks. For more information call USAG-HI Sports Office at 655-0856 or 655-0101 or e-mail irvine-ba@schofield.army.mil.

### Annual Antiterrorism Exercise from Nov. 1-18

Exercises will be accomplished through a series of short notice, one day situational training exercises. The Antiterrorism office and U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii are endeavoring to create an exercise with minimal impact on the community's activities while protecting families, installations and islands from acts of terrorism. Call Robert C. Marsh at 655-5212 for more information.

### Retractions for the Oct. 3 Edition of HAW

Chief Warrant Officer Chris Bryant wrote the article titled "aviator logs 10,000 flight hours, eclipses milestone." Fabiola Hurtado De Mendoza and Bobby Dela Rosa are pictured in the article titled "USARHAW celebrates Hispanic Heritage."

# Afghan elections tomorrow

Spc. Francis Horton  
 CJTF-76 Public Affairs

**BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan** – As the days tick away, edging closer to the first national elections in Afghanistan, coalition troops and United Nations elections workers are making sure that the Afghans are taking a leading role.

"The Afghans are involved in everything," said Maj. Joe Gleichenhaus, planning officer for the 25th Infantry Division (Light) and Combined Joint Task Force 76.

Though coalition forces are doing everything to support the Afghan elections, troops are trying to stay out of the way for the most part.

"This is a joint endeavor," Gleichenhaus said.

A joint endeavor that has been in effect with an interim government for the past three years since Coalition Soldiers and Afghan forces ousted the Taliban threat in 2001. Now, for the first time in Afghanistan's history, Afghans are taking matters into their own hands.

From registering fellow Afghans to setting up counting and ballot stations, the Afghans have proven they

are eager for their first taste of democracy.

But the Taliban threat remains, and Gleichenhaus said they'll do their best to disrupt the elections.

Much of the elections security is left up to local police forces rather than coalition troops, Gleichenhaus said. This will also prove the ability of Afghan security forces.

"We have provided information exchanges and logistics support," Gleichenhaus said. "We will support them with all assets we can."

Gleichenhaus is confident that the elections will go relatively smoothly.

"There's going to be some incidents, however, it won't stop the people from voting and electing a president," Gleichenhaus said.

Original coalition and United Nations estimated that five million Afghans would register to vote. Ten and a half million Afghans registered to vote, exceeding all expectations, said Gleichenhaus.

"It demonstrates the people's resolve for this to happen," Gleichenhaus said. "We are extremely optimistic for a successful election."



**Afghan women register to vote at the Kandahar city voter registration center. To date, more than 10 million people have registered to vote in time for Saturday's election.**

Looking toward the future of Afghanistan, these elections are the first of many possible landmarks, linking Afghanistan to a partnership with the international community and a combined resolve that leads to a lasting peace and a stable prosperous country.

## Gimlets patrol Kurdish camp



**Staff Sgt. Chris Golde, a squad leader with Co. A, TF 1-21 Inf., patrols a displaced Kurdish camp in Northwest Kirkuk, Iraq, as the sun sets behind him.**

## Combat patches, 25th IDs birthday

Master Sgt. Terry Anderson  
 CJTF 76 Public Affairs

**BAGRAM AIR FIELD, AFGHANISTAN** – One of the most decorated infantry divisions in the United States Army added another story to its history during a ceremony here Oct. 1.

Soldiers from the 25th Infantry Division (Light), along with coalition troops, received their shoulder sleeve insignia for Former Wartime Service, or combat patch, during the ceremony. The significance of the 25th ID (L) combat patch ceremony was not lost on division and Combined Joint Task Force 76 Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Ashe.

"This is the first time in 30 years that Tropic Lightning Soldiers are combat vets, serving in one of the most highly decorated divisions in the Army," Ashe said. "And for the ceremony to take place on the division's 63rd birth-



**Maj. Gen. Eric T. Olson, commander, Combined Joint Task Force 76 at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan, salutes a 25th Infantry Division (Light) Soldier after presenting him with a combat patch, during a ceremony Oct. 1.**

day, that's a great big deal for all our veterans. Showing the world everyday that our division has top-notch Soldiers."

Ashe, along with CJTF-76 and 25th ID(L) commander, Maj. Gen. Eric T. Olson, handed out combat patches and Global War on Terrorism Service and

Expeditionary medals to troops in front of Bagram Air Field's Joint Operations Center.

It's 1st Sgt. Charles Sasser's first combat patch in a 20-year Army career. He's a ranger-qualified infantryman who has served in Egypt on Multinational Force and

Observer duty. Sasser said receiving the Tropic Lightning combat patch is the culmination of two decades of service to America.

"It really means a lot to me personally and professionally," said Sasser, first

## USARHAW housing privatized

By Sharee Moore  
 Editor

U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii forged a partnership with Actus Lend Lease Oct. 1 to build, renovate and maintain Army housing for the next 50 years. The union will yield many long and short-term benefits for Soldiers and their families.

Col. Howard Killian, commander of the US Army Garrison, Hawaii said the contract simply means, "We're going to get new housing – lots of it." During the first 10 years, almost 8,000 Army homes will either be replaced or renovated and community centers will be added to every neighborhood.

Keith Nishioka, a senior staff member with the Residential Community Initiative Program said, "Under the old military construction system, only 100 Army homes were revitalized in a year, so the Army needed to find a way to improve housing for Soldiers' and their families more quickly and efficiently."

U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii and Actus Lend Lease have formed a partnership called Army Hawaii Family Housing, LLC, which will manage the properties and replace or renovate our Army housing inventory.

"These replacement homes aren't your typical Army-issue set of quarters, these are more commensurate with what you will see if you bought a house on the economy," Killian said. Soldiers can expect to get a garage, central air and all of the new technology the home-building industry has developed over the last few years.

"The biggest challenge is for people to quit thinking that they live in a home that's owned and operated by the Army – because you don't," Killian explained.

Army Hawaii Family Housing LLC began maintaining neighborhoods Oct. 1. So, instead of going to the self-help store on Fort Shafter and Schofield Barracks to borrow tools and pick up other items, residents now go to the neighborhood community centers.

# OPINION & COMMENTARY

Friday

A-2

October 8, 2004

## Journalist recounts good news of OIF II deployment

### Commentary

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

KIRKUK AIR BASE, Iraq – Ever since I arrived to this country in late January, I've been subject to things I've never witnessed before in my life.

I have seen poverty at a severe level, where families live in one-room mud huts and beg along the roadside for unwanted Meal, Ready to Eat food items.

I have seen the aftermath of enemy rockets fired inside base perimeters and Improvised Explosive Devices detonated on our vehicles.

I have heard the outspoken thoughts of Soldiers confused of why we are here in this struggling country.

I have seen and heard the long-lasting hatred that still brews between the Arabs and Kurds in certain areas of Northern Iraq.

And sadly, I have partaken in the many memorial ceremonies for our fallen comrades.

I admit there have been many negative incidents in the eight months since 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division (Light) took over the area of operations around the city of Kirkuk.

But there has been balance to these bad times.

The nearly 3,000 Soldiers of 2nd BCT in Iraq have observed and even participated in numerous positive events.

It seems like everyday Soldiers join in ribbon-cutting ceremonies for new facilities that are benefiting all Iraqis.

In fact, since mid-February, 2nd BCT has been allocated more than \$20 million of Commander's Emergency Response Funds that has paid for the completion of 336 Iraqi construction projects.

These projects affect many Iraqis – the ones who use the

facilities as well as the unemployed laborers who were paid to work on the construction projects.

It is the same way throughout Iraq. Multi-National Forces in Iraq and the Iraqi people are improving the infrastructure of this country together.

Unfortunately, it is a long process, and other units will have to continue it in the future.

The overall attitude of Iraqis in this AO has become very welcoming over the past eight months. When I go outside the gate on various missions, a good amount of that time my arm is in the upright position returning waves to friendly Iraqis.

Also, the Iraqi children are something else. Almost every time an Iraqi boy or girl catches a glimpse of an American Soldier their faces light up with joy. In return, the smiles of these Iraqi children help keep Soldiers in high spirits and reminds them of why we are here making this country a better place.

Another thing that has amazed me is the teamwork of Iraq's different ethnicities in the Iraqi Security Forces. Within the ISF, Kurds, Arabs, Turks and Assyrians all work effectively alongside each other in daily operations.

Hopefully, other Iraqis can replicate this ethnic cooperation throughout every corner of Iraq.

For the longest time, it seemed like there wasn't a day that passed without a rocket or mortar attack on Kirkuk Air Base. Now, they do not occur as often.

Multiple security missions conducted by 2nd BCT units and the ISF have considerably helped with this ongoing problem.

In addition, Hesco barriers were emplaced around the living areas by Company B, 65th Engineer Battalion Soldiers about six months ago. These Hesco barriers can absorb outside shrapnel or an impact from enemy ordnance, therefore, protecting the area within the barriers.

The way Hesco barriers surround the living containers, you sometimes feel like a mouse in a maze. But I would rather feel like a mouse than a lemming, who knows death is around the corner or in their case off of a cliff.

On a sadder note, we have lost five of our 2nd BCT comrades during this deployment. It's something that hits close to home when you hear of a fellow Soldier's death.

When we all came into Iraq, we knew there was that possibility of never returning home. Nevertheless, you put those thoughts into the back of your mind, so you won't hesitate or falter in your missions.

We are the lucky ones to be stationed in this AO than in other parts of Iraq, though. Just ask Soldiers from Task Force 1-14 Infantry who were in Najaf twice conducting military operations against Al-Sadr's militia. I'm sure they'll tell you all about the countless attacks they received down there.

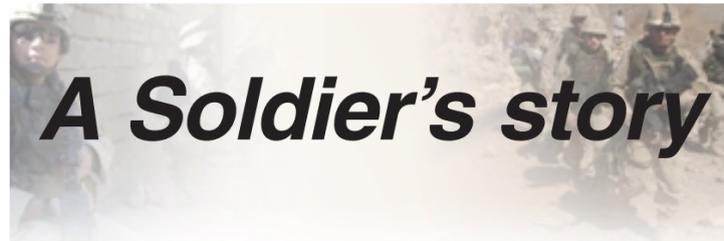
The loss of a Soldier's life often brings up the question of why we are still here conducting operations in Iraq. This question is overwhelming, and its answers can vary.

I believe we should stay until we improve Iraq's infrastructure and implement a democratic society.

Despite the bad things you hear in the daily news reports, the positive is outweighing the negative. In the civilian news media, the bad news is the good news. For me, the good news is just that – good news.

As a military photojournalist, I get to see what most Soldiers do to ensure a free Iraq to its people. I travel along on their daily missions and see the guidance and aid they offer to the Iraqis.

And from what I have seen in the past eight months, 2nd BCT Soldiers are making a huge difference here.



## A Soldier's story

### Commentary

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

Sept. 27, 2 p.m. I was talking with some Soldiers, at one of the plane hangers on the airbase, who was about to go on R&R.

Two explosions rocked the ground. I walked outside and saw smoke coming from the northeast of where I was standing. The airbase alarm was sounded and personnel started moving to concrete bunkers.

After the "all clear" was given, I walked to the headquarters command post and got the update.

It seems two rockets or mortars were fired at the airbase. One impacted in an open area on the airbase but the other fell short in a neighborhood by the train station. No casualties, just some property damage and some shaken up residents. After doing an analysis on the impact area, it was determined that the rounds were fired from outside the city.

This seems to be a new tactic resurfacing. Our enemy has been all but shut down within the city by our constant presence. There are no areas that we don't patrol, therefore they know coalition patrols are likely to find them if they try to attack us.

Sept. 28. We received some intel on one of the top bad guys in the area. Capt. Derek Bird, company commander and Soldiers from 2nd Platoon moved out to do some surveillance.

After pinpointing the possible residence, the Soldiers moved in and apprehended the suspect.

This is the biggest fish we have nabbed to date. This piece of garbage is one of the cell leaders of a terrorist group that aligns itself with Ansar al-Sunna, a Sunni Muslim group that has claimed responsibility for the

beheading of 12 Nepalese hostages. A lot of the credit for the bust goes to one of our interpreters, "Mike." He was able to identify this guy right away. Sgt. 1st Class Richard Woodruff, 2nd Platoon sergeant from Pompano Beach, Fla., said nothing but "high fives" after transporting this guy to the base detention cell.

After returning to the patrol base, Pfc. Michael Rogerson, Statesville, N.C., 2nd Platoon medic, and the rest of the platoon were able to deliver some supplies to the pediatric hospital.

This is one of the things that the Soldiers really enjoy. We are hoping to help this hospital more in the future.

This week, we picked up a few new sectors. They are west of town, so we have sent numerous patrols out to recon the new terrain. On Thursday our Soldiers received a tour of one of the areas by the South African security team hired to guard it. They are building barracks for the New Iraqi Army that will be positioned in the area. Staff Sgt. Robert Ryder, Portland Ore., told me that they showed him where numerous rockets have been fired, so we have conducted anti-rocket observation posts and patrols in the area.

Woodruff said "We'll continue to do these anti-rocket missions until the rocket fire either moves out of the area or ceases."

Oct. 1. 2nd Platoon discovered a small cache just outside a small village in some abandon buildings. They recovered an RPG, some rounds and an anti personnel mine.

Another problem we are facing is the influx of squatters in the area. The local residents are upset because they want the land that the squatters are trying to claim. We'll have to keep an eye on these new areas to try to quell tensions in the area.

## Voices of Lightning

### What is your biggest safety concern?



"I live in Medonca Park and we do not have the same security as Schofield Barracks with the constant gate guard. People can, and do, come and go as they please."

Michelle Acree  
Family member



"I worry most about drinking related incidents. About 90 percent of the serious incident reports that I come across alcohol is a factor. Late nights and drunk driving do not mix."

Capt. Christopher Lowe  
HHC, 45th CSG (Forward)  
Commander



"Transitioning Soldiers over seas. Soldiers are getting kidnapped and picked out in crowds, even when then are just on vacation in certain countries."

Sgt. Jerry Jamie  
TAMC



"I worry about the lack of experienced drivers on the roads."

Spc. James Mitchell  
2nd Bn, 11th FA Rgt.  
Cook



"The safety of my children is my biggest concern. I work so the security on post is a big concern of mine."

Kathi Gougaerts  
Family member



"When my daughter and I drive down the highway, careless drivers are always cutting me off. It is the same way in parking lots where people drive faster than they should."

Michelle Castillo  
Family Member

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Col. Michael McBride  
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**Editor**  
Sharee Moore  
**Staff Writers**  
Joy Boiselle  
Spc. Charles Hayes  
**Layout**  
Tony Verceluz

**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:**

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## Iraqi kids make friends



Spc. Sean Kimmons

Sgt. Richard Rider, a personal security detachment member from HHS, TF 2-11 FA, holds an Iraqi girl in Kirkuk on Aug. 13. Many Iraqi children in this city have become friendlier to U.S. Soldiers during the past eight months.

## Soldiers work to improve communities

Story by Spc. Dijon Rolle  
17th Public Affairs Det.

**K A N D A H A R**, Afghanistan — Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, currently deployed to Kandahar Airfield, are going into the surrounding communities to find more ways to help local residents.

To facilitate this effort, Soldiers from 3rd Bn., 7th FA Rgt., and Col. Dick Pedersen, Combined Task Force Bronco commander, were on hand to speak with local mullahs, or religious leaders, during a meeting held at the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team. The mullahs from Kandahar meet monthly with Coalition forces to discuss issues and concerns within their community. The main focal points of September's meeting were ongoing reconstruction efforts in the Kandahar region, education and security, particularly for the mullahs themselves. The mullahs and their families have been targeted by anti-Coalition militants for their continued cooperation with Coalition forces.

"I am very aware that you as mullahs, true scholars of Islam, are assuming risk because you pursue what is right and what is true," said Pedersen. "By standing up for what is true and what is right, (you are) soldiers in your own right. You are Afghan heroes — patriots."

Pedersen also urged the

mullahs to share information from the meeting with their people to help dispel misconceptions surrounding the Coalition's presence in Afghanistan, and to reit-

reconstruction so it can house nearly 250 children. The battalion is considering adopting the orphanage and helping to supply it with necessities like furniture, bedding and school supplies.

While no official decision has been made yet, 3rd Bn., 7th FA Rgt., Executive Officer Maj. William Oxtoby, toured the area and assessed the conditions there.

"It's one of the many things that we can do besides our regular missions to give something back to the people," said Oxtoby. "I think it means a lot to the people here, and I think it's doing something for this country and strengthening ties between Afghanistan and the United States."

Maj. James Schaefer, CTF Bronco chaplain, is working with several units throughout the brigade, including 3rd Bn., 7th FA Rgt., to encourage them to "adopt" different local schools and organizations like the orphanage. The partnership gives units another outlet to directly impact the rebuilding and stabilization of Afghanistan.

"This is important for the Coalition because part of our purpose is to stop the growth or movement of evil forces," said Schaefer. "At the same time, it helps these young men and women get an opportunity to grow, to learn a trade and also be productive for this country."

**“ ...the Afghan people can harness the resources of the world in order to rebuild their country.”**

**- Col. Dick Pedersen**

erate the fact that everyone, including the international community, must work together to accomplish the tasks at hand.

"The Afghan people, Coalition forces and the international community must come together for this rebuilding," said Pedersen. "This way, the Afghan people can harness the resources of the world in order to rebuild their country."

After the meeting, 3rd Bn., 7th FA Rgt., Soldiers visited the Kandahar Shaeed Abdul Ahad Karzi Orphanage to meet with administrators and residents there. The orphanage also serves as a school for boys and girls from kindergarten to middle school. It's currently undergoing major

## Briefs

**Fall Festival** – A Fall Festival will be held at Hale Kula Elementary School, Schofield Barracks Oct. 23 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.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.

**Hui O' Na Wahine Luncheon** – The Hui O' Na Wahine of Schofield Barracks will hold its monthly luncheon on Thursday, Oct. 21, at the Nehelani. Cost is \$12. October is Breast Cancer Awareness month, so join us as we learn more about the disease. The guest speaker, Maj. Lomax, is the deputy director of the Obstetrician and Gynecology specialty course at Tripler Army Medical Center. She will provide attendees with up-to-date information about breast cancer. Doors will open at 10:30 a.m., and lunch is at 11 a.m. If interested in becoming a vendor call Amy Snyder at 624-4989. For reservations call Judi Rossi at 778-3704. Limited on site child care will be provided. Call central registration at 655-3929 or 655-5314 to make a reservation.

**Free Packing Materials** – spouses and families of military members who are deployed overseas can get free packing materials from the postal service. To take advantage of this service call: 1-800-610-8734 and (press 1 for English and then 3 for an operator) and they will send free boxes, packing materials, tape and mailing labels.

These products are to be used to mail care packages to service members. Access this information by going on the Internet: [supplies.usps.gov](http://supplies.usps.gov) Call the 1-800-610-8734 to receive priority mailing tape. Some of the items available online are: Box 7-12x12x8, Box 4-7x7x6, 106A - Labels, Form 2976A - Customs Form, Form 2976E - Envelope for Customs Form.

**Hale Kula Elementary School Community Meeting** – Oct. 20 in the Hale Kula Elementary School cafeteria from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. All military families are invited to attend the meeting to discuss the school goals and vision and to examine the data of the school's student achievements. Call Wayne Yoshino, Army school liaison officer at 655-2414 for information.

**Deployment Survival Night at AMR Chapel** – Adults and children are invited to attend the AMR Chapel's free Deployment Survival Night Meal and Program this Tuesday. Guest speaker, Dee Athey, will talk about active parenting skills. There will be a program for children in kindergarten - 6th grade and the youth group will be meeting for 7th - 12th graders. Schedule for the night: 5:30 p.m. is dinner and classes begin at 6 p.m. All classes end at 7:30 p.m. Make sure chil-

dren (9 months - 4 years old) are registered for the free STACC Site Child care for the chapel. Call 833-5393 to register.

Parents may use chapel child care during any of its programs and worship services. Call the chapel at 833-8175 for more information and reservations for dinner and child care. Leave a name, phone number, number of adults attending, names and ages of the children.

**Honolulu Symphony** – All military personnel are invited to save 20 percent when they purchase tickets to Honolulu Symphony shows. For a complete listing of show times and more information on the military discount, go to [www.ticketmaster.com/promo/7463](http://www.ticketmaster.com/promo/7463).

**Annual Spookfest Fundraiser on Wheeler** – The annual Spookfest celebration will be held Thursday, Oct. 28, from 6 – 7:30 p.m. at the Armed Services YMCA on Wheeler Army Air Field. This is a friendly fall festival designed for pre-school children. Come in costume and play games, win prizes and make crafts. Snacks and drinks will be available. Plan to join us during this "spooktacular" fundraising event to support the Play Morning Program. There will be an admission charge of less than \$2. Call Dela LaFleur at 624-5645 for more information.

**Blood Donations Needed** – The Tripler Army Medical Center Blood Donor Center is located on the hospital's second floor, Oceanside and is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call 433-6148.

**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. 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 resi-



## “Golden Knights” are recruiting

By Sgt. Marie Schult  
U.S. Army Parachute Team

The U.S. Army Parachute Team, “Golden Knights,” will be hosting the Sixth Annual Inter-Service Parachute Competition at Laurinburg-Maxton Airport in Laurinburg, N.C., Nov. 5 - 8.

The competition is open to all active-duty identification card holders, not on leave, (however they may be on permissive TDY). Participants must have at least 150 jump to compete in the four-way competition and 200 jumps to compete in the eight-way competition. Participants with

less than 150 jumps will receive one on one coaching from U.S. Army Parachute Team personnel.

The four-way competition will be held on Nov. 6 and an eight-way competition will be held on Nov. 7.

Media are invited to watch the competition and interview Golden Knight coaches. Press rides will also be available, contact media relations to set these up ahead of time.

For more information or directions to Laurinburg-Maxton airport contact Sgt. Marie Schult at 910-396-7203 or online at [www.usarec.army.mil/hq/GoldenKnights](http://www.usarec.army.mil/hq/GoldenKnights).

dences. 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.

**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 depend-

ent 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. Deadline is March 1.

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](http://www.aerhq.org). Call (703) 428-0035 or e-mail [education@aerhq.org](mailto:education@aerhq.org).

**Abuse Shelter Open** – The Joint Military Family Abuse Shelter provides a safe place to stay, food, clothing and personal care items, trans-

portation, child care, crisis counseling, information and referral, advocacy, education, safety planning, and a 24-hour shelter and crisis hotline. All services are free and open to all branches of the military. Call the 24-hour crisis line 533-7125 for information or to talk to a support counselor.

# 25th ID Soldiers meet Oliver North



Master Sgt. Terry Anderson

Oliver North listens to a pre-convoy briefing from Master Sgt. Peter Ladd, tactical operations NCO, 58th MP company, before going on a presence patrol around Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan.

By Master Sgt.  
Terry Anderson  
CJTF-76 Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – He may be best known for his involvement in the Iran-Contra scandal in the mid to late-1980's, but many troops here looked at Marine Col. (Ret.) Oliver North, as an American hero.

North, now a best selling author and Fox News correspondent, was in Afghanistan to cover the first overseas naturalization ceremony ever conducted by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Seventeen Soldiers took the oath of allegiance, completing the somewhat difficult path of becoming American citizens.

"I got to be a part of a great ceremony today where 17 young Soldiers got to be American citizens," North said. "These are people who came to our country, volunteered to serve in our Armed Forces and who respect the values of freedom and liberty we're now sharing with the people of Afghanistan."

Earlier in the day, North and his crew covered the 25th Infantry Division (Light) combat patch ceremony on the division's 63rd birthday. 25th ID (L) and Combined Joint Task Force 76 commander Maj. Gen. Eric T. Olson, along with Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Ashe, handed out Tropic Lightning combat patches and Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Service medals to troops.

Covering the military is a passion for North.

"I really do believe the

American people deserve to see how well their sons and daughters are performing in very, very difficult circumstances," North said. "This is anything but comfortable. We've got some of the finest young people we've ever had serving in the uniform of the armed forces of the United States.

"The American people deserve to see them when they're out there putting their lives on the line, defending us from people who would take our lives in a heartbeat, if given the chance."

North spent less than 24-hours in Afghanistan but had time to go with the Soldiers of the 58th Military Police company on a presence patrol around Bagram.

"I think it's great," said Master Sgt. Peter Ladd, 58th MP Co. tactical operations NCO.

"Oliver North is a former service member himself, he takes a lot of pride in the military and the Soldiers know a lot about him. This is great for the morale of the Soldiers and for our unit to be picked to escort him."

North and his cameraman went on a two-hour patrol around the airfield. It was a relatively uneventful patrol, although insurgents were spotted trying to fire rockets at Bagram the night before. Despite the inherent dangers of covering troops in a war zone, North loves his job.

"All I do is cover Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Guardsmen. I tell people I have the best job in the world because all I do is hang around with heroes like you," North said.

## Housing

From A-1

The community center is now the focal point to address all concerns and maintenance needs.

More immediate benefits of privatization include faster orders and served 9,800 residents. AHFH promises to respond to maintenance calls between one and 24 hours. They'll complete maintenance between 24 and 72 hours. It

In a six week time period, AHFH filled 8,000 service orders and served 9,800 residents. AHFH promises to respond to maintenance calls between one and 24 hours. They'll complete maintenance between 24 and 72 hours. It

used to take the Army 72 to 504 hours to respond to a call.

The project company will also take over the maintenance of front and side lawns. "We're also going to bring in some landscape architects to improve the appearance of the homes themselves," Killian said. The AHFH Web site said in a few months, residents can also expect to see vacant, decayed buildings torn down and new homes built in their places.

"One of our goals is to make these homes attractive because Soldiers get a choice. He's going to get his BAH

whether he lives on-post or off-post ... our challenge is to make that Army home his choice," Killian said.

Soldiers who live off-post have always received a Basic Allowance for Housing, or BAH. By law, when housing is privatized service members living on-post must be paid BAH, too. Although, this "extra" pay is allotted to AHFH, it is still printed on the Leave and Earning statement and is counted as income.

As a result of this quirk in the law, some service members will no longer qualify for certain state and federal safety

net programs like the Food Stamp and Headstart programs.

The Child Nutrition and WIC Act of 2004, Section 109, states that BAH will not affect eligibility for WIC, free lunch or reduced-price lunch programs.

"The Army is pursuing some equities in all the additional and special pays being received from deployments and trying to get legislation passed for federal programs that would ensure BAH isn't included in the annual gross income," Killian said.

"We're also in the process of

trying to share the same information with state and county folks to see what, if anything, they can do to give us some relief and, of course, they're very interested as it impacts the National Guard and Reserve Soldiers as well.

The purpose of privatization is to improve the quality of life for service members, so if a Soldier is experiencing a backlash as a result of this change, Killian offered some assurance.

In addition to what Department of Army is doing to change the quirk in the law, "Our plan is to steer anybody

who relies on public aid programs to a trained financial counselor," Killian began.

"We have those professionals at Army Community Service who are prepared to sit down and try to lay out a plan. They can't change the legislations that government put on these programs, but they can at least give you the straight-up answers ... or get you to someone who is more of an expert in that particular type of care program," Killian concluded.

(Editor's Note: Kirsten Tacker contributed to this article.)

## 25th ID (L)

From A-1

sergeant for Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 25th ID (L). "But I'm not finished. I'll stay in the Army until they ask me to leave."

During his speech, Olson said the patch and medals symbolize more than just another item to sew on the uniform.

"With this combat patch ceremony here today, we are forever bonded to that past and have a visible statement of shared commitment, value and hardship," Olson said.

25th ID (L) units have held separate combat infantry badge, combat medical badge, and combat patch ceremonies at locations around Afghanistan. Ashe said not every division in the Army holds combat patch ceremonies, and his reason for holding one is simple.

"I have a saying called

the five to seven month slump," Ashe said. "You're happy that you're halfway through but you look ahead and you still see six months left. The main reason we're doing this ceremony is to honor our troops and to give them a positive experience in the middle of a deployment."

Olson wrapped up his speech by saying 25th Infantry Division Soldiers are earning their keep in the Global War on Terrorism.

"Our division's victories in Afghanistan and in Iraq are the victories of all Soldiers and all units of the Army, not just those few who participated in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom," Olson said.

# CTF Thunder fires in CALFEX

By Sgt. Frank Magni  
17th Public Affairs Det.

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE SALERNO, Afghanistan** — Coalition forces maneuvering throughout Afghanistan can employ a variety of weapons at a moment's notice to support ground efforts.

From rotary and fixed wing aircraft, to artillery and mortars, there is more than meets the eye available to each maneuvering force in Operation Enduring Freedom.

In an effort to test the full gamut of combined arms in Regional Command East, Combined Task Force Thunder conducted a Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise.

The exercise marked the debut of the M-198 howitzer in Afghanistan, and showcased its enhanced range and capabilities.

The CALFEX also incorporated aviation elements from throughout the coalition.

But during an exercise that centers on the employment of weapon systems, it is the communications that are really tested, said Maj. J.R. Mendoza, CTF Thunder fire support officer.

"This CALFEX tested



Sgt. Frank Magni

**An M-198 howitzer fires a high explosive, rocket-assisted projectile from FOB Salerno during a combined arms live fire exercise.**

communications over large distances," said Mendoza. "Ground forces had to communicate accurate and up-to-the-minute data that has to get to many different people."

Replicating real-world situations, the command element was located in a different area than the artillery, ground forces and aircraft. This distance elevated the communication and communication equipment as one of

the most important pieces of equipment employed, said Mendoza.

Combining fluid communication with all the working elements of the combined-arms arena achieves a "synergistic effect," said Mendoza.

Mendoza said this synergistic effect uses all the strengths of each element involved, while minimizing the disadvantages inherent to each combat system.

The ultimate benefit to using the entire combined-arms arsenal is that maneuvering ground forces will gain more fire power and command of the battlefield.

In addition to the coordination and communications experience the unit gained by conducting the CALFEX, another benefit was the utilization of the M-198 howitzer.

The introduction of the weapon system to the

CALFEX not only benefited the howitzer sections that operate the weapon, but also the forward observer who calls for fire.

"One advantage to this CALFEX is the ground forces that are calling for fire are the same individuals that would be doing it real-world situations," said Chief Warrant Officer Jim Gomez, TF Thunder targeting officer. "This exercise validated the weapon's capability and accuracy."

"It also demonstrated some of the advantages the howitzer has over other weapon systems," he said.

As the largest caliber surface-to-surface weapon system being employed in theater, the howitzer has a very long range. Its range can be increased when it fires a rocket-assisted projectile. During the CALFEX, the RAP was the primary round used in the M-198.

"The M-198 has the ability to reach out and engage targets from incredible distances," said Capt. Brendan Raymond, Battery F, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, commander.

In addition to its range, the howitzer can also respond to ground forces in a fraction of the time it would take to get rotary or fixed

winged aircraft to targets.

"We have howitzer sections on stand-by around the clock," said Raymond. "As soon as we get our (target location), we can have a round down range within minutes."

Even though the CALFEX was conducted during the day, in favorable conditions, the advantages to using artillery over other weapon systems is its versatility in unfavorable weather conditions.

"Day, night, fog, rain (or) snow, artillery can be fired at anytime," said Gomez. "The howitzers will always be there to support the ground forces."

Although not all the M-198 capabilities were demonstrated during the CALFEX, Mendoza said everybody was very impressed with the howitzers.

"Until you see the rounds falling in the impact area, you don't realize how accurate they are," said Mendoza.

He also said the exercise met all the training objectives put forth by CTF Thunder.

"It went extremely well, and achieved everything we wanted," he said. "Everybody was in the right place at the right time."

## New PRT broadens coalition's community efforts

By Sgt. Stephanie L. Carl  
17th Public Affairs Det.

**FARAH PROVINCE, Afghanistan** — Leadership from the coalition, the U.S. Embassy, the Afghan national government and Farah Province gathered at the site of the Farah Provincial Reconstruction Team for its official opening Sept. 15.

For approximately three weeks, members of the PRT have been working to not only establish their home in Farah Province, but also establish a solid, working relationship with the members of the province.

"Just a few days ago, there was a ditch under where your feet now are," said Lt. Col. Andy Santer-Pinter, Farah PRT commander. "Looking around, you can see the buildings that have been erected, built by the skill of many laborers of Farah."

This statement is symbolic of just one of the roles the PRT will play in Farah Province.

"With funding and the help of military engineers, security forces and others, we will help address the concerns of the people," he said.

Knowing the PRT will be able to assist Farah Province in reconstruction efforts that mirror the efforts of the 13 other coalition-run PRTs throughout Afghanistan, members of the national government were anxious to lend their support.

"This is an important step,"

said Dr. Fahid, Ministry of Health representative who goes by only one name, to the attendees at the opening ceremony. "I hope this PRT will give the support to Farah Province like other PRTs do."

In establishing their relationship with the government and the residents of Farah Province, the members of the PRT have been focusing on the kind of support that is most needed in the area of western Afghanistan. The biggest response has been security.

With an increased Coalition presence and the help of their security forces, the PRT hopes to develop a secure environment to actively pursue reconstruction projects. But the two go hand-in-hand, as Maj. Gen. Eric T. Olson, Combined Joint Task Force-76 commander, pointed out.

"There's an important link between security and reconstruction," he said. "The more security there is, the more reconstruction efforts can develop. And the more reconstruction we have in progress, the more security there will be."

These efforts, combined with a strong relationship with the people of Farah, will be the keys to helping the province progress. This is a goal that the PRT is determined to accomplish.

"I truly believe Farah is on the right path to success," said Santer-Pinter. "We can do it together. We will do it together!"



Photobyline

**Lt. Col. Andy Santer-Pinter (left), Farah PRT commander; Maj. Gen. Eric T. Olson (center), CJTF-76 commander; and Asadullah Fallah, Farah provincial governor, use ceremonial scissors to cut the ribbon signifying the opening of the Farah PRT in Western Afghanistan.**

## ArmyOnline

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



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





## LIVING HISTORY DAY *brings the past to life*



Izea Green, 10, learns about life in the 1860s from Civil War reenactor, Bruce Barham.



Dazhanna Tolliver, 5, checks out the shiny bullets at the Civil War display.

Story and photos by  
Joy Boisselle  
Staff Writer

While veterans reminisced and children climbed on static displays, more than 30 military reenactors lent an air of authenticity to the Tropic Lightning Museum's Living History Day held Oct. 2 at Schofield Barracks. Museum Curator, Linda Hee said, "Living History Day gives the public and Soldiers a better sense of what former Soldiers were like by bringing history to life."

Held annually to coincide with the 25th Infantry Division's organization day of Oct. 1, 1941, the event featured static vehicle and weapon displays and reenactors dressed period perfect in military outfits from the Revolutionary War to the Vietnam War. Participants included the Hawaii Historic Arms Association, the Military Vehicle Preservation Association, The Hawaii Civil War Round Table, and the 25th ID (L) Jazz Combo.

Confederate reenactor Damian Paul said with a grin, "This is the only time men get together to compliment each other on their outfits." He referred proudly to the fact that many of the uniforms are vintage or reproductions using only materials and techniques used from the era depicted.

Reenactors agreed that the main reasons they participate in events like Living History Day were to honor Soldiers, past and present, and to help educate the public in an interesting way. Adam Lipka, dressed as a military policeman during the sixties, said, "I couldn't get into the military for medical reasons, so I do what I can do to honor those who put it all on the line for our freedoms."

Lipka estimates his hobby has cost between \$50,000 and \$60,000, but includes a 1952 jeep and a 2 1/2 ton truck, also known as a 'deuce and a half.'



Lipka's interest and investment in his hobby is not the exception. He is more the rule, as except for the Museum's historical vehicles and equipment, all the items on display that day were privately owned.

Civil War reenactor, Bruce Bainum, said, "It is really not that costly. You buy items piece by piece, little by little." He and others recommended auction sites, like eBay, and historical preservation groups as good sources for those who are wanting to get started.

Another reenactor Sgt. Kirk Weaver, 13th Military Police Detachment, dressed to represent the storied Texas Regiment from the Civil War. Completing his ensemble with bare feet as was common in those days, he said, "I always loved the Civil War and I have done reenactments since high school. I enjoy representing my past."

Nearly 300 visitors enjoyed the day trying on uniforms, holding weapons, and just listening to the reenactors tell stories of life during their particular era. Lt. Col. Dan Smythe and his 10 children just happened by the event on their way home.

Smythe said, "We home school our kids and just happened to be discussing some of the time frames depicted here today." He added, "This is

neat. It is great to be able to show them the history instead of just teaching it from books."

For one visitor, books could not add to his first-hand knowledge of the equipment on display. Korean and Vietnam War vet and retired 1st Sgt., Floro Rivera said, "I was a tunnel rat with the 25th Division in 1966. Looking at all the weapons and equipment brings back a lot of memories."

Another visitor, 10-year-old Izea Green said, "My grandpa was in the military. This is a real experience for me to know what my family and others did to protect our world." His grandpa, James Green, who also brought Izea to the event served in the Vietnam War.

For some, it was a day of memories. For others, it was a first-time look at by-gone days. For all, Living History Day provided an eye-opening glimpse into the past of the American Soldier.

The Tropic Lightning Museum offers a wealth of information on the 25th ID (L)'s past, present and a detailed history of the Army in Hawaii. The hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday - Saturday. For information call 655-0438.



This 1944 Sherman Tank permanently housed at the Tropic Lightning Museum was the last tank decommissioned in the Pacific.



Ryan Ault learns how to carry a Civil War rifle under the watchful eye of Sgt. Kirk Weaver.

**2005 Army Soldier Show** – Nominations are requested for the 2005 show. Nominations for vocalists, dancers, musicians and specialty acts are requested. Nominations for technicians are being accepted for lighting, audio, video, costume and stage technicians. Preference in selection is given to performers showing versatility in musical style and experience. Preference is given to technicians having experience and possessing a variety of skills. Nominations must be submitted no later than Nov. 15. Log on to [www.mwrarmyhawaii.com](http://www.mwrarmyhawaii.com) for more information or call 655-0112.

**\$.25 games at Wheeler Bowling Center** – Every Wednesday from 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. pay \$.25 per game and \$.25 for shoes at Wheeler

Bowling Center. Call 656-1745 for information.

**Pumpkin Coloring Contest** – Ages 12 and under can enter to win a fun-filled pumpkin. Entry blanks available at all Army Youth Centers and Tropics on Schofield Barracks. Entries will be displayed at Tropics from Oct. 1-31. Grand Prize Drawing will be held on Oct. 30, 6:30 p.m. The winner will be selected by random drawing from all the entries submitted. Call 655-0002 for more information.

**Mongolian BBQ** – Select favorites from a variety of meats and vegetables, and have them grilled to personal preferences Oct. 20 at 5 p.m. at the Nehelani on Schofield Barracks, with seating at Reggie's. Meals are priced by the ounce. Reservations required by calling 655-0660

**Exceptional Family Member Program** – Monthly support group meetings for parents of special education children are held at Aliamanu Chapel every third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. The third Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. meetings are held at Schofield Barracks Army Community Service. Call 655-2303 for information.

**Junior Bowling** – Junior Bowling with instruction for beginners and bowling techniques for other experienced junior bowlers is available every Saturday at the Fort Shafter Bowling Center.

Call 438-6733 for information.

**Harvest Week at the Tropics** – The Tropics, building 589 on Schofield Barracks, is hosting Harvest Week from Oct. 25 - 31. On Oct. 25, 10 a.m. (for ages 5 years and younger) and 6 p.m. (open to all ages) make Halloween crafts for \$1. On Oct. 26, at 6 p.m. listen to spooky tales and eat free popcorn. On Oct. 27 at 7 p.m. play blacklight basketball and volleyball with a haunted twist, for ages 10 and above. On Oct. 28 at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. participate in pumpkin carving. Tropics will supply pumpkins to the first 20 registered or bring your own and learn some carving tips. On Oct. 29, teens can participate in a monster bash and costume dance from 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Admission is \$3. On Oct. 30 from 6 - 9 p.m. participate in games, a costume contest, a Scooby Doo marathon for kids or an adult scary movie with free popcorn beginning at 8 p.m. Eat caramel apples for \$1.50. Prizes awarded for the best costume in three age categories. On Oct. 31 trick or treat at the Tropics from 5 - 8 p.m. Call 655-0002/5697 for more information.

**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. 14, Attitudinal

Healing (2 of 6), How to Prepare for Reunion, Before and After Make-Over, Create Your Own Family Web Page and Quilting. At the Tropics enjoy Beauty Make-Over. 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.

**Come In, Cool Off and Bowl** – Bowl 12 games and choose either a bank or a towel. Bowl 25 games and earn a bag. Earn as many prizes as you like, excludes league games bowled. Available at the Schofield Barracks and Fort Shafter Bowling Centers.

**Tropic Lightning Items for Sale** – Buy Tropic Lightning Coffee, whole bean or ground for \$7.75 or Tropic Lightning Water, 23.9 oz for \$1.25 at the Tropics, building 589 on Schofield Barracks. Call 655-0002 for information.

**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. Call for fees. 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 or 655-0112 for information.

**Tropics Schofield Barracks October Food Special** – 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 for information.

**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.

**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 for information.

**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.

**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.

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

**Find Weekly Lunch Specials** – Visit [www.mwrarmyhawaii.com](http://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.



**SGT SMITH THEATER**

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

SATURDAY OCT 9  
**Without A Paddle**  
2 p.m. (PG-13)

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

SUNDAY OCT 10  
**Open Water**  
7 p.m. (R)

**HICKAM MEMORIAL THEATER**

TODAY  
**Exorcist: The Beginning**  
7 p.m. (R)

SATURDAY OCT 9  
**Superbabies: Baby Geniuses**  
2 p.m. (PG)

**Exorcist: The Beginning**  
7 p.m. (R)

SUNDAY OCT 10  
**Superbabies: Baby Geniuses**  
2 p.m. (PG)

**Exorcist: The Beginning**  
7 p.m. (R)

WEDNESDAY OCT 13  
**Suspect Zero**  
7 p.m. (R)

THURSDAY OCT 14  
**Suspect Zero**  
7 p.m. (R)

## HACN TV Schedule

October 8-14

Morning		Evening	
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-Wild Babies	6:15	Bulletin Board
7:55	PAMS Report 2004	6:47	Arm Values Respect
8:00	Pentagon Channel	6:53	OIF Photo Montage 3
9:00	Pentagon Channel	7:00	NFL-Tight on the Spiral
10:00	ASAP-Fitness For Duty	8:00	OEF Deployment Ceremony
10:30	OIF Photo Montage 7	8:30	OEF Deployment Luau
10:46	Bulletin Board	8:50	History of JAG
11:30	Hawaii Hidden Beauty, Danger	9:00	Anti Terrorism FP
11:50	OIF Photo Montage 6	9:30	Oakland Army Base
12:00	Pentagon Channel	10:00	Youth Protection
		11:00	NFL-'58 Championship Game
		12:12	Bulletin Board
Afternoon		Overnight	
2:02	Hurricane Safety	12:46	Pentagon Channel
2:21	Voting 04' Assist program		
2:28	OIF Photo Montage 2		
2:23	PAMS report 2004		
2:30	SHAMU-The Manatee		
3:00	SHAMU-The Sea Turtle		
3:40	OAHU-Aloha Begins		
3:50	OIF Photo Montage 5		
4:00	Pentagon Channel		

# Fall Break Teen Camp affordable and fun

By Joy Boisselle  
Staff Writer

Usually a parent's idea of fun is 180 degrees out from what their kid's idea of fun is. Not so, at the Fall Break Teen Camp held at the Schofield Barracks Teen Center from Sept. 27 through Oct. 8.

The camp entertained more than 30 pre-teens and teenagers with a variety of off-post field trips and on-post themed activities.

According to Kristine Yasuda, Middle School and Teen Program Manager, besides providing a fun-filled and safe experience for camp participants, her goals included getting the word out to the community regarding the center's new location and providing an affordable rate to parents.

The Fall Break Teen Camp was the brainchild of Yasuda and her staff. The concept was to take the camp participants to as many off-post venues as possible at the lowest rate possible.

"We wanted to provide a reasonable rate to make the camp affordable and attractive to everyone," she said.

In that effort, Yasuda and crew succeeded charging camp attendees a fee of \$25 per week. The camp met Monday through Friday from 12 to 7 p.m. Teens brought sack lunches and spending money, but all other fees were included in the weekly rate.

During the first week, the group traveled to the Honolulu Zoo, Waimea Bay, the Dole Plantation, and played miniature golf in Kaneohe. On-post, the group held a Fear Factor Competition based on the television program, and attended a Teen Center Workshop entitled,

"Character Counts."

The second week, the group journeyed to the Battleship Missouri, went nature hiking, and skate boarded at the Pearl Harbor Skate Park. On-post, the teens held a Survivor Competition and finished their camp experience at the Schofield Lanes bowling center.

For Alexandria Cox, 13, the camp provided an easy way to make friends at a new post.

"We just arrived and the best part of camp was hanging out and having fun with all the other kids," she said, adding, "So far, my favorite activity has been Fear Factor."

Another camp attendee, Travis Stanford, 12, said, "I really enjoyed the trip to the zoo. It has also been fun to get to know everybody and learn to work with everyone." Every teen agreed that meeting new friends and having something to do every day was what made the camp such a huge success.

Reineiro Rodriguez, retired Army, weighed in with the parent perspective.

He said, "The best part of the program is all the activities. There are all kinds of things to keep the kids busy and away from TV and video games, plus they get to do things they probably wouldn't get to do otherwise."

As for the cost of the program, Rodriguez commented, "The cost is too cheap! I was only going to do one week until I heard the price, now; my son is doing both weeks."

The Teen Center staff are not content to stop here. They are planning an even more exciting program over Christmas break. There is only one requirement to sign up for the upcoming camp.

Yasuda said, "Kids must



Jessie Stanford chows down on a mixture of oatmeal, cocoa, and corned beef hash during Teen Camp's Fear Factor Competition held Sept. 30. The goal was to transfer the "tasty" concoction from a plate to a cup in the shortest amount of time.

Joy Boisselle

be registered at the Resource and Referral Office. The cost is \$18 annually and that entitles the teen to all activities and events held at the center."

"We offer recreation, camps, and education programs at the Teen Center," said Yasuda. The center is a great place for teens to hang out and interact with other teens while under the super-

vision and mentorship of a dedicated staff.

The Teen Center, which recently moved locations, is now located at the Ka'ala Recreation Center, Schofield Barracks.

"We really like our new location. The pros are that we are close to the Tropics, the bowling alley, and other places we use," she said, "but, the con is that we are

farther away from housing."

The Teen Center offers a myriad of activities for teens. Activities include open recreation for pool, ping-pong, and video game play, clubs such as the photography and DJ clubs, modeling and dance, and even, tutoring assistance. Additionally, teens wanting work as commissary baggers must be part of the Teen Center. Yasuda added

that more than 250 teens are registered at the center.

With a successful camp experience behind her, Yasuda said, "The best part about working at the Teen Center is we are able to work with kids and watch them grow as people and individuals."

For Teen Center information, call 655-0445.

## Changing of the home address in DEERS is the responsibility of clients

Tripler Army Medical Center  
Public Affairs

People registered in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System more commonly known, as DEERS are responsible for changing essential information when moving.

DEERS is a computerized database of military sponsors, families and others worldwide who are entitled under the law to TRICARE benefits. DEERS registration is required for TRICARE eligibility.

Enrollees who live part of the year in one location and move to another location the rest of the year must change addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses every time they move. Families who decide to transfer their TRICARE benefit should also change their DEERS information.

For example, a family who plans to return home for six months while the service member

is deployed will need routine healthcare at the "home" location and needs to transfer TRICARE and change DEERS information.

The easiest way to update the DEERS information is to go to the TRICARE Web site [www.tricare.osd.mil](http://www.tricare.osd.mil), and click on "DEERS" to the bottom right of the web page. It will take you directly to the "Address Change Option" in DEERS.

Enrollment forms to transfer TRICARE benefits are also located on the Web site above.

Enrollees may also go to [www.dmdc.osd.mil](http://www.dmdc.osd.mil), click on "DoD Community," then "Personnel Services," then "DEERS Address Update System," and "Personal Information," and fill in the new information.

Enrollees may also call the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office at 1-800-538-9552, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Eastern Time, Wednesday through Friday.



Michelle Cain

Dr. Laurie Lucking, U.S. Army Hawaii's cultural resources manager, points out details of a petroglyph at Makua Military Reservation. The Army hosted a community tour of the reservation September 25 to showcase its ongoing environmental and cultural programs at Makua.

# Community members visit Makua Military Reservation

By Bill Roome  
25th ID (L) Public Affairs

Thirty-five community members with a keen interest in natural and cultural resources visited Makua Military Reservation Sept. 25 to see how the U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii is protecting native vegetation and historical sites at the training facility. Col. Howard Killian, commander, USAG-HI informed the group that the tour is designed to give community members an opportunity to see what is being done from an environmental and cultural stand point at MMR. He added that the Army is planning similar tours in the future as well as constructing an educational center that will contain historical information, maps, photographs and artifacts from various areas within the valley. The educational center is expected to open early next year. Killian concluded by encouraging the concerned citizens to ask questions and provide comments during the tour. Stephen Turnbull, Hydrologist, U.S. Army Engineer

Research and Development Center, met with the group to talk about soil and water samples conducted at MMR. According to Turnbull, 123 surface soil samples were conducted at sites likely to have been impacted by munitions. "We looked at a very complete list of potential contaminants including explosive residue, pesticides, herbicides, metals and dioxins or chemical compounds. We found a few samples with lead levels above Environmental Protection Agency standards, but generally the sites are very clean," Turnbull said. Turnbull went on to say that groundwater samples were taken at 10 separate wells located throughout the valley and the results found that the groundwater meets federal and state drinking water standards. "I'm satisfied that the Army is beginning to take steps to find out if there are any contaminants in the soil or in the water," said Bunky Bukutis. "It's important for people to understand that contaminants could have a major impact on fishing areas along the

Waianae Coast." Weeds, pigs and rats are a big problem associated with protecting native vegetation in Makua, explained Kapua Kawelo, Natural Resources Manager. Kawelo said that the Army built 14-miles of fence within the valley to control pigs and goats. Pigs cause soil erosion and dig up the roots of native vegetation. Goats are also a problem because they eat native plants right down to the roots. Kawelo also mentioned that rats cause havoc with the Elepaio, a native bird found in the valley. "Rats have a real impact on the young Elepaio so we place bait blocks around the nesting areas to control the rats," Kawelo said. Volunteers frequently assist the 20 natural resource specialists working in Makua and Kawelo invited the guests to help them with the natural resource projects. About 75 to 80 percent of Makua has been surveyed for cultural sites according to Laurie Lucking, Cultural Resources Program Manager. Lucking

showed the visitors several historical sites including petroglyphs. She mentioned that five petroglyph areas have been found in Makua with images of Mo'o, lizards, and Pilo, or umbilical cords, that show a connection between families in the area. After the tour, guests and Army staff ate lunch and shared a few ideas. "It's imperative that the Army protect Makua since this valley is important to the Hawaiian people. It is considered a place of origin," said Tom Lenchanko, Wahiawa Hawaiian Civic Club. "I also feel the Army should open the valley to tours so Hawaii's people can see the various natural and cultural projects that the Army is conducting to preserve the valley." "I found the tour interesting," explained Eric Matanane, a teacher at Waianae Intermediate School. "As an instructor, I know many of the young people along the Waianae Coast would be extremely interested in touring Makua. It seems that the Army is going in that direction with their future tours and the education center."

## 100 Soldiers show up for blood drive

By Maj. Melanie Sloan  
Tripler Army Medical Center

"Hiki No" means "Can Do Always" in Hawaiian, and is the motto of the 1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery of the Hawaii Army National Guard. The Soldiers of this unit proved that they can, and will, provide for others any way possible.

These Soldiers sponsored a blood drive, even though they had one foot out the door on the way to support the Global War as soon as last Monday.

Sgt. Maj. Huh sponsored the battalion blood drive and encouraged maximum participation from the troops. Representing the Army value of leadership, he was the first in line with sleeves rolled up, serving as an example to all of his troops.

"I really want to support this program" Huh said, "We like to take care of our own."

Huh ensured that more than 100 Soldiers in his direct support artillery battalion were given the opportunity to give blood to the Armed Services Blood Program, which operates out of Tripler Army Medical Center.

The Armed Services Blood Program exists to get blood for critically ill patients all over the world serving in all of our nation's conflicts. The Armed Services Blood Program has carried on this tradition for 50 years by responding to the nation's needs in peace and war. If enough blood is not collected, the military must purchase products from civilian sources.

"I'm pretty sure there is someone out there who can use my blood," Sgt. Edmundo Gascon said while eating refreshments. "I am O Positive, and you never know where my blood will be used. I might even use it, and I want to make a difference."

Pfc. Atui Valu also mentioned a desire to make a difference.

"I donated because I want to help out, we are leaving on Monday, and I want to make a contribution," he said.

For the Soldiers and family members of the 1st Bn., 487th FA, the motto "Hiki No;" has certainly represented the effort they put forth to help make a contribution to fellow Soldiers serving in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

For more information on the Armed Services Blood Program, or to schedule blood drives for a unit, contact Bernard Cockerham at 433-6699 or 433-6193.

This can be an opportunity to make a difference in Soldiers' lives.

# MWR Blue Star Card offers chance to stay connected

By Nadja Gassert-Depape  
Contributing Writer

The MWR Blue Star Card program, which entitles spouses of Soldiers deployed with Operation Enduring and Iraqi Freedom to discounts throughout the military community, is a new and exciting program exclusive to Hawaii. "We recognized the need for those left behind to stay connected and involved in the community," said Steve Takekawa, Chief Business Operations Division, Directorate of Community Activities. The folks at MWR put their heads together, Takekawa explained, and developed the Blue Star Card program to ensure that spouses and family members of deployed soldiers would have an opportunity and the chance to stay connected, to come out and to remain active in their community. This is exactly what Sheila Smith likes best about the program. "I enjoy all the activities that are offered. The free Saturday gym classes, for example, or the Spouse's Night Out. It gives us a

chance to meet with wives who are going through the same thing," said Smith. But she was quick to point out that the Blue Star Card program is more than a weekly chance to meet and chitchat. "Our husbands are deployed together. They are in a team, and they support each other. It is only natural for us wives to do the same thing." The support the MWR program offers has far-reaching benefits beyond the time of deployment. Army Community Services offers classes and workshops on investing, small business start-up, Web camera use and Web site design. The knowledge and skills gained in these classes enhances lives past the time when loved ones return. Adina Sevzik, who is one of the 2,512 spouses who have already signed up for their Blue Star Card and whose husband is deployed with OIF, pointed out that the discounts at several MWR facilities are what she enjoys best. "It means I can get out of the house to meet with my friends for dinner when I might otherwise not be able to afford it. It gives us a



stressful. We developed the program to ease the burden on spouses and family members." The program does this with a large variety of benefits, which include, but are not limited to, 10 percent off at MWR facilities such as all Army Bowling Centers, the Kalakaua and the Leilehua Grill, Nehelani, Hale Ikena, Reggie's and Mulligan's. There are registration discounts for Youth Sports and free child care options from Child and Youth Services (up to eight hours per week). Auto towing assistance has been discounted and the Accelerated Undergraduate Program at Chaminade University is extending a 25 percent tuition discount to cardholders. Free activities offered, among others, are the Spouse's Night Out at Army Community Services every Thursday. Classes and workshops include hula, arts and crafts, spa and relaxation treatments, quilting, and dancing. Saturday gym classes at the Health and Fitness Center, Schofield Barracks Walk Off the Wait at the Tropics and Helping

Out Others Around the House, or HOOAH, is where local teens assist families with completing jobs around the house. If spouses are still uncertain, maybe the giveaways will persuade them. Each cardholder is automatically entered to win a spot on the Commissary Dash N' Grab (three finalists per quarter) and a free weekend getaway at Piliilau Recreation Center (monthly drawings). For a more complete list of benefits, discounts and free activities, read the MWR Discovery Magazine, visit MWR online at www.mwrarmyhawaii.com or call 624-HELP (624-4357). Signing up is easy. All spouses of deployed Soldiers, whether enlisted or officer, living on base or off, are entitled to receive the Blue Star Card, which comes in different colors depending on the theatre the Soldier is deployed in. All it takes is a military I.D. card and a trip to the Installation Access Pass Office at Fort Shafter Flats (438-0572) or Leilehua Golf Course, Schofield Barracks (655-1620).

# They survived the death of a child

By Joy Boisselle  
Staff Writer

Ask any parent what their worst nightmare is and most if not all would answer, the death of their child. On July 17, 2004, Staff Sgt. Clyde Toston, Sr., and his wife, Jaynell, lived that nightmare when their son, Clyde, Jr., died when he fell from his bunk bed.

The death of a child has destroyed marriages, has left broken parents, and has devastated siblings. The Toston family is an exception. The death of their beloved child has brought the family closer together with their faith and strength that inspired others.

Toston was in Afghanistan serving with the 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment when he received the news of "Little Clyde's" death. Toston had been expecting Rest and Recuperation leave in August, but he returned to Hawaii in less than 72 hours, not for the planned family reunion, but to bury his only son.

All manner of people and organizations rallied behind the Toston family. Their church family, community family, and military family provided comfort in the form of companionship, counseling, meals, and

any other support the family needed.

Jaynell commented, "God has been our source of strength. If it wasn't for our faith and our pastors at the Word of Life church in Honolulu; I am not sure where we'd be."

Listing names of people who had helped during the days following Clyde's death, Jaynell said with a small smile, "Initially, it was really hard. The FRG and First Lieutenant Robert Benson, the rear detachment commander, helped with everything. They never left me and I thought of them as family."

1st Lt. Robert Benson expressed many people's feelings when he said, "The Tostons are some of the strongest people I have ever met in my life."

Within days of "Big Clyde's" return home, his unit sponsored a memorial service for Little Clyde. The standing-room-only service demonstrated an outpouring of care for the family. Little Clyde's soccer team showed up en-mass wearing picture buttons of their teammate. School friends and neighbors came to show their concern for the family's loss.

Most memorials are somber and sad. Clyde's memorial was

a celebration of his young life with upbeat music, pictures, and dancing.

"Clyde was always smiling, always happy," Big Clyde said. "People say nobody loves anybody anymore, but it's different here. These people loved me, they loved my son, and it shows."

Jaynell said, "People told me that Clyde had lived a life that a lot of grown people hadn't. It made me feel good to know that."

As the days passed, the military community did not forget the Toston family. On Sept. 2, a second memorial was held for Clyde. This one would leave a lasting tribute to a child who had meant so much to so many. The living memorial consisted of a meditation bench and a Poinciana tree, or flame tree, just off the track and sports fields at Watts Field.

The location could not have been more perfect as Watts Field was the site of many of Clyde's finest moments. And, it is a place the Toston family spent much of their time while at Schofield Barracks. Always active in youth sports, Big Clyde and Jaynell coached youth football and they held their practices across from Little Clyde's bench and tree.

The idea for the memorial was Grace Jacoby's who knew the Tostons from their children's participation in on-post wrestling.

"I had the idea but it was quickly adopted and embraced by all, including friends, FRGs, sports teams, neighbors, and the military community," said Jacoby. "I thought it would give the family a great deal of comfort knowing that there was a living tribute to their son."

To Jaynell, the living memorial serves as a reminder of how special her son was.

"It shows me that he was more than just mine; he belonged to everyone, and it helps that he lived a full life in his short years." She advised other parents to "hug your kids, have family time and don't waste a moment."

Big Clyde added to her words saying, "Cherish the time you have, in the end all we truly have is our families."

Little Clyde, who turned 11 on June 17, was the all-American boy who had a passion for sports. He actively participated in all Youth Services events, including soccer, football, wrestling, BMX racing, and basketball. He spent his at-home time playing games with his family and aggravat-



Sgt. 1st Class Larry Mullen

**Staff Sgt. "Big Clyde" Toston Sr., wife Jaynell and daughter, Amathyst, sit on the bench erected on Watts Field, Schofield Barracks, in memory of their son "Little Clyde" who died when he fell off a bunk bed July 17, 2004. The Toston family exudes strength, faith in God and togetherness that has inspired many who watched them survive the tragedy.**

ing his sister, Amathyst, or vice versa. Although home schooled part of his fourth grade year, Clyde was looking forward to beginning 5th grade at Hale Kula Elementary School in the fall.

Sadly, this was not meant to be. The Toston family seems to have arrived at that moment in the grief process termed acceptance. Their acceptance, however, is characterized by an outwardly visible peace and serenity that is truly powerful to behold.

Big Clyde said, "It warms

my heart that this [living memorial] was dedicated to my son." "He may not have been a war hero, but he was my hero, my buddy, my best friend." Decades from now, the tree will have grown and the bench will have weathered, but the memorial tribute will still serve as a reminder to others of the special child who touched many.

(Editor's Note: The Toston family departed Schofield Barracks on compassionate reassignment orders to Fort Irwin, Calif. Oct. 6.)

# Contestants dash through commissary and grab \$1,345 in groceries

By Candace Godfrey  
MWR Marketing

On Sept. 30, and for the third time this year, the Commissary Dash N' Grab event gave contestants the opportunity to dash up and down the aisles of the Schofield Barracks Commissary and grab free groceries. The three finalists grabbed \$1,345 dollars worth of groceries, for a year grand total of \$4,348 dollars of groceries that have been given

away.

The Commissary Dash N' Grab finalists, who were selected at the September town hall meeting included: Tina Brown, Donna Pease and Kristie Reid. All finalists were allowed to bring a friend or family member to assist in pushing the cart and answering the trivia questions.

"This is a great way for us to support families," said Harry Jackson, Vice President and Asset Manager for Army Hawaii Family Housing, formerly called Actus Lend Lease.

AHFH was the presenting sponsor for the Dash N' Grab.

"We want to support Army Hawaii, not just in housing but throughout all other activities that assist the installation and garrison command," Jackson said. This event is also supported by Morale, Welfare and Recreation and the Schofield Barracks Commissary.

The Commissary Dash N' Grab event is held quarterly and the next event is scheduled for January. Entry boxes will be at the commissary, Army Community Service and

the Tropics, all located on Schofield Barracks. All MWR Blue Star Card Holders are automatically entered into the drawing. The Dash N' Grab is open to all active duty Soldiers and their family members.

**During the Dash 'N Grab at the commissary, Donna Pease, pregnant with twins, points to baby items that she wants Deb Currey to grab.**

Candace Godfrey

