

HAWAII ARMY WEEKLY

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What's Inside



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News briefly



2BCT Soldier died in Iraq

25th ID (L) Public Affairs

A memorial service was held Tuesday for Spc. Joseph C. Thibodeaux, who died Sept. 1 in Hawijah, Iraq when his patrol came under attack.

Thibodeaux, 24, was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade Combat Team. He was from Lafayette, La., enlisted in 2000 and had been stationed in Hawaii for four years before deploying to Iraq about seven months ago.

He is the seventh casualty to die in Iraq from the 25th Infantry Division (Light).

Hui O' Na Wahine Luncheon

The Hui O' Na Wahine, Schofield Barracks will hold its first Hui Luncheon at 10:30 a.m. (lunch at 11 a.m.) Sept. 16 at the Nehelani on Schofield Barracks. Cost is \$12. Guest speaker will be Nalani Olds who for the past 22 years, has been a featured vocalist for The Royal Hawaiian Band. Recently, she has been promoting the "Queen's Song Book" and has had performances at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C., and Carnegie Hall. If interested in becoming a vendor, call Amy at 624-4989. For reservations, call Judi at 778-3704. Limited on-site child care will be provided. Call 655-3929 and 655-5314 for reservations.

Macomb Gate Closure

Macomb Gate, Schofield Barracks will be closed to vehicle traffic from Sept. 20-24 for the installation of access control gates. The gate will remain open for pedestrians.

CSA promotes Warrior Ethos



By Spc. Len Cutler
 Staff Writer

The Warrior Ethos was on everyone's mind Sept. 3 as the Army Chief of Staff, General Peter Schoomaker, arrived on Oahu to visit with troops preparing to deploy to Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Can anyone tell me what it means?" He asked a group of Soldiers taking a break from a class on emergency lifesaving procedures.

Schoomaker said the Warrior Ethos is a crucial acknowledgement of long-standing Army values, an affirmation of the qualities that make a Soldier great.

"I didn't just put it out there because we needed something on the poster," he said. "There is a lot of meaning to this, and I want each of you to understand it."

According to Schoomaker,

the Warrior Ethos is not only about being a good Soldier, but a good husband, wife, friend, and citizen.

"I will always place the mission first," that applies to real life too," he said. "You have to have goals, and you have to pursue them. If you don't have any goals, you'll never go anywhere."

"I will never leave a fallen comrade," is about being a loyal friend and spouse too, someone people can rely on.

"I will never accept defeat," means you don't quit on the battlefield, and you don't quit in your career, your relationships, or your dreams either."

Schoomaker said Soldiers' ethics are always a concern, and after recent events in Iraq, it's more important than ever for Soldiers to demonstrate the moral integrity of the Army.

See "Warrior Ethos" Page A-6

Army Chief of Staff, General Peter Schoomaker talks with Soldiers at Schofield Barracks Sept. 3 who are preparing to deploy to Afghanistan and Iraq.

17th CSB Soldiers deploy to Iraq

By Sharee Moore
 Assistant Editor

About 250 17th Corps Support Battalion, 45th Corps Support Group Soldiers deployed to Mosul, Iraq Thursday from Schofield Barracks.

After a Sept. 2 ceremony held in their honor, at Hamilton Field, Schofield Barracks, several Soldiers reflected on the aloha-filled moments they hoped would make the next 12 months pass by more quickly.

A lei-adorned Staff Sgt. Dennis Calvert, chief of a maintenance support team, remembers a five-day family getaway in July.

The water was so blue and the sun's beams that shined through looked like prisms, Calvert said of the Maui waters. The vision of his wife and two children snorkeling through those waters will sustain him during the next year.

Staff Sgt. Randy Perez left behind his wife and four sons, aged 5 and younger.

"I'm looking forward to it," said Perez who is a motor sergeant. "I want to go so my sons won't have to go through this," he added.

Sgt. 1st Class Darlene Shakur, a mother of two boys and wife of a first sergeant at Tripler Army Medical Center, remained optimistic about the deployment.

"As a wife and mother, I'm confident my family will be alright. As a Soldier, this is what I'm prepared to do when duty calls."

These Soldiers join the 25th Infantry Division (Light) and the 1st Brigade Combat Team from Fort Lewis, Wash. in support of the Global War on Terror.



About 250 Soldiers from 17th, Corps Support Battalion, 45th Corps Support Group participated in a deployment ceremony Sept. 2 at Hamilton Field, Schofield Barracks. The Soldiers deployed to Mosul, Iraq last week to support 25th ID (L) and 1st Brigade Combat Team, Fort Lewis, Wash.



Sharee Moore

Lane Lee, a supervisor with the River of Life Mission in Honolulu offers a cookie and shares a laugh with Staff Sgt. George Bradshaw, HHC 25th ID(L), during the CFC kickoff Wednesday. Lee's future was dramatically changed by the Mission when they helped him break free from a life controlled by drugs.

CFC kicks off

By Sharee Moore
 Assistant Editor

Slowly but surely he lost focus of life and the things he believed in.

"I began selling and using drugs and doing stupid things to maintain that lifestyle," explained the young man. When he was broken spiritually,

mentally and physically, River of Life Mission helped pick up the pieces.

Lane Lee of Honolulu shared this story of hope and rehabilitation Wednesday during the Combined Federal Campaign kickoff at the Nehelani on Schofield Barracks.

Now Lee is a supervisor on See "Kick off" Page A-6

TF Steel commander reflects on Pentagon attack

By Sgt. Frank Magni
 17th Public Affairs Det.

KANDAHAR AIR FIELD, Afghanistan — While much of the world watched the events of Sept. 11, 2001, unfold on TV screens, Lt. Col. Clarence Neason, Task Force Steel commander, saw the damage with his own eyes.

It was a day that reaffirmed his commitment, service and passion to the U.S. Army. The event is also something he recalls daily, focusing his strengths on the mission he and his unit have deployed in support of, along with the rest of Combined Joint Task Force-76 in Afghanistan.

During the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Neason was assigned to the Pentagon as a special assistant to former Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki.

When the plane hit, Neason was across the Potomac River at the National War College, where he was attending a briefing. His first indication the attacks had occurred was a plume of grey smoke that filled the sky over Washington, D.C.

"I just couldn't believe it was happening, my only reaction was to go there to see if I could help," said Neason.

Driving through thick traffic, he

See "Neason" Page A-6



Courtesy Photo

Lt. Col. Clarence Neason, TF Steel commander, pulls security with his Soldiers during a convoy in Afghanistan. Neason witnessed the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack on the Pentagon, and has used that experience to reaffirm his commitment to the Army.

OPINION & COMMENTARY

Friday

A-2

September 10, 2004

Afghan soldiers share our values, professionalism

Commentary

Maj. William S. Wynn
Army News Service



Maj. William Wynn

Two ANA soldiers carry a supply box brought in by a Missouri Air National Guard C-130 to sustain the recent operation in Shindand.

Shindand and perform their mission of bringing peace and order to the Afghan citizens, that is why we joined the ANA," Mohomad said.

As he told me this, I could see that this was not just someone telling a foreign officer what he thought the officer wanted to hear; this man believed in his troops, his mission and the Afghan National Army.

The word came down: load up and get on the plane. We boarded a Belgian C-130. The flight to the Shindand National Airport was about an hour and a half. It turned out to be an unexpected learning experience for me.

While I am no stranger to military air transportation, this was my first flight with non-U.S. military personnel and at first, I felt awkward and isolated among the ANA troops.

That changed when the soldier sitting next to me, ANA Pvt. Abdul Kabir, began talking to me in English. It did not take long for me to become impressed with this ANA soldier. He was soon showing me pictures of his family from his wallet. While looking at them and talking with him about his family, it dawned on me again about the similarities that exist between soldiers, regardless of the country they serve. There is a commonality that transcends cultures and languages, a common bond that soldiers who volunteer to serve their country have among one another.

When we landed at Shindand Airport, the ANA soldiers exited the C-130 smartly and moved off to link up and augment their comrades who had arrived earlier.

The success of the ANA during this operation was due to the army being created as a force from and for all the

people of Afghanistan, said ANA Lt. Col. Sherbate Wardak, commander of the 5th Kandak, 3rd Brigade, one of three battalions sent to restore national government authority at Shindand.

More unusual was our interview with four of Amanullah Khan's militia fighters.

It was Amanullah Khan's militia which had taken control of the airport from Herat Governor Ismail Khan's forces on Aug. 14.

It was because of these fighters that the soldiers I had accompanied had been sent here, possibly to fight them, yet they proclaimed their gratefulness to the Afghan government for sending the ANA to restore peace and order – the peace and order that they had upset.

The militia fighters also stated that they have been fighting for too long and with the presence of the ANA, they truly believe that they will experience peace.

"We want one united Afghanistan that is accountable to the Afghan people," said Mohammad Ishaq, who is Amanullah Khan's deputy commander. "The ANA is an army of our own."

Brig. Gen. Afzel Aman, the ANA on-scene commander, said he was proud of his soldiers. "They have proven that they are capable of providing peace to the people of Afghanistan," he said.

I left with an appreciation for just how much the ANA has matured and changed into a truly professional military force in just a matter of two years, a force that is truly of the Afghan people and for the Afghan people.

(Editor's note: Maj. William S. Wynn serves with the Office of Military Cooperation – Afghanistan.)

A Soldier's Story

Commentary

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

This week has been another week of concentrating on reconstruction for Company A. We have spent a large portion of our time in the poor outlying villages and the new tent village. Along with contractors, we have made some additional assessments for improving these areas. We have tried to scale back our efforts when it comes to municipalities, and we are working very hard with the government agencies that are responsible for these areas. We have tried to focus our energy on schools and youth centers.

My personal thoughts on changing the mindset of the people in Iraq, is that time and effort must be invested in the children.

In my observations, there are three different types of adults here in Iraq. The first are the enemy we battle on a daily basis. They will never accept our presence here and their sole motivation is to continue attacking coalition forces and people trying to develop this country. They continue to try to disrupt the changing Iraq. There is nothing we can do for them except eliminate them from the future Iraq equation.

There are some people here that have come to accept Americans in their country. We understand that they are a little skeptical of us because they have never known the freedoms we are trying to give them. We just try to get these people to tolerate our existence here until they can enjoy the benefits of true freedom.

There are also the majority of the people we deal with everyday. They have welcomed us with open arms and are eager to continue the democratic process.

That is why I think the best investment we can make here is the children. We are not going to change too many adult minds or ways of thinking. We just need to continue dealing with what we have and get to the children. They are the future of this country, and in order for the process to continue after we leave, we have to convince them.

Sept. 1, 5 p.m. – I was just informed that a Soldier in one of our sister battalions was killed in a roadside bomb ambush. Immediately, thoughts of our own fallen Soldiers rushed through my head. I can only pray for his family and the Soldiers of that company. I know exactly what they are feeling.

Sept. 4, 4:03 p.m. – Explosion south of

the patrol base. Reports start coming in from the observation posts. Police were dispatched, but reports came to us before police arrived on the scene. A vehicle packed with explosives exploded outside the police academy.

First casualty report – 6 killed, 8 wounded

Second casualty report – 10 killed, 13 wounded

Final casualty report – 12 police officers killed, 25 police officers injured, 2 civilians injured

This has been one of the major concerns in Kirkuk over the past few months. We have been hunting this ruthless enemy in every nook and cranny of the city. Yet it seems he is driving right down the road with a car packed full of explosives. Some people I've spoken to back in the states ask why we don't check all the cars.

I try to explain that we are dealing with a modern Iraq. There are almost 1 million people in this city with more than 100,000 vehicles. The local Iraqi National Guard units have established checkpoints throughout, but it would be impossible to check everyone.

This week meet Spc. Seth Perry, a medic for Co. A. He is from Woodbury, Tenn. and has been in the Army for three years. Perry said that when he found out the unit was being deployed to Iraq he had visions of Desert Storm and the initial invasion for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

He said, "I really thought we would be fighting everyday. My mind was changed during the five-day convoy from Kuwait. People were waving as we passed. I thought we would be coming into a situation where everyone hated us. Now that I've been here a while, I think the majority of the people here still want us around. As for me, I'm ready to go home."

I asked Perry what was the most stressful time he has had while in Iraq. He said, "When we first got here I lived on the airbase working at the medical treatment center. We would be sitting outside at night and a rocket attack would start. These things would come whizzing in and exploding in a different place everyday. You'd just hit the ground and hope it misses."

I asked Perry what was the most enjoyable thing he's done in Iraq. Perry said, "Whenever we go out and mess with the kids. You see the difference you make by the looks on their faces; just a few pieces of candy, gets a smile in return."

He finished his interview by saying hi to all his family in Tennessee, his wife Erin and her family in Canada.

"I love you and I'm looking forward to seeing you again," Perry said.

Voices of Lightning

How has 9/11 changed your life?



"9/11 sent me to war twice, once as an active duty Soldier, and once with the Individual Ready Reserve."

Cpl. Francisco Gonzales
100th Bn, 29th BCT



"It hasn't affected me at all. I have been an active duty and a Reserve Soldier starting my 29th year of service. There are more deployments, but my military career is a professional job for me."

Sgt. George Enos



"My husband's deployment to Iraq probably would not have happened, but we are half way there [home] now."

Mistie Ferrell
Family Member



"There are a lot more deployments and an increase in patriotism. It has made me thankful for what we have in this country."

Paul Lynyak
Vacationing Reservist



"It has made me more aware that we have enemies in the world, people who don't like Americans. Also, I believe this is a religious war not just a political one."

Naomi Lynyak,
Vacationing Family Member



"It has caused me to be more aware of my surroundings, not take the little things for granted like I did before, and I enjoy time with my family every chance I get instead of wasting time. I have more pride in my country and I have more appreciation of our history and the veterans that have served before me."

Staff Sgt. Adrian Rouse
MP, Replacement Det.

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Briefs

Pre-Retirement Orientation – A semiannual pre-retirement orientation is scheduled for Sept. 29 from 8 - 11:30 a.m. at the Sgt. Smith Theater, Schofield Barracks. This orientation is for Soldiers with 18 or more years of active service. Spouses of applicable military personnel are encouraged to attend. Information concerning the benefits and privileges of a military retirement will be provided. Representatives of federal, state and military staff offices will be available to answer individual questions. For more information, call the Schofield Barracks Retirement Services Office at 655-1514.

PSB Changes Location – Detachment D, 556th Personnel Support Battalion Operations will move from Fernandez Hall, building 580 to Trailer 6. Trailer 6 is located at the corner of Ayres Ave and Grimes Street, Schofield Barracks (Old Nehelani Club area). The last day for service in Fernandez Hall, is today. Service in Trailer 6 begins Monday, Sept. 13. Call the 556th Battalion Staff Duty at 655-4034 for more information.

Wheeler Middle School Town Hall Meeting – Town Hall Meeting will be held Thursday, 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.

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.

Protestant Women of the Chapel Fall Kickoff – The Schofield Barracks' PWOC invites all ladies to their Fall Kickoff Luncheon Sept. 14 at 9 a.m. in room D-9 of the Main

Post Chapel. A pot-luck lunch will be served, the yearly theme will be announced, and attendees may sign up for a quarterly Bible study. Free pre-arranged STACC site child care is available. For more information, call Effie Powell at 624-8251. For child care information, call Sonya Byrdsong at 455-4011.

Tips to Ease TRICARE Transition Challenges – While transitioning to the new TRICARE contracts some beneficiaries may experience occasional transition challenges such as long wait times when calling their new regional contractors. Some tips for assessing TRICARE information include:

- Conduct business online whenever possible. Beneficiaries may enroll or change enrollment information online, search for providers in their local area, and find information on the health plan as well as links to other sites for information on claims processing and online appointments. Visit TRICARE West at www.triwest.com.

- Call during non-peak hours. Thursdays and Fridays have the least calls, making these days the best for gaining quick access to information beneficiaries need. Call 1-888-TRIWEST (1-888-874-9378), but prepare for longer wait times, due to high call volume, during the transition.

- * Visit TRICARE Service Centers for face-to-face assistance.

It is also important for beneficiaries to keep their Defense Enrollment and Eligibility Reporting System, or DEERS, information updated. Failure to keep this information current may result in future provider and pharmacy service denials of care, returned TRICARE health care claims, and undelivered updates about the transition. To update personal information in DEERS, beneficiaries may:

- Visit a local uniformed services personnel office or contact the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office (DSO) at 1-800-538-9552. Visit www.tricare.osd.mil/DEERS address to update address information, or Fax address changes to DEERS at 1-831-655-8317, or mail the address change to the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office, ATTN: COA, 400 Gigling Road, Seaside, CA 93955-6771.

New Times for Worship at AMR Chapel – All three services have changed their times of worship. Religious Education Classes will also change, beginning this Sunday.

- Catholic Mass 8:30 a.m.
- Contemporary Protestant 9:45 a.m.
- Gospel 12:15 p.m.

Registration for Sunday School and Catholic CCD Classes has begun. Register at any time on the downstairs

lanai at the self-registration table.

Sunday School (ages 3 - adults) begins Sept. 12 from 11 a.m. - noon.

Catholic CCD (ages 4 - 12th grade) begins Sept. 19 from 9:45 - 10:45 a.m.

RCIA classes for adults will be held Tuesday evenings from 6 - 7:30 p.m. For more information on worship times or religious education, call 833-8175.

Joint Spouses' Conference – The 10th Annual Joint Spouses' Conference will be held Oct. 15 and 16 at the Hickam Air Force Base Officers' Club. The conference is a forum for military spouses from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard to come together as one-family to learn and share experiences from military life. Registration open Sept. 1 - 30. Registrants may choose from more than 50 workshops with an array of interests including cultural arts, cooking, health and fitness, parenting, career enhancement, military benefits and more. Forms may be picked up at base exchanges, commissaries, support centers, thrift shops, and chapels. Registration forms may also be downloaded at www.jointspousesconference.com. The cost is \$25 for both days or \$15 Friday or Saturday only. The fee includes workshops, two continental breakfasts, two lunches and a tote bag. For more information and to preview some of the workshops, visit www.jointspousesconference.com or call Kaye at 839-6151.

Cub Scout Joining Night – The Cub Scouts of Pack 197, supporting families residing on Aliamanu Military Reservation, invite all families with boys in 1st through 5th grades to attend "Joining Night" on Sept. 11 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Mokulele Elementary School cafeteria. The purpose of this event is to provide AMR families an opportunity to learn about the Cub Scouts and to join Pack 197. For more information, call Bob Hoelscher at 833-7623 or e-mail rhoelscher@hawaii.rr.com.

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.

Thinking about leaving the Army? – The Army Career and Alumni Program can help with the decision. What the Army offers, compared to what's available on the outside, may be better than one thinks. Find a job that's a right match. Skills assessment, job search techniques, access to job openings

are all part of the ACAP process. Counselors can help translate experiences and skills into job market language and determine one's fair market value. ACAP shows how to put the best foot forward with interview techniques, salary negotiation, dress for success, networking, resumes and cover letters. For more information, visit the Schofield Barracks ACAP office in the Aloha Center, building 690, 3rd Floor, Room 3H or call 655-1028.

Funded Legal Education Program – The Office of The Judge Advocate General is now accepting applications for the Army's Funded Legal Education Program. Under this program, the Army projects to send up to 15 active duty commissioned officers to law school at government expense if funding permits. Selected officers will attend law school beginning in the fall of 2005 and will remain on active duty while attending law school. Interested officers should review Chapter 14, AR 27-1 (The Judge Advocate General's Funded Legal Education Program) to determine their eligibility. This program is open to commissioned officers in the rank of second lieutenant through captain. Applicants must have at least two, but not more than six years of total active federal service at the time legal training begins. Eligibility is governed by statute (10 U.S.C. 2004) and is non-waivable. Eligible officers interested in applying should immediately register for the earliest offering of the Law School Admission Test. Applicants must send their request through command channels, to include the officer's branch manager at HRC, with a copy furnished to the Office of The Judge Advocate General, ATTN DAJA-PT, 1777 North Kent Street, Rosslyn, VA 22209-2194, to be received NLT Nov. 1. Submission of the application well in advance of the deadline is advised. Interested officers should contact their local Staff Judge Advocate for more information.

The Schofield Barracks Military Police Found Property Program – Lost items can be received by showing valid identification, a detailed description of the property, and proof of ownership.

The Found Property office is located at the Provost Marshal Office, Bldg. 3010, Lyman Road, Schofield Barracks. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Found Property office

has a variety of items. If you have items that have been lost or missing, contact Staff Sgt. Dorothy Bundra or Harold Roberts at 655-7114.

- * Bike, purple in color, 18 speed
- * NAPA Air Filter
- * Blue Quicksilver wallet
- * arm band (plastic) with contractor ID's
- * Two computer monitors (broken),
- * Video game controller (steering wheel type).

Boating Skills and Seamanship Class – Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 18 is offering Boating Skills and Seamanship classes to the public in two sections at McDonald's Pearlridge Uptown. Classes will be from 6:30 to 9 p.m., Monday and Thursday evenings beginning this Monday. Section one, Boating Skills and Safety, is \$35 and includes seven lessons, a manual and exams. This course meets U.S. Coast Guard, state and national boating education requirements. Section two, Seamanship, consists of five lessons for \$35, and includes manual, exams and certificate. Combined courses are offered for \$60 and students completing section one may sign up for the second class at the reduced fee. These courses are designed to make the boater more safety conscious and safer operators. For more information, call Kawika Warren at 595-4934.

Protestant Women of the Chapel – Protestant Women of the Chapel at Schofield Barracks welcomes all military spouses to their weekly Bible study and time of fellowship. Meetings are held each Tuesday morning at 9 a.m. in room D-9 of the Main Post Chapel on Schofield Barracks. Pre-arranged on-site child care is provided. Call Effie at 624-8251 for more information. For child care, call Sonya at 455-4011.

Apheresis Center Open – The Schofield Barracks Apheresis Center, located in building 679, is open for collections. Apheresis (cell separation) is a specialized automated blood collection method. The center is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and appointments can be made by calling 433-8810/6195. Contact the Apheresis Center for more information, a demonstration or to schedule an appointment. The Tripler Army Medical Center Mobile Team visits the center on select Fridays to collect whole blood donations. Contact the center for dates and times.

OIF/OEF apparel and memorabilia – AAFES-Schofield Barracks Main

Exchange is now offering official OIF and OEF apparel and memorabilia of the 25th Infantry Division (Light). Selection includes T-shirts, hats, stickers, flags, pins, yellow ribbon car magnets, mouse pads, playing cards and more. Support our men and women of the 25th ID (L) and Schofield Barracks and shop the Schofield Main Exchange. It is open daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Call 622-1773 for more information.

Special Forces Recruiting – Special Forces is looking for professional enlisted and officer volunteers. Enlisted Soldiers E-4 through E-7 with a GT score of 100 or higher, or commissioned officers in year group 2001 through 2002 can apply for Special Forces training. Are you up to the challenge of a lifetime? If so, you can be trained as a member of an A-Team. If you are a person who can accomplish the mission when others can't or won't, then Special Forces is for you. The time to act is now. Volunteer now and become one of America's most elite Soldiers. For more information, call 624-1035/1083.

Military Council of Catholic Women – MCCW meets each Thursday at AMR Chapel from 9 to 11:30 a.m. It begins with Mass and continues with fellowship and Bible study. Child care is free for those attending. Call Elsa for a child care reservation at 833-8175. Children must be registered for the Chapel STACC Site which is free.

Association of Parents of the Visually Impaired – The Hawaii Association of Parents of the Visually Impaired is a local organization dedicated to providing support, awareness and information to parents with children who are blind and visually impaired. Its primary goal is to advocate for the needs and rights of these special needs children, and to create workable solutions to problems and concerns that are presented by their parents during monthly support group meetings. HAPVI members assist one another by sharing relevant information, lending an ear, or offering sound advice. If you are interested in joining HAPVI, attending a support group meeting, or would like more information, call Myles Tamashiro at 626-0535.

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.

Coalition Soldiers patrol with Afghan National Army

Capt. Juanita Chang
CTF Thunder Public Affairs

PAKTITA PROVINCE, Afghanistan – While patrolling the roads and villages, coalition Soldiers gather information and concerns to bring back to the provincial governor.

The primary mission of the Soldiers conducting these patrols is to stabilize the security situation and establish a presence throughout the area.

Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, "Wolfhounds", routinely conduct these patrols along with Soldiers of the Afghan National Army.

On Sunday, the Afghan National Army soldiers of 2nd Company, 2nd Kandak of the 3rd Brigade enthusiastically prepared for and conducted patrols alongside their American counterparts. Together, Soldiers from both countries patrolled the roads and several villages in the province. Along the way they stopped and talked with village elders, members of the Afghan National Police, and a district mayor.

U.S. Army Capt. John Sego, the commander of Company B, 2-27 Inf. Rgt., asked several questions through his interpreter, Nemark. Among the questions asked were if they had any security concerns or if there is anything that the coalition or the Government of Afghanistan could do for them.

Later that evening, they conveyed the concerns expressed by the villagers to Governor Mohammad Gullab Mangal during dinner.

While in the village of Yosufkhel, Sego met with Mayor Hajji Soorkai and Nazar Mohammad, the chief of police. The officials said they had several con-

cerns that they would like to discuss. After hearing some of their concerns regarding police vehicles and uniforms, Sego presented the mayor with an Afghan flag and several Grundig radios. These radios allow Afghans to listen to radio broadcasts and can be operated by hand crank so they do not require the electricity or batteries that are so hard to come by in Afghanistan.

Reaching all the areas of this province is a difficult task due to the complex terrain. "I've been here for five months and have not seen a paved road yet," said Sego.

Governor Mangal expressed his appreciation to the coalition Soldiers during a dinner hosted at his compound near Sharon. Present at the governor's dinner was Col. Gary H. Cheek, the commander of Combined Task Force Thunder, Gen. Mohammad Rahime, the chief of police for Paktika Province, Maj. Khan, the executive officer for 2nd Kandak, members of the ministry of interior, and several members of 2nd Bn., 27th Inf. Rgt., among others.

During the discussion before dinner, Rahime expressed concerns and a need for new police uniforms. Cheek replied that the coalition would provide those uniforms.

"These elections are a blessing in more ways than one. First of all, the people of Afghanistan are able to participate in selecting their new leadership. But it also helps us to focus on developing the police force," said Cheek to Mangal and Rahime.

Members of 2nd Bn., 27th Inf. Rgt. have conducted patrols in Paktika Province since they arrived to Afghanistan in March. They have built a strong relationship with Mangal throughout the past five



Capt. Juanita Chang

Maj. Khan, the executive officer of 2nd Kandak, Col. Gary H. Cheek, the commander of Combined Task Force Thunder, and Mayor Hajji Soorkai walk the streets of Josufkhel with Soldiers from 2-27 Wolfhounds Sept. 5 in Paktika Province.

months. They assisted him in reaching all the districts in his province by providing the security which allowed him to travel freely.

Afghan presidential elections are scheduled to take place Oct. 9 with parliamentary elections scheduled for spring 2005.

Soldiers from Company B, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, Wolfhounds, patrol the streets of a village in Paktika Province Sept 5.



Capt. Juanita Chang

LSV crew gets fire fighting training



Courtesy photo

Members of the 605th Transportation Det. earn two fire fighting certifications at the Afloat Training Group Middle Pacific at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii recently. Temperatures in the training facility reached more than 450 degrees, about the same as the inside of a barbecue grill.

By Chief Warrant Officer
Michael Cook
605th Trans. Det. (LSV-2)

Members of the 605th Transportation Detachment (Logistics Support Vessel-2) recently attended the Afloat Training Group Middle Pacific at Pearl Harbor to earn two valuable fire fighting certifications.

All Watercraft Operators, Military Occupational Specialty 88K, and Watercraft Engineers, MOS 88L, attend General Shipboard Fire Fighting at Norfolk Naval Base in Virginia during Initial Entry Training.

Upon graduation they are assigned to a vessel and then maintain those skills

through mandatory weekly emergency drill training.

The first certification earned during the two-day evaluations verified that the Soldiers of the U.S. Army Vessel CW3 Harold C. Clinger have maintained those essential skills.

The first day of evaluation covered general shipboard fire fighting, includ-

ing the duties and responsibilities of each person, and how the crew will work together safely to control and put out the fire.

The Soldiers wore thick protective fire fighting outfits that covered them from head to toe as well as an oxygen breathing apparatus that allowed them to breathe in the deadly envi-

ronment. The increased difficulty in moving and communicating while wearing the gear means that each person has to know exactly what their job and the job of everyone else on the team is.

At the school the temperatures inside the buildings were in excess of 450 degrees, the equivalent of the inside of a barbecue grill. Fires aboard a vessel could easily surpass that depending on the materials that are burning.

The dangers of heat exhaustion and heat stroke, even during training, are constantly present and the evaluators and team members had to monitor each other at all times.

"It was very informative and good as a refresher," said Spc. Edward Gonzales, a watercraft operator.

Gonzales expressed interest in returning for training in the school's wet trainer, a two story facility which simulates a vessel taking on water and sinking.

The second certification earned, the Air Capable Ship Helicopter Team Fire Fighting Training, was in preparation for the crews' future assignments.

"Definitely good training," said Staff Sgt. Darnell Hlavinka, a boatswain. "It gives you a taste of what it would be like to fight a helo-fire on the HSV."

With the presence of the High Speed Vessel Joint Venture, the crews of the Army vessels based at Ford

Island, Pearl Harbor will rotate through assignments on the HSV. The addition of the high speed Theater Support Vessel program to the Army Watercraft field adds a new dimension to its firefighting needs.

To be able to conduct helicopter operations aboard a vessel its crew needs to be a certified aviation fire fighting team. Helicopters landing and taking off from army vessels to perform missions will be a reality in the near future.

The crews of those vessels will be on their own to deal with any emergency that occurs. The closest assistance could very easily be several hours, if not days, away.

In the event of a fire the crew will have to rescue and treat any injured personnel and defeat the fire before it spreads to other sections of the vessel.

If they fail they could be faced with having to abandon the vessel and survive in the water until rescuers arrive. The evaluations covered approaching the aircraft, rescue and treatment of its pilot, and dealing with any possible armaments present.

"It was good training for senior leadership (aboard the vessel)" said Chief Warrant Officer Don Berg, detachment commander. "It was a bird's-eye view of how it is in that environment for the Soldiers wearing all that gear."

Warrior Ethos

From A-1

America's armed forces.

"Some Soldiers have been caught doing the wrong thing, and it's making things harder for everyone else. Why? They lost their moral compass, and they forgot their Army Values and Warrior Ethos," he said. "If they'd placed the mission first, they wouldn't have done what they did."

Schoomaker urged the Soldiers to make the most of their training. Keeping focused, he said, would make all the difference once the Soldiers deployed.

"I want you all to pay attention to what you're learning out here today," he

said. "This stuff will save lives. We have a fundamental moral obligation as Soldiers to take care of one another, and we can't do that unless we're properly trained. You're going to a dangerous place, and I want each of you to come home safe."

As he visited each training area, Schoomaker took the time to make sure every Soldier - Reservist, active-duty, and national guardsman alike - knew how important his service is.

"You hear a lot about 'the greatest generation,'" he said. "I want you to know I think you are the next great generation. Your country is proud of you, the Army is proud of you, and I am proud of each and every one of you."

Kick off

From A-1

staff at the Mission and said sometimes "I see a little piece of Lane walk into River of Life. They were there to help me and now I can help them."

Lee's story is only one of millions in which not-for-profit, CFC sponsored organizations have relieved, funded, aided, healed, researched or rescued people and animals in need.

The campaign emphasizes that taking a few minutes to fill out the appropriate form can mean meals for hungry children, relief for families in need of counseling, further work on cures for diseases, comfort for the dying, access to water in the Third World, environmental protection, and better lives and renewed hope for millions of people in our global community.

Colonel David S. Mckenna, U.S. Army Hawaii commander, told attendees, "You are taking part in something bigger than yourself. It speaks volumes of those who continue to give selflessly of themselves each year."

Mckenna said there are more than 400 campaigns conducted around the world. In Hawaii, the Pacific CFC is ranked the fourth highest contributor. Last year \$5.5 million was raised. We're trying to rival or exceed that goal for this year.

First Lt. Scott Gregory, Army CFC project officer, said, "this is an opportunity to donate to over 1,700 organizations. Without our donations, these organizations wouldn't be able to survive."

Gregory said the best way to make a donation is through direct deposit and

suggested contribution is one hour of pay each month. Simply divide the monthly pay rate by 160 to get an approximate hourly pay rate. Deductions begin January 2005.

Of course, this is only a suggestion and a person can donate more, less or not at all.

A video played at the kickoff explained that a personal experience with one of the CFC organizations is not necessary to make a contribution.

"To truly make a difference it takes more than one, two or 100 of us," the narrator said. "It takes more than just you or me, it takes a team."

(Editor's Note: visit the CFC Web site at www.opm.gov/cfc, or contact your unit CFC organizer for more information or to pick up a brochure or donation form.)

Neason

From A-1

arrived back at the Pentagon a few hours after the plane hit. When he initially arrived on the scene he described it as chaotic.

"Some people were trying to get into the building, while others were trying to get out," he said. "Just getting accountability for all our people was a big challenge."

In the midst of the chaos, Neason said he noticed a prevalent theme in the spirit of the Pentagon workers.

"People were really reaching out and helping one another," he said. "The actions of those terrorists was meant to split us apart, but all it did was bring us together."

Returning to work the next day, Neason said he noticed a change in the atmosphere within the building.

"Even the day after it happened, everybody was much more focused," he said. "There was a lot of anger and concern, but we all stood ready to respond."

"We recognized we had vulnerabilities and worked to correct them. The attacks really brought a sober sense of reality. You just want to make sure nothing like 9/11 can happen again."

Neason said the attacks strengthened his devotion toward being a Soldier and he looked for every opportunity to contribute.

He served at the Pentagon for nine more months follow-

ing the attacks. He watched as the building was rebuilt and the war on terror began.

He then moved to the 25th Infantry Division (Light) in Hawaii to assume command of 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment. Even before his unit was notified of their deployment to Afghanistan, Neason said he noticed a difference in his new Soldiers and their training.

He said the attacks added an element of reality because Soldiers were overseas engaging the enemy as his unit prepared for possible future deployments.

The emphasis on training also became increasingly important after his unit learned it would deploy to Afghanistan and perform a non-traditional role, he said.

Deployed to Kandahar Airfield for the past four months, the unit provides a variety of fire support missions. From illumination to fire-for-effect fire missions, the "redleg" Soldiers of TF Steele support not only the maneuver elements of Combined Task Force Bronco in Regional Command South, but Combined Task Force Thunder in Regional Command East.

In addition to their fire support missions, the unit is also responsible for an area of operations in and around Kandahar city.

Filling roles traditionally performed by an infantry or military police unit, TF Steele conducts mounted and dis-

mounted presence patrols, along with village assessments.

Neason said by providing security in the area, TF Steel facilitates reconstruction from not only Coalition forces, but also from other non-governmental organizations.

"This mission is not in lieu of, it is in addition to, our traditional mission," he said.

The unit's total mission keeps Neason busy with a variety of different tasks, working closely with local leaders in the TF Steel area of operations.

"Village elders remember what it was like before we got here," he said. "They are very willing to work with us."

Forging a partnership with the local leaders and assisting in security and reconstruction are now Neason's unit's primary missions.

"The mission here is very satisfying for me," he said. "I see Soldiers making a difference every day. It is such an amazing thing."

Just knowing that he is making his own individual contribution toward preventing any future attacks is one of the most important aspects of his mission in Afghanistan.

"Although I think about the Pentagon every day, I try not to personalize it," he said. "I don't let any anger that I felt about the attack affect my job here."

"I just let my memory reaffirm my commitment and service to the Army."

TF 2-11 FA closes Soldier's compound in Altun Kupri

Story and photos by
Spc. Sean Kimmons
25th ID (L) Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE ALTUN KUPRI, Iraq – As a result of Altun Kupri's devoted government and solid Iraqi Security Forces, Task Force 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery officially departed their Soldier's compound here Sept. 1.

Multi-National Forces have occupied the compound since April 2003 to ensure security and stability to the more than 12,000 people in Altun Kupri. In February 2004, Soldiers from 2nd Platoon "Outlaws" of Battery C, TF 2-11 FA took over military operations from the compound, which will now be used as a municipal building by the city government.

During the closure ceremony, 1st Lt. Robert Elzer, a fire direction officer with the Outlaws said, "The first seeds of democracy within Altun Kupri were planted by the MNF that resided at this compound. These seeds will continue to grow because of the city's community."

"Since the first day of liberation, the community of Altun Kupri has led the way in the rebuilding of Iraq," Elzer said as he stood behind a podium overlooking Iraqi and MNF leaders.

"With the help of a dedicated group of local leaders, schools, clinics, government buildings and infrastructure that had been long neglected have slowly been rebuilt."

Elzer went on to say that Altun Kupri is a community



Lukman Kadir Hamad, an Altun Kupri Iraqi National Guardsman, provides security on top of the former Outlaws' compound during the FOB Altun Kupri closure ceremony Sept. 1.

of ethnic diversity, dedicated to the ideals of democracy who has chosen to put the needs of the community ahead of political and personal goals.

"It is the advancement of those ideals, by an entire community that led to the decision to make Altun Kupri the first city to see the closure of a Forward Operating Base," Elzer concluded.

Seconds later, Capt. Deron Haught, the former FOB Altun Kupri commander, stepped up to the podium to address the audience.

"For me and my men,

this is both a sad and proud day. We're sad to leave a place we've called home but proud that our efforts have enabled us to do so," Haught said.

"I want to take a moment to thank the men who are standing here today," Haught said as he looked at a formation of Outlaw Soldiers. "I feel proud not because of what I have done, but because what I have watched them do. You have made me prouder than I have ever been to wear this uniform and to call myself an American."

Haught also eliminated

concern among Altun Kupri citizens attending the closure ceremony.

"I want to assure the community you will still receive the same level of support that you have always received from us. Our commitment to this community has not changed," Haught said. "Altun Kupri will always be my second home – a home that has waited three decades for this day."

During the Outlaws' time in Altun Kupri, they have assisted in the relocation of an Iraqi National Guard company to assist in providing additional pres-



Hana (far left), a 8-year-old Altun Kupri girl, shares the load of an extension cord reel after the closure ceremony with Pfc. Jon Raiford, a FDC chart operator with the Outlaws.

ence in the city and also helped fund renovations to the Iraqi Police station.

Over the past months, both of the Iraqi Security Forces has assumed more and more security operations within the city as part of the transition of authority to the Iraqi people. Now with Altun Kupri's ISF running all security missions, the Outlaws have left the city's stability in their hands.

Because of a well-trained ISF and competent government in the city, the Outlaws are confident that Altun Kupri is ready to

move forward on their own.

"I feel confident that the town of Altun Kupri is now stable and that their security forces and government can take care of themselves," said Spc. Lawrence Chandra, a M249 gunner with the Outlaws.

"We have trained their security forces to be one of the best in Iraq with extensive training on weapons and overall on just about everything a Soldier should know. Also, we have trained government officials during council meetings almost on a daily basis," Chandra said.

2BCT Economic Team uses renovated banks to boost Kirkuk Province's economy

Story and photos by
Spc. Sean Kimmons
25th ID (L) Public Affairs

KIRKUK, Iraq – As part of their mission to improve economic growth and development of the Kirkuk Province, 2nd Brigade Combat Team's Economic Development Team reopened two renovated banks Aug. 29 in phase two of its makeover plan.

"We realize that these [renovated] banks are really to show the locals how much of an impact the banking system will have on the local economy," said Sgt. Carlos Ustoy, the EDT non-commissioned officer-in-charge. "These two projects alone affect many people who collect salaries and pensions – it's a good way to reach out to the public."

But how can banks that are pleasing to the eye alter the economy of a province with one million people? It secures the confidence of local and international banking customers for one, said Ustoy who is also a Soldier with Detachment D, 451st Civil Affairs Battalion out of Pasadena, TX.

"Instead of seeing a substandard bank where you wouldn't want to store the money you have just earned, [bank customers] can go to a bank that actually looks like a bank," Ustoy said.

An improved economy could also safeguard Multi-National Forces and Iraqi people against Anti-Iraqi Forces that use the weak economy as a recruiting tool, said Capt. Don Herzog, a financial advisor with the EDT.

"The bottom line is that we help create a stable economy here, and by helping the economy in the Kirkuk Province it will have a direct effect against Anti-Iraqi Forces," said Herzog, who also commands Det. D, 106th Finance Bn. from the 1st Infantry Division.

"With a stable economy, the majority of people in Iraq will have productive and safe lives on a day-to-day basis; therefore, they'll be more likely to work against any AIF efforts."

Right now, only the second of three phases in Kirkuk Province's banking system makeover is underway. The second phase is to renovate other banks throughout the province and the third phase will be to connect the banks using Internet capabilities.

According to Ustoy, the banking system in this province is still in its infancy stage. The EDT is planning to do similar renovations to the other 12 state-run banks in hopes to increase the economy throughout the province.

Devastated by fire and looting in last year's war, the Baba Gurgur bank was renovated with more than \$29,000 for structural, plumbing and electrical repairs.

The Baba Gurgur bank offers eight different banking services to approximately 15,000 banking individuals, government accounts and private businesses in Kirkuk.



A representative from the Ministry of Finance and Banking in Baghdad (right) points out Baba Gurgur's new vault gate to Lt. Col. George Glaze (left), 2nd Brigade Combat Team's assistant commander. The new vault gate helps secure a weekly average of 4.5 billion Iraqi Dinar and \$2.25 million.

The second bank EDT facilitated funds for was the Rafadain bank, which is the oldest bank in the city that was in need of serious repairs. Following its improvements, the Rafadain bank becomes more of a key player in Kirkuk's economy with its 34,000 banking individuals, government accounts and private businesses who use its banking services.

Due to faulty plumbing and inclement weather, the Rafadain bank was suffering from mildew and water damage. Also, the vault which stored a weekly balance of 3.5 billion Iraqi Dinar and \$800,000 was only secured by a broken gate.

More than \$43,000 of Commander's Emergency Relief Program funds paid for the renovations, plumbing and electrical problems within the Rafadain bank. The funds also covered the installation of air conditioning units bought by the Coalition Provincial Authority.

Bafreen Hana, who has worked at the Rafadain bank for 23 years, is pleased with the improvements to her workspace.

"It is a very well [renovated] building," Hana said through an interpreter. "There is good furniture, it is very clean and new A/Cs, which makes the employees very comfortable when they work."

Hana went on to say she is grateful for the assistance from the EDT and without them the bank would be in bad condition.



Sgt. Carlos Ustoy (right), EDT's noncommissioned officer-in-charge, talks to a Baba Gurgur bank employee sitting at her new and improved cashier cage through his interpreter, Siba Damman (far left), at the reopening ceremony of the bank Aug.

84th Engineers convoy to Jordan

By Capt. Karl D. Jansen
84th Engineers (H)

For the past seven months, every night, there has been a picture perfect sunset in Iraq. Poised above the horizon, the sky is filled with a warm orange glow that extends from the sun, illuminating what seems to be the world's largest beach.

Tonight's sunset is definitely different.

Instead of staring up at the sky from within the confines of Logistical Support Area Anaconda in Northern Iraq, a handful of Soldiers from the 84th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy) find themselves several hundred kilometers away, vehicles staged and ready to convoy, from Jordan. The mission: to transport 60 armored personnel carriers donated by the Jordanian government for use by the Iraqi National Guard in Baghdad.

Although heavy equipment operators are responsible for executing numerous construction support missions throughout Iraq, these Soldiers are no strangers to hauling equipment in theatre.

Sgt. Jared McDonough of HSC, 84th ECB(H) said, "This mission has been a great opportunity to make a difference for the Iraqi people. Even though it might seem like it's just a glorified road



Courtesy photo

Engineer vehicles loaded with armored personnel carriers await movement from Jordan.

trip, convoying through Iraq and Jordan with the rest of the Sidewinders (of HSC) is a unique experience that I will carry with me when I go back home; I love the Army."

Forty-eight hours earlier,

these combat heavy engineers linked up with engineers from the 1st Cavalry Division, 1st Infantry Division, and Soldiers from the 7th Transportation Battalion to provide haul assets capable of

transporting the 60 armored personnel carriers, to include the Ukrainian's BTR 94 and Britain's Spartan. The Soldiers left LSA Anaconda well before daylight. The combined convoy of nearly

100 vehicles headed south to Baghdad, west to Jordan and past towns Ar Ramadi.

Traveling mostly at night to minimize the convoy's silhouette and exposure to possible enemy contact, they

arrived at the Jordanian border with minimal problems. Not quite sure what to expect or how the Jordanians would react upon crossing the border, everyone waited anxiously before crossing the border.

Despite the uncertainty, Sidewinder Spc. Brock Bollivar summed up the general consensus, "So far this convoy has been pretty cool. I am looking forward to seeing what Jordan is like."

Not at all disappointed, Jordan was a welcome change from Iraq according to Spc. Joseph Boggs from the Equipment Platoon of HSC, "It's what I imagine Iraq looked like back in the day — there's a lot less trash and the people have been great." Within minutes of arriving, Soldiers from the Jordanian army eagerly started downloading equipment from their trucks, and helped the Americans upload them onto their vehicles. In no time, with the work at hand complete, Jordanian and American Soldiers retired for the noon meal and to await nightfall and the return convoy into Iraq.

Summed up by Sgt. Michael Carr from the 84th ECB(H), "If transporting [this equipment] into Iraq and turning them over to the Iraqi National Guard will change things at all, then I'm glad we could help."

Hawaii Army Weekly

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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.

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Schofield Soldiers support ANA in Herat

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

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – Members of Logistics Task Force-725 received the word Aug. 15 that they were needed to provide logistical support to the Afghan National Army.

Within 15 hours, a team of logisticians prepared a pallet of supplies, mainly food and water, and had it on its way to the ANA soldiers, who are deployed to halt factional fighting throughout the western region of Afghanistan's Herat Province.

Not long after they sent the first shipment of supplies, LTF-725, a Combined Joint Task Force-76 logistical support battalion, received a fragmentary order to deploy one forward logistics element to the region, where they will remain as long as they are needed.

"We notified the FLE that they had 24 hours to get ready," said Maj. Cathy R. Oates, LTF-725 support operations officer. "Within 12 hours, the team was ready to go. We expect them to be on the ground for 30 to 60 days, but they will stay as long as they are needed."

The FLE was hand-selected, designed to meet the specific needs of the ANA for this particular mission. Chief Warrant Officer William Clemens was hand-picked to be the officer in charge of the FLE.

"To decide who we were going to put on the FLE, we first looked at the equipment listing for the unit we are supporting," said Oates. "Then, we selected an OIC who we knew would be able to accomplish the task, and let him put together his team. We made sure to send the very best forward."

The FLE is made up of a group of Soldiers with different areas of expertise, each bringing a different capability to the support element.

"There is a maintenance technician, ammunition handlers, fuelers, supply specialists, air conditioner and generator mechanics, and direct and organization maintenance (members)," said Lt. Col. Derek S. Smith, LTF-725 commander. "There are also communications and electronics specialists."

The FLE has everyone it needs to provide support for almost any mission the ANA soldiers place before them.

While the FLE is operating in a forward-deployed area, another team of Soldiers is doing an equally important job on Bagram Air Field – ensuring the supplies keep flowing.

"When the pallets are in



Sgt. Stephanie L. Carl

Pfc. Roxanne Diaz, a member of LTF-725's rigging team, shrink wraps a pallet of water that will be transported to the forward logistics element in support of the ANA's mission in Herat Province.

the air, we know we've done our job," said Pfc. Roxanne Diaz, a member of the rigging team.

Diaz and the other members of the rigging team prepare pallets of supplies for the ANA soldiers, filling each supply and re-supply mission requested.

Everyone on the team is familiar with load planning, which makes it easier for them to prepare the pallets for transport on a fixed wing aircraft. They are also all trained to conduct slingload operations, which means they can change the configuration of the supplies so they can be transported externally on an aircraft like the UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter.

Regardless of the method used to move the supplies, the rigging team ensures they are ready to go.

"What we do is very important," said Diaz. "(The ANA soldiers) need MREs and water just as much as we do."

LTF-725 isn't just providing MREs and water, however. It can also provide fuel, maintenance and construction materials, among other logistic requirements necessary to sustain a unit in combat.

The supplies get sent forward as they are requested, with enough of a supply for operations to continue until the next shipment arrives. This process will continue until the tactical mission is complete.

Once the rigging team sends the supplies forward, they are met on the other end by the FLE and ANA soldiers.

"That's what we're here for," said Sgt. 1st Class Freddie L. Golson, the rigging team's noncommissioned officer in charge. "We're here to support the

Coalition, and we know we're making a difference."

While the FLE and the rigging team are making a difference for the ANA, they are also making history for LTF-725 and CJTF-76. The FLE is the first of its magnitude since the task force's deployment to Afghanistan in February, said Smith.

Since they received this mission, LTF-725 has sent more than enough food and water to the ANA soldiers to keep them supplied for 30 days or longer. With this continued support, the ANA is able to focus on their mission of stabilizing the tumultuous region.

"We are providing 'Service to the Line,'" said Clemens, quoting the LTF-725 motto. "The ANA has a mission to accomplish, and it's our responsibility to support them in that mission."



Spc. Daniel P. Kelly

Lt. Col. Margaret Sullivan, officer in charge of the Intermediate Care Unit at the CJTF 325th Field Hospital, talks to Marium, 10. Marium was injured when an enemy combatant blew himself up with a grenade in the Kunder Province Monday.

Coalition Medical Soldiers aid Afghan children wounded in attack

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

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - "I like it here. They're taking good care of me," said Marium, 10, of the Coalition Forces who are taking care of her after she was injured during an attack in Kunder Province Monday. Marium is awaiting surgery for her face where the grenade blast did the most damage.

"We're happy to do anything to help her," said Dr. (Capt.) Kim Trundy, the surgeon who will be working with Marium. Dr. (Maj.) Gregory Bramblett is an Ophthalmologist, and will also be working with

Marium.

"I'm glad to help her in any way I can," Bramblett said.

Through a Pashtu interpreter Marium explained that she is happy with the work of the Combined Task Force 325th Field Hospital on Bagram Airfield, the highest-level medical facility in Afghanistan.

"It's hard to comprehend the trauma we see children go through. It's hard to see children who are shot. It's very difficult," said Lt. Col. Margaret Sullivan, officer in charge of the Intermediate Care Unit. "We see everyone and we treat everybody equally."

Sullivan works with an

array of patients in the ICU, and said everyone gets equal treatment.

"We keep them all here until they are better," Sullivan explained.

Marium is currently being treated at Bagram along with six other Afghan children.

Marium added that she is looking forward to going back to school to study Pashtu, the Afghan equivalent to English in the U.S., when she gets out of the hospital.

Fazel Allah Hai, Marium's uncle, is staying by her side at the hospital, and said school means a great deal to Marium.

"She's very happy that she's going to school," Allah Hai said.

ArmyOnline

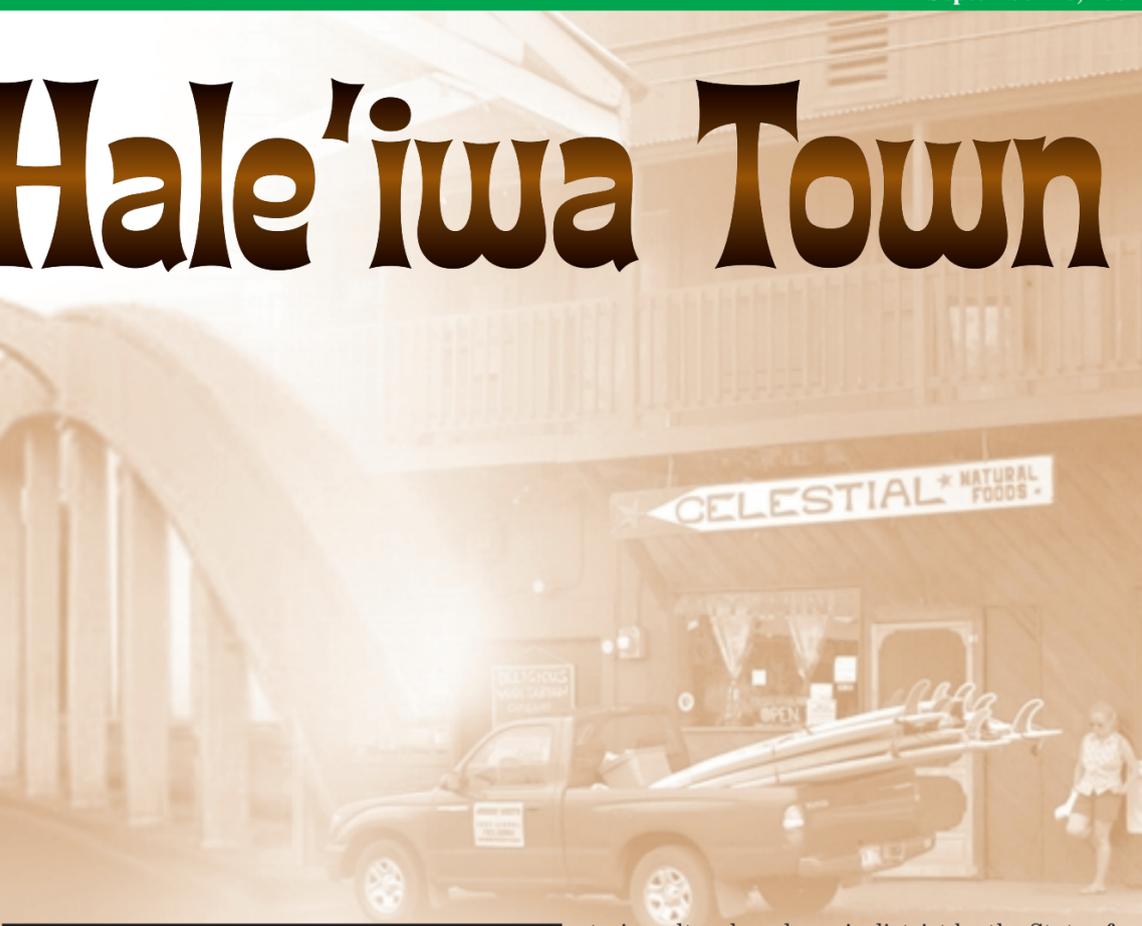
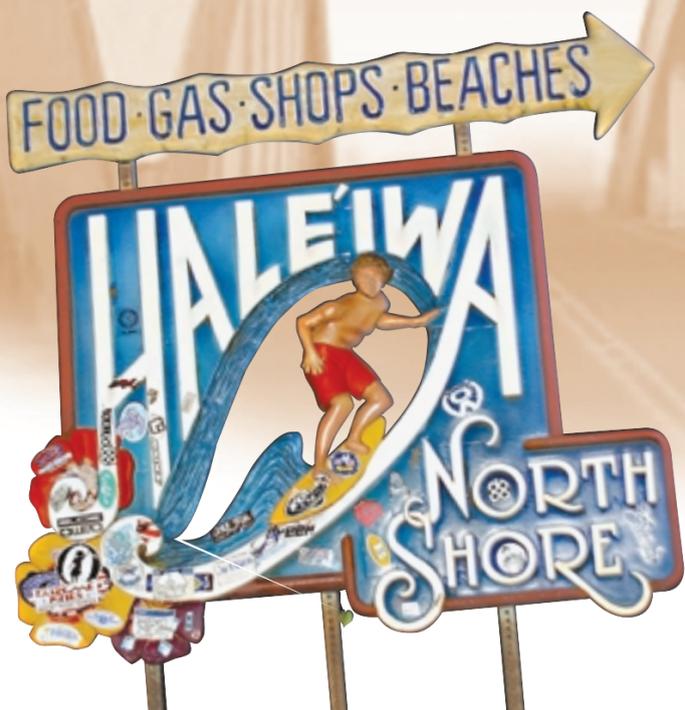
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25th Infantry Division (Light)
and United States Army, Hawaii



COMMUNITY & SPORTS

Historic Hale'iwa Town



Story and photos by Spc. Len Cutler
Staff Writer

Once a popular vacation spot for Hawaiian royalty during the summer months, Hale'iwa retains its ties to a more utopian sort of existence. Its history is rife with efforts at creating a perfect getaway. Looking back, it's easy to see these visionaries have largely succeeded.

As modernization and development spread across Oahu at the end of the 19th Century, travelers took advantage of the relative distance from Honolulu, making daylong trips by train to Waialua Bay, and the historic Haleiwa Hotel that gave the town its name. Although the hotel is gone, Haleiwa retains its ties to the past. In 1984, it was named a his-

toric, cultural, and scenic district by the State of Hawaii.

Hale'iwa and the rest of the North Shore are perhaps among the most relaxing, carefree spots on Oahu, harkening back to a time before the urban sprawl engulfed the rest of the island.

Beach culture is king here – surfing the most obvious example. Hale'iwa is part of the world famous North Shore, and a plethora of prime locations for snorkeling, diving, and windsurfing are close at hand as well.

Aqua-phobes can also find plenty to do inland. Hale'iwa boasts a farmer's market with fresh local produce, a surf museum, several art galleries, and a variety of shops and activities to keep anyone entertained.



Tourists and locals line up at store windows for refreshing shave ice after spending time on the beaches of Hale'iwa.



Left and lower left: Street vendors that line along the roads offer a multitude of souvenirs, artwork and water sport supplies.



Unlike the raging currents during winter, the summer season at Hale'iwa shores offer calmer, gentler waters for all ages to enjoy.



Hale Ikena Birthday Lunch Special - It's the Hale Ikena on Fort Shafter's 5th birthday and they're celebrating. Enjoy a special \$5 lunch buffet price from Sept. 27 - Oct. 1 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Get special priced tickets by calling 438-1974 or stop by the Hale Ikena. Those without a ticket will pay the regular \$7.95 price.

Hale Ikena Birthday Celebration - Celebrate the Hale Ikena's 5th birthday on Sept. 30 beginning at 4:30

p.m. with heavy pupus, action stations, live entertainment, no host bar and door prizes. This event is free, but ticket is required. Free tickets can be obtained by calling 438-1974 or by stopping by the Hale Ikena.

Schofield Barracks Tropics September Food Special - Enjoy two slices of pizza with a soda for \$5 or a large one topping pizza with a pitcher of soda for \$11.99. Also available a taquito special: steak, chicken or calzone type for \$1.75 each, all month long. On Sept. 13, Kickoff Monday Night Football with all-you-can eat foot long hot-dogs and soda for \$6. Sept. 18 enjoy all-you-can eat taco bar for \$8.95 from 5 - 8 p.m. Call 655-0002.

Upcoming Craft Classes - Every Friday from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. participate in a scrap booking demonstration. Cost is \$10 and includes most supplies. On Sept. 17, 10 - 11:30 a.m. participate in Photo Collage. Bring in photos to be mounted in a pre-cut mat. Cost is \$10 and will include all supplies. Classes are held at Schofield Barracks Arts and Crafts Center. Several other classes are offered. Call 655-4202.

New Teen Center Location - The Schofield Barracks Teen Center is now located in Kaala Community Activities Center, building 556. Call 655-0451.

Fall Teen Camp - Week one of fall teen camp begins at the Schofield Barracks Teen Center, located at Kaala Community Activities Center Sept. 27 - Oct. 1. Daily field trips or activities are as follows: Character Counts, Honolulu Zoo, Dole Plantation Maze and Beach, Fear Factor Day and Bay View Miniature Golf. Week

two is from Oct. 4 - 8 and 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 for information.

New Gym Hours - Effective Sept. 18, Martinez Physical Fitness Center on Schofield Barracks will have new hours from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Saturday, Sunday and holidays. Call 655-0900.

Spouse's Night Out Expands - Spouse's Night Out will be held tonight from 6 - 8 p.m. at the Aliamanu Community Center. Adults can have a Spa Retreat while the kids enjoy a free movie and snack. Call 438-9285 to register or for details.

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. Sept. 16, Supporting Your Deployed Spouse: Family Readiness Groups with Dr. Faran, Art Class: Learn to Draw and Sketch, Beginning Hula, Learn to Use a Web Camera and Quilting. 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 prior to each Thursday event to make child care reservations. Child care reservations can be made two weeks in advance. Pre-registration for classes is required, call 655-2736.

Parade of Pets - Participate in a parade with your pet, contests, and learn animal safety tips and information about the MWR Pet Kennels on Sept. 25 at the Tropics, building 589, on Schofield Barracks. Sign-in and late registration is at 11 a.m., the parade begins at noon. Awards will be given for Best in Show, Most Unique, Best Dressed, Best Trick and many more. Entry fee is \$2 if pre-registered by Sept. 15 or \$3 at the event. Registration is required, and breed restrictions may apply. Call 655-0002.

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 parents. Cost is \$475 for a 14-hour course. Must have at least four students enrolled to conduct the class. Mannerism Classes are open to youth 5 - 11 years of age. Fee is \$40 for a four week class or \$60 for a six week class. Must have six students enrolled to conduct the class. All classes are conducted by Unique Models Agency and Production. Call 655-6461 or 833-4932.

Special Aerobic Class Offered - Sept. 18 at 9 a.m. visit the Health and Fitness Center on Schofield Barracks to try out the NIA (neuromuscular integrative action) class. This latest trend in aerobics offers a unique blend of yoga, martial arts and dance. Class is free for members or \$3 for non-members. Call 655-8789 for more information.

Queen Emma's Summer Palace Tour - View rare artifacts and personal belongings of Hawaii's royalty at Queen Emma's Summer Palace fol-

lowed by lunch (on your own) and shopping at Aloha Tower marketplace Sept. 23. Cost is \$3 and includes round trip bus transportation from Tropics on Schofield Barracks. Bus departs from Tropics at 8 a.m. and will return at 2 p.m. Register today, limited to the first forty people, call 655-0002.

Swap Meet Shopping Trip - Find a bargain at the Aloha Stadium Swap meet on Sept. 15 and 29 from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Round trip transportation will be provided from Bennett Youth Center or Helemano Child Development Center, departing at 8 a.m. and returning at 1 p.m. Bring a brown bag lunch, coolers will be provided. Admission to the Swap Meet is \$.50 per person. Limited seating available, reservations required by noon on Tuesday and Sept. 28 by calling 656-0110 or 655-0009.

West Side Story - The world's greatest love story comes to Richardson Theatre on Fort Shafter, Sept. 11, 17, 18, 24 and 25. Curtain at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for adults are \$17 and \$14 and for children (under 12) \$10 and \$8. The Box Office is open Monday - Friday from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Call 438-4480.

Live Monday Night Football - Catch all the excitement live on satellite with ice cold beverages and pupu specials beginning Sept. 13 at Reggie's on Schofield Barracks. Call 655-4466.

Mongolian BBQ - Select your favorites from a variety of meats and vegetables, and we'll grill them to your liking on Sept. 15 beginning at 5 p.m. at the Nehelani with seating at Reggie's. Meals are priced by the ounce. Reservations required by calling 655-0660.

Bowling Tournament - A Five Game No Tap Tournament will be held on Sept. 18 at the Schofield Barracks Bowling Center. Check-in time is at 1 p.m. Cost is \$20. Cash prizes will be awarded. Call 655-0573.

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.

Auto Craft Early Bird Special - From the 1st to the 15th of every month receive a safety inspection for \$10. Vehicles with tinted windows will cost \$15. Call the nearest Auto Craft Center for more information. Fort Shafter, 438-9402 or Schofield Barracks, 655-9368.

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.

Commissary Dash N' Grab - Enter for a chance to win the next Commissary Dash N' Grab event that is scheduled for Sept. 30 at 7:30 a.m. Entry boxes are located at the Schofield Barracks Commissary, Army Community Service on Tropics. Three finalists will be chosen at the September Town Hall Meeting. MWR Blue Star Card Members are automatically entered to win. Finalists will be notified. Open to active duty families and spouses. This event will be held quarterly. Event is sponsored by ACTUS Lend Lease, DECA and MWR. Call 438-0117 for information.

Sgt. Yano Library Closure - The Sgt. Yano Library on Schofield Barracks will be closed Sunday for quarterly carpet cleaning. Call 655-0145 for information.

Upcoming Schofield Barracks Tropics Activities - Yu-Gi-Oh Tournament Saturday, sign up at 11 a.m. Cost is \$5 per entry. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes will be awarded. This Monday enjoy the Monday Night Football kickoff with weekly trivia contests, quarterback toss and giveaways. On Sept. 13, 5 - 8 p.m. enjoy all-you-can eat foot long hot dogs and a soda for \$6. On Sept. 15, participate in National Hispanic Heritage Day celebration with Story hour at 6 p.m. followed by crafts, games, piñatas and Dora the Explorer Marathon at 6:30 p.m. Call 655-0002.

MWR R&R Deployment Specials - Soldiers returning from Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom will receive 50 percent off regular cottage rates at Piliiaau Army Recreation Center in Waianae. Piliiaau reservations call 696-6783 to make reservations today. Eligible Soldiers must be accompanied by a Blue Star Card holder upon check-in or have a copy of their leave orders.

* Free Outdoor Recreation Rental Equipment check out up to \$50, 655-0143.

* Three free hours of Bay Time at the Army Auto Craft Centers, 438-9402 or 655-9368.

* Bowl for \$1 a game on weekdays till 5 p.m. at the Schofield Bowling Center; shoes not included; 655-0573.

This Week at the MOVIES

SGT SMITH THEATER

TODAY
The Bourne Supremacy
7 p.m. (PG-13)

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 11
Thunderbirds
2 p.m. (PG)

The Bourne Supremacy
7 p.m. (PG-13)

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 12
Thunderbirds
7 p.m. (PG)

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 13
Closed

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 14
Closed

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 15
Closed

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 16
Closed

HICKAM MEMORIAL THEATER

TODAY
I, Robot
7 p.m. (PG-13)

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 11
I, Robot
7 p.m. (PG-13)

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 12
I, Robot
7 p.m. (PG-13)

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 13
Closed

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 14
Closed

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 15
Harold & Kumar Go To White Castle
7 p.m. (R)

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 16
Harold & Kumar Go To White Castle
7 p.m. (R)



HAGN TV Schedule | September 10-16

Morning		Evening	
6:00	Sign On	6:00	Voting Assist Program '04
6:30	Fit for Life	6:03	Community Focus
7:00	Bulletin Board	6:14	Bulletin Board
7:30	Shamu-The Bird Story	6:47	Army Values - Respect
8:00	Pentagon Channel	6:53	OIF Photo Montage 3
9:00	Pentagon Channel	7:00	NFL-Turf Talk 95
10:00	VATV	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
11:16	Dash and Grab	9:00	ASAP-Smoking
11:30	Hawaii Hidden Beauty, Danger	9:30	Oakland Army Base
11:50	OIF Photo Montage 6	10:00	Youth Protection
12:00	Pentagon Channel	11:00	NFL-Greatest Games 77AFC
		12:12	Bulletin Board
Afternoon		Overnight	
2:02	Hurricane Safety		
2:21	Voting Assist Program '04		
2:28	OIF Photo Montage 2	12:46	Pentagon Channel
2:30	Shamu-Whale and Dolphin Story		
3:00	Shamu-Animal Rescue		
3:40	Oahu-Aloha Begins		
3:50	OIF Photo Montage 5		
4:00	Pentagon Channel		

Armed Forces Voters Week Push to register Soldiers

Army News Service Press Release

WASHINGTON – Armed Forces Voters Week, Sept. 3 - 11, is being viewed by Army officials as yet another chance to register Soldiers to vote and receive absentee ballots.

"We're just making sure that each Soldier has the opportunity to register to vote," said Jim Davis, the Army's voting action officer.

Davis estimates that 97 percent of all Soldiers have already been offered the opportunity to register, because it was part of last month's Personnel Asset Inventory in which all Soldiers were required to participate.

100-percent contact

The goal of Armed Forces Voters Week, though, is for voting assistance officers to attain 100-percent contact with service members and personally hand them the Federal Post Card Application to register, the Standard Form-76.

DoD voting officials said this week is the "last really safe week" to submit an SF-76 application to register and request an absentee ballot.

In fact, the Army's original goal was to help Soldiers register by Aug. 15. But Davis said that date was recommended by postal officials to absolutely ensure that the applications could be delivered to precincts in time for the absentee ballots to be mailed overseas, completed by Soldiers and returned. He said Soldiers who register this week or next should still be able to receive their ballots in time to vote, as the Postal Service is making a big effort to speed their delivery.

Next push: Oct. 11 mailing

Once absentee ballots are received, the Army recommends Soldiers complete them and place them back in the mail by Oct. 11 in order to reach their home states by election day, Nov. 2, said Davis.

If Soldiers located outside the United States send in their request for an absentee ballot in sufficient time and don't receive their ballot, they can use



the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (SF 186), Davis said, which allows them to write in their votes and send it. In some cases, ballots can also be faxed to local voting officials.

All but three states require absentee ballots by close of business the day of the election. Louisiana requires the ballots to be in by midnight before the election. New York absentee ballots need to be postmarked the day before the election. North Carolina requires the ballots to be in by 5 p.m. the day before the election.

Vote for your future!

Armed Forces Voting Week will also be used by some officials to conduct voting workshops and registration drives, not only for service members, but for their families as well. Voting assistance officers at some installations are asking for support from organizations such as wives clubs, family services, boy/girl scouts and other groups to help get out the vote and coordinate voter outreach events. The slogan this year is: "It's your future, vote for it!"

For more information on federal voting policies, go to the Federal Voting Assistance Program's Web site at <http://www.fvap.gov/>.

9-11 anniversary message to Soldiers

By Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker
Chief of Staff
and R. L. Brownlee
Acting Secretary of the Army

On this third anniversary of the tragic events of September 11th, 2001, we pause to remember and honor our fellow citizens who perished that day, their lives savagely taken by ruthless terrorists. Much has changed in the three years since our country was attacked. But what remains constant is our commitment to liberty, our love of our country, and our belief in the Army Values.

Today we are at war, and the danger to our homeland is real. Our enemies are seeking to obtain Weapons of Mass Destruction and the means to deliver them; their actions to date have made clear their willingness to kill indiscriminately and their intentions to rule by fear and intimidation. Our Soldiers, joined by our Sister Services and Allies, are fighting every day to protect our way of life against those who would destroy all we hold dear.

Service to our Nation is both an honor and a responsibility, one that requires self-sacrifice. You serve in difficult conditions in far-away places, so that other Americans may sleep soundly. You bring security where there was chaos, hope where there was despair. Together you comprise the best and most experienced fighting force in the world. As you live the Warrior Ethos, you embody the best of the American spirit.

We are proud of each of you. We are proud of your accomplishments over the last three years in liberating 46 million people from tyranny and oppression. Your success has come at a high cost, and we mourn the loss of our fallen comrades in arms. But they have not died in vain. We know America is worth fighting for, and each day we are further weakening the terrorists' ability to harm our cause.

Our hearts and prayers are with our Army families as they share in the heavy burden of protecting freedom. We offer our sincere thanks to all of our Soldiers and your loved ones for your sacrifices in our Nation's time of need.



Have a great story you'd like to submit?

Hawaii
Army Weekly

email the editor at
editor@hawaiiarmyweekly.com

Former 325th FSB commander is West Point's first female general



Staff Sgt. Manuel Torres-Cortes

Brig. Gen. Rebecca S. Halstead accepts the colors of the 3rd Corps Support Command from V Corps Commander Lt. Gen. Ricardo S. Sanchez during a change of command ceremony at Wiesbaden Army Airfield, Germany Sept. 2.

By Staff Sgt.
Manuel Torres-Cortes
V Corps Public Affairs

WIESBADEN, Germany – The first female West Point graduate to be promoted to general officer assumed command of V Corps' 3rd Corps Support Command in a ceremony Sept. 2 at Wiesbaden Army Airfield, Germany.

Brig. Gen. Rebecca S. Halstead, whose previous assignment was as deputy commander for U.S. Army Europe's 21st Theater Support Command in Kaiserslautern, Germany, pinned on her first star Aug. 31.

During the ceremony, Halstead accepted the COSCOM flag from V Corps Commander Lt. Gen. Ricardo S. Sanchez. She replaced outgoing COSCOM Commander Brig. Gen. Vincent E. Boles.

In his remarks at the event, Sanchez lauded the leadership and skill he says Halstead brings to the COSCOM and V Corps.

"The good news about any change of command is the arrival of an equally impressive leader and warrior, who is eager to maintain the standard as the organization takes on the challenges that lie ahead," said Sanchez.

Halstead is a graduate of the West Point Class of 1981, the second academy class to include women. She was one of 104 women to enter West Point in 1977. Four years later 63 women, the same number that graduated the first class in 1980, graduated in her class.

Halstead is one of six female members of the Class of 1981 still on active duty. She has served as a platoon leader, operations officer and an executive officer with the 69th Ordnance Company, 559th Artillery Group in Vicenza, Italy.

Other assignments include being the commander of the 325th Forward Support Battalion, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; and she was the executive assistant to the combatant commander, United States Southern Command, Miami, Fla., before becoming deputy for the 21st Theater Support Command.

She holds a master's degree in military art and science from the Command and General Staff College and a master's degree in national resource strategy from the National Defense University at Fort McNair.

"This is an awesome responsibility, honor and privilege to lead and serve with 3rd COSCOM," said Halstead.

(Editor's Note: The complete article can be found on the Army News Web site at www4.army.mil/ocpa/news/index.html. Click on article titled "West Point's first female general commands COSCOM." Halstead's complete biography is available on the 3rd COSCOM Web site.)

NCOs key to winning war, peace

By Roger W. Putnam
Army News Service

BAGHDAD, Iraq – History has taught us many lessons on what to do after a war is won.

Germany and Japan are just two examples of defeated countries that rose from the ashes of defeat to become leaders in the international community with the direct assistance of the United States. In no small respect, the U.S. military's noncommissioned officers and their troops became the ambassadors of goodwill in these countries, and played a major role in winning the hearts and minds of the people.

Earning the trust of the people is essential if any reconstructive effort or peacekeeping mission is going to be successful.

Today's problems in Afghanistan and Iraq are similar. The NCOs and their troops are the ones seen everyday on the streets of the cities and towns. It is their behavior that shapes the views of the local population and reflects what America is all about.

One of the hardest tasks for the NCO is to not blame all the people for the acts of a few. We have trained our Soldiers to be war fighters, and justifiably so, but

America's Soldiers are still filled with compassion for children and the downtrodden.

It is difficult for the NCOs to see their Soldiers attacked by insurgents and not become cynical toward the populace. But, thank God, our NCOs have proved they have the values and ability to put those feelings aside and perform the acts of kindness we see them doing the world over, especially in Iraq and Afghanistan. Cynicism only undermines our ability to build a rapport with the population.

The NCO is instrumental in ensuring the populace understands America's values and that it is a truly compassionate country. In Vietnam, our Soldiers built orphanages and schools, treated the sick, and spent untold hours assisting the Vietnamese, even while being attacked daily by insurgents.

U.S. Soldiers have performed similar deeds in every conflict our country has been involved in, and the NCO has always been at the forefront of these activities. Without the noncommissioned officer, many of these endeavors would not have succeeded, or even existed. The NCO has to be the positive influence in both peace and war. NCOs make

things happen.

The NCO must always remember that planning is done at a higher level, but implementation of orders is an NCO responsibility. The NCO is responsible for teaching and training his or her subordinates, not only in war fighting techniques, but also how to approach the populace, how to understand and appreciate their culture, and how to treat them as they would want to be treated.

Trying to understand the rules they live by is as foreign to our culture as ours is to theirs. A smile to civilians from one of our troops is a language that anyone can understand, and lays a foundation that reconstruction can build on.

NCOs and their troops are crucial to showing the population that America liberates, not conquers; that we truly want to help their people gain a better life. It is imperative that NCOs realize that they are the key to winning not only wars, but also the peace.

(Editor's note: Roger W. Putnam is a retired command sergeant major who participated in the occupation of Japan, the Korean War, two tours in Vietnam, and who also served as the VII Corps CSM in the early 1980s.)

Clinic provides health care to women

By Sgt. Jennifer S. Emmons
17th Public Affairs Det.

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan – With many females deployed around the world, the task of providing timely and efficient health care to women has become a priority.

In the past, women serving in Operation Enduring Freedom had to leave Afghanistan to address many of their gender-specific health care needs. But with a new clinic on Bagram Air Base that specializes in women's health care, females can continue their mission relatively uninterrupted.

"Women's health is important because women have more of an active role in, and percentage of, the deployment force we now see," said Lt. Col. John Farley, officer in charge of the gynecological clinic on Bagram. "It's important that we have the specialized means to take care of them in theater."

The clinic is primarily for the acute care of women with gynecological problems, said Farley. One of the most common problems women face is abnormal pap smears.

The main thrust of the clinic is for the follow-up of abnormal pap smears. Now, women who have had an

abnormal pap smear prior to deployment can come here for a follow-up exam, said Farley.

The clinic has all the resources necessary to give quality health care to women, said Staff Sgt. Alma Alexander, noncommissioned officer in charge of the gynecological clinic. "The same procedures that are done in a hospital, we can do here."

The clinic also offers many services in addition to pap smears and colposcopies, an advanced procedure conducted after abnormal pap smear results are received.

"We offer urodynamic testing, which is bladder testing for women who might have urinary problems," said Farley.

The clinic also offers follow-up exams for women who underwent surgery before deployment.

"Before I deployed, I had surgery," said Staff Sgt. Anna Curtis, clinic patient. "If this clinic wasn't here, I would probably feel a little concerned, because if I did have problems it would be hard to get a follow-up exam. Since it's here, I feel more confident."

Having women's health care services available in theater plays a big role in maintaining operational

tempo.

The main purpose for the clinic is to get women in and seen by the doctor, and then back out to accomplish their mission, said Alexander.

During previous deployments, women who needed even simple gynecological procedures had to go to Germany, Kuwait, or even back to the United States for the treatment. That could keep a woman away from her duties for a month or longer, said Farley.

"That definitely has an effect on the manpower for the unit," said Farley.

Regardless of the type of unit a female is with, she is just as important to the mission.

The clinic is available for women, both military and civilian, throughout the area of operations, said Alexander.

"We've had women from Kandahar, Salerno, even (Karshi-Kahanabad) come to the clinic for services," she said.

Healthy women are a key to the success of Operation Enduring Freedom, said Farley.

"Women's health is very, very important to the military," he said. "It helps to preserve our fighting force, number one, and also keeps morale high."

F Quad opens

Story & Photos
by Spc. Len Cutler
Staff Writer

Schofield Barracks unveiled the latest improvements to on-post housing Sept. 2, at a ceremony and outdoor celebration to mark the opening of the newly-renovated F Quad barracks.

"Today is the official opening," said Capt. LeAnn Fechter, Adjutant for HHC DISCOM, who said that the barracks can accommodate 320 Soldiers at full capacity.

Soldiers living in the new rooms report that, unlike other barracks, Soldiers now have their own rooms, with a shared, two-man bathroom and kitchenette next to the bedrooms. Fechter said the process of realizing the concept behind the new building has been three years, and approximately \$4 million in the making.

"It's about improving the Soldiers' quality of life," said Fechter. "The rooms come equipped with Internet and cable connections. We're trying to modernize the quality of the accommodations. It took a lot of work to get to this point."

Private 1st Class James Alexander, an NBC NCO with HHC DISCOM, said the new

rooms are a big improvement over his old room at E Quad.

"My old room was run down, basically destroyed," he said. "For everyone that's moved, morale is definitely up."

In addition to the data access, other additions include keyless entry systems, ramps and elevators, and on-site classrooms.

"Instead of tying up the education center, now we have our own classrooms, and that improves our ability to train Soldiers," Alexander said.

Even though the benefits for garrisoned Soldiers is obvious, Capt. Wilbur Barnes, commander, 71st Chemical Company, said that events like this one are part of an effort to let deployed Soldiers know they're not forgotten.

"We're making a video of the event to send to the Soldiers," Barnes said. "So they'll know what they're coming home to. We want the Soldiers' morale to stay up, and this will give them something to look forward to."

Soldiers at the event also used the opportunity to help deployed Soldiers in another way. A raffle was held, and donations collected. The proceeds will go towards the troops, said Barnes.



The renovated F Quad barracks are now outfitted with Internet, cable, a keyless entry system, elevators and shared two-man bathrooms and kitchenettes.

Right: The day room has pool tables, plenty of seating.

Bottom: Classrooms allow leaders to train Soldiers onsite instead of tying up the education center on post.



Patriotic doctor yearns for U.S. citizenship

By Margaret Tippy
Tripler Army Medical Center Public Affairs

Dr. Anton C. Nicolescu is a passionate physician who has a history of doing everything the hard way – not because he wanted to – but because that's what life presented to him.

The Romanian who works at Tripler Army Medical Center and the Veterans Affairs Pacific Islands Health Care System also at Tripler said while smiling "I feel very American as I don't take freedom for granted."

His dream is to become an American citizen after escaping from Romania in early 1990, ending up in jail in Sweden and a refuge camp during his odyssey and eventually starting a family in Palau.

This is his story. He went to medical school in Romania but, "There was no freedom to advance or to move anywhere. The medical profession was a way to survive intellectually under an oppressive regime while helping my fellow countrymen in a tangible way."

Nicolescu said the communist regime's policies restricted him to marginal jobs based on what he had accomplished professionally as an anesthesiologist.

"When you are in a Communist country, the state owns everything. There is no private sector, no competition," he said.

During the political turmoil of early 1990, he crossed into Hungary and on to Sweden through Czechoslovakia and Poland without proper traveling documents.

"I reached the Baltic Sea just trying to survive – sleeping in railroad stations or wherever," Nicolescu said.

In Sweden, he surrendered to the police at the border, and got thrown in the city jail waiting for his case to come up. Sweden was the only country that responded to his request for political asylum.

Eventually, Nicolescu ended back in Denmark in a Refugee



by Margaret Tippy

Capt. (Dr.) Jonathan S. Pederson, intern, right, talks to Dr. Anton Nicolescu, center, in one of Tripler's Intensive Care Units (ICUs) during Grand Rounds Sept. 3rd, as other interns listen in and take notes.

Camp, where he was not permitted to work, for more than a year.

In 1991, he hit the ground running in Palau and opened up a new missionary clinic. He didn't know a soul and he described himself as lost somewhere in the South Pacific.

One of his first patients was the High Chief Ibedul, who played a special role in his future.

"He actually introduced me to the woman who became my wife," Nicolescu said. After they got married, he decided to go back through the entire medical system and take his U.S. Medical Licensing Exam. He received extremely high scores.

He started having immigration problems – his medical qualifications were fine – but Immigration had issues with his employment status.

Plenty of people helped Nicolescu, but it was his father-in-law who had a special connection. He knew a friend of Senator John McCain, who spent six years as a prisoner of war with McCain. McCain helped Nicolescu with his employment authorization status.

While all this was going on, he and his wife, Kezia, had two sons –

Philip born in 1992, and, Cristian born in 1994.

He finished his internal medicine residency at Loma Linda University, Ca. in 1997 and four months into a University of Pittsburgh fellowship he had to leave for more immigration reasons.

As he said, "I accomplish everything through the hard way."

He ended up in Guam for more than a year before resuming his fellowship in Pennsylvania.

Nicolescu then went to work at North Shore University Hospital, New York University and Cornell and was there Sept. 11, 2001, ready to receive casualties being so close to Ground Zero. It was an extremely stress-filled environment.

After the attacks the family decided to relocate. Nicolescu said he had always enjoyed taking care of veterans and he was attracted to Hawaii's patient population.

Nicolescu interviewed for the clinical position in Hawai'i in the fall of 2001, and moved his family here. His latest accomplishment was an induction as a fellow of the American College of Chest Physicians – the ultimate prestigious honor in his profession.

His hope for American citizenship is almost a reality – though he's gotten through the hard way once again. After Sept. 11th, immigration rules were changed and it has taken much longer than anticipated to work through the system.

He allowed his story to be told hoping to inspire others. "If you really want something and you dream, it will come true sometimes," Nicolescu emphasized.

"Tony has a compassionate and caring approach to the sickest patients and their families," Berg said. "He is a role model for both younger and more experienced physicians, and I am very lucky that he is a colleague."

Nicolescu continues to be a shining beacon devoted to his faith and willing to go the extra distance to make sure his patients are receiving the best care possible. America welcomes him as an outstanding citizen.

Lightning Spirit

Are you having a bad day?

By Chaplain (Capt.) W. Clint Black
65th Eng. Bn.

"Bad day," someone answers, "try a bad week." Of course, we open that can of worms here and get responses that reach from "bad year" to "bad life!"

But, you know, when you push your chair back from an wonderful luau meal, your stomach's full, and you're watching a nice hula show with your family or those you love, it's easy to say "Thank you" and count your blessings. What about when things aren't going so well? That's the test of our mettle. How do we respond in the midst of difficult situations?

King David, a hero from ancient Israel, understood difficult situations. Early in his life, he faced the giant Goliath. Not long after, he had his nation's king and the army chasing after him, and a member of his own family—his son!—turned against him. His life is celebrated today, but much of it was lived through the most trying of circumstances. He wrote the 143rd Psalm from the midst of his anguish, offering us today insight into dealing with our difficulties.

Verse one begins, "O Lord, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy." Why do we so often wait until much later to call upon God? David begins his lament with a cry for God's mercy—which illustrates our starting point as that of praying. Pray first and then add action to your prayers. Too often, we get the cart before the horse by acting and then praying.

Verse five provides our second point: "I remember the days of long ago; I meditate on all your works and consider what your hands have done." In times of trials or tribulations, we find hope for our present and future by remembering how God has been faithful to us in the past. So often the children of Israel looked back to how God delivered them from the hands of the evil Pharaoh in Egypt—giving them strength for today and hope for tomorrow. Certainly our situation may be a struggle, but, looking back, we are reminded that we have been through difficulties before. We take

heart in believing that we will make it with God's help once again.

The third thing that David offers us in Psalm 143 is that we must put our trust in God: "Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you" (verse eight). Typically speaking, we don't understand why we are going through what we are. The question "Why?" so often becomes our mantra. The wisdom of the ages is clear in teaching that "God's thoughts are not our thoughts, neither are our ways God's ways" (words from God found in the Book of the Prophet Isaiah chapter 55, verse 8). We humans just have no good solid answers for some things. And, some people have trouble with that. On the other hand, when our questions remain unanswered, it is a clear opportunity for us to solidify our trust in God. In difficulty we can say with David, "Bring me word of your unfailing love, for I trust you." I am convinced THAT word can calm the fiercest storm in any heart.

Finally, David expresses another idea in Psalm 143 that is important. He wrote, "Show me the way to go...may your good Spirit lead me on level ground" (verses eight and ten). David knew the importance of not giving up, of not quitting. David understood he must "keep on keeping on" in the face of any adversary. "O God," he prayed in essence, "show me what to do and I will do it...lead and I will follow." We must be willing as well. It's easy to give up or to give in, but God is always working (read the Gospel of John, chapter five, verse 17 and surrounding). We must continue on. Ask for God's guidance and help, and then step forward, trusting in faith, that God will lead you. I believe, in so doing, you will discover a whole new strength, and, in some ways, a whole new world.

Bad days come—we all have them. Nevertheless, I hope you find strength from the biblical Psalms. Seasons of trials are seasons to pray for God's help; to remember how God has previously helped us; to put our trust in God; and, to continue going and growing. May God truly bless each one of us as we seek Him and as we serve Him.

Suicide warning signs

One suicide is one too many

Hooah 4 Health
An Army One Source article

Fact: There were 28,322 confirmed suicides within the United States last year.

Fact: 1 in every 17 Americans (6 percent) had thoughts of suicide in the past 12 months.

Fact: The highest ranking DoD member to commit suicide - Secretary of Defense James Forrester. The youngest Soldier that committed suicide last year - 18 years old.

To implement the Army Chief of Staff's suicide prevention policy, the Army trains and utilizes a cadre of people - chaplains and their assistants, psychologists, nurses, social workers, counselors, and command administrative personnel.

"Our part of this is that we provide yearly suicide prevention training at the unit level and one-on-one counseling to Soldiers and their family members," said Chaplain (Col.) Geraldine Manning.

The Army Chief of Chaplains ensures that all chaplains and chaplain assistants are professionally trained in suicide prevention as part of the Army Well Being Program.

"One suicide is one too many," she said. "Leaders must ensure that they take care of Soldiers, civilians and family members. They must be caring and proactive to ensure their people have the resources they need to live happy, healthy lives."

According to mental health professionals, the primary psychological motivators for contemplating suicide are killing one's self to "get back at" a person(s) and using one's death as self-punishment to atone for guilt and shame.

Manning said that suicide is preventable. "Suicide is preventable in the Army if: leaders know and care about their peers and subordinate Soldiers, constructively intervene early on in their Soldiers's problems, and pay close attention to Soldiers and civilians who have had major losses."

Major losses might include legal, marital, occupational or financial problems, promotion pass-over, or death of a loved one. "These stresses are more pronounced during the November-December holiday season," said Manning.

The Office of the Chief Army Reserve Chaplain said a commander must ensure everyone in the command knows the suicide warning signs or suicidal behavior and create a command climate that encourages help-seeking and buddies taking care of buddies. "Command awareness and vigilance are important entities in preventing suicides in the Army," she said.

Manning added that while suicides are a silent killer both in the military and civilian populations, the military has a far lower suicide rate than their civilian counterparts. "This ratio shows that the Army's programs are working."

Army suicide prevention focuses on developing life coping skills, encouraging help-seeking behavior, raising vigilance on suicide awareness, and integrating unit and community programs. "Prevention programs focus on training people about how to recognize early signs of suicidal behavior and how to intervene," said Manning, who is currently holding suicide prevention training workshops at the Office of the Chief, Army Reserve.

Manning emphasized that suicide prevention for Army Reserve Soldiers does not stop when a unit is mobilized or deployed. "Chaplains and other mental health professionals

are available for counseling wherever they are deployed."

Currently, pre-deployment and reunion chaplain briefings are practiced both in the active Army and the Army Reserve. Chaplains are engaged in mandatory one-on-one interviews and counseling sessions with Soldiers before they leave country and again when they return home.

"We are also available to provide counseling to family members who have loved ones deployed," said Manning. Last year, eight Army family members were known to have committed suicide - the youngest was 14-years-old.

She added, "To paraphrase Gen. Shinseki - it's our responsibility to help our Soldiers, families and civilians learn to recognize warning signs and identify at-risk people – one suicide is one too many."

Additional information can be found at the following Web sites:

- * US Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine
- * American Foundation for the Prevention of Suicide
- * American Association of Suicidology

Myths and facts about suicide

Myth: All suicidal people want to die and there is nothing that can be done about it.

Truth: Most suicidal people are undecided about living or dying. They may gamble with death, leaving it to others to rescue them. Frequently they call for help before and after a suicide attempt.

Myth: People who talk about suicide rarely attempt or commit suicide.

Truth: Nearly 80 percent of those who attempt or commit suicide give some warning of their intentions. When someone talks about committing suicide, they may be giving a warning that should not be ignored.

Myth: Once a person is suicidal, they are suicidal forever.

Truth: Most suicidal people are that way for only a brief period in their lives. If the attempter receives the proper assistance and support, they will probably never be suicidal again. Only about 10 percent of attempters later complete the act.

Myth: Improvement following a suicidal crisis means the risk is over.

Truth: Many suicides occur within 90 days after the beginning of "improvement" when they seem to have the energy to act on morbid thoughts and feelings. The desire to escape life may be so great that the idea of suicide represents relief from a hopeless situation. Therefore, we must be particularly attentive to the suicidal individual.

Myth: Talking to someone about suicidal feelings will cause them to commit suicide.

Truth: Talking to someone about their suicidal feelings usually makes the person feel relieved that someone finally recognized their emotional pain and they feel safer talking about it.

Keeping food safe

The smart grocery shopper

By WO1 Budd A. Dodge
Central Pacific District Veterinary Command

We all know the temperature stays fairly warm throughout the year in Hawaii. With the warm temperature comes numerous complaints from shoppers about the food they purchase.

"My milk soured five days before the expiration date." "My steak looks and smells bad." "My ice cream is crystallized or gummy." These are only a few of the common complaints.

All of these annoyances, and many others, can be avoided by becoming a smart grocery shopper – using simple planning and good common sense.

First, traffic can be unpredictable here in Hawaii. Whether it is a weekend or early morning, Hawaii traffic finds a way to get backed up. So when grocery shopping, always plan for the worst.

Bring a cooler, buy a bag of ice, or bring ice packs to keep groceries cool. Using the cooler will help prevent those chilled and frozen (temperature sensitive) items from getting too warm on the trip home.

Do you realize that when the temperature outside is 90 degrees Fahrenheit, the temperature in your car trunk can reach 145 degrees Fahrenheit? At 145 degrees, it can take less than 30 minutes for milk to reach a temperature that can cause it to begin spoiling.

This might explain why the milk soured five days early or the steak looks and smells bad. If you forget or don't have a cooler, put the temperature sensitive items in the passenger part of the car, out of the sun, and crank up the air conditioning on the drive home.

Second, make grocery shopping the last thing on your "To Do List". How

many times have you put groceries in your car and then gone to the ice cream shop, video store or a quick stop at the bookstore? Let's not forget the stop at the dry cleaners. Finally, two hours later, you get home.

It takes another twenty minutes to unload the car and get the groceries into the refrigerator. And you wonder why the milk sours five days early? If you think this doesn't sound like you, set a timer and see how long it takes you to get home.

Third, did you know that the average person spends at least one hour grocery shopping? While shopping, place the items that require no refrigeration in your cart first. The last items to place in the cart before heading to the checkout are the temperature sensitive items.

Although many people think produce should be the last items placed in the cart that is not always true. It is more important to place produce in an area that prevents them from getting damaged. Place produce in the small basket near the handles of the cart to help prevent them from becoming smashed and bruised.

At the cash register, place all the temperature sensitive items on the conveyor belt together so they get bagged together. This practice will help to protect them. For all of you still in denial, time yourself next shopping trip, and see just how long it takes to complete your shopping.

As you can see, becoming a smart grocery shopper does take some simple planning and good common sense.

The Commissary has the responsibility of providing good, wholesome and safe foods.

The shopper is responsible for ensuring the foods purchased stay that way until they are used at home.

U.S. Army food inspectors ensure food safety

By WO1 Budd A. Dodge
Central Pacific District
Veterinary Command

A U.S. Army food inspector exists and works to protect the health of anyone authorized to shop or eat food on military installations.

In addition, they help to look out for the financial interests of the United States Government and its procurement of food items.

The Army food inspector falls under the veterinary field and they are the Department of Defense Executive Agent for inspecting food for the U.S. Army, Navy and Marine Corps.

Here in Hawaii, they are responsible for inspecting all food delivered on all military bases and many other locations in Hawaii and American Samoa.

The food inspectors have offices located in all the major commissaries where they spend most of their day inspecting deliveries and performing walk-thru inspections of the commissary departments.

A food inspection office located at the commissary allows the inspector the best opportunity to inspect the foods being delivered to the store.

Keep in mind that commissaries handle approximately 75 percent of all the food that travels on each installation.

An office located at the commissary does not stop food inspectors from traveling to the shoppettes, exchanges, food courts, MWR restaurants, contracted restaurants, child development centers, and Naval vessels to inspect foods.

The veterinary command supports these other agencies, but the support provided to the commissaries warrants closer attention.

The food inspector workday begins at the commissary with the first food delivery at about 6 a.m. There are usually several deliveries each day.

For the deliveries, inspectors are verifying proper delivery temperature, proper quantity and quality, that items originate from an approved food source, and other checks.

In between deliveries the inspectors walk through the commissary checking cooler and freezer temperatures, proper food handling and personal hygiene practices are being followed, proper condition of food items on the sales floor and providing assistance to customers who may have questions regarding foods sold in the commissary.

To identify the food inspector, look for the men and women wearing the white lab coats and beret while indoors, or simply ask a commissary representative to page them.

One of their many missions, and perhaps one of the most important, at the commissary is to handle customer complaints regarding food items.

When a customer has a complaint with a food item he can return the food item to the customer service department at the commissary. With help from a customer service representative, the customer can fill out a DeCA Form 40-45, Food Quality Report, which details the product information: when it was purchased, what was wrong with it, as well as how it was handled.

The form and food item, are forwarded to the food inspection office. The first thing the food inspector does with the returned food item is check its date and code with the same item that is on the sales floor. If the date and code match the item, it is removed from the sales floor until the food inspector has completed her inspection.

The inspector will then open several packages of the food item to determine whether the problem exists within the store or whether this is an isolated incident. After the inspection, the food inspector will either return it to the sales floor, throw it away, or send it to the food laboratory for more testing.

The Commissary will even contact the person who completed the report, if requested, and let them know the findings.

Even if a shopper no longer has the item to return to the commissary or feels like the problem was no big deal, fill out the report anyway. The food inspector can still check on the complaint without the returned food item and allow them to determine whether the problem was a big deal.

The customer plays an important role in food safety within the community. Without letting the commissary know about a possible problem, someone may end up eating that food item and getting sick.

The Army Food Inspectors are here to serve and protect shoppers, so if there is a complaint or just a question regarding food, visit a commissary and ask to see a customer service representative or food inspector.