

HAWAII ARMY WEEKLY

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Serving the U.S. Army community in Hawaii

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25th ID Association

Soldiers who have served in the 25th Infantry Division (Light) or who were in a military unit attached to the division, are welcome to join the 25th Infantry Division Association. As well, family and friends of 25th veterans are eligible for associate membership. The Association provides various chapters across the United States, from California to New York. Some benefits of association membership are education scholarships and grants for members and their families. To apply visit www.25thida.com.

Advisory

Schofield Barracks will host the 25th Infantry Division (Light) and U.S. Army, Hawaii, change of command ceremony, Wednesday beginning at 10 a.m. on Sills Field. As a result, Schofield Barracks may experience some traffic congestion on both June 28 and 29 due to troop movement. Drivers on Schofield Barracks are asked to turn off car alarms, both days, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., as cannon fire from the Salute Battery cause alarms to sound.

Mayor's Visit

City and County of Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hanemann talks with the "Hawaii Army Report" about the unique relationship between Hawaii and the military. A-2



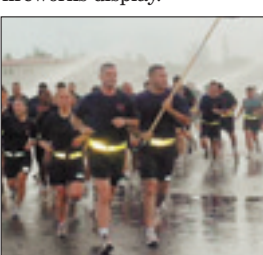
Military Police

Sgt. Derrek Green of the 13th MPD holds a distinction above all other MPs in Hawaii. A-6

Fourth of July

Schofield Barracks will sponsor the 34th Annual Independence Day Celebration for Soldiers, their families and the civilian community at Sills and Desiderio Fields on July 4. This open house event will celebrate the birth of our nation and will last from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Activities will include a 5K Fun Run and a Children's 1-Mile Run, numerous keiki activities, games, rides, entertainment, food and beverage booths, patriotic salutes and, naturally, a fireworks display.



Aviation Brigade

Aviators amass for an early dawn run through the air field. B-6

Tropic Lightning!

Olson moves up - not out - of Hawaii

Master Sgt. Terry Anderson
Public Affairs Office
25th Infantry Division (Light)

Maj. Gen. Eric T. Olson graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1972 and has held a wide variety of assignments during his 33-year Army career. Olson took command of the 25th Infantry Division (Light) and U.S. Army, Hawaii, July 12, 2002. Since then, he has prepared and led the division into Iraq and Afghanistan, where Tropic Lightning troops made history by assisting both governments with their national democratic elections.

The Secretary of Defense nominated Olson for lieutenant general and the position of deputy commanding general of U.S. Pacific Command. Olson leaves the division next week following a change of command ceremony, Wednesday.

Master Sgt. Terry Anderson sat down with Olson during his last full week with the 25th Inf. Div. (L) to get his impressions after three years with the Tropic Lightning Division in an interview for the "Hawaii Army Report," a biweekly television newscast on Hawaii Army Cable Network, TV-2.

HAR: Sir, what are your impressions as you reflect back on your time with the 25th Infantry Division?

Olson: Probably my most positive impressions, the ones that will last me a whole lifetime, are the ones where I've been able to be with Soldiers where they are doing the things that they enjoy doing.

I try to stay outside of this headquarters, visiting units and Soldiers who are doing good things, and those are the things I'll carry with me,



Sgt. Stephanie L. Carl

Maj. Gen. Olson and his staff lead thousands of division Soldiers in a 4-mile "farewell" run around Schofield Barracks Tuesday. This was Olson's final division run, after commanding the 25th Inf. Div. (L) for three years.

not for the rest of my career, but for the rest of my life.

HAR: How did it feel to lead the historic deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan?

Olson: The deployment to Iraq was an interesting one because the leadership of the division back here set the conditions for the success for the Second Brigade Combat Team — plus the Soldiers of the 45th Corps Support Group.

I think in both Iraq and Afghanistan there was measurable progress made in both of those counterinsurgency operations. They made their own success, and they were superb. Afghanistan was a little bit different. We prepared Soldiers for Afghanistan, and then we actually led the mission over there. I had the joy of watching Soldiers who we had prepared, really succeed, and then the added joy being able to serve shoulder to shoulder with those Soldiers



Master Sgt. Terry Anderson

Maj. Gen. Olson shares his love and enthusiasm for Soldiers during his farewell run here Tuesday.

in success after success.

HAR: Those were some major successes, sir, from our first major combat deployment since the Vietnam War. How do you think those deployments have changed our division?

Olson: I think the divi-

sion has matured, in fact, I know it. We have in the ranks now, at every level, much more experience. Not just experience in combat operations, but also experience in interacting with populations, stability and

See "Olson," page A-5

Division Run bids aloha to Major General

In their colorful unit t-shirts, the Soldiers of the 25th Infantry Division (Light) formed up behind their outgoing division commander, Maj. Gen. Eric T. Olson, for a 4-mile farewell run.

Olson, who is notorious for his running ability, smiled and waved throughout the run, shaking hands with Soldiers along the run route. The formation, which began at Fernandez Hall, picked up units along the way.

At the end of the run, soaked by a sudden rain shower, Soldiers offered a final salute to their outgoing commander as they marched past a review stand.

This was more than just an

See "Run," page A-5

CG talks candidly to NCOs

Story and Photo by
Sgt. Stephanie L. Carl
17th Public Affairs Detachment

Maj. Gen. Eric T. Olson, 25th Infantry Division (Light) commander, met with about 1,500 of his non-commissioned officers at Sergeant Smith Theater, June 15, to help them get a better understanding of their roles within the division over the next few months.

Over the next few months, the division will undergo a huge transition in both organization and personnel — and the performance of the NCO corps is key to a smooth transition, said Olson.

"No other division is like us right now," said Olson. "We are refitting from deployments, transforming into a Stryker unit and preparing for our next slate of deployments, all at the same time. We couldn't do this successfully without all of you here."

Olson acknowledged the turmoil each of these tasks will cause within the division, not to mention ongoing personnel turnover. Nearly one-third of the NCOs at the NCO professional development indicated to Olson that they will be departing Schofield Barracks within the next three months.

"There are just a few things I'm wanting to ask each of you to do, and some guidance I have for you to make this all go smoothly," said Olson. "Continue to place the same amount of emphasis on standards and discipline. Trust your leaders, be patient, talk to your Soldiers about what is going on, train on small unit tasks and remember the fundamentals."

Olson reminded the NCOs that there will be a lot of changes within the division, from units inactivating to new equipment being fielded. These realities will make it challeng-

ing to conduct large-unit training.

"But you know the focus needs to be on small-unit tasks," he said. "You saw 21st century warfare in the making."

This warfare focused on the small units working together to accomplish missions, he said.

Olson also fielded questions from the NCOs. Soldiers asked about everything from uniforms to motorcycle safety to housing. But one of the biggest topics of discussion was re-enlistment and retention.

One retention NCO expressed concerns about re-enlistment contracts. Lt. Col. Timothy M. Ryan, division personnel officer, was on hand to take notes and provide a quick response for Soldiers with these types of issues. Other division staff representatives were also available to answer questions, giving

See "NCO," page A-10

Year group '96 captains may pin oak leaf sooner

Cheryl Boujnida
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The Army has increased its career developmental timeline for active duty majors by one year, while shortening time spent as a captain.

The initiative, recently approved by Secretary of the Army Francis Harvey, will reduce pin-on time to major from 10 years and seven months to 10 years. In order to implement this change, two major promotion boards will be conducted in Fiscal Year 2006.

The change sets the developmental timelines in synchronization with the Army's modularity, transformation and intermediate-level education (or ILE) requirements, said Col.

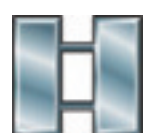
Mark Patterson, chief, Officer Policy Division, G-1, at the Pentagon.

"This will allow us to better manage our officers and meet the needs of the Army at war in the 21st century," Patterson said.

He explained that modularity and the new units of action have created a need for more majors in many career fields, but the real reason for the change is to allow majors time for a joint-service assignment.

"It's key because it gives majors a joint assignment opportunity that they might not get prior to being promoted to lieutenant colonel or colonel."

See "Captains," page A-10



Mayor applauds military in Hawaii

Spc. Mary Simms
Public Affairs Office 25th
Infantry Division (Light)

As the senior leader of the City and County of Honolulu, Mayor Mufi Hannemann is setting a precedent for the relationship between military and local communities here in Hawaii.

In his February 2005 inaugural speech, Hannemann emphasized his strong support of the military community in Hawaii.

"Two of our largest industries — tourism and defense — can expect great support from me," he said, "given my past experience and wealth of relationships that I've amassed through the years. I stand ready to promote and support these sectors, whether encouraging a business group to hold its convention here or working with the military to maintain a strong presence in the state."

The "Hawaii Army Report" — a biweekly television newscast on Hawaii Army Cable Network, TV-2 — recently sat down with Mayor Hannemann to find out more about his views on the relationship between Oahu and the service members who have come to call the island home.

HAR: How do you feel about the military community in Hawaii?

Mayor: I think the military is very important to maintaining America's military strength in this part of the

world. I shudder to think what we would be like as a community if it were not for the military — economically ... what you do for us in terms of the number of jobs.

Also, I really believe the military has been a good neighbor. More and more, military and civilians are working side by side on numerous causes throughout our great city, and I'm very grateful for their presence here.

HAR: There has been an overwhelming amount of appreciation and respect shown to service members recently from local Hawaiian residents. Ohana is truly a sentiment that the people of Hawaii are showing to service members, especially those who were deployed.

Tell me how you feel leading the community during this time of appreciation and overwhelming support for military troops.

Mayor: We have a great tradition. I think all of our mayors and all the governors of the state of Hawaii have recognized the importance of maintaining a strong partnership with the military.

I was recently able to be part of a great community celebration, Sunset in the Park at Wheeler Army Air Field, and the special theme was "Welcome Home" to our heroes.

You can expect the City of Honolulu to continue to have that welcome mat out for the military. It's very important that we have a strong partnership.

It's something that I



Sgt. Maj. Pat Callahan

Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann responds to questions in an interview with a military reporter.

Hawaii Army Report
HACN TV-2
8 a.m., noon
& 6 p.m.

remember as a little kid growing up in Kalihi. I spent many hours at Fort Shafter as a young boy swimming and going to Richardson Theater. I had many friends that were a part of the military community there.

Hickam Air Force Base was the same. I remember playing Little League baseball with people there. This is part of the island tradition, and you can always expect military people to feel very welcome in the State of Hawaii and City of Honolulu.

HAR: Although the 25th Infantry Division has returned, a lot of local Hawaii National Guard and Reserve units are now deploying in support of the

Global War on Terrorism. What message do you have for those Soldiers and their families?

Mayor: We certainly wish them the best. We want them to know that our prayers will always be with them and that we appreciate the great sacrifice that they're doing on behalf of our community and our great country.

And, I want to say to those families that are anxiously awaiting their [loved ones'] safe return, our thoughts and prayers are always with them, and if there is anything that we can do to make it easier as they await the return of their loved ones, we certainly are willing and happy to do it.

That's the spirit of Honolulu, that's the spirit of Hawaii. And we want to continue to let them know how grateful we are on behalf of our city, our state and our country.

Lightning Spirit

See if your focus has 'drifted' lately

Chaplain (Capt.)
Luis V. Kruger Jr.
2nd Battalion,
35th Infantry Regiment

Recently, I heard the term "drift" mentioned with regard to Soldiers. I believe the term refers to Soldiers losing focus, becoming lackadaisical or idle.

I don't believe this is normally a problem, but because of transformation, transitions and redeployment, it is more difficult to sync with our battle rhythms or to even develop one. These situations and issues can lead to drift, which is not good.

In hearing this term, I thought about King David and wondered if he ever drifted.

David was a very godly person. Scripture tells us that he had a heart for God.

Many of the Psalms were written by King David, and we are able to get a picture of his heart as we read them.

In Psalm 51:10, David says this: "God, create a clean heart for me and renew a steadfast spirit within me." And in other Psalms, David cries out to God over and over.

David enjoyed a personal relationship with God. He knew God in a very personal way and recognized the reality of his God within his sphere of life.

Yet, at times, David struggled with his "spiritual" life. These times are when I believe he drifted spiritually. In other words, he lost focus, became lackadaisical or idle in his faith. Perhaps this is why he did not go out to war with his troops.

The verse at 2 Samuel 11:1 tells us about this incident: "Then it happened in the spring, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him and all Israel, and they destroyed the sons of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David stayed at Jerusalem."

In this verse, one key observation is "But David stayed at Jerusalem." David was starting to drift; he should have been

with his army, leading them in battle.

Yet, this occasion was only one of many other severe mistakes that David committed, all of which led him to drift farther and farther from his relationship with God.

David invited the wife of one of his Soldiers over, and he committed adultery with her. He tried to cover up his mistake by bringing back Bathsheba's husband. David then had the soldier killed in battle.

David was made king over Israel because he was a godly person, but David drifted far away from where he once was with God.

The encouraging news is that there are "lessons learned" that we can walk away with so that if we spiritually drift we know how to get back on course.

David recognized that he drifted and was resolved to get back on course. He recognized that he was off course, acknowledged his mistakes to God, and got back on track.

Sometimes this wandering is hard to see from our vantage point. David did not see that he was off course until someone pointed things out to him.

Maybe you don't recognize that you have drifted. It is subtle, almost like surfing at the beach. You start off at one point and slowly find yourself a few hundred yards down shore. So, here are some questions to ask yourself to help you see if you have drifted?

- Desire to go to church and worship God?
 - Run from fellowship with other Christians?
 - Involved in activities that would bring shame to Christ?
 - Funding God's work is not a part of your budget?
 - Too busy for spiritual things?
- Over the years there have been times that I have spiritually drifted, and I have had to adjust and get back on track. It can happen to any of us, especially now with all that is going on.
- Check yourself out, and don't allow yourself to spiritually drift.

'Influencers' are challenging recruiting

Military service is one of the most noble careers

Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample
American Forces Press Service

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. — The greatest challenge facing recruiters is the people who influence young men and women of the "Millennium Generation" not to serve, the commander of the Army Recruiting Command said here June 17.

"Influencers are clearly having an impact...on our ability to successfully recruit — unquestionably so," said Maj. Gen. Michael D. Rochelle, at a news conference here following the change of command ceremony for the 1st Recruiting Brigade.

The general pointed out that recruiting is getting harder because parents don't want recruiters to sit down and talk with their children.

"The one characteristic that is very honorable and respectable about 'millennials' is that they listen and they generally heed the advice of their advisers," Rochelle said. "Whether we're talking parents, coaches, teachers, guidance counselors, it matters not. They take all of that on board, then they filter it and process it," the general explained.

Rochelle's comments come



Rochelle

as the Army, for the fourth consecutive month, failed to reach its recruiting goal. He said recruiters today have to contact as many as 100 people before getting one person to sit down to listen, and "that number is rising."

The general's message to influencers and parents is that "serving in America's Army is perhaps one of the most noble things that a young man or woman can do today."

"Every Soldier who serves does so with the pride of all of America," he emphasized. "It is tremendously noble. Does it come with some sacrifice and danger? Absolutely."

But, he added, "nobility is something that they should recognize and encourage."

Despite challenges, the general said, the recruiting command will give "every-

thing it has" to meet the goal of 80,000 new recruits by Sept. 30.

The general said the Army hopes to attract new recruits by increasing signing bonuses to up to \$40,000, a move that will require congressional authorization. Programs also are in place to give Soldiers tours of military installations to give them a feel for Army life, and another program partners with business to guarantee new recruits priority interviews right when they complete training or military service.

"What these companies realize is that these young Soldiers, after completion of military service, bring a quality that's frankly irreplaceable," said Rochelle adding that "magnificent young men and women" are joining today's Army.

Voices of Lightning: "What's your favorite summer activity?"



"Spending time with family."

Sgt. Arturo Garcia
Co. B, 325th FSB
Mechanic



"Going to the beach and checking out movies."

Spc. Martina North
CID
Admin clerk



"Going to the beach."

Sgt. Jeff Slomba
Co. B, 325th FSB
Mechanic



"I enjoy running more during the summer."

Capt. Ben Larson
HHC, DISCOM
Quartermaster Officer



"I enjoy going to the beach."

Pfc. Patrick Vogel,
Co. B, 1st Bn., 21st Inf. Rgt.
Infantryman

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DIVARTY cases its colors for the last time

Story and Photos by
Sgt. Stephanie L. Carl
17th Public Affairs Detachment

For more than 60 years, Saint Barbara has watched over the 25th Infantry Division (Light) Division Artillery, protecting the division's king of battle as he fought through World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and most recently, Iraq and Afghanistan.

But it was with a somber gaze that the patron saint of artillery watched as Sgt. Maj. Eugene R. Brewer, acting Division Artillery command sergeant major, cased

the Division Artillery colors during the brigade's inactivation ceremony at Sills Field, June 15.

"This is a pretty tough thing to go through," said Col. Gary H. Cheek, Division Artillery commander. "It's kind of like being cut from a team."

Cheek has commanded Division Artillery for three years, preparing DIVARTY for combat and leading them in a new role through battle. Now, along with his Soldiers, he is witnessing the end of an era, and the transformation of the Army. But instead of being downhearted, he encour-

ages his "redlegs" to look upon the experience in a positive light.

"[You] can be bitter and kick stones," he said, "or [you] can take this on as a challenge. The Army is adapting to the future, and [you] can be part of that future."

DIVARTY is the first division artillery brigade to inactivate. There are 16 division artillery brigades, but after transformation, only five or six will remain, said Cheek.

The headquarters elements will be consolidated and restructured within other combat brigades. Units like Battery F, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, are inactivating, while direct support battalions like 3rd Bn., 7th FA Rgt., and 2nd Bn., 11th FA Rgt., will fall directly under their supported brigades.

Fully aware of the bitterness that some artillerymen may have been feeling during the ceremony, Maj. Gen. Eric T. Olson, 25th Inf. Div. (L) commander, reminded the Soldiers of their strong heritage and stressed the importance of carrying that heritage with them.

"Your history has been filled with glory and honor," he said. "You need to continue your proud heritage."

Division Artillery was formed in 1941, then labeled the 11th Field Artillery Brigade, and was tasked with providing fire support to the newly formed 25th Inf. Div. Since then, its battalions have fought valiantly during World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

In the past year, the two direct support battalions went their separate ways to accomplish their mission: 2nd Bn., 11th FA Rgt., joined 2nd Brigade Combat Team in Iraq, while 3rd Bn., 7th FA Rgt., served under the 3rd BCT's Regional Command South in Afghanistan.

The Soldiers of each battalion adapted to a nontraditional role for artillerymen. They often left their howitzers and picked up their individual weapons, often taking to the streets on presence patrols and cordon and searches. But the mighty blow of the howitzer still came in handy at times.

The headquarters of Division Artillery assumed command of Afghanistan's Regional Command East, based out of Forward Operating Base Salerno. Here, the maneuver elements they com-



Sgt. 1st Class Michael K. Anderson (right), Division Artillery personnel, carries the cased DIVARTY colors off Sills Field for the last time. The unit is the first brigade-sized element to be affected by the 25th Inf. Div. (L) transformation.



Sgt. Maj. Eugene R. Brewer, acting Division Artillery command sergeant major, carefully furls the colors for casing during the DIVARTY inactivation on Sills Field.

made history," said Olson.

But combat is only one area where the Division Artillery has written history. Since 1979, the Soldiers of the brigade have worked hard to foster a positive relationship with the people of Waianae on Oahu's west side.

From Veteran's Day and Christmas parades to community cleanups and reading to schoolchildren, they've established a great presence in the community, said Waianae community leader Albert Silva.

"They've also developed an excellent relationship with the veterans who live in our community," he added.

Now, other units will step in to fill the void that will be left after Division Artillery disburses. But the Soldiers of the two artillery battalions will hopefully maintain a good friendship with the community, said Cheek.

With all the sorrow comes an undercurrent of excitement. The face of artillery is changing, and the Soldiers who proudly stood in formation on Sills Field are part of that change. Now, there's only one thing left to do.

"Make the Army's future great," said Cheek, "and keep the fire in your eye!"



Sgt. Stephanie L. Carl

3BCT passes the colors

Col. Patrick T. Stackpole (left) grasps the 3rd Brigade colors from Maj. Gen. Eric T. Olson, signifying the brigade's change of command Wednesday. Stackpole assumed command from Col. Dick Pedersen, with whom he served as an infantry company commander approximately 15 years ago.

manded looked to the howitzer sections for protection.

"I know I will never forget when the big guns and the 'Eyes of thunder' came together and

Upcoming leadership changes

The 25th Infantry Division (Light) and U.S. Army, Hawaii, community is invited to attend the multitude of change of command ceremonies — a time-honored tradition that formally symbolizes the continuity of authority when a command is passed from one commander to another — taking place in June and July.

Each will be preceded by an awards ceremony, 15 minutes prior to the change of command, and all will be held at Sills Field, Schofield Barracks, unless noted otherwise.

(Editor's Note: Information listed is subject to change.)

Today, 10 a.m.
2nd Battalion,
5th Infantry Regiment
Lt. Col. Terry Sellers will
relinquish command to
Lt. Col. Malcolm Frost.

Today, 2 p.m.
Defense Information Systems
Agency, Pacific
Col. Gilbert A. Griffin will
relinquish command to
Col. Charles D. Dean.

Tuesday, 9 a.m.
516th Signal Brigade at
Palm Circle, Fort Shafter
Col. Brian J. Donahue will
relinquish command to
Col. Edric A. Kirkman.

Tuesday, 10 a.m.
725th Main Support Battalion
Lt. Col. Derek S. Smith will
relinquish command to
Lt. Col. Aimee Kominiak.

Wednesday, 10 a.m.
25th Infantry Division (Light)
and U.S. Army, Hawaii
Maj. Gen. Eric T. Olson will
relinquish command to
Maj. Gen. Benjamin R. Mixon.

Thursday, 10 a.m.
65th Engineer Battalion
Lt. Col. Andrew V. Jasaitis
will relinquish command to
Lt. Col. Bryan Truesdell.

July 6, 10 a.m.
Fort Shafter,
29th Engineer Battalion
Lt. Col. Steven Miles will
relinquish command to
Lt. Col. Christopher Benson.

July 7, 10 a.m.
225th Forward Support
Battalion
Lt. Col. Flem B. Walker Jr.
will relinquish command to
Lt. Col. Charles Gibson.

July 8, 10 a.m.
Pohakuloa Training
Command
Lt. Col. Fred S. Clarke will
relinquish command to
Lt. Col. Kimberly A. Rapacz at
the PTA Headquarters
Building.

July 11, 10 a.m.
Brig. Gen. Francis J.
Wiercinski, incoming
assistant division commander
(support) will be honored in a
Flying V ceremony.

July 12, 10 a.m.
125th Finance Battalion
Lt. Col. Domenico Rossi will
relinquish command to
Lt. Col. Roosevelt Corpening.

July 14, 10 a.m.
84th Combat Engineer
Battalion
Lt. Col. Jeffrey Eckstein will
relinquish command to
Lt. Col. Richard Toy.

News Briefs

Hawaii Army Report — Tune in to the Hawaii Army Cable Network, TV-2, for the Hawaii Army Report, which is a biweekly television newscast hosted by Spec. Mary Simms, covering the Army team in Hawaii.

This program is produced by the 25th Infantry Division (Light) and U.S. Army, Hawaii, Public Affairs Office and TV-2. Check the TV-2 schedule for dates and times. (See page B-2 of the Hawaii Army Weekly.)

Patch Gate — Fort Shafter has posted new hours for Patch Gate, which is the rear gate at Fort Shafter that allows access to Notley Street — which leads to Middle Street and North School Street in Kalihi.

Patch Gate is an exit only gate for vehicles, motorcycles, mopeds and motor scooters, and an entry and exit point for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Gate hours are 6 to 8 a.m. and 3:30 to 6 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. The gate is closed at all other times, to include weekends and federal holidays.

For more information, contact the Fort Shafter Military Police at 438-7114.

Women's Memorial — The Women's Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery is gathering information and artifacts for a new exhibit on women serving in Iraq. Anyone interested in participating, should send an e-mail to exhibits@womensmemorial.org.

Road Closings — McCornack Road (from Cadet Sheridan Road to Hewitt Street) will be closed through Decem-



1st Lt. Lindsey Dane

Celebrating 230 years of tradition

(From left to right) U.S. Army Pacific Commanding General Lt. Gen. John M. Brown III, Chief Warrant Officer 5 Harold McCraw, Pfc. William Daley and USARPAC Command Sergeant Major Mark L. Farley, celebrate the Army's birthday June 16 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village in Waikiki.

ber 2006. Kolekole Avenue (from Cadet Sheridan Road to Hewitt Street) will be closed through June 2007.

The reason for these road closures is to construct new family housing quarters. For more information, contact Albert Matute at 748-8200.

OCS Selection Board — The next Department of the Army Officer Candidate Selection Board is scheduled to convene the week of Sept. 12; however, Soldiers who wish to be considered by this selection board should submit their applications through command channels to the Directorate of Human Resources, DA Boards Section, Building 750, Room 130 (located on Ayers Avenue), Schofield Barracks no later than July 1.

The Installation Structure Interview Panel will convene July 18 to interview qualified applicants. Specific interview dates, times and locations will be provided to each individual applicant.

Eligibility criteria and application procedures are outlined in AR 350-51. For more information, call Ms. Nan Lucero at 655-4511.

NSPS — A video highlighting the design process of the National Security Personnel System — the new civilian personnel management system that goes live in July — is now available for viewing.

The 17-minute video, "NSPS: Towards a Mission-Centered Workforce," also includes commentary from several participants in current demonstration projects in

the Defense Department.

All civilians and military supervisors are encouraged to review the latest about NSPS. To access the video, go to <http://cpol.army.mil/library/general/nsps/>, and then click on the video title.

Small Business Forum — The combined military forces are presenting the 3rd Annual DOD Hawaii Small Business Forum, which will provide private firms and government officials the opportunity to see what type of services and supplies each is looking for.

This forum will be held July 7 at the Honolulu Country Club from 8 a.m. to 2:40 p.m. Registration costs \$30. Call Newton Yuen at 438-1953 or e-mail Newton.Yuen@us.army.mil.



Spc. Cheryl Ransford

Run

From A-1

ordinary division run for the commander and the Soldiers present. This run represented the first time the entire division has come together for a single event since deploying to Iraq and Afghanistan.

The last time Olson ran in front of the division colors was at the formation's head during the Great Aloha Run-

Afghanistan. During that run, division Soldiers faced freezing temperatures to show their Aloha spirit. And although not all were behind the division colors, the race was run in five different locations across the country nearly simultaneously.

Olson has also led the division on two Great Aloha Runs in Hawaii. During his command, he gained a reputation among young Soldiers as being the speedy general

who runs circles around formations. Many feel he set a high standard for others to emulate.

"It was an honor and privilege to carry the CG's two-star flag on his final run," said Staff Sgt. Charles Gould. "It was particularly special because it was my last division run ... I got to run it with General Olson."

Gould has been the general's driver since 2003.



Sgt. Stephanie Carl

Above — Maj. Gen. Eric T. Olson, outgoing 25th Inf. Div. (L) commander, leads the division's Soldiers in a four-mile run around Schofield Barracks.
Top Left — Soaked Soldiers finish the race undeterred by the rain.

Olson

From A-1

support operations.

Acting independently, our small unit leaders are probably the most experienced leaders at that level that this division has possibly ever seen, just because of the independence of action that was allowed to our Soldiers in both Iraq and Afghanistan. So we've matured as a division.

Now of course, we're in a phase where we're getting ready to go into transformation, and I think we've got exactly the right experience base to take on the tough tasks that are associated with transformation.

HAR: Sir that leads me to my next question. Our Army is transforming right now, and we're moving to more modular units. What advice would you give to those captains, lieutenants and sergeants on how they can undertake this huge task of transforming to a more modular Army?

Olson: It's going to be a challenge, and it'll be a challenge of a different order. We're going to be doing things in this division that have really never been done before in the Army.

This is a unique transformation that we're going to undertake, because we're transforming two brigade combat teams at the same time, right after combat operations.

There are going to be a lot of challenges, so I would say to the junior leaders, first of all, that the success of this transformation is going to be built on their shoulders. It's going to be small unit leaders that carry us through this transformation, officers and non-commissioned officers.

HAR: Retention has been very high throughout the Army because of these deployments. Besides the obvious patriotic call to duty for young men and women, what would you tell a young Soldier about why he or she should stay Army?

Olson: Well there is the call to duty, and you're exactly right about that. I'd have to emphasize that the nation needs experienced leaders now, more than we ever have in recent history.

I'd also say that this transformation, and the change that's being undertaken right now by the Army, is going to offer some unique opportunities, especially to our junior leaders, the ones who are right now deciding whether they want to stay or go.

HAR: Sir, your wife, Vicki, did a superb

job taking care of families here at Schofield Barracks while their Soldiers were deployed downrange. What would you say to family members to convince them that the Army is moving in the right direction?

Olson: I would say to those family members that now is the time to stay Army because they've been through the toughest times, I think, in terms of the number of deployments, the length of deployments, and how repetitive they are. We've seen the toughest times now, and it's only going to get better and better.

HAR: You're a very hands-on leader, sir. You like to be out there with the troops ... that's your style. For the future leaders in today's Army, what are some of the leadership skills that have helped you excel?

Olson: One of the things that I think I do best is to build teams. There is nothing that I have done here that I could say is a single-handed accomplishment; it's all been done by teams.

I like to build teams, and I like to be part of teams, and the other thing I hope I do enough is listen to the members of the team and include them in all of the

decisions before we move out in any direction.

HAR: Sir, the communities here on Oahu, in Wahiawa and Mililani, provided some excellent support to our division both while they were deployed downrange and here at Schofield. Why is it important to have strong community support?

Olson: This is the most supportive set of civilian communities that I have ever experienced in 33 years in the Army — absolutely fantastic — and it is extremely important that they stay supportive, especially during a time of deployment because our families are back here.

The support we received from the communities, in keeping our families happy and engaged and feeling like people cared, was just tremendous.

HAR: Sir, is there anything else you'd like to add?

Olson: I'll just say it's been such a pleasure to work with the Soldiers of this command. I have never, in my entire career, felt more fulfilled — felt like we, as a team together, have made more of a difference than what we could've made individually.

(Editor's Note: See the full interview on TV-2 today at 8 a.m., 12 noon or 6 p.m.)

One certification makes all the difference

MP uses skills from international certification to improve his drug detecting abilities

Spc. Cheryl Ransford
17th Public Affairs Detachment

When people think of military police, they generally think about patrol cars and traffic tickets. But there is much more to being a military police officer. They are also responsible for identifying intoxicated drivers.

Sgt. Derrick Green, 13th Military Police Detachment traffic/accident investigator, took the time to get an additional certification to improve his capabilities.

Because of his initiative to improve himself, not only is he the only MP in Hawaii, but also the only military member in Hawaii who is internationally certified as a drug recognition expert.

With this certification, Green is able to conduct drug screens anywhere in the world.

Green was first introduced to the program during the Field Sobriety Test Instructor Course. He was the only MP to volunteer for the additional training.

"I wanted to get this certification so that I was better able to serve the public," said Green. "With this certification, I am better able to recognize if an individual is under the influence of a drug and know the signs for a bad episode."

The drug screen is a 12-step process that must be conducted in a controlled environment. Upon completion, the person conducting the screening can say with 93-percent accuracy which drug category the detainee has been using.

In fact, someone with



Spc. Cheryl Ransford

Sgt. Derrick Green, 13th Military Police Detachment traffic/accident investigator, checks the size of a detainee's eyes during a field sobriety test June 18.

this certification can determine the drug category without actually seeing the person. He or she only have to read the documents filled out by the drug recognition expert who conducts the screening.

"Each category of drug makes the body act certain ways," said Green. "By analyzing the way a person is acting and responding to different things [they are] asked to do, you can deter-

mine the category. But a urinalysis is required to determine the actual drug.

"Detecting drug use is not always easy," added Green. "Once the initial signs are detected and the person is detained by the gate guards or patrol officers, a field sobriety test must be conducted to verify that the person is impaired."

Once the initial FST is conducted and the person is

found to be impaired. Then a portable breathalyzer test is administered to test for alcohol.

If the PBT results show

that the person doesn't have enough alcohol in his or her system to be impaired, or no alcohol, but has still failed the FST, Green conducts a second FST to detect drug use.

"During a normal FST, officers are trained to look for specific signs of impairment such as if the person is unsteady or if their eyes move a certain way during the examination," said Green. "However, when I'm looking for drug use, I have to look closely at how the person acts."

"Are they agitated, fidgety, cooperative or combative? There are many things that show if the person is under the influence of drugs."

Green completed an extensive 10-day course that is offered through the Honolulu Police Department, which included a hands-on examination at the conclusion of the course.

"The course is offered to all law enforcement personnel who are proficient in administering FSTs and certified by the National Highway Safety Administration," Green said.

While the course is offered to all qualified personnel, there were only 5,000 drug detection experts worldwide when Green graduated from the course.

With so few people trained to do what he does, others in the MP field also feel it is important for more, if not all, MPs to be certified.

"In the [Schofield Barracks] traffic section, we

handle all DUIs on the installation, to include [Wheeler Army Air Field, Helemano Military Reservation and Mokulea Beach]," said Staff Sgt. Dorothy Bundra,

traffic/accident investigations noncommissioned officer in-charge. "We have an average of approximately 15-20 DUIs each weekend."

"Before Green received this certification, if the person failed the FST but passed the breathalyzer, we had to let them go. But now we are able to accurately determine if the person is impaired due to drug use."

With only one person qualified, it can sometimes mean working both days and nights to process offenders. Since Green received his certification in March of this year, he has processed 20 drug DUIs — five of which were in one weekend.

"I am on-call 24-hours-a-day now," said Green. "If anyone suspects a person is using drugs, they call me and I conduct the drug screen."

More than anything, Green feels this certification has made a dramatic impact on himself as a law enforcement officer.

"This has been the most eye-opening experience in my military career," he said. "There is just so much that you don't realize you don't know. I just wish more people had this qualification. It could improve the quality of work done by all military police officers, regardless of which section they work in."

Housing becomes more than just a place to call one's home

AHFH partners with Tripler Blood Donor Center to aid blood supplies for military

Justin E. Metz Sr.
Public Affairs Office,
Tripler Army Medical Center

HONOLULU — Various organizations provide a number of services to our community that help improve our quality of life. This past month one such organization decided to go above and beyond its everyday contribution to our well-being.

During May, Army Hawaii Family Housing (AHFH) sponsored two blood drives to help replenish our military's blood supply.

"AHFH strives to be an integral part of the Army Community in Hawaii," said Eileen Godinez, AHFH community services manager. "It was brought to our attention that there is a shortage of blood at Tripler Army Medical Center, and over 40 percent of our military community members are ineligible to donate.

"We decided to help by sponsoring two blood drives," Godinez continued. "We made every effort to get the word out, not only to our residents but also to our AHFH employees. We are part of our military community."

Blood collected at drives is used for trauma patients, surgeries and struggling newborns. Some blood units end up in the war zone to help troops when needed.

AHFH plans on becoming a long-term partner with Tripler Army Medical Center, and together they will help take care of our military community, one home and one blood donation at a time.

According to Maj. Melanie Sloan, chief of Transfusion Medicine Services, "Partnerships like this allow Tripler to maximize customer service and community relations.

Donating blood is not easy for some



Photo Courtesy of Army Hawaii Family Housing

Harry Jackson, AHFH's asset manager, shows that he can give blood and conduct work at the same time.

people, but when they know they are helping their military community, it makes a difference.

Two great organizations are working together to make sure our friends and families are taken care of in their time of need. If you would like to help save a life by donating blood, "The Gift of Life," contact Tripler's Blood Donor Center at 433-6195.

Supporting our military is everyone's job.

Army Housing

Army Hawaii Family Housing assumed operations of all Army Housing in Hawaii on Oct. 1, 2004. AHFH has established 14 community centers on seven military installations, which are responsible for the management, operations and maintenance of all housing within the Army communities.

Maintenance teams are co-located with community centers to ensure prompt response times to maintenance and service calls. Community centers also serve as an information

source for residents and provide monthly programs and activities for the community.

"Privatization of housing is not only about providing Soldiers and families with quality homes," said Eileen Godinez, AHFH community services manager. "The goal of Army Hawaii Family Housing is to create quality communities that our residents are proud to call home. We put our residents first in everything we do, and strive to develop long-term partnerships with our military and civilian community."

Army tests new eye protection for combat operations

Story and Photo by
Melissa House
Army News Service

FORT BENNING, Ga. — About 400 Infantry trainees and cadre are testing several different types of combat eye protection that might eventually be issued to all Soldiers.

Col. Chuck Adams, the senior optometry consultant for the Army's Office of the Surgeon General, said the goal is to achieve a "culture change" from vision correction for some Soldiers, to eye protection for all.

"We're talking about putting eyewear on half a million Soldiers," Adams said. "And it's not so much about which product we choose, but the training. Combat eye protection is embraced for deployed Soldiers. We need to embrace it for all Soldiers."

Eye injuries represent almost 16 percent of all injuries in Iraq and Afghanistan since March 2003, according to statistics from the Office of the Surgeon General.

Soldiers at Fort Belvoir, Va., are providing feedback on three sets of spectacles.

"Eye injuries hit the radar post-1972 and the Arab-Israeli Wars," said Lt. Col. Emery Fehl, chief of optometry at Martin Army Community Hospital.

In subsequent years, the Army researched and developed spectacles and goggles designed to combat a laser threat by blocking certain



Pfc. Michael Brock wears prescription inserts with the new Combat Eye Protection.

wavelengths. That, he said, is where the Army's current offerings, with their multiple lenses, came in.

The Army entered the formal contracting process with several commercial vendors said Sarah Morgan-Clyborne, working eyewear issues for about 12 years.

"We evaluate [the eyewear] for industry safety standards and ballistic fragmentation protection, then rank the products and place them on an authorized protective eyewear list," she said.

Individual commanders can select eyewear for their unit from that list, costing an average of \$16 to \$40 per Soldier, Adams said, partially offset by no longer issuing S-9 glasses Soldiers don't like.

Army displays latest high-tech

Cheryl Boujnida
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The Army showcased its Future Force Warrior system, the latest in warfighting technology, at Soldier Modernization Day on Capitol Hill, June 16.

Military researchers, developers, testers and engineers displayed current innovations in Soldier technology to senators and congressional staffers who witnessed how technology can impact Soldiers' lives.

"What we're doing today is showing members of Congress how American dollars are being well spent to benefit our Soldiers everyday," said Brig. Gen. James Moran, commanding general, Soldier Systems Center in Natick, Mass., and Program Executive Office Soldier at Fort Belvoir, Va.

Moran explained the Future Force Warrior system is a designed as an integrated "system of systems" as part of the Army transformation to a Soldier-centric force that will complement future combat systems.

"Under the concept of managing the Soldier as a system, two uniform systems are under development,"



Rey Guzman

Sgt. Daniel Harshman demonstrates the Future Force Warrior system suit at Soldier Modernization Day on Capitol Hill.

Moran explained.

The Future Force Warrior system will be available to Soldiers in 2010. The Vision 2020 Future Warrior system (which follows the concept of the 2010 Future Force Warrior system) will be fielded 10 years later.

"The result is a single

integrated combat system that enhances Soldier performance in all critical areas: increased effectiveness, decreased load and improved mission flexibility [that] enables continuous upgrade," Moran continued. "By managing the Soldier as a system [we] will save Sol-

diers' lives, improve their quality of life and increase their combat effectiveness."

Uniforms, which are designed to increase lethality and survivability, will lighten the Soldier's load from approximately 100 pounds, currently carried by combat Soldiers, Moran said, to 45 pounds.

"Once a Soldier has too much weight strapped on, he or she may start a process of elimination in order to reduce weight," said Philip Brandon, director, Soldier Systems Center. "In a 'Black Hawk Down' movie scene, Soldiers were forced to ditch equipment," he added. "That type of decision-making is not necessary in this world of technology."

Other items featured at Soldier Modernization Day included new types of Meals, Ready to Eat (or MREs), Unitized Group Rations, and components of the new First Strike Ration.

Still other new technologies include camouflage net systems, space heaters, field kitchen and food service equipment, shelters, lightweight armor technologies, the Advanced Combat Helmet and and photovoltaic technologies.

GI Bill aids college, home ownership

Hometown News Service
Department of Veterans Affairs

WASHINGTON — Thinking about attending college or a trade school? Contemplating buying a home? If you are currently serving or have ever served in the U.S. Armed Forces, then consider tapping into the benefits of the GI Bill.

June is the 61st anniversary of the GI Bill of Rights, legislation that made college education and home ownership available to millions of Americans. The GI Bill changed society, and today this act of Congress enables the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to leave a footprint in almost every community across the country.

More than 21 million veterans, service members and family members have received more than \$72 billion in GI Bill benefits for education and training since it was established in 1944.

Since the dependents program was enacted in 1956, VA has also assisted in the education of more

ON THE WEB

VA home loans
www.homeloans.va.gov/

GI Bill benefits
www.gibil.va.gov/

than 710,000 family members of veterans whose deaths or total disabilities were service-connected.

Nearly 18 million veterans have used the GI Bill's home loan guaranty program for loans totaling approximately \$850 billion.

Last year, 91 percent of participants took advantage of the program's unique no-down payment feature.

The Department of Veterans Affairs administers the GI Bill, which has undergone several major changes over the years. The current version is the Montgomery GI Bill.

The GI Bill may just provide the answer you've been searching for.

For more information about the VA Home Loan Program, visit <http://www.homeloans.va.gov/> or call 1-800-827-1000.

Reserve to active duty process gets a fine-tuning

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The Department of the Army (DA) is implementing new policies and procedures for the voluntary enlistment and transfer of mobilized reserve-component Soldiers into the Regular Army.

The changes are designed to ensure a seamless transfer from one component to another that is consistent with the continuum of service concept, G1 personnel officials said.

Currently, the process requires mobilized RC Soldiers with less than 18 years of service to be demobilized

and processed through a Military Entrance Processing Station, or MEPS, before enlistment into the Regular Army.

Under new procedures, Soldiers will be able to apply while mobilized at the demobilization station, or while on leave after processing through the demobilization station, in most cases bypassing the MEPS.

Upon approval by the Army's deputy chief of staff, G-1, Soldiers will be demobilized and separated from the reserve component, and then accessed into the Regular Army.

Soldiers may apply to transfer from the RC to Reg-

ular Army within six months of their projected demobilization or release from active duty date, to include time at the demobilization site.

Soldiers who have out-processed from the demobilization site, but are granted leave enroute to their parent unit, may also apply for enlistment in the Regular Army under this policy prior to the end date of their leave, officials said, as they have not been released from active duty.

This limitation does not apply to RC Soldiers with 18 years active service currently serving on active duty, officials said, adding these Soldiers may apply at any time.

All requests for conditional release will be processed through the RC, where recommendations will be made regarding each request. Final approval for all requests rests with headquarters, DA.

Once Soldiers have enlisted in the Regular Army, they

will remain with their current unit of assignment until it redeploys to the demobilization station; then he or she will be reassigned to a new duty station.

This is a voluntary program that requires release approval from Reserve chiefs or designees, personnel officials said, adding it is purely intended to benefit Soldiers by streamlining the transfer process, and to not exacerbate any shortages within the reserve component.

The Army also took steps to offset policies in a manner favorable to the reserve:

- Office of the Secretary of Defense policy relief to reduce military service obligation at the time of AC to RC transfer for commitment to serve in a Reserve unit;

- Increase of the RC affiliation bonus from \$50 a month to \$10,000; and

- A 12-month mobilization deferment for active Soldiers who join a Reserve unit after a recent deployment.

Web site helps prevent assaults

Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Service members who are victims of sexual assault or who need information on the DoD policy on preventing sexual assaults can find the information at a new Web site.

The site, launched by Joint Task Force Sexual Assault Prevention and Response, is basically a consolidated place to go to for information, said Air Force Brig. Gen. K.C. McClain, the commander of the JTF.

The site has links to all the services' Web sites related to the sexual assault issue. It spells out what people can do if they are victims of sexual assault, the general said.

The designers of the new site, which went live this week, had to name the site with the initials of the organization — *sapr.mil* — rather than something like "sexualassault.mil" because too many firewalls would block out a request under that name, the general explained.

The site is more than just a reporting site. If an individual has questions about the policy, the answers are available on the Web site.

"Because it is a DoD site, one could access this one site and get the overarching information," McClain said. "Since we link to the service Web sites, an individual could get that information, too."

If a commander or a first sergeant has questions, this site should provide the answers, but if not, they can send an e-mail via the site and a Joint Task Force member will answer.

McClain said the group already is thinking of improvements.

"We will add other things as we get them done," she said, "[including] a ... checklist on sexual assault prevention, for example."

DoD warns of 'loan-shark' lenders

Terri Lukach

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department has launched a new effort to educate service members about the dangers of borrowing from "loan-shark" lending companies and to teach them how to avoid ending up in a spiral of compounding debt, a DoD official said here June 17.

The most prevalent type of loan-shark lending affecting military personnel is what is known as "payday loans," said John M. Molino, deputy undersecretary of defense for military community and family policy. "A payday loan is essentially a plug — money that gets you from today to the next payday so you can cover your bills."

The problem is that money is very expensive, he said in an interview.

"Typically, a payday loan of a \$100 will cost the

borrower \$17 for two weeks. The average payday loan is about \$500, so now we're talking about a fee of \$85.

"By itself, that's not a big problem," Molino said. "However, when you consider that it is not uncommon for that military member to roll the loan over four or five times, that \$85 will grow exponentially to the point where you are paying an enormous amount of money for the relatively meager amount of the loan."

"It got you through payday, but if you weren't able to pay it off, now it's two more weeks — and two more weeks, and you're paying nearly 500 percent interest annually. That's a lot of money to pay," he said.

Considering that about 9 percent of all enlisted personnel and 12 percent of all mid-level non-commissioned officers use pay-

day loans, the potential for detrimental impact on mission accomplishment is very real, Molino said.

"If you're in debt, you have other things in mind. You're doing things other than concentrating on the mission; maybe you're taking on other employment. The effects are long-lasting and go deep into a person's performance; it affects unit readiness," Molino said.

Part of the



problem is the proximity of payday lenders to military installations.

"If you look at where they position their businesses, they are right outside the gate," Molino said.

A recent study of 15,000 payday lenders in more than 13,000 ZIP codes in 20 states that host military installations revealed that payday lenders open their storefronts around military installations.

Molino said the department is taking steps such as hosting fairs at military installations, to educate military members about the dangers of payday loans and familiarize them with ways to put themselves and their families on a sound financial

footing.

"We can make Soldiers smarter," he said. "We can make them better consumers; we can teach them how to save for a rainy day, so when they need to borrow they can — and pay themselves back, at no interest. We are also doing something about payday lenders."

Molino said his office is watching them closely, looking at behaviors and patterns that are inconsistent with state law and encouraging states to pass laws that are not only friendly to service members but also require honesty and discipline on the part of payday lenders.

"We believe we need to work hard to limit the impact of payday lenders, but the real answer is to help our service members and their families get control of their own finances to be in charge of their future," Molino said.

Stabilization office will enhance coordination

Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — In line with the idea that all aspects of national power must be applied against terror, the Defense Department is working closely with the office of the State Department's Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization, DoD officials said before a Senate committee June 16.

The office is the focal point for mobilizing resources to stabilize and rebuild nations affected by the war on terrorism. DoD provides personnel and support to the office.

"As our national defense strategy and national military strategy make clear, some of the most significant threats to our national interest in the early 21st century will stem from instabilities, extremism, terrorism and criminality that is generated within

weak states," Ryan Henry, the principal defense undersecretary for policy told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

"The experiences of Afghanistan and Iraq, of Liberia and Haiti during the first term of this administration, and ... places elsewhere have reinforced that addressing the threats requires a comprehensive government approach to both stabilization and reconstruction."

Military officers understand the importance of the office as well. "We have had some major successes during the last four years of sustained combat operations," said Army Lt. Gen. Walter Sharp, Joint Staff director for strategic plans and policy. "However, those of us in uniform are acutely aware of the limits of traditional military power."

"Enhancing our post-conflict stabilization and reconstruction capabilities

is important in our ability to be able to prevail," Sharp explained.

DoD has a huge role in helping to provide a stable environment. But to keep a country stable and moving toward democracy requires more. Other agencies must help provide food, water and sanitation, and can help support the rule of law in a country.

How a country transforms to a market-based economy is not a DoD core competency, and the office provides a place to provide that expertise.

The capability the office provides "to coordinate our government's response and mobilize civilian capabilities quickly will save lives and treasure," Henry said.

The department has also arranged for the office to participate in multiple conferences, seminars, training and military exercises.

"We have funded a feasibility study on the develop-

ment of a civilian response force," Henry said. "We're offering support to SCRS's planning efforts."

"The main goal of DoD's support to SCRS is to integrate civilian and military efforts across a spectrum of peace and conflict," Henry said. "DoD plans on focusing the integration of civilian and military efforts in three broad areas: training and exercising, planning, and operational needs."

Joint training and education ensures that the civilian and military personnel who deploy to the field have common operating assumptions and understand how to work together, he said.

Joint exercises provide civilian and military personnel an opportunity to test what they have learned. Joint planning helps identify civilian and military roles and responsibilities and ensures that civilian and military per-

sonnel know what to expect from their counterparts when they are deployed.

DoD hopes to beef up civilian planning so it is "comparable and compatible" with the current military planning process, Henry said.

Sharp said the office is developing a cadre of deployable people to the country with critical skills in six key areas:

- Security, developing police and military forces;
- Rule of law, developing judicial and penal capabilities;
- Infrastructure, developing electrical, fuel and sanitation systems;
- Economic and social welfare, developing jobs and health services;
- Humanitarian, making sure food and shelter is available; and
- Governance, establishing the ability to govern and conduct elections.

NCO

From A-1

guidance on training and the availability of different schools and ranges.

The overall message Olson wanted to send to his NCOs was how important they are to the division and its mission.

“Remember, patience, motivation, inspiration and caring will be the things that get us through these next few months,” he said in closing.

Captains

From A-1

Majors currently serve five years before pinning on lieutenant colonel.

“The emphasis on joint operations is crucial — joint is the future. We need to look at joint assignment opportunities and how Soldiers get that experience,” Patterson said.

Beginning in 2007, no more waivers will be granted for joint service, and colonels will need a joint assignment to be competitive for promotions, Patterson said.

The additional year requirement, initiated by the Officer Personnel Management System, or OPMS III, identified the need to further develop officers by expanding their career timeline.

“The extra year will benefit the officer and the military,” said Lt. Col. Craig Vest, branch chief, officer selection board policy branch.

“This will definitely have a positive impact within the Army and enhance our overall captain retention rate,” Patterson said.

The reduction in time spent as a captain aligns the Army with other armed services; the Air Force and Marine Corps’ pin-on time to major is 10 years and three months, and the Navy’s is nine years and 11 months.

“This is a very positive change within the Army. Not only is the earlier promotion a perk, but it’s important that we’ll have extra time as a field grade officer to develop too,” said Capt. Hope Rampy, personnel policy integrator.

The early promotion goal will affect the current fiscal year 2005 major Army promotion board that will be released this month. Officers will pin on their rank sooner.

“The goal is to begin promoting in August and exhaust the list by March 1, 2006,” Patterson said.

There will be two separate major promotion boards in FY 2006. The first board will convene Sept. 6, and the second in April.

“Leadership wants to ensure that officers in the field have the opportunity to start preparing their file for the September board,” Patterson said.

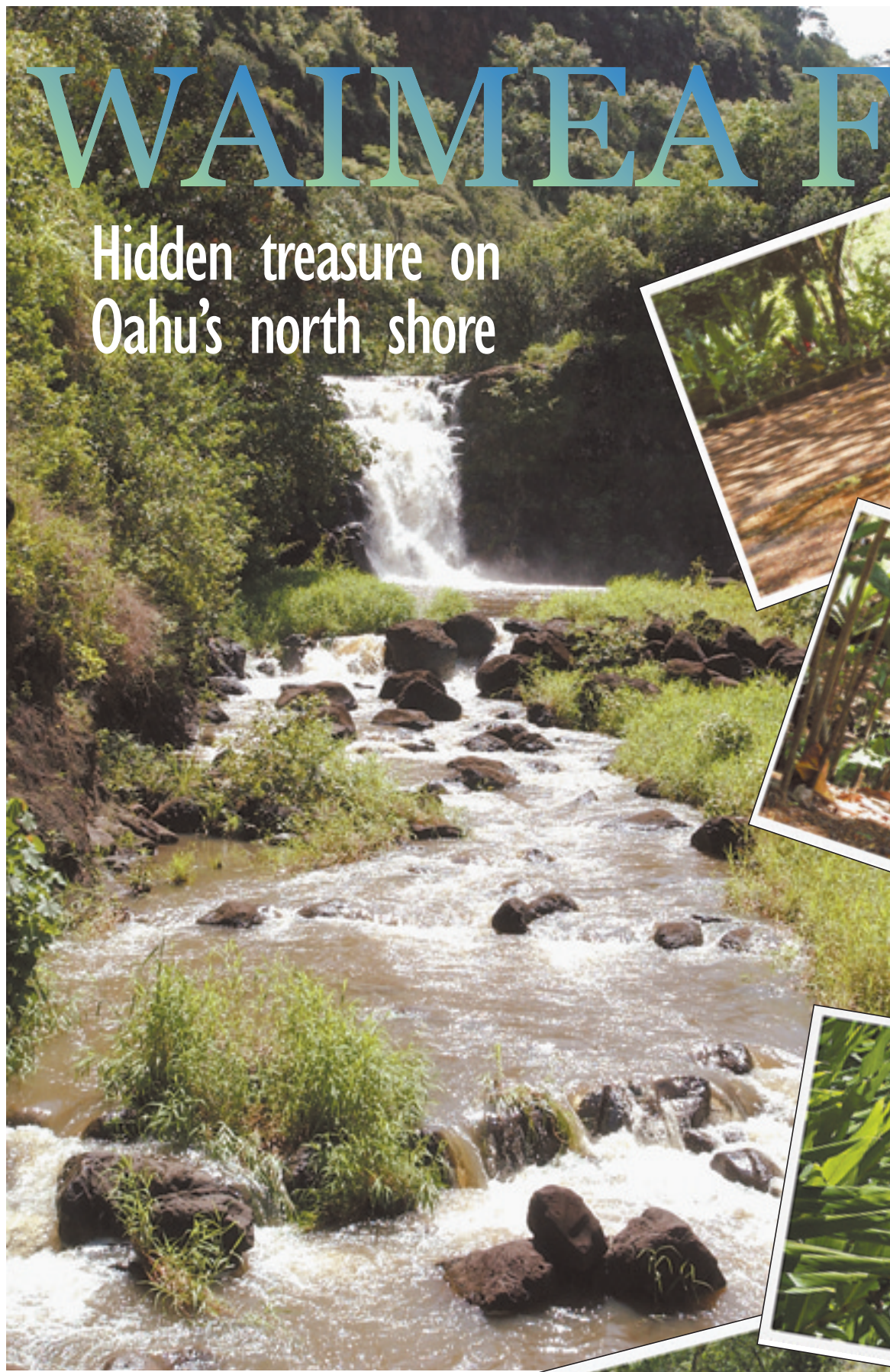
Getting it straight



This is the correct photo of Army Brig. Gen. Michael C. Flowers that should have appeared on page A-5 of the June 17 edition.

WAIMEA FALLS

Hidden treasure on Oahu's north shore



A group of visitors takes a break in the shade while enjoying the thousands of plants at Waimea Valley Audubon Center.



Visitors walk through an old Hawaiian living area of many historical sites on the property.



A white ginger bloom is one of the thousands of flowers visitors are able to see while at the center.



Waimea Valley Audubon Center boasts more than 30 botanical gardens with thousands of plants.

Waimea Falls is the largest attraction at the center. The waterfall is 45 feet high.

Valley offers visitors a taste of nature's splendor

Spc. Cheryl Ransford
17th Public Affairs Detachment

WAIMEA VALLEY — Hidden deep in the valleys of Oahu's North Shore is a place of beauty and relaxation.

As you move through the entrance way and toward the walkway that takes you to the wondrous waterfall, you find yourself surrounded by wild birds and thousands of different types of plants.

As you explore Waimea Valley Audubon Center, you get a sense of calm that seems to overcome you.

The history of Waimea Valley dates back to 1779 when, according to the log book of the British flag-ship Revolution, the ship landed in Waimea Bay for a freshwater run, where the crew found more than a thousand Hawaiians living in the valley.

For more than 200 years, the area experienced mixed use by civilians and the military, until 1971 when the land was purchased by the Bishop Corporation and opened in 1974 as a full-service

nature park.

By 2000, the park was one of the major visitor attractions on the island.

Since 2003, the City and County of Honolulu has managed, operated and safeguarded the important cultural, botanical, historical and ecological resources of Waimea Valley.

Since that time, the center has grown to more than 1,800 acres, and is a place where everyone can enjoy an authentic natural history experience that embraces the cultural significance of this inspiring valley.

A path leads directly from the visitor's center to the base of a 45-foot-tall waterfall, which is fed from the rainfall on the windward side of the island.

"The valley is full of rare and protected plants," said Diana King, Waimea Valley Audubon Center director. "as well as many archeological sites."

While walking through the valley, you can find yourself in an old Hawaiian living area, complete with cooking homes.

Many things in the valley have been left as they were, but improvements have been made.

One improvement is the quarter-mile walkway that you can follow through the valley, seeing many different types of plants and animals along the way. Another improvement is the children's garden, which is currently under construction.

"We are trying to find ways that families with young children can enjoy nature," said King. "The garden will be a hands-on experience for the children, where they can get a close-up look at plants and learn

while they have fun."

But a walk through nature isn't the only thing the valley offers to visitors.

"Along with hiking through the valley, we also offer special packages to groups that want to experience Waimea Valley," said Hazel Shaw, Waimea Valley Audubon Center marketing and communications director.

In fact, the center has been known to host weddings, birthday parties, re-enlistments, luaus, baby

showers and more.

"Many times people are afraid to trek into the heart of the deep forest because of the hard hiking that it many times requires," said King. "But this is a tame way for families to get acquainted with the deeper side of nature. Many of the plants that can be found here are endangered, and can be identified by their red label."

Each year hundreds, if not thousands, of local residents, military members and tourists visit the center and learn a little more about Hawaiian history and culture.

The Waimea Valley experience wouldn't be possible without the thousands of volunteer hours put in each year by military spouses, military units, individuals and volunteer organizations around the island.

"Some of the projects that volunteers assist with include construction projects, botanical projects, education projects and greeters," said Kelly Perry,

MWR Briefs

Serving America's Army in Hawaii

JUNE

24 / Today

Fourth of July Picnic Sites — Morale, Welfare and Recreation is currently accepting reservations for picnic sites at Kaala Community Activities Center, Room 101. Cost is \$60 for a 20 x 20 area on the perimeter of Sills Field, and these areas will be the only areas where cooking on grills will be authorized.

Call 655-0112 or 655-0110 for more information, or stop by the Activities Center to reserve your site today.

Arts and Crafts Sale — This annual sale continues today from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Fort Shafter Arts and Crafts Center, Building 339. Browse through quilts, woodcrafts, pottery, jewelry, stained glass, ceramics and much more.

The sale will also run tomorrow from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 438-1071 for more details.

Hawaiian Luau Lunch Buffet — Taste a traditional Hawaiian style feast from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Hale Ikena at Fort Shafter, or at the Nehelani on Schofield Barracks. Cost is \$9.95 per person.

Call the Nehelani 655-4466 or the Hale Ikena at 438-1974 for reservations or information.

27 / Monday

Seafood Bucket for Two — For seafood lovers, dig into a variety of seafood including shrimp, crabs, clams and mussels in a bucket with selected side dishes and a pitcher of beverage at Reggie's.

Stop by between 5 to 8 p.m. and enjoy this delicious dinner for two at only \$19.95.

28 / Tuesday

Balloon Monsoon — Part of the Summer Reading

program, Balloon Monsoon continues today at the Fort Shafter Library. This session begins at 3 p.m.

Children will enjoy watching Balloon Monsoon, so be sure to mark it on your calendar. Sessions will also be held at the Sergeant Yano Library on June 23 and at the Aliamanu Military Reservation Library on Thursday. Call your nearest library for more details.

29 / Wednesday

Preschool Story Time — Give your child an opportunity to love books. Participate in our ongoing story time program by attending the next session being held today at the Fort Shafter Library.

Sessions will also be held tomorrow at the Sergeant Yano Library and on June 30 at the Aliamanu Military Reservation Library. Start time for all sessions is 10 a.m. Call your nearest library for more details.

JULY

8 / Friday

Summer Camp — Meet new people, go on field trips and have fun. The Schofield Teen Center is sponsoring a Middle School Teen Summer Camp and applicants are now being accepted.

Registration ends July 8 at Resource and Referral, so sign-up today. Cost is \$25 per week. Call 655-0451 for more information.

11 / Monday

Kinderpop Kindergarten — This transition class for preschoolers and kindergarteners includes getting-along activities, story time, learning and singing songs, nursery rhymes, letter and number writing, tracing, counting and much more.

The class is open to children entering kindergarten in the year 2005 – 2006, and this readiness class will be held July 11 through 15 from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Cost is \$65, and space is limited. Registration is first-come, first served, so call 655-5314 to get a spot.



Kim Hunnicut

Culture at camp

U.S. COAST GUARD STATION SAND ISLAND — Cub Scouts from Hickam's Pack 197 joined more than 120 other Oahu scouts at Cub Scout Day Camp June 16-18, to learn about scouting around the world. The scouts enjoyed learning about things like: cooking in Thailand, art in Japan, and music in Samoa.

ONGOING

Children's Music Classes — SKIES Unlimited is offering the following classes during its summer session: music, piano, vocal training, flute, recorder, guitar and ukulele.

Classes are offered at Bennett and Aliamanu Youth Center. Call SKIES Unlimited for age requirements in classes, as well as for costs and times, at 655-2413.

Youth Sponsorship

Are you interested in being a youth sponsor and assisting in planning hail and farewell socials, assembling welcome packets and more to welcome new youth to Hawaii? If so, become a youth sponsor today by calling 655-2263.

Armed Forces Vacation Club — Take advantage of the Armed Forces Vacation Club, a "space available" program that offers Defense Department-affiliated personnel and their relatives

the opportunity to take affordable condominium vacations at resorts around the world for only \$259 per unit, per week (seven nights).

Complete details and reservations can be made online at www.afvclub.com.

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers — Want to get involved in the community and don't know how? Join BOSS on one of its many volunteer outings.

BOSS works with many groups within the community such as Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Honolulu, Bowl Games of Hawaii, and the PGA. Volunteers are always needed and welcome; call 655-8169 for more information.

Personal Trainers — Do you want to lose body fat, tone and build muscle? Want to improve your cardiovascular fitness, increase flexibility and understand what

nutrition means to your body?

Personal trainers are available at the Health and Fitness Center on Schofield Barracks, and they can develop an individualized program to help you reach your goals.

Get started today; call 655-8007.

Sunday Brunch at Reggie's — Enjoy a delicious brunch buffet featuring French toast, eggs and waffles, along with a variety of hot lunch entrees every Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Cost is \$12.95 for adults, and children's prices are available. Call 655-4466 for more information.

Dollar Days at Wheeler Bowl — Bowl for \$1 a game and \$1 shoe rental, Mondays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Wheeler Army Air Field bowling alley. For more information, call 656-1745.

Homeownership Month, and the Honolulu Board of Realtors is celebrating by hosting several homeownership awareness activities, including a Community Homebuyer Fair to educate the community about the home buying process, choosing a realtor, shopping for a home and qualifying for a mortgage.

Catch the next fair June 25 at Farrington High School Cafeteria. A third fair will be held July 9 at Windward Mall. For more information, call 732-3000.

Admission is free, and casual attire is OK. "Even real men can square dance." Call David Lemon at 456-8465 for more details.

Homeownership Month

— June is National

Community Calendar

JUNE

24 / Today

Haleiwa Arts Festival — Volunteers are needed to help set up and take down banners; stage small tents, tables and chairs; and dismantle and clean-up at the Haleiwa Arts Festival in July. Volunteers are needed for several hours on July 18, 21, 22 and 25 when the festival gets underway at 61-453 Kamehameha Hwy., approx. two miles past Haleiwa Beach Park.

If you'd like to volunteer, contact Joan Gossett, event coordinator, at arts@HaleiwaArtsFestival.org, as soon as possible.

4-H Farm Fair — Members of 4-H will feature their livestock in the second annual Hawaii 4-H Farm Fair at Kualoa Ranch today through Sunday. Overall fair hours will be 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., today and Saturday, and noon till 5 p.m. on Sunday. Admission and parking are free.

A Market Swine and Beef Showmanship event takes place today at 9:30 a.m. and the Market Lamb and Dairy Showmanship at 1 p.m. These contests determine how well the 4-H member is able to handle his/her animal. Saturday's main event is an auction starting at 1 p.m.

Participating 4-H members are from 9 to 19 years old. This livestock show is the culmination of their project work. As well, the Farm Fair will include 4-H fashion

and cooking displays, food booths, games for children, a farmer's market, bouncers for children, craft vendors, displays of local agricultural products, a Chili cook-off on Saturday, preserve and pie making contests (open to the public), corn on-the-cob and watermelon eating contests, nightly entertainment, 4-H hands-on learning experiences and other educational programs.

ACS Volunteers — The Army Community Service seeks volunteers for the following positions: ACS volunteer manager, relocation/lending closet clerk, financial readiness clerk, Army Family Team Building instructors, and master trainers.

Training is also available for anyone interested in volunteering as an AFTB Instructor.

For more information, contact Cathie Henderson, volunteer coordinator, at hendersonca@schofield.army.mil or 655-2398.

100 Honorees — The City and County of Honolulu is 100 years old, and the Honolulu Centennial Commission and Honolulu Magazine are accepting nominations from the public for 100 Honolulu citizens ("The 100 Honolulu Honorees"), living or deceased, who have made lasting contributions to the city and county, its life and its culture. (The centennial will be celebrated between July 2005 and July 2006.)

Nominees should be individuals who spent at least a significant portion of their lives in the city and county of Honolulu from 1905-2005. Diverse categories qualify; contact the Mayor's Office of Culture and Arts at 523-4674,

or e-mail moca-info@honolulu.gov, for more details.

Battleship Missouri — In the remaining days of June, the Battleship Missouri Memorial will offer completely free admission to all active duty, reserve and retired U.S. Army personnel, and Army family members will enjoy a 50-percent admission— to honor the U.S. Army's 230th birthday (celebrated June 14).

With the Army birthday special, immediate family members of Army personnel with ID cards will enjoy \$5 per adult and \$2.50 per child admission rates. Guided tours are additional.

For more information, call 973-2494 or visit the memorial's Web site at www.us-missouri.org.

25 / Saturday

Certified Babysitters — Do you want to be an American Red Cross certified babysitter? The Red Cross is holding a babysitter's training class on June 25 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost is \$35 and includes the study book; however, minimum spaces available.

Call the Schofield Barracks Red Cross office at 655-4927 to register.

DEFY — Military or DoD youth ages 9 to 12, junior mentors in ages 13 to 18, and adult mentors are wanted and encouraged to participate in the Drug Education for Youth, or DEFY, program.

DEFY is all about creating positive experiences so that kids will choose healthy alternatives instead of substance abuse and gang involvement. The year-round, multi-phase program

is at no cost to parents and guardians (except those receiving commuted rations).

Interested personnel should sign up at the Schofield Barracks Post Exchange tomorrow between 9 and 11 a.m., or at the Schofield Commissary, Sunday between 9 and 11 a.m.

Square Dancing — The Hawaii Federation of Square Dance Clubs invites all members of the military to join in on the fun of Community Square Dancing, tomorrow at the Manana Commu-

nity Park, Waimano Home Road, Pearl City from 7 to 9 p.m. (Also register for a new 10-week class beginning July 2.)

New square dancers are introduced to the basic fun moves of folk dance; no experience is required. Singles, couples and families with teens are welcome.

Admission is free, and casual attire is OK. "Even real men can square dance." Call David Lemon at 456-8465 for more details.

HAGN TV2 Schedule

Morning	6:30	What's Down the Drain
6:00	Sign on	6:38 Community Focus
6:30	Welcome Home Redeployment Montage 6	6:53 Welcome Home Redeployment Montage 6
6:35	Coqui Frog Invasion in Hawaii	7:00 NFL: Turf Talk
6:55	Welcome Home Redeployment Montage 3	7:53 Welcome Home Redeployment Montage 6
7:00	Bulletin Board	8:00 What's Down the Drain
7:30	What's Down the Drain	8:09 Welcome Home Redeployment Montage 4
7:38	White Face	8:14 Welcome Home Redeployment Montage 5
7:53	Welcome Home Redeployment Montage 3	8:24 Coqui Frog Invasion in Hawaii
8:00	Hawaii Army Report	8:50 Welcome Home Redeployment Montage 6
8:36	Army News Watch	8:56 Welcome Home Redeployment Montage 1
9:00	Pentagon Channel	9:03 White Face
10:00	White Face	9:32 Bulletin Board
10:20	Welcome Home Redeployment Montage 6	10:03 Welcome Home Redeployment Montage 5
10:26	Bulletin Board	10:11 NFL: Throwbacks
11:00	Coqui Frog Invasion in Hawaii	11:01 Welcome Home Redeployment Montage 6
11:21	Jake Shimabukuro	11:06 White Face
11:34	Maui	11:20 Welcome Home Redeployment Montage 5
12:00	Hawaii Army Report	11:27 Welcome Home Redeployment Montage 4
12:33	Pentagon Channel	11:32 Coqui Frog Invasion in Hawaii
		11:52 Welcome Home Redeployment Montage 3
Afternoon		
2:00	After the Storm	
2:23	Bulletin Board	
2:53	Welcome Home Redeployment Montage 6	
3:00	Shamu: The Sea Turtle Story	
3:33	Coqui Frog Invasion in Hawaii	
3:57	Welcome Home Redeployment Montage 2	
4:00	Pentagon Channel	
Evening		
6:00	Hawaii Army Report	
Overnight		
		Pentagon Channel

This Week at the MOVIES

Sgt. Smith Theater

Today
State of the Union
7 p.m. (PG-13)

Saturday
State of the Union
7 p.m. (PG-13)

Sunday
House of Wax
7 p.m. (R)

Wednesday
House of Wax
7 p.m. (R)

Thursday
State of the Union
7 p.m. (PG-13)

The theater is closed Monday & Tuesday.

Army family member runs for Miss Hawaii

Story and Photos by
Spc Dijon Rolle

17th Public Affairs Detachment

If you've ever gone to Reggie's, the popular on-post eatery housed inside of the Nehelani Club, Schofield Barracks, you may have come across a certain young lady who co-workers and customers describe as outgoing, caring and friendly.

Others may have had the opportunity to see her in all her glory recently as she competed in the Miss Hawaii Scholarship Pageant held at the Coral Ballroom of the Hilton Hawaiian Village.

Angela Everhart, a familiar face around Schofield Barracks and reigning Miss West Oahu 2005, was one of 12 young ladies competing for the title of Miss Hawaii.

Contestants participated in several categories ranging from swimsuit and evening wear categories to answering questions onstage.

Everhart mesmerized the crowd during the talent portion of the show when she performed a Tahitian dance called the ahuroa otea.

"We love her so much," said Maria Sittre-Fuji, one

of Everhart's co-workers seated in the large cheering section filled with Everhart's parents, siblings, boyfriend, and several friends, co-workers and customers from Reggie's. "She's the sweetest person I know and just a genuinely good person. We wanted to come out and support her," Sittre-Fuji added, sporting a white T-shirt featuring her co-worker.

Everhart said she wanted to run for Miss Hawaii because she felt it was a way for her to reach out to the community and make a difference in the lives of others and spread her message of racial diversity, particularly to children. Her platform for the pageant was eradicating racism, one that she could closely identify with, she said.

"I grew up around several different nationalities and cultures. Being the child of a military member, I went to different schools, lived all over the world," she explained. "I think it's important that we understand and embrace our diversity."

Although Everhart did not capture the Miss Hawaii



Everhart is escorted by her father 1st Sgt. Thomas LeMasters, Company B, 125th Signal Battalion, during the evening wear portion of the pageant.

title, she did win first runner-up.

"We're proud of all of her accomplishments," said her father, 1st Sgt. Thomas LeMaster, Company B, 125th Signal Battalion, who recently returned from a deployment to Iraq.

He escorted his daughter during the evening wear category.

"No matter what she placed, we're proud of her and we love her. She's had to pick up and move around a lot during my career; yet, she's always been flexible

and done her best," the first sergeant added.

Everhart's mother, Rochelle LeMasters, echoed her husband's sentiments.

"She worked hard and we're extremely proud of the beautiful person she's become, both inside and out.

She's always gone after what she wanted."

In addition to working at Reggie's, Everhart is also a full-time student at the University of Hawaii, West Oahu, where she is majoring in psychology and business. She's been preparing for the competition since late last year with hours upon hours of practice with talent and speech coaches, costume fittings and rehearsals for the big night.

Preparation took place in addition to attending college; waitressing at Reggie's; serving as an Air Force reservist in the 624th Civil Engineering Squadron, Hickam Air Force Base; and volunteering in several community organizations.

"I'm not sure how I do it," she admitted. "I guess I just try to find a balance and remain flexible. I want to live my life to the fullest and do everything that I can to achieve my goals and help others."

Having lived in Hawaii the last five years, the 21-year-old has decided to remain here. Her family moved to Patrick Air Force Base in Cocoa Beach, Fla., shortly after the pageant.

Waimea From B-1

Waimea Valley Audubon Center volunteer coordinator. "All volunteers are provided with the training and education they need to perform the tasks they volunteer for at the center."

Another way volunteers can help around the center is to volunteer to be a Na Poe Kokua, or people helper.

"The Na Poe Kokua are people who walk through the valley providing a safety presence and information for the visitors," she said.

Throughout the valley, there are many water stations and bathroom facilities to help visitors enjoy their time in the valley.

Also at the entrance to the valley is a gift store and snack bar.

"Snacks can be purchased at Waimea Falls Grill or visitors can bring a picnic lunch from home," said Shaw. "Either way, there are many beautiful, shady areas for them to stop and eat while enjoying their surroundings."

The Waimea Valley Audubon Center also offers activities each month. Some of these activities include moonwalks, species composition and ecology of Kamananui Stream research and insect nights.

During the summer months, part of the valley that is normally closed off to the public will be opened.

"The old stream trail is an alternate route that will take you to the waterfall as it traverses the stream bank and tree canopy of Waimea Falls," said King. "While the trail will only be open to the public for a short time, it will allow visitors to get a different view of the valley."

The Waimea Valley Audubon Center, as well as the snack bar and gift store, are open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Admission to the valley is \$6 for adults and \$5 for children (4-12), military, kama'aina and seniors (60+). Children under 4 years are free.

(Editor's Note: For more information about the center or to book a private party, call 638-9199 or visit their Website at www.hawaiiweb.com/html/waimea_falls.html.)

AMR Chapel to hold Serengeti Trek

Kathy Hudson
*Religious Education,
Fort Shafter Chapel*

ALIAMANU MILITARY RESERVATION — The AMR Chapel is now accepting applications for its Serengeti Trek Vacation Bible School, which will get underway the week of July 18 through 22. VBS will be scheduled from 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

This annual chapel offering is typically a fun adventure for children and volunteers learn more about God's love for them.

"Having fun as we learn more about God's awesome love for us is what VBS is all about," said Kathy Whalen, director of religious educa-

tion for Fort Shafter Community Chapels. "We all learn best through our experiences, so VBS is set up for the children to be doing Bible study, music, drama, crafts and snacks.

"Their experience in each activity is related to the theme for the day," Whalen continued, "which truly helps them remember and own that experience."

Who can attend VBS?

Children who are 4 years old by July 1 through students who have just completed sixth grade.

How do we register?

You can register by com-

ing to the AMR Chapel and filling out a registration form for each child. Directions guide applicants through the registration process.

Also, the chapel will fax the forms to interested families who call and make a request. Or, families can fill out forms at "The Wave" Fort Shafter worship service, which begins at 10 a.m. each Sunday, at the dining facility located next to the Fort Shafter theater.

Do you need volunteers?

Always. The chapel has slots open for volunteers: youth in seventh through twelfth grades or adults.

Volunteer forms will also be available to fill out at the VBS registration table, and the chapel would love to have more volunteers be part of Vacation Bible School.

Serengeti Trek VBS is perfect for children who have just moved to Hawaii because they meet friends

right away and the entire family gets a church home to help support them as they get settled here in Hawaii.

AMR Chapel is located at 1790 Bougainvillea Loop.

For more information, call 833-8175 or 839-4319. Fax completed VBS forms to 839-0046.



Volunteer Appreciation Day

Catch the 3rd Annual Malama Waimea Volunteer Appreciation Day, Saturday (June 25) from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Bring friends and family, and spend a fun and rewarding morning removing invasive species, restoring endangered moorhen habitat and caring for cultural sites in Waimea Valley. The day will include a free lunch and swim in the falls pond (depending on falls conditions) for all who volunteer.

Dress to get dirty and bring gloves, closed-toe shoes, your favorite tool and sunscreen. Supervised children are welcome.

Arrive by 9 a.m., if staying for lunch.

Squids, mermaids take the plunge at area pool

Story and Photos by Stefanie Gardin
Public Affairs Office, U.S. Army, Hawaii

"Release the ink," he shouted, as bodies propelled backwards and arms fought against the water's resistance. "Be a squid ... come on now, release the ink."

Be a squid?
It sounds like an unusual request, but for those participating in Tropical Water Fitness, an exercise class offered at Richardson Pool, Schofield Barracks, it's one of the unique exercises Spc. Kurt Sommer, 71st Chemical Company, uses to help patrons strengthen and tone their bodies.

Sommer was detailed to the pool a little more than a year ago and serves as a full-time lifeguard and instructor there. He and Sean Bolosan, a fellow lifeguard and instructor, lead the water aerobics class, which meets every Tuesday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to noon.

During the hour, instructors lead the class in a series of exercises designed to give all a total-body workout. Exercises range from wall push-ups, running and crunches to weight lifting with large Styrofoam dumbbells.

"You'd be amazed at the exercises you can do in the water," Bolosan said. "I love working out in the water because it's natural; it's natural water resistance."

Originally, the class started out small, with only two participants, but it has grown to nine during the past two-and-a-half months.

Wakako Wood is one of the class regulars. She works across the street from the pool at Army Community Service and comes to work out on her lunch hour.

"The class is relaxing and fun," Wakako said, "and on top of that I'll, hopefully, get in better shape."

Water aerobics is just one of the many programs Richardson Pool has to offer. Several other popular programs include the Learn to Swim program and lifeguard training.

Judi Brown's daughter, Paige, is taking a level one Learn to Swim class taught by Bolosan. At

that level, children are introduced to the water environment and taught basic safety.

"Paige has learned a lot and will be taking the next level when she's ready," Brown said. "Her goal in life is to be a mermaid!"

Children are not the only ones who benefit from the Learn to Swim program; Soldiers do too — and it's free.

When Soldiers first come to Hawaii, the Replacement Detachment makes them take a drown-proofing class. This class teaches Soldiers how to float with clothing on, make flotation devices using their pants, and swim and paddle with their rifle and rucksack on.

"For people who have never seen the water before or don't know how to swim, it can be very intimidating," said Momi Smith, recreation assistant supervisor at Richardson Pool. "That's where we come in with the Learn to Swim class."

"You'd be surprised; a lot of people have fear. Many of them have had it from when they were really young — bad experiences and stuff like that. They come here having never realized they could swim, and we get them swimming," Smith added.

For Smith, being able to teach others and give them the knowledge they need is a gift.

"When you finish teaching a class, and you ask a student to swim across the pool, and they're like, 'Man, I never thought I could do that' — it feels good," Smith said. "For me, it feels really good."

Smith first came to Richardson Pool in 1999 as a lead recreation aide. Today she holds one of the highest credentials in the Army and is certified as a lifeguard instructor trainer and a water safety instructor trainer.

"We live on an island; we're surrounded by water," Smith said. "It's crucial that we know how to swim."

Richardson Pool is touted as the Department of Defense's largest swimming pool and one of the largest freshwater pools in the world. It holds 1.25 million gallons of water and is 103 meters



Children enrolled in Richardson Pool's Learn to Swim program practice kicking with unabashed delight.



Ready to make a big splash, Paige Brown wants to be a mermaid when she grows up, according to her mom.

long by 25 meters wide.

Its amenities include an 18-inch children's pool; the Tropical Twist, a 150-foot spiral slide; an



Spc. Kurt Sommer (third from the right) of 71st Chemical Company leads the Tropical Water Fitness class in a set of push-ups. Water aerobics offer a low-impact way to maintain health and build and strengthen muscles.

aqua tramp water trampoline; 25- and 50-meter lap lanes; a one-meter diving board, two three-meter diving boards and a five-meter platform; locker rooms; and

the Shark Bites snack bar.

(Editor's Note: For more information about programs, contact Richardson Pool at 655-9698.)



MWR Sports

JUNE 25 / Saturday
Hawaii Championship Wrestling — The action is back at the Tropics! Pro wrestlers will face-off live from 7 to 10 p.m. Doors will open at 6 p.m.

Cost is \$5 for general admission, \$3 for those 11-years and under, and free for those under 5-years. Call 655-5697 for more information.

27 / Monday
Sports Night — Every Monday evening from 4 to 9 p.m., watch satellite sports,

ESPN and more, while enjoying a special sports bar menu at Reggie's. Call 655-4466 for more information.

ONGOING

Spinning Class — Spinning is the newest group exercise class available at the Health and Fitness Center on Schofield Barracks. Patrons can hop aboard deluxe "Revmaster" stationary bikes under the tutelage of certified instructors, and then be guided by imagery to "climb hills," "sprint" or take in the "scenery" for a challenging workout.

Call 655-8007 for more information.

Coaching — Youth Sports is looking for volunteer coaches for basketball, baseball, softball, soccer, flag football

and cheerleading.

If you're interested, call AMR at 836-1923, Fort Shafter at 438-9336 or Schofield Barracks at 655-6465.

Ladies Golf Clinic — Want to learn the game of golf for free? Visit the Leilehua Golf Course Driving Range the first Sunday of every month, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. and learn some tips. Call 655-4653 to sign-up.

BMX Track — Boys and girls of all ages, and adults, are invited to join the fun at the BMX track located at Wheeler Army Air Field. Practice hours will go from Mondays through Thursdays at 5 to 7 p.m., and races will take place every Saturday beginning around 5:30 p.m.

The yearly membership fee is \$45; however, participation in competitions is only \$9. Visit www.wheelerbmx.com for more details.

Richardson Pool — The following programs are offered at Richardson Pool: Summer Learn to Swim, spring board diving, Learn to Swim, and a Tropic Water Exercise class.

Call the pool at 655-9698 for more information on programs offered.

Run/Walk/Swim Club — Record each mile you run, walk or swim and win incentive prizes in the 100-mile run/walk and 50-mile swim clubs. Runners will receive a pair of Thorlo running socks, and swimmers will receive goggles.

Stop by any Army Physical

Fitness Center or swimming pool to pick up a log sheet.

Cardio Kickboxing — A new cardio kickboxing class is now available at the Fort Shafter Physical Fitness Center. This class is offered every Tuesday and Thursday from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., and its cost is \$2 per class.

Get a 12-class punch card for \$11. Call 438-1152 for more information.

Summer Learn to Swim — Learn to Swim takes participants level by level from their first step into the water to relative ease and proficiency with standard swimming skills. Registration for all levels is currently being accepted at Richardson Pool, Schofield Barracks, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Cost is \$40 for nine, 45-minute classes, and registration is first-come, first-served. Call 655-9698 to confirm your spot.

The Tripler, Helemano and Aliamanu pools will also hold Level I and other courses. Registration at these locations will begin in June. Call the pool nearest to you for more information.

Golf for Food and Fun — Get a team together any Tuesday from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Nagorski Golf Course on Fort Shafter, and then play golf for only \$15 per person.

Cost includes a nine-hole green fee, a foursome platter of pupus, a pitcher of beverage, a lucky door prize entry and a chance to win other prizes.

Call 438-9587 for more information.



Spc. Captoria Moore

'Ah, refreshing!'

At the completion of the Aviation Brigade Run, Headquarters Company, Avn. Bde., cools off at the "Bird Bath" (the helicopter wash point) on the air strip.



Local Sports

JUNE 24 / Today

Inline Hockey — The Mililani Inline Hockey Association will be conducting Fall 2005 (Aug. 27 to Nov. 19) registration for new and experienced players, today from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Mililani Star Market. Registration is open to youth from 5 to 18.

Fees are \$85 for new players and \$80 for returning players. For more information, call 621-9184 or 622-4106, or check out <http://leaguelineup.com/miha>.

JULY 2 / Saturday

Ewa Beach Patriot Run — State House Representative Kymberly Pine, who represents Ewa Beach, Puuloa and Iroquois Point communities in District 43, invites all commu-

nity residents to the Annual Patriot Run, to be held July 2 at 8:30 a.m.

This event will honor men and women of the armed forces — past and present — and bring the community together to celebrate being American, as well as healthy active lifestyles in the community.

The run/walk will be a one or three-mile course around the Ocean Pointe community. Other activities planned include jump roping and relay racing contests for keiki, and free health screenings for those who are young at heart. Additionally, raffles will net great prizes, food and T-shirts to commemorate the event.

This event is free, but T-shirts must be purchased for \$10.

8 / Wednesday

Sports Day Camp — The American Lung Association of Hawaii is accepting applications for both participants and volunteers in its 2005 Asthma Sports Day Camps, which are three-day clinics in which chil-

dren ages 5 to 12 can participate in a variety of activities while simultaneously learning how to cope with their asthmatic condition.

At the camps, children will learn how to manage asthma while taking part in team sports and other recreational activities such as tennis, baseball and soccer. Youth will also learn about Hawaiian culture and games and participate in various arts and crafts activities.

Lunches and other refreshments will be served throughout the day, courtesy of donations from local businesses.

On Oahu, the camp will be held July 8 through 10 at McCoy Pavilion, Ala Moana Beach Park.

Children with mild to severe asthma are encouraged to attend. Volunteers may call 537-5966, ext. 311. A small registration fee of \$25 covers all activities, lunches, refreshments and gifts; however, financial assistance is available.

Best of the Best



Friday

June 24, 2005

Hawaii boasts the best

The 25th Infantry Division (Light) and U.S. Army Hawaii has excelled at accomplishing its mission during the past year. The division could not have done this without the exceptional Soldiers, Non-commissioned officers, officers and civilians who pulled together to ensure its success.

This list is not all encompassing, as it would be impossible to capture every situation where a member of the Tropic Lightning team was recognized. However, the following four pages highlight a small portion of the many individuals, teams and units who have excelled and been recognized for their expertise in their fields.

As most of the division has only recently redeployed, it is eminent that more awards will follow. Several units have submitted nominations for Meritorious Unit Citations, for example. Future accolades will be published as they are announced. If you or your unit has won an award or wins one in the future, tell us at editor@hawaiiarmweekly.com.

Engineers recognized in Capitol ceremony

Capt. Randy Leach
84th ECB (H) S1

On May 19, engineer Captains Reyn Landreth and David Flowers represented the 84th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy) at the Combined Logistics Excellence Awards Ceremony in Washington D.C.

The 84th was the runner-up for the Active Duty, Large Unit Category of the Army Chief of Staff Deployment Excellence Award.

The award recognizes the battalion's outstanding deployment execution in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

The annual award requires an extensive written nomination packet that showcases the battalion's mission accomplishments, effective resource management, innovative logistics management and Soldier quality of life.

Once the nomination was accepted by a review board, a team of logistics subject matter experts came to Hawaii to validate information in the packet. This team reviewed deployment checklists, confirmed move-

See "Engineers," page C-2



Spc. Tremeshia Ellis (GUIDON Staff)

Capt. Anthony Barbina of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 65th Engineer Battalion, tackles an obstacle at the Fort Leonard

Wood, Mo., Confidence Course. Barbina and Boyd won the competition soon after returning from Afghanistan.

Hawaii 'Sappers' named best in Army

Teams from Fort Bragg take second, third, in competition

Spc. Tremeshia Ellis
GUIDON Staff

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. — Captains Anthony Barbina and William Boyd of the 65th Engineer Battalion were named the 2005 Best Sappers after two-plus days of grueling events that challenged their skills as Soldiers and engineers.

The team earned the most points in the inaugural Best Sapper Competition hosted by the U.S.

Army Engineer School and Fort Leonard Wood.

"This was a grueling and technically challenging competition," said Brig. Gen. William McCoy, U.S. Army Engineer School assistant commandant, during the awards ceremony Saturday at Pershing Community Center. "I think we got this right."

Twenty-two, two-man engineer teams from around the world competed in the event, modeled after the Best Ranger.

Throughout the competition, teams took a modified physical fitness test, identified threat mines, constructed a poncho raft, swam across a pond, navigated by day and night, assembled and

fired numerous weapons, tied knots, assembled various breaching charges, took a demolitions test, threw hand grenades, ran nine miles, and then road marched -- a lot.

"Sappers find themselves in the strangest places in combat," McCoy said. "They breach and lead the way, perform infantry duties and restore the area once the battle is won."

[These tests] demonstrates your ability to perform those missions on the battlefield."

Barbina and Boyd were awarded Army Commendation Medals, an engraved knife, a tactical flashlight and a paid trip to Orlando, Fla., in the fall to attend the Engineer Conference.

Field Artillery: maintenance excellence

Sgt. Douglas DeMaio
20th Public Affairs Detachment

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — The large category recipient of the 2004 Army Award for Maintenance Excellence is none other than 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker recognized the unit's accomplishment during a ceremony in Washington, D.C. He presented Chief Warrant Officer 3 Anibal Feliciano, 3rd Bn., 7th FA Rgt., maintenance officer, with a plaque honoring the unit.

"The Army Award for Maintenance Excellence is a very prestigious and competitive award," said Feliciano, who returned from Afghanistan last month, explaining the award exemplifies unit level maintenance and performance programs.

"I definitely know we deserved it,"

said Sgt. Patrick Apaza, a mechanic for Headquarters and Headquarters Service Battery, 3rd Bn., 7th FA Rgt. "I didn't think we would get it ... as much as the equipment would breakdown, but as soon as the equipment went down, we were able to get it back up."

The Soldiers, operators and mechanics made this award possible, said Feliciano. The harsh conditions in Afghanistan took their toll on equipment, but the maintenance team of 3rd Bn., 7th FA Rgt., was still able to keep that equipment up and running.

It wasn't just their efforts in Afghanistan that allowed the Soldiers to be so successful — it was everything that led up to the deployment.

"I think that we could see the fruits of our labor when we got here," said Lt. Col. Clarence Neason, 3rd Bn., 7th FA Rgt., commander. "This deployment

See "Artillery," page C-4



Courtesy photo

Staff Sgt. Juan Merchan, shop foreman, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, tightens a clamp on the cooling system of a high mobility multipurpose vehicle Monday.

Cultural resource management wins Army environmental award

Spc. Daniel P. Kelly
Staff Writer

U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii's Cultural Resources Management department set the standard for the Army in its field.

The CRM was recognized for its leading achievement, and awarded the 2004 Secretary of the Army Environmental Award for Cultural Resources Management, Installation Award Category, Jan 6.

Dr. Laurie Lucking is the manager for CRM here, and she said the work of her department serves as an integral part in sustaining U.S. and Army history.

"We deal with every historical building and every archeological site on all land controlled by the Army in Hawaii," Lucking said.

Lucking's team is composed of 10 archeologists whose main purpose is to document, maintain and preserve all environmental and architectural culture on Army

land in Hawaii. CRM is currently managing 901 archaeological sites on 108,000 acres of training lands on two islands, 795 historic buildings and structures within three National Historic Landmark Districts and two Historic Districts.

Lucking said the Army's history in Hawaii helps give Soldiers and family members a sense of place, and pride for their Hawaii-Army legacy.

"Our history here is the [back-

bone for] history of the Army in the Pacific," Lucking said.

National Historic Landmarks controlled by Lucking's CRM team are examples of how Army history comes alive.

"A National Historic Landmark is something so important to the Nation's history ... that the history of this country cannot be told [completely] without its presence," Lucking explained. "When we bring people here [to Wheeler] they can say, 'This is where Dec. 7,

1941, occurred,' ... you can picture the event in your mind when you see the field."

Lucking's team is also in charge of making estimates for repairing and maintaining historical buildings to include Sergeant Smith Theater on Schofield Barracks and numerous other historical-reconstruction projects.

The CRM also works with the Hawaiian community through

See "Environmental," page C-2

U.S. Army Pacific Command: Logistics Excellence

WASHINGTON — On May 19, the first annual Chief of Staff (CSA) Combined Logistic Excellence Award (CLEA) ceremony was held here to recognize excellence in the areas of Army deployment, maintenance and supply.

Vice Chief Of Staff of the U.S. Army Gen. Richard A. Cody, served as keynote speaker, and he addressed the theme “Celebration of Logistics.”

The CSA CLEA combines the Deployment Excellence Award, the Army Award for Maintenance Excellence and the Supply Excellence Award.

The Army's Supply Excellence Award (SEA) was created in 1986 to recognize excellence in supply operations. Its objectives are to enhance logistical readiness of all Army units, enforce the Command Supply Discipline Program and provide a structure for official recognition of group and individual initiatives.

Since inception, continual process

improvements have expanded opportunities for diverse supply units to compete.

The cornerstone of the program remains the on-site evaluation of major command-nominated units. U.S. Army Pacific Command was well represented in the Supply field with winners in three categories:

- Chief Warrant Officer 3 Augustus Hector and Spc. Mohammad Ahmed of the 172d Support Battalion, Ft. Wainwright, Alaska, accepted the Level IV (B) SSA Large Active Duty award;

- Chief Warrant Officer 3 Soon Nix and Staff Sgt. Thomas Lagrant of the 25th Aviation Regiment of Wheeler Army Air Field, accepted the Level IV (A) SSA Small Active Duty; and

- Chief Warrant Officer 2 Rolando Domingo and Sgt. Melanie Tauschek of B Company 193d Aviation Regiment of Wheeler Army Air Field accepted the Level IV (A) SSA Small ARNG for U.S. Pacific Command.



Courtesy photo.

Spc. Florine Nevins (left) assists Pfc. Leticia Melo, both from Team Hawaii, during the Junior Chef Competition of the 30th Annual U.S. Army Culinary Arts Competition.

Hawaii Soldiers named best chefs in Army competition

Travis Edwards
Fort Lee Strategic Outreach Officer

FORT LEE, Va. — After two-weeks of bitter lemon meringue pie and sweet culinary creations, the pastries were finally tallied and the hot food masterpieces counted in the 30th Annual U.S. Army Culinary Arts Competition that was held at Fort Lee, Va., March 5-18.

Soldier chefs from Team Hawaii won third place in the field kitchen category. Team Korea capped the intense competition to earn the coveted title of Installation of the Year for culinary arts team competition.

The Hawaii team and winners in other categories were recognized at a joint awards ceremony at the U.S. Army Quartermaster Center and School, “the home of U.S. Army Logistics,” March 18.

“As we celebrate the winners of this year's competition, we remember that America's most valuable weapon system is the American Soldier, and no one supports them better than our food service

professionals you see standing here today,” said Brig. Gen. Scott West, U.S. Army Quartermaster Center and School commanding general, the ceremony's keynote speaker.

More than half of the competitors were combat veterans.

“I feel honored and proud to represent team Hawaii,” said Spc. Florine P. Nevins from the 58th Military Police Company. “I got to experience other cuisines and learn from chefs all over the world.”

Nevins summed up the key to landing in the top three for field kitchen competition. It's all about teamwork and having a positive attitude, she said.

“I really enjoy the camaraderie of competition,” said Chief Warrant Officer Travis Smith, Korea team manager, who also won the Distinguished Military Chef of the Year title.

The Fort Lee event is the premier culinary competition in the U.S. Armed Forces, and the competition also serves as an arena for military personnel to try out for the U.S. Army Culinary Arts Team.

SJA claims section rules

The Soldiers and civilians of the Staff Judge Advocate Claims Office were recently recognized with a Commander's Coin after being selected as the winners of the Chief of Staff Award for Excellence in Claims Service FY 2003.

The Award is based on several important selection criteria ranging from office productivity and cost savings to customer service.

The claims section was also measured in terms of processing times, recovery

demands, number of claims processed and accuracy in processing.

Maj Luisa Santiago, chief of Claims on Schofield Barracks, said employees, both military and civilian, are constantly striving to “improve operations and support the needs of our military community.”

Hard work and dedication earned them the Chief of Staff Award, she added, and ranked them as number one against all other competitors in the Active Army Large Claims Office category.



Spc. Harold Fields

Rescue of the Year!

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — The 68th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) received a mission to retrieve a wounded Marine near Forward Operating Base Asadabad, along with two Marines killed, following an attack by militants in Eastern Afghanistan in June 2004.

Capt. John Hoffman, Chief Warrant Officer Jason Rayburn, Staff Sgt. Robert Ramirez and Staff Sgt. David Hernandez immediately departed by helicopter to evacuate the casualties. Their actions earned the unit the Army Aviation Association of America Air/Sea Rescue of the Year award.

The four also received Air Medals with Valor device. As the air ambulance approached FOB Asadabad, a rocket-propelled grenade passed over the rotor blades, cleared the front of the AH-64 Apache

helicopter serving as the MEDEVAC escort, exploded 300 meters away, and then was immediately followed by more rocket and RPG fire at the base. The crew proceeded with the mission, located the casualties, but could not land due to the steep mountainous slope. The aircraft hoist lowered the medic and the PA, bandaged the Marines' wound, placed him on a litter and hoisted him into the Blackhawk.

After dropping off the patient for treatment at FOB Asadabad, the Blackhawk returned to retrieve the other personnel, requiring the medic and PA to climb down the mountain in search of a suitable pick-up zone at night. During the mission, the crew logged six flight hours, with four under night vision, came under enemy fire and conducted multiple hoist extractions.



Courtesy photo

Carly Antone and Alton Exzabe excavate an archaeological site at Makua. Antone and Exzabe are Cultural Resource Management contractors.

Environmental: preserving culture, too

Cultural Advisory Committees (CAC) consisting of Native Hawaiians with lineal ties to Army range areas on both Oahu and the Big Island.

“The CACs help to facilitate and nurture cooperation with the community to expand and share knowledge on cultural site locations and significance,” Lucking said.

“We work with the community a lot.”

Lucking has worked in environmental and cultural protection and preservation for 30 years.

“We're thrilled,” Lucking said with a smile when asked about her reaction to winning the Department of the Army-level award.

Lucking was quick to

point out that winning the first award was a team effort, and going for the DoD-level award will require the same.

“I really want to thank the Technical and Environmental Branch of the Army Corps of Engineers, three archeologists and architects for helping [CRM] come this far,” she added.

Engineers: deployment excellence

ment tables, inspected SOPs, validated appointment orders and deployment training, and interviewed key personnel in the deployment process.

Captains Landreth and Flowers co-authored the nomination and briefed the team on the battalion's award submission.

“They asked some very specific and detailed questions about our battalion, but we had done our homework and were prepared to answer anything” said Landreth about the team's visit.

“We were up against some tough competition, but the 84th had truly excelled during OIF2, so I

knew we would be a top contender for the award” added Flowers, co-author of the award.

Vice Chief of Staff for the Army Gen. Richard Cody, presented the Deployment Excellence Award to the Soldiers of the “Never Daunted Battalion.”

‘Blacksheep:’ Best warehouse in military

Story and photo by Spc. Cheryl Ransford
17th Public Affairs Detachment

Being the best of the best is something military units around the world strive for every day. However, one aviation maintenance unit here proved to be truly the best in the military and was awarded the Chief of Logistics Excellence Award for fiscal year 2005.

Company C, 25th Aviation Regiment (Aviation Intermediate Maintenance), won first place in the small warehouse category, after several years of finishing as runner up.

The award was even more prestigious this year because the company was competing against warehouses from all branches of the military — not just the Army — as in the past.

“The inspection team not only looks at the organization of the warehouse but also at the standards for training and customer service within the unit,” said Chief Warrant Officer Soon Nix, Co. C, 25th Avn. Rgt. (AVIM), accountable officer. “During the inspection, the inspectors were especially impressed with how well we manage a heavy workload and still maintain above-standard training for the Soldiers.”

The Soldiers at the Class Nine (repair parts issuing/receiving) warehouse are responsible for ensuring all broken parts needing repairs get to the proper location. They order new parts for those items that are unable to be repaired and deal specifically with aircraft parts for the UH-60 Blackhawks, CH-47 Chinooks and OH-58D Kiowa Warriors based at Wheeler Army Air Field.

When new or repaired parts are received back at the warehouse, Soldiers are responsible for distribution to the correct customers.

“Once the parts are received back at the warehouse, we have 24 hours to get the parts to the customer since the parts are needed for the aircraft to be operational,” said Maye.

But just doing their duties isn't what caused the company to be recognized as the best. Due to deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, the unit was lacking personnel and many aircraft were also deployed.

“Since most of the aircraft from 25th



Pvt. Liliana Soto (left), issuing/receiving clerk, Sgt. Missy Maye (center), issuing/receiving NCO, assists Pvt. Thomasine Roberts (right), both of Co. C, 25th Avn. Rgt. (AVIM), with a part that needs to be processed into the system and distributed to one of their customers. The unit was awarded the Chief of Logistics Excellence Award for having the best warehouse Army-wide.

Aviation Brigade were deployed, there were only six aircraft left in Hawaii for us to support,” said Nix. “However, there was still a lot of work for the Soldiers to do.”

Soldiers in the warehouse took on extra duties to ensure the overall mission was still accomplished.

“Everyone had to take on extra duties to ensure everything remained at the same level,” said Staff Sgt. Andres Toledo-Vera, Co. C, 25th Avn. Rgt., turn-in section sergeant. “The hard work from all the Sol-

Hawaii aviators soar above peers

Compiled by Public Affairs Office

Three Hawaii-based aviators received numerous awards of distinction for their performance under fire during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Each Soldier's actions demonstrated superior leadership qualities, said senior Army leaders, and each has earned well-deserved recognition.



Wilson is geared up and ready to go on his mission.

Chief Warrant Officer 3
Christopher Wilson

A pilot with Company A, 1st Battalion (Attack), 25th Aviation Regiment, 25th Infantry Division won this year's Army Aviator of the Year Award from the Army Aviation Association of America.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Christopher Wilson, an OH-58D Kiowa helicopter

pilot, deployed with the battalion to the Baghdad area of operations in support of OIF II. While deployed, Wilson safely flew an unprecedented 1,280 combat flight hours in the skies over Baghdad.

The flight hours are the most flight hours flown by any aviator in OIF — they are likely the most hours flown in an 11-month period by any Army aviator since Vietnam.

“We flew 24 hours a day, nonstop,” Wilson, a native of Corpus Christi, Texas, said.

During the deployment, Wilson conducted more than 350 reconnaissance, security and close combat attack missions in support of 54 different ground maneuver battalions. His abilities as a scout and air mission commander enabled him to locate and maneuver ground forces in the seizure of more than 15 enemy caches, removing significant amounts of arms and ammunition from the hands of the enemy.

He also led his team and ground forces during numerous direct fire engagements, resulting in the destruction of enemy vehicles and personnel, and the detention of numerous insurgents throughout Baghdad.

Wilson received two Air Medals, two Army Commendation Medals with “V” Device and one Army Commendation Medal for his combat actions.

Chief Warrant Officer 3
Jason K. Pratt

Chief Warrant Officer 3

Jason K. Pratt was selected as the Army Avionics Technician of the Year by the Army Aviation Association of America.

All of the maintainers in the 1st Bn., 25th Avn. Regt., set the standard in Iraq by maintaining the battalion's 24 OH-58D (Kiowa warrior helicopter) at an 84-percent, fully mission-capable rate, the highest operational readiness rate of any attack helicopter unit in theater.

Pratt's assignment as the armament, electronics and avionics (AEA) platoon leader made him directly responsible for the AVUM and AVIM levels of maintenance on all associated AEA equipment for 23 OH-58D(R) Kiowa warrior helicopters.

Pratt supervised 38 15J Soldiers, military occupational skill for armament /electrical /avionics systems repair. He immediately began teaching them how to troubleshoot the technical communication systems.

In less than a two-week period from the aircraft's arrival in Camp Udari, Kuwait, all aircraft weapon systems were verified during a live fire exercise and prepared for flight north to Baghdad International Airport.

Within six months, the battalion flew more than 12,600 hours and maintained a phenomenal readiness rate of over 83 percent.

Although every leader had some part in the effort, Pratt's individual contributions played a vital role and were of particular commendation.

Bell earns coveted MacArthur leadership award

Compiled by Public Affairs Office
25th Infantry Division (Light) and
U.S. Army, Hawaii

WASHINGTON — Capt. Julia Bell isn't your average officer, and that's what's set her apart from the rest, earning her back-to-back awards for outstanding leadership.

On May 25, Capt. Julia Bell, 725th Main Support Battalion, DISCOM, was recognized along with 27 other Army officers, for outstanding leadership skills. Each received the General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award here.

Annually, the highly competitive award is presented to active duty, U.S. Army Reserve and National Guard commissioned and warrant officers who exhibit extraordinary leadership abilities and who embody the credo embraced by Gen. MacArthur: duty, honor and country.

The ability to motivate others, understand fellow Soldiers and to inspire commitment, teamwork and esprit de corps are among criteria.

Senior Army leadership presented the awards at the Pentagon. As well, the General Douglas MacArthur Foundation presented each awardee with an engraved 23-pound bronze bust of General MacArthur. The bust was mounted on a walnut pedestal, sculpted by Zenos Frudakis, director, National Sculpture Society.

The AUSA awarded each officer a commem-



Courtesy photo

Capt. Julia Bell, left, 725th Main Support Battalion, DISCOM, inspects a shipping container. Bell won the General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award.

orative watch.

"Captain Bell is a devoted officer and leader who has firmly grasped the essence of Army Values," said Col. Tom Harvey, Bell's commander when stationed at the 599th Transportation Group, where the bulk of Bell's leadership qualities were displayed.

After being assigned to the 599th team, Bell hit the ground running.

"She is an excellent asset and very initia-

tive-driven officer," said Lt. Col. Reggie Hall, 599th Operations assistant chief of staff. "After developing an integrated active duty and reserve team to support deploying units, she led the first end-to-end unit deployment by the 599th of more than 3,000 pieces of equipment."

Results continued to pour in during Bell's eight-month deployment to Southwest Asia, where she served as the 595th Transportation Group's battle captain in the brigade-level Tac-

tical Operations Center at the Sea Point of Disembarkation in Kuwait.

As battle captain, Bell maintained a common operational picture for United States and Coalition vessels in the Central Command area of responsibility, in addition to overseeing strategic and intra-theater sealift.

"Her dedication to the job truly enhanced my ability to effectively command and control SDDC's most complex operational support unit," Harvey said of her service with the 595th. "Captain Bell's excellent leadership is the means for SDDC's highly successful deployment and distribution operations involving more than 75,000 pieces of war fighter equipment," Harvey added.

Bell's philosophy on leadership is perhaps what helps get any job completed with excellence.

"Always do your best, regardless of the task, and have fun while you're doing it," the nine-year veteran explained.

Her superiors say when she leads, it's by example, ever doing the right thing.

For Bell, being recognized as a great leader means great leaders led her.

"Everyone has unique qualities, so what I do is try to find one or two qualities in a leader that I admire and incorporate those qualities into my own leadership style."

(Editor's Note: This article was compiled from news releases and an article by Robyn Mack, command affairs officer for the 599th Transportation Group.)

Morikawa named top Army civilian

WASHINGTON — The Department of the Army's highest civilian honor, the Exceptional Civilian Service Award, was presented to Herbert Morikawa, director, Resource Management, U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii, May 9.

DA recognized Morikawa for exceptional performance of duty as the CJ8 with Combined Joint Task Force 76 during Operation Enduring Freedom-Afghanistan. The Secretary of the Army Francis J. Harvey presented awards in a Pentagon ceremony.

Morikawa and his team of four civilians — Ed Toma, Owen Roberts, Joe Parks and Matt Steger — who all deployed to OEF with the 25th Infantry Division (Light) and U.S. Army, Hawaii, received a Meritorious Team Performance Award at the worldwide Resource Management Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, June 2. The "Combat Comptrollers of CJTF-76" award nomination cited them for exceptional performance of duty in resource stewardship in a combat environment.

"It's bittersweet," Morikawa said wistfully. "Many of these people are like family to me."

Morikawa has logged more than 31 years in aresource management, and he said thoroughly enjoys the challenges.

In a letter home to his daughter, he described his patriotism and loyalty to his country, and his wish to be with the Soldiers from the division.

"I thought it was my duty to come out here," he said with pride in his voice.



Courtesy photo

Above — Herbert Morikawa (center), US Army Garrison, Hawaii DoD civilian employee receives award from Secretary of the Army, Francis J. Harvey, in a Pentagon ceremony, as Chief of Staff General Schoomaker looks on. Left — Morikawa tries on a local Afghan hat given to him at his farewell dinner in Afghanistan, after five months in country as the director of resources for Combined Joint Task Force 76. Morikawa, a Vietnam veteran, was one of five resource managers who oversaw more than \$1 billion in finances for CJTF-76.



Marine Cpl Justin Schaeffer

Staff Sgt. Bradley Rhen hands out pens to children in Spera, Afghanistan, during a humanitarian mission there Dec. 9. Rhen

Schofield boasts DoD's top writer

Compiled by the Public Affairs Office
25th Infantry Division (Light) and
U.S. Army, Hawaii

A journalist from the 25th Infantry Division (Light) took first place in a Department of Defense journalism competition for a news story he wrote for the Hawaii Army Weekly in 2004.

Staff Sgt. Bradley Rhen won first place in the Pacific Region and in the Department of the Army Keith L. Ware Journalism Competitions. First-place winners from the DA competition compete against winners from the other military branches at the DoD level.

"It never really affected me because I'm not into awards like this," Rhen said about his recognition. "Don't get me wrong ... it's cool to get recognized with this award, but that's not why I do what I do. I like being a journalist because it gives me a chance to hang out with other Soldiers and tell their story."

The best reward, Rhen said, is when Soldiers come up to him and express heartfelt appreciation for stories on them, their units and family members in the newspaper or on the Internet.

"I like to [give] Soldiers whose jobs are more difficult than mine their 15 minutes of fame," Rhen explained.

Former editor of the Hawaii Army Weekly, Rhen's comprehensive look at Tropic Lightning Soldiers deploying to Operation Iraqi Freedom netted the DoD distinction.

"It was the start of the biggest deployment for the Division since Vietnam, so it was like watching Division history happen," the 29-year-old Rhen, a Lebanon, Pa. native, said about his story.

Rhen, who has served in the Army for seven years (this August), joined the military after graduating from Penn State with a Journalism major and an English minor.

Barger wins Federal Employee of the Year

WAIKIKI — U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' project manager Cindy Barger received the Federal Employee of the Year Award in the Professional, Administrative and Technical category from the Hawaii Federal Executive Board, June 8, during the 49th annual event here.

Barger was nominated by the Honolulu Engineer District for her superior work in the successful completion of the Styker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

"Everyone in the Honolulu District is well aware of Cindy Barger's accomplishments and her role in leading the team that executed the successful SBCT EIS," said Honolulu District Commander Lt.

Col. David E. Anderson. "I am thrilled that the rest of the federal family in Hawaii is recognizing her accomplishments, too."

The 2nd Brigade of the 25th Infantry Division (Light) is in the process of transforming into an SBCT. Transformation is important because it will provide the Army and the nation with a more responsive, deployable, agile, versatile, lethal, survivable and sustainable force well suited to meet the defense challenges of the 21st century, said Army officials.

The 2005 Federal Executive Board said it was "saluting the best in Hawaii and the Pacific."



Courtesy photo

Cindy Barger, right, receives the Federal Employee of the Year Award.



Courtesy photo

Staff Sgt. Juan Merchan, shop foreman, Headquarters and Headquarters Batters, 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, replaces a headlight on a high mobility multipurpose vehicle.

Artillery: maintenance on target

was going to be the ultimate test, and we have had tremendous success."

Placing more of an emphasis on maintenance prior to deploying made a difference for the Soldiers when they got their boots on the

ground, he said. But the challenge didn't end there.

For most of the year, the unit's personnel and equipment were spread out over several different forward operating bases in remote areas of the country.

Operating over such a vast area challenged the procedures and systems the unit had in place to logistically outfit the battalion's personnel operating in the field, said Feliciano.

"We made it happen," said Feliciano of the operational challenge, which is one of more than 20 areas rated by the review board.

To enter the competition, Feli-

ciano submitted a packet up the chain of command.

"The packet speaks for itself," said Neason.

In the narrative format, the packet describes the unit's community projects, safety programs, mission requirements and operational readiness.

This is the second consecutive year 3rd Bn., 7th FA Rgt., has been selected at the major command level. The unit has a history of working hard to accomplish the mission to the highest possible level.

Last year, the unit placed third in the DA-level competition.