

# HAWAII ARMY WEEKLY

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Serving the U.S. Army community in Hawaii

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## What's Inside



ALL ARMY ATHLETE B-1

Voices of Lightning .... A-2  
Briefs ..... A-4, B-2  
Movies ..... B-2  
TV 2 Schedule ..... B-2

## News briefly

### USARPAC Relinquishment of Command ceremony

Lt. Gen. James Campbell will relinquish command of U.S. Army Pacific during a ceremony at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Palm Circle on Fort Shafter. Campbell has been reassigned as the director of the Army staff at the Pentagon. Maj. Gen. William Brandenburg, deputy commander of USARPAC, will assume command until Maj. Gen. John M. Brown III assumes command.

### Purple Heart Monument Dedication

A memorial commemorating the service and sacrifices of veterans who have earned the Purple Heart will be dedicated at 10 a.m. Aug. 7 at the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery in Kaneohe. The date coincides with the establishment of the original Purple Heart – known then as the Badge of Military Merit – on Aug. 7, 1782, by Gen. George Washington. Ceremonies will be held throughout the country on this year's observance of Purple Heart Day. For more information, call Charles Turner at 833-6655.

### Tripler Change of Command

Maj. Gen. Gale S. Pollock will assume command of the Pacific Regional Medical Command and Tripler Army Medical Center during a change of command ceremony at 9 a.m. Aug. 11 at the Tripler softball field.

### Lease Signing Saturday at Schofield Barracks and AMR

A lease signing party will take place on Schofield Barracks and AMR Aug. 14. Two events will feature food, bounce-houses for the kids, games, and more. Tables will be set up at each location to assist Soldiers and spouses with the paperwork. Spouses with powers of attorneys may sign in the absence of the Soldier. It is critical that all Army Hawaii family housing residents sign their leases. Signing the lease will ensure that families remain authorized for their current house. It also "turns on" the BAH payments to the project that fund ongoing maintenance, new homes and renovations. The leases are what flips the switch on for funding that goes toward the future of Army housing in Hawaii. Call Actus Lend Lease or go to the closest Actus community center for information.

### Deployment Town Hall Meeting

Soldiers who are deploying and their family members can have questions about the deployments answered at a Deployment Town Hall Meeting at 6:30 p.m. Aug. 17 at Sgt. Smith Theater on Schofield Barracks.

## TF Bronco troops show presence near Kandahar

Staff Sgt Twana Atkinson  
CJTF-76 Public Affairs Office

KANDAHAR AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – Soldiers from the 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment and 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment patrol provinces in and around Kandahar city to help rebuild Afghanistan by ensuring safety, providing medical assistance and nominating reconstruction projects.

The units perform daily mounted patrols throughout the provinces with a platoon size element and scout helicopter team.

"Soldiers are providing security in and around the Kandahar area for the Afghans to have safe presidential elections this fall," said Maj. David Flynn, the 3rd Bn., 7th

Field Artillery Rgt. operations officer.

Soldiers from 3rd Sqdn., 4th Cav. Rgt. went on a mission to the Panjwayi district July 5 to offer the locals a project nomination for three new schools including a new high school. The school will provide an education for teenagers in the surrounding five districts.

"This is good because it's about building schools for the kids," said Spc. Justin Spencer, a 3rd Sqdn. 4th Cav. Rgt. scout. "It good to do something to benefit them. I'm all for it."

The locals greeted the Soldiers as they approached their village and the elders took the troops into their homes.

As the Soldiers entered the homes, Capt. Craig Colucci, the 3rd Sqdn. See "Presence" Page A-6



Staff Sgt. Twana Atkinson

Soldiers from 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment pull security alongside a road in a small city in the Panjwayi district of Afghanistan July 2.

## Strykers debut in Hawaii



Staff Sgt. Bradley Rhem

Tyler Myers (left), 7, helps his younger brother Hayden, 5, try on a helmet while checking out a Stryker vehicle Tuesday at Alii Beach Park in Haleiwa. Tuesday's display was one of five on Oahu and the Big Island that were designed to give Hawaii residents an up-close look at the vehicles. See page A-3 for more on the Stryker displays.

## U.S. forces moving out of Seoul by end of 2008

By Kathleen T. Rhem  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – U.S. and Korean officials have agreed on a plan to move all 8,000 American troops out of Seoul and its suburbs by December 2008. The forces will be relocated to south of the Han River in the Pyongtaek area, roughly 50 miles south of Seoul.

Officials also agreed to move the U.S. Army's 2nd Infantry Division from its existing bases near the Demilitarized Zone to the same area south of Seoul. The timeline for this move has yet to be worked out, DoD officials said.

American and South Korean officials announced the upcoming changes in a joint press conference at the State Department's Foreign Press Center here July 23. The officials briefed the press following the 10th round of the Future of the Alliance talks, held here last week.

"The important message of the day today is that the alliance is well," said Richard Lawless, deputy undersecretary of defense for Asia Pacific affairs. "It's working toward its goals; it's progressing."

The officials gave several reasons for the shift in forces. Consolidating far-flung forces on fewer bases will allow greater efficiency in land use and personnel, Evans Revere, a U.S. State Department expert on Asian affairs, said.

He also noted the move will free up "some very valuable land" for use by Korean municipalities. He said he hopes this will enhance Korean public support for continued U.S. military presence on the peninsula.

Lawless explained that areas surrounding U.S. facilities north of the Han River have become increasingly urbanized and those bases now cause "discomfort" to the local population. "(U.S. bases) encroach upon the daily lives of the Korean people," he said, noting the upcoming move is "very much driven by our desire to become a better partner there."

Officials from both countries have been working together for some time to finalize plans to move 2nd Infantry Division troops south from the DMZ region. During Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's visit to South Korea in November 2003, officials explained the U.S. government has been investing in enhanced weapons systems and command-and-control systems to allow more efficient deployment of forces in Korea.

"Whatever adjustments we may make will reflect the new technologies that are available, the new capabilities, and they will strengthen our ability to deter, and if necessary, defeat any aggression against allies such as South Korea," Rumsfeld said Nov. 18, 2003, in Seoul.



Bob McElroy

Spc. T.J. Hooper (on machine gun) of Waimea and identical twins Peter (standing) and Paul Angeleo of Kailua-Kona, from Co. B, 2nd Bn., 299th Infantry Rgt. practice assembly and disassembly of an M240B machine gun during Annual Training at Pohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island.

## No more weekend warriors

### 29th SIB Soldiers maximize training time at PTA

By Bob McElroy  
PTA Public Affairs Officer

POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA, Hawaii – When the Soldiers of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 299th Infantry Regiment, 29th Separate Infantry Brigade were preparing for their annual training here they were alerted for deployment to Iraq.

Suddenly, "AT" took on a whole different meaning; when Co. B deployed to PTA, training became more intense and the Soldiers focused more on what they needed to do.

For Company B commander 1st Lt. Robert L. Vandertuin, the impending

deployment meant it was especially important to maximize training time while at PTA.

Guided by active-duty Soldiers who have served in combat in Iraq, Vandertuin's done just that and more, leading his Soldiers through a "crawl-walk-run" process to teach them the skills they'll need to conduct security and stability operations in Iraq.

Vandertuin, who has commanded the company for two years, is pleased with his Soldiers' performance at PTA.

"It's different training, guys are really motivated," he said. "They're focused on what they need to do."

The company has gone

through close quarters combat and reflexive fire drills as well as platoon live fire in an urban environment; exactly the training they'll need should they find themselves in one of Iraq's urban areas.

As critical as their training at PTA is to the company's success, taking care of their families before deployment is equally important, Vandertuin noted.

"The first part of any deployment is taking care of families," he asserted, "that's most important."

Vandertuin understands that unless a Soldier is confident his family is taken care of and doing fine, he will not be an effective member of the

See "Training" Page A-4



We want to hear from you

The Hawaii Army Weekly welcomes letters and commentaries from readers. To submit call the editor at 655-4816 or e-mail editor@hawaiiarmyweekly.com. The deadline for articles is the Friday prior to the week of publication. Send all articles in Microsoft Word or text format.

OPINION & COMMENTARY

A Soldier's Story

Commentary

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

KIRKUK AIRBASE, Iraq - Well we have officially hit the six month mark of our deployment. Hopefully we are on the downside like the Wednesday of every week. Too bad it can't fly by that fast. This week I have had a chance to reflect on some of the highs and lows of our deployment so far. I remember the family members' faces as they said goodbye to all their loved ones; the bitter cold wind and rain in the first month we were here; facial expressions as we conducted our first combat operations; the loss of a great squad leader; a child's face as they received some new clothes or a toy; the stories of five new fathers as they returned from R&R seeing their children for the first time.

I could go on and on until the ink in the printer runs out. The good has outweighed the bad in our first six months. I can only hope and pray it continues in the same manner.

Jul. 20, 10:17 p.m. - An explosion is heard from an observation post in the city; distance and direction are reported. From the map I can see it's in Company B's sector. The order is for a squad to load and get ready to roll. Reports from battalion headquarters is that police officers had been attacked with a roadside bomb during an ambush. Final casualty report: one officer killed, four injured.

This has become a common occurrence lately. The enemy has figured out that we have taken huge measures to predict his movements and protect ourselves. They are now going after the police officers. We understand this and we have begun intense training regimens with our assigned police stations.

We continued our meetings with the political and village leaders this week. We try to make sure we check with them as often as possible in order to ensure that they are prepared for the changing Iraq. As each meeting ends, I find myself



1st Sgt. Robert Jennings

Soldiers and police officers hand out clothes in a local Kurdish Village.

understanding more and more about the culture. This has helped me help them adapt to their new changes

Jul. 21, 2:15 p.m. - Today is the hottest since we've been here, 128 degrees.

Jul. 22, 11 p.m. - an explosion and gunfire are heard approximately 700 meters from the patrol base. I immediately ran inside to alert the reaction force. Reports were coming across the radio from the observation posts in the city. We alerted the police to the incident and they responded.

After conducting an investigation it was determined that a rocket propelled grenade was shot at the house of a contractor along with approximately 50 rounds from a couple of AK-47s. Thankfully there were no casualties. The contractor does a lot of work on the airbase and now has been targeted for helping coalition forces. The bad guys continue to attack the softer civilian targets that work for the coalition in hopes to deter us from staying. They just don't get it yet.

This week meet Spc. Aaron Blenden, a designated marksman for 1st squad, 1st platoon. He is from Bedford, Texas and has been in the Army for 2 1/2 years.

Blenden said that there is a little less combat than he expected before he deployed. He added, "Even though we are not fighting everyday, I can see the difference we are making by helping this country rebuild in a democratic fashion."

He went on to say, "They still have a long way to go, but most of the people here really want their country to change. It's just a few that seem to be trying to deter the change."

I asked Blenden what has been the most stressful part of his deployment. He said, "We were getting ready to go to bed when the platoon got alerted to do a raid. We only had 20 minutes to prepare. The intel told us that these were some bad dudes that were going to fight and they might not be taken alive. I was supposed to be the first guy in the door when we took the house." He went on to add, "Through all the mayhem of the hit, I never even felt the stress once we hit the ground and started to move."

He finished his interview by saying hi to his mom and dad, Pamela and Mark, and his brother Brian and his family back in Texas. "I really appreciate all the prayers and support you all have given me."

Secretary of Defense tells troops why we fight in Iraq

Commentary

Donald H. Rumsfeld  
Secretary of Defense.

WASHINGTON - More than 15 months ago, a global coalition ended the brutal regime of Saddam Hussein and liberated the people of Iraq.

As in all conflicts, this has come at a cost in lives. Some of your comrades made the ultimate sacrifice. For your sacrifices, our country and the President are deeply grateful.

In a free, democratic country we have vigorous debates over important public policy issues - none more heated than a decision to go to war. But this should not distract us from the mission at hand or lessen the magnitude of your accomplishments.

The threat we face must be confronted. And you are doing so exceedingly well. Indeed it has been an historic demonstration of skill and military power.

On September 11, 3,000 citizens were killed by extremists determined to frighten and intimidate our people and civilized societies. The future danger is that, if the extremists gain the potential, the number of casualties would be far higher. Terrorists are continuing to plot attacks against the American people and against other civilized societies. This is a different kind of enemy and a different kind of world. And we must think and act differently in this new century.

These extremists think nothing of cutting off innocent people's heads to try to intimidate great nations. They have murdered citizens from many countries - South Korea, Japan, Spain, the United Kingdom and others - hoping to strike fear in the hearts of free people.

Theirs is an ideology of oppression and subjugation of women. They seek to create radical systems that impose their views on others. And they will accept no

armistice with those who choose free systems.

They see the governments of the Middle East, the United States and our stalwart allies all as targets.

Consider the background. In the span of 20 years, Hussein's Iraq invaded two neighbors, Iran and Kuwait, and launched ballistic missiles at two more. He employed poison gas against soldiers in Iran and against Kurdish villagers in his own country.

The United Nations and the U.S. Congress shared the view that Saddam's regime was a threat to the region and the world. Indeed, in 1998, our Congress passed a resolution calling for the removal of the regime. And over the years the U.N. passed 17 resolutions condemning Saddam's regime and calling on him to tell the UN about his weapons programs. He ignored every one.

Information gathered since the defeat of Saddam's regime last year confirms that his last declaration to the United Nations about his weapons programs was falsified. The U.N. resolutions had called for "serious consequences" should Saddam not comply. He did not.

The President issued a final ultimatum to Saddam to relinquish power to avoid war. Saddam chose war instead.

By your skill and courage, you have put a brutal dictator in the dock to be tried by the Iraqi people and restored freedom to 25 million people. By helping to repair infrastructure, rebuild schools, encourage democratic institutions and delivering educational and medical supplies, you have shown America's true character and given Iraq a chance at a new start.

But most importantly, your fight - and ultimate victory - against the forces of terror and extremism in Iraq and the Middle East will have made America safer and more secure.

You are accomplishing something noble and historic - and future generations of Americans will remember and thank you for it.

Voices of Lightning

What do you think of the Stryker Vehicle?



"As long as it supports the economy and increases the defense of our country and it's not nuclear, I think it will be good for Hawaii."

Tony Fallas  
North Shore resident



"I think they are very flexible and they have their place on the battlefield."

Maj. Mike Conway  
U.S. Pacific Command  
Operations officer



"It's worth our tax dollars - every bit of it. I'm very pleased."

Edward Harvest  
North Shore resident



"I think it's a good idea and they're quiet, too."

Sgt. Desiree Johnson  
115th MI Bn.  
Orderly room clerk



"I'm excited. I think they will help make our Army stronger."

Crystal Pettay  
Family member



"It'll benefit the community and also the other units in 25th ID (L) and Schofield Barracks."

Sgt. Daniel Root  
HHC, DISCOM  
NCOIC, S2

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Pvt. 2 Matt Borgens, a Stryker crew member from Fort Wainwright, Alaska, answers a question from *Honolulu Advertiser* reporter William Cole as photographer Richard Ambro takes his photograph Monday at Ford Island. Three Stryker vehicles were on display this week so Hawaii residents could get an up-close look at them.

# Stryker show and tell

## Hawaii community gets glimpse of Stryker vehicles

Story and Photos By  
Staff Sgt. Bradley Rhen  
Editor

It was indeed a "dog and pony show," except the animal in question weighed 19 tons.

The Army rolled out Stryker vehicles at five community displays so Oahu and Big Island residents could get an up-close look at vehicles and talk to crew members. Two public displays were held on the Big Island and three more were held on Oahu, giving residents a chance to crawl through the vehicle and talk to Soldiers, some of whom served with the Stryker Brigade Combat Team in Iraq.

The Schofield Barracks community also got its own display Monday when the vehicles made an appearance at the post's commissary.

The idea of the displays was to give residents an opportunity to see the vehi-

cles, meet some of the troops, and ease some environmental and cultural concerns that the Strykers will cause more air and noise pollution and inflict damage to the land, said Capt. Kathleen Turner, U.S. Army Hawaii public affairs officer.

"We wanted the community to touch, see and hear these vehicles," she said.

Turner said she hoped the displays would help dispel some of the myths and misconceptions believed by some people who haven't actually seen the vehicles.

"They aren't massive machines that make tons of noise," she said.

The vehicles will be the centerpiece of the Stryker Brigade Combat Team, which the 25th Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team will transform into when it returns from its current deployment to Iraq. The SBCT will have 291 of the 19-ton vehicles.

Vehicles will begin arriving in Hawaii in the summer of 2006, and the SBCT is expected to be operational in the summer of 2007.

The vehicles were unveiled to media and community leaders on Oahu Monday at Ford Island. Lt. Gen. James Campbell, commander of U.S. Army Pacific, introduced them as the "future of your United States Army."

"What you will see today is a step taken ... to make our United States Army a more effective fighting force," Campbell said. "The Stryker vehicles you see today are very similar to the Stryker vehicles that have been tested in combat. The reports from the battlefield have been all we could have hoped for and more."

Campbell noted that Soldiers in Iraq have gained great confidence in the vehicles and they've been able to get their jobs done while at the same time saving lives.

He said the most impressive thing to him is the testimony of the insurgents and terrorists who have fought against the Stryker vehicles.

"They describe the Soldiers that ride the Stryker vehicles as 'Ghost Soldiers,' that they appear when least expected and they travel great distances to hit them," Campbell said.

"These vehicles are awesome," said Michael Leferson, who visited the Schofield Barracks display and took a ride in an Infantry Carrier Vehicle.

Leferson, who works for Anheuser-Busch, said the vehicle was smoother and quieter than a beer truck.

Leferson's wife, Teri, said she's heard about the controversy of the vehicles and decided to come down and take a look for herself.

"I'm really impressed," Teri Leferson said. "I think whatever it takes to keep our men safe, we should do it."



A young visitor exits a Stryker Infantry Carrier Vehicle after taking a ride Monday at Schofield Barracks.



As the sun sets on Oahu's North Shore, local residents check out a Stryker Fire Support Vehicle at Alii Beach Park in Haleiwa.

Left: Pvt. 2 Matt Borgens, a Stryker crew member from Fort Wainwright, Alaska, answers questions from community members during the Stryker display Tuesday at Alii Beach Park in Haleiwa.

Bottom right: Schofield Barracks community members take a ride in a Stryker Infantry Carrier Vehicle Monday at Schofield Barracks.





Briefs

**Concerts at Crossroads Coffeehouse** – Local Jazz artist BeverlyB will be in concert with her band at 7:30 p.m. tonight at the Crossroads Coffeehouse. Recording Artist Greg Dahl will be hosting his final concert on the island, with his full band, at the Crossroads Coffeehouse, Aug. 6 at 7:30 p.m. Crossroads Coffeehouse is held every Friday at the Ka’ala Recreation Center on Schofield Barracks. The events are free and open to everyone. For more information, call 655-9355.

**Army 10-Miler Qualification Run** – An Army Ten Miler qualification run will be held Aug. 6 on Schofield Barracks for Soldiers who wish to be a member of the U.S. Army Hawaii Army Ten Miler team. A competitor briefing begins at 4:30 a.m. and the race will start at 5 a.m. The route is twice around Trimble and Lyman Roads. From Trimble and Cadet Sheridan head in the direction of the Schofield Inn/CIF crossing over Kolekole Ave. After passing the GSA store on the right side of the road, make a right turn onto Lyman Road. While on Lyman, proceed until to the apex where Lyman and Trimble connect. Make a right turn back onto Trimble and proceed to Trimble and Cadet Sheridan. That is the five mile mark. Continue to run the same route and the race ends at Trimble and Cadet Sheridan Road. Afghanistan qualification times ranged from 58 to 67 minutes for men, and 65 to 73 minutes for women. Master’s qualification times ranged from 62 to 72 minutes. For more information, call Sgt. Maj. Raymond Arnold at 655-0578.

**Networking and Salary Negotiation** – Have you wondered how people get the best jobs with great salaries? A Networking and Salary Negotiation Workshop will be held from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Aug. 12 at Army Community Service, Bldg 2091, on Schofield Barracks. Get information on different resources that can be accessed to see if your salary requirements are comparative to qualifications you hold. For more information or to register, call 655-2400.

**Quarterly retirement ceremony** – U.S. Army, Hawaii will conduct a quarterly retirement ceremony at 2 p.m. Aug. 19 in Sergeant Smith Theater at Schofield Barracks to recognize retiring Soldiers for their dedicated service to the U.S. Army and the nation. For more information, call Sgt. Maj. Billie Thompson at 655-8711.

**22nd Annual MI Ball** – The 22nd annual Military Intelligence Ball will take place on Aug. 20 at the Renaissance Ilikai Waikiki Hotel. Tickets are \$30 for E-4 and below, \$40 for E-5 and E-6 and \$45 for E-7 and above. Call Staff Sgt. Mclean, 655-5360 or Pfc. Booth, 655-9575 for information.

**Women’s Equality Day Celebration** – The 10th Annual Women’s Equality Day Celebration will be held at 7 a.m. Aug. 28 at Stoneman Field on Schofield Barracks. There will be a 5k Fun Run, a 1-mile Keiki Run, a guest speaker, keiki activities and information booths. For more information or for a run application, call 655-3578/8389.

**Ready to Learn – Free School Kits** – Since 1998, Hawaii’s children have been provided needed school supplies through a partnership between U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Maggie Inouye and Helping Hands Hawaii. This

generosity has made it possible for the U.S. Army Garrison, Directorate of Community Activities, Child and Youth Services, and the Youth Education Support Services to issue more than 2,100 free school supply kits, valued at \$25 each, to more than 800 Army Families. If you registered for your school kits before July 7 and still need to pick them up, visit Building 648 on Lewis Street on Schofield Barracks through July 30 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. or visit the Aliamanu Military Reservation Youth Center, Building 1782 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. on July 31. July 31 will be the deadline for pick-up, no kits will be provided after this date. For more information contact the Youth Education Support Services office at 655-2413.

**New Hours of the Fort Shafter Vehicle Registration Office** – Effective Aug. 9, the public can register or unregister vehicles, weapons, and bicycles at the Fort Shafter Vehicle Registration Office, building 1599, Fort Shafter Flats during the following hours: Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.; 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Registration and unregistration services will not be available on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and federal holidays. Call 438-1092 for information.

**EFMP Summer Pool Parties** – Exceptional Family Member Program families from all services are invited to attend a free summer fun program designed to meet their special needs. Army Community Service EFMP will be hosting an afternoon of fun at the Schofield Barracks pool from noon to 4 p.m. Aug. 14. Hot dogs, salads, ice cream, shaved ice, pinatas and much more will be available. EFMP enrollment and advanced registration is

required. Reservations must be made through your service’s EFMP coordinator by Aug. 9 for the Schofield Barracks party. Army EFMP families must call 655-2303 or 655-2324 for reservations. For more information, call the Army EFMP manager at 655-2303.

**American Red Cross CPR Class** – The Red Cross will hold a CPR class from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Aug. 28 at the Schofield Barracks Red Cross Office. This course will cover adult, infant and child CPR, First Aid and AED. The cost for military ID cardholders is \$53. For more information or to register, call the Red Cross office at 655-4927.

**All Army sports application deadlines** – Here are the deadlines for the following 2004 All Army Sports: Men’s soccer - Aug. 12. Men’s and Women’s All Army 10 Miler team - Aug. 23. (This team will compete in a separate international running division for world-class military teams). 2005 All Army Sports deadlines are as follows: Men’s and women’s bowling - Nov. 1. Men’s and women’s boxing - Nov. 12. Men’s and women’s wrestling - Nov. 24. Cross country - Nov. 29. Applications (DA Form 4762-R, Jan 01) must be submitted through the USAG-HI, CRD Sports Office, Kaala Recreation Center, Building 556, Schofield Barracks. Applications are available at all Army Hawaii Physical Fitness Centers. Athletes obtaining the application on Form Flow must ensure it is the updated Jan. 01 edition. Earlier editions are not accepted by DA Sports and will be returned to sender. Failure to make the event deadline due to return of application or resubmission lies with the applicant. For more information call 655-9914.

**"Golden Knights" Tryouts** – The U.S. Army Parachute Team, "Golden Knights" is currently accepting applications to attend its annual Assessment and Selection Program in September. A downloadable version of the application is available on the Golden Knights' web site: [www.army-goldenknights.com](http://www.army-goldenknights.com). To become a Golden Knight applicants must have a minimum of 150 freefall parachute jumps, a flawless civilian and military record and volunteer to become Airborne qualified. Applications are now being accepted, packets can be sent to the U.S. Army Parachute Team P.O. Box 70126, Fort Bragg, NC 28307. For information contact Golden Knight administration office at 910-396-4800.

**205th MI Bn. Activation Ceremony** – The 205th Military Intelligence Battalion will conduct an activation ceremony at 10 a.m. Oct. 1 at Palm Circle on Fort Shafter. The ceremony will begin with the deactivation of Headquarters and Headquarters Operations Company, followed by the activation of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Company A and Company C. In the case of inclement weather, the ceremony will be conducted in the Fort Shafter Physical Fitness Center.

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

455-4011.  
**AYSO Fall Youth Soccer Registration** – American Youth Soccer Organization Hickam/Pearl Harbor Region 188 will hold the final registration for fall youth soccer from 2 to 6 p.m. July 31 at the Hickam Air Force Base BXtra. Registration is open to boys and girls ages 4-18. Season runs August through early November. Registration fee is \$55. Proof of age required for first time registrants. Pre-register on-line at [www.aysoregion188.org](http://www.aysoregion188.org). For more information, call 834-5979 or e-mail [registrar@aysoregion188.org](mailto:registrar@aysoregion188.org).  
**Boating Class Offered** – Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 18 is offering a class on how to read nautical charts at the McDonald’s Uptown party room at Pearlridge Mall from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 7. The cost is \$35 and includes a manual and exams. This course meets U.S. Coast Guard, state and national boating law administrators’ requirements. The course includes the use of aids to navigation, nautical measurements, significance of various symbols, abbreviations and terms. Send check payable to: USCG AUX F-118; Kawika Warren; 23 Kimo Drive; Honolulu, HI 96817. For more information, call Kawika Warren at 595-4934.

**Free Basic Skills Course** – Brush up on math and reading, get ready for college and improve GT scores with a free basic skills course offered by the 9th RSC at Fort Shafter Flats. Courses are 60 hours each. They will be held Aug. 12 to Sept. 30, and Oct. 21 to Dec. 13. All classes are held 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays in Room 105, Building 1554, Fort Shafter Flats. For more information, call 438-1600 Ext. 3293; or e-mail [education@9rsc.army.mil](mailto:education@9rsc.army.mil).

Sergeant Audie Murphy Club

By Spc. Len Cutler  
Staff writer

The Hawaii chapter of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club recently conducted its quarterly induction ceremony July 12 at the Nehelani on Schofield Barracks, welcoming new members with one of the highest distinctions a non-commissioned officer can receive.

Staff Sgt. Luis Camacho, one of eight applicants for entry, was the only Soldier selected for induction for the period. That, says Sgt. 1st Class Richard C. Gallano, president of the Hawaii chapter, is proof positive that deployments will not affect the standards of the SAMC, even if it affects the application process.

“We’re seeing a lot less applications now, down to eight for this board, when we usually see about 20 Soldiers,” said Gallano. “Our standards remain the same. No one wants to take away from the purpose of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club, and maintaining the integrity and value of membership is important.”

Also unaffected, said Gallano, are the club’s activities. If anything, he said, their schedule has grown more busy, due to work with the Family Readiness Groups and other efforts to support deployed Soldiers.

According to Gallano, the club accepts applications from noncommissioned officers who demonstrate exceptional professionalism.

There are two forms of membership: formal induction, open to NCOs, from corporal to sergeant first class; and honorary membership, for senior NCOs.

Honorary members were recognized at this event. They are: Master Sgt. Gerald F. Morgan, 1st Sgt. Lisa E. Jones, 1st Sgt. Rodney R. Heikkinen and 1st Sgt. Kevin A. McKeller.

According to Gallano, an honorary induction is a way to recognize the contributions of senior NCOs, who play a vital role in shaping the Army.

“We do this to honor the senior NCOs who support the organization, and also contribute to the Army’s purpose, and current

needs.”

The event also featured the awarding of the Dr. Mary E. Walker Award, given to civilian spouses for exemplary service.

Six women were selected for recognition: Stephanie Grant, Janelle Randall, Dawn Maze, Sandy L. Calvetti, Angelia Lambert and Natalie M. Watson.

Gallano said recognizing the dedication of spouses is integral to the Army effort.

“Deployments are especially hard on spouses, who are often left holding everything together. For many of them, this is their first deployment, and we want them to know they’re doing a great job.”

Sergeant Audie Leon Murphy holds the record as the most decorated combat Soldier of World War II. In just three years of active service, Murphy rose from the rank of private to staff sergeant, before receiving a battlefield commission.

He was awarded every medal for valor the U.S. has, including a Medal of Honor for single-handedly repelling several waves of German infantrymen in 1945.

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# Eight Soldiers receive Purple Heart

By Staff Sgt. Bradley Rhen  
*Editor*

Medals and awards are often given to highlight someone's extraordinary achievement. And for the most part, they are often accepted with honor.

However, there is one medal that most recipients would probably rather not receive – the Purple Heart. Whoever receives that medal has been wounded while in combat with an enemy.

Even though it's the oldest and one of the most honored medals the U.S. military awards, its recipients have had to sacrifice their own flesh and blood – and sometimes their life – to receive it.

Eight 25th Infantry Division (Light) Soldiers received Purple Hearts June 23 at Schofield Barracks for wounds they sustained while deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. The Soldiers – all infantrymen – received wounds ranging from gunshot and shrapnel wounds to blown eardrums.

Staff Sgt. Elias Cuellar III, Sgt. Giovanni Bennett, Spc. Brian Fish and Spc. Patrick Scott, all members of Company C, 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, were all wounded April 4 when a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device exploded while their squad was conducting a cordon and search mission in Kirkuk, Iraq.

Cuellar, a squad leader, sustained a wound to his right thigh. Bennett, a team leader, sustained several shrap-

nel wounds, the worst being in his left leg. Fish, an M249 SAW gunner, sustained a concussion, shrapnel wounds to his right side, face and right bicep, and a perforated eardrum. Scott sustained a blown eardrum and shrapnel in the hand

Sgt. Don Wegesend, Co. A, 1st Bn., 27th Inf. Rgt., was wounded April 4 while on patrol in Hawija, Iraq. He sustained a bullet wound above his elbow.

Spc. Cory Ferguson, Co. A, 1st Bn., 21st Inf. Rgt., was wounded May 2 when the vehicle he was riding in was hit by an IED and small arms fire during a presence patrol in Kirkuk, Iraq. He received a fractured right tibia and slight nerve damage to the left hand.

Pfc. Christian Kenny, Co. A, 2nd Bn., 27th Inf. Rgt., was wounded June 4 while on a combat patrol from Orgun-E to Sharona in Afghanistan. He received shrapnel wounds to his left leg, hand and arm.

Staff Sgt. Kente Bryant, a squad leader in Co. A, 2nd Bn., 35th Inf. Rgt., was wounded June 7 when an IED exploded near his HMMWV while on a routine patrol around Fire Base Tycz in Rawod, Afghanistan. He suffered a broken left leg.

Lt. Gen. James Campbell, commander of U.S. Army Pacific, presented the medals. Campbell said these men each raised their right hand and swore to defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic, including



Staff Sgt. Bradley Rhen

**Lt. Gen. James Campbell, commander of U.S. Army Pacific, shakes hands with Sgt. Giovanni L. Bennett, Co. C, 1st Bn., 21st Inf. Rgt., after presenting him a Purple Heart June 23. Eight 25th Infantry Division (Light) Soldiers received Purple Hearts at Schofield Barracks that day.**

“cowardly terrorists” who hide behind ski masks and swear to take what is most precious to us – our freedom.

“By raising their right hand, and

taking that oath sent a signal to all ... that they are willing to put their boots on the ground and their life on the line for us and for our freedom,” Campbell said. “Make no mistake,

the eight men standing before you have looked the enemy in the eye and they have not blinked. They have sacrificed their blood and their flesh to keep you safe.”



Sgt. Eishaw Meade

**1st Sgt. David J. Kucic and Soldiers of HHS, 2nd Bn., 11th Field Artillery Rgt. pay tribute to 1st Lt. Robert Kalsu during the dedication ceremony of FOB Kalsu in As Sulaymaniyah, Iraq.**

By Sgt. Eishaw Meade  
*25th ID (L) Public Affairs*

AS SULAYMANIYAH, Iraq – On July 21, 1970, in a foreign land, 1st Lt. Robert “Bob” Kalsu did one of the noblest things a Soldier could do. He gave the ultimate sacrifice, los-

ing his life in Thua Thien, South Vietnam, while serving his country.

On July 21, 2004, in a foreign land, we did the most honorable thing by paying tribute to that American hero.

Coalition Forces, Iraqi soldiers, and local political

leaders stood at attention as the official orders were read for the dedication ceremony of Forward Operating Base Kalsu. FOB Kalsu, the home of HHS, 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment, is located in the heart of the Pesh Merga Complex in As Sulaymaniyah.

“One of the greatest things you could do for a person is remembering them,” said Iraqi Border Police Commander, Col. Fakhraadeen Abdulla Hama Saeed. “His name and unselfishness will be forever etched in history.”

Kalsu had already made a name for himself before the war as husband, father and NFL football player for the Buffalo Bills. He was an eighth round draft pick but was voted top rookie in 1968. When his name was

called, Kalsu did not use connections to dodge the draft. He went willingly in November of 1969 and was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Battery 2nd Bn., 11th Artillery Rgt., 101 Airborne Division as a field artillery commander. Kalsu had to leave behind his pregnant wife Jan and young daughter.

On July 21, 1970, Kalsu was killed by hostile fire at Firebase Ripcord near the Ashau Valley; he was 25-years old.

“Not only did this honorable man give up a lucrative career, but he gave up family, friends, and eventually his life to serve his country. He was the epitome of the phrase ‘Soldier first,’” said Capt. Scott Greenblatt, commander, HHS, 2nd Bn., 11th Field Artillery Rgt.

A life size mural of Kalsu, in full battle rattle hangs in the entrance of the FOB. He smiles down on the crowd and a box of t-shirts bearing his name, sent by the Buffalo Bills in honor of

the dedication.

Pfc. Timothy Williams watched as guests admired the facility.

“What greater gift can you give, than the sacrifice of human life ... your own human life?” asked Williams. “Dedicating this FOB is just a small token of appreciation for the unrepayable sacrifice 1st Lt. Kalsu made.”

Kalsu was inducted posthumously into the Buffalo Bills Wall of Fame in November 2000.



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# Lightning Attack pilot throws a hero’s strike

By Capt. Jeffrey D. McCoy  
*1st Bn., 25th Aviation Rgt.*

An OH-58D Kiowa Warrior pilot from 1st Battalion (Attack), 25th Aviation Regiment who is home in Texas recovering from wounds sustained in Iraq, threw the first pitch at the Texas Rangers game June 12 against the St. Louis Cardinals.

Despite his left arm being immobilized and the amputation of a portion of his right index finger, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Cody Sharp threw a perfect strike over home plate.

Ever in good spirits, Sharp told his fellow Soldiers in Iraq, “that he could now throw a natural knuckleball.”

Rangers manager Buck Showalter personally took position behind the plate to catch the pitch as a dignified show of respect.

On April 8, Sharp and CW2 Jason Ray were conducting reconnaissance and security in the western portion of Baghdad supporting 1st Squadron, 5th Cavalry Rgt., whose forward operating base was in heavy direct and indirect contact.

Immediately upon arriving on station, Sharp and Ray began receiving heavy volumes of enemy small arms and machine gun fire.

Despite the enemy fire, they and their sister aircraft piloted by CW4 Alan Jewett and CW2 Aaron Dotson remained on station identifying and attempting to engage enemy personnel and positions in support of friendly ground units in the area.

While attempting to engage 5-7 insurgents armed with AK-47s and rocket propelled grenades, Sharp and Ray’s aircraft received direct machine gun fire through the cockpit. As a result of the enemy fire, both aviators were wounded.

Sharp, who was on the controls as the rounds struck the cockpit, sustained a severed right index finger, and a compound fracture with severe muscular and vascular damage to his left forearm.

Ray received a wound to his right bicep from a small arms round.

Sharp, unable to pilot the helicopter immediately made a may-day call, and Ray attempted to regain control of the aircraft as it spiraled towards the ground. Sharp immediately began assisting Ray as he attempted to find a suitable landing area.

Ray, completely without the use of his right arm, attempted to fly the helicopter by alternating his left hand between the cyclic and collective controls. Ultimately, by

placing the cyclic between his knees to keep the aircraft level, he was able to land the rapidly descending aircraft upright and without causing further injury.

Once on the ground, the crew immediately exited the aircraft, which was destroyed by two enemy RPGs minutes later. The aircraft had come to rest approximately 100 meters from 1-5 CAVs forward operating base, and the crew immediately began to move towards it as Jewett and Dotson provided aerial security and began to coordinate ground support.

As they moved from the aircraft, Ray, a former White House medic, provided first aid to Sharp’s forearm and finger. Ray’s actions greatly reduced the amount of blood Sharp lost, and may well have saved his life.

As 1-5 Cav. witnessed the aircraft’s descent they immediately dispatched a Bradley Fighting Vehicle and an M1 Abrams tank to link-up with and secure the downed pilots.

The Bradley, escorted by the Abrams left the area under heavy enemy fire and transported the injured pilots to another nearby forward operating base.

Both pilots were medically evacuated to 31st Combat Surgical Hospital. Sharp had

numerous surgeries in an attempt to save his damaged left forearm and ultimately returned to Brooks Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, to recover.

Ray’s injury required minor surgery, and within three weeks he was back in a Kiowa.

Both aviators were awarded the Purple Heart from Lt. Col. Michael Lundy, commander of 1st Bn., 25th Aviation Rgt., and have awards for valor and heroism pending approval.

It was almost two months to the day after being shot down that Sharp threw his strike at Ameriquest Field.

In an ironic twist, 1-25th Aviation Rgt.’s original call sign “Attack” had to be changed due to a conflict of call signs in theater.

Upon arrival, the battalion adopted the call sign “Strike,” so as Sharp threw his in front of 42,000 patriotic fans, his brothers in arms were continuing to Strike over Baghdad.

**Chief Warrant Officer 3 Cody Sharp, an OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopter pilot from 1st Bn., 25th Aviation Rgt., throws the first pitch at the Texas Rangers game June 12 against the St. Louis Cardinals.**



Courtesy photo

## Training

From A-1

unit in training or combat.

“That’s why it’s important families are taken care of before we deploy,” he said.

Vandertuin is a family man himself: he’s the father of a five-year old boy and a ten-year old girl both of whom will miss him, he said.

He’s not sure his young son understands what’s happening with the deployment but he’s certain his daughter does.

“She sees TV and dad in uniform. She knows dad works hard in the Army,” he said. “She’ll take good care of her little brother.

“Those two are my inspiration; they’re what keeps me going,” he said quietly.

Like several of his Soldiers in Company B, Vandertuin has served many years in the National Guard as well as on active duty. He spent five years on active duty with the 25th Infantry Division’s 4th Bn., 27th Infantry Rgt. The remainder of his 18 years of service has been in the National Guard.

One Company B Soldier who has served the Guard for many years is Sgt. Mello Vallente of Kailua-Kona, Hawaii.

When Vallente was a young boy growing up in the Philippines his dream was to be a Soldier.

Vallente’s family moved

to Hawaii in search of a better life when he was 11-years old and as soon as he graduated from high school he fulfilled his dream – he enlisted in the Army.

And now, 17 years later he is an infantry team leader on his way to Iraq.

Although he is “a little bit nervous” about deploying to a combat zone, Vallente said he is happy to go.

“I wouldn’t do it if I didn’t love America,” he said with a smile. “America is number one. I love America.”

Vallente’s feelings toward the impending deployment was echoed by his fellow Soldiers in Company B; while many feel some nervousness it is offset by confidence in themselves, their leaders and their training.

According to weapons squad leader Sgt. Dominic Lapinig, going to Iraq is “pretty scary but with all the training we’re doing and going to get we should be ready.”

The squad leader notices the change the deployment order had on his Soldiers.

“The Soldiers are more intense and concentrating on training,” he said.

One way Lapinig is ensuring his Soldiers are ready for combat is by cross-training them. He’s had his machine gun section training his mortar section on how to use the M240B machine gun.

“So that everyone knows

how to use it,” Lapinig noted.

Lapinig said that while going to Iraq is daunting his greatest concern is for the family he’s leaving behind: he’s got a wife and three children.

“My biggest concern is getting my family ready,” he said.

Despite his family’s concern for him, Lapinig say’s they know he has an important job to do and are behind him all the way.

“They’re really great, they’re confident in me and behind me,” he said proudly.

The company 1st Sgt. Craig Ynigues shares his Soldiers’ concern for their families and said that taking care of families is a top priority before deployment. He also has one other important concern: taking care of his Soldiers.

“My biggest fear is losing Soldiers over there,” he said. “I want to come back with 100 percent.”

The training Company B has done at PTA will help that goal, he said.

“Spirits are high and we’re motivated. We’ve had good training here the last few days.”

Training at PTA has helped Co. B to become more cohesive, Ynigues added. Soldiers in the unit come from the Big Island as well as Oahu and don’t always train together. Now, he said, they’re likely to be together

for the next 24 months.

Company B and other units from the 29th SIB will mobilize on Aug. 16 and report to Schofield Barracks for training a few days later. They’ll train at Schofield until October and then deploy to Fort Bliss, Texas where they’ll remain until they go to Iraq.

Vandertuin said the plan now is to try to get as many Soldiers home for Christmas as possible. They’ll return to Fort Bliss, Texas, after New Year’s for the rest of their training and deploy to Iraq in February or March 2005.

Ynigues summed up the unit’s attitude for now and into the future.

“No more ‘weekend warriors,’ it’s the real stuff now,” he said.



Bob McElroy

**Staff Sgt. Andres Alcain Jr., a platoon sergeant for Co. B, 2nd Bn., 299th Infantry Rgt., leads his Soldiers through a sand table rehearsal of an upcoming live fire exercise at Pohakuloa Training Area.**

## Presence

From A-1

4th Cav. Rgt. civil affairs officer, explained how important this high school would be to this area.

“This will be the first time that different tribes would come together in this province and let their children attend school together,” Colucci said.

The Soldiers and elders sat in the provincial mayors office and discussed the proposal for the three new schools.

“I can’t believe that you guys are really going to do this,” said the provincial mayor, through a translator. “We are so excited about get-

ting this started.”

These proposed contracts help the Afghan people educate themselves and stimulate the economy by hiring locals to perform duties.

The U.S.-led coalition is trying to encourage education for the Afghans and to support their new government by promoting police academy attendance.

The elders also gave information to the Soldiers about recent Taliban supporters in the area. They now cooperate with the military by capturing and detaining anyone who claims to be Taliban.

“We were just informed that the locals have reported

two truck full of Taliban supporters rode through their village a couple days ago looking for more supporters from this village,” said 1st Lt. Mike O’Neil. “They have also confiscated a fuel truck full of foreign weapons.”

Both units work hand in hand with the locals of the villages in the surrounding provinces of Kandahar by performing numerous village assessments and patrols.

“We all are increasing the capability of the local police force and contributing to the overall security in and around the Kandahar city area,” said Flynn.



# Pentagon Launches 'Operation Blue to Green'

Army News Service

WASHINGTON – Sailors and Airmen may soon be able to "Go Army" under a new Defense Department program intended to rebalance the size of the military. The program is generating new opportunities for continued service and career advancement for those willing to transfer into the Army from other services.

Under "Operation Blue to Green," the Army will reach out to Sailors and Airmen and underscore the advantages of swapping their present uniform for Army green.

"We admire everyone who serves in the nation's uniform," said Lt. Gen. "Buster" Hagenbeck, the Army's uniformed personnel chief, "but I know that anyone who looks closely at today's Army will find a lot to be excited about -- we are growing, and we need experienced people to lead that transition."

Both the House and the Senate have shown an interest in hiking Army strength by perhaps tens of thousands over the next few years, although the final number has not yet been set, officials said.

At the same time, the Navy is planning a force reduction of 8,000 in fiscal 2005, with the Air Force trimming more than 20,000 over the same period.

When the shifts are done, officials said, Pentagon leaders are determined to see to it that the best people are still in uniform -- even if that means a different uniform. And they plan to achieve that outcome entirely by way of voluntary choice.

Where necessary, the Army plans to use bonuses to stimulate the needed service transfers and to carefully guide the experience mix so that promotions stay strong.

The focus of the effort centers on grades E-1 through E-5, but other grades will be considered in meeting Army needs, officials said. For example, the Army will continue to have a sizable demand in areas that share much common ground with other services in knowledge, skill and ability. These include law enforcement, health care, communications and intelligence.

As an incentive to join the Army under Operation Blue to Green, bonuses are being offered to those who have skills that convert to the Army's most needed military occupational specialties.

"There are 120 Air Force specialty codes that will transfer into 37 Army MOSs, and the Navy has 112 ratings that will transfer into 42 Army MOSs," said Col. Norvel Dillard, chief of the Army's Enlisted Accessions Division. "Those are 'Job One,' but we're looking at others as well. We're also looking for officers, primarily junior officers."

Anyone who makes the shift would carry over all creditable active federal service, and procedures will ensure that those migrating within the active force experience no break in service.

Hagenbeck said the program is being designed to make certain there is no break in service and no impact on Montgomery G.I. Bill benefits already "banked" by a member.

In the past few weeks, more than 1,000 Sailors and Airmen have checked out the Operation Blue to Green information on the Web, and answered a questionnaire and indicated intent to transfer. Nearly three-fourths of those exploring the option say they are "very interested" or "ready to transfer."

The procedure is generally expected to operate like this:

The Army will first match its needs to the skills in other services. An outgrowth of that effort will be the identification of places where that audience is concentrated, so that an orientation team can be scheduled to visit that base. They would then meet with interested members and their families and explain the options.

Following a short presentation, one-to-one dialogue would be encouraged with team members on the spot -- some from the Army's Recruiting Command, who can explain the mechanics of the program, and some from operational Army units eager to explain the Army today. The Blue to Green Web link also is being expanded to include chat rooms.

"We are eager to tell our story," said Hagenbeck, "and we'll take whatever time a person needs to make a fully

informed choice and to be comfortable with their decisions. ... We look forward to that dialogue."

Once a person's eligibility is confirmed, the losing service would be contacted to effect an agreement to release. New service agreements would be drafted, and the Sailor or Airman would make the move. In many cases, they would carry a directly transferable skill. Otherwise, training in the new skill would be scheduled as part of the move.

In order to qualify, the Sailor or Airman must be eligible for re-enlistment, must be physically fit, and meet Army height and weight standards.

If the skill is transferable, the new Soldier would be scheduled for a new, four- week Warrior Transition Course, where he or she will be offered a curriculum that provides essential skills and abilities needed in their new service. Topics would include an orientation on organization, rank, uniform wear and career progression. The first WTC is scheduled to start in September at Fort Knox, Ky. It is planned as transition training, not boot camp, officials said.

Those transitioning to a new skill, particularly in combat-arms areas like special operations, would participate in the full range of developmental training to hone current talents and provide a new set of skills and abilities. Officers would not attend WTC, but would normally attend training unique to their branch depending on their grade and experience, officials said.

Upon transfer, new Soldiers would be eligible to compete for promotion so long as they meet Army minimums, which can be years shorter than other services.

The Army's recruiting goal for the fiscal 2005, which begins in October, is about 80,000. Of that number, the Army hopes to recruit at least 8,000 prior-service troops.

More information on Operation Blue to Green can be found at [www.goarmy.com](http://www.goarmy.com).

(Editor's note: Article based on a DoD release edited by the American Forces Press Service and original article written by ARNEWS reporter Courtney Hickson.)

## Army posts to grow with BCT (UA) positioning

By Sgt. Lorie Jewell  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON – A number of Army installations will grow by several thousand Soldiers in the next few years as a result of decisions on where new brigade combat teams (units of action) will be temporarily based, according to senior Army officials.

Permanent locations will be decided during the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure process, also known as BRAC, the officials said.

"It is an operational necessity right now to build these brigade combat team units of action and get them into the field as quickly as possible," said Brig. Gen. David Ralston, director of force management in the Army's G-3, at a media briefing.

In the thick of fighting the Global War on Terror, the Army is transforming from a division-based force into smaller, more rapidly deployable brigade-based units of action that will provide greater combat power. Plans call for 43 modular brigade combat teams (units of action), or BCT (UA)s, to be in place by fiscal year 2006, up from 34 brigades the Army has now. The National Guard will also transform its current combat force to 34 modular BCT (UA)s, officials said.

The 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, Ga., has reset from three brigades into four BCT (UA)s and is preparing to return to Iraq this winter, officials said. The 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Ky., will begin resetting this fiscal year, as will the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, N.Y.

Those changes are expected to add about 1,400 more Soldiers to Fort Stewart; 300 to Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, Ga.; 400 to Fort Benning, Ga.; 4,200

to Fort Drum; and 3,000 to Fort Campbell. These numbers are likely to change as the Army continues to implement plans, officials said.

In fiscal year 2005, the 2nd Cavalry Regiment will convert to a Stryker Brigade Combat Team and move from Fort Polk, La., to Fort Lewis, Wash. That move will add about 3,900 Soldiers to Fort Lewis.

New BCT (UA)s will also stand up at Fort Polk, which will see an overall increase of about 300 Soldiers; Fort Richardson, Alaska, where 2,600 additional Soldiers are anticipated; and Fort Hood, Texas, which will grow by about 5,000 Soldiers.

The Soldiers will be assigned to the new units of action through cross-leveling, PCS moves, and straight out of advanced individual training, or AIT. Some will also be transferred from Korea and other overseas locations, and after completing drill sergeant and recruiting tours.

Officials pledged to limit back-to-back combat tours as much as possible.

Once permanently stationed with a new unit of action, the Army will make every effort to allow Soldiers to remain at an installation for up to seven years.

In deciding where to position the new units of action, planners said they considered several factors: the location of an installation in regard to its power projection; its training capabilities; whether its existing infrastructure and the surrounding community could handle an influx of additional Soldiers; and the ability to minimize turbulence to Soldiers and their families.

The Center for Military History is currently examining options for renaming these formations and to decide unit designations.



# ROK Army convoy gets support from 225th FSB

By Maj. Robert Weaver  
HQ&A 225th FSB

**FORWARD**      **OPERATING**  
BASE WARRIOR, Iraq – Soldiers of Headquarters and A Company, 225th Forward Support Battalion conducted a Refuel on the Move mission July 21 in support of a Republic of Korea Army convoy through AO Warrior.

Before this mission the company conducted ROM operations in support of the 1st Bn., 14th Infantry Regiment's movement to Mosul.

Each of these ROM missions were unique for a light FSB, since none of the ROM equipment is organic to the battalion. The 225th built the capability to execute ROM missions since being deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

Supporting the ROK Army was a historic event for the 2nd BCT and the U.S. Army. For more than 50 years, U.S. Soldiers have worked with the Korean soldiers in South Korea, but now the two countries are working side by side during OIF.

When Spc. In-Sung Jang, a Korean-American Soldier in HQ and A Co., heard the company would be helping South Korean troops, he immediately voiced his ideas to help the mission.

Jang speaks fluent Korean and assisted with the preparation and execution of the mission. He prepared a detailed strip map written



Courtesy photo

**Spc. In-Sung Jang, of HQ and A Company, 225th Forward Support Battalion, acts as an interpreter to a visiting soldier from the Republic of Korea Army during a refuel on the move mission in Iraq July 21.**

in Korean with directions on how the ROM would be executed on FOB Warrior. He wanted to ensure there would be no confusion during the refueling and staging of vehicles.

To successfully complete the mission, the ROM was broken down into four stations. Each station was controlled by a platoon sergeant or platoon leader.

As the first vehicles approached the gate on FOB Warrior, Jang and Staff Sgt. Warren Pennicooke, a platoon sergeant for HQ and A Co., greeted the vehicles at station one. At the front gate ROK soldiers received strip maps written in Korean to aid them in the ROM process.

Pennicooke's Soldiers then escorted the serials to station two.

Jang also floated throughout all the ROM stations to provide assistance.

The Korean soldiers were surprised and proud to see a Korean-American Soldier providing assistance, and the soldiers seemed to be a little more relaxed while he was around.

At station two, Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Reynolds, the supply platoon sergeant for HQ and A Co., received the serial and separated the convoy into smaller elements in order to aid in the fueling process.

After the refueling was complete, the vehicles were escorted to station three controlled by 2nd Lt. Michael Fields, SSA platoon leader.

Fields ensured that all the vehicles requiring MOGAS received fuel at the Air Force fuel point and that the Koreans did not mistake JP-8 for MOGAS.

When the vehicles were processed and ready for movement Soldiers at the refueling station escorted the vehicles to station four.

Sgt. 1st Class William Bryant, SSA platoon sergeant, was responsible for receiving all the serials at the last station. Bryant ensured that all the vehicles were staged in their correct serials prior to departure from FOB Warrior.

Jang provided Korean music at the vehicle staging area for the ROK soldiers. The ROK soldiers were motivated and excited to

hear music from their home country.

"It has been the most exciting experience I have ever had since joining the U.S. Army," Jang said. Hopefully, I'll have some more chances to support my fellow countrymen in the future."

For his efforts and hard work during the ROM, he was awarded a coin from the Korean commander. He thanked Jang for all his hard work and assistance with the mission.

Although Jang provided a great deal of assistance during the ROM, it took a coordinated effort from all Soldiers in the company in order to make the mission happen flawlessly.

While the convoy was staged at the Skeleton Hanger, HQ and A Co. Soldiers received a first-hand look at the Stryker vehicle.

2nd ID Soldiers gave tours of the vehicles, explaining the capabilities and their likes and dislikes concerning the vehicle.

When the 225th redeploys with the 2nd BCT, they will begin the transition to a Stryker Brigade Combat Team.

This was an opportunity for the Soldiers to see and learn about the equipment they will be using once the Stryker transition takes place.

After the convoy was refueled and staged, the ROK Army leadership thanked the 225th Forward Support Battalion for their efforts in making the ROM a success from the reception to the handover.

# 706th EOD Soldiers return to Hawaii after OEF deployment

Capt. Todd Schmidt  
Task Force Bronco

KANDAHAR AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – For a one-of-a-kind unit from Hawaii, it was a once in a lifetime deployment to Afghanistan.

The 706th Explosive Ordnance Detachment returned to Schofield Barracks after six months supporting missions in Operation Enduring Freedom – Afghanistan.

"I want to express to you my personal gratitude for the job you did on a daily basis," said Col. Richard Pedersen, commander of Task Force Bronco, during an awards ceremony at Kandahar Air Field. "Every mission you executed and all the enemy munitions you destroyed literally translates into Soldiers' lives being saved."

The 706th EOD is the only unit of its kind assigned to U.S. Army Pacific, and their

missions in Afghanistan ranged from dismantling improvised explosive devices to interdicting pre-positioned rocket attacks. The Soldiers destroyed more than 150 tons of enemy munitions in 525 separate missions, and according to the detachment commander, it was all done safely.

"Every Soldier that deployed to Afghanistan returned to Hawaii. No accidents or casualties, all

appendages attached," said Capt. Steven Elder, 706th EOD commander.

Elder said there were many lessons learned during the OEF deployment, not the least of which is one basic leadership principle.

"Trust your Soldiers and their training," Elder said. "In

Afghanistan, you can't directly control your troops every day. With Soldiers spread out to five different locations, you have to have faith that they'll do the right thing."

Staff Sgt. Jody George is a six-year veteran of explosive ordinance disposal units and knows it was teamwork that

made his deployment so successful.

"EOD is a little different, we are like a little family," George said. "Leadership goes both ways, everyone needs to look out for one another. A specialist must have my best interests in mind, and I his."



Capt. Todd Schmidt

**Staff Sgt. David Grotkin, 706th Explosive Ordnance Detachment, investigates a possible improvised explosive device near the village of Qalat.**



# COMMUNITY & SPORTS

Capt. Bridget Smith swims at Waimea Bay.  
Courtesy photo

## ALL SOLDIER, ALL ARMY *Athlete*



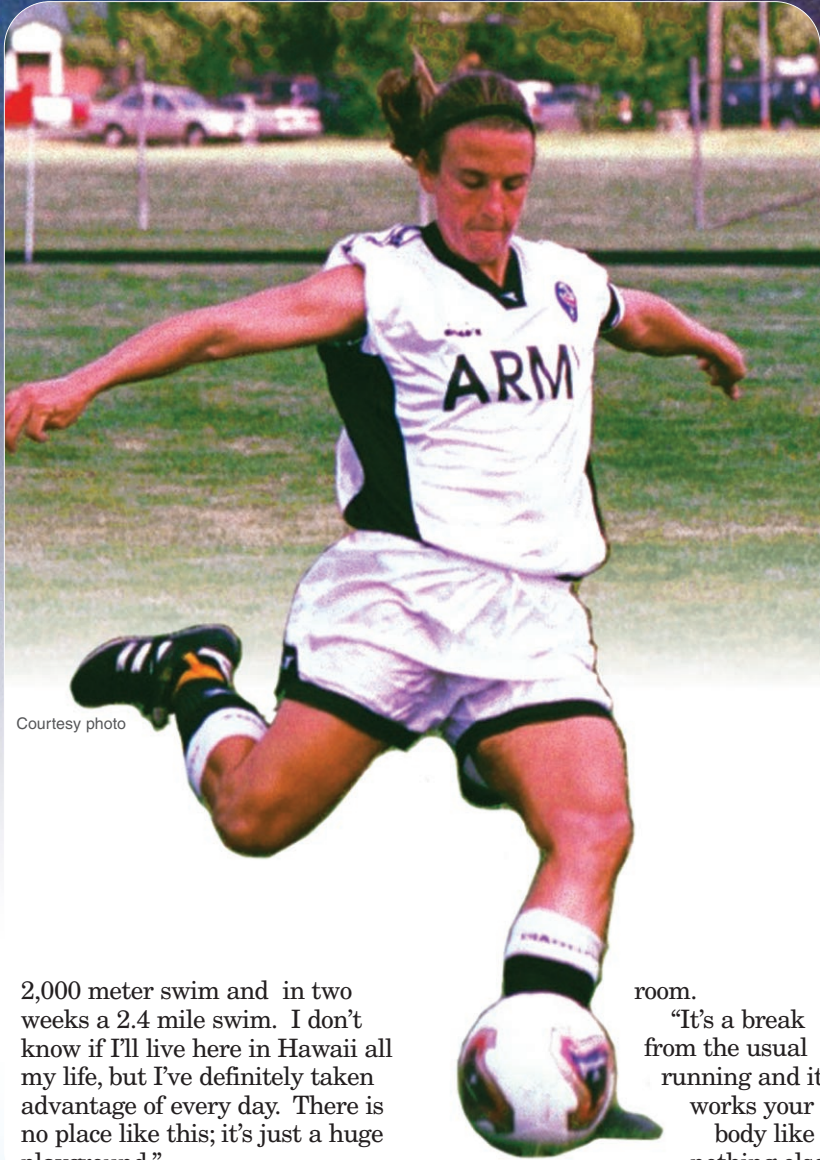
Sharee Moore



Courtesy photo



Courtesy photo



Courtesy photo

Left: Smith catches a wave at Barber’s Point July 22. Center: Smith races for the ball during a soccer match in May. Right: Smith competes in the Lost Dutchman Half Marathon in Grand Junction, Ariz., in January 2004. Far Right: Smith kicks the ball for the All Army Soccer team at Fort Belvoir, Va., in May 2004. The team won the silver medal.

By Sharee Moore  
Assistant Editor

Athletic accomplishments dot her resume. She kicked and slammed her way to silver medals with the 2001 and 2004 All-Army Soccer Teams. And she was captain of the All Armed Forces Soccer Team that won the bronze medal during an armed forces throw down between the U.S., Canada, Germany, and the Netherlands in Virginia this year. Meet Capt. Bridget Smith, a logistics officer with the 599th Transportation Group Surface Deployment and Distribution

Command unit on Wheeler, and an All Army – All Armed Forces athlete. Smith described one of the differences in playing internationally. “It was a lot more physical. It’s so different compared to the way we play in the U.S.” Too rough for Smith? Think again. Two weeks of soccer practice, three times per day at peak heat followed the All-Army game that earned her team the silver medal. Smith plays on local leagues year-round, which improved her competitive edge during the selection process for the 18-member team.

“With the co-ed league, we play Tuesday nights. Some of these ladies have had three or more kids and they’re out there running as much as me, and I’m 28,” Smith said with raised eyebrows. “I hope to be doing exactly what they’re doing when I’m their age. Is there life after soccer? “Pretty much every Saturday I’ll find some kind of race to do – whether a swimming race, running race or a triathlon. I fill out applications from one of those race magazines and mark the dates and events on the calendar,” Smith said. “Next Saturday I’m doing a

2,000 meter swim and in two weeks a 2.4 mile swim. I don’t know if I’ll live here in Hawaii all my life, but I’ve definitely taken advantage of every day. There is no place like this; it’s just a huge playground.” She really knows how to play. Besides weekly races and soccer games, Smith does PT every morning and packs a swimming workout, instead of a sandwich, for lunch. For variety, she alternates pool time with weight training. Interestingly, it wasn’t even soccer that paid for college, but a division one basketball scholarship. Smith is also an avid surfer and practices Bikram yoga, which is done in a 100 degree heated

room. “It’s a break from the usual running and it works your body like nothing else does,” Smith said with a smile and shrug. For those who doubt they could ever participate in that many activities, Smith says, “Go for it. Don’t be afraid; your body can do more than you think. For me, this is a way of life. That’s how I am. I don’t try hard to do it – it’s just what I like to do. “If you take time to fit in the things you like, it makes life better for everyone. For you and the people around you,” Smith added.



Courtesy photo

Smith competes during a Christmas biathlon at Ala Moana Beach Park December 2003.





SGT SMITH THEATER

TODAY
<b>The Terminal</b>
7 p.m. (PG-13)
SATURDAY JULY 31
<b>Garfield</b>
2 p.m. (PG)
SATURDAY JULY 31
<b>The Terminal</b>
7 p.m. (PG-13)
SUNDAY AUGUST 1
<b>Around the World in 80 Days</b>
7 p.m. (PG)
MONDAY AUGUST 2
<b>Closed</b>
TUESDAY AUGUST 3
<b>Closed</b>
WEDNESDAY JULY 4
<b>Closed</b>
THURSDAY JULY 5
<b>Closed</b>
HICKAM MEMORIAL THEATER
TODAY
<b>Dodgeball:</b>
<b>A True Underdog Story</b>
7 p.m. (PG-13)
SATURDAY JULY 31
<b>Dodgeball:</b>
<b>A True Underdog Story</b>
7 p.m. (PG-13)
SUNDAY AUGUST 1
<b>Dodgeball:</b>
<b>A True Underdog Story</b>
7 p.m. (PG-13)
MONDAY AUGUST 2
<b>Closed</b>
TUESDAY AUGUST 3
<b>Closed</b>
WEDNESDAY JULY 4
7 p.m. (PG)
<b>Two Brothers</b>
THURSDAY JULY 5
7 p.m. (PG)
<b>Two Brothers</b>

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

**Floats and Flicks** – Back by popular demand, Floats and Flicks will be held on Aug. 7 at the Helemano pool, movie showing is "Brother Bear" and on Aug. 21 at the Schofield Barracks pool, the movie is "Finding Nemo." Activities for both events begin at 5 p.m. and movies begin at 8 p.m. Enjoy hands-on water activities, contests and prizes, free swim, free hotdogs, chips and popcorn (while supplies last), air jumpers and lots of fun. Bring beach blankets or mats to enjoy the movie. Call 656-0110 for more information.

**National Kids Day** – Child and Youth Services hosts a National Kids Day event to recognize and honor children and their role in society and its future. Families and children can enjoy hands on activity booths, youth demonstrations, contests and prizes, inflatables and community representatives. Join the fun Saturday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. with a \$2 pizza and soda special at the Tropics, Building 589 on Schofield Barracks. For more information call 655-8628.

**Spouse's Night Out** – This free adults-only program at Army Community Service on Schofield Barracks is designed to get spouses out of the house every Thursday night from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. to have fun. This Thursday, participate in Stress Management and Self Hypnosis, Art Class: Learn to Draw or Sketch, Create a Family Web Page and Quilting. On Aug. 12, participate in Free Make Over (Make-up and Skin care), Women and Investing, Basic Sewing, Create a Family Web Page and Quilting. MWR Blue Star Card holders will receive free child care from 6 - 9 p.m. by reservation only at Peterson Child Care Center. Call 655-3929 by noon of the Tuesday prior to each Thursday event to make your child care reservations. Child care reservations can be made two weeks in advance. Pre-registration for classes is required, call 655-2736.

**Parent's Night Out** – On Aug. 14, from 6 - 11 p.m. drop off the kids at Child and Youth Services and enjoy an evening out. If child is not registered with CYS, a \$15 registration fee is applicable. Fees for Parent's Night Out

are: E-5 and below, \$15 for one child and \$5 each additional child. E-6 and above, \$20 for one child and \$5 for each additional child. Reservations are on a first come first serve basis. Call the registration and referral office for more information: Schofield Barracks 655-5314, AMR 833-5393.

**Fun Day to Make a Sundae** - Cool down and have a free make-your-own sundae with an assortment of toppings on Aug. 14 from 4 - 5 p.m. at the Tropics on Schofield Barracks. Ice cream is courtesy of Meadow Gold Dairies. Don't miss the inflatables, games and contests. Call 655-0002.

**August Tropic's Activities** - On Aug. 12, Card Games 101 at 4 p.m.. Play new and old card games. On Aug. 14, Yu-Gi-Oh Tournament from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. courtesy of Toyriffic. Aug. 19, 4 p.m. Wearable Art Class, we provide the paints, beads and sequins; you bring the attire. Aug. 22, Family Day at the Tropics, 1 - 5 p.m. with Hawaiian crafts and games. On Aug. 28, 11 a.m., build, stack, throw, and design in anOreo Olympics competition. \$1 entry fee. Call 655-0002 for more information.

**Queen Emma's Summer Palace Tour** – View rare artifacts and personal belongings of Hawaii's royalty at Queen Emma's Summer Palace followed by lunch (on your own) and shopping at Aloha Tower marketplace on Aug. 26. Cost is \$3 and includes round trip bus transportation from Tropics on Schofield Barracks. Bus departs from Tropics at 8 a.m. and will return at 2 p.m. Registration begins on Aug. 1 and is limited to the first forty people, call 655-0002.

**Hawaiian Luau Lunch Buffet** – Enjoy the aloha spirit at the Hale Ikena, Fort Shafter and the Nehelani, Schofield Barracks. Feast on traditional Hawaiian style food today from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. The cost is \$8.95 per person. To make reservations call 438-1974 for the Hale Ikena, and 655-4466 for the Nehelani.

**Networking and Salary Negotiation** – Learn how to get the best jobs with great salaries on Aug. 12, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. at Army Community Service on Schofield Barracks. Get information on different resources that can be accessed to see if your salary requirements are comparative to qualifications you hold. To register call 655-2400.

**2004 Army Photography Contest** – Enter prints and short videos in the categories of people, place, thing, military life, experimental. Entry packets, entry forms, contest information is available at your nearest Arts and Crafts Center. Deadline for entries is Oct. 15.

**Play and Win: Golf for Food and Fun** – Get a team

together every Tuesday from 2 - 4 p.m. and come on out for a round of golf at Nagorski Golf Course on Fort Shafter. Receive a 9-hole green fee, foursome platter of pupus, pitcher of beverage, and entry into the lucky door prize for \$15 per person. Answer the "Golf Question of the Week" correctly and win a FootJoy door prize. Get a hole in one and win a "Golf Digest's 2004 Club of the Year" from Nike. Call 438-9587 for more information.

**\$2 Thursdays at Reggie's** – \$2 for a sample pupu platter of pulled pork, wicked wings and nachos every Thursday from 4 - 6 p.m. There will be free popcorn, too. Call 655-4466 for more information.

**Infant Play and Learn** – Infant Play and Learn is a weekly play group for infants 0-12 months old and their parents. This program combines an infant safe play area with short learning sessions about various topics such as growth, development and nutrition. The group will have an opportunity to participate in enjoyable developmental activities during free play and circle time activities. Share experiences with other moms and dads while learning helpful parenting skills. Group is held every Tuesday morning, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. at Army Community Service on Schofield Barracks, building 2091. Call 655-2400.

**Tropics August Food**

**Specials** – Chicken salad sub on white or honey wheat bread with choice of side for \$3.75. Also have "super" nachos with meat, cheese, sour cream, olives, lettuce, tomato, onion and chips for \$5. Call 655-0002.

**Tropics Activities** – Youth games and pizza this Tuesday and Aug. 17 at 5 p.m. \$5 for two slices of pizza and all the soda you can drink. On Aug. 5, 4 p.m. 2-on-2 basketball challenge and Aug. 12 Card Games 101. Play new and old card games at 4 p.m. For more information call 655-0002.

**Na Koa Aina Golf Tournament** – Participate in 27 holes of Golf during this benefit golf tournament on Aug. 13, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at Leilehua Golf Course. Participants have an opportunity to win more than \$20,000 worth of prizes, to include Mainland trips, inter-island trips, dinners for two, golf clubs and much more. The entry fee is \$115 for active duty, Reservists, National Guard or military retirees. \$125 for DoD employees, and \$135 for individual or corporate persons. All proceeds help to fund a holiday dinner for enlisted Soldiers and their families. Last year we raised funds to provide 1,300 young families with complete holiday dinners. Completed applications and payments must be made by Aug. 13. For applications visit Leilehua Golf Course or stop by Army Community Service, Building 2091 on Schofield Barracks. Call 655-2400.

July 30 - August 5

# HACN TV2 Schedule

## Morning

6:00	Sign on
6:25	Bulletin Board
6:30	Cardio Kickboxing
7:00	Fit for Life
7:30	Bulletin Board
7:40	Voting 04' Assist Program
7:42	MG Olson Afghanistan
7:50	OIF Photo Montage 6
8:00	Pentagon Channel
9:00	Pentagon Channel
10:00	Honor to Serve
10:30	VATV
11:00	US Army Safety Message
11:46	OIF Photo Montage 2
11:51	Volcano

## Afternoon

12:00	Pentagon Channel
2:00	Dash N Grab
2:15	Hurricane Safety
2:30	ASAP
2:34	Voting 04' Assist Program
2:40	Hale Kula Elementary Tribute
4:00	Pentagon Channel

## Evening

6:00	Community Focus
6:20	OEF Deployment photo Montage
6:30	Families in Transition
7:00	OEF Deployment Ceremony
7:30	OEF Deployment Luau
7:54	OIF Photo Montage 2
8:00	Helicopter Introduction
8:22	MG Olson Afghanistan
8:48	OIF Photo Montage 5
9:00	ASAP Smoking Part 1
9:24	Bulletin Board
9:30	ASAP Smoking Part 2
10:00	The History of Army AVN
10:44	OEF Deployment Photo Montage
11:00	US Army Safety Message
11:50	Hale Kula Elementary Tribute

## Overnight

12:44	Pentagon Channel
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# Wolfhounds continue 55-year bond with Japanese orphans

By Sharee Moore  
*Assistant Editor*

This week, a 55-year old relationship continues as three orphans from the Holy Family Home in Japan spend 12 days with the Wolfhounds, their adopted ohana.

The two girls and boy were hugged and lei-ed by well-wishers who welcomed them to a reception held in their honor at the Honolulu International Airport July 22.

Sallie Whitehurst and her four children hosted 10-year olds Hiroto Kokuryo, Mizuki Kitagawa and 12-year old Kumiko Nakano until July 25, when another Wolfhound family took over.

“I thought it would be a good experience for my children to see that other people don’t live like we do and I wanted them to experience some culture,” said Whitehurst. With a little help from her sister, she planned activities for the children, including Sea Life Park, the beach and making crafts.

Through an interpreter, Nakano said she is excited about the visit and heard that Hawaii has beautiful oceans and looks forward to swimming in them.

The relationship between Holy Family Home orphans and the

Wolfhounds began on Christmas Day 1949, when Soldiers from the 27th Infantry Regiment (now 2nd Battalion 27th Infantry Regiment) attended a party there. The orphanage was in such disrepair that, over time the Wolfhounds, led by Master Sgt. Hugh O’Reilly, donated money each payday and also volunteered to help repair the home.

Almost ten years later, the Wolfhounds began the annual tradition of inviting two children from the Holy Family Home to visit Hawaii and, for Christmas, two Soldiers would visit the orphans in Osaka, Japan.

O’Reilly said since those early days, more than \$1 million has been donated to the orphanage.

“It isn’t just about the money,” the retired sergeant major clarified. “Money is irrelevant as long as we remember that it’s the love that passes between these Soldiers and the children back and forth. That is where the real gift comes,” O’Reilly said.

The bond between the Soldiers and the orphanage has survived deployments to Korea and now to Afghanistan and Iraq. Rear Detachment commander 1st Lt. Robert Benson stressed the importance of the relationship with the

Holy Home.

“Although we’re still fighting in Afghanistan, what’s so unique about the Wolfhounds is, we’ll still send Soldiers to Japan from Afghanistan. That’s how important this mission is to us,” said Benson.

Cynthia Piatt spoke on behalf of her deployed husband, Lt. Col. Walter Piatt, 2-27th Inf. Rgt.’s battalion commander.

“Today in Iraq and in Afghanistan the Wolfhounds are smiling, knowing that the bond we share grows even when they are deployed to combat. Embrace this experience and know that you are a part of something special, deeper than the emotion of the moment. [This is] a connection that has crossed an ocean and bonded two cultures,” Piatt said.

There was at least one family at the reception whose lives were changed forever as a result of the Wolfhounds’ good will.

“We knew about the orphanage through Sergeant Major O’Reilly’s hard work,” said Elizabeth Keith, who adopted a daughter from the Holy Family Home 16 years ago. “We were in Japan and visited the orphanage and met Kristina and brought her home. I felt very fortunate that I’ve been able to do this.

“For me, it’s been a blessing.”



Sharee Moore

Kristina Keith watches her grandmother place a lei around Mizuki Kitagawa’s neck at a reception inside the Honolulu International Airport July 22. Mizuki, Hiroto and Kumiko are visiting the Wolfhounds during an annual trip from the Holy Family Home orphanage in Osaka, Japan where Kristina was adopted 16 years ago.

## Retiree Appreciation Day introduces vets to Stryker

By Spc. Len Cutler  
*Staff writer*

Military retirees across Hawaii received a message of thanks, and help with the future at the annual Military Retiree Appreciation Day, July 24 at the Nehelani on Schofield Barracks.

Advocacy groups and benefits personnel were on hand at the event to provide retirees with the tools necessary to stay informed about their rights and benefits as veterans who have dedicated themselves to fostering democracy and freedom around the world.

“This is a day to update retirees on their benefits, legislative information, and the services available to them,” said Kenneth Ujimori, a retiree services officer with the U.S. Army Hawaii Garrison. “We want to be their goodwill ambassador.”

Ujimori believes that helping military retirees is the

duty of any nation that has relied so heavily on the sacrifice of its citizens.

“It’s important to remember what came before you, what they accomplished for this country. We will always have a desire to better.”

There are benefits beyond the satisfaction of honoring veterans as well. Less tangible, and harder to quantify, but nonetheless important – especially in today’s combat environment. Ujimori said veterans have played a crucial role in promoting enlistment and service to future generations, and the more care a veteran receives, the better the odds a potential recruit will be encouraged to enlist.

Representatives from several veterans organization were in attendance, eager to show veterans how to make the most of their benefits, and sometimes offering little more than the simple camaraderie that comes from shared experience.

“Most retirees don’t keep up with the active services. Having organizations and events like this one helps retirees and family members. Without these, we’d be a step behind,” said Henry Lee, a retired command sergeant major, formerly of the 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment who now works for the Military Order of the Purple Hearts, an advocacy group for veterans wounded in combat. “There are Soldiers coming back from Afghanistan and Iraq right now, and they need our assistance, too. We have to carry on the tradition of helping our veterans.”

Visitors were also treated to a display featuring the latest addition to the Army’s arsenal – the new Stryker vehicle, which the 25th Infantry Division (Light) will soon incorporate into a new Stryker Brigade Combat Team as part of the Army’s transformation efforts to

establish a more fluid, adaptable fighting force.

“It’s important to show what the Stryker is, interact with the communities, and answer questions to banish any fears people might have about the vehicle,” said Pfc. John Chiment, an infantryman with the 1st Bn., 17th Infantry Rgt. out of Fort Wainright, Alaska, and part of the 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team. “People are concerned, especially in Hawaii, with the impact the Stryker will have on the environment. It’s important for them to realize that this is a smaller, lighter vehicle. With the Stryker, we only damage what we target.”

Many of the retirees appreciated the chance to get a hands-on look at the future of the Army.

“It’s really something,” said retired Army Col. Shaun Viens. “We’ve come a long way from the tanks. I think these will save a lot of lives.”

## Packing safe school lunches

By Capt. Rachel Moulton  
*Fort Shafter Branch  
Veterinary Services*

It’s back-to-school time and it’s also a good time for a reminder on the importance of packing a safe (as well as nutritious) lunch for our kids. Here are a few tips from the Partnership for Food Safety Education:

- Teach kids to wash their hands with warm, soapy water before they eat. This will reduce the number of bacteria on their hands, and thus, on their food.
- Keep hot foods like soups and stews hot using an insulated thermos container. Before filling, pour boiling water into the thermos and let it stand for a few minutes. Then, pour out the water, and put the hot food right in. Screw the top on the thermos immediately.
- Keep cold foods cold. A reusable cold pack is an

economical investment, as it can be placed back into the freezer and used again and again. In addition, individual juice boxes can be frozen overnight and placed in a lunch in the morning. It will be defrosted by lunchtime, and help keep food cold. To avoid soggy brown paper bags as cold foods thaw, it might be a good idea to invest in an insulated lunch box.

- Any perishable items (such as dairy, meats or eggs) not eaten at lunch should be thrown away.
- If sandwiches are prepared the night before school, they should be stored in the refrigerator until kids are ready to go the next day.

For more information, visit the Fight BAC! Website at [www.fightbac.org](http://www.fightbac.org), or contact the USDA’s Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-800-535-4555, and have a safe and delicious school year!



# No more pit bulls on post

By Joy Boisselle  
Staff Writer

“Effective Dec. 1, 2004, pit bulls, or any breed thereof are prohibited on 25th ID (L) & USARHAW installations in Hawaii.” So reads the bottom line of an Oahu Base Support Information paper released July 19.

Portions of this information paper are to be incorporated in the section of the United States Army Hawaii Pamphlet 210-5, Post Information Handbook, governing pet ownership.

Pit bull owners already stationed in Hawaii can receive an exemption to the December deadline and retain their animals. The first step to an exemption is for pit bull owners to register their animals at their servicing veterinary treatment facility.

In addition, owners must present the following: current military identification card and the animal’s vaccination record, and if applicable, quarantine certificate, microchip implant documentation, spay or neuter documentation, and American Kennel Club or United Kennel Club papers documenting pet’s breed. This exemption is valid only for the current pet owner and is not transferable. More importantly, owners must obtain their exemptions before the December deadline.

According to Lt. Col. Stephen Moniz, Oahu Base Support Battalion commander, this change is not a knee-jerk reaction to a few incidents involving pit bulls.

“There is no one sensational event which led to this change, rather the change is based on cumulative incidents involving pit bulls,” he said. “Of the 30 incidents we have had since January 2002, 19 of them involved pit bulls.”

Maj. Gen. James T. Hill, commander of the 25th ID(L) and USARHAW from 1997 to 1999, set the wheels in motion when because of numerous dog issues, the regulations regarding pet ownership on the Army installations in Hawaii came under scrutiny. Under his command, owners had to leash or fence their dogs as well as supervise them.

Furthermore, certain breeds came under assessment for possible banning from Army installations across the island.

After several staff assessments and information gathering, Maj. Gen. Eric T. Olson, current commander of the 25th ID (L) and USARHAW approved the new changes prior to his deployment to Afghanistan earlier this year. The Dec. 1 date of implementation allows enough time to get the word to service members already stationed in Hawaii and ensure that those on permanent change of station orders are aware of the changes as well.

Animal and breed banning on military installations is not a new concept and a similar, more restrictive, policy is already in place at the Kaneohe Marine Corps Base.

Dogs affected by the change are the American pit bull terrier, Staffordshire terrier, Staffordshire bull terrier, crosses of these breeds, and any other dog with physical characteristics similar to those breeds.

When in doubt, military veterinarians will have final authority for breed classification. Veterinarians will use several characteristics specific to the pit bull breed to make the determination.

So, what is a pit bull? “Pit bull” is a catch-all for a kind of dog rather than a specific breed. The breeds listed in the information paper are commonly termed pit bulls and they share certain characteristics. The dog can be almost any color or combination of colors, sport a red or black nose, range in weight from 20 to 100 pounds with height proportionate to weight, and bear the typical block-shaped head and wedge-shaped jaw.

Historical records including art works, indicate that pit bull type dogs have been in existence since A.D. 50 and possibly earlier. Originating in England, the pit bull was used to subdue large animals like bulls and boars in a large arena for entertainment. This process, known as baiting, was outlawed in 1835.

People looking for another exciting outlet turned to dog fighting and began crossing the bulldog with the terrier, creating a hearty, animal-aggressive, agile animal for “blood sport.”



Joy Boisselle

**Shane, a 1-year old pit bull, typifies the image of the ferocious breed. However, family and friends of the dog characterize him as a “sweetheart of a dog” and a “big baby.”**



Joy Boisselle

**Cpl. Jason Walker, HHC, 25th ID (L), has already begun obedience training with his 5-month-old American Pit Bull, Pulu.**

The crosses were called bull-and-terriers, half-and-halves, and pit terriers and are considered to be the first pit bulls. These animals fought in a small pit, hence the term, pit bull.

The pit bull came to America prior to the Civil War and proved to be an immensely popular household addition.

Buster Brown Shoes featured a pit bull mascot and Sgt. Stubby (1917-1926), a pit bull mix, was a decorated World War I hero. Sgt. Stubby participated in 17 battles saving the lives of many Soldiers by alerting them to poisonous gases on the battlefield.

Pit Bull fortunes changed again in the early 70s, where again, the dog’s usefulness as a fighter and loyal protector caused a shift from friendly neighborhood dog to unpredictable, terrifying canine. No longer the lovable Petey, of Our Gang fame or the original Nipper, the congenial RCA spokesdog, today’s pit bull is more often associated with horrific attacks on humans and other animals, some resulting in fatalities. Fairly or unfairly, that reputation is backed up by national and post statistics.

Nationally, dogs bite nearly 5 million people a year and the figure represents attacks by more than 30 breeds of dog. The Center for Disease Control report on bites and fatalities involving dogs, cite pit bulls and Rottweillers as the breeds most likely to kill and seriously maim during an attack.

In addition, other breeds high in bite numbers are the German shepherd, husky, Alaskan malamute, Doberman pinscher, chow, Great Dane, St. Bernard and Akita.

Pit bulls account for 10 percent of the registered dog population on USARHAW installations. During the past two years, they have been responsible for 63 percent of the serious incidents involving dogs. Incidents include, dogs biting people, dogs biting other dogs, and loose animals.

“Our statistics show the pit bull way out in front of other breeds. Our figures come from documented cases involving an official report and action from my level,” Moniz said. “We are really trying hard to get the word out on the change. The biggest problem we have is people responding to rumors without the facts.”

Pit bull owner, Cpl. Jason Walker, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 25th ID (L) raised the pit bull banning question at the June Town Hall meeting.

“I had heard the rumors and thought that the deadline was sometime in September and October,” he said. “I also didn’t know that there was an exemption for those of us already here in housing.”

Walker and his wife, Wendy, are the parents of a two-day-old baby girl, and a five-month-old American Pit Bull named Pulu, which is Hawaiian for blue.

When asked if the pit bull horror stories concerned them, Wendy responded, “We are glad we have Pulu and the stories don’t worry us. Dogs are just like kids; it’s how you raise them.

“It’s sad that pit bulls are picked on,” Walker added. “Any dog can be mean, even a Chihuahua. Really, it’s the bad people who don’t know how to train their dogs who ruin it for everyone.”

Walker said he plans to have all the requirements done before the deadline, and he is waiting for Pulu to complete his vaccinations and receive his microchip.

For incoming Soldiers, the new change is included under special instructions on their travel orders.

Moniz said the change is effective Dec. 1 and everyone should be in compliance at that time.

Non-compliance could result in many actions, including command-directed pet removal, loss of pet privileges on post, or loss of on-post housing.

“Just as with a lot of post things, such as [post exchange] and commissary privileges, as long as you comply with the rules associated with them, you retain those privileges,” he said, “We will give plenty of time and opportunity to comply with the new rules.”

(Editor’s Note: The information paper: Policy on Pit Bulls Residing on Army Installations in Hawaii, is available at the OBSB Headquarters. This is the first in a series of articles on USARHAW pet ownership.)

# Lightning Spirit

*Lance Armstrong forgot the most important thing*

By Chap. (Maj.) David Baum  
Family Life Chaplain

These past few weeks I have gotten into a bit of a daily routine of checking the Internet news about the Tour de France. The time right before PT each day was about the time in France that each of the 20 stages ended.

One of the news Web sites had a feature where you could receive live reports on the progress of Lance Armstrong’s attempt to win a record 6th Tour de France victory. A few minutes ago I just learned he won stage 17.

Each day after reading of Lance’s incredible efforts I have then been motivated to get in shape myself. In these past weeks of PT, after reading about Lance, I frequently found myself thinking of his heroic efforts in the mountains of France and my imagination at times got the best of my focus.

On more than one occasion I have to admit that as I was running I fantasized that I was taking that final turn in Paris wearing the yellow jersey, which signified I was in first place. When you are a 39-year-old, lazy, undisciplined, wanna-be athlete, you catch yourself doing more and more dreaming than actually doing.

Lance Armstrong has written a couple of books describing his life. In those books he has been transparent about the challenges of his childhood, his victory over cancer, and his cycling success. In his book, “Every Second Counts,” he said this about the end of his first marriage:

“All I knew was that in trying to do everything, we’d forgotten to do the most important thing. We forgot to be married. People warn you that marriage is hard work, but you don’t listen. You talk about the pretty bridesmaids dresses, but you don’t talk about what happens next; about how difficult it will be to stay or to rebuild. What nobody tells you is that there will be more than just some hard days. There will be some hard weeks and perhaps even some hard years.”

Marriage is hard work. It sometimes is as painful as pedaling through the Alps. It sometimes feels like twenty100-mile bike races day, after day, after day.

Thousands of fans cheer on the Tour de France riders. You may have to fight in your marriage alone. Winners of each stage of the Tour de France get a kiss by a French model on the winner’s podium. You won’t get to the “marriage winner’s podium” being anywhere near French models.

But it is worth it nonetheless. When marriage goes well and you have a spouse who respects, loves and encourages you, it feels even better than the final turn on the Champs Elysees wearing the yellow jersey of the race leader. The hard days, weeks and years are worth it.

(Note: There are many resources here on post to assist you if you need some help working on your marriage. The Family Life Chaplain, 655-9307/9460 is a good place to start).



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# Sharks attack Richardson Pool

By Joy Boisselle  
Staff writer

No, its not the great white man-eater of “Jaws” movie fame, but 20-plus young people who are competitive swimmers on the Schofield Sharks Swim Club.

Back at Richardson Pool after nearly nine months at nearby Helemano Pool, the swim club has attacked the pool with newfound enthusiasm and a “there’s no place like home” attitude.

Under the direction of coach Blake Marr and assistant coaches Kris Marr and Jamie Jarrell, the swim club is just completing a successful long course season (50-meter distances) and entering the short-course season (25-meter distances).

“We are definitely glad to be back at Schofield although Helemano is a really nice facility. Schofield is our home, and we are able to practice both 25 and 50 meter distances here,” said Marr.

Marr describes the club as young and rebuilding, ranging in age from seven to 15, with several standout swimmers. Among those standouts are Erik Roth, holder of seven state titles in the long course, and Brianna Willoughby, holder of six state titles in the long course. Like their namesake, these Shark swimmers are sleek, fast, and single-minded in their determination.

Willoughby, 14, typifies these characteristics. Swimming since the age of six and a competitive swimmer for the past three and a half years, Willoughby measures her success not in places or meets won, but in the seconds she shaves off



Joy Boisselle

**The Schofield Barracks Shark Swim Club participates in drills and lap training with resistance flippers to help develop endurance and stamina.**

her personal best swimming times. she said, “I always try to swim my best and if I don’t place, that’s ok. Dropping time is what is really important.”

Marr explained that many of the club members are beginning competitive swimmers and he welcomes all interested swimmers. “We are pretty lenient with

our newcomers. At tryouts, which are held every practice day, we judge if the swimmer is capable of physically and mentally being able to handle practice,” said Marr.

So, you want to be a Shark? The Sharks practice Monday through Friday from 4 to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 to 10 a.m.

Beginning and younger swimmers only practice for the first hour, while the more advanced swimmers will stay the whole training session. A typical practice begins with warm-up laps, drills emphasizing stroke techniques, and finishes with distance work and specific tasks for the advanced swimmers.

Costs on post are paid directly to the Richardson Pool management. Fees are \$35 a month with an additional \$50 annual fee. Registration is still required at the central registration office at Army Community Service, but fees are waived. Other nominal fees apply for meets and practice swimsuits.

Not everyone will end up elite, world-class swimmers like Mark Spitz or the newest U.S. Olympic hopeful, Michael Phelps; however, swimming provides real benefits for everyone. “This is a unique sport in that you can do it all your life and you can learn a life-saving skill. There are great health benefits to swimming as well and there is not a lot of physical wear and tear on the body like so many other sports,” Marr said.

Marr also pointed out athletics in general seem to improve academic performance. He noted that his swimmers do well academically and thinks that swimming improves discipline, mental toughness, and time management skills, which directly relate to student athlete success in the classroom.

One benefit Marr noted was that swimmers really have an opportunity to enjoy Hawaii. “Swimming builds confidence and endurance, and you will enjoy the ocean better if you are a capable swimmer,” he explained.

Proud to be a Shark, Willoughby added, “This is a small, fun team with great coaches, and it’s great exercise.” Willoughby’s mom, Nancy, said, “I have really enjoyed being around the swim team, both as a parent watching Brianna develop and as a volunteer. I think every kid should know how to swim.”

(Editor’s Note: Contact the Richardson Pool at 655-1128 or Blake Marr at 623-6405 [daytime only after 1:30 p.m] for information on the Schofield Sharks Swim Club.)