

# HAWAII ARMY WEEKLY

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## What's Inside



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## News briefly

### 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. Tuesday at Sgt. Smith Theater on Schofield Barracks.

### Deployment Survival Night

A Special night for spouses and families of deployed Soldiers will be held July 27 at the AMR Chapel. Come and learn how to check the oil, windshield washer fluid, tire pressure and much more. Bring your car and talk to car care folks to show you how to inspect your vehicle. For more information or to make reservations, call 839-4319.

### 2004 POW/MIA Poster En Route to Troops, Families, Vets

"As the poster is unveiled, you will see the flag of freedom – the American flag – flying proudly. Its presence underscores our commitment, our pledge – our solemn pledge -- to account for our missing wherever it takes us."

That's what Jerry D. Jennings, deputy assistant secretary of defense for prisoner of war and missing personnel affairs, told the audience during the recent unveiling of the 2004 National POW/MIA Recognition Day poster.

POW/MIA Recognition Day is set aside to honor the commitment and the sacrifices made by prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action, as well as their families.

The recognition day is one of six days out of the year that Congress has mandated flying the black POW/MIA flag over federal facilities and cemeteries, post offices and military installations. The other days are Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day.

By custom, POW/MIA Recognition Day usually is observed in Pentagon ceremonies on the third Friday in September. However, it has been moved in the past to avoid conflicts with religious observances. Consequently, this year's ceremony will be observed on a Tuesday, Sept. 14, out of respect for the Jewish holiday of Rosh Hashanah.



# Operation Dragon Tree takes root

By Sgt. Jeremy A. Clawson  
105th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

ARGANDAB VALLEY, Afghanistan – Soldiers from Company C, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment assaulted across this valley in south central Afghanistan, cordoning villages and seizing resistance firepower to disable the enemy's ability to strike coalition forces.

The Cacti Soldiers confiscated hundreds of weapons and assorted munitions, disrupted the efforts of Taliban and anti-coalition forces in an effort to affect the perceptions of the Afghan people during Operation Dragon Tree.

According to Company C commander Capt. Mike Berdy, any time his team finds and destroys a stockpile of munitions, it's "one less cache that anyone can use against the coalition."

Removing munitions and weapons stockpiles from villages not only deprives the enemy of firepower but it also helps Afghan communities.

"They don't want the Taliban here, but if they've got a cache the Taliban are using in their town, they're going to



Sgt. Jeremy A. Clawson

An infantryman from 2nd Bn., 35th Inf. Rgt. connects a HMMWV to a Chinook helicopter from Co. F, 131st Aviation, Alabama Army National Guard, during Operation Dragon Tree in the Argandab Valley in south central Afghanistan.

keep coming back to that town," said Berdy.

Once coalition troops remove the weapons stockpile from the villages, the Taliban has less incentive to return.

The Soldiers of Co. C have conducted these types of operations in southern Afghanistan since April 2004 as part of a larger stabilization effort throughout the country. These

operations provide essential security as fledgling local governments and municipal leaders prepare for upcoming elections.

Berdy said his men learned

one thing as they searched the villages in Zabol Province north of Kandahar.

"This country is one big cache," he said. "Just about any place we go we find stuff and that's primarily (when we search) in the towns."

Depriving the Taliban and al Qaeda fighters of a reason to enter the towns is a first step to pushing enemy forces out of villages; it's also one of the ways coalition forces increase security across the countryside. According to Berdy, removing caches from the villages brings the stability the country needs for a stable future.

As the infantrymen moved from village to village during the 10-day operation, the reception they received from the Afghan people was a bit different from earlier missions.

Berdy said most villagers he and his troops interacted with previously liked the American presence. Operation Dragon Tree, however, was in a relatively isolated region with a strong connection to the former Taliban regime creating sympathies for the anti-coalition movement.

See "Dragon Tree" Page A-4

## Warrant officers don branch insignia, new CW5 rank

By Staff Sgt. Bradley Rhen  
Editor

As warrant officers across the Army celebrated the 86th birthday of their Warrant Officer Corps July 9, they removed the "Rising Eagle" insignia from their collars and replaced it with the insignia of the branches they serve.

Top warrant officers also received a new chief warrant officer 5 rank to wear – a silver bar with a single black stripe in the middle.

At Schofield Barracks, Col. Dave McKenna, commander of U.S. Army, Hawaii, hosted a ceremony at Sills Field for all warrant officers in Hawaii. He said that on Schofield Barracks and on posts, camps and stations across the world, the Army's Warrant Officer Corps were undertaking two significant changes as



Staff Sgt. Bradley Rhen

Col. Dave McKenna, commander of USARHAW, pins the new CW5 rank on Chief Warrant Officer Ronald Gunderson July 9 at Schofield Barracks.

part of the ongoing transformation to better fulfill the Army's and the nation's current and future requirements.

"Today, July 9, 2004, is the 86th anniversary of the establishment of the Army Warrant Officer Corps, and what you are about to witness are two unique and historic changes to a corps

of officers whose history has been marked by continuous change, evolution and adaptation to meet the needs of our Army," he said.

McKenna said the change of rising eagle insignia with officers' basic branch insignia is "A symbol that after 86 years of change, evolution and adaptation

See "CW5" Page A-4

## 2nd BCT, Iraqi medics aid displaced personnel

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

SERGERON, Iraq – Convenient health care is something Americans take advantage of everyday.

Whether it's obtaining medication at a nearby drugstore or receiving a check-up at the local doctor's office, the opportunity for good health care is easily accessible for Americans.

In Iraq, it is a different story, especially for International Displaced Personnel in the northern portion of the country. The majority of these IDPs are Kurds who have moved back to their devastated villages after being forced out by Saddam Hussein's Iraqi Army years ago.

The IDPs have little to nothing when they return to claim their land, flattened homes and businesses that were destroyed by the old regime. This is why outside support is essential as they rebuild and begin their new lives.

Task Force 2-11 Field Artillery recently teamed up with Company C, 225th Forward Support Battalion, 874th Forward Surgical Team, 96th Civil Affairs Bn. and the Dibbis Health Clinic to help many of these IDPs through joint medical assistance visits in areas north of Kirkuk July 6 – 8.



Spc. Sean Kimmons

Sgt. Genevieve Powell (left), a combat medic with Co. C, 225th FSB, checks the blood pressure of an Iraqi woman during a medical assistance visit to Sergeron, Iraq, July 8.

Throughout the three days, the medics from 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division (Light) and the city of Dibbis provided health care treatment to three different IDP locations and reached about 800 Iraqi people.

"It's kind of like sick call. They come in ... complain about aches and pains ... we examine them and give them whatever medicine is called for,"

said 1st Lt. Edward "Tripp" Baldwin, the physician's assistant for TF 2-11 FA.

Baldwin said he believes this was the first time Coalition Forces and Iraqi medics have worked together to conduct a three-day medical assistance tour to IDP camps.

These medical assistance visits were joint operations to increase the reputation of the Iraqi medics

among the country's citizens.

"It shows that the Iraqi people can depend on their own health care providers. We were just there to support the Iraqi docs," Baldwin said.

Iraqis need to realize that Coalition Forces are not going to be in their country forever, Baldwin said. When they leave, the Iraqis will have to rely on their own health care systems, he added.

Pfc. Robert Roddy, a combat medic with Co. C, 225th FSB, said it was a great experience to play a part in these visits.

"I'm with an ambulance platoon and I don't get to do much treatment unless there's an emergency. This really gives me a good opportunity to interact with the Iraqi people and show them that we are out here to benefit them," Roddy said.

Besides medication hand-outs, doctors checked vital signs, administered immunizations and conducted lab tests for their Iraqi patients.

"They are very happy that they're getting treatment, since a lot of them are sick," Dr. Rezan Hassan Mohammed, Director of the Dibbis Medical District, said about the patients she treated. "The best thing about the treatment is that it's free."



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

Wounded Gimlet gets Purple Heart, CIB

Commentary

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

KIRKUK AIR BASE, Iraq – “Information angel” update – This week we learned that Spc. Charles Woolwine was presented his Purple Heart at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. I don’t think I can describe it like his mother did in an e-mail to me. *Charles and sixteen of his family members gathered at 10 a.m., July 2, where he was awarded a Purple Heart for the injuries he sustained in Iraq on May 2. Charles had requested that his uncle, W.B. “Bud” Droke, Colonel U.S. Army (Retired) be the officer to present him with this medal. Charles had said that since he couldn’t have one of his own commanders to make the medal presentation, he would like for his “Uncle Bud” to do so.*

*To paraphrase Charles’ somewhat more colorful language, he said to me, “I don’t want my Purple Heart handed to me by some politician who doesn’t have a clue.” Bud Droke, a veteran of the Vietnam War who was severely injured himself in that conflict, “would understand.” Bud and Charles stood in front of the flags in the commander’s office while Bud began his remarks with a brief history of the Purple Heart. This was obviously a moment that affected Bud deeply, as his voice caught with emotion. Bud described the Purple Heart as “the most expensive medal” awarded to a service man or woman. Not only is it the most costly of all U.S. military medals to strike when it is manufactured, but it can only be awarded for a “sacrifice of one’s own body for country.” Bud remarked that we all could see that Charles had clearly made such a sacrifice. After pinning the Purple Heart on Charles’ chest, Bud stated that he also had another military decoration to present to him. Bud described that to earn a Combat Infantryman’s Badge, a Soldier must be an infantryman satisfac-*



1st Sgt. Robert Jennings

**1st Lt. Micah Blais administers the oath of enlistment to Sgt. Brandon Bounds, Spc. Thomas Arpasi and Spc. Ronald Becker during their reenlistment ceremony. Actor Vince Vaughn, star of the movies "Old School" and "Dodgeball" assists Sgt. 1st Class Richard Woodruff holding the flag.**

*torily performing infantry duties, must be assigned to an infantry unit during a time when his unit is engaged in active ground combat, and must have actively participated in ground combat and been under hostile fire. Bud stated that although the official orders had not yet been completely processed, he had contacted and been authorized by the 25th Infantry Division to present to Charles on this day a CIB. Bud then unpinning from his own chest his CIB, earned while he served in Vietnam, and pinned it onto Charles’ chest, where it rested alongside the Purple Heart. Charles was obviously surprised and moved as he stood at attention on his crutches and received this from his uncle. After the ceremony as I touched the Purple Heart on my son’s chest, I thought how beautiful the design and workmanship of the medal are and how surprisingly heavy it is. I also felt such great thankfulness that this medal,*

*which I had hoped my son would never qualify to receive, was pinned to his living chest and not lying in a box in my hands while he lay in a coffin. It truly is “the most expensive medal.” For Charles, and for all the others, it is either a lifelong expense of bodily injury, loss, and pain; or a total sacrifice of life to death.*

There are few things that strike emotion in my body; this is one. I have watched this particular Soldier develop over the last few years. He has worked harder than any Soldier I’ve seen in my 20 year career battle back from numerous lesser injuries. And to hear about the manner that he was presented this decoration; it couldn’t have turned out any better.

I have heard numerous squad leaders and platoon sergeants say, “If I had a squad or platoon of Woolwines, my day would be easy and there would not be an enemy in the world that we

couldn’t beat.”

Keep working that physical therapy, the guidon position is still open.

Alpha Company is set to have our CIB ceremony on the 11th of July. I will have pictures next week.

This week, like the last few has been pretty quiet. We are still running operations and arresting personnel planning attacks on coalition forces and the Iraqi people pushing for change.

We have been very fortunate to obtain the information prior to the attacks enabling us to thwart them prior to their execution. I can only pray that our luck continues and we can help move this country closer to democracy.

9 Jul 1715 hours – We received a radio call to open the front gate for a VIP. The commander and I walked to the parking area and were amazed when the actor Vince Vaughn, (Old School, Dodgeball), exited the Hummvee.

Voices of Lightning

What quality of life establishment or improvement would you like to see at USARHAW?



“I would like to see a park with a playground for younger children my brother’s age and an indoor skating rink for kids my age. There are not enough programs for kids my age.”

Aramis Brannon  
Family Member



“The skate park really needs to be fixed. It is all beat up and dangerous.”

Courtney Gannon  
Family Member



“I’d like to see a couple things: a place where the single Soldier could go, relax, and mingle in a night club atmosphere, a food court where everything is together and not in different locations, a franchise like Applebee’s or a Ruby Tuesday, and a family activity center, like Chuckie Cheese.”

Anthony Gibby  
Active Duty Single Soldier



“A bigger PX like the NEX would be an improvement. I would like to see a greater variety of clothes and not have to go to two or more different places to shop.”

Michelle Neumann  
Family Member



“I would like to see more individual vendors at the PX. I think a flea market style would enhance what is already here and bring more people out.”

Sgt. 1st Class  
Michael Rivers  
125th Military Intelligence Bn.



“Improvements should be geared towards active duty troops and their families here. Kid’s enrichment programs and spouses’ support groups would help to lower marital and child abuse issues.”

Lt. Col.  
George Shimomura  
Retired

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# 25th ID (L) female Soldiers help Afghan women progress

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

KONAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan — After 25 years of turmoil, the people of Afghanistan are working to rejuvenate their country. Part of this revival is a stronger role for women within the government and the communities. However, the women here aren't just seeking a forum for their voices. They are looking for ways to provide for their families.

"During 25 years of war, we didn't have jobs for the men, let alone the women," said Shoila. Shoila — the head of the women's shura, a group that addresses women's issues — represents the other women of her province before the government.

Now, one of the biggest issues Shoila and the other women of Konar are facing is the poor state of the economy.

"Many of the women here are widows," she said. "Their husbands were killed during the wars, and they were left to take care of the children."

Still more of the husbands returned home disabled, with no way of caring for their families. This left even more of the fiscal responsibility to the women of the household.

The population of females well exceeds the males in Konar Province. This allows the women to play a more active role in society, particularly in the capital, Asadabad, said Wajma, a Coalition interpreter working in the province.

This progression in women's liberties is enabling the Konar Provincial Reconstruction Team to assist the women in finding ways to provide for their families. One project, a women's center, is in the planning phases.

"We've already had the



Sgt. Stephanie L. Carl

**Lt. Col. Jennifer Caruso (right), 25th ID (L) and CJTF-76 Equal Opportunity program manager, shares a laugh with a group of women during a visit to Asadabad, Afghanistan, June 24.**

plans drawn up by a local contractor," said Maj. Seth Hoffer, a member of the PRT who is helping coordinate the project. He explained that the project is in the approval process, and that construction can begin two weeks after it has been approved. "It will be on the grounds of the girls school, and will give the women a place to gather and learn different

skills."

By learning these different skills, the women will have a craft they can sell for a profit at the bazaar.

"We would be happy just sewing clothes or rugs or making beaded jewelry," said Rahila, Shoila's sister. Many of the women in Shoila's family already have the ability to make these products — what

they don't have is the initial financial support they need to get started.

"If we could just provide them with the initial materials they need or with a loan to purchase these materials, they would be able to start turning around a profit," said Lt. Col. Jennifer Caruso, Combined Joint Task Force-76 and 25th ID (L) Equal Opportunity pro-

gram manager. Caruso leads a group of female Soldiers from CJTF-76 and 25th ID (L) who are currently evaluating women's roles throughout Afghanistan and looking for ways the Coalition can support efforts to expand these roles.

"We are willing to do whatever it takes to help our families," said Shoila. "We just need

some help getting started."

Members of the Coalition are also focused on helping the families, as well as Afghanistan in general.

"We want to provide security and peace in Afghanistan," said Wajma. "Most importantly, we're here to help provide a future for the children of Afghanistan."

## 1-25 Aviation secures mosque opening at Iraq's Camp Cooke



CPT Jeffrey McCoy

**The 4th Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division Chaplain, Chap. (Maj.) Muhammad, a Muslim himself, was a keynote speaker at the dedication ceremony.**

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

CAMP COOKE, Iraq — Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment flying OH-58D(R) Kiowa Warrior helicopters provided security for a historic ceremony marking the opening of a mosque here June 17.

The ceremony marked the opening of the Masjid Al-Mu'mineen (The Believers) Mosque at Camp Cooke and symbolized the future vision of Iraq: Coalition forces working together with Iraqi military personnel, local Imams (religious leaders), and the general populace to rebuild infrastructure and restore order and peace throughout Iraq.

"While the mosque is small in size, it's large in meaning," said Col. James McConville, commander of 4th Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division. "It demonstrates the respect we have for the Iraqi people, their culture and their religions, the same respect we have for all people, cultures and religions in democratic and free societies."

Also attending the ceremony were Maj. Gen. Peter Chiarelli, commander of the 1st Cavalry Division, Brig. Gen. Ronald

Chastain, commander of the 39th Enhanced Separate Brigade, Brig. Gen. Khalid, commander of the 1st Brigade, Iraqi National Task Force, several local Imams, and Soldiers from 4th Brigade, the New Iraqi Army, and the Iraqi National Guard.

The cultural diversity of the event generated media coverage from major news outlets Fox News and Al Jazeera.

The ceremony began as 4th Brigade chaplain, Chap. (Maj.) Muhammad, a member of the Muslim faith, offered a call to prayer spoken in both Arabic and English. During the dedication ceremony, McConville and Khalid both highlighted the significance of the event as symbolizing what can be done in Iraq with the cooperation of Coalition forces, Iraqi Armed forces, local civil leaders, and Imams. Together, they unveiled a sign for the Mosque.

The ceremony culminated with a call to prayer for those of Muslim faith who entered the newly-dedicated Mosque for the evening prayer. Afterwards, guests mingled outside, sampling refreshments consisting of American and Iraqi dishes.

Flying in the distance providing security for the event were two OH-58D(R)

Kiowa Warriors from 1st Bn., 25th Avn. Rgt. Battalion commander Lt. Col. Michael Lundy was the Air Mission Commander for the flight, which also included CW3 Pete Mansoor, HHC, 1-25 Avn., along with CW2 Brad Nelson, and 1st Lt. Matthew Sun, both assigned to A Co., 1-25 Avn.

Tasked with providing security in the area, Lundy noted the historic value of the event and its cultural significance to the Muslim populace in the area. Due to increased media presence, it also presented security issues in that a demonstration against or attack during the ceremony would undermine the historic effort meant to demonstrate the cooperation between coalition and local military and civil personnel.

Lundy said he and his team were extremely honored to have played an active role in deterrence and security for this crucial cultural event.

Since deploying to Iraq in February, 1st Bn., 25th Avn. Rgt. has flown more than 9,200 combat hours in and around the Baghdad area providing reconnaissance, security and attack support to the 1st Armored and 1st Cavalry Divisions.



# Briefs

**FBI Recruitment** – Learn about careers in the Federal Bureau of Investigation by attending a career seminar from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. today at the Pearl Harbor Fleet and Family Support Center, Bldg. 193, Room 205. To make reservations, call 473-4222. For more information on future seminars, call Special Agent Kal Wong at 566-4488.

**Concerts at Crossroads Coffeehouse** – Local Jazz artist BeverlyB will be in concert with her band at 7:30 p.m. July 23 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.

**Radio or a Satellite Location Device Now Required for Boaters** – Hawaii passed a law recently requiring all boaters sailing more than one mile off shore to carry either a VHF radio or a satellite location device. Many boaters are now acquiring Global Positioning System devices to assist in navigation and to aid the Coast Guard in finding them when lost. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 18, is offering a GPS for mariners class. This course will teach boaters how to use the GPS. The cost is \$35 dollars and includes a text. Class will be held at West Marine at 111 Sand Island Access Road on July 24 from 2 to 5 p.m. and July 25 from 1 to 4 p.m. For

more information or to reserve a seat, call Jason Reed at 845-9900 or 778-2862.

**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; KawikaWarren; 23Kimo Drive; Honolulu, HI 96817. For more information, call Kawika Warren at 595-4934.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Logistics Intern Program** – Every couple years, college graduates are selected from universities to participate in the Department of the Army Logistics Management Internship Program at Fort Lee, Va. The next recruitment effort being pursued by the Logistics Proponency Office will utilize the Federal Career Intern Program as the vehicle to hire National Supply and Maintenance Interns for FY 05. The entry requirement of FCIP is a GPA of 2.95 or higher out of a possible 4.0, and applicants with a master's degree will now qualify without a specific GPA. This program will provide someone without Army working experience the opportunity to start a career with the Department of the

Army as a Department of the Army Civilian. The National Logistics Management Internship program is a two-year paid program with target grades of GS-7 to GS-11. Salary of interns would start of at pay grade of GS-7 or \$29,821 per year with an automatic advance to a pay grade of GS-9 or \$36,478 per year after one year and to pay grade GS-11 or \$44,136 at the end of two years. Interns are hired into the U.S. Government and will report to Army Logistics Management College at Fort Lee, Va., for six months. Due to the highly competitive and selective nature of the Department of the Army Federal Career Intern Program, the intern(s) selected for National Supply and Maintenance Internship programs are awarded to individuals possessing strong academic credentials, in any discipline fields, with cumulative grade point average of 2.95 or higher in their undergraduate class or is rated in the upper third of their graduating class in college or university or has a master's degree and a high degree of motivation. Besides the GPA requirement, individuals must also meet the following requirements: All candidates must be United States citizens, good communication and analytical skills are desirable, must be of strong character to pass a routine background investigation for a Secret security clearance, must sign a mobility agreement. Permanent duty location will be based upon the needs of the Army. You may not return to where you are recruited. The application deadline for interns starting the second week of January 2005 is Sept. 24, 2004. To apply, mail, e-mail or fax your

resume and a complete undergraduate college transcript or graduate transcript that clearly shows your GPA to: Headquarters, U.S. Army, Pacific, DCS, G-4, Office: APLG-SY, Fort Shafter, Hawaii 96858-5100. E-mail: [servidajr@shafter.army.mil](mailto:servidajr@shafter.army.mil). Fax: (808) 438-2690. For more information, call Jose Servida at (808) 438-8650.

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

**OCS Selection Board** – The September 2004 Department of the Army Officer Candidate School Board has been cancelled. The next HQDA OCS Selection Board is scheduled to convene the week of Jan. 24, 2005. Soldiers who wish to be considered by this selection board must submit their applications through command channels to Military Personnel Division, DA Boards Section, Trailer #14, Room 4, (located on Ayers Avenue) Schofield Barracks between Nov. 1 and 18. The Installation Structured Interview Panel will convene Dec. 6 to interview qualified applicants. Specific interview dates, times and location will be provided to individual applicants. Eligibility

criteria and application procedures are outlined in AR 350-51. The education requirement to apply for OCS is a minimum of 90 semester hours and verified by the Education Center. For Soldiers who do not possess a baccalaureate degree, a Scholastic Aptitude Test (850 or higher) or American College Test (19 or higher) not older than 6 years is required. Soldiers without a secret security clearance must provide a memorandum signed by the Division Security Officer stating a secret security investigation has been received and initiated by Defense Security Service. If interested in applying for OCS, provide original and three copies of completed application packet to our office by Nov. 18. An OCS information packet can be picked up at Trailer #14, Room 4. For more information, call Nan Lucero at 655-4511 or Corinne Queja at 655-1845.

**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.

## Dragon Tree

From A-1

From Berdy's perspective, Afghan locals help the Taliban as a matter of necessity, a reality of life in a mountainous Afghan village. Some of the villagers are "probably 'pro-Taliban' ... whether it's through coercion or they actually sympathize with them," Berdy said.

"The impression we got was these (villagers) were probably supporting the Taliban, primarily because that's all they know. And whether they want to support them or not, they don't do a lot to stop them, they give them what they need to get by without problems and stick to themselves."

After assaulting their first objective and confiscating a large variety of weapons and munitions, the Soldiers of Company C quickly found that moving large stockpiles of weapons creates its own set of logistical problems.

Dismounted troops conducting combat operations carry nearly 100 pounds of equipment, including body armor, weaponry and optics. Determined to continue with their mission, Charlie Company purchased two donkeys from an Afghan villager to help pack the cache to their next village.

They carried the bulk of confiscated weapons and munitions until the Explosives Ordnance and Demolition team destroyed the caches en masse after the troops cleared several villages.

Of the numerous caches discovered, one provided a bigger challenge than the rest. When Staff Sgt. Aaron Leiker, a combat engineer attached to Co. C from the 65th Engineer Battalion, discovered a couple of AK-47s just inside a hole during a village cordon and search,



Kandahar

**Sgt. 1st Class Billy Chaney, HHC, 2nd Bn., 35th Inf. Rgt. air operations NCO, directs air movement and pathfinder operations recently during Operation Dragon Tree in the Argandab Valley in south central Afghanistan.**

a fire team had to crawl inside and clear it.

About 700 meters inside what was an underground cistern tunnel system, the troops found a large cache. After the fire team secured and mapped the tunnel, an EOD team and a team of Afghan National Army soldiers removed the stockpile.

During Operation Dragon Tree 2-35 Inf. removed not only the weapons from the hands of the enemy, but also removed a major impetus for Taliban, al Qaeda and anti-coalition forces to return to these remote mountain villages. For the community of Afghan villages in the Argandab Valley, the security situation continues to improve as operations continue throughout southern Afghanistan.

we chose to be Soldiers and we soldier for each other."

Following McKenna's remarks, all CW5s on the field donned their new rank, and all the warrant officers removed the "Rising Eagle" insignia and replace it with their branch insignia.

At the Pentagon, Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Richard A. Cody pinned the new CW5 rank onto five chief warrant officers, and then eight warrant officers had their new branch insignia pinned on their collars.

"These are two significant changes in the warrant officer corps that has served us so well" throughout the Army's history, Cody said. He explained that the changes are necessary as the Army moves toward a modular and more joint and expeditionary design and were recommended by a warrant officer leadership development study. The changes also bring the Army's warrants more in line with the other military services, he said.

The old warrant officer insignia – a brass eagle standing on a bundle of arrows, enclosed in a wreath – will still be worn by warrant officer candidates as a means to honor the lineage and heritage of the Warrant Officer Corps which was founded July 9, 1918.

Better integration into the Army and with the branches warrants serve was one of 63 recommendations of the Army Training and Leadership Development survey for warrant officers conducted in late 2001 and early 2002.

Other Warrant Officer ATLDP fixes already in place include establishing warrant officer force structure positions by grade, rather than grade banding.

CW5s had been wearing master chief warrant officer rank insignia created in the late 1980s.

(Editor's note: Information for this article was taken from an Army News Service article written by Gary Sheftick and Joe Burlas.)

## CW5

From A-1

tation, the Warrant Officer Corps will be fully integrated into the recruiting, accession, education and management of branch-based officer systems, but more important, they can now draw from the strength and resources of the Army's entire officer corps.

McKenna said the CW5 rank change was "a clear signal to all that these Army Warrant officers are ready, relevant, willing and very capable joint partners to serve alongside our sister services.

"As we bid a fond farewell to the 'Rising Eagle' branch insignia and the Army's unique CW5 rank insignia, let each of us embrace today's changes to our warrant officer corps as another transformation that is built on the enviable areas of skill, service and loyalty," McKenna said. "We all chose to join the Army for many different personal reasons, and continue our service for as many different reasons, but the bottom-line analysis,



# When minutes count

## *MAST program takes to the skies to help Hawaii's injured*

By Spc. Len Cutler  
Staff writer

Saving lives is just another part of military duty. But for most Soldiers, the names and faces come from far away lands, in places no one has heard of, and will probably never see for themselves.

For a select few, however, the lives hanging in the bal-

ance are neighbors, friends and co-workers. The work is challenging, but the Soldiers of the 68th Medical Company, Air Ambulance detachment wouldn't have it any other way.

"Our mission is to provide 24-hour urgent medical response for the Soldiers and citizens of the state of Hawaii," said Maj. Shannon Beckett, commander of the

detachment.

Car wrecks, surfing mishaps, missing hikers, even the occasional errant parasailist – the crews that deliver Hawaii's injured to safety have seen it all. The only common denominator is that in every case, immediate evacuation is crucial to saving lives.

"The mechanism of injury and the condition of the patient are some of the biggest factors," said Sgt. Ben W. Walker, a flight medic with the detachment, adding that head and neck injuries are among the most commonly-seen injuries that require urgent attention.

According to Beckett, the program started about 30 years ago. Since then the people of Hawaii have become a little less shocked to see an Army helicopter landing to rescue them. But sometimes, a few misconceptions still pop up.

"I want to make sure everyone knows that the service doesn't cost the patient anything," said Capt. Mary Miller, operations officer for the detachment. "You don't even have to be an American. If you are on the island and get hurt, we will take care of you, and it isn't something that the patient – civilian or military – will have to pay for."

The no-cost service has racked up an impressive \$9 million in savings for Hawaii, and rescued more



Spc. Len Cutler

**A UH60 Blackhawk helicopter from the 68th Med. Co. lifts off after a mission to St. Francis West Hospital in Ewa Tuesday.**

than 7,000 patients in its 30-year history, said Miller. That entire time, a complete flight crew has been ready and waiting, should the need arise, to fly anywhere and bring the patients to the safety of a doctor's care.

It isn't always easy, caring for the injured.

"You're coming to help someone at what's probably their worst moment," said Beckett. "But the overriding factor is that you know you're there to help them. It's what we're trained for, and it's very rewarding."

That training includes drills, exercises, and time in the simulator – a mock up cockpit mounted on pistons

that can shimmy and shake just like a real helicopter. Pilots can practice flying with a near-perfect replication of the aerial experience, but without the hazards. Miller said it pays off daily, since this air ambulance unit is the most active in today's Army, conducting more missions than any other.

Walker said professionalism is what drives him to draw comfort out of the wreckage, and stand ready to do it all over again the next day.

"You have to prepare internally," he said. "I'm confident in my ability, and I'm going to do everything I can

to help my patients. I've got a job to do, and I'm going to do it."

And they do, day in and day out. These days, the Soldiers of the detachment are also doing it short-handed, since about half of the unit is deployed to Afghanistan.

"We're real proud of our mission in Afghanistan," said Beckett. "We're conducting 24-7 medevac ops in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Those guys have flown over 180 missions in three months. Our air crews and medics are proving their mettle and their performance has been exemplary."



File photo

**A UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter from the 68th Med. Co. lands at Queen's Hospital in Honolulu.**



# Military, Afghan leaders discuss security, reconstruction

Capt. Todd Schmidt  
*Task Force Bronco*

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – Military leaders worked hand-in-hand with provincial leaders in Afghanistan on America's Independence Day to put their vision for enduring security and reconstruction in motion.

Maj. Gen. Eric T. Olson, commander of the 25th Infantry Division (Light) and Combined Joint Task Force 76 in Afghanistan, accompanied by Task Force Bronco commander, Col. Richard Pedersen, traveled by military convoy through the streets of Kandahar to the Governor's compound to meet with provincial governor M. Yousaf Pashtun.

Pashtun described the efforts of reconstruction and security as a double helix. Efforts in both arenas must progress together, rather than separately from one another.

"To have reconstruction without security or vice versa is to ultimately retard our efforts in the long run," Pashtun said.

Pashtun said he knows that goals and objectives must be both practical and realistic, and said his vision to realize these achievements is very comprehensive and detailed.

"It is a practical vision that is implemented within the priorities of the people and understanding the reality of limited resources," Pashtun said. "Visions must have limits or they are merely dreams."

Pashtun outlined his vision, based on five areas: Agriculture, Natural Resources, Business, Trade, and Human Resources.

"Human Resources are Kandahar's most valuable resources," Pashtun stated.

Kandahar has millions of people, but they are largely untrained. As an example, Pashtun referred to the upcoming construction of the road from Kandahar to Tarin Kowt.

"The road to Tarin Kowt is being built with the assistance of the Coalition Forces. However, it is our (Afghanistan's) responsibility



Capt. Todd Schmidt

**Governor Yousaf Pashtun of Kandahar Province, left, and Maj. Gen. Eric T. Olson, commander of the 25th Infantry Division (Light) and Combined Joint Task Force 76, sit together on Independence Day to discuss security and reconstruction in southern Afghanistan.**

to maintain the road. To do this, we need a trained and educated workforce," Pashtun said. "We cannot plan everything with a long term perspective. To do this, we must institute immediate vocational training in the short term," Pashtun explained. "A six month course would produce many of the technicians that Kandahar needs."

Vocational training is a short-term goal, whereas higher education is a long-term education goal, Pashtun said. The two goals, he says, work together to strengthen all of Afghanistan.

"Currently, Afghanistan has approximately 4.5 million children enrolled in primary schooling. This is the highest in recent history," he said. "Of course the level and quality of education needs to be improved, but the fact of the matter is that nearly 50 percent of our children are now receiving an education. The

number of high school graduates, however, is insufficient."

In the area of higher education, the Governor has a five-year plan to raise standards and opportunities. His efforts will be to increase the educational standards and opportunities in the areas of: Engineering, Medicine, Nursing, Agriculture, and Arts and Sciences. Currently, there are only 1,200 students enrolled in Kandahar University. Within five years, the Governor's goal is for enrollment to be 3,000 to 4,000.

"Unfortunately, at present, there are not enough high school student to meet this goal," Pashtun lamented.

Educating citizens in the agriculturally based rural areas of Kandahar Province is a major challenge. Pashtun realizes improving agriculture practices and eradicating the poppy industry must be focus areas of his development

plan.

Poppy has been the only available crop for many farmers due to lack of irrigation infrastructure. It allows the farmer to gain the most income with the least amount of labor and land. With less tillable land, farmers must plant the most profitable crop. Poppy can be reduced if irrigation is improved.

Pashtun supports the eradication of poppy within the next 4 years, by destroying 25 percent of the crop each year. This will force farmers to shift to other crops. However, "farmers must not be paid as a reward to stop growing poppy, but rather assisted in their escape from their current victimization," he said. "Substitution crops are a high priority. If individual farmers or an area is not cooperative with poppy eradication, we should deny them assistance."

Pashtun also discussed business plans, trade, and

social issues, highlighting the damage done to his country during the past two decades.

"Twenty years of war and conflict have left us with a significant population of disabled persons," he explained. "We recognize that we must be able to serve their needs. However, public services, such as access and transportation are not designed to meet their needs. Our long-term goal is to ensure that our disabled feel that they can be and are productive members of society. We appreciate and want to foster the role of the non-governmental organizations in this area of our social planning."

As the discussion came to an end, Olson expressed his understanding of the issues.

"We appreciate your observations that your projects and vision for reconstruction cannot be realized overnight," Olson said. "Kandahar can be a beacon to Afghanistan, and from Afghanistan to the world.

Kandahar can offer hope to other regions of Afghanistan and to the international community."

Pedersen added, "Every vision needs to be put into an actionable plan and timetable. We must identify the resources, people, and organizations that can help to fulfill the Governor's vision – bringing the right resources, the right people, and the right conditions together at the right time to realize the effects we want to achieve."

Olson expressed his gratitude to Pashtun for his hospitality and offered continued support and resources on priorities identified by the Governor.

"Governor Pashtun, your vision brings hope to the people of Kandahar and to the international community as well," Olson said. "It is my hope that we can assist you in bringing your vision to reality in the years to come."

# Army to recruit 'downsized' Airmen, Sailors

By Donna Miles  
*American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON – After they "Cross Into the Blue" or "Accelerate Their Life," the Army hopes service members leaving the Air Force or Navy will join the "Army of One."

A new program, Operation Blue to Green, seeks to recruit Airmen and Sailors leaving their service due to force reductions into the Army, which is temporarily increasing its ranks.

Plans call for the Air Force to reduce its numbers by 16,000 and

the Navy, by 7,900 by the end of 2005, officials from the two services confirmed.

An Army spokesperson called Operation Blue to Green a win-win opportunity that "will definitely benefit the Department of Defense as well as these individuals."

Details of the program are still being worked out, but the program's Web site, [www.goarmy.com/btg/index.htm](http://www.goarmy.com/btg/index.htm), tells potential recruits it "will allow you to continue to serve your country, to maintain the benefits of military service and to

expand your horizons by gaining new training and trying new things."

Candidates for the program are Airmen and Sailors in grades E-5 and below who qualify for an honorable discharge from active duty. Participation in the Operation Blue to Green program, the Web site says, "is dependent upon your service's willingness to release you from your current active duty obligation."

Marines and Coast Guardsmen interested in the program must first complete their current active-duty service obligations before

enlisting in the Army, the site advises.

New Soldiers recruited under Operation Blue to Green will go through a four-week "warrior transition course" being developed by the Army Training and Doctrine Command. "This will further orient them in terms of what it means to be a Soldier in the Army," the Army spokesperson said.

This new course in basic combat skills will substitute for the nine-week course currently used to train airmen, sailors and Coast Guardsmen enlisting in the Army,

the Web site noted.

Bonuses will be offered to recruits for selected military occupational specialties, although details were not yet available.

While the Army finalizes details about the program, it's wasting no time getting the word out to potential candidates.

An online information form encourages interested candidates to sign up for more information. However, the site notes, "Until formal policies have been approved, Army recruiters cannot accept applications, process paperwork or reserve training seats."



# Wolfhounds make impact during Operation Verendrye



Capt. Todd Schmidt

A Soldier from 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment provides overwatch on an Afghan valley during Operation Verendrye near the Afghan-Pakistan border.

Master Sgt. Terry Anderson  
*CJTF-76 Public Affairs*

PAKTIKA PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Soldiers from Task Force 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment escorted Paktika Province Governor Mangal through six district capitals, providing security while spreading material and humanitarian assistance throughout the region during Operation Verendrye.

The “Wolfhounds” are based near the Afghan-Pakistan border and deal with daily attacks on their bases, and Capt. Todd Schmidt from Task Force Bronco said this mission was no different.

“Suspected Taliban insurgents made an attempt to stop Task Force 2-27’s mission to spread good will in Paktika Province,” Schmidt said. “A civilian convoy, escorted by coalition forces was fired on by insurgents and we returned fire. The insurgents then fled

the area.”

That incident didn’t dampen the spirit of the Governor’s visit to 30 Afghan villages in the Gomal District. During the visits, a Shura, which is a group of village elders, met with Mangal and military leaders from the coalition.

Coalition forces offered to rebuild and reconstruct a local mosque, a medical clinic and 17 schools. An additional 24 irrigation ditches and wells were proposed by district leaders and approved at a Shura meeting. The investment in the local villages is estimated to be \$1.2 million.

Coalition troops also distributed six tractors, 30 generators, 32 vehicles and numerous boxes of school supplies. The material gifts satisfied many of the villager’s needs, but Schmidt said there was a more immediate need.

“The Task Force 2-27 medics treated more than 1,000 villagers for minor med-

ical and dental procedures,” Schmidt said. “The Afghan citizens were very grateful for the medical care.”

Many Afghans brought up concerns with the coalition about weapons caches in their villages, and said they worry about Taliban who operate within the area. The villagers also said the Taliban store dangerous weapons in the area. Two sizable weapons caches were later found by local police and destroyed.

The two-week operation also stressed the voter registration process. Schmidt said the local district leaders were thankful for the visits and expressed a sincere concern in the success of the October presidential elections.

“Every local leader that 2-27 Infantry Soldiers talked with wanted to know the progress of the voter registration initiative, and have a vested interest in the upcoming elections,” Schmidt said.

## Engineers ahead of schedule in clearing Waikoloa ordnance

By Joe Bonfiglio  
*Honolulu Engineer District*

The Honolulu District of the Army Corps of Engineers is ahead of schedule in clearing unexploded ordnance on the Big Island of Hawaii, at the 123,000-acre former Waikoloa maneuver area.

The area is located between the villages of Waimea and Waikoloa on the northwest part of the Big Island, running roughly from the ocean on the west to the foothills on the east.

The Navy used part of the area for artillery firing during World War II and the remaining acres were used for troop maneuvers. Waikoloa included the largest encampment on the island of Hawaii, Camp Tarawa, consisting of about 467 acres of tents and Quonset huts. The 2nd Marine Division was assigned to Waikoloa in December 1943 for five months

of training, in preparation for the Saipan-Tinian campaign. Up to 40,000 troops passed through Waikoloa during World War II.

Now the Honolulu Engineer District is working to clean up the Waikoloa Formerly Used Defense Site, known in some circles as FUDS.

"It's going much better than we anticipated," said Chuck Streck, the district's project manager for Waikoloa FUDS.

Innovations have allowed more land to be cleared than originally projected.

"Originally, it was anticipated that 340 acres would be cleared around the perimeter of Waikoloa Village; yet due to project efficiencies, the total clearance around the village exceeded 473 acres," Streck said. To date, about \$29.6 million has been spent on the project.

The latest innovations include: the use of approved

open front blast barricades, the application of recently developed geophysical detecting instruments, the development of finer and more specific anomaly discrimination methods, the refinement and adaptation of program management procedures specific to the project and the active participation of local communities.

These innovations have helped to avoid community disruptions such as evacuations and road closures and gained more comprehensive support for local development, officials said.

The Honolulu Engineer District is working with the Huntsville Center of Expertise for Ordnance Studies to clean up Waikoloa, and has contracted with American Technologies Inc., or ATI, to locate and remove the unexploded ordnance.

Waikoloa FUDS is the largest project in the FUDS

system nationwide. Its clean-up is part of the Defense Environmental Restoration Program, a DOD program administered by the Corps of Engineers. About \$50 million has been programmed for ordnance clearance in Waikoloa during the period 2002 to 2007.

This month efforts will focus on 340 acres around Waimea and Lalamilo, according to Roger Van Huss, Pacific Rim UXO program manager for ATI. Due to project efficiencies, he estimates that up to 450 acres may actually be cleared in this area.

On April 12, Representative Ed Case, of Hawaii's Second Congressional District, met with Streck and workers from ATI to receive an update on

the project. Case spoke highly of the Corps' efforts and has made funding of the clean-up his top defense-related priority.

In order to continue informing the public on the status of the clean up, the Honolulu Engineer District and ATI have established a public Web site that highlights which areas have been completed and which are currently being worked

This Web site includes project updates, background, maps of current and completed work areas, links to other Web sites, and current media reporting on the project. The Web site can be accessed at: [www.ati-pacificrim.com](http://www.ati-pacificrim.com).

The Honolulu Engineer District also runs a Restoration Advisory Board,

composed of local residents and representatives from the police and fire departments. The RAB is very active in all stages of project execution and development.

The district initiated a program to inform the public about the health and safety risks from UXO. This includes an active public outreach program complete with posters, brochures, school and community group educational packages, a safety video, permanent displays, and warning signs. In addition, the district started a program for UXO health and safety support during construction within the project area.

(Editor's note: Joe Bonfiglio is chief of Public Affairs for the Honolulu Engineer District)



Courtesy Photo

Engineers emplace an aluminum blast shield that is used around potentially unstable unexploded ordnance at the former Waikoloa maneuver area on the Big Island.



# Schofield Soldiers named top in AMC

By Spc. Len Cutler  
Staff writer

Two Schofield Barracks Soldiers were recently awarded one of the highest accolades for professional achievement available in the Army.

Sgt. Brandon M. Parrett, a testing, measurement, and diagnostic equipment sergeant with the 95th Maintenance Company, beat the competition to win this year's Army Materiel Command's noncommissioned officer of the year award, and Spc. Christopher Fischer, a TMDE specialist also with the 95th was named AMC's Soldier of the Year.

The competition, held at Fort Belvoir, Va., saw Parrett and Fischer facing a field of 10 other competitors each. In the end, the Schofield Soldiers came out on top.

For Parrett, it's nothing new. Last year he was AMC's Soldier of the Year, making it all the way to the Department of the Army competition,

where he lost by a narrow margin. Coming back as an NCO, where the expectations are higher and the competition is stiffer, Parrett said, makes winning even more fulfilling.

"It's a sweeter reward, because the competition is a little tougher as a non-commissioned officer," he said. "The other guys are a little more knowledgeable, and the standards and skills you're being tested on have to be tighter."

As a two-term competitor, Parrett also has the experience to guide and assist Fischer in his preparations. But he's quick to avoid taking any of the credit for Fischer's success.

"He put in the time and did all the work," Parrett said of Fischer. "Everything he has accomplished, has been his own work."

"It's a great honor to win at the Army Materiel Command," said Fischer. "The competition was full of really knowledgeable Soldiers. I'm just glad I can represent them."

Fischer and Parrett both credit their success to well-rounded preparation – instead of being the best at a single event, they chose to be as skilled as possible at all of the events.

"It's about the 'total Soldier' concept," Parrett said. "I wanted to be solid across the board – not just be the best at one area."

"I won because of my overall knowledge and capabilities," said Fischer. "We have tough remedial training here that really set me up for success."

Sgt. 1st Class Luis Billingslea, the Detachment NCOIC, said he wasn't surprised by the outcome of the competition, because Parrett and Fischer work hard and train hard. He won't be surprised if the duo come back winners again.

"They're both highly motivated, and they know what they have to do," Billingslea said. "They are prepared to go all the way. I'm proud and impressed with what they have done, and continue to do here every single day."



Spc. Len Cutler

**Sgt. Brandon M. Parrett (standing) and Spc. Christopher Fischer, both testing, measurement, and diagnostic equipment specialists with the 95th Maint. Co., were named Army Materiel Command's Noncommissioned Officer of the Year and Soldier of the Year respectively.**

## Shafter divers make splash during deployment to Micronesia

By Capt. Scott Miller  
7th Dive Det.

A seven Soldier SCUBA team from the 7th Engineer Detachment (Dive), 29th Engineer Battalion at Fort Shafter deployed to the country of Micronesia June 7 in support of disaster preparedness and mitigation assessment.

The team used its side scan sonar system to locate and mark obstructions and obstacles in the ports of Weno, Chuuk State, and Colonia, Yap State. The divers were then deployed to confirm the targets and pinpoint their location. The team's first stop was Chuuk State (Truk Lagoon) where they assessed the conditions

of the port and surveyed the damage that had occurred two years ago during Typhoon Pongsona. Chuuk State lost a vital fishing vessel named the Nien Feioch, a purse seiner used to fish tuna.

The team dove on the 210-foot vessel while crowds of local fisherman and children looked on with curiosity. The team dove for three days and found three gouges along the port side of the hull of the vessel ranging from 20 feet to 187 feet in length. The Dive Detachment hopes to return to Chuuk for an exercise involving the salvage of the Nien Fieoch.

The next stop for the team was Yap State. In early



1st Lt. Matthew Chaney

**Sgt. Christopher Foster removes nets from the Nien Feioch to get a better look at the sunken vessel.**

April, Yap was hit by Typhoon Sudal, which devastated the once lush and thriving island. As a result

of this typhoon, the local commerce lost three fishing vessels that were vital to the tuna industry.

The team arrived late in the evening on June 12 and started diving operations on June 13. The team quickly determined that all three vessels were a total loss and suggested the removal of them as soon as possible to open access to pier facilities and reduce pollution within the harbor.

The team spent the rest of their time diving and surveying the condition of the pier and searching for obstructions in and around the harbor. Soldiers like Sgt. Christian Normandy found outboard engines, large construction tires, and oxygen bottles that were blown off the Pier during the storm.

The team also surveyed a Chinese landing craft vessel

that was abandoned just before the typhoon. Capt. Scott Miller is currently working with both governments for a possible salvage exercise in the distant future.

During both operations the team improved relations among the Micronesians and the United States and logged a considerable amount of dive bottom time, with Sgt. Christopher Foster leading the way with the most bottom time.

The team that deployed consisted of Miller, 1st Sgt. Rocky Heikkinen, Staff Sgt. Matt Hayden, Foster, Sgt. Rob Bibbie, Normandy, and Spc. Edgar Jimenez, of the 7th Engineer Detachment (Dive).





Above: Staff Sgt. Luis Cintron, Task Force Lightning Attack 1-25 AVN, demonstrates a jumping maneuver with sword during a class on weapons as part of his Monday, Wednesday and Friday training sessions at the Camp Cooke Gymnasium. Students of Cintron's class can earn their black belt in one year through the training he provides.



Demonstrating a take down maneuver to students, Staff Sgt. Luis Cintron offers martial arts classes to troopers of Camp Cooke. "It's a great form of PT," Cintron said. "And it's a great way to get a little bit of stress out."

# Desperado Really Knows How to MOVE

Story and photos by Cpl. Benjamin Cossel  
122nd Mobile Public Affairs Det.

CAMP COOKE, Iraq – In the 1995 movie Desperado, Antonio Banderas plays El Mariachi, a gun-welding, fist-throwing, guitar-playing, hero jumping to life from the pages of a Hollywood script.

As if cast from that same script, stands Staff Sgt. Luis Cintron of 1st Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment, the "Desperados," who are currently attached to the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division in Iraq.

Not content with the two black belts he holds or the ability to dance three different styles of Latin dance masterfully, Cintron has brought his passions to the Soldiers of Camp Cooke. With a schedule of events that encompasses the entire week, Cintron teaches martial arts, Latin dancing and music.

"I taught these classes while back in Hawaii," explained the 30-year-old Loraine, Ohio native. "When we were getting ready to deploy, many of my students asked if I was going to be teaching in Iraq. At first I didn't think I would. As more and more people asked me, I decided to go for it, so I packed up my stuff and brought it over."

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday finds Cintron teaching the basics of Ala-Kai Sho-To-Kan and Gus Park style martial arts of which Cintron holds 6th level black belts in both. For two hours, beginning at 7:30 p.m., the Camp Cooke gymnasium is filled with the loud "Kia!" as students perfect their lessons on the tall rounded punching bags.

"Martial arts is a great stress reliever," he said. "Soldiers can come in here and, well, we all know how much tension can build in a person being in the environment we are in. Being able to let that out in a positive manner is just so much more constructive."

If the three days of training a week isn't enough for some, Cintron offers private lessons on Saturdays. "I'm a certified instructor for both of the styles I teach," he noted. "Many of the Soldiers

take advantage of that fact to get certified in one of the forms. Private lessons really help that along, in fact, a dedicated student could earn their black belt over the length of our year long deployment."

The loud, pulsating beat of Latin music echoes from the confines of the Kellogg, Brown and Root theatre. A peek through the door and one notices Cintron and about 30 Soldiers actively engaged in Salsa, Merenge, and Bachada dancing.

"Soldiers can really cut loose here," a grinning Cintron said through fast, heavy breaths. "The main thing is to have fun, maybe learn some great dancing moves to impress your friends when you get home, but mostly just have fun!"

Fumbling over newly acquired dance moves, the laughter and smiles of Soldiers indicates the "fun" objective is met.

"The whole goal of everything I do is to provide a place where Soldiers can just forget where they are for at least a few hours a day. We're so enmeshed in all of this," he says raising his arms, indicating something larger, "that we have to be able to just disconnect sometimes."

The friendly atmosphere of the theatre combined with the jovial sounds of Soldiers make it easy for Soldiers to forget they are in a combat zone.

Martial arts and dancing, both excellent forms of physical training, a person partaking in those activities might give themselves a break at least once a week. Not so for Cintron, who uses his "down day" to teach music classes.

"I play the drums," he said, "and I teach others to play them as well. As we started up with the music classes, more people started showing with their own instruments and it sort of grew into a teaching jam session."

Cintron laughs as a Soldier suggests that he would be a valuable asset to a night club, as he could provide the security, band and dancers.

"I must admit though," Cintron confides, "There are some selfish motivations to me teaching all this. It helps me to take my mind off of where I am. I really miss my best friend and roommate back in Hawaii and this sort of helps me get through it."



Staff Sgt. Luis Cintron and Pfc. Yahira Ulloa, both of Task Force Lightning Attack 1-25, Salsa dance at the Kellogg, Brown and Root theatre on Camp Cooke. Cintron teaches three styles of Latin dancing, Salsa, Merenge, and Bachada, to troopers of Camp Cooke Tuesday and Thursday nights from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Right: Staff Sgt. Luis Cintron (in black) of the First Team's 4th Brigade Combat Team leads martial arts students through initial stretches. Cintron offers classes in Ala-Kai Sho-To-Kan and Gus Park karate Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at the Camp Cooke Gymnasium.







SGT SMITH THEATER

TODAY
<b>Shrek 2</b>
7 p.m. (PG)
SATURDAY JULY 17
<b>Shrek 2</b>
2 p.m. (PG)
SATURDAY JULY 17
<b>The Day After Tomorrow</b>
7 p.m. (PG-13)
SUNDAY JULY 18
<b>Shrek 2</b>
2 p.m. (PG)
SUNDAY JULY 18
<b>Raising Helen</b>
7 p.m. (PG-13)
MONDAY JULY 19
<b>Closed</b>
TUESDAY JULY 20
<b>Closed</b>
WEDNESDAY JULY 21
<b>Closed</b>
THURSDAY JULY 22
<b>Closed</b>
HICKAM MEMORIAL THEATER
TODAY
<b>The Chronicles of Riddick</b>
7 p.m. (PG-13)
SATURDAY JULY 17
<b>Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban</b>
2 p.m. (PG)
SATURDAY JULY 17
<b>The Chronicles of Riddick</b>
7 p.m. (PG-13)
SUNDAY JULY 18
<b>Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban</b>
2 p.m. (PG)
SUNDAY JULY 18
<b>The Chronicles of Riddick</b>
7 p.m. (PG-13)
MONDAY JULY 19
<b>Closed</b>
TUESDAY JULY 20
<b>Closed</b>
WEDNESDAY JULY 21
<b>The Stepford Wives</b>
7 p.m. (PG-13)
THURSDAY JULY 22
<b>The Stepford Wives</b>
7 p.m. (PG-13)

**Richardson Pool has reopened** – Richardson pool is now open everyday from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Dive off the diving boards, rent water toys, slide down the slide, and enjoy the snack bar. Active duty Soldiers swim for free and entry charges for family members are \$1 per visit per person, \$12 per month per person or \$20 per month per family. Entry for retirees and DOD civilians is \$2 per person per visit and guests are \$3 per person per visit. Call 655-9698.

**Floats N' Flicks and 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. In conjunction with Floats N' Flicks, families and children can enjoy hands on activity booths, youth demonstrations, contests, swimming, games, air jumpers, hot dogs and a movie for families to enjoy together. Join the fun on July 24 from 5 - 7:30 p.m. with the movie beginning at 8 p.m. at the Aliamanu Military Reservation Community Activity Center and Pool. And on July 31, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Tropics, Building 589 on Schofield Barracks (this one is not in conjunction with the Floats N' Flicks Program.) For more information call 655-8628.

**Tropic's Evening Closure** – Tropics, Bldg. 589 on Schofield Barracks will be closed beginning at 7 p.m. on July 30 in support of a teen center function. Normal hours will resume on July 31. Call 655-0002 for more information.

**Bowling Summer Programs** – Schofield Barracks Bowling Center is offering a Junior Bowling program open to ages 5 to 21 beginning at 8:30 a.m. every Saturday through July. Cost is \$5 a week and includes three games and show rental. Call 655-0541 for information. Fort Shafter is offering a Junior Bowling program open every Saturday beginning at 8:30 a.m. all year long. For more information call 438-6733.

**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 some fun. On July 22, Beginning Hula Lessons, How Living Healthy Habits Can Ease your Reunion (3 of 4), Natural Health and Wellness, Learn How to Use a Web Camera, and Quilting. On July 29, participate in Game Night. Meet, greet and compete with other spouses, How Living Healthy Habits can Ease your Reunion (4 of 4), Natural Health and Wellness, Learn how to Use a Web Camera and Quilting. MWR Blue Star Card holders will receive free child care from 6 - 9 p.m. by reservation only at Peterson Child Care Center.

Call 655-3929 by noon of the Tuesday prior to each Thursday event to make your child care reservations. Child care reservations can be made two weeks in advance. Pre-registration for classes is required, call 655-2736.

**Upcoming Craft Classes** – The following classes are being offered on Schofield Barracks: EZ Ceramics - learn the basics of mold pouring for a three hour period for \$10 on July 21, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Finish your piece at your convenience. Picture Framing Class- includes mat cutting, frame cutting and assembly. Cost is \$40 for an 8x10 project. Class held every Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Kid's Shrink Art Class, be creative with paint and plastic and then watch it shrink. Fun for ages 7 - 12 on July 23, 9 - 11 a.m. At the Fort Shafter Arts and Crafts: Youth Art on July 24, 10 a.m. - noon. Also available are Stained Glass, Basic Jewelry, Polymer Clay, Woodworking, Ceramic Mold Pouring and much more. Call Fort Shafter 438-1071 or Schofield Barracks 655-4202

for more information.

**Care Package Materials Available** – Every 3rd Sunday of the month from 12 - 4 p.m. at the Tropics, Schofield Barracks supplies for care packages will be provided. Pick up boxes, packaging materials, and tape. We do not take the package to the post office or pay for shipping. Call 655-0002 for more information.

**Personal Trainers** – Do you want to lose body fat, tone and build muscle? Improve your cardio vascular fitness, increase flexibility and understand what nutrition means to your body? Personal trainers are available at the Health and Fitness Center on Schofield Barracks. The trainers will develop an individualized program to help you reach your goals. Get started today. Call 655-8007.

**Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers Meetings** – Fort Shafter and Tripler Area Council meeting on July 21, 2 p.m. at Army Community Service, Building S-330 on Fort Shafter. Full council meeting will be held on July 26, 2 p.m. at

the Tropics, Building 589 on Schofield Barracks. Call 655-8169 for more information.

**Blue Star Card Bowling Special** – Blue Star Card Holders can bowl at Schofield Barracks Bowling Center, Monday - Friday from 2 - 5 p.m. for \$1 a game. Call 655-0573.

**Aliamanu New Temporary Library Hours** – Effective July 12, Aliamanu Library hours are as follows: Monday and Tuesday 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Saturday 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. The library will be closed on Fridays. Call 833-4851 for more information.

**Child and Youth Services Fee Increase** – The Department of the Army has issued new fee policies and guidelines for Army Child and Youth Services, which include Child Development Centers, School-Age Programs, Family Child Care, Middle School and Teen Programs and Team Sports. Patrons can expect to see an average 5 percent increase in their fees beginning September 1, 2004 in compliance with the Department of

Army Guidance. For more information contact your nearest Child and Youth Services facility.

**Na Koa Aina Golf Tournament** – Participate in 27 holes of Golf during this benefit golf tournament on August 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 enough funds to provide 1,300 young families with complete holiday dinners. Completed applications and payments must be made by August 13. For applications visit Leilehua Golf Course or stop by Army Community Service, Building 2091 on Schofield Barracks. Call 655-2400 for information.



July 16 - 22

Schedule

Morning		Evening	
6:00	Sign on	6:00	Community Focus
6:25	Bulletin Board	6:20	OEF Deployment photo Montage
6:30	Cardio Kickboxing	6:30	Families in Transition
7:00	Fit for Life	7:00	OEF Deployment Ceremony
7:30	Bulletin Board	7:30	OEF Deployment Luau
7:40	Voting 04’ Assist Program	7:54	OIF Photo Montage 2
7:42	MG Olson Afghanistan	8:00	Helicopter Introduction
7:50	OIF Photo Montage 6	8:22	MG Olson Afghanistan
8:00	Pentagon Channel	8:48	OIF Photo Montage 5
9:00	Pentagon Channel	9:00	ASAP Smoking Part 1
10:00	Honor to Serve	9:24	Bulletin Board
10:30	VATV	9:30	ASAP Smoking Part 2
11:00	US Army Safety Message	10:00	The History of Army AVN
11:46	OIF Photo Montage 2	10:44	OEF Deployment Photo Montage
		11:00	US Army Safety Message
		11:50	NFL
Afternoon		Overnight	
12:00	Pentagon Channel		
2:00	Dash N Grab		
2:15	Hurricane Safety	12:44	Pentagon Channel
2:30	ASAP		
2:34	Voting 04’ Assist Program		
2:37	Shamu Top 10		
4:00	Pentagon Channel		





Joy Boisselle

Line dance instructor, Tara Farkus and Rachel Pilson, front, partner with Michelle Fonneman and Joanna Tackett, back, for a new twist on the country line dance favorite, “Cotton-Eyed Joe.” SNO hosted Beginning Line Dancing July 1 at the Army Community Service Building on Schofield Barracks.

# Spouses line up to dance at SNO

By Joy Boisselle  
Staff writer

Blue jeans, cowboy boots, and a cowboy hat were all that was needed on July 1 as Spouses Night Out hosted Country Line Dancing at the Army Community Services Building on Schofield Barracks.

Making it look easy was veteran line dancer and competition clogger, Tara Farkus. Farkus is a military spouse married to Warrant Officer Jeffrey Farkus currently serving in Afghanistan with the 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment.

“I have been dancing for twenty-four years and taught my first class at age 14,” said Farkus.

As a competition clog dancer, Farkus amassed more than 200 trophies before a knee injury turned her to teaching rather than competing.

A North Carolina native, Farkus explained, “I have danced at weddings, grand openings, and the North Carolina State Fair.”

One show of which Farkus is particularly proud was her participation in the 1988 Olympic Opening Festival held in North Carolina prior to the 1988 games held in Calgary.

As for her instructing the evening’s class, she remarked, “I do lots of volunteer work. While I was at ACS, Jewel Csiszar [SNO coordinator] asked if anybody had anything special they would be willing to teach. I thought about it and decided this

was something I could do.”

The evening’s instruction focused on basic line dancing, including steps to “Cotton-Eyed Joe,” a country line dance “must-know” and a dance choreographed by Farkus to the tune of “Elvira.” Farkus pointed out that although clogging can be an expensive activity, line dancing is relatively inexpensive. “Really, the only things you need are jeans, a western shirt, and

boots,” she said.

On hand to learn a few boot-scootin’, toe-tappin’ moves were Michelle Fonneman, Joanna Tackett, and Rachel Pilson. All are spouses of deployed Soldiers and all are SNO regulars.

Pilson whose husband Christopher deployed to Iraq in Jan, said “I come every week and I am addicted to Spouse’s Night Out. It is just good fun and I have a good time.” She has participated in Game Night, belly dancing instruction, and quilting to name just a few. “SNO offers really cool activities, and I am not a craft person, but I am learning new things,” she added, “I am one of Jewel’s poster children for SNO.”

Tackett has participated in many SNO activities and with two children under age 6 feels the free child care is a terrific option for spouses needing a break and a night out alone. “At SNO, there are a lot of interesting classes and I am learning a lot of different things,” she said. Tackett’s husband, John, deployed to Afghanistan two months ago.

SNO is one of Army Community Service’s best programs for spouses of deployed Soldiers and is open to any spouse looking to try new things, meet new friends, or just have some time away from their day-to-day stresses. Free child care is available for Blue Star Card holders by calling 655-3929 on the Tuesday prior to the Thursday night event. Reservations may be made two weeks in advance.

## Spouses Night Out July Schedule of Events

Every Thursday night in July:  
Natural Health and Wellness, Learn  
How to Use a Web Camera, Quilting

July 22 and 29 - *How Living  
Healthy Habits Can Prepare You for  
Reunion*

July 29 - *Basic Sewing for  
Beginners*

July 22 - *Beginning Hula and  
Game Night: Meet, Greet and  
Compete with other Spouses.*

All classes meet 6:30-8:30 p.m. at  
Army Community Service,  
Building 2091, Schofield Barracks.  
Call 655-2736 for reservations and  
more information.

# Lightning Spirit

## The 2nd Ten Commandments

By Chap. (Capt.) Brian Mead  
125th Military Intelligence Battalion

Most of us are very familiar with the Ten Commandments. With there being so much controversy over these tablets in courthouses or other places, I am sure that we at least know of them. Well, did you know that there is a second set of Ten Commandments?

Though this is not biblically based, many of these would do wonders for us if we could put these in practice with the first ten. So, without further delay, I present to you, “The 2nd Ten Commandments:

- #11 Thou shall not worry – For worry is the most unproductive of all human activities.
- #12 Thou shall not be fearful – For most of the things we fear never come to pass.
- #13 Thou shall not cross bridges before you come to them – For no one yet has succeeded in accomplishing this.
- #14 Thou shall face each problem as it comes – You can only handle one at a time anyway.
- #15 Thou shall not take problems to bed with you – For they make very poor bedfellows.
- #16 Thou shall not borrow other people's problems—They can better care for them than you can.
- #17 Thou shall not try to relive yesterday for good or ill, it is forever gone – Concentrate on what is happening in your life and be happy now!
- #18 Thou shall be a good listener – For only when you listen do you hear different ideas from your own. It is hard to learn something new when you are talking, and some people do know more than you do.
- #19 Thou shall not become "boggled down" by frustration – For 90% of it is rooted in self-pity and will only interfere with positive action.
- #20 Thou shall count thy blessings – Never overlooking the small ones, for a lot of small blessings add up to a big one.

I hope that you have found encouragement and comfort in these words. Why not pick out one or two of the 2nd Commandments above and try to work them into your life this week. Who knows, maybe you will find more joy and happiness from your efforts. May God richly bless and keep you.



## Have a great photo?

Submit it to  
**HAWAII ARMY WEEKLY**  
for consideration for publication

Photo must have Army content.  
Email your photo, a brief description, name and phone number to  
**editor@hawaiiarmyweekly.com**



# Toddler phones for help, saves mother's life

Lacy Lynn  
*Hawaii Navy News*

It seemed like a routine medical emergency when the Federal Fire Department's Engine 105 was dispatched on a call for an unresponsive person at a Schofield Barracks housing unit on June 25.

According to their report, firefighters arrived on the scene just after 10 a.m. where they found a plain-clothes detective and another military police officer already investigating a call about a child crying.

The crew was preparing to leave when neighbors informed the fire crew and military police they had seen ambulances at unit 103 in the past.

Further investigation showed that unit 103 was where the call had originated, but firefighters were met with a locked door, and no response from inside the unit.

The medical crew had packed up their equipment and were preparing to leave when one of the MPs and a firefighter found the garage door on one unit open, and the back door unlocked.

When they opened the door, they found an unconscious woman, and called the rest of the team back.

"All I heard was, 'Over here! Over here!'" said firefighter Ryan Satsuda, one of the crew who responded to the call, as the emergency team rushed back to the housing unit.



Betty Prince sits with her 15-month-old daughter, Kaylynn, while her infant daughter Danielle looks on.

Nineteen-year-old Betty Prince was found facedown on the unit's dining area floor. Prince's 15-month-old daughter, Kaylynn, was standing next to her, and her infant daughter Danielle was in a crib in the living room.

The emergency crew stabilized their patient, and after giving her oxygen, Betty recovered consciousness and asked where her daughter was.

After the alarm was secured, rescue workers learned that Kaylynn had initiated the emergency call that saved her mother's life.

"I've been to many medical emergencies during my career and have never seen a child of that age to be so

bright," said Capt. Doug Eckert, who has been with the Federal Fire Department for 25 years.

According to the parents and rescue workers, the child sensed something was wrong with her mother,

pulled the house phone and its charger off the counter, pressed redial, and reached her mother's friend Irene Wells on the other end of the line.

Wells recognized the toddler's cries, and when she was unable to reach Betty by phone, she called 911.

This is not the first time Kaylynn has used the phone to alert people to her mother's health.

"She's actually called quite a few times for different people," said Kaylynn's mother, Betty Prince, including Betty's mother, and Betty's husband Dan Prince, a military mechanic for the Army.

"The first time I passed out she called my husband from the phone's 'memory' button," said Betty.

Betty has been experiencing a recurring, but undiagnosed health problem since May.

"She passes out three or four times a week," said Dan who has established 30-minute check-in calls with his wife while he is at work.

The child's phone call, the mother's friend, the firefighters and police, and the neighbors were all crucial links in what is called the "chain of survival" in the medical field, according to Capt. Eckert.

"One thing led to another and we found her that day. If any one of those links were missing, we wouldn't have found her," said Satsuda.



A U.S. Marine in Afghanistan gives a young Afghan child a Beanie Baby sent from the American public through the Any Soldier Inc. effort.

## Any Soldier Inc. shows support for deployed troops

By Donna Miles  
*American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON – A family's show of support for their deployed son has evolved into a nationwide drive that a commander deployed to Afghanistan said "epitomizes all that is good in the American people."

Recognizing that their son, Army Sgt. Brian Horn, a member of the 173rd Airborne Brigade, was living under very harsh conditions after parachuting into Iraq last March, retired Army Sgt. 1st Class Marty Horn and his wife, Sue, began sending him care packages as often as they could.

Horn requested additional packages for his fellow Soldiers who weren't getting any, and soon his parents were asking their friends and neighbors in LaPlata, Md., to send packages to their son, too. Horn agreed to distribute them to Soldiers who weren't getting mail.

The "overwhelming and nearly monumental" show of support "has provided the simple reminder that any one of us would proudly die for a grateful nation in our ongoing fight against terrorism," said Horn, who has redeployed

from Iraq to his unit headquarters in Vicenza, Italy. There, he and his fellow Soldiers are preparing for another deployment after the Christmas holidays — this time to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Meanwhile, Any Soldier Inc. continues to grow. By early June, the organization had more than 100 volunteers contact Soldiers, and requests for packages continue to pour in from units throughout Iraq and Afghanistan.

The senior Horn attributes the effort's success to the fact that "the American public wants to do something to show support." What makes the program particularly appealing to many, he said, is that it gives people an opportunity to develop one-on-one contacts with deployed troops. "There's no middle man," Horn said, "so people get to feel very attached."

Any Soldier Inc.'s Web site lists supplies that deployed troops need, such as prepackaged food, T-shirts and even Beanie Babies that they can give to local children. The site provides specific information about how and where to send packages.

According to Lt. Col. Rick Mullen,

commanding officer of a Marine Corps aviation unit in Afghanistan, these gifts have a "deeply humbling effect on the individual Marines in our squadron."

Mullen said the packages demonstrate that the American public shares in "the price our Marines are paying for freedom" and makes the load deployed troops carry feel "a bit lighter."

Sergeant Horn expressed thanks on the Any Soldier Web site for the "awe-inspiring and frankly quite dramatic display of support from the home front." He said the correspondence and care packages have poured in "at an overwhelming and nearly monumental pace."

The campaign, he wrote, "has seen tears from some, given hope to most and has been inspirational to us all."

The sergeant's father said there's a lot of personal gratification in watching the program grow, "knowing that I'm making a difference – and allowing a lot of other people to make a difference, too."

More information about Any Soldier Inc. is posted on the organization's Web site at [www.anysoldier.us/index.cfm](http://www.anysoldier.us/index.cfm).

## Postal initiative to speed absentee ballots to Soldiers

By John Runyan  
*Army News Service*

WASHINGTON – A new labeling system at the U.S. Postal Service is designed to expedite absentee ballots to Soldiers deployed around the world.

USPS employees will contact 3,000 county election officials all over the country to coordinate mailing of overseas absentee ballots. Once the blank local ballots are printed, they will be sent by local post offices via overnight express mail to San Francisco, Miami and New York, the three military gateways.

USPS will mail successive groups of ballots to military gateways daily and will determine the number of ballots per location at the gateways. Then the ballots will be sorted by destination and placed in containers specially marked for visibility and priority.

DoD's Military Postal System will then give the ballots priority handling for delivery overseas, will ensure they receive a proper, legible postmark upon return, and will place them in easily identifiable containers. The ballots will then receive priority processing for delivery back to county election officials.

"If anything is moving, (the ballots) will be moving as well," said Mark DeDomenic, assistant deputy director at the Military Postal Service Agency.

The Army is asking that all Soldiers be registered to vote absentee by Aug. 15, said Jim Davis, the Army's voting action officer. That way they should receive their ballots sometime in September and can have them sent out by the Oct. 11 deadline.

Davis said both of these deadlines are designed for Soldiers in the theater of operations and he encouraged all Soldiers to register and vote, even if they miss the deadlines. Most states will accept absentee ballots until the close of business on election day, Nov. 2, but the Oct. 11 deadline should ensure all ballots will arrive in time to be counted.

Each state has specified deadlines for receipt of absentee ballots. For example, absentee ballots for Louisiana must be in no later than the day of the election while New York requires that the ballots are postmarked by the day before the election. North Carolina ballots must be in by 5 p.m. the day before the election and Pennsylvania absentee ballots must arrive by 5 p.m. on the Friday before the election.

If those Soldiers, family or DA civilians are located outside the United States send in their request for an absentee ballot in sufficient time and didn't receive their ballot, they can use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot. This form allows them to write in their votes and send it in by the deadline.

"Voting assistance officers at each overseas unit are required to have stock of the FWAB for this situation," Davis said.

Davis also said that if a Soldier filled out and sent in the FWAB and then received a ballot, the local ballot could still be filled out and sent back in if it arrived in time.

Currently, Davis said the Army is trying to get the message to get registered, to as many Soldiers as possible.

An AKO-all e-mail was sent at the beginning of May to 1.3 million recipients, reminding them of the importance to register and the details of how to do so. Davis said the e-mail was the largest ever sent out on AKO.

Senior Army leadership has directed an Army-wide Personnel Asset Inventory be conducted during the period July 30 through Aug. 15. This will be yet another opportunity to provide the Federal Post Card Application to Soldiers and to provide the necessary support and assistance, Davis said.

"We've got an emphasis (on this issue) from the secretary of defense all the way down," Davis said. "We want to make sure all the Soldiers are provided with the opportunity to register and cast their ballot."



# Spouse's Spotlight

## Scoutmaster mom steps in for Boy Scouts; deployed dads

By Sharee Moore  
Assistant Editor

In the Boy Scouts, the scoutmaster is usually a man. But, in the case of Troop 24 on Schofield Barracks, a woman holds this position.

When most of the fathers in the troop, including Kim Wood's husband, deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan with the 25th Infantry Division (Light) this year, she stepped up. "None of the dads felt they could step in and give 100 percent of their time, so I volunteered," said Wood, who is the first woman on Schofield Barracks to hold the position.

Every week, she mentors, trains and supervises 35 boys between the ages of 11 and 15. The role does present challenges, like "just dealing with a bunch of teenaged boys. They'd rather have a dad figure in that position instead of a mom figure," said Wood.

Her duties as the adult leader for the troop include "training and helping the boys, watching them mature, earn rank and just have fun through the camp outs and service projects," explained Wood. She also does a lot of planning, preparation and weekend hikes.

Wood went on her first troop camp out July 4 – 10 when the scouts went to Camp Pupukea on the North Shore. She helped the boys earn merit badges, mentored them and made sure they had fun, Wood said.

Wood couldn't talk long without saying; "I couldn't do this without my assistant scoutmaster and committee members and parents who faithfully bring their boys. We all have to have the same goal [which is] the boys. I have a great group of boys – all 35 of them. Every day is a new adventure."

During the year she's been a scoutmaster, Wood also home schooled their 14-year-old son, a star scout in the troop, and cared for a four-year-old daughter.

But, Wood's life has changed in many ways since her husband, Staff Sgt. David L. Wood currently attached to Company D, 1st Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment, deployed to Iraq in January.

"I only had Boy Scouts and home schooling while he was here," said Wood. "We were a little family unit just doing our thing. We'd have date night every two weeks and just go out on the motorcycle," said Wood as she blinked away tears.

"The weeks feel like forever, but when I look back, it's like wow five months has gone by." The bustle of everyday life and the many activities Wood participates in, helps time pass a little less slowly.

When her husband deployed, Wood volunteered to become a key caller in the unit's family readiness group. Five or six women call and e-mail information to the spouses of some of the 100 Soldiers in the unit. She also participates in fund



Courtesy Photo

**Kim Wood, scoutmaster for Troop 24, Schofield Barracks, supervises as Kyle Carboni takes french toast off the grill and Ryan Thomson loads more on during a Boy Scout camp out at Camp Pupukea July 8.**

raisers and will help plan the Soldiers' welcome home party.

In January, Wood also began working as a substitute aid at their daughter's preschool and launched a scrap book club that meets every Saturday. "This is how I cope. The scrap booking is my release. We talk out all our problems and sometimes we don't even scrap book," said Wood.

Wood is active in her church and attends a Bible study at a popular coffee shop in Mililani on Thursday mornings.

Also on Thursdays, she attends a free support group for deployed spouses, which is sponsored by Marriage and

Family Therapy Center on Schofield Barracks.

"It's a good program," said Wood. "They do counseling for individuals or groups and social workers can refer you to psychologists as needed."

When time allows, "I do walk with a friend on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and since the kids are out of school, we make them ride their bikes," Wood said. She also goes to the gym at 6 a.m. every weekday morning.

How does she manage the scouts, scrap booking, fitness regime, emotional turmoil and family responsibilities? Her answer was simple. "A lot of calendars and a lot of prayers. Not just from

myself, but from other people."

Close contact with her husband also helps. "Hearing my best friend's voice is the highlight of my days and the high from that call will last for days, said Wood as she smiled.

This is the Wood family's third deployment, so she offers two coping tips for spouses.

First, "The key to any deployment is communication. Whether it's phone calls, e-mail, instant messages, letters, boxes, or special letters with just the kids' names on them. It is a huge high.

"The next thing is trust. I have to trust that my hus-

band is going to stay safe and do his job to the best of his ability and he trusts that his kids and home are taken care of," said Wood.

"I know I'm going to get through this, he's going to get through this and our children are going to get through this."

(Editor's Note: For information about counseling services or the deployed spouse support group, Circle of Friends, call the Marriage and Family Therapy Center at 433-8550. If you or someone you know is a spouse with a story to share we want to hear from you! Call 655-4816, 655-8728 or e-mail editor@hawaiiarmy-weekly.com.)



# Hui O’Na Wahine Thrift Shop gives back to community

By Joy Boisselle  
Staff writer

Where can you buy outfits for a family of four for under \$20, find designer label clothing for \$10, make amazing new friends, and volunteer for something that gives 100 percent of its profits to the community it supports?

If you answered Wal-Mart, you’d be wrong ... the answer is the Hui O’Na Wahine Thrift Shop located on Schofield Barracks.

Closed during the month of July for clean up and re-organization, the thrift shop will hold a grand re-opening on Aug 3. from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. April Pedersen, 2004-2005 hui thrift shop liaison board member said, “ Our goals this year are to make more money for the hui to give back to the community through scholarships and welfare grants and to improve on the quality of product coming in and going out of the shop.”

The thrift shop is a self-supporting business that falls under the direction of the all-ranks spouses’ club, the Hui O’Na Wahine. Its mission is to serve the Army community by selling serviceable goods to generate funds for the community in the form of scholarships and welfare grants for organizations across post.

According to Carrie Davis, hui treasurer, last year’s disbursements for scholarships and welfare requests were nearly \$40,000. This is no small feat considering the majority of items in the shop range from fifty cents to three dollars.

“The thrift shop is open 11 months out of the year and we base all our figures on a year beginning May 31 through June 1, or the hui spouses’ club year. The bulk

of our cash comes directly from the profits of the thrift store,” she said.

Laura Christian, the thrift shop book keeper, echoed Davis’s remarks. “Last year was so far above anything we thought possible,” she said, “The thrift shop’s success kept the hui club from having to do any major fundraising during the 2003-2004 year. We normally do a casino night, but with the deployment; it probably would not have been as lucrative an event.”

According to Christian, last year set new records for thrift shop profits. One month saw a record take of approximately \$5,300 before deductions of salaries, consignment checks, and operating expenses. The thrift store averages \$4,000 of sales a month of which \$2,700 goes back to the hui club earmarked for the scholarship and welfare funds.

This level of success has not always been the story at the shop. Two years ago, the 2002-2003 hui board made the decision to close the thrift store and make sweeping changes. The store was not profitable, operating in the red, and barely clearing \$100 in sales monthly. The building, which at one time was a Class V1 store, was in disrepair and condemned. Organization was lacking and the club owed nearly \$6,000 in back taxes to the Internal Revenue Service.

What could have spelled disaster to many was nothing but a call to arms for the members of the Hui O’Na Wahine. Members cited the strength of the thrift shop volunteer as the reason behind the success enjoyed by the shop today.

“We are successful because of our volunteers. A few years ago, the thrift shop was dirty



Courtesy Photo

**Vicki Hatch, volunteer, inspects clothing conditions during the July cleanup of the Hui O’Na Wahine Thrift Shop. The thrift shop grand re-opening is Aug 3.**

and just disgusting,” Pedersen explained. “Between the 84th Engineer Battalion and our volunteers; we cleaned, painted, removed old freezers, and reorganized the whole shop.”

Thrift shop manager, Tracy Fountain added, “We now have an actual thrift shop business instead of a Class VI store trying to be a thrift shop.” Fountain emphasized how important volunteers are to the continued success of the shop. “We are always looking for volunteers and you do not have to be a member of the hui. We will also pay for hourly child care at the child development cen-

ter,” she said, adding “and, volunteers must be at least 16 years of age.” Volunteers who work regularly for the shop reap rewards in the form of half off regularly priced thrift shop items and first look at new items before they are brought to the store floor.

The thrift shop is a veritable treasure trove of items. Among the items available are furniture, baby strollers and high chairs, clothing, military uniforms, formals, shoes, houseware items and appliances, air conditioners, and sports equipment. Fountain explained, “We are a little pickier about the con-

dition of the clothing we sell. We want gently used clothing with no tears or stains. Our best sellers are kids clothing and baby items as well as BDU’s.”

Items for sale come to the thrift shop in two ways. One way is through consignment where a seller can bring in up to fifteen items to be sold by the thrift shop. The shop sells the items and takes 30 percent of the sale. Only military identification card holders may consign items for sale. “Consignments have really been improved because we are fully automated now,” said Fountain, “If there is no one waiting, we can consign

everything in about fifteen minutes now.”

The other and most profitable way for the shop is through donations of goods. Three-fourths of items for sale at the thrift shop are donations. Sales of donated goods are 100 percent profit for the shop.

According to Fountain, prices of donated items are set low to move the inventory quickly and keep the customers coming back for more great deals. For example kids’ clothes are fifty cents to \$1, men’s and women’s shorts and shirts are \$1, dresses and pants are \$2, and military clothing and BDU’s are \$3. Formal wear and designer labels average between \$5 and \$10, prices found no other place on the island. “We want to offer the customer something they can’t get anywhere else,” she stated.

The thrift shop is open on Tues. and Thu. from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and items can be consigned from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Additionally, the shop is open the first Sat. of each month and tentative plans are to open the shop Thu. evenings from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. to accommodate working spouses and Soldiers.

Family Readiness Groups, coffee groups, and other organizations may also host functions at the thrift shop based on availability of volunteers and prior coordination with the thrift shop management.

Last year’s hui liaison, Mini McKenna summed up the thrift shop best by saying, “The bottom line is the thrift shop is a comfortable place to shop at reasonable prices. It is also a good place to volunteer and enjoy the camaraderie and at the same time give back to the community.”

For information, call 624-3254 or email at huithriftshop@verizon.net.