

# Stop the presses!

Subscribers will receive The Military Star, Dec. 29 and Jan. 5, as the Hawaii Army Weekly takes its two-week hiatus.



## 7th Eng. Dive Det. conducts underwater CoC

**8TH THEATER SUSTAINMENT COMMAND**  
Public Affairs

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM — With the unique mission as the Army's only underwater engineering asset in the 9,000-mile-wide Pacific theater, the 7th Engineer Dive Detachment, 84th Eng. Battalion, 130th Eng. Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, conducted its change of command ceremony in the environment its Soldiers know best – underwater.

The change of command is a time-honored tradition where responsibility of command is passed from one commander to the next.

While still remaining formal in nature, an Army engineer dive change of command ceremony is conducted in a way not seen anywhere else in the Army.

Donning their masks and tanks, on Dec. 8, divers of the "Deep Sea" detachment conducted the ceremony at the bottom of Scott Pool, here.

For family and friends in attendance on the surface, a live stream of the underwater formalities was provided, so they could leave that scuba gear at home.

The ceremony itself begins just as most others in Hawaii would: formal greetings, the presentation of lei to families and the formation of troops. Although for 7th Dive, guests had to view the formation via monitor as the company was already at Parade Rest on the bottom of the pool.

On cue from the detachment executive officer, 1st Lt. Connor Wernecke, the 84th Eng. Bn. commander, Lt. Col. Michael A. Busby, joined the outgoing detachment commander Capt. Alessandro E. Licopoli and incoming detachment commander Capt. Ryan L. Neville in donning their dive gear and jumping into the water to conduct the passing of the guidon in the depths below.

The passing of the guidon from the outgoing commander to the incoming commander is a military tradition that showcases the transfer of authority. Historically, the colors were never allowed to fall, as such dishonor could destroy a unit in battle – although in the case of 7th Dive, it is acceptable for them to get wet from time to time.

"Deep Sea Detachment has delivered each and every time and with capabilities that are not matched by any other formation in the Pacific," said Busby while reflecting on the company's achievements over the past 18 months.

Once the passing of the guidon and remarks were complete, Neville carried out another long-standing tradition as the new dive detachment commander. He



Capt. Ryan L. Neville poses for his first company photo after donning his scuba gear underwater and taking command of the 7th Eng. Dive Det., Dec. 8. Photos by 1st Lt. Joseph B. Wyatt

donned his scuba gear underwater and moved to take command of his detachment.

Before the three leaders ascended from the water, Wernecke read attendees some of the detachment's rich and detailed history.

Dating back to March of 1968, the company was activated at Fort Kobbe, Panama. Today, 7th Dive's missions include supporting everything from traditional salvage diving operations, to retrieval missions in support of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, to the underwater repair and restoration of the Arizona Memorial.

The six dive teams across the Army provide support to their Theater Engineer Command (TEC) or Engineer Brigade commander in the areas of offense, defense and post-conflict operations as support relates to ports, harbors and coastal zones.

The 7th Engineer Dive detachment supports the entire Pacific Theater area of responsibility spanning over 36 countries and 16 time zones.



Members of the 7th Eng. Dive Det. command team await commands from the ceremony's dive supervisor during the unit's change of command ceremony, Dec. 8.

## Chaplains honored at memorial dedication ceremony

Story and photo by  
**STAFF SGT. MELISSA PARRISH**  
U.S. Army-Pacific Public Affairs

HONOLULU — Chaplains from the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marines – past and present – were honored at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, here, during the Chaplains Memorial Dedication on Dec. 13.

Naturally, the dedication began with a prayer. After two years of phone calls and piles of paperwork, retired Army Chaplain (Col.) Richard "Dick" Stenbakken, co-chairman of the Chaplain Memorial Committee for the national Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces, made the memorial a reality.

Stenbakken donned a World War II captain's uniform to the dedication. He said that the placement of this memorial is to honor every chaplain across the Pacific, from all branches of the military and multiple faiths, past and present.

"It is essential that we remember what chaplains have done in the past, what chaplains are doing now and that we look into the future," Stenbakken said. "Chaplaincy is the core and the heart of the values in any military branch.

"This memorial is also a reminder to the community that the chaplains were there and are there for their family members that have served. I hope this will be an ongoing reminder of commitment for chaplains. Their service has to be rock solid and grounded just like this memorial. (We) spent two years making this happen



Chaplains sprinkle sand from Iwo Jima onto the Chaplain Memorial, Dec. 13, in Honolulu. Pictured are retired Army Chaplain (Col.) Richard "Dick" Stenbakken; Reverend Sarah Lammert, chair of the National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces; Chaplain (Maj.) Patrick Lowthian; retired Navy Chaplain John "Jack" H. Lea III; Maj. Gen. Paul Hurley, the Chief of Chaplains of the U.S. Army; and Rabbi Irving A. Elson.

and a reality." In honor of chaplains fallen, retired Navy Rabbi (Capt.) Irving A. Elson and the director of the Jewish Welfare Board Jewish Chaplains Council read the

famous eulogy delivered by Rabbi Roland B Gittelsohn. The eulogy was given for those who died at Iwo Jima and was read into the U.S. Congressional record in 1945.

"Here lie men who loved America because their ancestors generations ago helped in her founding and other men who loved her with equal passion because they themselves or their own fathers escaped from oppression to her blessed shores. Here lie officers and men, black and white, rich men and poor, together. Here are Protestants, Catholics and Jews together.

"Here no man prefers another because of his faith or despises him because of his color. Here there are no quotas of how many from each group are admitted or allowed. Among these men, there is no discrimination. No prejudices. No hatred. Theirs is the highest and purest democracy," read Elson.

In honor of the mission of the chaplains, Maj. Gen. Paul Hurley, the Chief of Chaplains of the U.S. Army, was a guest speaker. He reminded everyone of the importance of remembering the legacy of those that came before them in order to prepare for the mission ahead.

"This memorial is important," Hurley said. "It is important to have a marker to remind us of what we are here for. As chaplains, we are here to take care of the souls and spirits of Soldiers and their families. This memorial is for all chaplains. This is for everyone. This is a reminder of our past and how important it is to what we are doing now."

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# USARPAC engages multiple exercises

U.S. ARMY-PACIFIC  
Public Affairs

It was another busy year for U.S. Army-Pacific. The command participated in 36 joint, bilateral and multilateral exercises across the Pacific in 2017 and continued its initiatives toward developing multi-domain battle concepts and improving leader development.

"As multilateral exercises have replaced bilateral exercises, and multi-domain battle capabilities offer more powerful forces – to include air, land, sea, cyber and space, we must be ready to fight tonight," said Gen. Robert B. Brown, commander, U.S. Army-Pacific (USARPAC) at the 9th Mission Support Command (MSC) 2017 Commander's Conference in February. "Readiness is key."

Brown explained the importance of adopting a "mission command" philosophy, in which Soldiers understand the mission, understand the commander's intent and are empowered to take prudent risks. He also stressed the importance of interoperability among joint services.

May's 2017 Land Forces Pacific (LANPAC) Symposium and Exhibition had the highest turnout since the conference began in 2013. More than 1,700 people attended, marking a 350 percent increase in attendance. This year's theme was "Land Forces in the Pacific: Advancing Joint and Multinational Integration."

LANPAC provides an opportunity for land force commanders from the United States, along with joint and regional partners, to discuss critical topics that affect security and cooperation across the Pacific.

More than 33,000 U.S. and Australian service members participated in the biennial military training exercise Talisman Saber/Hamel 2017 in Australia,



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Gregory Brook

**A U.S. Army airborne jumpmaster from the 4th Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, U.S. Army-Pacific, watches for the green light above the troop door on an U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III, which signals that the aircraft has reached the drop zone, during exercise Talisman Saber over Australia, July 12.**

June 23 to July 25.

U.S. Pacific Command units and Australian forces conducted live and virtual training exercises in multi-domains on sea, land, air and cyberspace throughout multiple training areas in and around Australia.

Talisman Saber prepares Army forces, supports the development of an integrated joint force across domains, and builds military relationships that develop partner defense capacity in order to contribute to the stability of the Indo-Asia Pacific.

USARPAC co-hosted 10th Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference (PACC X), 41st Pacific Armies Management Seminar (PAMS XLI) and Third Senior Enlisted Leaders Forum (SELF III) with the Republic of Korea Army in September.

This year's theme was "Unity of Effort: Building Civil-Military Partnerships in Land Force Response to Non-Traditional Security Threats." The confer-

ence included participants from 28 Pacific region countries and is designed to build partnerships, mutual trust and confidence among nations.

This year's USARPAC Disaster Management Exchange (DME) with the Chinese People's Liberation Army, was held at various locations in Oregon. While this was the 13th exchange, it was the first time it was hosted in Oregon and the first time the Oregon National Guard Soldiers and Airmen participated in the USARPAC-China DME.

The DME is designed to foster mutual understanding between U.S. Soldiers and the PLA while sharing lessons to increase disaster response preparedness in the Pacific region.

In August, USARPAC launched the first Regional Leader Development Program-Pacific. The RLDP-P focuses on developing adaptive leaders and critical thinkers that can work effectively in a dynamic,

strategic operating environment.

This program combines innovative learning techniques from both the military and academia to develop future leaders across the joint and multinational forces. It also sets conditions for participating organizations to capitalize on their advanced skills in the Pacific.

USARPAC said goodbye to Command Sgt. Maj. Bryant Lambert in November and welcomed Command Sgt. Maj. Benjamin Jones as the new USARPAC command sergeant major. Gen. Brown was the host of the change of responsibility ceremony, and he welcomed Jones to the USARPAC team.

"There is no one better to fill the void left by Command Sgt. Maj. Lambert. Welcome to the 'One Team' ohana. We are honored to have you join our ranks."

Lambert is retiring after 35 years of service.

## 196th Inf. Bde. embodies motto 'Ahead of the Rest'

CAPT. RICH DIEGEL

196th Infantry Brigade

FORT SHAFTER — 2017 proved to be a banner year for Soldiers and civilians of the 196th Infantry Brigade.

As the Chargers continued endeavoring to "guarantee the training success of our partners," members of the brigade engaged in multiple missions throughout the Pacific area of responsibility and beyond.

Our 196th training and operational missions supported partners in Korea, Japan, Australia, Mongolia, the Philippines, Canada, American Samoa, Hawaii, Kauai, Washington, California, Arizona and Texas, while sustaining home station training for the brigade and its U.S. Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve partners in Hawaii, Guam and Alaska.

As building readiness continued to be the Army's No. 1 priority, Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Capability (JPMRC) delivered by the 196th Inf. Bde. conducted two home station training rotations and multiple off-island planning conferences for future missions in 2018.

In June, JPMRC executed Bayonet Focus 17-02, for 2-2 Stryker Brigade Combat Team (Lancers) at Yakima Training Center, Washington. In October, JPMRC executed the fourth Lightning Forge rotation (18-01) for 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Broncos), 25th Infantry Division, across a multitude of Oahu training ranges.

Mission complexity has grown with each subsequent exercise, through integration of multiple enabling partners and innovative technologies, to train within a complex, Decisive Action Threat Environment, which prepares the respective Brigade Combat Teams for their Combat Training Center rotations. Additionally, 196th successfully leveraged these large-scale events to meet



Photo by Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Capability Media Team

**The 196th Inf. Bde. delivers JPMRC Rotation 18-01, Lightning Forge, at multiple training areas on Oahu from Oct. 21-29.**

the specific training needs of its Component 2 and 3 partners (Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve), building the total Army force. These combined exercises trained more than 11,000 Soldiers.

In addition to the mission of supporting Component 2 and 3 partners by assisting with planning and execution of periodic battle assemblies and mobilization operations, the Chargers contributed to partnered interoperability through execution of multinational exercises. The brigade staff and subordinate battalions provided Observer Controller-Trainer

(OC-T) support, which afforded a wealth of unique coaching opportunities during FTX-East/Hamel 17 in Australia and Orient Shield 17 in Japan.

Battalions supported the 29th IBCT annual training exercise, Papa Koa, on the Big Island of Hawaii, while brigade special staff promoted integration of state and federal agencies into multiple Civil Support Team exercises, as well as the successful pre- and post-mobilization for the 368th Military Police Detachment and 297th Firefighting Detachment of the 9th Mission Support Command based at Fort Shafter Flats.

Finally, JPMRC exercise success allowed 196th OC-Ts the unique opportunity to provide critical feedback to the 25th ID staff during its pre-warfighter command post exercises, as well as scenario design to the Vigilant Pacific 17 multinational intelligence exercise.

In the latter part of 2017, 196th established the Contingency Mobilization Support Team (CMST) in response to elevating threat levels in the Pacific theater. The CMST 15-person team, consisting of 196th headquarters and battalion personnel, developed and vetted a comprehensive strategy to process mobilizing personnel forward in theater and at home station through required administrative, training, logistics, medical and other functions to ensure the readiness of USARPAC elements across the Pacific.

Several former Chargers have also made the news during the past year. Spc. 5 James C. McCloughan was awarded the Medal of Honor in a ceremony at the White House on July 31st for his heroic actions in Vietnam from May 13-15, 1969, while serving with the 196th. Retired Sgt. 1st Class Todd McKinley is currently running for Congress in his home state of Tennessee.

## Voices of Ohana

Because the year is winding to a close, we wondered,

What was your proudest, most memorable accomplishment of 2017?

By 500th Military Intelligence Brigade-Theater Public Affairs



"I won the Soldier of the Quarter board."

**Spc. Dwight C. Armstrong**  
Human resources specialist  
500th MIB-T



"I got accepted into the career counselor course and a follow-on assignment to Fort Lewis."

**Sgt. Eve Angeline M. Ellis**  
IT NCOIC  
715th MI Bn.,  
500th MIB-T



"Completing the Honolulu Marathon, my first marathon, at 4 hours, 48 seconds."

**Spc. Geneva A. Jones**  
All-source analyst  
205th MI Bn.,  
500th MIB-T



"Seeing my Soldiers promoted."

**Capt. Jason A. McConnell**  
Signal Corps officer  
205th MI Bn.,  
500th MIB-T



"My re-enlistment on the USS Arizona Memorial. My family was there to witness it. The Navy & WWII means a lot to my family, especially my grandmother."

**Sgt. Alison Pettinho**  
Info. dissemination officer,  
500th MIB-T

JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH APRIL MAY JUNE JULY AUGUST SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER

# USAG-HI wraps year with many deeds

Compiled by  
**AIKO ROSE BRUM**  
Chief, Internal Communication

WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD — 2017 began with New Year's resolutions, a professional inauguration and a host of new leaders in our nation's Capitol.

In the Army, scholarship opportunities, cash bonuses for re-enlistment and getting promotion results on smartphones also created some buzz.

Early in the year, Island Palm Communities and the U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii's Directorate of Emergency Services received recognition for National Night Out events, which promote safety and crime prevention.

Former Deputy Garrison Commander Sally Pfenning won the 2016 William C. Gribble Jr. Directorate of Public Works Executive of the Year Award. Later on, several DPW employees won Secretary of the Army Energy awards for program effectiveness. The team had decreased energy costs and consumption to increase renewable energy and resilience.

The Army learned it would increase its end strength; however, in April, the USAG-HI commander, Col. Stephen E. Dawson, addressed the hiring freeze for civilians during a live town hall at Sgt. Smith Theater.

At Schofield Barracks, DES made significant gate changes that impacted motorists, taking residents and employees some time to adopt them. DES also updated traffic codes.

Throughout all installations, Soldiers began hearing more and more information about blended retirement that will take effect Jan. 1, 2018.

During the summer, the Garrison aided Kunia Village with drinking water when its sole water supply pump failed. USAG-HI pumped 250 gallons per minute to the village. It also partnered with Aqua Engineers, so Waialeale Farms could receive R1, or recycled water, from



Photo by Kristen Wong, Oahu Publications

**The USAG-HI commander, Col. Stephen E. Dawson, addresses the hiring freeze with employees at the Sgt. Smith Theater in April 2018.**

the Schofield Barracks treatment plant.

The Department of Defense approved a \$70 million grant for Solomon Elementary School, and the Hawaii Department of Education is contributing 20 percent in funds. A new campus will be built on land adjacent to Solomon's existing campus. Also, the Historic Hawaii Foundation recognized several DPW projects with a Preservation Award at mid-year.

The Army's Oahu Natural Resources Program, part of the DPW, continued to protect endangered tree snails and more than 80 other species in Oahu's mountains. Also, with the help of small mammal control biologist Tyler Bogardus, 1,000 self-resetting rat traps were set in the Waianae and Koolau mountain ranges to protect endangered species.

As the Garrison was dealing with child care delays and unemployed spouses, antiterrorism officer Donald Murry was being honored for keeping our 22 installations

safe from terrorist attacks. Elsewhere, the DES responded to abandoned vehicles. About 500-700 cars and trucks were abandoned by service members throughout the island, so the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation enacted a plan to help transferring service members dispose of their vehicles.

Throughout the year, personnel were warned to be ever careful and vigilant against digital scams by the Criminal Investigating Command. Meanwhile, throughout several months, officials reminded personnel of their conduct on social media. Harassment, bullying and the like, leaders stated, will never be tolerated.

Members of Joint Team Hawaii were crowned Culinary Team of the Year at Fort Lee, Virginia. Plus, local firefighters received honors for saving lives from U.S. Army Hawaii Commander Maj. Gen. Christopher Cavoli.

The Garrison signed its Leadership Pledge affirming the Service Culture Initiative from Installation Management Command that promises to foster a workplace that values its employees. Currently, personnel are attending one to two days of training on the initiative.

The Hawaiian Electric Company delivered six 159-ton generators for the 5-megawatt power plant being constructed on 8 acres of Schofield Barracks land, and the Schofield Barracks USO celebrated its grand opening at Schofield in November.

Vice President Mike Pence briefly visited Hawaii in April, and President Donald Trump would stop by in November.



# 8th TSC takes a look at multiple operations, events in 2017

**8TH THEATER SUSTAINMENT COMMAND**  
Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER — Army logisticians in the Pacific are involved in solving some of the most complex challenges in arguably the most dynamic environment in the world.

2017 brought with it many opportunities for the 8th Theater Sustainment Command, along with its enterprise partners, to approach these complex challenges across 9,000 miles, 36 nations, 16 time zones and through dramatically varying climates.

Seeking to move at the speed of relevancy and adapt to today's challenges and prepare for tomorrow's threats, the 8th TSC engaged in multiple tabletop exchanges while providing sustainment experts to make the most of regional exercise opportunities.

In a region requiring a tailored mix of strategic lift, Army watercraft systems and strategic and operational concepts of sustainment, the refinement and improvement of the critical operation of setting the theater was present in everything the command did.

Aside from supporting the constant training and exercises across the Pacific, the command continued its support to missions in the Middle East through the deployment of multiple Military Working Dog (MWD) teams from the 728th Military Police Battalion. The battalion also deployed the 58th MP Company to serve as the security force in support of the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command-led Joint Task Force Talon in Guam.

Soldiers from the 8th Human Resources Sust. Center deployed in July to Qatar and Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Approximately 50 Soldiers continue to provide comprehensive and expert theater-level human resource support to Army, Joint and Multi-national Forces deployed to the Central Command area of operations.

As the 4th deployment for the unit since its creation in 2006, the 8th HRSC coordinates, integrates and synchronizes personnel accountability and strength reporting, casualty reporting, Army postal operations and reception staging and onward movement tracking and analysis throughout the theater.

Members of the 175th Financial Management Support Center continued to improve and coordinate financial management efforts in the Pacific over the year, leading exercises, conferences and facilitating technical readiness training.

Providing on ground and home station payment support during Talisman Saber, Garuda Shield and Cobra Gold as part of Pacific Pathways, the 175th FMSC Accounting and Disbursing section processed more than 300 contract payments. In conjunction with exercise support, the 175th FMSC also funded and certified 10 paying agents whose missions included places like Japan, China and Palau.

The 175th FMSC provided Soldiers of the 125th Financial Mgmt. Spt. Unit at Schofield Barracks with on-site technical training in systems used for exercise contract payment support. This enabled the 125th FMSU to become proficient at conducting the commercial vendor service mission and supplementing finance teams engaged across the region.

The 175th FMSC hosted mission analysis conferences with human resource subject matter experts in support of the military pay mission's shift to the HR community. Together, the two branches identified challenges and tasks to be completed for a smoother transition. Efforts and communication between the 175th FMSC and HR community will continue into 2018 as courses of action for future implementation develops.

Joint orientation and planning conferences have allowed financial management, contracting and resource management across the military components to come together and discuss differences and similarities between business processes and force structure. This enhanced understanding of the fiscal triad footprint in the Pacific serves to better plan and execute missions that require joint capabilities.

## Achievements

2017 also brought with it many achievements. Capt. Fred Teeter of the 8th TSC G5 was named the Regimental Transportation Officer of the Year. The 58th MP Co. of the 728th MP Bn. was selected for a Department of the Army



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class April Davis, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

**Oregon Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Jason Cushman, with the 442nd Engineer Utility Detachment, assists Joint Logistics Force Soldiers from the People's Liberation Army (PLA) with using a saw to cut wood for shoring structures at Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center, Nov. 17. The 8th TSC planned and executed the 13th annual U.S.-China Disaster Management Exchange, which provides an opportunity for hands-on and side-by-side interaction between U.S. Army and the People's Liberation Army (PLA) on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HA/DR) operations and sharing of lessons learned.**



Photo by 1st. Sgt. James Rutherford

**Pfc. Michael Burrola briefs his duties and responsibilities to U.S. Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. James C. McConville while conducting critical site security during the vice chief's visit in November 2017. Burrola is a member of the 58th MP Co. currently serving as the security force in support of the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command-led Joint Task Force Talon in Guam.**

Award for Maintenance Excellence (AAME).

Soldiers from the 130th Engineer Brigade received many accolades while competing across the Army to include these: 1st Lt. Bre Davis received the Engineer Regimental Award for Outstanding Platoon Leader; Sgt. 1st Class Narcisha Smith was a recipient of the Joint Women's Leadership Symposium Award for Advancing the Role of Women through Leadership and Excellence; and Maj. Andrew Johannes received recognition as a finalist for the Federal Engineer of the Year Award.

The top Soldier and NCO for the 8th TSC both hailed from 130th Eng. Bde. This year's recipients were Sgt. Gene Calantoc and Spc. Thomas MacDonald.

Not to be outdone, there were many noteworthy achievements by Soldiers across the command in culinary arts. With multiple 8th TSC Soldiers as team members, Joint Team Hawaii was named the top culinary team in the Department of Defense. Victory was also on the menu for the culinary specialists of the 84th Eng. Bn.'s Forward Spt. Co., as they were the U.S. Army-Pacific winners of the Connelly Award. The team is gearing up for the national competition taking place in late January 2018.

The command also planned and executed the 13th

U.S.-China Disaster Management Exchange with the support of the Oregon National Guard and several supporting organizations. Hosted by USARPAC, the DME provides an opportunity for hands-on and side-by-side interaction between the U.S. Army and the People's Liberation Army (PLA) on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HA/DR) operations and enables sharing of lessons learned.

Army Watercraft support to the region also got a new member of the family, the U.S. Army Vessel General Brehon B. Somervell (LSV-3). While the hard work was done to prepare for her arrival in 2017, the crew of the 168th Trans. Co. continues to grow before its formal activation ceremony in 2018.

Soldiers of the command continued to support multiple missions with the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Accounting Agency (DPAA).

One of the more unique support missions was that of the 130th Eng. Bde.'s 7th Eng. Dive Detachment. The "Deep Sea" Soldiers deployed to Vietnam, carefully recovering material underwater, in order to identify remains of an F-4 Phantom fighter-bomber lost during the Vietnam War.

## 8th Military Police Brigade "Watchdogs"

The Watchdog Nation spent 2017 in high gear. At one point, the brigade was engaged in 14 countries while simultaneously conducting area reconnaissance, training law enforcement techniques, providing security, clearing ordnance and teaching nuclear/biological/chemical survivability skills.

Watchdog Soldiers participated in multiple partnership and readiness-building exercises, to include Cobra Gold, Joint Readiness Training Center 17-04, Balikpapan, Key Resolve, Ulchi Freedom Guardian, Lightning Forge, and Warfighter 2017.

The 8th MP Bde. was the host of the island's German Armed Forces Badge qualification event, as well as the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team of the Year competition through the 303rd Ord. Bn.

The 303rd Ord. Bn. supported more than 20 training exercises throughout the Pacific, all while responding to more than 300 calls for possible unexploded ordnance. It assisted a variety of governmental agencies, including Homeland Security, the Trans. Safety Administration, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation throughout the

See WATCHDOGS A-10

# 'Warrior Brigade' closes out successful year



**MAJ. KAREN ROXBERRY**

2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team  
Public Affairs  
25th Infantry Division

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — The 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, "Warrior Brigade," 25th Infantry Division, kicked off an intense year, transforming into Task Force Warrior, comprised of United Kingdom Coalition partners, National Guard Soldiers, Marines and Airmen and executing a monthlong rotation at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) in Fort Polk, Louisiana, one of most challenging and stressful training exercises the U.S. Army has to offer.

"What has impressed me the most is our ability to integrate not only Marines and Airmen, but also our United Kingdom Coalition partners," said Col. Anthony Lugo, commander of 2nd IBCT. "While we all come from different cultures, we are all focused on achieving the same results."

After successful completion of their JRTC rotation, the brigade executed intense de-centralized operations: participating in theater security cooperation exercises in the Pacific Region, training future Army leaders at Cadet Summer Training in Fort Knox, Kentucky, and returning back to Fort Polk, Louisiana, to serve as opposing forces for JRTC rotation 17-07.5.

Whether training at home station here on Schofield Barracks or in the harsh Australian Outback, the Warrior Brigade utilized every event as an opportunity to sustain its readiness by executing individual and collective training.

"Training events like this are incredible opportunities for Tropic Lightning battalions to capitalize on, as they offer a monthlong opportunity to solely focus on training for war," said Maj. Ryan Case, operations officer for 1st Battalion, 21st Inf. Regiment.

On July 24, four children from the Holy Family Home Orphanage in Osaka, Japan, arrived at the Honolulu International Airport to stay with host families of Wolfhounds from 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 27th Inf. Regt., carrying on a 60-year tradition stemming from World War II.

In August, the brigade experienced significant leadership change, bidding farewell to Command Sgt. Maj. T.J. Holland and welcoming Command Sgt. Maj. Sean Horval as the brigade senior enlisted



Photo courtesy of Joint Readiness Training Center, Operations Group, Public Affairs  
**FORT POLK, Louisiana — Soldiers assigned to 1-21st Inf., 2nd IBCT, 25th ID, arrive on the Geronimo DZ, Feb. 12, during rotation 17-04 at JRTC.**



Photo by 1st Lt. Jordan Linder, 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division  
Public Affairs

adviser in a change of responsibility ceremony, here, on Weyand Field.

The Warrior Brigade continuously embraced its partnership with the 1st Bn., 151st Inf. Regt. of the Indiana National Guard under the Army's Associated Units Pilot Program, which pairs a Reserve or Guard unit with an active duty unit to increase the readiness across the Army as a total force. The brigade implemented ways to make their pairing excel through

staff exchanges, as well as capitalizing on premier training ranges and schools, such as the Jungle Operations Training Center, here on Schofield Barracks, and the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center in Camp Atterbury, Indiana.

Throughout the year, the brigade also executed several intense validation and deployment readiness exercises around Oahu, as well as on the Pohakuloa Training Area on the island of Hawaii.

**Left — Soldiers, spouses, family members of 2nd IBCT, Hawaii Army BOSS and Waianae community members pose for a group photo after picking up roughly 1,000 pounds of trash at Keawaula Beach.**

Soldiers and family members of the Warrior Brigade remained committed to an over 10-year partnership with the communities of the Leeward Coast of Oahu, participating in disaster preparedness fairs, beach cleanups, holiday parades and numerous mentorship events in the local schools.

"It's rewarding knowing we set great examples for the Army in the local communities and, most importantly, that we show the community that we are not just Soldiers, but people who can share common interests," said Sgt. John Nunez, a volunteer and medic assigned to the 225th Bde. Support Bn.

As the Warrior Brigade continues to train to fight and win anywhere the nation calls, we would like to thank the families for their support. Without our families, none of these accomplishments would have been possible.

# 'Broncos' charge hard and succeed during busy 2017

Story and photos by  
**STAFF SGT. ARMANDO R. LIMON**  
3rd Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs  
25th Infantry Division

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — For the Soldiers and family members of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, "Broncos," 25th Infantry Division, 2017 was a year full of accomplishments.

In January, Bronco culinary specialists kicked off the year with a new competition that put their Soldier and culinary skills to the test.

"The mission of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team Quarterly Top Chef Competition is to continually raise the standards of culinary excellence and professionalism," said Master Sgt. Orland Akins, senior culinary management noncommissioned officer, assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd BCT, 25th ID.

Also in January, Spc. Anthony Kemp, an intelligence analyst assigned to Co. D, 29th Bde. Engineer Battalion, 3rd BCT, received an award for providing lifesaving aid to a Wahiawa resident who had been attacked by a dog.

Kemp helped to separate the dog from the victim's leg, applied a tourniquet to stop the victim's bleeding and kept the victim calm until the emergency medical technicians arrived, according to 1st Lt. Joseph Salmento, Co. D, 29th BEB.

Sgt. Brenton Grierson, chaplain assistant, 29th BEB, was named Division Chaplain Assistant Noncommissioned Officer of the Year in February.

"I selected him as the top NCO to represent 3rd BCT because I trusted and be-



lieved in his ability and intelligence to do well," said Sgt. 1st Class Midine Beauvais, 3rd BCT chaplain assistant. "Sgt. Grierson is one of my most dedicated NCO chaplain assistants in the brigade."

Soldiers assigned to the 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, participated in the Kaala Elementary School Career Day in February.

"We explained about general military life and being successful in the military, as well as salary and benefits associated with the military," said 1st Lt. Colin Hauer, a signal officer assigned to 3rd Sqdn., 4th Cav. Regt. "For our community partnership, the kids interact with us and

**Left — A Soldier assigned to the 2nd Bn., 27th Inf. Regt., 3rd BCT, 25th ID, scans his sector with an M240B machine as part of a maneuver element during a fires coordination exercise at the Pohakuloa Training Area, Hawaii, on June 25.**

build trust and confidence with the U.S. military."

Soldiers assigned to 2nd Bn., 27th Inf. Regt., "Wolfhounds," supported Fitness Fun Day inside the Hugh Yoshida Stadium at Leilehua High School in March.

"We have our military partners from Schofield Barracks to come and help the children to make sure that they get to their different groups, to make sure that they're doing OK, to make sure that they're staying hydrated and just have a fun day for everyone here," said Linda Willoughby, a parent community network coordinator for Leilehua High School.

In April, Soldiers throughout the Bronco Brigade executed the Expert Infantry Badge competition.

"The goal of the EIB training and test is to provide a higher state of readiness by having Soldiers competent in core infantry tasks," said Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffery Johnson, operations NCO in charge, 3rd BCT.

Comanche Troop, 3rd Sqdn., 4th Cav. Regt., performed a series of helocast operations with Marine and Army helicopters during the month of May.

"It's a great opportunity to work with the Coast Guard and the Marines," said 1st Sgt. Daniel Moss, senior enlisted adviser, Comanche Troop, 3rd Sqdn., 4th Cav. Regt. "Trying to understand each other's (techniques, tactics and procedures), and that way we can work together in the future, we understand each other, and we understand what we require of each other for easier planning and operations in the future."

Soldiers assigned to the 2nd Bn., 35th Inf. Regt., conducted an air assault with Airmen to help test the latest aerial gunship support at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows in June.

"The training objectives are primarily for the AC-130J and the Apache helicopters," said 1st Lt. Marvin Woods, a platoon leader assigned to Co. A, 2nd Bn., 35th Inf. Regt. "The ground force is facilitating the scenario in which Air Force Joint Terminal Attack Controllers can utilize aerial assets."

Throughout June and July the Bronco Brigade conducted Lightning Kooka, a

maneuver exercise with mortar, artillery and helicopter gunships during a fire support coordination exercise at Pohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island.

Second Lt. Victor Perez, a fire support officer assigned to 3rd Bn., 7th Field Artillery Regt., said the FCX "allows us to practice with our maneuver element and also be able to deconflict measures such as coordination and indirect fires."

At the beginning of August, the Broncos represented the Army during the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands.

"Today, we remember the many Soldiers who lost their lives in the Battle of Guadalcanal, and the surrounding islands Tulagi and Savo," said Manasseh Sogavare, the prime minister of the Solomon Islands. "These men fought with much bravery, however, in the harsh jungles of Guadalcanal."

A series of live-fire exercises, called Bronco Strike, was held throughout the Battle Area Complex in September.

"Our companies conducted attacks against fortified enemy positions. To accomplish this, they will incorporate artillery and mortars, attack aviation and direct fires to suppress, breach and clear the objectives," said Command Sgt. Maj. Brian Disque, senior enlisted adviser, 2nd Bn., 35th Inf. Regt.

In October, the brigade tested its mettle in several training areas on Oahu in the annual exercise Lightning Forge.

"The best thing about Lightning Forge is it's a combined exercise; it's not just (3rd BCT)," said Col. Robert M. Ryan, commander, 3rd BCT. "We have the division staff, Sustainment Bde., (Combat Aviation Brigade), 196th Inf. Bde., DIVARTY (Division Artillery) and 2nd Bde. out here, and that allows us to get better and learn more through shared knowledge."

During the same month, it was announced that then-Spc. Hazen Ham, assigned to 2-35th Inf., won the Best Warrior Competition and was named the Army's 2017 Soldier of the Year.

The Bronco Brigade family helped serve Thanksgiving meals, in conjunction with Surfing the Nations, to the local Wahiawa community.

The brigade is now preparing for training and loading of equipment for its Joint Readiness Training Center rotation next year at Fort Polk, Louisiana. The Broncos aim to open the New Year by successfully completing JRTC.

**A Soldier assigned to the 2nd Bn., 27th Inf. Regt., 3rd BCT "Broncos," 25th ID, fires an M249 light machine gun at a target during a live-fire exercise at the Battle Area Complex on Schofield Barracks, Sept. 8. The live-fire exercise was part of Bronco Strike, a two-weeklong exercise.**



# Tropic Lightning Division meets mission



## 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION Public Affairs

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — The Tropic Lightning Division used 2017 to focus on the Chief of Staff of the Army's No. 1 priority: readiness.

In doing so, the Division prepared to deploy, fight and win tonight while working with allies and partner nations to improve regional stability and security.

The Pacific Command area of responsibility requires a versatile land-force capable of operations across the spectrum of contingencies, and the Tropic Lightning Division took advantage of every training opportunity, participating in training exercises across the Pacific.

Elements of the Division took part in all of U.S. Army-Pacific's Pacific Pathways exercise series designed to build and improve relationships with partner nations' militaries while improving the ability for those forces to conduct operations together. Through these nine exercises, Tropic Lightning Soldiers from each of the brigades engaged and trained with their counterparts from partner nations such as the Philippines, Thailand, Australia and Indonesia.

The division was also able to continue its training with partner nations from its home-station on Oahu through exercises such as Talisman Saber and Yama Sakura. By sharing best practices, the Division is better prepared to conduct the spectrum of operations with our partners, whether the mission is humanitarian aid and disaster relief or high-intensity conflict.

While remaining regionally engaged, the Division also re-focused its efforts on training at the Division and Brigade levels at home and abroad. The Division staff conducted the Army's premier training event at the Headquarters level in April, a Division level Warfighter exercise. It then supported its higher Headquarters, America's First Corps, during the Corps' level Warfighter exercise through most of November.

To further meet the needs of readiness, elements from each Brigade spent an extensive amount of time conducting training here on Oahu and Hawaii Island, which prepared them for large-scale collective training exercises like the annual Lightning Forge.

This year, 3rd Brigade Combat Team became the primary training audience for Lightning Forge to prepare the



Photo by Spc. Kristen Dobson, 982nd Combat Camera Company (Airborne)

**U.S. Army Ranger 1st Lt. John Barr, assigned to 25th ID, competes in the Urban Assault Course during the Best Ranger Competition 2017 in Fort Benning, Georgia, April 7.**

brigade for its Joint Readiness Training Center rotation at Fort Polk, Louisiana. 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team completed its JRTC rotation during the spring and helped train 3rd BCT ahead of its evaluation. The 25th Sustainment Brigade also supported 3rd BCT during Lightning Forge and 2nd IBCT during its rotation.

The Lightning Support Brigade also traveled to Pohakuloa Training Area to conduct a monthlong field training exercise to test its ability to self-sustain and defend against opposing forces. In addition to personal readiness, the brigade focused on supporting units across the Pacific with a high transportation and maintenance operational tempo.

The sustainment brigade also successfully deployed two of its companies, the 40th Composite Supply Company "Night Marchers" and the 536th Support Maintenance Company "Legionnaires" in support of Operations Inherent Resolve and

Freedom Sentinel in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility.

Even as they focused on training, Tropic Lightning Soldiers remained engaged with our local communities. The Division's units routinely engaged with local partners and ohana at neighborhood boards or through the school partnership programs.

The 25th Combat Aviation Brigade proved instrumental in fighting local wildfires and protecting endangered species in the Waianae Mountains on Oahu this past summer. Two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters and one Chinook dropped thousands of gallons of water, more than quadrupling the capacity of local emergency response services, allowing for the fire's containment.

In late July, Wolfhound Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment and 2nd Bn., 27th Inf. Regt. continued a more than 65-year-old tradition when they welcomed four children from Holy Family Home Orphanage in Japan to Hawaii. The children stayed with Wolfhound host families until Aug. 6, visiting local beaches and various attractions on the island, such as the Honolulu Museum of Art School and Waikiki Aquarium.

The partnership between 25th Sustainment Brigade and the residents

around the Kahuku Training Area is also strong. Soldiers helped the residents clean beaches to help keep Oahu beautiful.

This type of character and commitment is indicative of the Division's Soldiers.

Another example is Maj. Christopher Mercado, the executive officer in 3rd BCT's 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment. This deserving leader was selected as the *Army Times'* Soldier of the Year for his contributions to help veterans combat suicide.

Mercado established his own non-profit organization, Operation Zero Foundation, which provides resources to veterans in need through the app "Objective Zero."

The 25th Infantry Division continued to add to its storied history in 2017 and stands ready to answer the nation's call if needed. As 2018 begins, readiness will continue to be the focus as the Division proudly stands as America's Force in the Pacific.



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Michael Reeves Jr. **Vice President Mike Pence shakes hands with members of the 25th ID stationed at Schofield Barracks as he prepares to depart for Washington D.C. from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, April 24.**



Photo by Sgt. Maurice Gaddy, 28th Public Affairs Detachment

**Soldiers from the 25th ID "Tropic Lightning" perform the Ha'a Koa, Chant of the Warrior, during the division review wrapping up Tropic Lightning Week. This year the 25th ID celebrated its 76th birthday with a week of sports activities and observances, wrapping up the week with a division review at Weyand Field, Oct. 5.**



Photo by Sgt. Ian Ives, 25th Sustainment Brigade, 25th Infantry Division Public Affairs **Sgt. Derrick Bernard, a wheeled vehicle mechanic with 25th Special Troops Battalion, 25th Sustainment Brigade, disassembles an M249 squad automatic weapon, or SAW, July 19, during the communications test for the Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter Board competition.**

## 25th Combat Aviation Brigade remembers achievements in 2017

### 25TH COMBAT AVIATION BRIGADE PUBLIC AFFAIRS 25th Infantry Division

WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD — The 25th Combat Aviation Brigade participated in numerous exercises and training throughout 2017.

In late January, the 599th Transportation Brigade helped load out 25th CAB for Pacific Pathways 17-1 at Pearl Harbor. Also, 25th CAB units used Makua Valley as part of an air traffic control mission, and its UH-60 Black Hawks supported Cobra Gold 17 in Korat, Thailand. Cobra Gold is the largest Theater Security Cooperation exercise in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region and an integral part of the U.S. commitment to strengthen engagement in the region.

In May, a team of culinary troops from 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment took home the Department of the Army's 49th annual Philip A. Connelly Award in the category of Active Duty Field Kitchen Feeding. The award was given during the Military Food Service Awards dinner in Chicago.

"(These) culinary specialists continu-



Photo by Pvt. Ethan Valetski, 5th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

ously set the standard in outstanding food service and support of the mission and troops of 25th Combat Aviation Brigade," said Col. Kenneth D. Chase, commander, 25th CAB.

Two Black Hawks and a Chinook he-

licopter from the CAB helped U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii fight a wildfire in early June. The helos were capable of dropping 660 and 2,000 gallons of water over the Waianae Mountain Range.

"As a member of the Oahu communi-

**Left — Chief Warrant Officer 2 Philip MacArthur, a pilot from 25th CAB, 25th ID, participates in a mock promotion board as part of the I Corps Best Warrior Competition, May 17.**

ty, the 25th CAB takes great pride in being able to assist the surrounding area in times of crisis," said Maj. Robert I. Sickler III, the 25th CAB executive officer.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Philip MacArthur, a CH-47 Chinook pilot of 3rd Battalion, 25th Avn. Regt., won the title as I Corps Best Warrant Officer.

MacArthur said, "I'm very proud. ... One thing that really helped from my previous experience was marksmanship, really anything to do with weapons," as well as training and experience from the Rangers, he added.

The CAB wrapped up the year hosting the Regional Aviation Operations Symposium. Soldiers from the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam attended, and the partnership focused on building partnerships throughout the Pacific.

# Tripler logs another year of successes



LEANNE THOMAS

Tripler Army Medical Center Public Affairs

HONOLULU — Tripler Army Medical Center, or TAMC, has made significant developments throughout the 2017 year.

## The best of the best at Tripler

To begin, TAMC and the U.S. Army Health Clinic at Schofield Barracks were recognized in the Army patient satisfaction “Best of the Best” report, for five out of the six categories in outpatient services.

“Our staff truly believes in our mission of serving our patients and their families, and we consistently look for ways to improve the patient experience,” said Col. Andrew M. Barr, TAMC commander.

## TAMC stays at the forefront of technological advancement

Technological advancements have also been known to improve health care delivery, which is why Tripler relocated the military simulation (SIM) center to a new facility, in March, which quadrupled the workable space.

“We are very excited about the new space,” said Phil Benson, TAMC medical simulation specialist. “The center is now capable of hosting multiple groups at once, which would never have been possible in the old space.

Some other notable renovations included an upgraded Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, which opened in April, offering spacious patient rooms to provide family integrated care and state-of-the-art technology with bedside booms that are mobile and adjustable.



Barr

Tripler unveiled the new and improved Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory in November. New equipment featured the Philips’ Allura Clarity system with ClarityIQ technology. It also provides high-quality imaging with

low X-ray dose settings for a wide range of clinical procedures – all while helping to better manage radiation exposure.

“All of these projects and the continued support of our facilities and maintenance staff support the excellent health care TAMC provides daily,” said Barr.

## Innovation in medical care through excellence in medical research, education and training

The Graduate Professional Health Education program honored 122 health care professionals during a graduation ceremony, June 16.

“It is the Graduate Medical Education programs at Tripler that provide for the future readiness of our Army and its medical department,” said Barr.

## Delayed Evacuation Casualty Management Course (DECM)

When it comes to treating a patient that has received a traumatic injury on the battlefield, timing does matter, and land operations in an unknown battlefield may require field care for hours or even days.

“This is incredible training for our

medics who must be able to sustain life on the battlefield far past the ‘Golden Hour,’” said TAMC Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Sloan.

## Pacific Regional Trials 2017

The Tripler Warrior Transition Battalion hosted the first-ever wounded warrior sports competition. About 80 wounded, ill or injured Soldiers and veterans from across the Pacific region trained and competed in eight adaptive sporting events at Schofield Barracks: swimming, track, field, shooting, archery, cycling, sitting volleyball and wheelchair basketball.

“Your display ... of resilience, empowerment and encouragement left us all inspired,” said Lt. Col. Clyde L. Hill, commander of WTB-Hawaii.

## Leader Development, Readiness and Command Initiatives

Leaders attended the globally recognized Arbinger training. The workshop, “Developing and Implementing an Outward Mindset,” trains participants on the benefits of an outward mindset approach to creating an organizational culture that engages its people. The five-day Arbinger workshop further progressed TAMC toward becoming a High Reliability Organization, a commitment across the Military Health System to apply standards for patient safety and quality of care.

TAMC leaders highlight the Army’s No. 1 priority, readiness, by developing the “Readiness Hibiscus.” The five petals of the hibiscus represent quality, safety, service, satisfaction and access.

“Everything we focus on at Tripler focuses on readiness,” said Barr, “not only keeping our warriors ready to go to war ... but also our medical staff, here, to be able to provide care to our warriors wherever our nation calls them.”

Leaders conduct rounds to further engage with staff members, identify best practices and areas for improvement and call this the “Gemba Walk.” TAMC leaders take part in the “Gemba Walk,” every morning from 8 to 10 a.m. (Gemba is the Japanese word for “where the work occurs.”)

## Health Care Delivery across the Region and Global Health Engagements

Besides care at TAMC, the center also provides care throughout the Pacific.

“What we do for the Pacific is really provide manpower and subject matter expertise, from a readiness perspective, to (U.S.) Pacific Command and U.S. Army-Pacific,” said Barr. “We do that globally by providing, doctors, nurses and medics and other medical professionals that deploy globally to provide care to a number of locations. From a training perspective, we provide support to key training operations throughout the Pacific.

“We also support PACOM and USARPAC through Global Health Engagements by providing (SMEs) to our partner nations and (helping to) build medical and military capability and capacity with our partners inside the Pacific Rim.”

# RHC-P reflects upon 2017 accomplishments

REGIONAL HEALTH COMMAND-PACIFIC  
Public Affairs

HONOLULU — Regional Health Command-Pacific reflects upon major accomplishments celebrated this year in support of its mission of providing combatant commanders with medically ready forces and ready medical forces to conduct health service support in all phases of military operation.

The Department of Defense’s new electronic health record, dubbed MHS GENESIS, was successfully deployed at Madigan Army Medical Center on Oct. 21. MHS (military health system) GENESIS integrates inpatient and outpatient solutions that connect medical and dental information across the continuum of care, from point of injury to the military treatment facility. This includes garrison, operational and en route care, increasing efficiencies for beneficiaries and health care professionals.

According to a DOD Healthcare Management System Modernization factsheet, when fully deployed, MHS GENESIS will support the availability of electronic health records for more than 9.4 million DOD beneficiaries and approximately 205,000 Military Health System personnel globally.

Madigan, one of the largest military hospitals on the West Coast, opened the Department of Defense’s first Center for Autism, Resources, Education and Services (CARES) at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, in Washington state on Aug. 9.

The center is a joint installation partnership between Madigan and the JBLM Armed Forces Community Service, which focuses on providing patient-centered care for military children with autism and their families. Eligible patients receive occupational, physical and speech therapy, Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA), Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) Systems Navigation, Child Youth School Services (CYSS), respite care and more.

The region also co-hosted the sixth annual Behavioral Health Summit, Sept. 7-8, at Tripler Army Medical Center’s Ky-



Courtesy of Regional Health Command-Pacific

ser Auditorium, gathering together mental health professionals from the Pacific region to discuss best practices, emerging treatments, research topics and approaches to care to help military families and veterans on their journey toward lifelong resilience.

A Madigan subordinate unit, the California Medical Detachment from the Presidio of Monterey, began pediatrics and family medicine care in the newly opened Major General William H. Gourley Clinic VA-DOD Outpatient Clinic, located in Seaside, California.

The facility, which conducted a ribbon cutting Aug. 3, treats military veterans of the Monterey peninsula military community, along with the family medicine and pediatrics TRICARE Prime patients. At the clinic, the Veterans Administration’s health care system and the Army’s Patient Centered Medical Home model work in harmony, emphasizing health partnerships between patient and provider.

RHC-P also held the Pacific Warrior Trials at Schofield Barracks. During the weeklong competition, which concluded Nov. 10, about 80 wounded, ill or injured Soldiers and veterans from the Pacific region trained and competed in eight adaptive sporting events ranging from swimming, track, field, shooting, archery, cycling, sitting volleyball and wheelchair basketball.

At the Army level, RHC-P took second place overall in the Army’s Best Medic Competition, which concluded Oct. 29 at Camp Bullis, Texas, hosted by the U.S. Army Medical Command and the U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School.

This year’s competition included 28 teams and was designed to physically and intellectually challenge medics in a simulated tactical environment. The region was represented by 2nd Lt. Adam Schafer, 65th Medical Brigade, and Sgt. Ryan Harpster, Bassett Army Community

Hospital at the U.S. Army Best Medic team event alongside other two-person Army medic teams.

RHC-P also hosted various high-level distinguished visitors to the region, which included the Second Lady of the United States, the Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, and the Army Surgeon General. During these visits, RHC-P personnel were able to emphasize many of the outstanding programs, award-winning initiatives and staff members that make up the region.

Throughout the year, RHC-P medical personnel also projected global health engagements and humanitarian missions for Nepal, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Palau, Vietnam, Cambodia, China and Mongolia.

For more information on or top news stories from RHC-P, visit [www.army.mil/rhcpacific](http://www.army.mil/rhcpacific) or visit the command’s Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/RegionalHealthCommandPacific](http://www.facebook.com/RegionalHealthCommandPacific).

# 18th Medical Command focuses on readiness to meet mission

STAFF SGT. LUISITO BROOKS

18th Medical Command  
(Deployment Support)  
Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER — The 18th Medical Command (Deployment Support) welcomed a new command sergeant major this summer.

Command Sgt. Maj. John E. Braham Jr. was entrusted with the responsibility by Col. Ann M. Sammartino, the 18th MEDCOM (DS) commander, to be the most senior enlisted adviser for the unit. The change of responsibility took place on historic Palm Circle, here.

Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Wrighton Jr. gave his thanks and bid farewell to the Soldiers and families of the 18th MEDCOM(DS).

With this new command team in place, the Pacific Knights seamlessly continue to focus on the readiness and training of the unit. They also continue to provide a major command and control element



Photo courtesy of 18th Medical Command

HONOLULU — Soldiers with the 18th Medical Command march in the 101st annual King Kamehameha Floral Parade, June 10.

for medical resources in the Indo-Asia-Pacific Region.

The Soldiers and leaders of the 18th MEDCOM continue to support everything from combined exercises to

providing personnel and coordinating support throughout the area. The Pacific Knights also concentrated on the improvement of individual Soldier and unit readiness.

Over the course of the year, the Pacific Knights visited more than a dozen countries in the Pacific with a variety of missions from medical training to advanced pre-deployment logistical readiness training.

Soldiers and leaders of the 18th MEDCOM participated in a Culminating Training Exercise (CTE) designed to challenge the unit’s ability to operate in multiple locations throughout the Indo-Asia-Pacific Region.

As the 18th MEDCOM command team raised the unit’s level of readiness, it also devoted countless hours to improving the mental and physical readiness of each Soldier. This process included increasing the number of field training exercises (FTX), learning how to maintain and operate the equipment, reinforcing the physical readiness training program and providing essential resiliency training.

By supporting the Soldiers’ efforts to improve professional development, the unit marked an increase of Soldiers furthering their education. They also participated in a variety of competitive running races like the Army 10-Miler, the Spartan Race and many more, which increased their overall physical training score averages.

The Pacific Knights are currently developing training plans for the next year to ensure their Soldiers and leaders continue to be at the front of readiness and training.

# Pacific Signal fully engages community

## YEAR IN 2017 REVIEW

### 311th provides tactical, strategic comms and support across region

LIANA KIM

311th Signal Command (Theater) Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER — As a tropical sun sets on 2017, Pacific Signal leaders reflect on the achievements of our active component Soldiers, Army Reservists and civilians of the 311th Signal Command (Theater).

Dynamic teams of this multi-component command continued to achieve milestones for the Army signal community while supporting readiness exercises and volunteering in their local communities.

Driven by a personal goal to help those in need, Sgt. 1st Class Anastasia Doctor, G3 Current Operations noncommissioned officer and Equal Opportunity representative of the 311th SC(T), led donation drives to gather clothing and shoes for homeless families, delivered leftover food after unit functions to those living on the streets, and answered requests from the children for holiday gifts. She believes everyone deserves to experience the spirit of Christmas.

Doctor was recognized by Hawaii State Governor David Ige for her philanthropy during the Military Affairs Council, May 5, during which Ige issued a proclamation formally identifying the month of May as Hawaii Military Appreciation Month.

"The Military Service members assigned here in Hawai'i are a lot more than Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen



Photo by Liana Kim, 311th Signal Command (Theater) Public Affairs  
**Spc. Johnna Gamboa hands out water to participants along the Gastroschisis walk/run route at Tripler Army Medical Center, July 29.**

or Guardsmen; they are family, 'ohana," said Military Affairs Liaison Thomas Lee. "Recognition of our service members by proclamation has great meaning beyond the paper it is written upon and signatures it bears."

After her son was born with a rare birth defect, Staff Sgt. Maira Carrier, Strength Management NCO with the 311th SC(T) G1, and her husband Brandon Sr., sent a proclamation to the Governor's office to recognize July 30th as Gastroschisis Awareness Day in Hawaii as it is nationally. The Governor signed the proclamation and the Carriers organized a 5K walk/run for the Oahu community to raise awareness about this birth defect. Participants wore lime green attire and lime green ribbons to support Gastroschisis awareness.

The summer brought an exciting opportunity for Soldiers of the 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion who transported their tactical equipment and deployed from Helemano Military Reservation, Hawai'i to Kodiak, Alaska. There they supported an ongoing Missile Defense Agency mission, enabling an Air Defense Artillery Battery to perform flight test simulations.

In the fall, Signal leadership teams from across the Pacific and industry partners of the global Signal community gathered on Oahu for

Pacific Signal Week, Sept. 18-22, to celebrate the 157th birthday of the Army Signal Corps and focus on improving secure communications.

Attendees received updates and guidance from Army Chief Information Officer Lt. Gen. Bruce Crawford and other senior Signal leaders, browsed new equipment at Technology Day, and participated in leadership development and team-building activities.

Soldiers and civilians of the 311th also hosted two semiannual Project Synchronization Reviews this year, during which communicators continued to align their efforts to improve the secure network for the warfighter. The two-day events, led by the 311th commander and U.S. Army Pacific G6, Brig. Gen. Larry Thoms, began with a forum to discuss the status of various projects and included breakout sessions

for officers and enlisted leaders.

The command supported U.S. Army-Pacific's Pacific Pathways campaign by providing help desk support and tactical satellite communication platforms for nearly a dozen joint and combined military exercises throughout the Asia-Pacific region, including Cobra Gold in Thailand; Key Resolve and Ulchi Freedom Guardian in South Korea; Balikatan in the Philippines; and Yama Sakura and Keen Edge in Japan.

"In this dynamic theater with many moving pieces, we are asking a lot of our Soldiers and leaders - to be flexible and prepared," Thoms said during the Signal Forum at Sgt. Smith Theater, Schofield Barracks, as part of Pacific Signal Week. "To set yourself apart, be that team player who always seeks to help and build others. Be a selfless leader."



Photo by Liana Kim, 311th Signal Command (Theater)  
**Sgt. 1st Class Anastasia Doctor receives a hug of thanks for the shoes she and fellow Soldiers delivered to homeless families in Honolulu, Feb. 14.**



Photo courtesy of Staff Sgt. Maira Carrier  
**Brandon Sr. and Maira Carrier and their son, Brandon Jr., pause for a photo at the state capital with the Hawaii State Governor's proclamation, recognizing July 30 as Gastroschisis Awareness Day in Hawaii as it is already recognized nationally.**

# 599th Tran. Bde. moves cargo, equipment in timely fashion

Story and photo by  
 DONNA KLAPAKIS

599th Transportation Brigade Public Affairs

WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD — The 599th Transportation Brigade headed into 2017 at an all-out sprint.

Immediately after the holidays, the brigade began uploading 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division cargo for the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, Louisiana, onto the USNS Brittin, from Jan. 3-8 at Pearl Harbor.

Preparation for the JRTC move had begun before the holidays with staging at Pearl Harbor, the Schofield Barracks motor pool, and the Multiple Deployment Facility, here. The 599th was able to team up for the move with its total force integration counterpart, the 1394th Transportation Brigade from Camp Pendleton, California.

"This collective training event provided us an opportunity to employ all elements of the brigade," said Col. James Smith, then 599th commander. "We did our best to replicate a contingency operation, including the strict use of our deployable brigade standard communications package to command and control the operations."

Later in January, the 599th went back to Pearl Harbor for another move, from Jan. 23-23, sending 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, 25th ID, cargo and equipment out for Operation Pacific Pathways 17-1 exercises.

This movement was delayed for about a week when the ship originally scheduled to conduct the move experienced



**The forward ship's crane on the M/V Ocean Jazz lifts an Apache helicopter into the hold during port operations at Pearl Harbor on June 12.**

maintenance issues while en route to Hawaii. Military Sealift Command quickly activated the USNS Fisher, which was homeported in Bremerton, Washington.

"Despite all of the problems with a ship that broke down, late arrival, constrained timelines and ship mechanical problems, the mission was accomplished," said Carlos Tibbetts, 599th terminal operations chief.

From April 4-6, the 599th and partners discharged the USNS Benavidez at Pearl Harbor for the 2nd IBCT redeployment after three months' training at JRTC.

Traffic management specialist John Manahane headed up the operation for the 599th terminals section.

"Everyone there displayed a great team effort to its maximum extent," Manahane said. "It's important to highlight the joint

effort that was ongoing throughout the exercise, from the personnel at Navy's Fleet Logistic Center Pearl Harbor, to the Navy cargo handling battalion, to subordinate battalions, to Soldiers and civilians from the 599th and the 25th Infantry Division."

From June 10-13, the 599th conducted back-to-back, 24-hour port operations at Pearl Harbor. During this move the M/V Ocean Jazz came already loaded from Tacoma, Washington, so port operators had to first offload and redistribute cargo to upload 25th ID cargo and equipment for shipment. When the Ocean Jazz was finally loaded and departed on June 13, the USNS Fisher moved in, and transporters immediately began discharging Pacific Pathways 17-1 cargo and equipment.

On June 29, the brigade held a combined change of command and responsibility ceremony on board the Battleship Missouri Memorial at Ford Island. During the ceremony, Col. Michael S. Knapp assumed command of the brigade from Col. James M. Smith, and Command Sgt. Maj. Rufus J. Lewis assumed responsibility from Command Sgt. Maj. William E. Funcheon.

On Aug. 16, the 599th and partners uploaded 25th CAB cargo and equipment onto the M/V Jean Anne at Pearl Harbor for shipment to National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California.

The end of September brought back-to-back uploads at Kalaeloa Barber's Point from Sept. 28-Oct 1. The first vessel was the M/V Ocean Giant en route to Northeast Asia, and the second was the M/V Liberty Peace to Southwest Asia.

October continued to be a busy month for the brigade, with two additional moves at Pearl Harbor.

On Oct. 10, 25th CAB cargo and equipment, which had shipped out on Aug. 16, returned from NTC onboard the Jean Anne. The Jean Anne sailed to Honolulu from San Diego, California, where it had picked up the shipment from the 834th Trans. Battalion, headquartered in Concord, California.

Oct. 29-31, the 599th and partners discharged cargo and equipment from the M/V Ocean Jazz. After 18 stops in seven different countries, the Ocean Jazz made its last stop in Hawaii in support of Operation Pacific Pathways 17-2/3.

As 2017 closes, the brigade prepares for upcoming moves in the New Year.

# 94th AAMDC integral to defense of Pacific Region



**SGT. 1ST CLASS CLAUDIO R. TEJADA**  
94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command  
Public Affairs

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM — The 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command, known as the Sea Dragons, had an exciting and busy year.

The units' mission is to provide joint and combined theater air and missile defense to meet operation plan requirements and support the rebalance to the Asia-Pacific region.

The 94th AAMDC is integral to joint and combined air and missile defense in the Pacific theater of operations.

2017 was a productive year for the command.

North Korea continued to prove itself to be one of the greatest security threats in the region by testing nuclear weapons and launching ballistic missiles, including the first successful launch from a submarine.

In response to these provocations, the 94th AAMDC developed and executed an accelerated deployment of the THAAD system to the Republic of Korea, which became operational in May 2017. The operation spearheaded the command's efforts to update the Area Air Defense Plan for the Korean theater of operations.

Throughout the year, the Soldiers from the 94th AAMDC continued to strengthen Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD) capabilities throughout the Pacific region by participating in multiple bilateral, trilateral and joint training exercises including, Keen Edge, Key Resolve, Pacific Sentry/Talisman Saber, Virtual Flag and Ulchi Freedom Guardian.

During the Key Resolve exercise that took place in the Republic of Korea in March, Soldiers from the 94th AAMDC headquarters deployed there, and the

unit's commanding general, Brig. Gen. Sean A. Gainey, served as the Deputy Area Air Defense Commander (DAADC).

As the DAADC, Gen. Gainey is the primary adviser for the Pacific Air Force (PACAF) and the 7th Air Force in support of the Area Air Defense Plan and facilitates coordination, communication and operations with all IAMD within the Pacific Region. The exercise allowed the command to work closely with their Korean partners, refining their tactics, techniques and procedures.

In May, the command sent all but one of its Air Defense Artillery Fire Control Operations (ADAFCO) teams, as well as members of its Attack Operations (ATKOPS) cell, to Kirtland Air Force Base in New Mexico. There, the Sea Dragons participated in the exercise Virtual Flag.

Virtual Flag is a real-time tactical-to-operational-level exercise that uses air, land, space, cyber and maritime scenarios to integrate live, virtual and constructive simulations to train warfighters in robust combat scenarios.

The Soldiers operated out of the Distributed Mission Operations Center (DMOC), certifying the ADAFCO teams while the ATKOPS cell participated in dynamic targeting training for the Air and Space Operations Center (AOC).

During the annual training exercise Talisman Saber in June, the 94th AAMDC Soldiers manned a battle desk with 20 personnel from all of the battle staff directories on the floor at the 613th AOC.

The Soldiers manned their battle stations 24 hours a day while also having one Soldier forward in Australia acting as liaison officer to the Task Force commander. During the exercise, the unit hardened relations with maritime component, air component and land component commanders and their Australian counterparts during the exercise Joint



Photo by Capt. Adan Cazarez

**Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 1st Regiment, Air Defense Artillery, 94th AAMDC mount an antenna onto a signal tower for a "Patriot" missile system during a patriot certification training exercise on Kadena Air Base in Japan, Oct. 17.**

Theater Air and Missile Defense working groups.

In August, Soldiers and leaders from the 94th AAMDC strengthened the relationship between the United States and Republic of Korea allies by participating in the Combined Forces Command exercise Ulchi Freedom Guardian.

The team supported U.S. Forces Korea with over 40 personnel, to include support from the 263rd AAMDC from South Carolina. They provided DAADC support for the exercise and were able to implement operational plans and validate current meaning structure and command control.

The Sea Dragons ended the year by holding their Leader's Summit and

hosting the unit's annual Saint Barbara's Day Ball, which featured retired Maj. Gen. Roger F. Matthews, former 94th AAMDC commander and USARPAC deputy commanding general, as the guest speaker.

The Soldiers of the 94th AAMDC here and at its forward stationed missile defense units continue to participate in regional and theater-level exercises building partnership capacity with allies and partners remaining the "First Line of Defense" against an ever-increasing ballistic missile threat in the region.

The Sea Dragons are proud to be part of the premier Army Air and Missile Defense Command capable of executing their combat mission at any time.

## Honolulu District continues support to Army, Pacific Region in 2017

Story and photo by  
**DINO W. BUCHANAN**  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Honolulu District Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER — During 2017, highly motivated U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Honolulu District employees supported military construction at Hawaii Army posts and throughout the Pacific region, awarding more than \$231.3 million in contracts.

Significant awards included the following:

- \$63 million to replace Kwajalein fuel tanks, U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll;
- \$26 million for Bldg. 452 renovation, Quad D, Schofield Barracks;
- \$26 million for construction of a combined support maintenance shop, Keaukaha Military Reservation, Hilo; and
- \$103.6 million increment of a \$284.4 million contract for construction of the U.S. Army-Pacific Mission Command Facility Phase 3 at Fort Shafter.

The District continued work on key Army projects including the USARPAC MCF Phase 2, the Combat Aviation Brigade's Phase 1 and Phase 2 projects at Wheeler Army Airfield, plus finishing renovations of Bldg. 112 at Fort Shafter and Quad B at Schofield Barracks.

During its 112th years of service, District employees have participated in more than 20 outreach events for Formerly Used Defense Sites and regulatory programs, as well as numerous STEM events to inform stakeholder community members on the programs, processes and safety considerations. We



**Commander, U.S. Army-Pacific Gen. Robert B. Brown (third from right) makes his first official visit to the Mission Command Facility (MCF) project site at Fort Shafter in mid-May. Project and USARPAC engineers and staff present a briefing and update construction progress to Brown in the newly completed MCF arrival building.**

also sponsored two wounded warrior interns during the year, enabling them to build job skills while they transitioned from the military to civilian workforce.

Two preservation construction projects undertaken by Honolulu District for U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii were recognized at the Historic Hawaii Foundation's 43rd annual Preservation Awards ceremony.

The rehabilitation of Schofield Barracks' Bldg. 690 managed by Honolulu District engineers was recognized in the Preservation Award category, and the Wheeler interpretive display panels that were designed by the District's Michael Miki were recognized in the Interpretive

Media category.

In June, Honolulu District civil engineers and command staff participated in the 94th Coastal Engineering Research Board meetings held in Honolulu where this year's theme of "Coastal Structures in a Sea of Change" was addressed in various subject matter expert discussions during the two-day event, with a concept to "identify priority research to address opportunities and challenges of designing, constructing and maintaining coastal infrastructure."

Honolulu District Emergency Management (EM) teams and other District personnel deployed late in the year to Florida, Puerto Rico, U.S.

Virgin Islands and to national cadre coordination centers in Pittsburgh, Atlanta and Fort Worth, Texas, in support of national FEMA recovery efforts for Hurricanes Irma and Maria. By the end of November, the District had deployed 26 civilian personnel, which is nearly 11 percent of the District's workforce.

Throughout 2017, Honolulu District hosted numerous senior leader visits, including all of Hawaii's Congressional delegation; congressional staff for U.S. representative for American Samoa Amua Amata Coleman Radewagen; two separate visits by Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Todd T. Semonite; USARPAC Commanding General Gen. Robert Brown; 25th Infantry Division Commander Maj. Gen. Christopher Cavoli; Maj. Gen. Richard L. Stevens, former USACE Deputy Chief of Engineers/Deputy Commanding General; Maj. Gen. Mark W. Yenter, former USACE Deputy Commanding General for Military and International Operations; Pacific Ocean Division Commander Col. (P) Thomas Tickner; USAG-HI Commander Col. Stephen Dawson, as well as numerous Congressional staff members and other local government officials.

The District's Regulatory Office continued to make significant efforts in improving coordination and collaboration with interagency and interservice partners throughout the Pacific by creating and completing 17 jurisdictional determinations, and reissuing the 2017 Nationwide Permits (NWP) and Honolulu District Regional Conditions.

# Watchdogs: Units recall missions

CONTINUED FROM A-3

year with a 100 percent safety and success rate.

The “Forged in Fire” battalion continued its humanitarian mine action program in support of USARPAC with multiple efforts in Vietnam and Sri Lanka, as well as hosting training for the Japanese Ground Self Defense Force as it prepares for the Olympic Games to be hosted in Tokyo in 2020.

The 728th MP Bn. also stayed busy this year participating in eight large-scale exercises, including Talisman Saber in Australia, Khaan Quest in Mongolia, Keen Sword in Japan, and Shanti Prayas in Nepal. At home, it continued to provide unmatched law enforcement support in the Pacific.

## 130th Engineer Brigade “Sappers In”

The 130th Eng. Bde. experienced some major changes in 2017 and proved once again that it is trained and ready to conduct operations in any environment. In total, the brigade deployed over 500 Soldiers to 26 countries from Germany to Guam and everywhere in-between, while enhancing facilities and community relations at home in Oahu.

Approximately 100 Soldiers from the 523rd Eng. Spt. Co., 84th Eng. Bn. redeployed from the Republic of Korea after a nine-month mission supporting the



Photo by Capt. Adam Cartier, 8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs

**2017 was a year of many outstanding achievements within the 8th TSC. The 130th Eng. Best Sapper team consisting of 1st Lt. Jacob Davel and 2nd Lt. Christopher Morhardt placed 4th out of 40 teams.**

Eighth Army, in February. While stationed at Camp Humphreys, the 523rd ESC participated in multiple exercises as well as several range and road construction missions to improve readiness of multiple training areas. Its accomplishments demonstrated the integral role of engineer support to forces in the Republic of Korea, ensuring that it is ready to fight tonight.

The brigade strengthened relations with allies throughout the Pacific by hosting the Combined Forces Command (CFC)/Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) Engineer and Republic of Korea (ROK) Engineer Staff to promote the strategic partnership

between ROK engineers and supporting U.S. engineer elements.

Leaving an even more lasting impression on the peninsula, the 130th Eng. Bde. led the planning and building of the 11th Eng. Bn., which activated on Oct. 17 at Camp Humphreys. This permanent force replaces the stateside rotational engineer battalions U.S. Forces in Korea had been relying on since 2015.

The brigade continued to modernize throughout the year with the 523rd and 561st Eng. Spt. companies undergoing a force design update, resulting in the acceptance, transfer and turn in of over 1,500 pieces of equipment within the 84th

Eng. Bn., both on and off island. These updates will increase overall readiness and enhance engineer support capabilities across the Pacific.

In addition to its DOD POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) support missions, the 7th Eng. Dive Det. completed a 35-day deployment to the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), Kauai, saving the Department of Defense millions of dollars in cable repair and replacement. These training events allow the unit to train proficiently in a multitude of mission-essential tasks while increasing interoperability in the joint environment.

Focusing on joint and multi-component training allowed the brigade to build relationships, set standard operating procedures and establish processes that build a common understanding of all the capabilities and challenges inherent with syncing units of various backgrounds.

To this end, in June, the brigade hosted the annual Joint Survey Stakes competition between the 84th Eng. Bn., 955th Survey and Design detachment of the 411th Eng. Bn., Marine Aircraft Group 24, and the 647th Civil Eng. Squadron. Soldiers were broken into teams consisting of a member from each organization and given the task to design a heliport from initial survey to the final plan, ready to be executed by a military construction unit.

Additionally the brigade incorporated Soldiers from the Army Reserve's 411th Eng. Bn. into multiple command post exercises. The exercises allowed the brigade to enhance our understanding of how we work and employ multi-component units, and support the Army's total force policy.

JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH APRIL MAY JUNE JULY AUGUST SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER



## 24 / Sunday

**Post Office** — The Postal Service has announced that six Oahu Post Offices will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sunday, to serve holiday customers:

- Airport (Main) Post Office,
- Ala Moana Post Office,
- Kaneohe Post Office,
- Mililani Post Office,
- Waiālae Kahala Post Office, and
- Waipahu Post Office.

## 25 / Monday

**Aloha Christmas Breakfast** — Single Soldiers, geographic bachelors and families are invited to enjoy a hot, homemade breakfast – home away from home – from 9 to 11 a.m. at Wheeler Chapel. Contact Chaplain (Capt.) Jeff Herden for volunteer opportunities, such as casserole donations or cookies. Call 307-460-0285.

**City and County** — Offices will be closed Christmas Day, a state and federal holiday.

Emergency medical, fire, lifeguard, medical

examiner and police services will be available. TheBus will operate on a Sunday schedule. For route and schedule information, visit [www.thebus.org](http://www.thebus.org).

Refuse will not be collected and transfer stations, convenience centers, H-POWER and the Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill will be closed. Residents using the three-cart collection system, with once-a-week refuse and recycling pickup, are asked to leave gray refuse carts curbside until picked up (usually within two business days).

Hold green and blue carts until the next scheduled pickup date.

Residents with twice-per-week manual refuse collection are asked to wait for the next scheduled pick-up date.

The Pali and West Loch golf courses will be open from 7 a.m.-11 a.m. for 18-hole play and 11 a.m.-1 p.m. for 9-hole play. The Ala Wai, Kahuku, Ted Makalena, and Ewa Villages golf courses will be closed.

The Honolulu Botanical Gardens and the Honolulu Zoo; the Neal S. Blaisdell Center's box office; the People's Open Markets; and all Satellite City Halls and Driver Licensing Centers will be closed or not held.

The following traffic and parking regulations will be in effect: On-street parking will be free, ex-

cept for the meters on Kalakaua Avenue along Queen Kapi'olani Park and metered parking lots. Traffic lanes will not be coned for contraflow.

## January

### 1 / Monday

**BAH** — The Department of Defense has released that 2018 Basic Allowance for Housing rates will increase an average of 0.7 percent when the new rates take effect on Jan. 1, 2018. An estimated \$21 billion will be paid to approximately one million service members.

For more information on BAH, visit [www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/bah.cfm](http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/bah.cfm). Service members can calculate the BAH payment by using the BAH calculator at [www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/bahCalc.cfm](http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/bahCalc.cfm).

### 16 / Tuesday

**Dental Clinic** — According to Dental Health Activity-Hawaii, the Tripler Dental Clinic will be moving to Bldg. 339 on Montgomery Road, Fort Shafter. Effective Jan. 16, all dental care will be located at the new Shafter dental clinic; however, the OMFS clinic will remain at Tripler.

Directions to new clinic: Travel south on Pierce Road, past the PX on Fort Shafter. Turn right on Montgomery Drive. The clinic and parking lot will be on the left.



*(Note: Times and locations of outages are a best guess. Field conditions may extend the locations and time needed.)*

## January

### 4 / Thursday

**Sewer Lines** — Testing will be performed along Schofield's McCornack, Cadet Sheridan, and Trimble roads on behalf of the Directorate of Public Works. Work will be performed in two separate phases during Jan. 4-5, 2018, between 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

The work for each phase will take approximately one hour to complete, and each phase will occur consecutively. There will not be multiple closures occurring at once. Appropriate signs and barriers will be posted for guidance.

### 9 / Tuesday

**Chanute Road** — A partial road closure will occur on Wheeler's Chanute Road near Bldg. 107, and right shoulder lane work will begin on Wright Avenue in front of Bldg. 106 for utility installation on Tuesday, Jan. 9 to Feb.

6, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday-Saturday. The work will be performed in four phases.

## Ongoing

**Wright Avenue** — Partial road closures will be in effect at Wright Avenue on Wheeler Army Airfield between Elleman and Eastman roads and Langley Loop and Eastman roads for curb inlet repairs. The partial lane closures run through Feb. 2, 2018, from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday.

**Airdrome Road** — David Boland, Inc. will be conducting one-lane road closures through Dec. 31 from 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, along Airdrome Road from the new fueling facility to the flight simulator.

Boland crews will be performing asphalt overpaying, installing a new by pass road for fuel offload facilities and striping of new pavements.

**Parking Closure** — The Schofield Barracks Dental Clinic parking lot will be closed for construction through Dec. 18. The clinic apologizes for this inconvenience. Patients should show up 15 minutes earlier for appointments. Parking can be found adjacent to the Exchange and behind the Dental Clinic.

**Ganhan Road** — This road on Wheeler Army Air-

field adjacent to Bldg. 107 will be closed at the Wright Avenue entrance throughout construction, through Dec. 18.

**Tripler Army Medical Center** — A complete road closure will occur at the unnamed road beside Krukowski Road near Bldg. 161 for utility and road work. Through Dec. 18, the road will be closed and barricaded. Use the Krukowski Road portion of the main Tripler loop during this time.

This closure will only affect the roadway and area in front of the substation. Parking for Bldgs. 141, 145, 147, 153, etc. will remain open as usual.

**Trimble Road** — A 24-hour closure will continue on Schofield's Trimble between Carpenter to Beaver and Hewitt to Cadet Sheridan for pavement repairs through Dec. 29. Also, 24-hour single lane closures and traffic detours will occur on Hewitt, McCornack, Carpenter, Kaena and Cadet Sheridan. Note, this schedule is subject to change pending weather delays.

**McCornack Road** — A parallel parking stall closure will be along Schofield's McCornack Road near Bldgs. 660, 678 and 676 during crane erection of the new clinic parking structure. Parking will be restricted through April 20, 2018.

# Let it snow

Stella Goodman tosses a snowball at the Winter Wonderland Snow Zone, Saturday.

HAWAII **ARMY** WEEKLY

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PAU HANA

"When work is finished."

December 22, 2017



Isaiah Horner plays in the Snow Zone.



Lorraine Colwell watches her children, Nika (left) and Isaac as they make sandy candy.

## Families walk through ACDR Winter Wonderland

Story and photos by  
**KRISTEN WONG**  
Contributing Writer

**ALIAMANU MILITARY RESERVATION** — The community center, here, came alive with cheer, inflatable holiday décor and snow, Saturday.

The annual Winter Wonderland event, hosted by the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, began early in the morning with Breakfast with Santa.

"Breakfast with Santa' patrons (had a) wonderful breakfast prepared by Hale Ikena, as well as time to meet with Santa and some of his costumed friends," said Mary Negron, special events coordinator for DFMWR and coordinator of Winter Wonderland.

After breakfast, families lined up for the Snow Zone, where a mound of 25 tons of fresh, man-made snow awaited them. With their parents in tow, the children explored the bright, white playground.

"It was awesome," military spouse Chantel Horner said, adding that the highlight of her day was watching her son's reaction to the snow.

"He's never had that experience before, and now he does, so it'll be good for when we move someplace where they have snow," she said.

In addition to Snow Zone, there were numerous other activities at nearly every turn in and around the community center: a balloon station, ornament-decorating stations, bounce castles, sports activities and more.

Eliana Hall's daughter, Briana, took tennis lessons.

"She had fun," Hall, a military spouse, said. "I loved that (the event) was so organized. They have a lot of activities for kids, so that's a good thing."

The 25th Infantry Division Band performed holiday songs, such as "Silent Night," "(Everybody's Waitin' for) The Man with the Bag" and "Santa Claus Is Coming To Town."

More entertainment awaited in the form of performances by magician Mark Allen Mauricio of the Hale Koa Hotel's "Magic in Paradise" show, as well as dance performances by members of the Schools of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration &

Skills Unlimited (SKIES) program.

Vendors sold street food and refreshments, while community organizations set up informational booths.

Two photo booths — one for snapshots exclusively with Santa, another for photos with other Christmas characters, such as The Grinch, and Elsa and Anna from "Frozen" — were available to help families preserve memories of the day.

"I think it definitely brings the community together since we are away from our families," said Sophia Pal, who donned reindeer antlers and posed for photos with her son, Nico. "It forces us to get together and make new friends."



The Schofield Barracks Hurricanes, a youth sports team, pose with Santa Claus.



Hailey (left) and Sarah Brindle make snow castles during Winter Wonderland at Aliamanu Military Reservation, Saturday.



Staff Sgt. Tierra Brown, a vocalist with the 25th ID Band performs "(Everybody's Waitin' for) The Man with the Bag."



**Briefs  
December**

**23 / Saturday**

**White Plains Beach BBQ, Surfing & Beach Day** — Board rental is \$5 an hour, per person, for noon event. Call or sign-up at SB Tropics.

**26 / Tuesday**

**Manga for Adults** — This discussion group focuses on Japanese-style comics and graphic novels. Held from 5-6 p.m. at the SB Sgt. Yano Library. Call 655-8002.

**27 / Wednesday**

**Christmas Gift Exchange** — Bring a gift for \$50 or less. Plus, enjoy BOSS giveaways. Held at SB Tropics Recreation Center on Dec. 27 at 1 p.m.

**January**

**1 / Monday**

**Library Board Games** — Play your favorite board games at the SB Sgt. Yano Library during library hours between Jan. 1-6. Call 655-8002.

**2 / Tuesday**

**Coloring for Adults** — Relieve stress and unleash creativity at this SB Sgt. Yano event. Begins at 6 p.m. All supplies included. Light refreshments will be served. This event is for adults only. Call 655-8002.

**Anger & Conflict Solutions**

— Learn the basics of anger awareness from noon-1 p.m. at SB ACS. This class will teach participants to identify their anger cues and de-escalate conflict situations.

**3 / Wednesday**

**Preschool Story Time** — Enjoy stories, singing, dancing and crafting starting at 10 a.m. at the SB Sgt. Yano Library. Call 655-8002.

**4 / Thursday**

**Brick Club** — A monthly meet-up for individuals who enjoy getting creative with building blocks. Runs from 3-4 p.m. at the FS

**GET FIT FOR NEW YEAR**

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS HEALTH AND FITNESS CENTER'S



JANUARY 6 • 9:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

Reach your New Year's fitness goals with the help of the HFC!

- Meet our personal trainers and group instructors
- Check your body weight, body fat percent and BMI
- Visit with fitness vendors
- Free group aerobics classes, starting every 15 minutes
- Random prize giveaways
- Sign up for Mission SlimPossible (see reverse)

To register, visit any Army physical fitness center or [visit himwr.com/slim](http://visit.himwr.com/slim). Open to all DOD ID card holders ages 13 and over.



SCHOFIELD HEALTH AND FITNESS CENTER  
1554 TRIMBLE RD, BLDG. 582.  
FOR MORE INFO, CALL 655-8007.



Photo courtesy of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Directorate

**SCHOFIELD BARRACKS** — Meet with experts in the fitness field and get on the path to a healthy 2018 at the New Year's Fitness Expo and Aerobathon. This event takes place 9-11 a.m. at the SB Health & Fitness Center. Call 655-5975.

Library. Call 438-9521.

**Money Management**

— Learn the core concepts of managing your personal finances - budgeting, credit, investing - at ACS from 10-11:30 a.m. To take the first "Steps to Financial Success," call 655-4227.

**5 / Friday**

**Friday Fitness with Friends**

— These fitness activities are geared toward family members who have lost a service member. The exercises range from yoga to group walks and also includes light refreshments, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at the SB Survivors Outreach Services office. Call 655-4227.

**Intramural Basketball Registration** — Jan. 5 is the registration deadline to play in the 2018 Army Hawaii Intramural Men's and Women's Basketball Company Level League. Games will be played at Martinez PFC and FS PFC. Open to company, battery, troop detachment level active duty Army, U.S. Army Reserve and Army National Guard units within the geographical limits of Hawaii (one team only). Season runs Jan. 22-March 30,

2018. Call 655-9650/9914.

**Intramural Battalion Level Soccer** — Registration deadline is Jan. 5 to play in the 2018 Army Hawaii Intramural Men's and Women's Battalion Level Soccer League. Games will be played at Stoneman Athletic Complex, FS Takata Field and TAMC Center Ball Field. Open to Army active duty, USAR and Army National Guard battalions within the geographical limits of Hawaii (one team only). Season runs from Jan. 22-March 23, 2018. Call 655-9650/9914.

**Smoke House Day** — Enjoy two kinds of ribs, barbecue chicken, smoked pork sliders and beef brisket, plus corn bread, baked beans and coleslaw at FS Hale Ikena. Call 438-1974.

**6 / Saturday**

**Mission Slimpossible** — This three-month weight-loss challenge gives participants access to special fitness classes throughout the challenge. The initial weigh-ins begin Jan. 6-13. Cost is \$30, per person, or \$60 for a team of three. Classes are held at the SB Health & Fitness Center. Register online at [www.himwr.com/slim](http://www.himwr.com/slim) or call 655-

8007.

**10 / Wednesday**

**Snowman Wands** — Learn a new craft, 3:30 p.m., at the FS Library. Call 438-9521.

**Ongoing**

**9-Ball Pool Tournament at Tropics** — Join us every Thursday at 6 p.m. for a 9-ball single elimination and sudden death tournament at SB Tropics. Call 655-5698.

**Xbox Challenge NBA 2K17** — Every Wednesday at 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Call 655-5698.

**Texas Hold'em Poker** — Play Texas Hold'em every Thursday at SB Tropics at 5:30 p.m. Seating is limited. Cost is \$25. MWR Bucks to 1st place. Awarded the last Thursday of each month. Call 655-5698.

**Sand Volleyball and Dodgeball** — Every Tuesday at SB Tropics from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Call 655-5698.

**Party Pong Challenge** — Every Saturday at SB Tropics at 8 p.m. Call 655-5698.

**Movie Event** — Weekly movie event held on Wednesdays at SB Sgt. Yano Library from 3-5 p.m. All movies will be PG. Titles are available upon request. Call 655-8002.

**Preschool Story Time at FS Library** — Attend every Tuesday for stories, songs and more at 10 a.m. at FS Library. Call 438-9521.

**Resiliency through Art (for Wounded Warriors)** — This program focuses on self-expression through art in a small group setting at the SB Arts & Crafts Center every Tuesday from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Call 655-4202, as registration is required.

**Quilting and Sewing** — Every Tuesday and Sunday, attend quilting and sewing from 5-8 p.m. or 11 a.m.-3 p.m. for \$25 (first class) or \$6 (each additional class) at the SB Arts & Crafts Center, Bldg. 572. Ages 17 and up recommended; for younger patrons, call 655-4202.

**Preschool Story Time** — Attend every Wednesday for stories, songs and more at 10 a.m. at SB Sgt. Yano Library. Call 655-8002.

**Lei Making** — Learn to make a lei, Fridays, for \$15 at the SB Arts & Crafts Center from 1-2



Additional religious services, children's programs, educational services and contact information can be found at <https://www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil/rso/USARHAW%20Chapel%20Services.pdf>.

AMR: Aliamanu Military Reservation Chapel

FD: Fort DeRussy Chapel

HMR: Helemano Chapel

MPC: Main Post Chapel, Schofield Barracks

PH: Aloha Jewish Chapel, Pearl Hbr.

SC: Soldiers' Chapel, Schofield Barracks

TAMC: Tripler Army Medical Center Chapel

WAAF: Wheeler Army Airfield Chapel

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**Community Calendar**

Send announcements a week prior to publication to [community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com](mailto:community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com).

**22 / Friday**

**SB Kolekole Walking-Hiking Trail** — The trail is open to DOD ID cardholders and their guests for hiking this weekend from 5:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Call 655-1434 if you have problems with gate access.

**WAAF Parade** — Enjoy the holiday parade on WAAF at 5 p.m. Get route details from the Community Center.

**24 / Sunday**

**Hawaii Bowl** — The Fresno State Bulldogs face off against the Houston Cougars at the 2017 Hawaii Bowl. Kickoff is 3:30 p.m. at Aloha Stadium. To purchase tickets, visit [etickethawaii.com](http://etickethawaii.com).

**25 / Monday**

**USAHC-SB** — The U.S. Army Health Clinic-SB will be closed on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1, 2018, for the holidays.

**Aloha Christmas Breakfast** — Single Soldiers, geographic bachelors and families are invited to enjoy

a hot, homemade breakfast - home away from home - on Christmas Day from 9 to 11 a.m., at Wheeler Chapel. Contact Chaplain (Capt.) Jeff Herden for volunteer opportunities, such as casserole donations or cookies. Call 307-460-0285.

**Rock-a-hula** — Have a magical Christmas with this dinner show featuring tributes to artists such as Elvis, Michael Jackson and Katy Perry. This event at the Royal Hawaiian Center in Waikiki features three dinner and show options. Visit <https://www.rockahulahawaii.com/december-christmas/>.

**31 / Sunday**

**Bill Maher's Evening of Comedy** — Comedian, political commentator and host of "Politically Incorrect" on HBO returns to Hawaii for his seventh New Year show in a row. This time he will be joined by standup comedian Bob Saget ("Full House," "America's Funniest Home Videos") and Barack Obama impersonator Reggie Brown. Show begins 7:30 p.m. at the Neal Blaisdell Concert Hall.

Visit [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) to purchase tickets.

**Party of the Year** — Known as Honolulu's biggest year-end bash, this event boasts half a dozen stages of live music and DJs, a food truck arena and fireworks displays over the Aloha Tower at Honolulu Harbor. For more details and to purchase tickets, visit [www.nyehawaii.com](http://www.nyehawaii.com).

**January**

**1 / Monday**

**First Day Hike** — Welcome 2018 with an early morning hike up the Makapuu Lighthouse trail in East Oahu. Sunrise will be greeted with a pu (blowing of a conch shell) in the four cardinal directions, followed by an oli (Hawaiian blessing) and taiko drummers. Hikers may also catch a glimpse migrating humpback whales breaching in the waters below the trail. This event is free and open to the public. Gates open at 5:30 a.m. Sunrise is at 7:09 a.m. The trail is paved and handicap accessible.

**2 / Tuesday**

**Sea Life Park Luau** — Sea Life Park is debuting Ka Moana ("The Ocean"), produced by Malu Productions. This traditional luau experience will

feature entertainment along with fresh, local food from farmers and partners in the Waimanalo community.

Ka Moana is set to take place nightly (except for Thursdays and Saturdays). It begins at 5 p.m. Information on packages and prices are available at [www.moanalau.com](http://www.moanalau.com) or by calling 926-3800. Sea Life Park is located north of Haunama Bay, near Makapuu Point, on Kalaniana'ole Highway. Visit [www.sealifeparkhawaii.com](http://www.sealifeparkhawaii.com) or call 259-2500.

**6 / Saturday**

**Rice Festival** — This festival, hosted by Hawaii's Plantation Village, features multi-ethnic rice dishes, such as Korean chicken with rice stuffing, Puerto Rican gandule rice, Portuguese rice pudding, Chinese jook, Okinawan kanaba jushi and Filipino adobo fried rice (\$5 for three tastings; \$6 for a bowl).

There will also be a make-and-take musubi station and a free screening of the movie "Under the Blood Red Sun" at noon. The event takes place 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Hawaii's Plantation Village, 94-695 Waipahu St.

**11 / Thursday**

**Sony Open** — Pasha Hawaii See COMMUNITY B-6

**This Week at the MOVIES Sgt. Smith Theater**



**Wonder (PG)**

Friday, Dec. 22, 7 p.m.

**Coco (PG)**

Saturday, Dec. 23, 4 p.m.



**Roman J. Israel, Esq. (PG-13)**

Saturday, Dec. 23, 7 p.m.

Closed Sunday through Thursday.

**Calendar abbreviations**  
8th TSC: 8th Theater Sustainment Command  
25th ID: 25th Infantry Division  
ACS: Army Community Service  
AFAP: Army Family Action Plan  
AFTB: Army Family Team Building  
AMR: Aliamanu Military Reservation

ASYMCA: Armed Services YMCA  
BCT: Brigade Combat Team  
CDC: Child Development Center  
CYSS: Child, Youth and School Services  
EFMP: Exceptional Family Member Program  
FCC: Family Child Care  
FMWR: Family and Morale, Welfare

and Recreation  
FRG: Family Readiness Group  
FS: Fort Shafer  
HMR: Helemano Military Reservation  
IPC: Island Palm Communities  
PFC: Physical Fitness Center  
SAC: School Age Center  
SB: Schofield Barracks

SKIES: Schools of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills  
TAMC: Tripler Army Medical Center  
USAG-HI: U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii  
USARPAC: U.S. Army-Pacific  
WAAF: Wheeler Army Airfield

## Holiday Worship Service Schedule

### Catholic Worship Services

Dec. 24, Christmas Eve Mass, AMR, 8:30 a.m.  
 Dec. 24, Christmas Eve Mass, MPC, 10:30 a.m.  
 Dec. 24, Midnight Mass, MPC, 11:30 p.m.  
 Dec. 25, Christmas Day Mass, AMR, 9 a.m.  
 Dec. 25, Christmas Day Mass, MPC, 9 a.m.  
 Dec. 31, Holy Family Sunday, AMR, 8:30 a.m.  
 Dec. 31, Holy Family Sunday, MPC, 10:30 a.m.

### Protestant/Gospel Worship Services

Dec. 24, Christmas Eve Service, MPC, 9 a.m.  
 Dec. 24, Christmas Eve Service, DeRussy, 9 a.m.  
 Dec. 24, Christmas Eve Service, Wheeler, 11 a.m.  
 Dec. 24, Christmas Eve Service, AMR, noon  
 Dec. 24, Christmas Eve Service, MPC, 12:30 p.m.  
 Dec. 24, Samoan Christmas Service, AMR, 2 p.m.  
 Dec. 24, Christmas Eve Service, MPC, 6 p.m.  
 Dec. 24, Christmas Eve Service, AMR, 7 p.m.  
 Dec. 25, Aloha Christmas Breakfast, Wheeler, 9 a.m.

# Christmas a symbol of hope, love

ABBY HALL  
Contributing Writer

I've been a *Peanuts* fan from as far back as I can remember.

The good-humored, comic strip and video specials were always a favorite in my family. They particularly stood out to me personally. My all-time favorite is, of course, "A Charlie Brown Christmas."

For anyone who has ever seen the film, you know that the climax of the show is when Charlie cries out in frustration for someone to please tell him the meaning of Christmas. His ever-faithful friend, Linus, steps up to the task and begins to quote the Christmas story from the Bible, found in the gospel of Luke.

I've seen the film countless times, and read the passage in Luke even more, and yet, hearing the message from Luke always causes me to be silent and reflect. It is something that stops me in my tracks and fills me with overwhelming emotion.

Why is it so powerful to me? The reasons are too many to name in a short time, but to state it simply and briefly, it is because heaven met earth that night. A child changed the course of history for all of mankind.



Courtesy photo



Hall

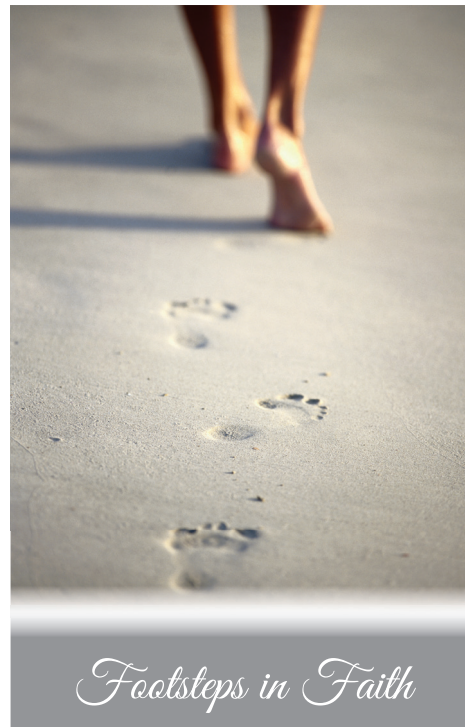
Every year, I am aware that many aspects of celebrating Christmas are more about fun and tradition than anything else. This certainly doesn't stop me from taking part in them, and it doesn't negate their meaningfulness.

Many of them help us to find enjoyment and community with our family and friends. Still, they are really just the extras of Christmas, like the decorations on the tree, or the sprinkles on the cookies.

The core of Christmas, for many of us, is celebrating something much more significant. We know that the actual day of the birth of Jesus was likely in the summer, and we know that he was likely around 2 years old when the magi finally found him. And yet, we wrap all of these pieces together in a neat little December package. When we celebrate is not the critical point, but rather what we celebrate.

In my mind, it makes sense to do it this way, because December is a month of celebration and joy for so many people. According to the lyrics of the old song, "It's the most wonderful time of the year!" So, why not choose this time when the whole world celebrates for various reasons, to celebrate our faith? Or rather, the very reason for our faith!

The birth of Jesus is significant to the world



because of the hope that came with him. How we package the story is less of an issue than whether or not we recognize and appreciate the story for all that it is.

My favorite Christmas song is "O' Holy Night," and my favorite line of the song is "Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till he appear'd and the soul felt its worth." What an impactful line. This is the reason for our celebration of faith in regards to the birth of the Christ.

The world was ever the same. The song implies that the worth of man was recognized when the love of God sent the Christ to us. His birth testified of a loving God who wants to give hope to every one of us.

May that thought make your Christmas especially celebratory and bright. Merry Christmas!

## Scholarships for Military Children opens at commissary

MIKE PERRON

Defense Commissary Agency

FORT LEE, Virginia — The Fisher House Foundation's Scholarships for Military Children is accepting applications for its 2018-2019 school year.

"It's such a busy time of year that it might be easy to miss," said Marye Dobson, the Defense Commissary Agency's liaison for the scholarship program.

While applications will be accepted until mid-February, Dobson said applying will require some time and effort on the part of families and students.

"There are some fundamental eligibility and paperwork requirements, plus a student-authored essay to be written."

Now entering its 18th year, the program was created to recognize the "contributions of military families to the readiness of the fighting force and to celebrate the role of the commissary in the military family community," according to the mission statement on the [militaryscholar.org](http://militaryscholar.org) website.

At least one scholarship worth \$2,000 will be awarded at every commissary location where qualified applications are received. Additional recipients will be selected on a prorated basis, so more scholarships will be awarded at those stores with larger numbers of applicants.

A total of 700 scholarship grants will be awarded this year. Since its beginning, the program has awarded a total of 10,114 grants worth \$16.7 million to the sons and daughters of commissary patrons.

To qualify for consideration, applicants must be a dependent, unmarried child, younger than 21 – or 23, if



Photo courtesy of DeCA

**The Fisher House Foundation's Scholarships for Military Children is accepting applications for 2018-2019.**

enrolled as a full-time student at a college or university – of a service member on active duty, a Reserve or Guard member, retiree or survivor of a military member who died while on active duty, or survivor of a retiree.

Applicants should ensure that they and their sponsor are enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) database and have a military ID card. The applicant must attend or plan to attend an accredited college or university, full time, in the fall of 2018 or be enrolled in studies designed to transfer to a four-year program.

Additional information, including the application

itself, as well as the question for the required essay, will be available when the program opens for the year at [www.militaryscholar.org](http://www.militaryscholar.org).

Applications must be hand-delivered or shipped via the U.S. Postal Service or other delivery methods to the commissary where the applicant's family normally shops. Applications cannot be emailed or faxed.

Fisher House Foundation, a nonprofit organization that helps service members and their families, administers the program. Scholarship Managers, a national, nonprofit, scholarship management services organization, manages and awards the scholarships.

"Interest in the scholarship program has increased in recent years, making the competition very keen," said Jim Weiskopf, Fisher House Foundation vice president. "Further, the staff of Scholarship Managers have said that the quality of our applicants is always head and shoulders above those applying to regular civilian student scholarship programs."

Militaryscholar.org also hosts a new scholarship search tool called "Scholarships for Service," designed specifically to help the military and their family members find scholarships that best match their educational goals.

The commissary's industry partners, including vendors, suppliers and manufacturers, as well as the general public, donate money to the program, and every dollar donated goes directly toward funding the scholarships.

## All I want for Christmas with family is the bottom bunk

'Twas the night before Christmas, and somewhere in the house, someone won't be sleeping. But not on account of dancing sugar plums. It will be because of that damned cross bar under the pull-out sofa mattress, the acrid smell of a nephew's pillows, the slow hiss of the flattening air mattress, or the frigid temperature in the basement rumpus room.

During the holidays, when we converge into one festive house to make merry, a game of musical beds is often played, and someone always turns up the loser.

I reached out to readers for their tales of undesirable holiday sleeping arrangements, and received a surprising deluge of detailed stories – as if they harbored resentment over being dealt the short end of the stick all those years, and this was their chance to blow the whistle on the injustice.

Suz, a military spouse, told of annual holiday get-togethers with three branches of her extended family. Eighteen people sleeping in a three-bedroom cabin meant that, after the adults claimed the beds and couches, the 11 kids were left to fight over two unheated spaces – the cement basement or the frigid uninsulated loft.

"Every year, we'd go back and forth about the merits of both places ... and don't even get me started on how 18 people shared two bathrooms!"

My sister-in-law, Cara, offered countless anecdotes about undesirable sleeping arrangements. Unmarried until recently, she said her circumstances ensured a lifetime of sleeping in odd places as the youngest of five kids and "as the 'Token Single Lady.'"

As a child, visiting female cousins and friends were assigned to sleep with Cara in her frilly canopy bed, much to her delight. One morning after, Gayle, a teenager, was relegated to Cara's bed. Cara's mom asked how she slept.

"I slept fine," Gayle reported, "until Cara wet the



THE MEAT AND POTATOES OF LIFE

LISA SMITH MOLINARI  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

bed."

Years later, Cara received her comeuppance when she was offered either of the twin beds in her nieces' bedroom during a family get-together.

"Aunt Cara," her niece, warned before bedtime, "I'd sleep on top of the covers if I were you, because my sister's been wetting the bed, but is afraid to tell Mom. And the cat sleeps with me, so watch out for cat hair and crumbs."

Greg, a retired military officer, told me of his family's annual beach vacations at the Seaside Motel on the Jersey Shore, where he slept in a bed with his brother and sister.

"It was a week without sleep as we would come home from the beach completely sun burnt and exhausted, only to climb into a bed of sand paper, owing to the fact that none of us knew how to wash the sand out of all the nooks and crannies."

Another military spouse friend, Ann, told me she still feels guilty about the holiday when she pushed a mattress into a storage space behind the laundry room to make a place for her nephew. In the morning, she absent-mindedly threw in a load of laundry, not realizing that the dryer vent would turn the tiny space where her nephew slept into a sauna. He awoke in a pool of sweat and hit his head on the rafters trying to escape. The family now refers to the room as "The Sweat Box."

I harbor my own resentment over the night before



Courtesy photo

**Not everyone gets the comfortable bed during holiday visits with family, as the author well knows, but she also recognizes the sacrifices made by service members to ensure the rest of us get to spend time with loved ones.**

my wedding, when my parents made me (aka, the Insignificant Little Sister) sleep on the musty couch in the basement because my older brother (aka, the Golden Boy) was given my bedroom.

However, this is the season to appreciate the blessings in our life. So, instead of seething over that brown-and-gold couch, I'll remember those less fortunate.

The military men and women serving overseas will lie on cots, in barracks and in cramped quarters aboard ships and submarines tonight, with visions of loved ones in their heads. They won't have the luxury of sleeping on an air mattress in a playroom or on a roll away cot in the hallway with their family near by. This Christmas, let's be grateful to the troops, for volunteering to serve so the rest of us can be home for the holidays.



# YEAR IN 2017 REVIEW



Photo by Karen A. Iwamoto, Oahu Publications  
**Children gather around McGruff the Crime Dog at the 2017 Child Abuse Prevention Month Parade.**



Courtesy photo  
**The ASYMCA's Parent Participation Preschool program allows parents and caregivers to work alongside teachers to help children more smoothly transition to a structured learning environment.**

Photo by Kristen Wong, Oahu Publications

**HONOLULU — U.S. Army Soldiers, led by Maj. Gen. Gregory C. Bilton, deputy commanding general of operations at U.S. Army-Pacific, enter Aloha Stadium during the 33rd Annual Great Aloha Run, Feb. 20. Military units were encouraged to participate in the Sounds of Freedom category of the GAR, running in formation throughout the race. The 8.15-mile race began at Aloha Tower and ended at Aloha Stadium.**

## Health, history, installation upgrades define 2017

**JACK WIERS**  
 Pau Hana Editor

**WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD —** For members of U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii, 2017 will likely be remembered as a time of community growth evolving from a heightened sense of the installation, its history, institutions and architecture.

Highlights for the community this year also included health and fitness initiatives and achievements.

### Health and well-being

The January Fitness Resolution Expo launched with programs from the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation; Tripler Army Medical Center's Nutrition Outreach; the Exchange's "Be Fit"; and the Schofield Barracks Fitness Center.

In February, the Army Wellness Center challenged the community with the "Spark Your Inner Fire Challenge," while community events such as the Swamp Romp at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, and the Great Aloha Run in Honolulu generated official and unofficial unit participation.

Both casual and serious runners were treated to history lessons and spectacular scenic views during the Kolekole 10K in March, and later in the year during a historic WAAF fun run.

Health and fitness dividends paid off

later in the year with a team from U.S. Army Hawaii winning the over-40 Mixed Masters division at the prestigious Army Ten-Miler in Washington in October.

### History celebrated

Respect for installation institutions and Hawaii's history took many forms in 2017.

In September, Native Hawaiian leaders joined Army leaders at Soldiers Chapel to celebrate the birthday of Queen Liliuokalani, Hawaii's last reigning monarch, in the chapel she had built for U.S. Soldiers more than a century ago.

Families gathered in October at the Tropic Lightning Museum for Living History Day, and the Vietnam War was officially recognized in ceremonies throughout the year.

In May, *Hawaii Army Weekly* featured a special exhibit at the U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii at Fort DeRussy that chronicled Vietnam War-era military life and combat operations through the eyes of combat journalists during the turbulent late 1960s, "Reporting from Vietnam, War Correspondents in the Field."

### New and improved

New construction and renovations for key community members also deserved mention in 2017.



Photo by Tony Grillo  
**Vietnam War correspondent Denby Fawcett (right) describes her photo of 25th Infantry Division Soldiers conducting a sweep in search of a fellow Soldier with Allison Ramsey, curator, U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii.**

A celebration of 100 years of the Armed Services YMCA in August offered a fresh glimpse at the support provided by this valued organization, while also providing a glimpse at the newly renovated WAAF ASYMCA facility.

A new USO Center opened on Schofield Barracks in November.

Of course, the big construction project launch in 2017 was the ground-

breaking of the new \$90 million Solomon Elementary School campus on Schofield in July. Dignitaries were unified in their praise of the project.

"This (new) facility will truly be state of the art," Hawaii Gov. David Ige said at the July 6 ceremony. "It gives (students) the opportunity ... to get the skills they need to succeed and thrive in the next century."



Photo by Karen A. Iwamoto, Oahu Publications

**Cycling instructor Carlie Lawes leads her class in an hourlong cardio workout, Jan. 10 at the Schofield Barracks Fitness Center.**



Photo by Kristen Wong, Oahu Publications

**Col. Stephen E. Dawson, the U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii commander, heads down Kolekole Pass, during the Kolekole 10K, March 11, on Schofield Barracks.**



Photo by Kristen Wong, Oahu Publications

# YEAR IN 2017 REVIEW

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Singer-songwriter Natalie Imbruglia performs during the Fourth of July Spectacular.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Melissa Parrish, U.S. Army-Pacific Public Affairs

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Master Sgt. Sean Elton, assigned to the Warrior Transition Battalion at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, reaches the finish line of the men's 50-meter freestyle event at Richardson Pool, Nov. 6, during the 2017 Pacific Regional Trials hosted by the Tripler Army Medical Center Warrior Transition Battalion.

Right — SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Eric Mueller, left, the living history coordinator with the Hawaii Civil War Roundtable, outfits Caleb Benavente, 9, in a Civil War-era uniform.



Photo by Kristen Wong, Oahu Publications

Far right — SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Brothers Colin, Jakob and Ian Ferguson of Waipio Gentry offer personal reflection, May 29, after placing flags and lei on gravesites at the Post Cemetery, here.



Photo by Jack Wiers, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Public Affairs



Photo by Derek Inoshita, Hawaii State Department of Education

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Kahu Kaleo Patterson performs a traditional Hawaiian blessing before the ground-breaking ceremony at Solomon Elementary School, July 6. To his left is Solomon Elementary School Principal Sally Omalza.



Photo by Kristen Wong, Oahu Publications

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Guests at Queen Liliuokalani's Birthday Commemoration Service pose for a photo in front of the Soldiers Chapel, here, Sept. 2.

# IPC celebrates milestone in initial development **YEAR IN 2017 REVIEW**

## ISLAND PALM COMMUNITIES News Release

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — In just over a decade, Island Palm Communities (IPC), a 50-year partnership between the Army and developer Lendlease, completed the largest privatized housing development awarded by the Army with the completion of new homes in the Santa Fe community, here, earlier this year.

The project included the design and construction of 4,725 new homes and seven community centers, as well as the renovation of 2,516 legacy homes and dozens of community amenities across six Army installations on Oahu.

“Having the opportunity to work with local garrison leadership to transform on-base housing for the more than 7,000 families that live with us has truly been a great experience,” said Jerry Schmitz, IPC project director and general manager for Lendlease DOD Communities.

The partnership was established in 2004 and the team has delivered an award-winning community. IPC has been recognized by national and local organizations in the public and private sectors for everything from the partnership’s business model to its success in developing a sustainable community.

“We’ve built a strong foundation and look forward

to continuing to support our military families and (helping) meet the growing needs of our Army partner,” said Schmitz.

With the initial development completed, important out-year projects are being planned to maintain homes and community facilities. Much of the focus will be on legacy homes and neighborhoods, as well as some of the first communities that were delivered in the early years of the partnership.

“We’re working closely with the Army and garrison directorates to ensure we continue to provide quality homes and amenities for our service members and their families,” said Schmitz. “We’re also planning to expand our energy efficiency with increased renewable energy capabilities to help the garrison meet DOD-mandated energy goals and address the high cost of energy in Hawaii, which is among the highest in the nation.”

The initial goal in 2004 was to generate up to six megawatts of energy through renewable resources, but today the partnership has plans for a system capacity of up to 18 megawatts.

IPC is a model for sustainable development in both the public and private sectors. The following are some highlights from the first 13 years of the IPC partnership.

**Project Start:**  
2004

**Completion:** 2054

### Project Size

1,700 acres across seven installations on Oahu, Hawaii

### Initial Development Scope

4,589 homes demolished  
4,725 homes constructed  
7 community centers constructed  
2,516 homes renovated

### Sustainable Initiatives

Photovoltaic systems with a capacity of generating up to 18MW  
Solar hot water  
Energy Star-rated appliances  
Energy-efficient home design and materials  
Tree preservation program  
LEED Certified Neighborhood  
Construction material recycling program:  
1,334,043 tons  
Appliances, furniture salvaged and donated to nonprofit organizations  
Restoration and rehabilitation of historic homes

### Awards & Achievements

Best Places to Work in Hawaii, Hawaii Business Magazine, 2016, 2017  
Project of the Year: Green Multi-Family Housing, October 2011  
Energy Efficiency & Sustainability Partnership Award, Association of Defense Communities, July 2011  
Developer of the Year, NAIOP Hawaii Chapter, 2011  
2009 Most Innovative Community Project of the Year Association of Defense Communities  
2008 Green Project of the Year, Multi-family Executive  
2008 Military Project of the Year, Multi-Family Executive  
2007 Private Sector Catalyst Association of Defense Communities  
2007 Best in Category for Zero Incident Rate - General Contractors Association of Hawaii  
2005 North American Public-Private Partnership Deal of the Year - Project Finance Magazine  
2005 Golden Hibiscus Award - The Outdoor Circle



Photo by Island Palm Communities

Children play on an IPC tot lot - one of dozens constructed on IPC neighborhoods at six installations on Oahu.

JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH APRIL MAY JUNE JULY AUGUST SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER

## Community Calendar

### CONTINUED FROM B-2

is hosting the Birdies for the Brave Patriots’ Outpost at the Sony Open. This hospitality tent, located on the 18th fairway, will be open for free to active duty and retired military, veterans, reservists and their families, who present a valid military ID, from Jan. 11-14. Complimentary food and beverages will be provided. The Sony Open takes place at the Waialae Country Club. For more details on the Sony Open, visit [www.sonyopenhawaii.com](http://www.sonyopenhawaii.com).

### Ongoing

**Extended Return Policy** — The Exchange is extending its return policy for gifts purchased between Nov. 1-Dec. 24. Those gifts can be returned through Jan. 31, 2018.

The standard exchange policy allowed returns anywhere from 15 to 90 days of purchase with a sales receipt. Refunds with sales receipts are processed as forms of payment (cash for cash, credit for credit card). Refunds without sales receipts receive an Exchange gift card.

For more details, visit

[www.shopmyexchange.com](http://www.shopmyexchange.com).

**Holiday Sand Sculptures** — The Sheraton Waikiki continues the tradition of featuring large-scale holiday sand sculptures in its lobby.

This year’s theme is the 12 Days of Christmas. The sculptures will be on display at the hotel until early January.

**TheBus** — Oahu bus service now features one-day passes, good for up to 27 hours of unlimited use, for \$5 adults and \$2.50 youths, and \$2 for eligible disables, senior, and U.S. Medicare and TheHandi-Van cardholders. Limited to cash-paying passengers and replaces the need for transfers. Contact TheBus Information line at (808) 848-5555 or visit [www.thebus.org](http://www.thebus.org).

**Drunk Driving Prevention Program-Oahu** — You can avoid impaired driving! DDPP will drive you home completely free of charge, and, if you’d like, the DDPP will also drive your car home for free.

DDPP’s Hawaii chapter (with volunteers from Schofield Barracks) are taking pickups and more volunteers. Call 888-7407 or visit [ddpp.us](http://ddpp.us).

**Food for Families** — ASYMCA at WAAF has an emergency food locker to

assist families. It’s open 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Mondays-Fridays. Call 624-5645.

**Jewish Services** — Weekly worship services are 7:30 p.m., Fridays, at Aloha Jewish Chapel, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. No Saturday morning services or Monday Bible studies are offered at JBPHH.

Saturday services are available at the Ala Moana Hotel. Call 735-8161.

Service members interested in Jewish Bible study or keiki Hebrew School (Sunday School) may call 348-4560 or visit [www.chabadofhawaii.com](http://www.chabadofhawaii.com).

**ASYMCA** — The Armed Services YMCA of WAAF needs your help. Would you donate non-expired food to its pantry? It’s located at 1262 Santos Dumont Ave. on Wheeler. Call 624-5645 for more details. Visit [www.asymcahi.org](http://www.asymcahi.org).

**Army ROTC Scholarship** — Army ROTC Study.com offers a \$500 scholarship for the coming year. Apply by April 1, 2018, at [http://study.com/pages/Army\\_ROTCScholarship.html](http://study.com/pages/Army_ROTCScholarship.html).

**Family Fishing** — Ho’omaluhia Botanical Garden in Kaneohe hosts this free catch and release family event, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays. Call 233-7323.



Above — Soldiers take a break with refreshments after their ruck to General Loop, where they donated toys to the Institute for Human Services, a local agency that serves the homeless in Hawaii.

Left — Soldiers and families from 95th Eng. Co. (Clearance), 84th Eng. Bn., and Soldiers and families from the 130th Eng. Bde. command team return to Hamilton Field after dropping off their toys at General Loop.

# ‘Wolfpack’ holds Christmas ruck for children

Story and photos by  
**KRISTEN WONG**  
Contributing Writer

**SCHOFIELD BARRACKS** — Before the sun rose, approximately 130 Soldiers and family members from 95th Engineer Company (Clearance), 84th Eng. Battalion, 130th Eng. Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, as well as Soldiers from the 130th Eng. Bde. command team, gathered at Hamilton Field for a ruck, here, Dec. 15.

They rucked about 2 miles to General Loop, carrying toys for Hawaii’s underprivileged youth in their rucksacks.

The “Wolfpack” Soldiers collected more than 190

toys, which were donated to the Institute for Human Services, a local agency that serves the homeless in Hawaii.

The group, accompanied by holiday music, braved the rain as they made their way to General Loop. At the end of the ruck, they lined up and gave their toys to Santa Claus, who was waiting atop an MK3 Buffalo Mine-Protected Clearance Vehicle. After a break with refreshments, the Soldiers walked back to Hamilton Field.

For the ruck, Spc. Grant Healy, a horizontal construction engineer with 95th Eng. Co. (Clearance), 84th Eng. Bn., wore an improved outer tactical vest (IOTV), which weighs about 30 pounds.

“It was a good kind of break from the week. ... Celebrate Christmas and get everybody in a good mood,” Healy said. “The hike wasn’t bad at all. It was a little cold, but other than that, it was fun.”

This was the first toy hike for Staff Sgt. Shannon Leftwich, a horizontal construction engineer with the 95th Eng. Co. (Clearance), 84th Eng. Bn. He donated a baby doll and a remote-controlled car.

“Overall, it was a great hike,” Leftwich said. “(The ruck) showed a lot of holiday spirit for the unit and helping kids ... cause (not) everybody gets the opportunity to have a good Christmas like everybody else. ... It’s good to support other people and make sure they have a good holiday.”



Company 1st Sgt. Jeff Weaver (center), 95th Eng. Co. (Clearance), 84th Eng. Bn., helps Santa Claus collect toys to be donated to the Institute for Human Services in Honolulu.



Left — Sgt. Charles Dalley (right), a combat engineer with 95th Eng. Co. (Clearance), 84th Eng. Bn. removes toys from the rucksack of Spc. Lukasz Kubiak, also a combat engineer.