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Articles must be text or Word files with complete information, no abbreviations; accompanying photographs must be digital, high resolution, jpeg files with full captions and bylines.

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26 days since last fatal accident

Number represents fatal accidents as defined by Army Regulation 385-10, which is inclusive of all active component U.S. Army units and personnel. Current as of 7/2/08.

ACSIM shares his insights on issues

INTERVIEW WITH AIKO BRUM  
Chief, Command Information

FORT SHAFTER — Lt. Gen. Robert Wilson, who serves a dual role as the Army assistant chief of staff for installation management at the Pentagon and as the commanding general of the U.S. Army Installation Management Command (IMCOM), allotted time Monday to talk to the Hawaii Army Weekly (HAW) about current Army issues.

Excerpts of the interview follow. Read the full transcript online at www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil/sites/local, under the Army Family Covenant.

**HAW:** IMCOM's Web site states that IMCOM "provides and supports Soldiers and families with a quality of life commensurate with their service." What does that phrase mean?

**Wilson:** It means providing them a quality of life that's commensurate with the



could get in the community — a safe environment, a protected environment, an environment where they can thrive.

It means providing them predictable services for wherever they are assigned — on an installation, throughout the region, or in the Army National Guard or Reserve — access to quality health care, education and employment opportunities to working spouses, child care, superb education

"Seventy-nine percent of our billets are over forty years old. We're investing in those, to ensure that we do our best, in a triage manner, to make their living conditions are as good as we can make them."

sacrifices that they make, each and every day. It means providing them a quality of life commensurate with what they

and youth services for our children.

In other words, it's our covenant that affords them the same kind of opportunities that they could get, if not better in the community, to recognize their sacrifices during this time of high stress.

**HAW:** What is the Army doing to improve the quality and availability of family programs and services?

**Wilson:** We're doing several things. When we started to have the surge in 2007, we immediately invested \$100 million in increasing the family services for those who are deployed. Since that time, we've

SEE INTERVIEW, A-7

IMCOM: General praises extra amenities

CONTINUED FROM A-1

"suites" for junior enlisted Soldiers and non-commissioned officers.

Early afternoon, at the Warrior Assistance Center (WAC), adjacent the Schofield Health Clinic, Wilson met Sgt. Tony Wood and Spc. Michael Balandran, both of A Company, WTB. Wood is recovering from injuries caused by three improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in Iraq during 2005, Balandran from injuries sustained at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif., enroute to his third deployment.

Both Soldiers gave candid comments about their medical prognosis and care at the WAC. During the tour, Heather Hamilton, WAC director, and Army Community Service (ACS) representatives, explained how ACS, part of USAG-HI's directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, is meeting Wilson's objectives.

ACS, they said, has developed new initiatives in financial readiness, family advocacy, the Army Family Covenant, and the Blue Star Card, a program for spouses of deployed Soldiers, wounded warriors, their spouses and caregivers.

Lisa McCaffrey, senior family readiness group (FRG) advisor, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT), discussed several issues with Wilson at the WAC.

"We talked about the importance the FR-SAs (family readiness support assistants) play in having a successful FRG. I also talked to him about how great a value the Blue Star Card is in giving ladies the opportunity to get together with other deployed spouses and family members," McCaffrey said.

"B" Quad, built back in 1914 was the last stop for the general. Because the U.S. Army Hawaii Replacement Detachment barracks was not scheduled on Wilson's itinerary, the

About IMCOM

The Installation Management Command is comprised of six regional offices around the world that direct 184 Army installations. The Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command and the Army Environmental Command are subordinate commands. Hawaii, Alaska, Japan and Korea comprise the IMCOM-Pacific region.

unexpected visit was a true surprise for Capt. Robin Pulley, commander, and 1st Sgt. Derek Marchus — as well as the rest of the USAG-HI entourage.

Wilson wanted to see the latrine and other barracks rooms to verify whether standards are being met.

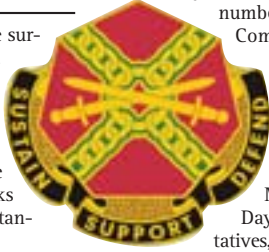
"He was actually surprised that our barracks has held up and been maintained as well as it has since 1914," Marchus said.

The general immediately noticed the discoloration of the ceiling and shower tiles due to their age and asked if attempts had been made to clean them.

"We've power washed (the shower tiles) with every modern chemical known to man," the Marchus said, humorously.

Spc. Ryan Sharp of 25th Replacement Barracks had just arrived in Hawaii, his first duty station, Saturday. He quickly dressed and stood by in his room before Wilson inspected his accommodations.

The first sergeant said Wilson was "surprised about how much room was actually available in the barracks.



LIGHTNING SPIRIT

Showing forgiveness is hardest when needed the most

CHAPLAIN (CAPT.) DANIEL D. CHO  
524th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion

I am staying at the beautiful Turtle Bay Resort as I write this article. I am here conducting a program called, "Building Strong Bonds Marriage/Single Retreat." We have 55 couples participating this time and have just finished day one.

So far, all of the couples are very glad to be here. I am one of the instructors of this program. I teach a session entitled "Talking without Fighting" and another called "Forgiveness."

We all need to have good communication skills in our marriage; this is one of the most important keys of success. However, if we don't forgive one another, then our marriage will not last long.

I've been a minister for almost 30 years, and an Army chaplain for more than nine. During my marriage counseling sessions, I've received one question nearly every time, "How do I continue to forgive my spouse's serious mistakes?" or "How can I trust my spouse after the betrayal?"

These questions are the most difficult

ones to answer. I believe that no one can easily answer these issues. I still remember a true story that happened to one of my good friends. He gave me permission to share his story.

When I was stationed in Korea, I was Camp Carroll's installation chaplain. I was the pastor of the Gospel Service congregation, and we had a few lay ministers in our chapel.

One day when I was in the chapel, I saw one of our ministers sitting alone in the back. He didn't say a word, he just kept quietly crying for a very long time.

I immediately realized that something terrible had happened. I was with him and said nothing, just gave him a hug. Then he said, "Chaplain, my heart is totally broken, and I am extremely sad at this moment. Why me?"

"Why is this terrible thing happening in my marriage? We have been married for



Cho

more than 17 years now, and during our marriage, I've never cheated on my wife," he said. "However, she has before, and I forgave her. But I just spoke with my wife on the phone, and she said, 'I have to confess to you ... I committed adultery again.'"

"She said, 'Honey, at this point, all I can say is that I am very sorry. You are the most wonderful person I know, a great husband and Soldier. I am not asking you to forgive me, and if you decide to leave me, I don't have any more reasons to make you to stay.'"

Guess what he did? He said, "Chaplain, I know she made another horrible mistake in our marriage, but after praying long and hard to God, I have made a decision. Chaplain, I have just completely mentally divorced my wife, and I have also just remarried her in my mind.

"I hate Satan and sin, but I still love my wife," he said. "Satan has tried to destroy our marriage, but I will never give up."

Then he slowly stepped out of the chapel. Many of us may deeply struggle with this issue of forgiveness in our marriages or our working environment. As a matter of

Pohakuloa impresses Gen. Wilson

CHICPAUL BECERRA  
U.S. Army Garrison-Pohakuloa Public Affairs

POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA, Hawaii — During his visit to Hawaii, Lt. Gen. Robert Wilson, commanding general, Installation Management Command, made several stops around PTA, Sunday.

"I came here for a couple reasons. One is to see how we are doing on our training readiness; [to see] ... how we are taking care of our mission, Soldiers, civilians and families; and also to say 'thank you' for the efforts of the command and all the people who put so much effort into making PTA the premier training area," Wilson said.

PTA's staff, led by its commander, Lt. Col. Warline Richardson, gave Wilson a tour, which included a hilltop view of PTA's various training ranges, interpretive garden and propagation facility, and a glimpse of old and new barracks.

Wilson said he sees PTA as an essential part of U.S. Army's worldwide training grounds.

"For one, the Army has been at war for six years," Wilson said. "We are in a protracted, long war, and the Army is engaged with changing, modernizing and reshaping the way we fight, and the Army in Hawaii is very much involved in that.

"U.S. Army-Pacific has a lot invested with the Soldiers in supporting our global war on terrorism, sustaining our training readiness here for whatever may occur." Wilson continued. "Therefore, PTA becomes valuable to ensuring that we have a sustained readiness."

Wilson said he believes PTA is vital to the Army's readiness over the next five to 10 years.

"I think ... that we grow capabilities here as we have the Stryker Brigade in Hawaii. It becomes more important for PTA to enable that training readiness."

Wilson also noticed the dedication of PTA's military and civilian staff.

"People are passionate with what they do, whether it's about training or environmental, and they put their heart and soul into it."

Getting it Straight:

The author for the article "Combat scenarios prepare Reserve medics," in the June 20, 2008, edition, was listed incorrectly. Staff Sgt. Dave Conklin wrote the article.

Voices of Lightning: What is the greatest freedom Americans enjoy?



"Freedom of religion."

Lt. Col. Robert Black  
USARPAC



"Ability to be free every day."

Pfc. Heidy Carraballo  
8th TSC



"The right to vote."

Staff Sgt. Michael Gutierrez  
USARPAC



"Freedom of speech."

Col. Thomas Luther  
94th AAMDC



"Everyday choices that everybody takes for granted."

Spc. Scott Warren  
8th TSC



# Mongoose Soldiers sustain the fight in Iraq

Soldiers from 225th BSB work outside their normal military specialities, add to morale, quality of life

Story and Photo by  
**PFC. JOHN AHN**  
1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — Success in sustained ground operations is dependent upon far more than the mere ability to close in and destroy the enemy. In order to maintain the fight, leaders must balance many issues in addition to troop morale.

Supply channels are one factor that can influence troop morale.

The 225th Brigade Support Battalion “Mongoose,” 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, is the support element for the brigade’s maneuver units supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Mongoose Soldiers have been supporting combat and reconstruction efforts in the Taji Qada, northwest of Baghdad, since January 2008. Mongoose Soldiers risk their lives daily to convoy to the farthest reaches of the brigade’s area and resupply units.

Days begin early and end late. Soldiers gather at A Company, 225th BSB headquarters, every morning before the sun rises. The men and women sit through a thorough brief highlighting significant activities, threats, weather and a plethora



Pfc. Darnell Jackson and Spc. Delmar Desantos reposition a water pump that transfers water from bladders on flatbed trucks to holding tanks at a Joint Security Station in the Taji Qada, northwest of Baghdad. Jackson is a water and fuel specialist, and Desantos is an ammunition specialist. Both are assigned to A Company, 225th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd SBCT.

of information to ensure every member of the team is aware of any issues on the travel route. Nothing is left to chance. Soldiers review every possible scenario before preparing themselves and their vehicles for movement.

If all this weren’t enough, most Soldiers conducting these daily resupply missions work outside of their trained military

specialties. They learned and adapted to their newly required jobs.

Cooks work as liaisons between units to ensure proper supply channels. Others work in a police role in detainee operations; some fuel and water specialists man gun trucks, while mechanics serve as vehicle commanders on convoys.

Sgt. 1st Class Derek Smith, a cook

working as a liaison, said the mission is going well, and he has adapted to his new role.

“It has its bumps and there’s always room for improvement,” he said.

The Soldiers of 225th BSB are dedicated to ensuring Soldiers not located on Camp Taji have the best possible amenities.

Sgt. Rupert Martinez, noncommissioned officer on the field feeding team, B Company, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry “Wolfhounds,” works 18-hour days to ensure his Soldiers get the best meals possible.

“I’m from a Filipino background, so just like at home, during parties, I want to see them with full, overflowing plates. It’s stuff like that ... that’s what gets me through deployments.”

The Soldiers of 2nd SBCT are pleased with the Mongoose’s level of support at the joint security stations (JSS).

“They have minimal resources at the JSS, but they accomplish the mission,” said 1st Lt. Sean Hollars, executive officer for B Company, 1st Bn., 27th Inf. Regt. “The cooks will tailor around patrol schedules and the [water specialists] have changed the whole outlook on Soldiers’ lives. They went from going to their rooms unhappy to, ‘Hey, I can go work out and grab a shower right after.’”

“It’s really changed [the infantry Soldiers’] quality of life. They can even get their laundry done in a couple of hours, and it comes back folded,” he said.

The Mongoose Soldiers have gone through some growing pains, but are now more mature, more organized, and better equipped to handle the task at hand — to securely supply infantry Soldiers with the food, fuel, medical care and services to enable them to sustain the fight in Iraq.

## Committee strengthens relations in Tarmiyah

**2ND STRYKER BRIGADE PUBLIC AFFAIRS**  
News Release

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — As an elected official, it is important to support all of the people who live and work within the political boundaries of responsibility.

Hussein al-Tahan, governor of Baghdad, proved his dedication to the areas of Mushada and Tarmiyah, northwest of Baghdad, June 13, with visits in the area and attendance to the first Joint Rural Planning Committee at Bukhari Hall in Tarmiyah.

The meeting brought together leaders from the Tarmiyah Qada, members of the Provincial Council and a special visit from al-Tahan. It served as a forum for local leaders in the area to discuss specific issues and get feedback directly from the decision makers in Baghdad.

“This [meeting] was very successful,” said Maj. Todd Woodruff, the executive officer for 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment “Golden Dragons,” 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team.

He said the meeting was mostly about relationship building. He also mentioned that the Qada council members have met with officials in Bagdad, but the meeting was the first time those officials were invited to Tarmiyah to meet.

“This was an opportunity to show them that Tarmiyah is safe and secure and the markets are

open for business,” he said. “It also shows that the area is ready to receive funding from the Baghdad province and the government of Iraq, and they are ready to start moving forward on large-scale projects.”

Officials discussed projects including improvements to the health care and education systems, agriculture, roads and electricity.

“These are things, that in the past, due to poor security, probably would not have succeeded,” Woodruff said.

With security gains in Tarmiyah taking center stage, al-Tahan further encouraged partnership between councils in the area and coalition forces.

While al-Tahan praised the efforts by American forces, he emphasized that only Iraqis truly know what they need and should have more input on the projects chosen. He also said area leaders should take charge.

Woodruff described the meeting as mostly ceremonial, but as a good forum to “air initial thoughts.” He said talking between the small groups will enable future success.

“It means that the projects that are currently Iraqi funded and coalition force led and coordinated will start shifting. ... Iraqi money will be allocated and coordinated by Iraqis, and these projects will become Iraqi spearheaded.

## 2nd SBCT gains international experience

Story and Photo by  
**PFC. LINDSEY DAVENSPORT**  
2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — The Soldiers of 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team bade farewell to their Macedonian partners and welcomed two new Macedonian platoons during a transfer of authority ceremony at the Sgt. John M. Schoolcraft III Pavilion here, June 23.

After a six-month partnership with Multi-national Division–Baghdad’s 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment “Golden Dragons,” and 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment’s “On Time,” both from 2nd SBCT, the Macedonian soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 2nd Mechanized Infantry Brigade and a Ranger platoon, are going home. They were replaced by Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 2nd Mechanized Infantry Brigade and a new Ranger platoon.

Working side-by-side, fully integrated, and conducting base defense security operations, Macedonian soldiers developed a partnership with the MND–B Soldiers.

“Even though they have sent just two platoons, which doesn’t seem like much, it has had a significant impact for both of the units,” said Lt. Col. Joseph Gleichenhaus, commander, 2-11th FA Regt. “It has allowed us to take some of our units and do many things, which



Macedonian Army soldiers 2-2 Mechanized Infantry Brigade, and a Ranger platoon stand at attention as they wait to hand over command to the incoming Macedonian unit during a Transfer of Authority ceremony at the Sgt. John M. Schoolcraft III Pavilion at Camp Taji, June 23.

we would not have been able to do if the Macedonians had not been here.”

Gleichenhaus said the Macedonian soldiers were instrumental when the Golden Dragons were sent to Sadr City for recent operations. When elements of the Golden Dragons left, the Macedonian Rangers expanded their platoons and increased the scope of their operations.

“Had it not been for them, the mission may not have been possible,” he said.

The MND–B and the Macedonian soldiers

faced many obstacles when trying to develop their partnership. The largest was the language barrier. Once the language barrier was broken, Peeps said he and his Soldiers learned a lot.

“These Soldiers will remember this for the rest of their lives,” said Gleichenhaus. “Not everyone gets the opportunity to work side-by-side with international forces. They think different, they’re exposed to different ideas, and they exchange different tactics ... It’s a new mindset, and it’s great.”



# Realistic training preps 25th CAB for NTC, deployment

In Part Two of the two-part series, commanders discuss intense coordinated training for multiple battalions

**STAFF SGT. TYRONE C. MARSHALL JR.**  
25th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs

WHEELER ARMY AIR FIELD – The Soldiers of the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB) recently completed a rotation at the Pohakuloa Training Area (PTA) on the Big Island.

The 25th CAB combined assets and maximized the Big Island’s resources and terrain to complete a multitude of internal and external training requirements while supporting 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), 25th Infantry Division.

Now, the brigade prepares to deploy three aviation battalion task forces to the National Training Center (NTC) at Fort Irwin, Calif. There, the brigade will support three maneuver brigades during separate rotations as they conduct their final collective training event prior to deployment to Iraq.

At PTA, the unit’s battalions participated in a variety of training. The 209th Aviation Support Battalion’s (ASB) focus differed from the other battalions due to the nature of its mission.

“Easily put, (our mission was) the support and sustainment of the brigade,” said Lt. Col. Ramsey Bentley, commander, 209th ASB. “Each company within the 209th supports the brigade with its independent mission.”

With such a complex and diverse mission, more than 400 of the “Lobos” Battalion’s 800 Soldiers were deployed to PTA to meet the brigade’s needs.

During its time at PTA, the battalion conducted extensive convoy operations, port operations, boat-load operations, convoy live-fire, convoy and Downed Aircraft Recovery Team (DART) live-fire, crew-served weapons ranges and Forward Arming Refuel Point (FARP) operations.

Perhaps the most challenging tasks belonged to 2nd Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment. The battalion, commanded by Lt. Col. David Francis, served as an aviation task force for 3rd IBCT. The unit normally consists of 30 UH-60L Black Hawks; however, due to its designation as Task Force Diamond Head, the unit was



Staff Sgt. Tyrone C. Marshall Jr. | 25th CAB Public Affairs

Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, litter carry a Soldier with simulated injuries to a helicopter during CASEVAC training at PTA.



Sgt. Bryanna Poulin | 25th CAB Public Affairs

A CH-47D Chinook conducts sling-loading operations during the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade’s rotation to PTA, recently.

augmented with the necessary aviation assets to support a light infantry brigade.

“We have our organic UH-60s, a troop of ten OH-58Ds from 2-6th Cav., and a

forward support medical team of two Black Hawks from 3-25,” said Francis, who has led the aviation battalion for the past five months. “The task force also

operated the FARP and the (air traffic control).

“Normally, the other battalions in the CAB command and control those assets,

so when all those different elements are attached to us, that makes us a task force,” he added.

Francis said the task force has a two-fold mission.

“One is to get all organic 2-25 crews qualified on individual and advanced gunnery, but more importantly, we are the aviation task force supporting the 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team.”

Francis said his task force conducted the full range of aviation operations from attack and assault helicopter operations to medevac and air traffic control. With the additional duty of being a task force, his unit of 445 Soldiers took on nearly 200 additional Soldiers.

The unit’s time at PTA was put to good use since the battalion will be first to assume task force duties at NTC.

In addition, realistic environmental training at PTA also prepared Soldiers for NTC and deployment.

“NTC is one of the most demanding flying environments we will face. High-altitude and dust training at PTA closely replicates the conditions we will face in the deserts of Fort Irwin, and enables us to train on the specific techniques to operate successfully both during day and night operations,” said Francis.

With so many moving pieces and challenges facing the task force, the combined unit still recognized the reward in its struggles.

“The most rewarding thing about what we’ve done here is, we’ve given 3rd IBCT Soldiers the opportunity to employ Army aviation attack assets – medevac and assault helicopters in training, before they have to do it in combat,” said Francis.

With the complex task of executing multiple missions at PTA while training and supporting the division on Oahu, the brigade has redeployed and begun reviewing ways to improve.

“This has been a tremendous training opportunity for the entire aviation brigade, and I am very proud of the level of teamwork demonstrated by all of our Soldiers and units,” said Col. Mike Lundy, commander, 25th CAB.

“Our ability to integrate lethal and agile aviation operations in support of the ground maneuver commander is our most important mission, and PTA provided the right training environment for us to perfect these skills.”





Spc. Jason Ambrose, a 57th Military Police Co. Soldier, places the dog tags of Cpl. David Armstrong, who died in Baghdad, February 2008, onto the memorial at the 8th Military Police Brigade Headquarters during the Memorial Dedication ceremony, June 20.

# 8th MP dedicates memorial

Story and Photo by  
**SGT. JESSIKA MALOTT**  
8th Military Police Brigade Public Affairs

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS – The Soldiers of the 8th Military Police “Watchdog” Brigade gathered at their headquarters to dedicate a memorial to their fallen comrades, June 20.

Soldiers memorialized in the ceremony were Cpl. David Armstrong, Cpl. Kenneth Butler, Pfc. Casey Mason, Cpl. Michael Oremus, Cpl. Kenny Stanton Jr. and Pfc. Eric Wilkus.

“This ceremony serves as a reminder to all their brave deeds, so we may be inspired by their sacrifice and bravery in the face of enemy fire,” said Maj. Christopher Heberer, master of ceremonies.

“When later generations ask what this memorial

represents, you can tell them, as an inspiration for all.”

During the honor roll, friends and families laid their Soldier’s identification tags on the memorial.

“Abraham Lincoln once said that memorials exist for the living, to remind us that men and women have died so others could be free,” said Col. Scott Jones, 8th MP Bde. commander. “The freedom we enjoy today has been bought and paid for with the blood and sacrifice of Soldiers and their families. It is a sacred gift, and it is our duty to protect it, to honor those who have given it to us today.”

Jones and Command Sgt. Maj. Norwood L. Patterson III, 8th MP Bde., placed a wreath in front of the memorial to honor the six Soldiers’ bravery.

# ‘Watchdog’ Brigade’s leaders build on strong foundation

Freeman, Patterson take reins of 8th Military Police Brigade, make taking care of Soldiers top priority

**SPC. KYNDAL HERNANDEZ**  
8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS – The 8th Military Police Brigade welcomed its new commanding officer during a change of command ceremony at Sills Field here, June 27. In addition, Command Sgt. Maj. Norwood L. Patterson III assumed responsibility for the brigade’s Soldiers, June 19.

Col. Scott Jones bid farewell to the “Watchdog” Brigade he commanded for two years, and Col. Byron Freeman stepped up to the plate.

“Today we mark one of the most visible examples of the strength of our Army, the passing of command authority from one leader to another,” said Maj. Gen. Raymond Mason, commander, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, “and, more importantly, transfer of the awesome responsibility of taking care of Soldiers.”

“I want to thank you for your loyalty, dedication and selfless service that you Soldiers have fostered for the past two years,” Jones said to the brigade’s Soldiers. “The Watchdog brigade’s accomplishments are numerous and truly unbelievable.”

Freeman comes to the brigade from the National Defense University (NDU) at Fort McNair, Washington D.C., where he served as the executive officer to the university president and later became the NDU director of operations.



Freeman



**Sgt. Jessika Malott** | 8th Military Police Brigade Public Affairs

The 8th Military Police Command Sgt. Maj. Norwood Patterson III, right, receives a noncommissioned officer sword from Col. Scott Jones, outgoing 8th MP Bde. commander, at Sills Field, June 19.

seek your wise counsel, guidance and exceptional leadership. Most important of all, they are Soldiers that are prepared to make the sacrifices necessary to lead our ‘Watchdog’ warriors into battle to fight and win the war against terrorism.”

Patterson brings his knowledge, experience, expertise and leadership to the brigade.

“I will do my best to live up to the finest traditions, standards and Army values that our outstanding brigade is built upon,” he said.

The brigade conducted a change of responsibility last month for outgoing Command Sgt. Maj. Freddie L.T. Brock.

*(Editor’s Note: Sgt. Jessika Malott, 8th Military Police Brigade Public Affairs, contributed reporting.)*

# Tripler in need of blood donations from community

Story and Photo by  
**MOLLY HAYDEN**  
Staff Writer

TRIPLER ARMY MEDICAL CENTER — There is no substitute for human blood. Many members of the military ohana will face a time of great vulnerability in which blood is needed, and that time is often unexpected.

The simple act of donating blood and platelets can strengthen the resilience and improve the wellness of the military community.

The blood donation center here has stepped up its efforts to increase community awareness by promoting more frequent visits by donors, as well as inviting more persons to donate.

“Summer is always hard for us,” said Lt. Col. Emmett Gourdine, chief, Blood Bank Services, Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC.) “A lot of people travel and less people donate.”

Even though 20 percent of service members donate blood — compared to less than five percent of the civilian populace — blood is always in high demand.

The U.S. military relies solely on the Armed Services Blood Program for its blood needs. Hawaii’s location in the middle of the Pacific often creates an additional challenge because blood is perishable. Therefore, TAMC relies heavily on local donations as supplies on the mainland are too far away. About 20 to 30 percent of the blood collected at TAMC is shipped to support military operations in the Pa-



Phlebotomist Anthony Crisostomo wraps the arm of Spc. Joseph Castor, TAMC, after taking his blood. The TAMC blood donation center is in need of blood donors to match the increase demand for blood during wartime.

cific, Iraq and Afghanistan. The remaining blood supports patients at TAMC, according to Gourdine.

The military blood program meets increases in demand for blood during times

of war by expanding the donor base to include other military or federal government installations. If those installations are unable to support the demand, the blood center must purchase from civilian

blood donor centers such as the Red Cross.

The total donation process takes less than an hour to complete. First, donors fill out a blood donor card, where they

provide demographical information and complete a brief medical history. Then, vital signs, such as blood pressure, temperature and pulse, are taken.

After a medical interview to ensure that any medical conditions won’t harm the donor and the blood he or she donates is safe for patients, blood is collected and prepared for processing. After the procedure, donors are provided refreshments to replace fluids lost during the blood donation. Doctors recommend that donors abstain from strenuous activity for 12 hours.

For more information on becoming a blood donor, contact the TAMC blood donation center at 433-6148, or visit [www.militaryblood.dod.mil](http://www.militaryblood.dod.mil).

A person can donate a pint of blood once every two months or six times per year. For platelets, donors can give twice a month, up to 24 times per year.

Gourdine suggested each unit conduct its own blood drive to keep the supply abundant.

“We will come to you,” said Gourdine. “Whether it’s a few people or a whole unit donating, we need it and we will accommodate.”

Service members, retirees, family members, and Department of Defense civilian employees are encouraged to donate and to donate often.

## TAMC invites community to join Toastmasters club

**TRIPLER ARMY MEDICAL CENTER**  
News Release

HONOLULU — If you’ve ever heard Hawaii’s Governor Linda Lingle speak, I’m sure you’ve noticed how eloquent and polished her speeches are. Lingle, along with many key military and civilian leaders throughout the world, learned their art of speaking in Toastmasters.

Tripler Army Medical Center wants to help bring out the natural leader in you by inviting you to its Paradise Toastmasters Club.

Everyone is welcome, but for current members of Toastmasters or anyone who’s interested in joining in the Moanalua Ridge and Fort Shafter areas, it’s just a hop, skip and a jump to Tripler from those areas.

You will learn much in Toastmasters:

- Impromptu speaking,
- Voice variation,
- Body language,
- Speech-writing skills,
- Listening and speech evaluation skills,
- Leadership and management skills,

The next Toastmasters meeting is Thursday, July 10. For more information, contact Mindy Anderson at 433-2809.

- Use of props and multimedia,
- Vocabulary building, and
- Many other valuable tools to enhance careers and overall confidence.

Tripler’s Paradise Club is made up of a diverse group of people, including military, family members, retirees and civilians from both Tripler Army Medical Center, Hawaii’s Department of Veterans Affairs, and a community committed to having a great time while learning the importance of “it’s not what you say but how you say it.”

Come on out and join us. The club meets in Tripler’s Anuenue Café Executive Dining Room every other Thursday, from 5-6 p.m. The Café is located down the first main hallway to the left just through the Oceanside entrance. Signs are posted, but should you need location assistance, information desk personnel will be available to lend a hand.

## News Briefs

*Send news announcements for Soldiers and civilian employees to [community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com](mailto:community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com).*

### 4 / Today

#### Fourth of July Spectacular —

The public is invited to the Army’s 37th Annual Fourth of July Spectacular, July 4, 9 a.m.-9 p.m., at Sills Field. This event is free.

Highlights include a free concert by country singer Billy Ray Cyrus, followed by a community covenant signing and fireworks finale at 9 p.m.

Get details on closures, rules, regulations and other alerts at [www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil](http://www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil).

### 7 / Monday

#### Road Construction —

Road resurfacing will begin July 7 on the south-bound lanes of Kamehameha Highway from the H-2 overpass just north of Wheeler Army Air Field south for two miles.

The construction will occur July 7-8, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. and will affect traffic entering and exiting Wheeler Army Air Field through the Kawamura Gate.

Traffic will be contra flowed in the two north-bound lanes. Drivers

Click on the “Traffic/Post Updates” link on the left. Call 656-3157 for more information.

**Closures** — The Commissary, Class IV and Furniture Store, Schofield Barracks, will be closed on July 4 for the holiday. The Post Exchange will close early, at 6 p.m. Normal business hours will resume July 5.

are recommended to adjust their schedules accordingly or use the Kunia Gate.

The resurfacing project is scheduled to be complete in September.

Call Eric Arakawa, Hawaiian Dredging, at 620-9111.

### 10 / Thursday

#### Retirement Ceremony —

The next 25th Infantry Division retirement ceremony will be held at the Post Conference Room, Schofield Barracks, July 10, at 2 p.m.

#### Fire Warden Training —

Army Regulation 420-1 mandates that every unit commander or facility manager must appoint a primary and alternate fire warden for their facility.

Training is held each month. Upcoming northside training dates are July 11 and 25, and July 11 and 31 for southside. Call 471-3303, ext. 632, for details.



# Interview: USAG-HI is doing ‘extra special things’

CONTINUED FROM A-2

doubled that investment, and we’ve ensured we have that investment through 2015.

The Secretary of the Army and the Chief of Staff of the Army are committed, as all of Army leadership, to this Family Covenant. We’ve eliminated registration fees for youth services and child care. We’ve increased respite care for our Soldiers and caregivers. We’ve increased respite care for our EFMP (Exceptional Family Member Program) families.

We’ve also increased the number of family readiness support assistants throughout the Army, particularly for every deployed battalion, so they can assist with our family readiness groups ensuring their readiness in our rear detachments.

We’ve also gone out and increased access to health care, education, and services across the Army, as it applies to programs and services that can help our children, our spouses and our families cope with the stress.

**HAW:** What is being done to ensure access to and quality health services?

**Wilson:** We’ve invested heavily in taking care of our warriors in transition. We’ve created 35 warrior transition units. At the triad of facilities and care, these have billets that are ADA (American with Disabilities Act) compliant.

The warrior transition unit cadre looks after our Soldiers from beginning to end. We have our family assistance centers that manage their care, specifically to the wounded warriors — and we’re very successful at doing that.

We take these great Soldiers and we’re returning 75-80 percent of them, within a year, back to their units where they want to continue to serve. We’re also focusing on TBI (traumatic brain injury), PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder), and helping these Soldiers who have given so much for their country. We’re extremely proud of what we’re doing for that particular population.

Yet, we’re going beyond that; we’re reaching out to the geographically dispersed and linking all of the Army components to assist them in their health care and their access to health care.

**HAW:** What types of barracks should a



Col. Matthew Margotta, right, USAG-HI commander, escorts Lt. Gen. Robert Wilson, center, to Lightning Towers, Building 2076 — the Warrior Transition Battalion barracks. There, the general talked to two Soldiers about their medical care and barracks accommodations.

young enlisted Soldier, or for that matter, even a senior Soldier, live in today? What is the standard for barracks living?

**Wilson:** The standard we’re moving to achieve for permanent Soldiers is a “one-plus-one” setting — each Soldier has his or her own room, and they share a bathroom. We’ve invested in that modernization program for permanent barracks and we will achieve that in 2015.

For our training barracks, we have somewhat different standards, whether they’re in basic training, AIT (Advanced Individual Training), or whatever. And those barracks will be to our standard of living by 2017.

Now, that’s the plan, that’s the program, and we’re sticking with it — and when we can, we are accelerating those billets. But, we’re dealing with many old billets. Seventy-nine percent of our billets are over forty years old. We’re investing in those, to ensure that we do our best, in a triage manner, to make their living conditions are as good as we can make them.

We look at our barracks as our pacing item for IMCOM — take care of our sin-

gle Soldiers and put them in the best barracks that we can.

**HAW:** What did you find out about the facilities at Schofield Barracks?

**Wilson:** Several things. One, the Soldiers are proud of the barracks they have. The leadership and the garrison is committed to providing barracks upgrades, as best as they can.

I see a lot of pride in the barracks, I see leaders involved, and I see a lot of investment in Hawaii in the barracks and restoration, modernization and flagship programs ... projects that are done when Soldiers are deployed, so when they come back, they come back to a better area.

The garrison is making a significant investment in time and in money into the barracks for the Soldiers in Hawaii — and the Soldiers richly deserve it.

**HAW:** You mentioned the covenant earlier. Last fall, the Secretary of the Army and the Chief of Staff of the Army went to several locations and signed this Army Family Covenant. How is this covenant delivering on its promise to Soldiers and families?

**Wilson:** That’s a great question. It’s not about talk; it’s about delivering, and we are delivering the Army Family Covenant.

I met with Soldiers’ spouses and senior leader spouses yesterday and I asked them, “Are we delivering on our covenant?” And they said, “Yes, you are.”

We are delivering by funding the spaces for additional Army Community Service employees and family readiness support assistants, putting funding into the increased hourly child care, decreasing costs for child care, and increasing youth services across the installations and across all the Army.

We’re delivering by taking care of our families, listening to what they tell us and providing this predictable family of services and programs across the Army.

They’re doing some extra special things here in Hawaii with the Blue Star Card. They have taken on themselves to issue cards to these deployed Soldiers’ spouses and also to the warrior in transition unit spouses — that gives them additional programs and discounts while their spouses are deployed. It’s a tremendous

program, and they ought to be very proud of it.

**HAW:** Has the Army considered making a covenant with the citizen or civilian Soldier?

**Wilson:** We’ve done a couple of things. As part of the Family Covenant that we’ve signed all across America and overseas, we’ve ensured that this is a total Army covenant — it’s the active Army, it’s the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve; it’s the recruiter out in the geographically-dispersed community.

We’ve tied this in with the Army National Guard Yellow Ribbon Program, where we connect and give services and programs equally across the nation.

And we do that so you don’t necessarily get additional benefits just because you are on an installation. We’re providing that on-installation capability across America, connecting the geographically separated Soldier and family.

We’ve done this through the Army Integrated Family Support Network. It’s a network that provides three things: You can connect through telephone, you can connect through the Internet, or it can tell you, wherever you’re located, the nearest facility that provides face-to-face capability, including counseling at one of our family assistance centers, of which 249 belong to the Army National Guard.

Getting to your community question, the Secretary of the Army and Chief of Staff of the Army have now launched the Army Community Covenant, so we’re extending our covenant outside of our gates, to the community where 70 percent of our families live and work.

It’s a new covenant that we have begun. It allows us to garner even better support from the community to our Soldiers and families. We’re looking across all services to enhance their capabilities and their way of life.

Before departing Hawaii for Korea, Wilson expressed hearty thanks to the commanding generals of U.S. Army-Pacific and the 8th Theater Sustainment Command, for “providing the right leadership and focus.”

He said he was “absolutely ecstatic” about the morale and commitment he sees from Soldiers and civilians.



# HAWAII WEEKLY

# PAU HANA

www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil/haw.asp

“When work is finished!”

FRIDAY, JULY 4, 2008

Four-year-old Eric Hudson hangs on the sign outside of the petting zoo during Military Appreciation Day at the Honolulu Zoo.

Exotic animals like rhinoceroses and monkeys give service members a glimpse of life in the animal kingdom during the 3rd Annual Military Appreciation Day at the Honolulu Zoo, Saturday.

## Ohana pack the zoo for Military Appreciation Day

Story and Photos by  
**MOLLY HAYDEN**  
Staff Writer

HONOLULU — Exotic animals and military family members stared curiously at one another at the 3rd Annual Military Appreciation Day at the Honolulu Zoo here, Saturday.

Approximately 7,000 active duty service members, retirees and family members gathered at the 42-acre attraction for a free day of fun, food, games and entertainment.

City and County of Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann kicked off the day and announced his appreciation for the military ohana and their presence on the island, as well as in Iraq. Hannemann spoke briefly of his childhood growing up in Kalihi, saying he him-

self benefited from the military's presence on the island. Other dignitaries took the stage to welcome every military and family member to the event.

At the conclusion of speeches, families moved about the zoo, capturing photos of rhinoceroses, monkeys and other animals on display.

Entertainment lined the stage as families lounged in the grass listening to music, and military members showed off their dance moves during the line-dance competition.

Keiki donned painted faces, fake tattoos and animal masks as they explored the petting zoo and enjoyed a puppet show during the stress-free day of family fun.

In order to connect with deployed service members, United Service Organizations (USO) volunteers recorded video messages from family members onto DVDs, which family members could send to Iraq.

"I see Soldiers come and go and I see how it affects the families," said USO event planner Elaine Ota.



Members of the military ohana show off their dance moves during a line dance competition, Saturday. Music and entertainment kept the crowd engaged during the 3rd Annual Military Appreciation Day at the Honolulu Zoo.

"We wanted this day to be for the families, they are just as dedicated to the military and sacrifice a great deal." Booths housing information for the

military ohana, including Military OneSource, lined the grassy knoll as family members asked questions and engaged in conversations about pro-

grams geared toward military and family members.

"This is a great way to spend the day with the family," said Sgt. Raymond Bass III, 209th Aviation Support Battalion. "The USO and all the sponsors really care about the service men and women and it shows in what they do for us."

"The day has catered to every member of the military family," said Ensign Anne Mulhurn, U.S. Coast Guard. "Single members and families alike are joining together to celebrate the military and the appreciation for what we do."

As 2 p.m. neared, sleepy children hugged their parents' necks for the journey home, and buses lined up to take families back to bases and posts around the island.

Military Day at the zoo was made possible by USO Hawaii, The City and County of Honolulu, The Honolulu Zoological Society and The Chamber of Commerce.

## Blue Star Card, Family Covenant bring spouses together

**SARAH HARRIGAN**

Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — It is the last week of the month, and for many Army spouses, it is time to celebrate. Another month of deployment is complete.

Darlene Marshall, Blue Star Card program coordinator, Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (FMWR), warmly greeted spouses as they arrived at the Nehelani for the "Big R: Countdown to Re-deployment Party," June 25.

Marshall handed each participant a sign reading "We Made It 7 Months!" and encouraged them to smile big for the camera, reminding each spouse to e-mail the picture to their Soldier downrange. Attendees then enjoyed a child-free evening out, with free pupus and a competitive game of Pictionary.

The monthly "Big R" party is just one of the many benefits and activities associated with the FMWR Blue Star Card program. Implemented in 2004, the Blue Star Card program aids spouses and families of deployed Soldiers.

The card provides discounts at FMWR facilities, free and discounted child care, and various opportunities to spend time with other spouses experiencing a deployment.

The Blue Star Card program, a joint effort between all FMWR facilities, has a primary goal of supporting families and thanking them for the sacrifices that they endure as a spouse, son or daughter of a deployed service member.



Photo by Elise Riley

Blue Star Card holders test their luck at the Blue Star Card Casino Night, recently. Attendees enjoyed a free evening with child care, pupus and a variety of casino games. Cardholders received chips when they arrived to play games and cashed in their chips. Later, the tickets were placed into "raffles" for different gift cards and door prizes from the Ala Moana Center, Bellaviva Salon, Chili's, the Hale Koa Hotel and Post Exchange.

FMWR realizes the difficulty of deployment and is committed to doing its best to make deployment in Hawaii as pleasant an experience as possible.

"[Families] enjoy the events and look forward to them each month," said Jess Burmeister, family readiness support assistant. "These events allow family members to kick back, relax and have a great time. I believe [the Blue Star Card] program is very important because it allows families to release some of the stress that is as-

sociated with a deployment."

In an effort to make deployments a little easier on spouses and families, the Blue Star Card program offers many events and activities each month.

In addition to the "Big R" countdown, other activities include preview nights at Fort Shafter's Richardson Theatre under the Army Community Theatre program and bus trips to places like the Hale Koa Hotel, Ala Moana Mall and Piilaa Army Recreation Center. Cardholders also receive spe-

cials for large FMWR events, such as reserved seating or discounted or free ride and game tickets.

All Blue Star Card activities not only offer a free and fun experience, but more importantly, allow for unique camaraderie and support that is only found with others who truly understand what it means to have a loved one deployed.

**On The WEB** For more information on the Blue Star Card program visit [www.bluestarcardhawaii.com](http://www.bluestarcardhawaii.com).

"The activities and events that they plan bring cohesion to all units that are deployed," explained Lisa McCaffrey, military spouse. "It doesn't matter if you are from the same unit or not."

"While attending these events, I have been able to meet spouses and families who are running alongside me in this marathon," she continued. "We are a part of one team, one Army, and we will reach the finish line together with smiling faces and the feeling of great accomplishment."

Veteran Blue Star Card holders will notice many new expansions to the program as a result of the Army Family Covenant. Child care options have increased abundantly, and cardholders now receive 16 hours of free care and additional care is only \$2 per hour.

Free Short Term Alternative Child Care (STAAC) is provided while working out at the Health & Fitness Centers. Children enrolled in Child and Youth Services receive

a 20-percent discount, and registration fees are waived for two team or individual sports. Further, children of cardholders receive waivers for up to four SKIES Unlimited classes.

Blue Star Card pet owners also receive new discounts, courtesy of the Family Covenant. Cardholders now receive one free day of pet care per month at the FMWR Pet Kennel.

Additionally, the Army Family Covenant provides \$1 off bowling center coupons and \$10 off green fees coupons, which can be downloaded from the Blue Star Card Web site, [www.bluestarcardhawaii.com](http://www.bluestarcardhawaii.com).

Other everyday benefits include discounts at the Hale Ikena, Kolekole Bar & Grill, Mulligan's, the Nehelani, Outdoor Recreation rentals, the Pet Kennel, Piilaa Army Recreation Center, monthly pool passes, registration in Youth Sports programs, and at the Bowling, Arts & Crafts, and Auto Skills centers.

FMWR staff said they truly enjoy providing services through the Blue Star Card Program. Marshall said, as an employee and spouse of a deployed Soldier herself, she truly understands the importance of Army programs such as the Blue Star Card program.

"It is a privilege to be able to give back to our families of deployed Soldiers," she added. "Our jobs let us touch the lives of many different people who are all brought together through the program."





4 / Today

**Blue Star Card Holders' Fourth of July Spectacular** — Visit the Blue Star Card (BSC) Fourth of July Spectacular tent, today, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at Sills Field, Schofield Barracks, and enjoy special crafts for kids, a shaded area to relax, baggage check, and free game and ride tickets. Tickets are limited to 20 per BSC family member. Call 438-0376/2911.

**Greenware Sale** — Receive a discount of 10-50 percent off Greenware shelf items the entire month of July. Paint and take home ceramic vases, lamps, pitchers, bowls and more at the Arts & Crafts Center, Schofield Barracks. Call 655-4202.

8 / Tuesday

**Keiki Kraft Kamp** — The Arts & Crafts Center, Schofield Barracks, will host a Keiki Kraft Kamp, July 8-11, 10-11 a.m. each day. This program is designed for children 9-13 years old. The theme will be "Island Fever." Cost is \$30 for the first child and \$20 per sibling. Call 655-4202.

11 / Friday

**Halo 3 Tournament** — Unleash your "Master Chief" at the 2008 Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS) Halo 3 tournament, July 11, 10 a.m., at the Tropics, Schofield Barracks. The tournament begins at 10 a.m. and will continue until a winner is determined. An Xbox 360 Elite, gift cards and other prizes will be awarded.

Registration is required and forms are available through the BOSS office at the Tropics. Call 655-1130.

**Picnic & Play** — July 11 is the deadline to register for the Blue Star Card program's Picnic & Play, scheduled for July 16, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at Pililaau Army Recreation Center (PARC).

Just 18 miles from Schofield Barracks, PARC is Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation's (FMWR) best-kept secret on the Leeward Coast, with gentle waves and white sand beaches to delight swimmers, snorkelers and scuba enthusiasts.

Transportation is provided and the bus will depart from the Bowling Center, Schofield Barracks. For reservations, call 438-2911 or e-mail Sarah.R.Horrigan@u.s.army.mil.

25 / Friday

**Big R: Game Extravaganza** — Test your game skills and enjoy a free tournament night with your friends at the Nehe-



Courtesy of Morey Management Group

Heartfelt tribute

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Billy Ray Cyrus is set to take the stage tonight as part Schofield's 37th Annual Fourth of July Spectacular Celebration. More than 50,000 people are expected to attend the free event, which will also include food booths, rides and games, puppet shows, prize drawings and a Native American Powwow. Visit [www.MWRArmyHawaii.com](http://www.MWRArmyHawaii.com).

lani, Schofield Barracks, Wednesday, July 30, 6-8 p.m.. Free child care is available and complimentary pupus will be served. Favorite games include Scattegories, Taboo, Uno, Wii Bowling and more.

To reserve child care, or to reserve your space, call 438-0376 or e-mail Darlene.j.marshall@us.army.mil by July 25.

Ongoing

**Recreation Storage** — A new recreation vehicle (RV) and boat storage area will be available for use at Fort Shafter's Auto Skills Center. Boats, jet skis and other RVs can be stored for \$30 a month.

The Schofield Barracks Auto Skills Center also offers long-term storage options for vehicles and other personal items. Call 438-9402 (Fort Shafter) or 655-9368 (Schofield).

**Summer Reading Programs** — Reading is "dino-mite" with the summer reading program, which started June 17 and runs through July 17. Read at least one book per week, record it in your log and get a prize.

This program is open to children ages 3-12. Weekly story times are available at all libraries and other events.

The reading program for teenagers, Stuck on Reading, is for middle and high school students, ages 12 and up. It runs the same time as the youth program, and the grand prize for the teenager program is an iPod Shuffle.

Pick up a summer reading program packet at your local Army library. Registration is required. Visit your local Army library for scheduled events or to pick up a packet.

**2008 Arts & Crafts Contest** — Entries are now being accepted for the 2008 Army Arts & Crafts contest. Enter two- and three-dimensional works of art to compete for cash prizes against other artists from the Army.

Contact the Schofield Barracks Arts & Crafts Center at 655-4202 or the Fort Shafter Center at 438-1315.

**Flat Stanley Project** — Pick up your "Flat Stanley," a flattened paper cutout of the title character from Jeff Brown's Flat Stanley books, at any Army library. Take

him on an adventure and bring him back to the library by Aug. 11.

Be creative, dress him up and take a photo of his travels. Prizes will be awarded for the furthest traveled and other creative entries. Grand prize for most creative photo is a digital camera. Visit your local Army library for more information.

**Fort Shafter Thrift Shop** — Browse the Thrift Shop for all your décor. Normal business hours are Tuesday and Friday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., and consignment hours are 9-10:30 a.m.

Donations and volunteers are always welcome as the Thrift Shop is the main fundraising venue for the Fort Shafter Hui O Wahine Spouses club.

All profits are donated to charities and scholarships in the military and local community. Call 842-1074 or visit Building 342, Pierce St.

**Auto Services** — Get your oil changed, transmission services performed, tires rotated and other auto services performed at the Auto Skills Center while you're at work. Call 438-9402 (Fort Shafter) or 655-9368 (Schofield Barracks).



community  
Calendar

Send announcements to  
[community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com](mailto:community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com).

4 / Today

**Fourth of July Spectacular** — The public is invited to the Army's 37th Annual Fourth of July Spectacular, today, 10 a.m.-9 p.m., at Sills Field. This event is free.

Highlights include a free concert by country singer Billy Ray Cyrus, followed by a community covenant signing and fireworks finale at 9 p.m.

Organizers expect approximately 50,000 people to attend the celebration. Get details on closures, rules, regulations and other alerts at [www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil](http://www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil). Click on the "Traffic/Post Updates" link on the left. Call 656-3157 for more details.

**BayFest 2008** — Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH) is one of the best places to be this weekend for a festival of fun and entertainment for the whole family.

In its 19th year, BayFest encompasses three days of outdoor concerts, contests, carnival rides, water sports, static military displays, fireworks and other attractions, July 4-6.

Musical guests include Little Big Town, Rodney Atkins, 3 Doors Down, Everclear, Live and local musicians.

Tickets are available at Information, Tickets and Tours, Information, Ticketing and Registration offices or through Ticketmaster outlets. Visit [www.bayfesthawaii.com](http://www.bayfesthawaii.com).

**All-American Beach Blast** — Celebrate the Fourth at Hickam Air Force Base's 50th Annual All-American Beach Blast at Hickam Harbor, July 4.

Attractions include food booths, entertainment, a kiddieland, pony rides, a petting zoo, and games all day. In the evening, local band Natural Vibrations, the Pacific

On or off-post, fireworks safety a must

• On Post

Fireworks are not allowed on any Army post or installation. However, Army Regulation 385-64 allows commercial fireworks for holiday celebrations on Army installations as long as they're produced by professional contractors.

Even though trained professionals will be setting off the fireworks at the Fourth of July Spectacular, bystanders must be aware of safety precautions.

According to Henry Sonoda, safety specialist, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Installation Safety Office, celebrators must be aware that even professional displays can be dangerous. A malfunction can occur, so everyone must stay away from the firing point.

Fireworks will be set up at the commissary and Flagview Mall parking lots on Schofield Barracks.

"The parking lots will be closed and cordoned off for your protection and safety," said Sonoda.

"Obey security officers as they direct you safely around the firing point," he explained. "Remember the further

you distance yourself, the more risk is reduced."

Sonoda added, "National Data shows that bystanders are more often injured by fireworks than professional operators."

• Off Post

Off post, fireworks are not allowed without a permit from Satellite City Halls. Sonoda recommends people protect their family and friends by not using fireworks. Instead, celebrators should attend authorized public fireworks displays conducted by licensed operators.

If celebrators decide to use fireworks at their residence or attend gatherings where fireworks are being set off, Sonoda said they should not drink alcoholic beverages and handle fireworks.

"Stay sober, especially if you have children that will be around burning fireworks," Sonoda said.

He went on to explain how injuries from fireworks demonstrations at homes normally happen to children, typically due to a lack of parental or adult supervision.

call 473-0606.

**Military Discount** — Lowe's hardware stores will offer a 10-percent discount for military members, today through July 7.

The discount is available on in-stock and special order purchases up to \$5,000. Excluded from the discount are sales via [www.lowes.com](http://www.lowes.com), previous sales and purchases of services or gift cards.

To qualify, individuals must present a valid military ID or other proof of service.

9 / Wednesday

**Lunch Seminar** — The Family Programs Office at the U.S. Army Reserve Center will host a Small Business Administration (SBA) brown bag lunch seminar, July 9, noon-1 p.m., at the Army Reserve Center (Building 1554, Room 112), Fort Shafter. The briefing will cover information on SBA services, business assistance

When deciding on a location for setting off fireworks, any proposed areas should be safe and clear of any combustibles, glass or small rocks. These items could be propelled and strike someone.

Fireworks can explode in the hand, throw sparks into the face, cast hot fragments onto limbs and ignite clothing. Sparklers, commonly seen in backyard Independence Day parties, can burn up to 1800-degrees Fahrenheit.

"Sparklers are the leading cause of fireworks-related injuries, especially in young children," Sonoda said. "Have a water bucket close by so they can be extinguished in it. All cotton or fire retardant clothing, including shoes, should be worn."

However you decide to celebrate Independence Day, ensure you and your friends and family know how to behave around fireworks demonstrations, whether professional fireworks or at home.

"Be safe," Sonoda said. He added, "Take the family to Schofield Barracks for the Fourth of July event and fireworks."

for Reservists and the Patriot Loan Express program.

Call Caron Ferguson at 438-2243 or e-mail [caron.ferguson1@9rrc.army.mil](mailto:caron.ferguson1@9rrc.army.mil) for reservations.

10 / Thursday

**Ke Kani O Ke Kai Summer Concert Series** — The Waikiki Aquarium will continue its annual oceanside concert featuring some of the island's top performers, restaurant partners and fun for all.

Concert dates (and artists) are July 10, Jerry Santos and Jay Larrin; July 24, Eddie Kamae; and Aug. 7, Willie K. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., and concerts begin at 7. Aquarium galleries and exhibits will remain open throughout the evening.

SEE COMMUNITY CALENDAR, B-3



Aliamanu (AMR) Chapel  
836-4599

- Catholic Sunday, 8:30 a.m. — Mass Sunday, 9:45 a.m. — Religious Edu.
- Gospel Sunday, 11 a.m. — Sunday School (Sept.-June only) Sunday, 12:30 p.m. — Worship service
- Protestant Sundays, 9:45 a.m. — Worship Service Sunday, 11 a.m. — Sunday School (Sept. — June only)

Fort DeRussy Chapel  
836-4599

- Catholic Saturday, 5 p.m. — Mass in Chapel (May-Aug.) Saturday, 6 p.m. — Mass on Beach
- Protestant Sunday, 9 a.m. — Worship Service
- Buddhist 1st Sunday, 1 p.m.

Fort Shafter Chapel  
836-4599

- Contemporary Protestant Sunday, 9 a.m.—"The Wave" Worship

Helemano (HMR) Chapel  
653-0703

- Contemporary Protestant Sunday, 9 a.m. — Bible Study Sunday, 10 a.m. — Worship Service & Children's Church

Main Post Chapel  
655-9307

- Catholic Sunday, 9 a.m. — CCD & RCIA Sunday, 10:30 a.m. — Mass
- Collective Protestant Sunday, 9 a.m. — Worship Sunday, 10:30 a.m. — Sunday School
- Gospel Sunday, 10:30 a.m. — Sunday School Sunday, noon — Worship Service

MPC Annex, Building 791

- Chalice Circle Tuesday, 7 p.m.
- Islamic Prayers and Study Friday, 1 p.m.
- Buddhist 4th Sunday, 1 p.m.

Soldiers Chapel

- Catholic Friday-Saturday, noon — Adoration
- Liturgical Sunday, 9:30 a.m.— Worship

Tripler AMC Chapel  
433-5727

- Catholic Sunday, 11 a.m. — Mass Monday-Friday, 12 p.m. — Mass Saturday, 5 p.m. — Mass
- Protestant Sunday, 9 a.m. — Worship Service

Wheeler Chapel  
656-4481

- Catholic Saturday, 5 p.m. — Mass
- Collective Protestant Sunday, 9 a.m. — Worship Sunday, 9 a.m. — Sunday School



The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian

(PG)  
Saturday, 4 p.m.  
Sunday, 2 p.m.

The Strangers

(R)  
Saturday, 7 p.m.  
Thursday, 7 p.m.



Speed Racer

(PG)  
Wednesday, 4 p.m.

Iron Man

(PG-13)  
Wednesday, 7 p.m.

No shows on Mondays or Tuesdays.



# Defense, Education partner to benefit military students



Photo Courtesy of FMWRC Public Affairs

Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England and Deputy Secretary of Education Raymond Simon signed a Memorandum of Understanding at the Pentagon, June 25, to address the unique challenges military children face as they transition from one school to another as their parents are assigned to different installations.

## MARGARET MCKENZIE

Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Public Affairs

WASHINGTON – Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England and Deputy Secretary of Education Raymond Simon signed an agreement at the Pentagon, June 25, to work together to ease transition challenges for military children.

The Memorandum of Understanding formalizes the partnership between the two agencies. The agreement is designed to establish a collaborative framework between the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Department of Education (DoE) to address the unique challenges military children face as they transition from one school to another as their parents are assigned to different installations.

“We have a long-standing, positive working relationship with the Department of Education,” said England. “The

ongoing relocation within the Department of Defense has created an urgent need to enrich and expand this relationship and other partnerships with military-connected communities to ensure the best possible educational opportunities for military students. This memorandum of understanding strengthens that partnership.”

England said his children are products of the public school system and that he graduated from the University of Maryland.

“I will tell you something about our magnificent men and women who serve this great nation,” England said. “They will give their lives and limbs for their country; they will not sacrifice their children.”

He said children of military members have the right to an outstanding educa-

tion and will not relocate where they don’t have good schools.

“That is where they draw the line and they are right,” England said. “Their children deserve to have a good education, and so we have an obligation both as a department and as a nation to make sure not just the children of the military, but frankly all the children of the United States of America get the absolutely finest education.”

Thousands of military students are moving as a result of base realignment and closure, as a result of global re-basing and other force structure changes.

Of the 1.2 million school-age military students, only eight percent attend DoD schools; the remaining 92 percent attend America’s public, charter, private, independent and parochial schools across the nation.



Photo Courtesy of Army Hawaii Family Housing

The newest homes in Army Hawaii Family Housing’s Bougainville neighborhood on Aliamanu Military Reservation have been completed. They are part of Phase 2 of the Initial Development Period (IDP). Nearly 1,300 new homes were completed in Phase 1 of the IDP.

## Construction reaches milestone at AMR and Schofield

### ARMY HAWAII FAMILY HOUSING

News Release

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS – The June turnover of new homes at Schofield’s Kaena and Aliamanu’s Bougainville neighborhoods represents another milestone for Army Hawaii Family Housing’s construction.

“These homes are the first to be completed in Phase Two of our Initial Development Period (IDP),” said Lee Cranmer, senior construction manager, Army Hawaii Family Housing. “Our subcontractor partners have consistently delivered the highest quality product ahead of schedule.

“It’s with great satisfaction that we’re consistent-

ly able to deliver between 80 and 85 new homes a month to Hawaii’s Army families,” Cranmer added. “We know the communities we’re constructing add tremendously to their quality of life.”

Nearly 1,300 new homes have been completed in Phase 1 of the IDP, which is scheduled to wrap up in spring 2009.

## Community Calendar

From B-2

Each concert is \$25 for adults, \$10 for juniors (ages 7-12) and free for children ages 6 and younger.

Due to space limitations, only the first 500 reservations will be accepted.

Visit [www.waquarium.org](http://www.waquarium.org) or call 440-9015.

### 11 / Friday

**JROTC Summer Camp** – July 11 is

the deadline to apply for the weeklong Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) Summer Camp, July 28-Aug. 1.

The camp, offered by the Punahou School to high school students who attend any school that does not offer JROTC, is also open to home school and charter school students.

The camp will be held at the East Range, Schofield Barracks. Cost is \$50 and includes uniforms, equipment, housing and food during the camp.

Activities will include rope bridging, rappelling, a confidence course, a leadership reaction course, map reading, land navigation, swimming exercises and more.

Contact retired Lt. Col. Bob Takao at

[rtakao@punahou.edu](mailto:rtakao@punahou.edu) or 944-5723 to register for the camp.

### Army Civilian Resume Builder

Army Community Service (ACS) will host training on the Army civilian resume system, Resumix, July 11 and 17.

The training is open to military, family members, and Department of Defense employees.

Training will be held at Schofield Barracks, ACS, Building 2091, July 11, 9-10:30 a.m., and at Fort Shafter’s Outreach Center, Building S330, July 17, 10-11:30 a.m.

Call ACS at 655-4227 (Schofield Barracks) or 438-9285 (Fort Shafter). Register online at [www.acsclasses.com](http://www.acsclasses.com).

### 14 / Monday

#### Vacation Bible School

Registration is now open for this summer’s Vacation Bible School (VBS), entitled “Power Lab – Discovering Jesus’ Miraculous Power.”

VBS will run July 14-18, 9-11:45 a.m., at the Aliamanu Military Reservation Chapel, Building 1790. It’s open to children ages 4–sixth grade. Call 839-4319 or 833-8175.

The program features Bible stories, drama, crafts, songs and recreation. Volunteer positions are still available for parents and college or high school students.

Call 839-4319 or 833-8175.

## MISA educators learn more on local impacts

### TAMSIN KEONE

School Liaison Office

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS – Members of the Military Impacted Schools Association (MISA), a grassroots organization of school districts that serve high concentrations of military children, recently visited U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii (USAG-HI) for their annual summer meeting.

Formed in 1986, the group works on funding, legislation, partnerships and programs that support military families. Its goal is to highlight partnerships and best practices.

The group focuses on building relationships with military leaders, parents, Congress, associations, the Department of Defense and local communities.

The annual meeting, held June 22-27, was filled with best practices sessions, visits to different branches of service, trips to historic attractions and a visit to Mililani Middle School.

For more information about MISA, call 1-800-291-6742, or visit [www.militaryimpactedschoolsassociation.org](http://www.militaryimpactedschoolsassociation.org).

The group paid a special visit to USAG-HI for a windshield tour of Wheeler Army Air Field and Schofield Barracks, June 23.

After arriving at the Directorate of Plans, Training and Mobilization’s Training Support Center, MISA members had a meet-and-greet with Col. Matthew Margotta, garrison commander, and a tour of the facility.

Margotta welcomed the group and thanked them for their commitment to military children and their families as they focus efforts on impact aid, transition and deployments.

MISA works with organizations committed to doing what’s best for military children, including the National Military Family Association, the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools, the Military Coalition, the Navy League, and Military OneSource.

The Hawaii Department of Education is an active member of MISA and Hawaii Schools Superintendent Patricia Hamamoto has been a board member of the group since 2004.






**4 / Today**  
**Personal Training Summer Special** — Receive one free Personal Training Session when you purchase a 10-pack of sessions during the months of July and August. Call Kristy Osborn, 381-5944, or the Health & Fitness Center, Schofield Barracks, 655-8007.

**5 / Saturday**  
**3-Point Shoot Out Contest** — The deadline to register for the 3-Point Shoot Out Contest, to be held July 19, 11 a.m., at Aliamanu Military Reservation's (AMR) Physical Fitness Center, is July 5. All active duty, adult family members, Department of Defense civilians, National Guardsmen, Army Reservists and retirees are welcome to participate. Cost is \$5 per person. The top three ballers will receive awards. An organizational meeting will be held July 12, 1 p.m. at AMR fitness center. Call 836-0338 or visit [www.mwrarmyhawaii.com](http://www.mwrarmyhawaii.com) to register.

**9 / Wednesday**  
**Workout Without Walls** — Trying to get in shape but the same old routine has you unmotivated? Outdoor Recreation will offer a brand new program, giving you the chance to try a different workout in a new location every week. The next class is July 9, 9-11 a.m.; classes will be held every Wednesday. Each session costs \$10. Call 655-0143.

**August**  
**10 / Sunday**  
**Military Long Drive Championship** — The Army Leilehua Golf Course will host the Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Long Drive Championship, Aug. 10, 8 a.m. This event is an official Long Drivers of America (LDA) qualifier. Visit [www.mwrarmyhawaii.com](http://www.mwrarmyhawaii.com) for official rules



Send sports announcements to [community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com](mailto:community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com).

**12 / Saturday**  
**North Shore Swim Series** —The 20th Annual Surf 'n Sea North Shore Swim Series continues with Cholo's Waimea Bay Swim, a 1.2-mile swim at Waimea Bay, July 12, 9 a.m. Save the dates for these upcoming swims, too:  
•July 26: Chun's to Waimea Bay Swim, and  
•Aug. 9: Challenge Swim. Each event will be patrolled by life-guards. Swims are electronically timed. Individual event times are combined and series awards are presented to top swimmers in each age category. Visit [www.hawaiiswim.com](http://www.hawaiiswim.com) to download an application.

**27 / Sunday**  
**Volksmarch** — Join the Menehune Marchers Volkspport Club on a 5- or 10-kilometer volksmarch (walk), July 27, at the Hoomaluhia Botanical Garden's Kahui Nui Pavilion, Kaneohe. Walkers can begin anytime between 9:15 a.m.-noon. Call Maria at 261-3583 or visit [www.ava.org/clubs/menehu\\_nemarchers](http://www.ava.org/clubs/menehu_nemarchers).

and registration forms or call 655-4653. Active duty service members from any branch of service, Reserve and National Guard, and retirees and family members ages 18 years and above with valid military ID cards are eligible to compete. Locally, prizes will include gift certificates to the pro shop. The top long drive competitor at each of the five geographical zones will win an all-expense paid trip to compete in the military division at the Long Drive Championship in Mesquite, Nev. The participant who hits the longest qualified drive during the World Long Drive Championship will win \$10,000.

**Ongoing**

**Pool Seasonal Hours** — Effective immediately, the AMR and Helemano Military Reservation (HMR) swimming pools will be operating as seasonal pools. Both pools will be open for business from Memorial Day through Discoverer's Day (Oct. 13), each year, and will be closed for the remainder of the year. Richardson Pool on Schofield Barracks and the Tripler Pool will maintain their current hours of operation throughout the year. Call 655-9654 or visit [www.mwrarmyhawaii.com](http://www.mwrarmyhawaii.com) for the full schedule.

**All Army Sports** — Soldiers interested in applying for Army-level sports competitions must apply with their Army Knowledge Online (AKO) account at <https://armysports.cfsc.army.mil>. Faxed copies are no longer accepted by the Sports Office. Call 655-9914 or 655-0856.

**Mom and Baby Yoga** — Get fit with your baby at Mom and Baby Yoga, Wednesdays, 9:45 a.m., at the Heath and Fitness Center, Schofield Barracks. Mats are provided, but moms should bring a small towel or blanket for their babies to lay on. Call 655-8007 to register.

**Karate Classes** — Children ages 5 and older can learn Do Shudokan karate at these physical fitness centers: Aliamanu, Fort Shafter, Helemano or Schofield's Bennett Youth Center. All youth students must be registered at CYS; cost is \$35 per month. A discount is

offered for two or more family members. Also, adults 18 and older can learn Do Shudokan karate at the Aliamanu Physical Fitness Center, Mondays and Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m. Cost is \$40 per month. Call instructor Joseph Bunch at 488-6372 or 265-5476.

Also, mark your calendars for another march, Aug. 3, at the Koko Head District Park. Walkers can begin anytime between 7:30-11:30 a.m. Call Marsha at 395-9724 or visit [www.ava.org/clubs/menehu\\_nemarchers](http://www.ava.org/clubs/menehu_nemarchers).

**Ongoing**

**TOPS** — The Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) support group meets every Thursday evening at the Armed Services YMCA. Join others to share weight loss tips, discuss concerns and provide encouragement to each other. Call Cheryl at 696-4423 for more information.

**Escrima Classes** — Pedoy's School of Escrima, the Filipino art of self-defense, holds classes every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday at its training center in Wai-pio. Sessions cover hand-to-hand fighting, weapons, grappling, boxing and kicking. Call 678-2438 or 216-3211. Eskrima classes for men, women and children of all ages are also held at Mililani Elementary School. Develop character and self-confidence during a Wednesday class, 6:30-



Sgt. Corey Strand | 45th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

**Driving for the Ball**

Lt. Col. Donnie Thomas, deputy commander, 8th Military Police Brigade, tees off during the 45th Sustainment Brigade's Golf Scramble at the Leilehua Golf Course, Wednesday. Proceeds from the tournament will go toward the 45th Sustainment Brigade's Ball in December.

**Volunteer Coaches** — Interested in vol-unteering to be a Youth Sports coach? Contact your youth sports director today. Call 836-1923 for AMR, 438-9336 for Fort Shafter/Tripler, 655-6465 for Schofield, or 655-0883 for HMR.

**Bike Hawaii** — Join Bike Hawaii's professional nature guides and explore Oahu from the rainforest to the reef. Packages include downhill biking, sailing off Waiki-ki and more. Meals are included. To schedule adventures, call 734-4214, or toll free 1-877-682-7433. Visit [www.bikehawaii.com](http://www.bikehawaii.com).

**Football League** — The Hawaii Athletic League of Scholars (HALOS) is signing up youth players for its upcoming spring football season. HALOS, a no-weight lim-it tackle football league for ages 9-14, is a nonprofit group that aspires to provide a high-quality experience for kids. Visit [www.myhalos.com](http://www.myhalos.com), or call 620-8523.

**Wrestlers Wanted** — Hawaiian Cham-pionship Wrestling seeks new members. Persons should be at least 6-feet tall, weigh 250 pounds or have an above av-erage muscular build.

**Golf 'Til You Drop** — Catch this, all you can golf special, every Thursday at Walter J. Nagorski Golf Course, Fort Shafter. Pay one fee and play as many holes as you want. Call 438-9587.

**Discounted Bowling** — Beat the heat and your fellow peers. Children 18 and under can bowl for \$1.75 per game until Aug. 28, 2-5 p.m., Monday-Friday. Shoes are included in price. Call 655-0573.

**"Golf 4 Food and Fun"** — Get a team together and come out to Nagorski Golf Course, Fort Shafter, every Tuesday, 2:30-4:30 p.m. Golf 4 Food and Fun offers a 9-hole green fee, a foursome platter of pupus from Mulligan's, a pitcher of beverages and a luck door prize entry. Call 438-9587.

**Pool Fees** — Monthly passes are now available for use at any Army pool. Active duty Soldiers can use all pools for free. Family members and retirees can purchase individual monthly passes for \$12 or monthly family passes for \$20. Department of Defense, and Army and Air Force Exchange Service civilians, can purchase individual monthly passes for \$15. All passes are valid from the first day of the month until the last day of the same month, at any pool. Call Richardson Pool, Schofield Bar-racks, 655-9698; Tripler Army Medical Center Pool, 433-5257; HMR Pool, 653-0716; or AMR Pool, 833-0255.

**Youth Dive Team Lessons** — Spring board and platform youth diving lessons are available Monday-Thursday, 4-6 p.m., at Richardson Pool, Schofield Barracks. Cost is \$63 per month. Call 864-0037.

**Sharks Youth Swim Team** — Come join the Sharks Youth Swim Team. Ap-plicants must be Level 4 or higher swim-mers. Tryouts are held at the Richardson Pool, Schofield Barracks, Fridays at 3 p.m. The club fee is \$35 per month. Call 655-9698.

**Late Night at Martinez Gym** — Mar-tinez Physical Fitness Center, Schofield Barracks, is the place to be on Friday nights. The center is now staying open late, from 9-11:30 p.m.

Sports background is preferred. Call 676-8107 for more information.

**Golfers Wanted** — Are you looking for a golf group? Military or civilian golfers interested in playing golf on Sun-day mornings at Leilehua Golf Course should call 347-8038 or 375-3322. Tee time is usually before 8 a.m.

**Jazzercise** — Combine elements of dance, resistance training, Pilates, yoga, kickboxing and more in exciting pro-grams for all fitness levels at Jazzercise Waikale.

Classes are held Mondays and Wednes-days, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at the Waikale Elementary School cafeteria. Call 674-1083.

**Waikale Wrestlers** — The Waikale Athletic Club holds wrestling classes for children and adults. Cost is \$45 per stu-dent. Call 671-7169.



# Sinbad keeps military members laughing at Schofield



Clean comedy show fills Sunday night with laughs

Story and Photos by  
**MOLLY HAYDEN**  
Staff Writer

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — After more than two decades of entertaining, Sinbad has rid himself of the brightly colored Zubaz pants and fanny pack for which he was known in the ‘90s, but still manages to entertain audiences with clean, family-oriented comedy.

More than 600 people lined the seats at Sgt. Smith Theater here, Sunday, for a special show sponsored by the Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) and Postell’s Unlimited.

Kenny Hill and Pacific International Entertainment presented “An Evening with Sinbad” in appreciation of troops and military families.

“I’ve been entertaining the military since the early ‘90s,” said Sinbad in an interview before the show. “I know what it’s like to be in the military, and I always appreciated (it) when people came to entertain us.”

Unlike his show that night, Sinbad’s military career was short and unimpressive.



Members of the military ohana laughed throughout the night as comedian Sinbad took the stage. “An Evening with Sinbad” was presented in appreciation of troops and military family members.

“My career in the military was not good,” admitted Sinbad, “but I became a comedian in the military and I thank them for letting me get by with that.”

Born David Akins, the comedian served as a boom operator in the U.S. Air Force. The comedy bug hit Sinbad in 1981 when he participated in an Air Force talent show.

Comedian and entertainer Sinbad performed for the military ohana at Sgt. Smith Theater, Sunday. More than 600 people laughed and interacted with Sinbad throughout the show as he told improvisational jokes about everyday occurrences.

He continued performing his comedy routine, winning several contests on McConnell Air Force Base in Wichita, Kan. He then began traveling outside the base, touring several clubs around Kansas to practice his act.

Sinbad was almost dismissed from the Air Force with a dishonorable discharge for various misbehaviors, including going absent without official leave (AWOL). He eventually left the service with an honorable discharge in 1983.

Shortly after assuming the name of a legend that embodied the spirit of

strength, Sinbad launched his career appearing on “Star Search.” Soon he became a household name for clean comedy.

His act was largely passionate and physical, much like his 6-foot, 5-inch stature as he stalked the stage at Sgt. Smith Theater, Sunday, telling life stories and engaging the audience in conversation.

“I’m here to help you,” Sinbad said to the audience. “What other problems you have?”

Audience members shouted out issues in their relationships and qualms about life in the military as quick-witted Sinbad told improvisational jokes and kept the hour-and-a-half-long show flowing smoothly.

His larger than life personality, unique comedic voice and infectious smile made this veteran performer of stage and screen a crowd favorite with the audience.

Before and after the show, more than 200 military and family members flocked backstage to meet the star.

The comedic legend smiled graciously as he posed for pictures and conversed briefly with those in attendance.

“I can relate,” said Sinbad when asked how his routine on military installations differed from his regular act. “I know what these guys are going through ... I’m just talking life.”

Real life is funny and Sinbad articulated it all. From spouses to children to being in the military, Sinbad told jokes of seemingly innocuous everyday events and entertained the crowd as they nodded in agreement and clutched their stomachs from laughter.

## Troops, ‘New Avengers’ step into the line of fire in free Marvel comic

Sixth in free comic book series now available at PX

**ARMY & AIR FORCE EXCHANGE SERVICE**  
News Release

DALLAS — An all-star cast of super heroes is making its way to post exchanges (PX) across the globe as the Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) and Marvel Comics is set to unveil the latest in a series of free military-only “New Avengers” comic books.

The new comic, titled “Fireline,” finds the Incredible Hulk, Iron Man, Spider-Man and the Human Torch teaming up with troops to battle a forest fire in Southern California.

In addition to a compelling story written by Stuart Moore and exciting imagery from Cliff Richards, the new comic will feature information about an AAFES sweepstakes, giving two winners an opportunity to appear in a Marvel comic book and strap on Stark Enterprises’ “Personal Armor System” in an upcoming adventure.

“There’s a lot of excitement surrounding the ‘Unmask the Hero’ sweepstakes as it will offer a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for two service members’ likenesses to appear in an upcoming Marvel comic,” said AAFES’ Chief of Staff Col. Maxx Baker. “The two winners will be photographed and professionally drawn into the next comic AAFES distributes. It’s going to be a terrific salute to a couple of real life super heroes.”

Beyond appearing in an upcoming comic book, the two winners of the “Unmask the

Hero” sweepstakes will receive an Iron Man videogame and Nintendo DS handheld game console.

Complete rules and entry forms will be available at [www.aafes.com](http://www.aafes.com) and local post exchanges once Fireline hits the shelves next month.

“Fireline,” the sixth in AAFES/Marvel military-only comic book series that began with “The New Avengers” in April 2005, will be available in base exchanges and post exchanges in Hawaii in August.

