

A full-body photograph of a soldier standing outdoors. The soldier is wearing a helmet, a camouflage uniform, and a tactical vest. They are holding a black bag in their right hand. The background is a bright, open area, possibly a field or a beach.

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Lt. Gen. Benjamin Mixon, commanding

"We'll get these issues moving forward, and we'll see where it takes us from here," Nixon said. "I can assure you that these are great issues. It will be interesting to see what the other groups around the country come up with. I'll bet

- Establishing a worldwide Tricare network,
- Establishing a youth employment

SEE AFAP, A-5



Maj. Al Hing | 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Sgt. Scott Kenyon a native of Lansing, Mich., B Company, 1st Battalion 21st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, receives the Silver Star from Maj. General Raymond Mason, commander, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, on Sills Field, Friday. Kenyon earned the nation's third highest combat award for his valorous actions, June 6, 2008. His team engaged two insurgents attempting to emplace an improvised explosive device. During the engagement, Kenyon was hit by two enemy bullets that lodged in his helmet and chest plate. He closed with one of the insurgents and engaged in hand-to-hand combat, disarming and subduing the insurgent. Kenyon then continued his mission to provide security.

"Really, airman, what's going on?"

Call the National Suicide Hotline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

Today, the Army recognizes the importance of training everyone in suicide awareness and has created the ACE program. ACE stands for Ask, Care, and

SEE PREVENTION, A-7

the 544th Transportation Detachment at Hickam Air Force Base. Stewart had arrived in Hawaii two weeks earlier from a yearlong

"(When Stewart arrived at the pool,) she was curled up in the fetal position at the bottom of the pool," Seelig said.

He pulled her lifeless body to the surface, and with the help of another guest, got her body up on the pool deck. Stewart checked for any sign of life but couldn't find a pulse. The woman wasn't breathing.



Stewart

“When she came to, she said

SEE SAVES, A-7

We want to hear from you...

The Hawaii Army Weekly welcomes articles from Army organizations, announcements from the general public about community events of interest to the military community, and letters and commentaries.

If you have newsworthy ideas or stories you'd like to write, coordinate with the managing editor at 656-3155, or e-mail editor@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

The editorial deadline for articles and announcements is the Friday prior to Friday publications. Prior coordination is mandatory.

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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Nondelivery or distribution problems in Army Hawaii Family Housing areas? If so, call 656-3155 or 656-3156.

8 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 6/4/2009.

Ask the Commander!

latest communication aid

AIKO BRUM
Chief, Internal Communication

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS – The Army Hawaii community has a new communications tool to ask questions about community issues and concerns directly to the garrison commander, appropriately called “Ask the Commander.”

Soldiers, family members and civilians can get concerns addressed and questions answered when “Ask the Commander” debuts this month.

“This community information program was specifically created to enhance two-way communication between U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii (USAG-HI) and the customers we serve,” said Col. Matthew Margotta, garrison commander.

Customer Management Services (CMS) has been busy letting the community know about the new program.

“We’re very excited about getting the word out to our community,” said Ophelia Isreal, CMS program manager.

“We’ve been briefing at the Senior Spouse Information Meeting (SIM) and are going to the town halls as well. We hope that this will be a fun way of engaging our community while giving them the opportunity to ask questions about garrison services.”

All garrison directorates, support staff and services provide some method for customers to engage in two-way communication, but “Ask the Commander” will offer online, print and broadcast synergies.

“Community members are encouraged to ask about things that effect living and working on our installations,” said Margotta. “For example,

Get answers...
What: “Ask the Commander”
When: TV2 taping, June 8, from 11 a.m. to noon
Where: Aliamanu Military Reservation Community Center.
Who: Army Hawaii Soldiers, family members and civilians
POCs: Call Ophelia Isreal (655-9303) at Customer Management Services, or Aiko Brum (656-3155) or Jack Wiers (656-3489) at the USAG-HI Public Affairs Office.

you might ask ‘why wasn’t the work on Lyman Gate or the road work at Tripler done throughout the night to speed it up and help the traffic congestion?’”

Customers may submit questions to AskTheCommander@hawaii.army.mil or ask questions during monthly TV2 tapings.

“Our goal is to offer opportunities at a new location each month, where members of our Army community can voice their questions directly on camera,” said Jack Wiers of the USAG-HI Public Affairs Office (PAO). “We will begin with Aliamanu and station our camera outside the AMR (Aliamanu Military Reservation) community center, June 8th, at 11 a.m. The goal is community involvement.”

All submitted questions will go directly to the garrison commander, then the questions will be answered in the *Hawaii Army Weekly* newspaper and broadcast on TV2, a channel available on Army installations.

Due to newspaper space limitations, only a sampling of the questions received can be printed, but the commander will be made aware of all customer concerns and select those questions that have community-wide impacts. Generally, USAG-HI directorates and support staff will research queries and provide responses.

“From start to finish, each cycle of ‘Ask the Commander’ will take about four weeks,” Isreal said. “That allows us time to research the questions thoroughly and provide responses.”

“Ask the Commander” adds to the many ways customers can communicate within USAG-HI. Prime among other methods are the Interactive Customer Evaluation program, or ICE, and quarterly town hall meetings.

On The WEB

Send e-mails to AskTheCommander@hawaii.army.mil to get your questions answered.

Additionally, Customer Management Services hosts periodic focus groups and assessments to gauge the pulse of the community; the Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) provides a Community Relations Office (655-5170) and an anonymous crime tip link at www.MilitaryCrimeTips.com; Army Hawaii Family Housing (AHFH) provides a variety of resources, including a resident feedback link at www.ArmyHawaiiFamilyHousing.com/resident_fee_dback; and the Directorate of Public Works (DPW) solicits service orders and customer comments at www.25idl.



Margotta

army.mil/dpw/customer_service.html.

Another initiative has been established to synchronize all aspects of community information and two-way communication: the Installation Action Council.

The IAC is made up of Soldier and spouse representatives from each brigade and command, and from constituent groups, such as retirees, veterans and single Soldiers.

“Since the council members are from our tenant units and constituent groups,” Isreal explained, “issues are discussed with the perspective and interest of our community.”

Margotta chairs the IAC. Council members will have a unique opportunity to talk with him to get his input and share their concerns directly with him.

Also, to ensure the garrison is communicating with cyberspace-savvy Soldiers, family members and civilians, the USAG-HI PAO provides links from the garrison homepage to popular Web destinations.

Currently, PAO manages garrison links to Twitter and Flickr – one a popular micro-blogging site, the other for uploading photographs. At either link, customers can interact with postings and get questions answered.

Change of commands announced

The Army Hawaii community is invited to attend change of command ceremonies taking place this summer.

The change of command ceremony is a time-honored tradition that formally symbolizes the continuity of authority when a command is passed from one commander to another.

Local ceremonies are generally preceded by an awards ceremony, 15 minutes prior to the change of command.

The following ceremonies will take place at Sills Field, Schofield Barracks, unless otherwise noted.

•Today, 10 a.m., 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command. Brig. Gen. Roger F. Mathews passes command to Col. Jeffrey L. Underhill.

•June 8, 9 a.m., 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regt., 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT). Lt. Col. Thomas H. Mackey passes command to Lt. Col. James P. Isenhower III.

•June 16, 11 a.m., U.S. Army Garrison-Oahu. Col. Mark C. Boussy passes command to Lt. Col. Richard J. Gledhill at the Palm Circle Gazebo, Fort Shafter. Primary parking will be available at the Hale Ikena.

•June 25, 10 a.m., 728th Military Police Battalion, Lt. Col. Brian Bisacre passes command to Lt. Col. Ross Guieb.

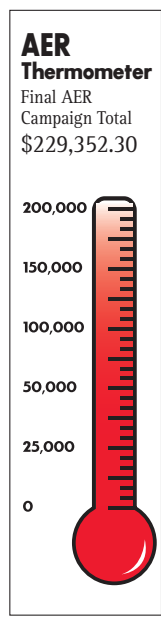
•June 26, 10 a.m., 205th Military Intelligence Bn. Lt. Col. Leland A. Liebe passes command to Lt. Col. Timothy J. Parker at Palm Circle, Fort Shafter. Parking is limited. The point of contact is 1st Lt. Hope Woods at 438-4341.

•June 26, 10 a.m., 2nd SBCT. Col. Todd McCaffrey passes command to Col. Malcolm Frost.

•July 9, 10 a.m., 599th Transportation Group. Col. Susan A. Davidson passes command to Col. Courtney Taylor during a change of command ceremony onboard the Battleship Missouri Memorial.

•July 17, 2 p.m., 8th Special Troops Battalion (STB), Lt. Col. Edward J. Burke passes command to Lt. Col. Sandra S. Muchow, at Palm Circle, Fort Shafter. Parking is limited. The point of contact is Lt. Joseph A. Macchiarella, 8th STB Adjutant at 438-5515.

(Editor’s Note: Information listed is subject to change due to inclement weather. Times listed are the start times for the changes of command ceremonies.)



FOOTSTEPS in FAITH

Rewards can be great when facing the fear of the unknown

CHAPLAIN (MAJ.) MICHAEL THOMAS KLEIN
U.S. Army-Pacific Command

During a turbulent period in the ancient Middle East, one king had a unique means of dealing with captured enemy personnel.

On one occasion, a spy was apprehended and brought before the king in the middle of a court with his full staff.

The king looked the man over very carefully from head to toe, sizing him up for an inquiry.

As the spy began trembling between the firm grasp of the guards on each side, the king gave the man a choice.

He asked the spy, “Would you like to the gallows, or do you desire to pass through the black door?”

Frantically, the spy glanced to the side of the exterior wall surrounding the city and observed an ominous and gnarled looking black door.

He could not even begin to imagine the horrific tortures or catastrophe on the other side. In a rush of heightened anxiety, the spy looked at the king and begged, “Please, sir, give me the gallows.”

Within the next few moments, the king and his staff watched as the guards drug the spy out the front gate, and around the corner of the city’s great wall. Shortly after they disappeared from sight, multiple shots rang out signifying the demise of the enemy spy.

The king looked squarely down at his boots and silently shook his head, as if he were in a state of sheer and absolute disappointment.

One staff member who had previously observed the ritual mustered the courage and asked, “Sir, what lies beyond the black door.”

His fellow staff members gasped at the audacity of such an inquiry and ascertained that he would find out in person.

The king looked up and stared squarely and with fierce intensity into the eyes of the inquisitor and stated, “Freedom.

“However,” he continued, “men would rather face certain death than confront the prospect of the unknown.”

With the rapid approach of summer comes the height of the permanent change of station (PCS) season. Potentially one third of the island’s Soldier population and their families may experience PCS.

Further, with this transition, I can almost assure with 100-percent certainty that all moving or transitioning personnel will be facing the unknown.

Now, here’s the deal ... the unknown may bring the hope of change for something better.

Perhaps it accompanies a promotion,

Voices of Ohana

“How do you relieve stress?”



Pvt. Michael Baldwin
209th ASB
Truck Driver



Staff Sgt. Eric Campbell
209th ASB
Truck Driver



Nate Garcia
DPW/Service Contracts Branch
Contract Performance Evaluator



Morris Simms
DOL/Transportation Division
Transportation Technician

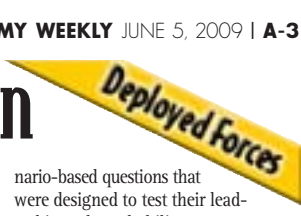


Frank Torres
DOL Plans and Mobilization Office



“It’s important to exercise daily after work. I like to lift weights and do cardio workouts.”

Audie Murphy board tests skills in Afghanistan



Task Force Lightning Soldiers take first step in joining prestigious club

Story and Photos by
SGT. COREY BALTOS
Task Force Lightning Support Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Every Soldier knows that Audie Murphy was the most highly decorated Soldier in the history of the United States.

Although initially rejected for military service by both the Marines and the Paratroopers for being too small, Murphy went on to serve with distinction with the 3rd Infantry Division where he was awarded the Medal of Honor for actions against the German army.

To honor Murphy’s legacy the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club (SAMC) was started at Fort Hood, Texas, in 1986, and has grown to include chapters at nearly every Army post in the world.

Due to the prestige of the society, the selection process is grueling. Prospective candidates usually go through three separate boards. The first is a board at the battalion level; the second, brigade level; and finally the last, at the division level.

On May 22-23, three Soldiers belonging to Task Force Lightning Support took their first steps in becoming members of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club.

After nearly two months of studying and preparing, Staff Sgt. Raymond Blass, 45th Sustainment Brigade; Staff Sergeant Paul Moore, 149th Transportation Company; and Staff Sergeant Rosa Trujillo,



Staff Sgt. Raymond Blass, 45th Sustainment Brigade, takes apart an M249 during the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club board, May 22.

45th Sustainment Brigade met with board members to begin their first day of testing.



Staff Sgt. Paul Moore (right), 149th Transportation Company, writes down information to call a 9-line medical evacuation during the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club board. Master Sgt. Michael Matt of 45th Sustainment Brigade, a board member, observes Moore’s actions and grades his capabilities.

Trujillo said she wanted to join the club for “personal development and because it is a prestigious organization.”

Moore echoed her sentiments when he said that he put his hat in the ring because he “wanted to show his Soldiers what right looks like and to lead by example. They (Soldiers) got me this far, and now it is up to me to pull through.”

The first day consisted of practical exercises. The Soldiers were tested on their ability to disassemble and reassemble three different weapons systems, and their knowledge of first aid and

other basic Soldier tasks. They also took a physical fitness (PT) test.

Command Sgt. Maj. Benjamin Ramos II, 45th Sustainment Brigade, urged the Soldiers to give everything they had.

Before taking the PT test, Command Sgt. Maj. Lamont Hall, 45th Special Troops Battalion, wished the Soldiers luck, but then said, “Luck won’t help you. You either know it or you don’t know it.”

The second day a board tested the noncommissioned officers’ (NCOs’) knowledge of their Soldiers and about Audie Murphy. They were asked sce-

nario-based questions that were designed to test their leadership style and ability.

The Soldiers said they found the questions much more difficult than the hands-on portion. While most of the questions were designed to make them think, some of them were designed to throw them for a loop.

Master Sgt. Michael Matt, one of the board members, and a member of SAMC since 2001, asked Trujillo the name of Audie Murphy’s dog. When Trujillo confessed that she didn’t know, he asked her the name of his horse.

“After the board, I went to find out the answer. I still don’t know his dog’s name, but I did learn he beat up a dog trainer once,” said Trujillo.

The board recommended Trujillo and Moore to the next level.

The SAMC is open to all NCOs from the rank of corporal to sergeant first class. It’s a way to recognize NCOs who have contributed significantly to the development of the professional NCO Corps and to a combat-ready Army.



The Army has dedicated 2009 as the Year of the Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) in order to recognize the achievements of the NCO Corps

45th Sust. Bde., Afghani allies spread cheer at local orphanage

Story and Photo by
**NAVY PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS
DANIEL A. BRISTOL**
45th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — U.S. Soldiers and Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers visited a local orphanage to pass out supplies and spread a little cheer, May 14.

Soldiers of the Hawaii-based 45th Sustainment Brigade, Task Force Lightning Support, and Soldiers of the ANA caused a stir when they drove up in mine-resistant ambush-protected (MRAP) vehicles to the front of the Taya H. A. Haskan all-boys orphanage near downtown Kabul.

They backed up the MRAP and a trailer and prepared to pass out school supplies, toys and some candy to the youth.

As the Soldiers began unloading the trailer, the president of the Department of Orphanages in Afghanistan, Ghulam Ali Zainal, met with Maj. Gbenga Kaffo, 45th Sust. Bde.'s ANA partnership officer in charge.

"I know that this is the start of a long friendship," said Zainal. "I am in charge of all the orphanages in all of Afghanistan's 34 provinces and would welcome you to visit any or all of them."

Kaffo and Zainal talked about the goal of the visit and about future visits. Kaffo inquired about other

issues with children besides not having enough supplies for school. Zainal gave Kaffo a short tour of the schoolhouse, and Kaffo visited with a couple of the classes that were in session.

"If you want a good job, if you want to be successful in life, anything you want you can achieve if you remember one thing," said Kaffo, as he addressed one of the classes. "Education is the key. Take your education seriously and learn all you can. A good education will take you a long way in life and is the foundation of all you do in the future."

Though their classrooms may not be up to standards, the boys of the orphanage were all smiles as the Soldiers began passing out backpacks full of supplies, soccer balls and some small pieces of chocolate candy.

The line of children seemed endless as more and more, ranging in age from toddler to teenager, emerged from the schoolhouse. The orphanage is home to more than 600 orphan boys.

"I am the officer in charge of the partnership between Afghanistan and the U.S. military," said Kaffo. "I will be back to this orphanage and will visit others throughout the different provinces. I look forward to a long friendship and partnership between us and you on many future visits."



Soldiers of 45th Sustainment Brigade Task Force Lightning Support unload a trailer of supplies, soccer balls and candy to pass out to kids at the Taya H. A. Maskan all-boy orphanage near downtown Kabul, May 14.

American, Iraqi engineers partner to hone construction skills, build improvements

Story and Photo by
1ST LT. ROBERT FULLERTON
643rd Engineer Company, 84th Engineer Battalion
(Construction Effects)

MOSUL, Iraq — Soldiers assigned to the 84th Engineer Battalion (Construction Effects) joined forces with their Iraqi counterparts to construct their first building together, recently.

The partnership training took part over a seven-day period, bringing together engineers from the 2nd Iraqi Army Division with Soldiers from the 643rd Engineer Company. Both units currently operate in the Ninewah Province of Northern Iraq.

In the early morning hours, the Iraqi soldiers left their base, Al Kindi, for Contingency Operating Site (COS) Marez, where they were greeted by the staff of the 84th Engineer Battalion. After a brief meet and greet and tour of the camp, the Iraqi soldiers were introduced to their coalition force counterparts.

The team, consisting of nine U.S. and five Iraqi army engineers, were given the task of adding a 13-foot by 16-foot extension to an existing build-



Pvt. 1st Class Timothy Greenough (left), a carpentry and masonry specialist with the 643rd Engineer Company, 84th Engineer Battalion (Construction Effects), supervises Pvt. Shwan Khalid of the 2nd Iraqi Army Division on proper marking and measurement techniques before cutting lumber at a contingency operating site in Iraq.

ing. The extension would provide additional workspace for the staff and officers of the Nineveh Operations Com-

mand (NOC).

The NOC is responsible for overseeing the training and transition of military

operations to Iraqi security forces in Northern Iraq. This project offered commanders at the NOC the opportunity to see, firsthand, U.S. forces training and developing Iraqi soldiers.

Prior to the arrival of the Iraqi soldiers to COS Marez, several issues had to be worked out before the joint project could start. Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Campbell, vertical construction platoon sergeant, 2nd Platoon, ensured that the planning and coordination was made for the project to be successful.

The language barrier was just one of the many problems threatening the project from being finished on schedule. To overcome the language barrier, Campbell employed several local interpreters who assisted his Soldiers when it came time to instruct the Iraqi engineers.

The engineers easily overcame obstacles and quickly confronted yet another — the conversion of standard measurement into metric.

With any construction project, lumber and other materials must be measured and cut to certain specifications to ensure proper fitting and placement within the structure being erected. The

problem was quickly solved by Sgt. Fa-gaalu Kirifi, the site supervisor of the NOC extension.

By simply adding red tick marks to the tape measures used by the Iraqi engineers, Kirifi was able to ensure the measurements were as accurate and precise as those made by his own Soldiers.

Seven days and 728 manhours later, the NOC extension was complete and ready for its grand reopening. By training the Iraqi soldiers on the proper techniques of carpentry and electrical operations, the engineers of the 2nd Iraqi Army Division are now able to conduct many electrical upgrades and structural repairs to their own buildings and installations without the assistance of coalition forces.

In the long term, efforts of the 84th Engineer Battalion Soldiers will help save the U.S. Army both time and money in labor and resources. Furthermore, their actions help contribute to Iraq's independence by enhancing its ability to autonomously conduct repairs to its existing infrastructure, resulting in the United States moving one step closer to handing over Iraq to its people.

Staff Sergeant recommends taking on every opportunity presented

Story and Photo by
SGT. RICARDO BRANCH
8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER — A walk into an Army recruiting station in Covina, Calif., back in early 1996 began the first day of the rest of his life for a young Richard Yniguez.

“I got coaxed into it more than anything else,” smiled Staff Sgt. Richard Yniguez. “I had a couple of friends who were joining, and it sounded like a good idea.”

He enlisted under the delayed entry program and entered basic training at Fort Benning, a month after his high school graduation.

“Back when I was in MEPS (Military Entrance Processing Station), I saw someone wearing a blue cord and combat infantrymen badge,” so I enlisted as an infantryman,” said Yniguez.

Yniguez was an infantryman for two-and-a-half years before deciding to make a change to the military police field in 1999.

“I went to Fort Riley, (Kan.), in 2002, and deployed twice from there to Iraq,” he said. “The first deployment was for the initial push into the country, and then a second one six months down the line after we returned.”

In the 13 years Yniguez has been in the Army, he has noted a big change in himself as he climbed the rungs of the




Left — Staff Sgt. Richard Yniguez (center) prepares the national colors for the Joint Service Color Guard prior to the 2009 NFL Pro Bowl at Aloha Stadium, Feb. 8, 2009. Yniguez served as the noncommissioned officer in charge of the color guard, ensuring they were ready to take the field before a national television audience.

and be more careful with your decisions because a lot of them will determine the life of your Soldier.”

Yniguez credits his professional development as an NCO to the Soldiers he’s had under his wing. Yniguez also gained valuable experience as a member of the prestigious Sergeant Audie Murphy Club and from leading a Joint Service Color Guard during the 2009 National Football League Pro Bowl at Aloha Stadium.

“If you look good or bad as an NCO, it’s a reflection of your Soldiers,” he said. “We’re allowed to be more involved in the training of Soldiers. When we give our expertise and knowledge to our Soldiers, we’re molding them into better troops, so we need to be a good and positive influence on them.”

2009 is the Year of the NCO, and Army leaders are focusing on what NCOs do in today’s Army. For Yniguez, there is a little more to it than just honoring today’s Soldiers.



The Army has dedicated 2009 as the Year of the Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) in order to recognize the achievements of the NCO Corps

“To me, it’s more of a celebration for what NCOs have done throughout history,” he said. “NCOs are good at what they do. We’re more educated, more trained, and afforded more opportunities these days than what was offered 20 years ago to better our Soldiers.”

“They [NCOs] are a crucial part of today’s Army, and it’s great to have them honored for being an asset to the military,” he continued.

Whatever the future holds for Yniguez, he looks on with high aspirations with the time he has left. He wants to attain the highest rank possible in the NCO Corps but has one piece of advice for anyone within the Army.

“Never be scared,” he said. “Never be afraid to take opportunities. When an opportunity presents itself, be ready to take it on because it can only help you throughout your career.”

AFAP: Volunteers prove community voices make a difference

CONTINUED FROM A-1

Program provisions.

Four Soldier issues and recommendations were forwarded to DA. They included these:

- Authorizing travel and transportation for non-dependent caregivers,
- Implementing a leadership position allowance for enlisted Soldiers to compete with officer command positions,
- Implementing alternate Army Physical Fitness Test events, which awards points for push ups and sit ups, and
- Allowing Soldiers to transfer unused education benefits to dependents to repay existing student loans.

Each year, installations in the Army have an AFAP conference from issues submitted anony-

mously. The installations in the Pacific forward their issues to USARPAC, which holds the mid-level AFAP.

After discussions and prioritizing, USARPAC AFAP members send the issues to the DA level. If an issue affects more than just the Army, the issue can make it to the Department of Defense level.

“The Army Family Action Plan is a forum for the military community to come together and work issues that are important to service members and community members that affect the military,” said Theresa Johnson, manager of the Fisher House at Tripler Army Medical Center and past member of six AFAP conferences.

“It’s our opportunity to bring issues to the forefront,” she continued. “The command could choose to fix the issues at our level or push it forward.”

“At the lower level, you look at the issues and send some up, and you may never really see them again,” added Frederica Norman from Fort Wainwright, Alaska. “Now that I’ve worked at this level, I can see how the process works, and I know that we do have a voice, and it means a lot.”

Each category had a separate work group, and several staff members who served as recorder, transcriber and facilitator. The rest of the group kicked around ideas and recommendations to find the top issues affecting those serving in the Pacific.

“We had a wonderful group of delegates from all demographics,” said Amanda Eddy, from Torii Station, Okinawa, who was attending her first AFAP mid-level conference. “Both work groups had members from all the installations in our region, which helped to make up a very good team.”

“It feels really good to be a part of this and see how it works,” Johnson added. “We may be a small group in the pool of the Army, but to see something you work on and realize that it affects people years down the road, it feels great.”

AFAP was created in 1983 to help with quality of life issues for Army families. It has been responsible for hundreds of legislative, regulatory and policy changes involving the Army as well as improving many programs and their associated funding, according to the AFAP Web site.

Johnson said the process only works with input from Soldiers, family members and DA civilians.

“(AFAP) is a great process,” she said. “People may feel an issue affects only them, but they must take that opportunity to submit (the issue) because there may be thousands of others out there who have the same issue. This is the forum where we fix them.”

JPAC’s mission to return MIAs home gains ground in Korea

In part two of the series, teams discover remains of possible missing American Soldiers

STAFF SGT. MATTHEW CHLOSTA

Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command Public Affairs

SEOUL, South Korea — Military members of a Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) recovery team conducted excavation operations in the South Korea province of Kangwon, May 18.

JPAC’s mission is to achieve the fullest possible accounting of all Americans missing as a result of the nation’s past conflicts.

As of April 29, there are 8,044 missing and unaccounted for personnel from the Korean War; JPAC has identified a total of 91 since 2003.

“We found a tooth,” said Sgt. 1st Class Alberto Culandring, team sergeant, JPAC. “Just finding possible remains is very rewarding. We didn’t find any in my last mission in Laos.”

Prisoner of War (POW) March

At the burial site, the team searched for remains of U.S. Soldiers who died during a prisoner of war march across the border of North and South Korea.

“The truth is, we don’t know,” Silverstein said, when asked if the recovery site had been correlated to a particular event such as the march of U.S. prisoners of war to North Korea from the south during the war.

“The site was identified during a search along a POW march route from Hwacheon to North Korea,” said Dr. Jay Silverstein, recovery leader, JPAC. “A farmer identified an area where he had encountered remains and a subsequent limited excavation recovered human remains.

“The site has not been positively correlated to a U.S. MIA loss site at this time,” Silverstein contin-



Marine Gunnery Sgt. Alexander Mazza, explosives ordnance disposal sergeant, augmentee, Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command searches for remains of missing American military servicemembers during a JPAC recovery mission on May 18 in the Kangwon Province, South Korea.

ued. “Our witness suggested there are three to five people at the site.

Silverstein explained that methods of handling prisoners in the People’s Democratic Republic of Korea (DPRK) often included long marches north during.

“Many U.S. Soldiers perished and were left in unmarked graves,” Silverstein said. “In the aftermath of battles, civilians often hastily buried remains wherever they found them in an attempt to prevent diseases. The stalemate around the 38th parallel included continuous back-and-forth battles such

that U.N. [United Nations] forces often did not control the battlefield at the end of the day. Because of this remains might be hastily buried or left in place.”

Silvertein provided a couple reasons for so many MIAs; among them, he said the “speed and chaos of the initial invasion of the south and scattered resistance of U.S. forces meant that the battlefield was dynamic and many were lost without the supporting benefit of a cohesive unit organization.”

The Korean War

The Korean War was the first conflict in which

the U.S. military used fighter jets. After excavating burial sites, JPAC teams will conduct recovery operations of plane crashes; however, there are inherent differences in excavating a burial site versus an airplane crash site.

“With an aircraft, you often know that you have the right spot because the wreckage leaves a clear signature, whereas an alleged burial is usually an uncorrelated site and often based on aged memories of a time and landscape that has changed dramatically,” Silverstein said.

“On the other side,” he continued, “buried remains tend to be better preserved, even articulated, maybe with equipment and ID (identification tags) ... whereas remains from an aircraft can be highly fragmented, burned and scattered over a large area making the recovery operation itself a challenging and time-consuming operation.”

Silverstein has conducted JPAC excavations in both North and South Korea, and he has studied the Korean War with particular interest.

“Korea holds a particular fascination for me because it represents a thermometer of the political health of the post-World War II world. ... The events of the early 1950s play directly to the events of today. Especially in modern times, we wonder what conflicts are worth risking the lives of our citizens and what benefits might be gained, and what mistakes our leaders may have made that cost our troops dearly.

“Having worked in the DPRK, and comparing the two-halves of the Korea, I have a great respect and appreciation for the American forces, as well as those from the UN and Republic of Korea (ROK), who kept the ROK free,” Silverstein said. “Those who risked their lives to keep the world free are owed the obligation of not being forgotten in some anonymous grave.”

News Briefs

Send news announcements for Soldiers and civilian employees to community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

5 / Friday

NSPS Employee Town Hall — The civilian workforce is encouraged to attend a National Security Personnel System (NSPS) Employee Town Hall meeting, today, 10-11 a.m. or 1:30-2:30 p.m., at Sgt. Smith Theater, Schofield Barracks. Jim Duttweiler, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii, deputy garrison commander, will discuss the upcoming NSPS pay pool process for this year.

8 / Monday

Sex Signals Tour — U.S. Army-Pacific (USARPAC) and the U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) team present the improvisational show “Sex Signals,” June 8-11.

The 75-minute show is a revolutionary concept in sexual assault and harassment training and prevention, and explores mixed messages, gender stereotypes and social pressure in a humorous and interactive way.

•Sgt. Smith Theater, Schofield, June 8 and 9, at 9 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.; June 11 at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

•Hale Ikena, Fort Shafter, June 10 at 9 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. For more information contact Lt. Col. Jacky Westover chief, Morale, Welfare and Recreation, USARPAC, at 438-4173 or Jacqueline.westover@us.army.mil or Brenda Huntsinger, Installation Sexual Assault Response coordinator, at 655-1718.

9 / Tuesday

Foot Gate Closure — Foote Gate inbound lanes will be closed to vehicle traffic effective 9 a.m., June 9-25, for security upgrades. Outbound lanes will remain open. “A” Road at Lyman gate will be open for inbound traffic Monday-Friday, 5:30 am-9:30 pm. Hours for other Schofield gates remain unchanged. McNair is open 5:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m. and both Lyman and Macomb are open 24 hours a day. To view gate hours, click here. For more information, call Master Sgt. Gregory West at 656-6751 or Fred Makinney at 656-6750.

Newcomers Brief for Soldiers

The next monthly newcomers briefing for Soldiers is scheduled June 9, 4-5 p.m., at the Soldier Support Center, Building 750, Schofield Barracks.

10 / Wednesday

POSH Training — U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Equal Employment Opportunity Office (EEO) will conduct several Prevention of Sexual Harrassment (POSH) /No Fear Act Training Briefs. Training is mandatory for Department of Army (DA) Civilians Employees/ Supervisors and Military Supervisors of DA Civilians.

•Fort Shafter: Four sessions per day will be offered June 10-11 at the Hale Ikena. (A sign language interpreter will be provided June 10 during the 8:30-9:30 a.m. session) 8:30-9:30 a.m. or 1-2 p.m. for employees and 10-11 a.m. or 2:30-3:30 p.m. for supervisors.

•Schofield Barracks: Four sessions per day will be offered June 25-26 at the Sgt. Smith Theater. (A sign language interpreter will be provided June 25 during the 8:30-9:30 a.m. session) 8:30-9:30 a.m. or 1-2 p.m. for employees and 10-11 a.m. or 2:30-3:30 p.m. for supervisors. For more information, please contact EEO specialists, Amelia Lazo-

Ramos or Janet Baricar at 655-9382.

12 / Friday

Get-A-Cloo — U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii employees are invited to join the next Workforce Development’s Get-A CLOO (Army Civilians Living on Oahu) event, June 12, 7 p.m. at the Dave and Busters restaurant in the Ward Shopping Center, Honolulu. For more information call 655-9037.

19 / Friday

Alcohol, Drugs and Sexual Assault — The U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii, Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) will hold a presentation on alcohol, drugs and sexual assault, June 19, 10-11:30 a.m., at the Sgt. Smith Theater, Schofield Barracks.

This workshop satisfies two of the four hours of a unit’s annual alcohol and drug awareness training and the Department of Army civilian two-hour requirement. The next ASAP program is scheduled August 14.

Soldiers can contact Karen or Tracy Powell at 655-8322 for more information. For interpretive services please call Victoria Williams at 655-9113.

Ongoing

WATTS Field Closure — A portion of WATTS Field will be closed to conduct sprinkler irrigation system installation June 1-July 1. The softball field and paved jogging track are open, but please use caution while in the area.

Veterinary Clinic Improvements

To better serve the community the Schofield Barracks Veterinary Clinic is increasing staff and making computer and software upgrades. Customers may

experience a delay in services through July 1 while changes are implemented.

The office will continue to provide regular services during normal duty hours. Business hours are Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., and 11 a.m.-7 p.m., the third Wednesday of every month. The clinic is closed the last working day of every month.

Call 433-8531/8532 to make a regular appointment for that day.

Martinez PFC Renovations

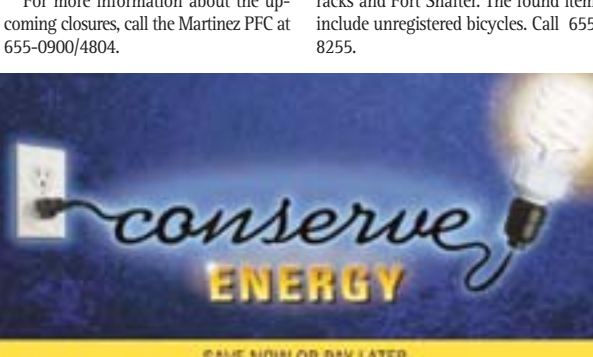
The following sections of the Martinez Physical Fitness Center (PFC), Schofield Barracks, are closed for renovations through July 6.

•The gymnasium is closed through July 6 to replace the hardwood floors.

•The men’s sauna and locker room facilities are closed through June 15, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., for renovations.

•The women’s sauna and locker room facilities are closed through June 15, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., for renovations.

For more information about the upcoming closures, call the Martinez PFC at 655-0900/4804.



Deployable Assessment Team trains hurricane preparedness

Story and Photo by
SGT. 1ST CLASS JASON SHEPHERD
U.S. Army-Pacific Public Affairs

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE — A Category 4 hurricane hits Hawaii, injuring hundreds and severely damaging the infrastructure, prompting the governor to ask the federal government for help. The military is asked to provide vital assistance.

Joint Task Force-Homeland Defense (JTF-HD) stands up and immediately sends out a Deployable Assessment Team (DAT), capable of going anywhere in 24-72 hours to provide an “eye on the ground” for commanders in the Pacific.

This is the exact exercise scenario that played out when more than 20 members of the DAT from U.S. Army-Pacific (USARPAC) deployed to Kauai, May 30, to provide an on-the-ground view of damage as part of Exercise Makani Pahili ‘09.

“We’re going into a homeland defense scenario where the area has been devastated by a hurricane and most of the infrastructure has been knocked out,” said Col. Sean Callahan, director of operations for USARPAC’s contingency command post (CCP). “So we deploy into the heart of the disaster and provide an early assessment and also provide a very small command and control capability to the senior commander as required.”

“We will provide a forward and rapidly deployable element that can provide the assessments from people who are actually on the ground, who can see what the terrain looks like and send that information back to JTF-HD,” added Capt. Jeremy Pflug, lead



action officer for the DAT. “I think in the end, having us on the ground will help us save lives.”

The DAT is one element of USARPAC’s newest organization, the contingency command post. The CCP

Left — Members of a C-17 air crew load Deployable Assessment Team vehicles in preparation for deployment to Kauai, May 30, at Hickam Air Force Base.

has taken the place of the operational command post as USARPAC becomes leaner and capable of going anywhere in the theater with a trained and ready force.

“The CCP is capable of conducting small-scale contingency operations,” said Lt. Gen. Benjamin Mixon, commanding general, USARPAC. “The command post will be deployable and be prepared to go out, and if augmented, can also handle other contingency operations such as a small joint task force involved in peace enforcement.”

According to Callahan, the deployment marks the first for the DAT. The capability is new and can provide an assessment of a disaster relief/humanitarian assistance type scenario in any austere environment, especially important for USARPAC’s role as the lead element for JTF-HD.

“The DAT is tied into Makani Pahili, and exercises our emergency management procedures, specifically for USARPAC,” he said. “So we provide JTF-HD an on-the-ground assessment and operational analysis for their planning and resource requirements and requests for forces, etc.”

Callahan said the core of the DAT is the operations center, but equally important are the specialists who conduct the assessments and provide the technical feedback for an operational analysis and assessment.

“We’ve got medical expertise, we’ve got law enforcement expertise, engi-

neers to assess infrastructure, and a number of sustainment specialties who can look at petrol and food stocks, etc.,” he said. “So we’ve got a small but pretty comprehensive package that can go in and look at an area and provide an overall assessment of the state of affairs.”

In addition to Soldiers, equipment plays an important role in the deployment. The team brought vehicles, communication nodes and automation equipment to accomplish their job. The hardest part for Callahan and his team was trying to figure out who and what to bring.

“This is critical training for us,” he said. “We’ve had to figure out our load plans, configure the loads correctly and task organize ourselves for a field deployment. It’s something we normally don’t do in a senior staff like this,” he continued, “so we had to shake out some of the cobwebs. ... This training exercise is really critical for that.”

A U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster transported the team and its equipment to Kauai while members of USARPAC’s logistic directorate helped the team load the equipment on the airplane, making the trip a joint venture.

“It was difficult to get the DAT started,” said Pflug, “but once everyone saw how important this was, they jumped right in to help.”

The team will be deployed to the Pacific Missile Range Facility until Saturday as part of the exercise.

(Editor’s Note: See next week’s paper for coverage of U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii’s participation in the exercise.)

Saves: She took breath, said thanks

CONTINUED FROM A-1

water-oriented MOS,” Stewart said. “We do drownproofing all the time and spend a lot of time in or near the water. ... I’m a good swimmer, so when I saw her lying on the bottom of the pool, instinct kicked in.”

Seelig added that there would be a thorough investigation into the details of the incident and hopes Stewart is recognized for his actions.

Stewart, a marine deck officer who has been in the Army for seven years, said that any sort of recognition would be an honor.

“It would be pretty cool (to be recognized),” he added. “I would tell anyone that if you are capable to help someone in need, you must do it. Listen during those Friday safety briefings and swim with a buddy.

“If you see people in trouble, it’s your responsibility to help them,” Stewart said.

Prevention: Buddies make a difference in living

CONTINUED FROM A-1

Escort. I “asked” the the airman what was wrong, “cared” enough to actually listen and “escorted” him to a service provider.

According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, the emotional crises that usually precede suicide are often recognizable and treatable. Most suicidal individuals give some warning of their intentions.

The most effective way to prevent a friend or loved one from taking his or her life is to recognize the factors that put people at risk for suicide, to take warning signs seriously, and to know how to respond.

The Army is responding to the rise in suicide rates by educating Soldiers and leaders on the warning signs of suicide and emphasizing having the strength to help your battle buddy or to seek help if you need it.

More dramatic incidents also happen that result in saving the life of a service member. It is estimated that 20 percent of all suicides are completed by male veterans.

Working in a multiservice or purple-suit environment prior to coming to Hawaii, I have had to report on many different incidents, some attempted suicides and sadly some successful.

The common factor in the attempts was that people around the service member paid attention and

stepped up to save a life.

For example, a Marine lost his rank, his identity and his desire to keep living as the result of an Article 15.

“I can’t do it anymore,” said the Marine to his roommate. “I don’t amount to much at work anymore. Goodbye.”



For more information, visit www.realwarriors.net.

That morning, before formation, the Marine picked up his personally owned weapon from its usual place in the apartment and went to work. His concerned roommate called the unit and alerted the personnel about the missing weapon and the potential suicidal intent of the Marine.

“We were concerned about him the whole morning,” said the Marine’s officer in charge (OIC).

The officer had just finished ACE suicide prevention training, “so the signs were fresh in my mind,” he said.

The officer and a chaplain talked to the Marine about his intentions. The search was on for the missing weapon. The Marine said he didn’t have anything to live for.

“You can earn your rank back,” the chaplain remembers telling him, as members of the unit searched the Marine’s car, where the weapon was found.

All the officer had on his mind was, “I’m not going to let him hurt himself, nor me, nor anyone else.”

The heroes of this incident were the leaders who took the time to care for the Marine and see him safely through his darkest of times, said the chaplain. If it weren’t for the unit taking that extra step, we might have had one less Marine.

“Loss is often the trigger for suicide,” the chaplain said.

The loss of a loved one, the loss of identity, and other losses can seem pretty significant and overwhelming. Soldiers, too, and their battle buddies must look out for each other because they know each other best.

The actions of leaders and a support network show that the ACE suicide prevention program works.

Heroic efforts are often not reported in order to protect those involved, but I can tell you that the pattern is the same. The people are different, but the feeling of loss is the same.

“The ACE program provokes thought and reminds you that it only takes a second to care for your buddy, because it only takes a second for a him or her to make a rash decision,” said the officer.

Tricare moves with you when you PCS

KRISTEN WARD

TriWest Healthcare Alliance

If you're planning to or have recently moved to another duty station, you not only have a new community, but you may have a new regional Tricare contractor managing your health care benefits.

Rest assured though; no matter what Tricare program you're using, your benefits are portable.

Below is a to-do list before and when you arrive at your new home:

- 1- Get routine care prior to your move since routine care isn't covered on the road if you're enrolled in Tricare Prime.
- 2- Update your address, e-mail and phone numbers in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) within 30 days of moving. You can do this in the following ways:

Visit the local identification card office in person. Contact the office first to verify location and business hours.

Transfer your enrollment and request a new primary care manager (PCM) by completing a "Tricare Prime Enrollment Application and PCM Change Form (DD Form 2876)" form for yourself and each family member.

This form is found at www.triwest.com>Beneficiaries>Find A Form.

- Call the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) Support Office at 1-800-538-9552. (TTY/TDD for the deaf: 1-866-363-2883)
- Fax: 831-655-8317
- Mail: Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office Attn:COA 400 Gigling Road Seaside, CA 93955-6771
- Log onto Tricare's Beneficiary Web Enrollment site at www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/bwe.

If moving to a Tricare Prime Remote location, switch your enrollment by submitting a new Department of Defense Form 2876. The enrollment transfer takes effect for your family after your new regional contractor receives the form.

Tricare Prime enrollments are portable for both active duty and retired families. Retirees can transfer enrollments twice in a year; the second move has to be back to the original region.

Please note that before you move, you do not need to disenroll from Tricare Prime or Prime Remote. If you voluntarily move to a non-Prime area, you may be locked out of Prime coverage for up to a year.

Prime-enrolled retirees who pay their enrollment fees by allotment, electronic funds transfer, or recurring credit card payments, should contact their new regional contractor to ensure that those payments are transferred to that new contractor.

TriWest, the west region contractor, can be reached at 1-888-TRIWEST (874-9378).

If you are visiting www.triwest.com, don't forget to register and sign up for QuickAlert, TriWest's automated authorization and referral status notification system for beneficiaries living in west region.

QuickAlert e-mails you a notice that your request has been processed and provides a link for you to view the result online.



Footsteps: An unknown may be your reward

CONTINUED FROM A-1

a school, a command or the challenge for greater responsibility. Nevertheless, I can almost guarantee it will involve some element of uncertainty or the ever ominous – unknown.

So, here's the question, "Are you overwhelmed with anxiety or fear over facing the unknown?"

Psalms 46:1-2 states, "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea."

We don't have to face all the trials, tests or unknowns in life while operating in solo mode. God promises that he is here, and he genuinely cares about your well being.

In Hebrews 13:15, the writer states God's posture affirming "never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

As you face the unknown in your life, your relationships or on the job, I would encourage you to call upon the one who promises to never leave or forsake you.

God is concerned about your health, well being and relationships. He cares when it seems that no one else is concerned about your issues.

You do not have to face the unknown alone.

(Editor's Note: Chaplain [Maj.] Michael Thomas Klein is the U.S. Army Plans & Operations Chaplain for U.S. Army-Pacific.)

Sunshine on your shoulder can be deadly

Use sunscreen and limit outside exposure to lessen risk of cancer

MARCIE BIRK

U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine

Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the U.S. According to the Mayo Clinic, more than a million skin cancers are diagnosed annually, and the number of cases of melanoma, the most deadly form of skin cancer, is increasing faster than almost any other cancer.

In 1930, Americans had a 1 in 1,500 lifetime chance of developing melanoma. By 2000, this chance had risen to 1 in 90. This dramatic rise in skin cancer is due to increased leisure time and more recreational sun exposure.

Although most occupational exposure to the sun has decreased, Soldiers are typically exposed to more sunlight than someone with an indoor occupation. Unit and individual physical training, training exercises and mission-essential tasks frequently occur outdoors.

Soldiers within certain military occupational specialties (MOS), such as combat arms, spend long periods of time outdoors year-round. Also, current operations in theater may require Soldiers to frequently be outdoors. All this increased sun exposure can increase the risk for skin cancer.

On the job, Soldiers can take measures to protect themselves from the harmful effects of the sun. Use your uniform to cover your arms and legs. A wide-brimmed hat can protect the head



To learn more about protecting yourself from the dangers of unprotected sun exposure, go to "Protecting Yourself in the Sun" at www.osha.gov/Publications/osha3166.pdf

- National Cancer Institute www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/pdq/prevention/skin/patient
- National Council on Skin Cancer Prevention www.skincancerprevention.org/
- Skin Cancer Foundation www.skincancer.org/Skin-Cancer/2008-Skin-Cancer-Facts.html

and neck.

If possible, seek shade between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., and use a sunblock with a high sun protection factor (SPF) and reapply every two hours at minimum.

Soldiers and their families should also protect themselves from the sun during recreational and family activities. Make sure to reapply sunblock after swimming or exertion, and don't be fooled into thinking you don't need sunblock when it's cloudy.

Up to 80 percent of the sun's harmful rays make their way through light cloud cover; 60 percent through heavy cloud cover. The take-home message is, use sunblock whenever you are going to be outside.

Do you use excuses instead of sunblocks or sun protection? Try these answers.

Excuse: "Sunblocks smell flowery and feminine."

Answer: Buy unscented formulations. They are just as effective without the scent.

Excuse: "The oily base makes my skin feel greasy."

Answer: Water- or alcohol-based lotions, creams, gels and sprays actually outnumber oil-based products. Try different types and brands to find out what feels right for you.

Excuse: "They make my hands slippery."

Answer: Try a sport sunscreen. They're designed to absorb quickly, without leaving a greasy or sticky residue.

Excuse: "When I sweat, the stuff runs into my eyes and stings."

Answer: Use a stick sunscreen on your forehead and around your eyes. It's easy to apply and stays put even when you sweat or swim. Never put sunscreen directly on the eye area. Protect the skin around your eyes with sunglasses instead.

Some people avoid using sunblock because they don't like the way it feels or smells. Soldiers may feel that using sunblock isn't Hooah! But consider this fact: One in five Americans will develop skin cancer over the course of a lifetime, and sunblock is one of the most effective ways to protect your skin from the sun.

HAWAII ARMY WEEKLY

PAU HANA

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

"When work is finished!"

FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2009



Soldiers from the Special Troops Battalion, U.S. Army-Pacific participate in a spiritual run around Fort Shafter, Friday, to commemorate Memorial Day. During the run the Soldiers paid tribute to fallen heroes who are memorialized on Fort Shafter.

Shafter's fallen heroes honored with memorial run

STAFF SGT. CRISTA YAZZIE

U.S. Army-Pacific Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER — Memories of fallen heroes, historical knowledge and physical fitness were exercised May 29, during the Fort Shafter Memorial Run.

"We had this run in order to remember the contributions that these Soldiers gave and that everyone that wears this uniform is willing to protect and defend our country, and that's honorable," said Chaplain (Capt.) Douglas Weaver, U.S. Army-Pacific (USARPAC) Special Troops Battalion (STB) chaplain. "Hopefully someone will pick up an appreciation for what we have in this country."

The formation run followed a path through Fort Shafter with stops at buildings and loca-

tions commemorating Soldiers who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

The run was organized and conducted entirely by Weaver and Sgt. Jeffery Menda, chaplain's assistant, USARPAC, STB chaplains' office.

"As the chaplain's office, it is our mission to care for the wounded, nurture the living, and honor the dead, so this day is about honoring," said Weaver. "It's about remembering and honoring them, while also taking advantage of the unique historical infrastructure here at Fort Shafter to bring to life the stories of some of these people."

During each stop, Weaver expounded on the history, the honored individual and the location where the Soldiers stopped.

One of the first stops was at a memorial plaque for Gen. Simon Bolivar Buckner on Palm Circle. Buckner Gate, Fort Shafter's main entrance, is also named for the general who was killed while commanding the 10th Army's amphibious assault on the island of Okinawa during World War II. Buckner is the highest ranking American to have been killed by enemy fire.

"There's a plaque on Palm Circle for Gen. Buckner, and most people don't even notice it," said Menda, who coordinated the run route, "but hopefully after you tell someone about it, then they realize it's there."

As sacrifice knows no boundary of rank, the run honored not just Buckner, but a variety of Soldiers.

Other landmark stops during the run included Hyland Lane, honoring Lt. Col. Steve Hyland Jr.; at Favreau Hall Barracks, honoring Cpl. Arthur A. Favreau; at Takata Field, honoring Sgt. Joe Takata; and at the recently built 1st Lt. Jonathon P. Brostrom Recreation Center.

Brostrom died less than a year ago on July 13, 2008, of wounds sustained when his outpost was attacked by small-arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades from enemy forces in Wanat, Afghanistan.

Brostrom was commissioned at Fort Shafter in 2006 by Lt. Gen. Benjamin R. Mixon, commanding general, U.S. Army-Pacific, after graduating from the University of Hawaii's Reserve Officer Training program while his father, retired Col. David Brostrom, served as chief of staff at USARPAC.

Weaver believed that Brostrom's story would register closest with the younger Sol-

diers during the run.

"I want Soldiers to know who he is," said Weaver. "This young man is one of us. He could easily be here today, or any of us could be in his position."

Other historic places noted during the run included fountains erected in remembrance of prisoners of war.

"There were 5,000 POWs on this island during World War II," said Weaver. "It's not only Soldiers who sacrifice during times of war but the displaced civilians and prisoners of war, as well, and it's important to remember that too."

"I thought it was great," said Sgt. Joseph Rowser, unit supply sergeant, USARPAC, STB. "There was some good historical information. I like the hands-on knowledge. We actually got to see the history of Fort Shafter."

For more information about Fort Shafter's historical past, visit www.usarpac.army.mil/history.html or call Dave Hilkert, USARPAC command historian, at 438-3291.

Both Menda and Weaver believed the Soldiers would take away more than just a physical workout from the run.

"I hope that Soldiers at Fort Shafter learn the history from this," said Menda. "We drive through Buckner Gate every day and don't know why it's called Buckner."

"Most Soldiers living in Favreau Hall don't know that 70 years ago, Cpl. Favreau was killed right there during the attack on Pearl Harbor," Menda continued, "so this way, we can learn from the past."

Military spouse triumphs over bodybuilding goal to win title

Story and Photo by

SGT. RICARDO BRANCH

8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER — A military spouse, personal trainer and mother may be a lot to juggle for one woman, but not for one of Hawaii's top female bodybuilders, Christina Mace.

Standing at 5-feet, 1-inch, 118 pounds, it's hard to imagine someone like Mace as a bodybuilder, but don't let size fool you. She recently placed first in the women's division against more than 40 participants vying for the title of champion during the 2009 Armed Forces Hawaii Military Bodybuilding Championship.

"When I did this competition, I went in with the hope of winning, but I didn't expect it," said 35-year-old Mace, from Cobb Mountain, Calif.

"I have been a personal trainer for about 10 years, and one aspect from my job is that I work with a variety of clients, ones that are out of shape ... to clients who are extremely conditioned."

The extremely fit clients often on occasion be bodybuilders themselves, which intrigued the veteran fitness trainer.

"Once we were assigned here in Hawaii, I had the opportunity to be around a lot of bodybuilders, and many of them encouraged me to compete as well," she said.

Mace, who teaches cardio kickboxing classes, heard about the Armed Forces Hawaii Body Building Championship and saw an opportunity to challenge herself.

"There's a lot of dedication involved with competing," she said. "You have to be very disciplined. The exercise part came naturally to me because I enjoy exercising on a daily basis."

Mace trained for 49 days before the competition with two-hour routines in the gym, which included a strenuous abdominal workout, weightlifting and extensive cardio regimes.

"Because I have a family, I had to plan my workouts a day in advance," she said. "I would get up by 5 a.m. and prepare my meals for the day. I'd make myself oatmeal, take my daughter to school, and then go to the gym for two hours. Depending on my focus, that would determine my workouts. Every day was an abs workout, along with two days a week working my legs."



Christina Mace conducts heavy weight training, May 28, at the Hickam Air Force Base.

Mace said the competition was a personal challenge but one she felt she was ready for all along.

"When I set my mind on a goal, I don't deviate," she said. "You can't cheat. My opinion is that if you cheat on your diet or exercise, it's going to show on the stage."

It never showed onstage when Mace was performing. Even when her routine began with the wrong music, it did little to hinder the goal-set competitor.

Mace credits her recent

achievement to her family and friends who supported her.

"I had immense support," she said. "My father actually helped sponsor me for the competition because it can get quite pricey when you try and get a custom-made bodysuit."

Her husband, Sgt. Maj. Kent Mace, operations sergeant major, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, saw his wife through every step of the way.

"With all the hard work she does, going to the gym every day... she never cheated her body," he said. "She was

dedicated to it, and I knew it would pay off in the end. I tried to go to the gym with her whenever I could. She always lifted light weights and wanted to lift heavy, so I'd go (to the gym) and lift heavy with her, but most of the training she did on her own."

Kent Mace said he's proud of his wife for doing what she loves for her fitness.

"My wife is the best person I have ever known," he said. "Her discipline and determination is what makes me love her more and more. I knew she could win it."

The competition may be over here for Christina Mace, but the bodybuilding is far from done. The couple is moving to Europe soon, and Mace plans to continue to pursue her newly established role as a professional bodybuilder.

"Once you get bit by the competition bug, it doesn't go away," she said. "... I feel I can perform better the second time around because a lot of the learning curve is already completed. I am already hearing about a competition (in Europe), and I intend to take it. I'm even encouraging my husband to compete this time, as well."



5 / Today

Family Fun Fridays – Family Fun Friday is back at the Tropics Recreation Center, June 5, 6 p.m., with free Papa John’s pizza, games and contests the whole family will enjoy. Check out Nintendo Wii, PS3 and Xbox 360 games or play a game of pool, darts, air hockey, table tennis, beach volleyball and much more. Call 655-5698.

Teen Dance Club – Check out the Teen Dance Club summer jam (for teens grades 6-12), today, 6-9:30 p.m., at the Aliamanu Military Reservation gymnasium. Dance to the latest music with guest DJ Fresh. Dance contests, door prizes and refreshments will be available.

Cost is \$5 and Child, Youth and School Services, military or school ID is required. Call 833-0920.

9 / Tuesday

Poetry Fun – Poets or poetry enthusiasts are invited to stop by the Sgt. Yano Library, Schofield Barracks, June 9, 5:30-7:30, for poetry fun. Writers are invited to bring their own work or just listen and soak in the ambience. Poetry Fun is a new, free program that takes place every second and fourth Tuesday of the month. Call 655-8002.

10 / Wednesday

Hula Demonstration – Kumuhula (hula teacher) Kahoone Panoke will present a hula workshop, June 10, 5:30-7 p.m., at the Sgt. Yano Library, Schofield Barracks. Learn a brief history of hula, watch a demonstration on some basic steps and develop a better understanding of the rich cultural tradition of hula in Hawaii. Call 655-8002.

Money Management – Learn the basic tools for financial success during a Money Management class, June 10, 10:30 a.m.-noon, at Army Community Service, Schofield Barracks. Develop a spending plan, reduce expenses and make your paycheck work for you.



Send announcements to
community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

5 / Today

Employment Orientation – Prepare for the job you want today. Attend an Army Community Service (ACS) Employment Orientation and learn about job opportunities with federal, state, private sector and staffing agencies. Orientation is scheduled today, 9-10:30a.m., at Schofield Barracks, ACS. Call 655-4227.

Vacation Bible School – Registration is now open for this summer’s Vacation Bible School (VBS), entitled “Crocodile Dock.” VBS will run June 15-19, 9 a.m.-noon, at the Main Post Chapel, and July 13-17, 9-11:45 a.m., at Aliamanu Military Reservation (AMR) Chapel. VBS is open to children ages 4 (by June 1) to sixth grade. The program features Bible stories, drama, crafts, songs and recreation.

Volunteer positions are still available for parents and college or high school students. Call Schofield Barracks (655-6645) or AMR Chapel (833-8175) Religious Education departments.

Mental Illness Support Program – Family members, friends and caregivers for individuals dealing with mental illness, including post traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury, are invited to join a 12-week family support program at the Spark Matsunaga VA Medical Center, third floor, Room 3-A17.

This course is a free, 12-week activity, co-facilitated by VA staff and family members. The program covers many aspects of mental health, including coping skills and the power of advocacy.

For more information, contact Andrew Dahlburg, local recovery coordinator, at 433-0332.

Pan-Pacific Festival – The 30th Annual Pan-Pacific Festival, sponsored by the Hawaii Tourism Authority, will take place June 5-7 in and around areas of Waikiki. The festival is one of the oldest intercultural events promoting relationships between Hawaii and the Pan-Pacific



Photo Courtesy of Army Hawaii Family Housing

Nearly done

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Construction workers build a spray park at the Kaena Community Center in the Kaena neighborhood of Army Hawaii Family Housing (AHFH), here. According to AHFH, residents can look forward to enjoying a great recreational facility when it’s completed this summer. See page B-4 for more information on community center construction.

Call 655-4227 or register online at www.acsclasses.com

Autism Support Group – The Army Community Service’s (ACS) Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) will conduct an Autism Support Group meeting, June 10, at the Main Post Chapel, Schofield Barracks. Presentations and discussions will begin at 6 p.m.

On-site child care is available, but registration and sign-up are required. Contact ACS EFMP at 655-4227 for details or child care reservations.

11 / Thursday

Stress Solutions – Are you stressed out? Learn new ways to cope with stress and develop a personalized stress management plan, June 11, 1-2:30 p.m. at Aliamanu Military Reservation community center or 3-4:30 p.m. at Schofield Barracks, Army Community Service. Call 655-0596.

12 / Friday

Waikiki Party Bus – The Army bus rides again, June 12, 9 p.m.-4 a.m. The bus will pick up riders on Schofield Barracks and Fort Shafter and take them down to party in Waikiki, worry-free. Free tickets are available at Informa-

tion, Ticketing and Registration offices, and riders must have a ticket to board the party bus.

The bus is also scheduled to run June 26, and July 17 and 31. Call 655-9971/438-1985.

18 / Thursday

Art in the Park – Join family fun in the month of June and learn about being “green.” Activities include various arts and crafts, gardening and a chance to meet Kelly Bear.

Activities will take place at the following locations: Fort Shafter community center playground, June 18, 2-5 p.m.; and Helemano Military Reservation community center, June 25, 2-5 p.m. For more information, contact Tripler Army Community Service at 438-4499.

July

4 / Saturday

Fourth of July Spectacular – The 38th Annual Fourth of July Spectacular will take place July 4, 9 a.m.-9 p.m., at Sills Field, Schofield Barracks.

Enjoy entertainment by the classic rock band Kansas and the 43rd Army Band. Don’t miss the largest celebration

front-Hawaii, in collaboration with the Rotary Club of West Pearl, is collecting donations of island goodies to send to deployed Hawaii Soldiers for Fourth of July celebrations.

Donations of Spam, Kona coffee, macadamia nut chocolates, mochi crunch, cuttlefish, University of Hawaii caps, T-shirts and flip flops are being accepted at the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange and at Lex Brodie’s locations at Queen Street and Pearlridge, now through June 12.

Monetary donations to assist in the shipping are being accepted online at www.operationhomefront.net/hawaii.

To register a service member to receive a package, call Eva Laird Smith at 469-7427 or e-mail Hawaii@operationhomefront.net. Packages will be shipped June 13.

Dental Assistant Training

The Schofield Barracks American Red Cross Service Center is accepting applications for fall enrollment in the Volunteer Dental Assistant Program (VDAP) now through June 12.

VDAP is a volunteer program that provides training and experience in the dental assistant field. Eligible candidates must be military family members, be at least 18 years old and have at least 18 months remaining on island. Students will complete 1,000 classroom and clinical hours. Call 655-4927 or request an application at becky.lapolice@schofield.army.mil.

15 / Monday

“Kids Can” Contest – The Child, Youth and School Services SKIES Unlimited Studio is hosting a “Kids Can” talent contest, June 15, 5 p.m. Children in kindergarten-12th grade or homeschooled are invited to perform in the following categories: I Can Make People Laugh, I Can Rap, and I Can Speak or present a drawing for the I Can Draw contest.

Acts can be performed solo or with a group. The top three finalists in each category will qualify for the finale, Aug. 2, 10 a.m. Contestants must register by June 8. To request an application and contest rules call the SKIES Office at 655-9818.

18 / Thursday

Waikiki Aquarium Summer Concerts – The Waikiki Aquarium will host five oceanside summer concerts featuring some of the islands’ top performers. The summer series line-up starts with “The Brothers Cazimero,” June 18.

Aquarium doors open at 5:30 p.m. and concerts begin on the lawn at 7 p.m. Concert-goers may bring low-lying beach

of the year featuring a free car giveaway, music and entertainment, a family fun run, contests, food, games, a crafts and new products bazaar, fireworks, a chance to win \$5,000 and an after party.

Visit www.mwrarmyhawaii.com for more information. Call 655-0111/2.

Ongoing

New Paint Booth – The Schofield Barracks Auto Skills Center has a brand-new paint booth that is now open. Make your car look like new again for just \$20 per hour. A \$100 deposit is required and refundable upon project completion.

The new booth will be open during regular business hours: Wednesday-Friday, 11:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., and closed on Mondays, Tuesdays and holidays. Call 655-9368.

Fourth of July Picnic Reservations

– The Recreation Activities office, Schofield Barracks, is accepting picnic site reservations for the annual Fourth of July Spectacular. Cost is \$75 for a 25-foot by 25-foot space. Picnic sites go fast. Call 655-0111/2.

19 / Friday

MCBH Job Fair – Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH) will host a job fair, June 19, 9 a.m.-noon, at the Kahuna’s Community Ballroom, MCBH.

The fair will feature vacancies within Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS), openings at MCBH and approximately 40 other companies and government agencies. Interested applicants will be able to

talk with recruiters, apply for vacant positions, and participate in on-site interviews. Attendees should bring copies of their resume.

Children are not permitted into the venue. The fair is open to Department of Defense (DoD) ID cardholders and any legal U.S. citizen age 18 and over. Contact MCCS Marine and Family Services at 257-7787/7790.

Giant Insect Safari. – See gargantuan robotic insects (up to 600 times life-size) and other hands-on, fun-filled free activities on display at the Pearlridge Center, June 20-Aug. 2.

At Uptown Center Court youngsters can go on a jungle insect adventure amidst oversized flora, creepy fauna and huge boulders on the Pearlridge Safari Train (nominal fee).

The Giant Insect Safari exhibit will be open during regular center hours at Uptown and Downtown Center Courts.

Ongoing

Celebrate Centennial – Audio podcasts highlighting the significance of 25 historical sites on Schofield Barracks are available to download at the U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Web site.

Explore the history of Schofield Barracks and celebrate its centennial. A variety of different formats are available to augment a walking or driving tour, such as WMV, MP3, M4V and AIFF. A tour brochure can be found at the Tropic Lightning Museum.

Visit the podcast page at www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil/sites/podcasts/TropicLightningCentennial.asp.



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 8 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

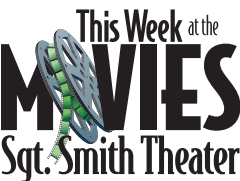
- Catholic Friday-Saturday, noon – Adoration
- Liturgical Sunday, 9:30 a.m.- Worship

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



Call 624-2585 for movie listings or go to aaes.com under reeltime movie listing.



Obsessed

(PG-13)
Friday, 7 p.m.
Thursday, 7 p.m.

Monsters vs. Aliens

(PG)
Saturday, 4 p.m.

Crank: High Voltage

(R)
Saturday, 7 p.m.



Hannah Montana: The Movie

(G)
Sunday, 4 p.m.

Sunshine Cleaning

(R)
Wednesday, 7 p.m.

No shows on Mondays or Tuesdays.

Parents learn to teach children with Army program’s help

“Parents as Teachers, Heroes At Home” offers developmental advice through home visits

Story and Photo by
BILL MOSSMAN
Staff Writer

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — For a brief moment, Callie Smith remained on all fours, sizing up her target like some kind of potential prized catch.

Then without warning, she lunged forward — rising up onto her knees and wrapping her arms securely around her victim, as if unwilling to let him go until she gave him the one thing he deserved.

Were she a Soldier like her now deployed father, Sgt. Calvin Smith, 3rd Squadron, 4th Calvary Regiment, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, young Callie’s grappling move would have received a resounding “Hooah!” from her audience. But, for the 10-month-old bundle of unbridled energy, this moment was no example of playing to the crowd. Her motive, in fact, was innocent: to plant a drool-excessive, open-mouthed kiss on the other toddler’s head.

More importantly, Callie’s rapid and decisive movement demonstrated that her gross motor skills were developing quite nicely — thanks in large part to a new program focusing on prenatal and newborn to age 3 child development that has been attracting military families from all over.

The free Child, Youth and School Services (CYS2) program, known as “Parents As Teachers, Heroes At Home,” has been operating since April 1 and is already assisting more than 25 families offering child development advice through monthly home visits by parent educators, as well as once-a-month, get-togethers at the Kalakaua Community Center, Schofield Barracks.

The plan, according to parent educators LaToya Cardwell and Polly Strona, is to grow the program by an additional 50 families before year’s end.

“The need is greater at high-deployment bases, like Schofield Barracks,” explained Cardwell of the program. “When one spouse is out, the other



At right, 10-month-old Callie Smith moves toward her target, 1-year-old Aidan Murphy, while his father, Sgt. Paul Murphy looks on during a “Parents As Teachers, Heroes At Home” gathering at the Kalakaua Community Center, Schofield Barracks.

spouse is left at home, and a lot of them are young Soldiers. “We can help them by giving them extra support in educating their children.”

Although still in its infancy in the islands, Parents As Teachers, Heroes At Home is fast becoming a hit among its participants.

“It’s refreshing to have this program on base for military families,” said Callie’s mother, Michele Smith. “To know there is a service here where you can get a home visit, and get tips and pointers on how to help your child develop in terms of their fine-motor and gross-motor skills, is just excellent.”

For Sgt. Paul Murphy, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, and his wife, Alicia, the program’s extensive reach beyond post confines has been most beneficial. Residents of Kapolei, the Murphys have been accepting personal visits at their home from Strona, who shares strategies through handouts

For more information or to sign up for the “Parents As Teachers, Heroes At Home” program, call the CYS2 central registration office at 655-4090.

that support the intellectual and social-emotional development of their children: Blake, 2, and Aidan, 1.

“I’ve found it easier when you have a handout telling you how to teach your child,” Alicia Murphy said. “Like with disciplining our 2-year-old, instead of giving him timeouts, Polly will give us alternate ways of handling him.”

In Stacey Reisinger’s case, the program is as familiar and comfortable to her as an old Army blanket. While stationed at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., she and husband Maj. Aaron Reisinger, 130th Engineer Brigade, first learned of the Parents As Teachers program, and immediately enrolled their prematurely born twin daughters, Avery and Emma Vi, in it.

Then the couple relocated to Hawaii last fall, leaving them uncertain of where to turn for assistance with their 2-year-old daughters, both of whom were experiencing delays in speech. Fortunately, Stacey Reisinger walked into CYS2 and discovered an all-too-familiar program was about to be launched here.

“I wound up being the second person to sign up for the program,” she recalled.

Since then, Cardwell has paid two visits to the family’s home. “It’s a convenient service,” Reisinger added, “and the girls have really taken a liking to LaToya.”



Jambo looks up from a play session. Jambo, along with numerous other dogs and cats, is currently in foster care until his deployed Soldier comes home.

Pets of Patriots program assures care of Soldiers’ pets

Story and Photo by
MOLLY HAYDEN
Staff Writer

HONOLULU — When Soldiers deploy they often leave behind loving family members, including small furry ones.

To alleviate some of the concerns Soldiers have regarding their pet’s care, the Hawaiian Humane Society offers a unique service called the “Pets of Patriots” program.

Through the program, the Society helps match volunteers to animals and owners, providing a temporary home for pets of deploying Soldiers.

“A deployment is often a stressful time, and it’s good to know that a pet will be taken care of in a loving family environment,” said Anne Marie MacPherson, community relations coordinator, Hawaiian Humane Society. “We help our military so they have their companion to come back to.”

Domestic short hair cats, Fancy and Jambo, have adjusted nicely since their parent, Staff Sgt. Roxanne Pratt, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Intelligence and Sustainment Company, deployed.

They strut through the living room of the home of Bianca Trombi, outreach programs coordinator, Hawaiian Humane Society, and Christopher Filimoe-hala, stopping in front of their foster mom for a quick pat on the head.

Fancy continued under the couch to

hide and Jambo lounged as cats do best, sprawled out, beckoning for Trombi to continue stroking his fur.

“They both have a unique personality,” said Trombi. “Bo’s the snuggler and Fancy’s the instigator.”

To foster a pet or find a temporary home for your pet, contact Bianca Trombi at 356-2217, or e-mail outreach@hawaiianhumane.org or visit www.hawaiianhumane.org.

Trombi decided to foster the cats so the siblings could stay together.

“These guys have grown up together, and it’s important they stay together,” said Trombi.

With more and more Soldiers deploying, the Pets of Patriots program is constantly expanding, Trombi explained. It’s currently in need of volunteers willing to commit to long-term foster care.

“It’s unique when you find someone that is willing to foster for a year,” said MacPherson. “This is a great program and something only Hawaii has to offer, to support the high number of military present on the island.”

For Pratt, finding Trombi was a huge relief.

“The Pets of Patriots Program allows a single and solitary Soldier like myself the joy of being able to raise animals without the



Courtesy Photo

The Hawaiian Humane Society is a focal point of Oahu’s animal community and plays an ever-evolving role as mediator on the changing relationship between people and animals. The Pets of Patriot Program helps deploying Soldiers find a temporary home for their pet.

pain and fear of having to give away a beloved pet at every deployment,” said Pratt. “It has also allowed me to keep my commitment to ensure their safety and welfare, as well as minimize their being bounced from home to home.”

From its busy shelter in the heart of Honolulu, the Hawaiian Humane Society is a focal point of Oahu’s animal community and plays an ever-evolving role as mediator on the changing relationship between people and animals. The society’s mission — to teach and promote the humane treatment of all

living creatures — is a joyful one full of challenges and opportunities.

“We’re here to serve the community and military families are an important part of that community,” said Kawehi Yim, director of Community Relations for the Hawaiian Humane Society. “We are proud to reach out to them.”

All active duty military members who have a pet that needs temporary care are eligible for the Pets of Patriots program. Foster homes can be military or civilian. Some foster families even provide e-

mails and photos for Soldiers overseas to help them cope with being away from home.

The pet owner, according to MacPherson, usually handles all of the pet’s financial needs, and both parties should agree upon all financial responsibilities prior to deployment.

Meeting the volunteer and allowing a pet and the foster family to spend time together before deployment is also suggested.

“We Soldiers lose a great deal every time we leave and come back changed every time,” said Pratt. “Programs such as Pets of Patriots help to whittle the stack of unsettling events surrounding deployments down to a bare minimum and let us concentrate on the business at hand.”

“Pets have been and continue to be an important part of the family,” said Trombi. “We are here to support animals and the military families who love them.”

Couples reconnect and work to ‘fireproof’ their marriages

A six-week Bible study program challenged 14 couples to improve personal relationships

BILL MOSSMAN
Staff Writer

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Nearly 25 years after saying the words “I do” in a South Carolina church, Libby Bryant found herself inside a theater complex on Oahu, recently, watching the inspirational, gospel-centered movie “Fireproof” when she unexpectedly had an epiphany about her marriage.

She realized she really needed to work harder at it. And so she mobilized.

With the blessing of her husband, Chief Warrant Officer George Bryant, 311th Signal Command (Theater), she enrolled in the free six-week Bible-study course, “Fireproof Your Marriage,” held earlier this spring at the Aliamanu Military Reservation (AMR) Chapel.

For more information about the “Fireproof Your Marriage” chapel program and upcoming fall session, contact Kathy Whalen, director of Religious Education, South Community Chapels, at 839-4319.

There, the couple, along with 14 other married couples, took on a 40-day challenge to improve their relationships through Scripture study, performing good deeds for each other,



Courtesy Photo

Stephanie Williams recites her vows to her husband, Cpl. James Williams, as their daughter, Kristiana Rose, 3, looks on during a wedding vow-renewal ceremony at the Turtle Bay Resort glass chapel, May 22.

and discussing clips from the movie, “Fireproof.”

When the course was over, Libby Bryant expressed an appreciation for the lessons learned that have, in her estimation, been nothing short of a marital miracle.

“From these classes, I found that

what men really want is respect. It’s their number one need,” explained the kindergarten teacher at Samuel K. Solomon Elementary School, Schofield Barracks, who will be celebrating a quarter century of marriage in July.

“And the woman’s basic needs are to be loved and protected.

“You know, it’s not like we were doing such a bad job with our marriage before,” added Bryant, whose union with George has produced a daughter, 15-year-old Donna Marie. “But (the course) has made everything a little bit sweeter.”

“In most marriages, it’s not if the fire comes — it’s when.”

Chaplain (Capt.) Douglas Weaver
U.S. Army-Pacific,
Special Troops Battalion Chaplain

According to Chaplain (Capt.) Douglas Weaver, U.S. Army-Pacific Special Troops Battalion chaplain, the course was founded on Biblical principles for strong, God-centered marriages. Couples would meet once a week during Sunday school, where they were encouraged to work through problematic relational issues and recommit to their spouses.

“We would discuss things such as real love, or unconditional love,” Weaver explained. “Yes, love can be romantic and emotional at times. But true love occurs when there is self-sacrifice. Only then will it last.

“In most marriages, it’s not if the fire comes — it’s when,” he added. “So we’re trying to teach them to be prepared.”

Another course participant, Cpl. James Williams, 307th Integrated Theater Signal Battalion, confessed that after three years of marriage, he and wife Stephanie, needed to reconnect.

Part of his problem, he admitted, was a tendency to focus heavily on the negative aspects of their relationship rather than on “all the good things my wife does for me.”

“We would talk in class about things like love, and trust and communication. If you don’t talk to your spouse, everything will crumble around you,” said Williams, 20, who began dating Stephanie while in tenth grade at Tallwood High School, Virginia Beach, Va. “And I would read (the course study book) and everything would start making sense to me.”

Upon completing the course, the Williams’ family, which includes 3-year-old daughter Kristiana Rose, and several other couples, traveled to Turtle Bay Resort on the North Shore, where they participated in a marriage vow-renewal ceremony, officiated by Weaver and Chaplain (Capt.) Timothy Wilson.

The ceremony, made possible through a \$3,900 grant from the U.S. Army’s Chief of the Chaplain’s Office, took place inside the resort’s glass chapel, overlooking the oceanfront property.

Floral decorations added a rainbow of colors to the chapel’s predominantly white interior, and were provided by Meri-Mine Clark, family readiness support assistant.

“When we got to renew our vows, it meant a whole lot more to me,” Williams said. “It was like a new beginning, a new life, something that’s unbreakable. Now, we’re finally on the same page.”

Weaver said there’s a strong possibility that another 6-week course will be conducted in the fall.

New Army Hawaii Family Housing community centers taking shape

Actus Lend Lease, contractors fill demands of new residents with housing amenities, ‘tot lots’

ARMY HAWAII FAMILY HOUSING
News Release

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — More than 2,000 new homes have been built in U.S. Army Garri-

For more information about AHFH, go to www.armyhawaiiifamilyhousing.com.

son-Hawaii, Army Hawaii Family Housing (AHFH) communities, and in the coming months there will be no rest for the weary as Actus Lend

Lease and its subcontractors push ahead to meet the demand for new residents.

New community centers and amenities are also moving towards completion. Schofield Barracks AHFH residents in the Porter neighborhood can now enjoy a new water spray park and “tot lot,” which were recently completed in May at the Porter Community Center. The “tot lot” playground features slides and a jungle gym.

The final touches are also being made on the construction of the Kaena Community Center, Schofield Barracks, scheduled to be completed this summer. It’s the fourth community center to be completed.

Additionally, construction of the Wilikina Community Center on Wheeler Army Airfield is scheduled to begin in early fall. The new facility will feature a pool.

728th MPs honor fallen officer, Special Olympics at ‘Torch Run’

Story and Photo by
SPC. JENNIFER PREMIER
8th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

WAIKIKI — Soldiers from the 728th Military Police (MP) Battalion, 8th Sustainment Brigade (Provisional), joined Hawaii law enforcement officials to participate in the annual Troy Barboza Law Enforcement Torch Run for the Special Olympics, here, Friday.

The event, named after fallen Honolulu Police Officer and Special Olympics coach Troy Barboza, raises awareness and funds for Special Olympics athletes and is a tradition in law enforcement communities around the world.

Troy Barboza’s sister welcomed the runners at the starting line at Fort DeRussy Park. The race led participants down the streets of Waikiki where onlookers cheered them on and culminated at Les Murakami Stadium, University of

Hawaii-Manoa, where runners were then greeted by Special Olympics athletes.

Despite the hot and humid weather, those who took part in the event came away with a better feeling than when they started.

“I felt privileged to participate and to give back to the community,” said Spc. Pablo Luna, a supply specialist with 558th MP Company. “Everyone was out there cheering, and I felt a sense of pride I’ve never had before.”

The event also demonstrated the ongoing relationship between the military and local communities.

“This event shows the brotherhood of police between the civilian and military communities,” said Lt. Col. Brian Bisacre, commander, 728th MP Bn. “These law enforcement officers represent the commitment and sacrifice that the Army is familiar with, and we’re here to support our brothers.”



Soldiers from the 728th Military Police (MP) Battalion, led by Lt. Col. Brian Bisacre, commander, 728th MP Bn., run through the streets of Waikiki during the annual Troy Barboza Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics, Friday.



6 / Saturday
Fourth of July Fun Runs — Registration is now open for the Fourth of July 5K and children’s 1-mile fun runs. Entries for the 5K cost \$10 per person with a T-Shirt, or \$5 without. The children’s run is free; however, all children must be registered.

The fun run will take place at Schofield Barracks, July 4, during the Fourth of July Spectacular event.

All entries must be postmarked by June 25. Entry forms are available at www.mwramyhawaii.com or any Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation physical fitness center. Call 655-9650.

Adventure Hiking — Enjoy an easy day hike to various locations around the island, June 6, 7 a.m.-2 p.m. Challenge yourself against nature with others. Cost is \$10. Water and limited round-trip transportation from Schofield Barracks will be provided. Call 655-0143.

7 / Sunday
Adventure Kayaking — Come along with Outdoor Recreation for a half-day of adventurous kayaking from various beaches around the island of Oahu,

June 7, 6 a.m.-noon. Cost is \$25 per person and includes equipment and round-trip transportation from Schofield Barracks. Call 655-0143.

10 / Wednesday
Kayaking Enthusiast Meeting — Looking for others who share your interest and the love of the sport of kayaking? Join a kayaking enthusiast meeting, June 10, 6-7:30 p.m., at Outdoor Recreation, Schofield Barracks. This program is free. Call 655-0143.

11 / Thursday
Biking Enthusiast Meeting — Looking for others who love to bike? Join a biking enthusiast meeting, June 11, 6-7:30 p.m., at Outdoor Recreation, Schofield Barracks. This program is free. Call 655-0143.

12 / Friday
Summer Family Camp — Spend the weekend camping with Outdoor Recreation, June 12-14. Campers can spend some quality time fishing, kayaking, surfing and paddle-boarding all while camping on the beach. This weekend will truly be one to remember. Cost is \$150 each. Call 655-0143.

Ongoing

Free Ladies Golf Clinic — Learn the basics of golfing at a free ladies golf clinic. The clinic is offered the first

Saturday of each month at Leilehua Golf Course Driving Range from 2:30-3:30 p.m. Call 655-4653 to sign up.

Karate Classes — Children ages 5 and older can learn Do Shudokan karate at three U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii physical fitness centers: Aliamanu Military Reservation (AMR), Fort Shafter, Helemano or Schofield’s Bennett Youth Center. Classes cost \$35 per month. A family discount is available.

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

Pool Fees — Monthly passes are available for use at any Army pool. Active duty Soldiers can use all pools for free. Individual monthly passes are \$12 for family members and retirees, \$10.80 for all Blue Star Card (BSC) holders and \$18 for Department of Defense and Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) civilians. Monthly family passes for military families are \$20 and \$18 for BSC holders.

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 Barracks, 655-9698; Tripler Army Medical Center pool, 433-5257; Helemano Military Reservation (HMR) pool, 653-0716; or Aliamanu Military Reservation (AMR) pool, 833-0255.



Send sports announcements to community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

6 / Saturday
Hike Oahu — Join the Hawaiian Trail & Mountain Club for one of two National Trails Day Hikes, June 6.

- June 6, a 5-mile intermediate hike in Waahila-Kolowalu ascends the Kolowalu Trail out of Manoa Valley to Waahila Ridge where a breezy lunch spot awaits you with views of Manoa Valley and the Koolau mountain range. Call Thea Ferentinos, 375-0384.
- June 6, a short 2-mile Manoa valley hike, followed by a scramble up to a delightful puu with a view. Call Wil Kawano, 373-1492.

A \$2 donation is requested of non-members. An adult must accompany children under 18. Visit www.htmclub.org.

Waimea Valley Hiking Series — Join a series of hikes in the Waimea Valley throughout the month of June. The hikes will take participants off the beaten path to see a wide variety of native and introduced plants, archaeological sites and spectacular panoramic views of the Valley.

Children must be at least 7 years old and accompanied by an adult unless

otherwise noted.

- June 6, 2-mile ridge/valley hike, Kala-hee trail.
- June 13, 2-mile ridge/valley hike, Ala Ki trail.
- June 20, 2-mile ridge/valley hike, Kala-hee trail.
- June 27, 6-mile Kamananui stream hike. (Youth must be at least 12 years old).

Groups meet at Waimea Valley (59-864 Kamehameha Hwy., across from Waimea Bay), 9 a.m. Hikes cost \$5 per person, plus Waimea Valley admission fee. For reservations, call 638-7766. Visit www.waimeavalley.net.

7 / Sunday
5th Annual Dog Walk — The 5th Annual Hawaii Kai Dog Walk is June 7. Check-in starts at 6:30 a.m., and paws hit the pavement at 7:30 a.m. The event promises to be a great day to exercise, socialize and celebrate the human-animal bond.

This year’s theme, “Off Leash and Loving It!” is in recognition of the Hawaii Kai Dog Park’s first anniversary. The 2.3-mile walk meets at the Hawaii Kai Park & Ride on Keahole Street.

The \$20 registration fee includes a T-shirt, goodie bag, bottled water and a chance to win a prize. Proceeds support the dog park and other off-leash parks on the island.

A .7-mile route for small or older dogs is available. Contact huiilio@hawaii.rr.com.