

SEE THIEVES, A-9

**“‘Nightmare
on Elm
Street,’
‘Halloween,’
and ‘Saw.’”**

Joanne Sedlor
Office Manager
Actus Lend Lease

84th Engineer Battalion salutes wahine warriors

Story and Photo by
1ST LT. EMILY HANNENBERG
1st Platoon, 643rd Engineer Company, 84th Engineer Battalion

MOSUL, Iraq – When the 84th Engineer Battalion (Construction Effects) deployed to northern Iraq, nearly one year ago, it brought more than 550 trained and motivated Soldiers to the fight, including 56 women.

From carpenters and interior electricians, to heavy engineer equipment operators and medics, the females of the “Never Daunted” Battalion have made impressive contributions to every aspect of the battalion mission and have earned the respect and trust of their comrades in arms.

Sgt. Cynthia Espinoza

While assigned to the 523rd Eng. Company (Horizontal), Espinoza made vital improvements to force protection structures, access roads and entry control points as a team leader of four heavy engineer equipment operators. During the construction of a 93-kilometer-long, 10-foot-high berm encircling Mosul, she motivated her team to return to the job site, day after day, over the course of more than three months of nearly continuous operations.

Espinoza’s efforts directly contributed to the restriction of the enemy’s movement through



Some of the women warriors of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 84th Engineer Battalion, listen carefully to instructions from their convoy commander during a training lane in Kuwait. Pictured are Sgt. Julianne Chavis, left to the rear, Pfc. Barbara Cepeda, center, and Spc. Elida Miller, right.

coalition and Iraqi army checkpoints, drastically reducing insurgent freedom of movement.

Sgt. Ana Ohara

Ohara, of the 3rd Platoon, 643rd Eng. Co. (Vertical), distinguished herself as both a competent construction supervisor and a dedicated leader.

During an insurgent attack, Ohara’s squad leader was seriously injured and was forced to redeploy from theater.

Ohara was selected to fill the position, due to her

Despite these hindrances, she successfully completed the project three days ahead of schedule, thereby drastically reducing the time her element was forced to spend in a precariously located combat outpost in the heart of Mosul, Iraq.

Staff Sgt. Georgina Yandall

Yandall, of the Forward Support Co., performed exceptionally as a section sergeant and spent nearly as much time leading convoys throughout northern Iraq as she did on her home combat operating base.

She was instrumental in planning and executing more than 40 combat logistical patrols, which brought vital construction materials, culvert denial devices and life support assets to the battalion. Yandall did an outstanding job of caring for her Soldiers and maintaining their morale, despite an exceptionally demanding convoy schedule.

These “Wahine Warriors” represent the “Never Daunted” spirit and have inspired those around them to put forth their best daily.

The tireless efforts of each and every Soldier in the 84th Eng. Bn. - in the motorpool, on the construction job site, on the roads of Iraq and in the tactical operations cells - have improved the quality of life for countless coalition forces soldiers and made the future of Iraq brighter.

Deployed CAB scholars take advantage of self-improvement opportunities

Story and Photo By
STAFF SGT. MIKE ALBERTS
25th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq – South African human rights activist and symbol of international peace, Nelson Mandela, once said, “Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world.”

Many 25th Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB), 25th Infantry Division (ID) Soldiers have committed themselves to changing their “world” by taking professional development and civilian education classes while deployed, here.

The COB Speicher Education Center is staffed by an education officer, a career counselor and field representatives from the University of Maryland University College and Central Texas College. The center is also outfitted with a fully functioning computer lab and classroom.

According to 1st Lt. Maricela Cantu, a COB Speicher education officer with the 211th Regional Support Group, an Army reserve unit from Corpus Christi, Texas,

the center offers a variety of military professional development and civilian education services similar to those available to military members at their respective home stations.

“All Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES) services are accessible through the center,” said Cantu, of the military program that supports off-duty, voluntary education programs for the Department of Defense.

“For instance, Soldiers can take their American College Testing (ACT), Functional Academic Skills Training (FAST) or Alternate Flight Aptitude Selection Test (AFAST), here,” she added.

ACT is used to evaluate candidates for military occupational specialty (MOS) changes, warrant officer training and officer candidate school. The FAST program targets Soldiers interested in improving their general technical score on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery. AFAST is used to evaluate candidates applying for admission to the Army flight program.



Pfc. Jill Logan (near) and Pfc. Tiffany Gordon (far), both paralegal specialists with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, take on-line courses in the computer lab of the Contingency Operating Base, Speicher Education Center, Oct. 15.

“Basically, there’s a lot of opportunity for Soldiers to (further their) educations while they’re deployed,” Cantu said. “You don’t have to use your G.I. Bill. The Army offers every Soldier \$4,500 annually in tuition assistance for college level classes, so why wait?”

Two Soldiers not waiting are Pfc. Tiffany Gordon and Pfc. Jill Logan, both paralegal specialists, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 25th CAB. Both arranged to take courses while in Hawaii

“I intended to go back to school and was a little concerned when I learned I was deploying,” Gordon said. “I always felt that if you want an education there is no excuse not to get it, so I enrolled with Chaminade and decided to take classes toward my Bachelor of Arts in criminal justice.”

Logan aspires to become an Army officer, making a college degree indispensable to her future career plans.

“I was excited to learn that I can use my tuition assistance and take classes while deployed,” Logan said. “Also, I feel like I am accomplishing something more while I’m here.

“I want to go home with a degree,” she added. “Here, I have more time to get my education because I am not dividing my time between my family and my career.”

“Take advantage of every opportunity the Army is giving you,” said Ralph Stewart, an education services specialist with the Department of the Army. “We all only have 24 hours in a day, but make the effort now.”

2-14 Cavalry closes first-ever 'mechanized' exercise in India

STAFF SGT. CRISTA YAZZIE
U.S. Army-Pacific Public Affairs

CAMP BUNDELA, India — Exercise Yudh Abhyas (YA) 2009, an annual bilateral battalion-level field training exercise between the Indian and U.S. armies, and the largest deployment of Strykers outside of Iraq and Afghanistan for Pacific Rim forces, concluded with a ceremony at the Babina Indian army base, Tuesday.

This year, the exercise joined two mechanized units for the first time — the Indian army's 7th Mechanized Infantry Battalion, 94th Armored Brigade, 31st Armored Division and the U.S. Army's 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, "Strykehorse," 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team.

"This exercise indeed is a landmark. For the Indian army, this is the biggest (exercise) we have done with any foreign army," said keynote speaker Lt. Gen. A.S. Sekhon, Indian army director of general military operations, who was joined by counterpart, Lt. Gen. Benjamin R. Mixon, commanding general, U.S. Army-Pacific.

"This has been a historic and exciting edition of Yudh Abhyas, with the inclusion of the Strykers from the U.S. Army," Mixon said. "This fighting vehicle is fully network-capable, and it has performed superbly in Iraq and Afghanistan and can be prepared for any contingency."

YA '09 consisted of two weeks of peacekeeping operations, along with the exchange of staff organizational tactics related to peace operations at various levels. Participants engaged in a variety of missions, from joint planning and executing, utilizing a variety of artillery ranges both in and out of vehicles, to cordon and search operations and search and rescue training.

"Yudh Abhyas '09 is an excellent example of opportunity for professional and cultural exchanges, teamwork, and most importantly, increasing our friendship," Mixon said. "Our goal is not just to maintain our relationship, but to broaden it and deepen it."



Staff Sgt. Crista Yazzie | U.S. Army-Pacific Public Affairs

Lt. Gen. Benjamin R. Mixon, right, commanding general, U.S. Army-Pacific, greets Indian army Lt. Gen. Rajinder Singh at the Exercise Yudh Abhyas '09 closing ceremony.



Sgt. 1st Class Rodney Jackson | 18th Medical Command Public Affairs

Members of the command staff, Lt. Gen. Benjamin R. Mixon, commanding general, U.S. Army-Pacific, and Lt. Gen. A.S. Sekhon, director general of Indian military operations, salute members of 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, "Strykehorse," 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, and the Indian army's 7th Mechanized Infantry Battalion, 94th Armored Brigade, 31st Armored Division, at the closing ceremony for Exercise Yudh Abhyas, Babina, India, Oct. 27.

The 17 Strykers played a vital role in this fifth iteration of the exercise, as the U.S. Soldiers had an opportunity to showcase one of the U.S.

Army's newest vehicles. "The Strykers provided an opportunity to demonstrate their capabilities to the Indian army,"

Mixon said to the formation of troops. "Likewise, our Soldiers were able to experience your [Indian army] equipment ... your tactics and techniques have taught us a great deal. We're proud to have been a participant in this exercise."

Armored vehicles the Indian army used during the exercise included the Boyevaya Mashina Pekhoty, or BMP, a Russian tank similar to the Bradley Tank, and the T-90, a Russian main battle tank, which is similar to the U.S. M1 Abrams tank. Soldiers from both units were embedded with one another for a number of missions and had multiple opportunities to train with each other's equipment.

"I got to use the Dragunov, their sniper rifle," said U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Erich Harp, operations noncommissioned officer, Troop C, 2-14th Cav. "It was highly accurate and easy to handle, and it was a unique opportunity to be able to engage targets with an allies weapon, which led us to a greater understanding of our mutual capabilities."

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Jim Isenhower, commander, 2-14th Cav., gave glowing reviews of the training.

"Yudh Abhyas '09 was not only characterized by tough and realistic training, but also by regular professional exchange in the form of combined lectures; routine athletic exchange in organized sports competitions; and extensive cultural exchange through shared meals, cultural celebrations and local tours," Isenhower said. "The operation was full-spectrum training along multiple lines of effort that allowed the squadron to redeploy as better trained Soldiers and more culturally astute professionals."

With all this positive exchange between both militaries, future Yudh Abhyas exercises are in the process of being planned.

"Next year we will see how we can take this cooperation forward and get on to conducting more exercises for the benefit of the two armies," Sekhon said.

'Strykehorse' launches first Javelin missile in India as part of training exercise

Story and Photo by
SGT. 1ST CLASS RODNEY JACKSON
18th Medical Command-Pacific Public Affairs

CAMP BUNDELA, India — The early morning sun had already risen enough to bring the temperature to 88 degrees, here.

Not quite as hot as in the days prior to this one, but just right for a trip to the firing range for the Soldiers assigned to Troop B, 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, "Strykehorse," 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team.

The unit arrived at the range mid-morning, Oct. 23, after a two-hour delay. Their mission was to fire the Javelin missile as part of Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2009.

No one was more anxious to get the show on the road than Sgt. Peter Bitter, cavalry scout team leader and Javelin/Stryker gunner.

It had been four years since Bitter finished the Javelin course, and due to the enormous expense of the missile, this was his first time firing a live missile.

"I've only fired dummy and simulation missiles," he said.

Regardless of the significant time since taking the course, Bitter is still well aware of what his job was and perfect hit on target is the only answer he'll accept.

"You have to make sure you find the target and get the right bracket targeting before you pull the trigger," he said, adding that the missile will do the rest by penetrating a tank and detonating inside.

"The Javelin can easily cover a 200-meter blast area," Bitter said. "If two vehicles are side-by-side, the missile may destroy them both."



Members of Javelin gunner team assigned to Troop B, 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, "Strykehorse," 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, complete the first Javelin missile firing in India as part of Yudh Abhyas '09 in Babina, India, Oct. 23.

Indian army soldiers were present to witness the highly anticipated missile firing. Their enthusiasm was obvious as they clamored to learn the specifications of the system.

The Indian soldiers, who are assigned

to the 31st Armored Division, said they had seen the Russian-made Kynkurs system, but never the Javelin. The only contact they had with the Javelin was through videos.

Thirty seconds before the launch,

the assistant gunner sounded the imminent firing. The rocket sound of the weapon was deafening.

"Yeah. Yes. Way to go Bitter," observers cheered.

Regardless of not firing in four years, Bitter was dead on target.

"That was outstanding," he exclaimed. "Every combat-related Soldier should be able to fire the Javelin at least once."

The other Soldiers in Troop B said they felt the same way and had confidence in Bitter the whole time.

"This is the best training possible, no training is better than live training," said Sgt. 1st Class William Drussell, platoon sergeant. "You would think if a Soldier hasn't fired in more than four years his skills would (have perished), this proves they (haven't)."

45th SB NCO named 8th TSC career counselor of the year for 2009

SGT. MAJ. TERRY ANDERSON
8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Ask anyone in Army recruiting or retention, and they'll tell you there is never an "off" day.

Career counselors must be ready at all times to "strike while the iron is hot" and re-enlist a Soldier, in order to achieve the mission and contribute to the overall readiness of the force.

To recognize the hard work career counselors do day in and day out, the 8th Theater Sustainment Command (TSC) named its top career counselor, following a selection board, here, Oct. 21.

"This was the first Career Counselor of the Year board we've held at the 8th TSC," said Sgt. Maj. Brad McDonell, command career counselor, 8th TSC. "Our (noncommissioned officers) work

hard to counsel Soldiers on the benefits of 'staying Army,' and the results have been fantastic."

Sgt. 1st Class Luis Sanchez, 45th Sustainment Brigade; Sgt. 1st Class Allen Runyon, 728th Military Police Battalion; and Sgt. 1st Class Derek Scott, 8th Special Troops Bn., took part in the competition.

Each noncommissioned officer (NCO) had to demonstrate knowledge in areas such as active duty and reserve component retention programs, current events and military programs. The counselors were evaluated on their confidence level, military appearance and ability to articulate their individual knowledge.



Sanchez

After the scores were tallied, the board declared Sanchez the winner, earning him the title of 8th TSC Career Counselor of the Year for 2009.

"I got into this competition to represent my unit," said Sanchez, a former recruiting station commander. "It's a huge honor for me personally to be named as Career Counselor of the Year."

Sanchez, a 17-year veteran, began his Army career as a logistics specialist and was detailed as a recruiter in 2001. He converted his military occupational specialty (MOS) to become a career recruiter in 2003, earned his Recruiting Ring for outstanding job performance, served as a

recruiting station commander, and now serves as a career counselor. He's seen many changes in recruiting and retention during the past eight years.

"The biggest difference I see is that Soldiers are enlisting and re-enlisting in the Army because of patriotism," Sanchez said. "Soldiers that join and stay in today's Army know what they are getting into, and it's a great feeling for me when we can keep them on the Army team."

Sanchez and the 8th TSC retention team organized a mass re-enlistment aboard the USS Missouri in Pearl Harbor, Oct. 1, re-enlisting 50 Soldiers on the historic battleship. That event got the new fiscal year off to a flying start for the retention team.

"(Sanchez) played a big part in getting the event set up, ensuring the Soldiers' paperwork was ready, and



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

executing the event," McDonell said. "I was extremely pleased with how the event turned out."

Sanchez now moves on to take part in the U.S. Army-Pacific Retention NCO competition in January, with the hopes of moving on to the Department of the Army competition in early 2010.



Sgt. Ricardo Branch | 8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs

Encouragement

FORT SHAFTER — Sgt. Maj. Paul Hughes, at left in the blue shirt, 8th Human Resources Support Center, 8th Theater Sustainment Command (TSC), encourages Soldiers from the 8th TSC to pull harder in a tug-of-war during the second 8th TSC Organizational Day, Oct. 23, here. The organizational day is a once yearly event that creates camaraderie and fellowship among the Soldiers and family members of the 8th TSC.

Sappers make a difference at museum

Volunteers help keep historical repository of 25th ID memorabilia an inviting atmosphere for guests

Story and Photo by
KYLE FORD
News Editor

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Soldiers and family members volunteered to make a difference, Oct. 24, at the Tropic Lightning Museum, here.

Soldiers traded in combat gear for paintbrushes to freshen up the museum during the annual Make A Difference Day celebration.

Make A Difference Day was created by *USA WEEKEND Magazine* as a national day of helping others — a celebration of neighbors helping neighbors.

“Due to our small staff, big projects like this can’t be done without help,” said Kathleen Ramsden, Tropic Lightning Museum technician. “Having volunteers help clean up gives the museum an inviting atmosphere for our guests.”

The combat engineers of 1st Platoon, 34th Sapper Company, 130th Engineer Brigade, were happy to give up their Saturday morning for a good cause.

“I do it because of karma,” said Pvt. Darrell Godfrey, combat engineer, 1st Platoon, 34th Sapper Co., 130th Eng. Bde. “If you help others out when they need it, you will get help when you need it.”

Other Soldiers felt the need to preserve unit history.

“It’s always good to know what you’re a part of and where you came from,” said Pvt. Ben Fecteau, combat engineer, 1st Platoon, 34th Sapper Co., 130th Eng. Bde.

The mission of the Tropic Lightning Museum is to collect, preserve, interpret and exhibit the artifacts and related memorabilia that reflect the history of Schofield Barracks and the 25th Infantry Division, from 1941 to the present. As an educational institution, the museum supports education and training for military and civilian personnel.

The museum is located in Building 361, Waianae Avenue, Schofield Barracks.



Pfc. Tyrone Clark, combat engineer, 34th Sapper Company, 130th Engineer Brigade, shows son, Mathias, 3, how to paint a bookshelf at the 25th Infantry Division Tropic Lightning Museum, here, during Make A Difference Day, Oct. 24.

Veterans’ legislation signed

SGT. 1ST CLASS MICHAEL J. CARDEN
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama signed new legislation, Oct. 22, that creates predictable funding for veterans’ health care.

The Veterans Healthcare Reform and Transparency Act fundamentally changes how the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) receives health care funding. The reform calls for appropriations a year in advance, after more than two decades of regular budget delays, Obama said from the White House East Room.

“Over the past two decades, the VA budget has been late almost every year, often by months,” the president said. “At this very moment, the VA is operating without a budget, making it harder for VA medical centers and clinics to deliver the care our vets need.”

Obama said that because of budget shortfalls, new doctors, nurses and critical staff aren’t hired on time. New health care facilities and programs often are put on hold, leaving veterans to pay the price for the government’s neglect.

“This is inexcusable. It’s unacceptable. It’s time for it to stop,” he said, “and that’s just what we’ll do with this landmark legislation.”

The law gives VA more funding predictability so officials can better budget their needs, recruit better-trained professionals, and upgrade equipment. Mostly, Obama said, the law gives veterans better access to quality care.

“In short, this is common-sense reform,” he said. “It promotes accountability at the VA. It en-

sure oversight by Congress. It is fiscally responsible by not adding a dime to the deficit, and it ensures that veterans’ health care will no longer be held hostage to the annual budget battles in Washington.

“Keeping faith with our veterans is work that is never truly done,” he continued. “Today’s veterans expect and deserve the highest quality care, as will tomorrow’s veterans, especially our men and women in Iraq and Afghanistan.”

Obama pledged his administration would continue its efforts to build a 21st-century VA. Since he’s taken office, the White House, VA and Pentagon have been working to “cut the red tape and backlogs,” he said.

He noted the administration has invested in mobile clinics to give veterans in rural areas better access, and cited the VA and Pentagon’s work to develop a single health care record for service members to make their transition out of the military a simpler

process.

Obama also vowed to end homelessness among veterans and praised the success of the Post-9/11 GI Bill, which offers qualified veterans better opportunities to attain higher education and training.

“All told, we have made the biggest commitment to veterans, the largest percentage increase in the VA budget in more than 30 years,” he said. “As a nation, we’ll pledge to fulfill our responsibilities to our veterans, because our commitment to our veterans is a sacred trust, and upholding that trust is a moral obligation.”



Obama

Obama abolishes personnel system, General Schedule will phase back

JIM GARAWONE
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama’s signature on the 2010 National Defense Authorization Act abolished a controversial pay-for-performance personnel system, Wednesday.

About 220,000 Defense Department employees who had come under the National Security Personnel System (NSPS) will transition back to the long-standing General Schedule (GS) system, but that will take time, a senior official said.

Tim Curry, acting program executive officer for NSPS, said the department could start transitioning employees in six months. The department has begun a comprehensive planning process, he explained, with the goal of ensuring a smooth and orderly transition of employees and organizations out of NSPS.

“The department is going to proceed deliberately and cautiously without unnecessary delay,” Curry said during an interview Wednesday.

The transition will take place organization by organization, he said, to minimize disruption. Meanwhile, employees under NSPS will remain in that system.

“It took three years to bring those 220,000 employees into the system,” Curry said. “Congress recognized that it was going to take time ... to do it right.”

The new law gives Defense Department officials six months to develop and submit a plan to Congress detailing the transition. The whole transition must be finished by Jan. 1, 2012.

“We will work under NSPS for the time being,

while we are working on the transition plan,” Curry said. “When we’re at the point where employees come out of the system, ... the law ensures that no employee’s pay will be reduced when converting out of NSPS.”

Employees outside of NSPS are not affected by the change.

Curry’s office is also studying the new law’s other civilian personnel ramifications. He said these include requirements for performance management, hiring flexibilities, training requirements and the department’s ability to go back to Congress for added personnel flexibilities.

“We’re looking at what that means and how to proceed,” Curry said. “We’re just assessing the impact and how to move forward.”

The major complaint about NSPS was that it was overly complicated and that no employee understood the pay pool process, Curry said, pledging that department officials will take the lessons from the NSPS experience as they move ahead.

“We’ll be particularly mindful of issues surrounding complexity and transparency,” he said. “Those are certainly important considerations to ensure employees understand, accept and buy into any rules that will be put in place.”

Civilian employees under NSPS finished a rating cycle at the end of September. These workers will receive performance ratings and payouts effective in January under NSPS, Curry said. A provision of the act requires that employees with Level 2 ratings or higher are guaranteed a pay increase in January that’s at least equivalent to the pay increase that applies to GS employees.

H1N1: Declaration avoids potential delay

CONTINUED FROM A-1

unprecedented steps to counter the emerging pandemic,” Obama said. “Nevertheless, the 2009 H1N1 pandemic continues to evolve. In recognition of the continuing progression of the pandemic, and in further preparation as a nation, we are taking additional steps to facilitate our response.”

The declaration grants authority to the Department of Health and Human Services to waive legal requirements and gives medical facilities the ability to set up alternate care sites, modify patient triage protocols, alter patient transfer procedures and take other actions to employ disaster operations and relief, Pentagon spokeswoman Rene White said.

Temporary waivers are petitioned to HHS by the individual medical facilities under Section 1135 of the Social Security Act. Although the president declared the pandemic a national emergency, waivers still require specific requests to HHS, and some state laws may need to be addressed, according to a White House statement released Sunday.

“The H1N1 (pandemic) is moving rapidly,” White said. “By the time regions or health care systems recognize they are becoming overburdened, they need to implement disaster plans quickly. Adding a potential delay while waiting for a national emergency



Find out more about H1N1 and seasonal flu, at www.flu.gov.

declaration is not in the best interest of the public, particularly if this step can be done proactively, as we are doing here.”

The most recent examples of a U.S. president granting Section 1135 waivers include the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Hurricanes Ike and Gustav in 2008, the North Dakota flooding in March, and as a protocol for January’s presidential inauguration.

Although thousands of U.S. servicemembers were called to duty in these events, the Defense Department does not anticipate a major call up of forces due to the H1N1, White said. However, the department is prepared to respond if needed.

“At this time, the Defense Department is evaluating the impacts the president’s declaration has on (Defense Department) H1N1 operations,” she added. “One of our first priorities right now continues to be vaccine availability and distribution — first protecting uniformed personnel, deployed (personnel), training sites, ships afloat and submarines, as well as our health care personnel.”

News Briefs

30 / Today

Dental Appointments Limited — Due to redeployment activities, routine dental appointments at all U.S. Army Dental Activity clinics at Tripler Army Medical Center and Schofield Barracks are limited through Dec. 18. Contact Sue Mendez-Johnson, 433-9200.

Fort Shafter USPS Hours Change — Effective Oct. 26, the Fort Shafter Post Office business hours will be Monday- Friday, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The Post Office is closed Saturdays, Sundays and all federal holidays. Call 832-0025.

Fort Shafter Legal Assistance Office Relocates — The Fort Shafter Legal Assistance and Claims Offices have relocated due to building renovations. They are now located on Fort Shafter Flats, Building 1599. Walk-in hours are from 9:30-4 p.m. Monday-Wednesday and Friday, and from 1-3 p.m. Thurs. Call 438-6725.

Red Cross Closure — The Schofield Barracks Red Cross service center is closed now through Nov. 12. For all emergency communication support, call the Service to the Armed Forces toll free number at 1-877-272-7337 (available 24/7). For immediate local inquiries, call the Station Manager at the Kaneohe Service Center at 257-8848 or send an e-mail to blapolice@hawaiiiredcross.org. The next CPR/First Aid class is scheduled Nov. 14, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

November

2 / Monday

Fort Shafter PX Parking Lot Repaving — The Fort Shafter PX Market parking lot will be repaved, Nov. 2-14. From Nov. 2-7, work will affect the East side of the parking lot (near the tennis courts and the Credit Union), and customers will be redirected to the entrance located on Pierce Street. From Nov. 9-14, work will affect the West side (Pierce Street), and customers will be redirected to the entrance at Wisser/Arsenal near the gas station.

WASP Temporary Closure — The Wheeler Ammunition Supply Point (WASP) will be closed Nov. 2-6 for quarterly inventory. The Training Ammunition Vehicle Holding Area will be available for munitions storage during this time. Emergency issues will be handled on a case-by-case basis and must be approved by Armell Armstead, Directorate of Logistics (DOL) Munitions Accountable Office, at 656-1649 or 226-8441; or by the the DOL supply branch chief, John Gearhartat, at 656-0817 or 227-2760.

3 / Tuesday

Macomb Gate and Road Closure — Macomb Gate and Macomb Road will be closed, Nov. 3-5, 8 a.m.-3 p.m., for the installation of holiday decorations and roadway repair work. Drivers are encouraged to use McNair or Foote gates. At the Flagler Road and Waianae Avenue intersection, two-lane traffic on Flagler will merge into one lane. Two-lane traffic on Waianae Avenue will also merge into one lane. For more information, call 655-1308.

Native American Heritage Observance — The 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, is hosting a Native American Heritage Month observance, Nov. 3, 10:30-noon, at Sgt. Smith Theater, Schofield Barracks with guest speaker Chief Redhawk.

Experience traditional dances and see artifact and educational displays while celebrating the contributions Native Americans have made to strengthen the spirit of the nation. K-Quad dining facility will offer a Native American menu for lunch, in conjunction with the observance. Contact Master Sgt. Ado at 655-6244.

5 / Thursday

ASAP Briefs — The Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) is hosting the following presentation on substance abuse: •John Miller, ASAP prevention coordinator, will brief substance abuse Nov. 5, 1-3 p.m., to event attendees at Richardson Theatre, Fort Shafter.

This presentation satisfies two of the four hours of a unit's annual alcohol and drug awareness training and the Department of the Army civilian two-hour requirement. Soldiers call Tracy Powell, Prevention Education, at 655-8322 for information.

Civilians call Cathy Heflin, Employee Assistance Program, at 655-6047 for information. Please notify ASAP at 655-9113, 10 days in advance, if interpretive services are needed. Parking is limited, so please consider carpooling.

6 / Thursday

CFC 2009 — The 2009 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) runs now through Nov. 6. The CFC is the world's largest and most successful annual workplace charity campaign, which raises millions of dollars to support nonprofit organizations throughout the world. Visit www.cfc-hawaii.org, or contact your unit representative to learn more.

10 / Tuesday

One Team Warrior Run — Motorists are urged to drive with caution and plan for potential delays, Nov. 10, during U.S. Army-Pacific's (USARPAC) "One

SEE NEWS BRIEFS, A-8

Army researches new energy technology

Partnerships in research help improve energy efficiency in Army vehicles

U.S. ARMY TANK AUTOMOTIVE, RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND ENGINEERING CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

News Release

DETROIT ARSENAL, Mich. — As the nation observes National Energy Awareness Month in October, the Army continues research on energy security, fuel efficiency and alternate power capabilities for its fleet of ground vehicles.

The U.S. Army Tank Automotive, Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC) in Warren, Mich., is developing technologies such as advanced batteries, hybrid electric powertrains, fuel cells, lightweight materials, clean fuels, streamlined designs, microgrids and robotics.

"The Army owns and operates the largest fleet of ground vehicles in the world, totaling almost half a million vehicles," said Dr. Grace Bochenek, director, TARDEC. "It is, therefore, crystal clear why ground vehicles are and should be a critical focus area for Army power and energy research and development."

TARDEC makes sure the government maximizes engineering, technology and program management benefits, Bochenek said. The command takes a systems-of-systems approach, looking at the whole spectrum to see where value can be added or technology can be better integrated, according to Bochenek.

Partnerships key in research

TARDEC has formed partnerships with industry and academia that focus on development of dual-use technologies.

In January, TARDEC partnered with government, academia and industry re-



Dave Skalny | U.S. Army Tank Automotive, Research, Development and Engineering Center Public Affairs

In the Tank Automotive, Research, Development and Engineering Center, (TARDEC) Electrochemical Analysis and Research Lab, TARDEC Engineer James Mainero checks voltage on a lithium ion module with a manganese-type chemistry for test and characterization.

searchers in the development of advanced vehicle batteries. This resulted in the Advanced Automotive Battery Initiative, which pursues development of cost-competitive, flexible, lightweight, reliable and domestically-sourced battery components and materials for application in military and commercial vehicles by 2015.

The initiative helped the organizations

involved in the project receive \$2.4 billion in federal battery and electric vehicle research grants earlier this year.

"We are leading development and integration of component technologies, both on our own and through leveraging our relationships in the scientific and automotive research communities," Bochenek said.

New laboratory to allow further research

In August, the organization broke ground on a 30,000-square-foot laboratory complex, the Ground System Power and Energy Laboratory (GSPEL), which will house vehicle research and development operations in eight independent facilities housed within the same building.

Facilities in the GSPEL include the following laboratories: Power and Energy Vehicle Environment, Power (Electrochemical), Electrical Power and Architecture Systems Integration, Hybrid-Electric, Fuel Cell, Pulse Power and Directed Energy, Thermal Management, and Air Filtration.

In these laboratories, TARDEC scientists and engineers will develop new ground fuels and lubricants, lightweight materials and structures, robotics, laser and imaging technologies, thermal and power management capabilities, alternate energy sources, reconfigurable vehicle platforms, advanced simulation and testing operations, energy storage systems and vehicle electronics, among other areas.

Once fully operational, the GSPEL will allow TARDEC to conduct research and development that will help meet Army energy security goals, according to Bochenek.

"We have to think about our power and energy needs in a holistic manner because it's the only way to derive the most value," Bochenek said. "Our energy solutions are designed to solve problems, and some of them will be game changers over time."

Recovery: Teams ensure safe water is available

CONTINUED FROM A-1

for American Samoa.”

The district currently has six subject matter experts, and 18 Soldiers from B Company, 249th Prime Power Engineer Battalion deployed in American Samoa. The district headquarters is facilitating project management, logistics, contracting, operations, personnel and funding support from Honolulu to the Soldiers and civilians on the ground in Samoa.

“In this emergency, our friends need help and the federal government, including FEMA and the Corps of Engineers, has responded aggressively,” said Brig. Gen. Mark Yenter, commander, USACE-Pacific Ocean Division. “I am very proud of the support our federal employees and Soldiers have provided. We have a long way to go, and we will get there together.”

The Corps is executing emergency power missions; constructing temporary structures to serve as interim schools; conducting damage assessments on federal projects;and providing technical assistance for debris removal, temporary housing and water/wastewater.

“Our team on the ground is experiencing the great rewards that come from selfless service to those who need it the most,” Henderson said.

The Honolulu District water/wastewater subject matter expert, Michael Wong, who recently returned from Samoa, said that with the help of the supplemented power, all connected customers on the island had safe drinking water within one week of the disaster.

The Corps has been and will continue to provide emergency power support until the American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA) can stabilize the grid and restore power generation capacity. The Satuala Power Plant, one of the two power stations on the island of Tutuila, was severely damaged in the tsunami and is not operational. The Tafuna Power Plant is running at full capacity but under the



Donald Schlack | U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Honolulu District

Geoffrey Lee, right, manager, Power Planning Response Team (PRT), and Jay Kashiwamura, left, mission specialist, Power PRT, work inside a FEMA igloo, which serves as a temporary office in the power generator staging area used to establish portable satellite communication links during the Corps' power mission.

threat of full system overload and failure.

To relieve some of the stress to the Tafuna Power Plant, the Soldiers of the 249th Eng. Bn. installed 46 generators and four transformers of various sizes in several locations to generate nine megawatts of power for island usage. Most of the generator sets were installed directly onto the grid, which is not a traditional mission for the 249th and is considerably more dangerous.

“This is a rare task for the Corps to support the whole power system and augment the power station grid,” said Cindy Barger, a mission manager for the Honolulu District Power Planning and Response Team (PRT). “Usually the Power PRT in-

stalls smaller individual generators at essential public facilities like hospitals, emergency management centers, and water or waste water pump stations.”

“We are confronting new challenges every day, but we work to resolve them in new ways,” said Don Schlack, a Honolulu District Power PRT subject matter expert currently deployed to Samoa. “We are supplying communities with power that otherwise would be blacked out.”

FEMA has also tasked the Corps with constructing 12 buildings to serve as five temporary schools in communities that were heavily damaged or destroyed in the tsunami. Construction of

these facilities is expected to be complete by Dec. 15.

“This will allow the community to get the kids back in school and continue the road to recovery,” said Joel Hendrix, emergency management division chief, Honolulu District.

The Honolulu District is establishing a temporary project office in Samoa to execute current FEMA mission assignments and any future missions that are assigned in support of the American Samoa recovery effort. The American Samoa government and FEMA continue to work together on the best plan for a full recovery.

“Make no mistake about it, the government and the people of American Samoa are in charge of this recovery,” Yenter said. “The Pacific Ocean Division and the Honolulu District have worked closely with the Government of the Territory of American Samoa for many decades. Their pride in community service and teamwork is inspiring. I know American Samoa will recover from this tragedy and be stronger than ever.”

USACE personnel and 249th Eng. Bn. Prime Power Soldiers have consistently been working 13- to 15-hour days since their deployment to Samoa, with unreliable and sporadic communications and severe weather conditions.

“This has been a great team effort,” said Hendrix. “Everyone coordinated so we could combine and focus our efforts on the small footprint of manpower downrange.”

An Independent Assistance and Assessment Team from the USACE headquarters is in Honolulu this week to review the response effort on a corporate level and to prepare for the Corps' next natural emergency response mission.

The USACE priorities in disaster response are supporting the immediate emergency response requirements; sustaining lives with critical commodities and temporary emergency power; and initiating recovery efforts by assessing and restoring critical infrastructure.

News Briefs

From A-7

Team Warrior Run,” beginning at 6:30 a.m. The four-mile run, which will start and end at Palm Circle, is estimated to last 1.5 hours and will take runners throughout the installation, causing traffic delays. No roads will be closed during the run. For more information, call Master Sgt. Kualii Makaneole, US-ARPAC operations, at 438-2438.

**19 / Thursday
Redeployment Ceremony** – The 25th Infantry Division will host a redeployment ceremony, Nov. 19, starting at 10 a.m., at Sills Field, Schofield Barracks. Division Soldiers recently redeployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom will be formally honored. For more information contact the U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Public Affairs Office at 656-3157. This ceremony will impact

installation traffic with the temporary closure of a portion of Cadet Sheridan Road, from Kolekole Avenue to Trimble Road.

“A Tropic Homecoming” redeployment celebration is scheduled, Nov. 19, starting at 4 p.m. at Sills Field, Schofield Barracks. The USO-sponsored event will feature a free concert by country music star Lee Ann Womack. Check back for more details.

Ongoing

Schofield Occupational Health Clinic Closure – The Occupational Health Clinic at Schofield Barracks is temporarily closed through Dec. 13 due to personnel deployments and service upgrades.

Services will be centralized at the Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC) Occupational Health Clinic. For deploy-

ment, pre-employment or commercial driver's license physicals, call: Occupational Health Clinic, 433-6835, or Joanna Ling at 433-5703.

For annual occupational medical surveillance exams (asbestos, child care provider, respirator use) call the Tripler Occupational Health Clinic at 433-6835, if exams cannot be postponed until after Dec. 13.

For health screenings of new personnel, students, contractors and American Red Cross volunteer in-processing, please report to the Tripler Occupational Health Clinic on Mon-

days or Wednesdays, 8-11 a.m. Call 433-6835.

Kolekole Pass Hours of Operation – Kolekole Pass, the road that connects Schofield Barracks to the Waianae coast through Naval Magazine-Lualualei, is open Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Traffic is permitted to drive from Waianae to Schofield, 7-11:45 a.m., and traffic is permitted to drive from Schofield to Waianae, noon-5:30 p.m. The pass is closed weekends and holidays, and operation times are subject

to change due to training or inclement weather.

Motorists are urged to call 668-3007 before attempting to access the pass.

DPW Assistance Online – The Directorate of Public Works (DPW) has an online customer service/assistance handbook to provide guidance for all those requiring DPW services at <https://dpwhawaii.army.mil/general/customerhandbook.aspx>.

For more information, contact Camille Howe, DPW program analyst, at 656-5281.



Capt. Hope Woods | 205th Military Intelligence Battalion

Staff Sgt. Charles Nurnberger, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 205th Military Intelligence Battalion, prepares to donate blood, Oct. 19.

Donate: Blood to go to deployed troops

CONTINUED FROM A-1

Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 205th MI Bn. motor pool, felt similarly.

“It’s for our Soldiers,” Nurnberger said. “To me, there’s nothing more important than doing my part in helping them, even if it’s something small like a pint of blood.”

“Our donors are amazing,” Lele said. “Usually only 5 percent of the general population donates blood. In a military environment, the percentage tends to shrink, based on duty locations in Europe during certain periods that prevent a person from donating.



“That said, I still see the same folks coming back, every two to three months, to give of their time and blood to help out their fellow service members, wherever they may be,” Lele added.

One of the biggest blood drive challenges is finding unit Soldiers to volunteer to sponsor a blood drive. Individuals who volunteer with the ASBP, help set up the drive location, and market the drive to potential donors culminating in a high turnout,

Blood donor criteria

- Weigh at least 110 pounds
- Be at least 17 years of age
- Have been feeling well for at least three days
- Be well hydrated
- Have eaten something prior to donating
- No travel to Iraq or Afghanistan within the past 12 months
- Cannot have spent 5 months or more in the United Kingdom from January 1980 - December 1996 (cumulative)
- Cannot have spent 6 months or more in Europe from January 1980- December 1996 (cumulative)
- Cannot have lived in Europe from January 1980 – present, for greater than 5 years (cumulative)

are the ones who make a blood drive successful, according to Lele.

People interested in sponsoring a blood drive can contact Lele at 433-6699.

Thieves: Large haul from unsecured cars

CONTINUED FROM A-1

to breaking into nine vehicles the night he was apprehended and more than 150 vehicles the days preceding his arrest,

according to Sharrock.

A search of the suspect’s residence resulted in the recovery of two stolen GPS systems, 10 stolen iPods, seven cameras, 12 knives, two video cameras, video games,

credit cards and \$111 in U.S. currency.

“The bottom line is lock your belongings up,” Brown said. “When you leave things unsecured, you make it easier for someone to steal from you.”



Courtesy Photo

Money, iPods, cameras and weapons were among the items stolen from unlocked vehicles in the housing community.

Safety: Progam pairs old, new motorcyclists

CONTINUED FROM A-1

“It’s a program designed to pair new riders with more experienced riders, who can share their experiences on the road,” said Sgt. Maj. James Van Sciver, G-2 sergeant major, 8th TSC. “[The Soldiers] learn from each other to be safer riders.”

The program, which was created in conjunction with the 8th TSC safety office and local Army riders, have one aim in mind – promoting safety.

“First and foremost, active participation is important for this program’s success,” Van Sciver said. “Ultimately, our goal is to increase rider awareness, thereby

increasing personal safety and enjoyment in riding motorcycles safely.”

The program, which is in its infancy, brings the motorcyclist community together, quarterly, in command-driven events. These events include safety rides and informative classes, which promote camaraderie among Army motorcycle enthusiasts in Hawaii.

“There’s a lot more danger with getting on a bike,” Van Sciver said. “Our program is not a skill teaching class; it’s a class to share experiences with other riders.”

Hershfeld said the program is a great start for new riders.

“I wish this program would have been around a couple months ago because it can

really help lots of people with a motorcycle,” he said. “The classes will help us all understand roadway safety.”

Van Sciver said the class will bring the combined knowledge of every participant together. Riders will learn how to how handle their bikes under any road conditions, arming them with the knowledge to succeed.

As the program picks up steam, Van Sciver looks forward to the experience of helping more Soldiers be safe, and offers one piece of advice for the upcoming participants in the program:

“Get trained, don’t take it for granted, understand your surroundings and drive safe.”

HAWAII ARMY WEEKLY

PAU HANA

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

“When work is finished!”

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2009

The half-mile-wide Halemaumau crater, located in the much larger Kilauea crater, continues to hiss and steam daily. Excellent views of the crater can be seen from the Jagger Museum, which is a few minutes walk from the Kilauea Military Camp in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. Photo Courtesy of Kilauea Military Camp

Big Island

getaway

Military resort explodes with activity

BILL MOSSMAN

Staff Writer

KILAUEA MILITARY CAMP, Big Island — Nestled within the vast acres of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, and just below the rim of the Kilauea caldera, sits one of the 50th State's truly idyllic getaways for service members and their families.

For nearly a century, the mountainside resort known as Kilauea Military Camp (KMC) has served as a principal destination for both the adventurous and the weary. For the former, it's the chance to personally witness steaming craters, crunch across rocky lava fields or wind through lush tropical forests. For the latter, it's the opportunity to exhale and relax a bit, following months of service downrange.



Above it all — and we're talking some 4,000 feet of elevation here — is the tranquil serenity of life in the highlands, where the charm of this chilly and secluded piece of the country easily outshines the glitter of Waikiki.

Or, as camp director Marc Swanson explained when describing the place, “It's like a very, very small village that's particularly inviting for families, and with very little traffic.”

Automobiles may indeed be scarce in these parts, but humans are plentiful. Even in tough economic times, the resort continues to thrive, attracting between 50,000 and 60,000 active duty and retired military personnel to its cozy confines each year, according to marketing manager Arlene Bali.

Helping to keep the masses flowing to this Big Island hot spot are scores of on-site recreational activities. Guests find themselves feeling right at home on the camp's volleyball, tennis or basketball courts, or within its equally inviting bowling alley and theater.

In addition, there's a general store, a post office and a chapel, as well as the nearby Jagger Museum and Hawaiian Volcano Observatory, for those who simply wish to hang out within in the park's premises. For guests who prefer venturing off-site,



Photos by Amy L. Bugala U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Public Affairs

A hiker looks down into a steaming vent along a trail from Kilauea Military Camp to the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park visitors center.

tour busses are available to transport them to popular destinations around the Big Island, including the Punaluu Black Sand Beach, on an almost daily basis.

“There's a little bit of something here for everyone,” Swanson confirmed.

Even historical figures have felt the lure of KMC. Before Dwight Eisenhower became the 34th President of the United States, for example, he was a 5-star general with the U.S. Army and one-time visitor to the resort.

Now known as the Eisenhower House, the two-bedroom cabin where “Ike” stayed, recently underwent a face-lift. The idea behind the full restoration project, Swanson explained, was to bring the rustic cabin into the future, and in line with

KMC's 90 other guest suites, all of which are equipped with modern-day amenities.

“It looks great,” said Swanson of the Eisenhower House, where work was completed this past summer. “Plus we were able to save money by not having to contract outside. The work, in fact, was done by many of our own employees.”

But KMC's main draw for guests, famous or not, continues to be the awesome yet threatening power of Kilauea Volcano.

In the past 25 years, there have been only two full-scale evacuations of the site due to volcanic eruptions, according to Mardie Lane, a park ranger and public affairs officer for the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. The more frequent danger, she added, has to do with day-to-day air



The Kilauea Military Camp lodge, within the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, sits at an elevation of 4,000 feet above sea level. The camp occupies 56 acres of the 300,000 plus acres of the park.



A lone hiker momentarily hides from the sun along a tropical rainforest trail around Kilauea.

quality. For that reason, park rangers are constantly checking the levels of sulfur dioxide in and around the crater.

“We monitor the air 24-7, but people still come to the park with their usual trepidation,” Lane said,

adding that fear levels drop dramatically once guests catch their first glimpse of the beauty of Kilauea. “For them, the volcano draws them in because it's a primal, charismatic force. It's really mesmerizing.”

Beyond the fiery display of Kilauea, there are numerous hiking trails, through rainforests or along lava fields, for visitors to enjoy. Among the more popular excursions are Devastation Trail, a one-kilometer walk through a once-forested area buried by pumice following an eruption in 1959; Devil's Throat, a collapsed crater located along the east rift zone; and Puu Loa Petroglyph Trail, a short hike to a boardwalk that encircles thousands of ancient Hawaiian petroglyphs, many of which have been scratched into the pahoehoe (smooth, unbroken) lava.

Lane, who, accompanied by her family, first hiked into the caldera at age 3, says that Kilauea should be experienced by one and all.

“I'm still inspired by this place,” she said. “I still love the feel of the chill in the air, or the smell of the wood-burnt surroundings, or the panoramic views of the ocean, ... Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea.

“In so many ways,” Lane added, “I feel privileged to work here.”

Established in 1916 by a group of entrepreneurs from Hilo, KMC served as a training ground for the National Guard and as a vacation spot for U.S. Army members. When the venture proved unprofitable, the businessmen asked the Army to assume management responsibilities in 1921.

Today, the camp occupies 56 acres of the more than 300,000 acres at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, and operates under a joint Armed Forces agreement and a special use permit obtained from the U.S. National Park Service.

Holiday Specials at Kilauea Military Camp

Soldiers and family members are encouraged to take advantage of several special offers at Kilauea Military Camp (KMC) during the holiday season. The specials include:

- A \$50 dining credit at the resort's Crater Rim Café for service members who make reservations for three nights or more at the resort. The offer is good through Nov. 25.
- To download a coupon flier, visit the Web site, www.kmc-volcano.com.
- A free meal for all veterans who attend the KMC Veterans' Day ceremony and dinner, Nov. 11.
- Non-veterans are also invited and will enjoy dinner at a reduced price. Also, veterans will gain free admission to the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park on the holiday. To make dinner reservations, call 967-8371.
- A Thanksgiving Day dinner, consisting in part of roast turkey and honey-glazed ham, is scheduled Nov. 26. Adults pay \$19.95, children ages 6-11 pay \$10.

In addition to these specials, KMC is also asking guests to begin making room reservations for the inaugural Volcano Village Rainforest Run, scheduled Aug. 21, 2010.

Online reservations start Nov. 1 at the Web site, www.volcanoartcenter.org.

For more information on KMC, call 967-8333 or direct dial from Oahu at 438-6707.

For more information on the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, visit www.nps.gov.



30 / Today

Hawaiian Luau at PARC – Experience old Hawaii at the Piliiaau Army Recreation Center (PARC) luau, today, 6 p.m., on the Sunset Café lanai. Parties of four or more should call to reserve seating at 696-4778. Blue Star Card holders receive a 10-percent discount.

Mark your calendars for the next luau scheduled to take place, Nov. 13 and 27, and Dec. 11. PARC is open to all active and retired military, members of the Reserve and National Guard, and active and retired Department of Defense civilian employees, including Coast Guard, family members and sponsored guests.

Waikiki Express – The Waikiki Express rides twice this weekend, today and again for Halloween, Oct. 31, 9 p.m.-4 a.m. Let the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Waikiki Express be your own personal chauffeur for traveling to Waikiki.

The bus is free, but tickets are required and available at the Information, Ticketing and Registration (ITR) offices. All riders must have a ticket to board the bus.

Pick-ups are available at both Schofield Barracks and Fort Shafter. Call 655-9971 or 438-1985. The bus rides again Nov. 6.

November

3 / Tuesday

Holiday Scrapbooking – Bring your own supplies and use our tools in this holiday layout challenge, Nov. 3, 6-8 p.m., at the Schofield Barracks Arts and Crafts Center. Cost is just \$5. Project ideas will be supplied or work on your own project. Call 655-4202.

4 / Wednesday

Ukulele Workshop – Steven Cupchoy will present an informative and entertaining ukulele workshop, Nov. 4, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Sgt. Yano Library, Schofield Barracks. The workshop will provide basic information on the history of the ukulele in Hawaii and demonstrations on how to play. Call 655-8002.

6 / Friday

Family Fun Friday – Family Fun Friday is back at the Tropics, Schofield Barracks, Nov. 6, 6 p.m., with free Papa John's pizza, games and contests the whole family will enjoy. Check out the HDTV Nintendo Wii, PS3 and Xbox 360 games, or play a game of pool, darts, air hockey, table tennis, beach volleyball and



Send announcements to community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com

30 / Today

Furlough Fridays Survey – The U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii has extended the Furlough Friday participation survey to Nov. 9. Take a moment to complete this survey, as your input is vital to planning and developing programs for Army student educational enrichment opportunities during these unforeseen breaks in the school year. Visit www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil, click on the “Furlough Friday” link on the left, and make your input count.

Dental Appointments Limited – Due to redeployment activities, routine dental appointments at all U.S. Army Dental Activity clinics at Tripler Army Medical Center and Schofield Barracks are limited through Dec. 18. Contact Sue Mendez-Johnson, 433-9200.

November

3 / Tuesday

Ask The Commander – The next “Ask the Commander” community television taping is scheduled, Nov. 3, 3-4 p.m., at the Schofield Barracks PX. U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii community members are encouraged to ask their questions on camera during an open session.

Questions for the commander can also be submitted by e-mail, at any time, to askthecommander.usaghi@us.army.mil or online at the “Ask the Commander” mailbox link at www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil.

PWOC Fall Program – The Protestant



2nd Lt. Julianne Barcia | 500th Military Intelligence Brigade Public Affairs

Cult of Personalities

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Dressed as a cult leader, Capt. Christopher Robertson, center, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 500th Military Intelligence Brigade leads more than 35 Soldiers along Waianae Avenue on a company costume run Thursday morning. Dressed as a diehard Indianapolis Colts fan, 1st Sgt. Jeffrey McKinley, far left, kept the costumed bunch in step.

much more. Call 655-5698.

7 / Saturday

Scuffle on Schofield: Homebound Heroes – Enjoy the best Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) fighting Hawaii has to offer with a new and improved “Scuffle on Schofield” event, Nov. 7, at the Martinez Physical Fitness Center. If you saw the last fight, this one is a must-see and bigger than ever. Undercard matches start at 5 p.m., and the main fights kick off at 7 p.m. Call 655-5698.

10 / Tuesday

Card Making & Rubber Stamping – Learn new techniques with stamps, inks and more, and make your very own holiday cards, Nov. 10, 6-8 p.m., at the Schofield Barracks Arts and Crafts Center. Cost is \$10 and covers the class and all supplies. The class will be offered again, Nov. 24. Call 655-4202.

13 / Friday

Fort Shafter Holiday Craft Sale – The annual Fort Shafter Holiday Craft Sale is on again, Nov. 13, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., and Nov. 14, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Fort Shafter Arts and Crafts Center. Great deals will be offered on some of the most unique hand-crafted holiday gifts on the island. Call 438-1315.

17 / Tuesday

Holiday Scrapbooking – Bring your

own supplies and use our tools in this holiday layout challenge, Nov. 17, 6-8 p.m., at the Schofield Barracks Arts and Crafts Center. Cost is \$5. Project ideas will be supplied or work on your own. Call 655-4202.

19 / Thursday

USO Presents: A Tropic Homecoming – Country music superstar Lee Ann Womack will be headlining a Tropic Homecoming celebration, Nov. 19, starting at 4 p.m. on Sills Field, Schofield Barracks. Enjoy lots of food, fun and entertainment.

Bring your own low-back chairs or blankets. Pets, glass and grills will not be allowed at this event. Call 655-0112/3.

High School Musical 2 – The sequel to last year's smash Army Community Theatre Hit, High School Musical 2, premieres at the theatre Nov. 19, 7:30 p.m. Additional performances are scheduled Nov. 20, 21, 27, 28 and Dec. 4 and 5, at 7:30 p.m. each evening.

Tickets cost \$12-\$20 and are available at www.armytheatre.com. Call 438-4480.

Poker Tournament – The next Texas Hold 'Em tournament takes place, Nov. 19, 6:30-9:30 p.m., at the Tropics, Schofield Barracks. Card players can test their skills against the best-of-the-best poker players on post. All ID cardholders 18 and older are welcome. Call 655-5698.

and baked goods sale, Nov. 7, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Event is open to the public. Free on-site parking is available. Contact the Village at 677-0110 or visit www.hawaiiplantationvillage.org.

10 / Tuesday

Photographer's Night – Get behind the lens and experience life from a fish eye's view, Nov. 10, 6-7:30 p.m., at the Waikiki Aquarium. Professional photographers will assist and offer tips to amateur photographers in an after-hours aquarium experience.

Attendees will have an opportunity to have their art displayed on the aquarium Web site.

This activity is recommended for photographers ages 16 and up. Cost is \$10 or \$8 for Friends of the Waikiki Aquarium members. Pre-registration required. For more information call 440-9011 or visit www.waquiurium.com.

11 / Wednesday

Wahiawa Veteran's Day Parade – The Wahiawa Lions will host its 64th Annual Veteran's Day Parade, Nov. 11, beginning at 10 a.m. with a joint services color guard. The Royal Hawaiian Band will lead the parade from Kaala Elementary School up California Avenue to Fred Wright District Park.

The grand marshal is retired Army Col. Bert Nishimura, a member of the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team. The program will also feature a flag-raising ceremony, massing of the colors and display of military equipment.

For more information, call Donald Sagara at 621-0115.

12 / Thursday

Hui O Wahine Monthly Luncheon – Join the south community spouses' club, the Hui O Wahine, for their monthly luncheon, Nov. 12, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Hale Ikena, Fort Shafter. The luncheon will feature a “Make it, Fake it, Bake it” basket auction.

Tickets are \$15, and reservations are required by Nov. 5, 3 p.m. Contact Kelli Un-

Precious Metal Clay Workshop – Learn the basics of working with precious metal clay, Nov. 19, 9 a.m.-noon, at the Schofield Barracks Arts and Crafts Center. Cost is \$35 and includes all supplies.

Crafters will walk away from this program with a new pendant or a pair of earrings. Call 655-4202.

20 / Friday

Health and Fitness Fair – Enjoy an evening of healthy activities, Nov. 20, 4-8 p.m., at the Martinez Physical Fitness Center, Schofield Barracks.

Fitness assessments, information booths, door prizes, refreshments and more will be available. For more information call 655-4804.

Ongoing

Wishing Tree – When a loved one is deployed, those left behind are full of wishes: that he'll be safe, that she'll be home soon, that the children will adjust to the separation.

The staff at the Sgt. Yano Library has created a “wishing tree” as a place to collect wishes, hopes and prayers from friends and family of deployed Soldiers.

Everyone is welcome to make a wish on a paper leaf or heart, which will be displayed on the tree. For more information call 655-8002.

derhill at huireservations@yahoo.com or 888-5754.

To donate baskets, contact Cyndi Gilbert at huivice@yahoo.com or 744-7911, by Nov. 9. Visit www.huispirit.com.

Hui O Na Wahine Basket Auction – The north community spouses' club, the Hui O Na Wahine, is hosting its annual “Make it, Bake it, Fake it” basket and wreath auction, Nov. 12, 6-8 p.m., at the Nehelani, Schofield Barracks.

A variety of themed baskets and items will be auctioned off with all proceeds going towards scholarship and welfare grants. While bidding, participants can enjoy heavy pupus and cocktails.

Tickets are \$15, and reservations are requested by Nov. 8. Contact sm-lawrence@hawaii.rr.com. Child care is not available. Bring items to donate to the Fisher House, and receive free opportunity tickets.

Visit www.schofieldspousesclub.com.

Hula Festival – The 18th Annual Hula Festival will be held Nov. 12-14, at the Waikiki Shell. Doors open at 4 p.m. each day. Hula artists from 16 countries will celebrate everything natural in Hawaiian culture.

Performances, although judged by 21 of hula's most prestigious keepers of the art, remain a continuous cultural education and spiritual discipline.

Tickets are from \$10-\$35 a day, to \$90 for the entire weekend. Visit www.worldhula.com for more information.

21 / Saturday

MCCW Fall Retreat – The Aliamanu Military Reservation Chapel, Military Council of Catholic Women (MCCW) is hosting its fall retreat to the North Shore Benedictine Monastery, Nov. 21, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. The theme will be “Stewardship” with discussions and Mass.

Child care is available. Children must be registered to receive this service. For reservations or child care, contact Katie Hanna at 744-1285 or mccwhawaii@yahoo.com.



Additional religious services, children's programs, educational services and contact information can be found at www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil. (Click on “Religious Support Office” under the “Directorates and Support Staff” menu).

AMR: Aliamanu Chapel
FD: Fort DeRussy Chapel
FS: Fort Shafter Chapel
HMR: Helemano Chapel
MPC: Main Post Chapel, Schofield Barracks
PH: Aloha Jewish Chapel, Pearl Harbor
TAMC: Tripler Army Medical Center Chapel
WAAF: Wheeler Army Airfield Chapel

Buddhist Services

•First Sunday, 1 p.m. at FD
•Fourth Sunday, 1 p.m. at MPC Annex

Catholic Masses

•Friday, 9 a.m. at AMR
•Saturday, 5 p.m. at FD, TAMC and WAAF chapels
•Saturday, 6 p.m. a Hawaiian-style Mass (May-Aug. only) near the Army Museum (FD)
•Sunday services:
-7:30 a.m. at WAAF
-8 a.m. at AMR
-10:30 a.m. at MPC Annex
-11 a.m. at TAMC
•Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 11:45 a.m. at MPC
•Monday-Friday noon at TAMC

Gospel Worship

•Sunday, noon at MPC
•Sunday, 12:30 p.m. at AMR

Islamic Prayers and Study

•Friday, 1 p.m.
•Saturday and Sunday, 5:30 a.m., 6, 7 and 8 p.m. at MPC Annex

Jewish Shabbat (Sabbath)

•Monday, 6 p.m. at PH (Bible Study)
•Friday, 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, 8:15 a.m. at PH

Orthodox Divine Liturgy

•Sunday, 9 a.m. at TAMC

Pagan (Wicca)

•Friday, 7 p.m. at MPC Annex

Protestant Worship

•Sunday Services
-9 a.m. at FD, FS, MPC, TAMC and WAAF chapels
-10 a.m. at AMR and HMR



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



Aliens in the Attic

(PG)
Fri., Oct. 30, 6 p.m.

All About Steve

(PG-13)
Fri., Oct. 30, 8:30 p.m.
Sun., Nov. 1, 4 p.m.
Thur., Nov. 5, 7 p.m.



Monsters vs. Aliens

(PG)
Sat., Oct. 31, 2 p.m.

Halloween 2

(R)
Sat., Oct. 31, 7 p.m.

No shows on Mondays or Tuesdays. Closed Wednesday for Town Hall meeting.

Knights serve up a warm welcome to returning warriors

KYLE FORD
News Editor

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — The fourth annual Soldier Appreciation Breakfast treated more than 300 Soldiers and family members to a hot meal at the Main Post Chapel Annex, here, Sunday.

Following Mass, which was presided over by the Archbishop for Military Services Timothy Broglio, members of the Knights of Columbus councils, 14663, St. John Apostle and Evangelist, in Mililani; and 6302, Our Lady of Sorrows, in Wahiawa; as well as the St. Damien church community, served up heaping plates of eggs, potatoes, rice and sausage to returning warriors and families.

“Every year we try and coordinate this breakfast to coincide with either a big deployment or redeployment to show the troops what they mean to us,” said Matt Momiya, Knights of Columbus, council 6302, Wahiawa. “This year, we based the breakfast on the deployment cycle of when the 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team got back. That it happened while the Archbishop for the Military Services was in Hawaii was just divine intervention.”

Soldiers returning from Iraq were happy to be recognized with the meal.

“It’s nice to come home and feel welcomed by



Members of the Knights of Columbus serve breakfast to the crowd after Mass during the 4th Annual Soldier Appreciation Breakfast, at the Schofield Barracks Main Post Chapel Annex, Sunday.

the community,” said returning warrior Lt. Col. Robert Jean, commander, 4th Military Transition Team, Headquarters and Headquarters Com-

pany (HHC), 25th Infantry Division (ID).

The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic, charitable, fraternal organization that supports the

Catholic church, programs of evangelization and Catholic education, civic involvement and aid to those in need.

Momiya said the Hawaii councils of the Knights put this breakfast together, “because most of us are retired military, and it’s a great way we can support our Soldiers.”

“What better way [is there] to show your appreciation, than to treat Soldiers and their families to a nice, relaxing meal?” Momiya asked.

“[The breakfast] is something they have been doing for years,” said Lt. Col. Sue Ting, deputy inspector general, 25th ID, who recently returned from Iraq. “It brings folks together in a social environment, out of work, to enjoy camaraderie and fellowship. It’s extra nice to have the archbishop here with us. The timing was great because most of us are back now.”

One Soldier had a unique perspective on the event.

“As a Soldier, the breakfast lets us know that we’re appreciated for what we do overseas,” said Sgt. 1st Class Derek Wise, scout platoon sergeant, HHC, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, and member of the Knights of Columbus. “As a Knight, this event gets people in the community and brings them together in the spirit of fellowship. Additionally we hope people decide to look closer at our organization.”

AHFH celebrates Arbor Day and the preservation of local trees

ARMY HAWAII FAMILY HOUSING
News Release

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Trees may be the most important feature of our landscape. They provide beauty and enjoyment through their many forms, colors, flowers and fruits. They also provide benefits not visible to the naked eye and enhance our environment by producing oxygen, storing carbon, cooling streets, preventing erosion and filtering noise and pollutants.

Take a stroll through a new Army Hawaii Family Housing (AHFH) community, and you can’t miss the hundreds of grand, mature trees that were retained during development.

When developer Actus Lend Lease came in, urban planning teams designed streets, homes, walking and biking trails around existing trees, and relocated hundreds more to other locations within the garrison’s communities.

The tree preservation project was so significant that The Outdoor Circle, an organization focused on protecting the beauty of Hawaii, presented Actus and AHFH with the Hibiscus Award, its most prestigious honor.

Building on this achievement, AHFH has been working closely with garrison leadership in the hopes of earning national recognition as a Tree City USA.

Arbor Day is a great way for everyone to experience the kind of hope that comes with planting trees. Families are invited to participate in the second AHFH Arbor Day celebration, Nov. 6, 10 a.m., at Schofield Barrack’s Kaena Community Center, located behind the Kalakaua Community. This year’s celebration includes the seedling plantings, as well as a fun activity for keiki.

SYNERGY Fun

Following Arbor Day celebrations, AHFH families are invited to spend a fun-filled afternoon at SYNERGY Kid’s Club events taking place, 3:30-5 p.m., at the Kalakaua Community Center, Schofield Barracks, and at the Aliamanu Military Reservation (AMR) Community Center.

Hands-on energy conservation and Arbor Day activities, perfect for youth 5-12 years of age, will take place at the AMR Community Center, and a feature movie and Arbor Day activities are planned at the Kalakaua Community Center.

Both events are sure to put the fun back into learning and give parents a few hours to relax at



Mark Brown | Army Hawaii Family Housing

An Albizzia tree, approximately 50-70 years old, provides shade in a field behind the Porter Community Center, Schofield Barracks.

Kalakaua’s Muddy Waters Café, go for a stroll, or get in a quick workout at one of the community fitness centers.

To participate in Arbor Day and SYNERGY events, R.S.V.P. to SYNERGY@armyhawaiiifh.com. Light refreshments will be served.



Find tips on how your family can live a little greener, on the new sustainability page on the AHFH Web site, www.armyhawaiiifhfamilyhousing.com/node/1303.



The authorized Halloween Trick or Treat hours for all U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii areas are 5:30-9 p.m., only, Oct. 31. Children under the age of 10 require an adult escort.

To enhance safety, military and Department of the Army civilian police will be handing out Chem-lites to children

and ensuring all activities are conducted in a safe manner. Residents who do not wish to participate should place a sign on their doors stating, “SORRY NO TRICK OR TREATING HERE.”

Tripler Army Medical Center and the Schofield Health Clinic Radiology Departments will

X-ray candies in their radiology reception areas from 7-9 p.m. for eligible patrons.

X-rays will not detect non-metals such as fine particles, liquids, powders and chemical contaminants, and the like. Radiology patients have priority over personnel waiting for candy X-rays.

Halloween Happenings

30 / Today

Halloween Thriller — Aloha Tower Marketplace is hosting a 21 and over “Halloween Thriller” costume contest with a \$1,000 cash prize, plus the wickedest wine-tasting in town, today, 6-10 p.m. A dance troupe will entertain with two costumed performances of Michael Jackson’s “Thriller,” and will teach you the moves, too. Visit www.alohatower.com.

31 / Halloween

Kapolei Pumpkin Patch — Visit the 9th Annual Kapolei Pumpkin Patch at Aloun Farms, Oct. 31, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Keiki can see how pumpkins grow and pick their own. Attractions include a farmer’s market, pick-your-own sweet corn, a giant maze field, hay rides, pony rides and more. Admission is free; parking costs \$3. Cash only. Visit www.alounfarms.com.

Thriller Halloween Party — The Schofield Barracks Bowling Center will celebrate Halloween “Thriller” style, Oct. 31, 8 p.m.-1 a.m. Wear a costume, and receive no charge for shoes. Call 655-0573.

Hallowbaloo Street Fair — Celebrate Halloween in downtown’s Honolulu Culture and Arts District (Nuuanu Avenue), Oct. 31, 5:30 p.m.-2 a.m. at the Hallowbaloo street fair. Enjoy

live music, with 15 local bands and DJs.

The street festival is free, and a \$10 wristband gets partygoers into six local clubs. Visit www.hallowbaloo.com.

Halloween in Waikiki — Join costumed cuties and masked crazies at the 5th Annual Halloween at the Hyatt, Oct. 31, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., held poolside with a \$1,000 cash prize costume contest, live music and more. Advance tickets cost \$10-\$15. Call 923-1234.

Graveyard Curiosities — Cemetery historian Nanette Napoleon will give a lecture on unique, unusual and curious tombstones from around the world at the Oahu Cemetery Chapel (2162 Nuuanu Ave.), Oct. 31, 7-8:30 p.m.

Admission is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children under 18, students and seniors ages 60 and older. Parking is free, but reservations are required. Call 261-0705.

Bellows Halloween Bash — The Bellows Beach Halloween bash is scheduled, Oct. 31, noon-9 p.m. Families can enjoy a costume contest, haunted house, face painting, magician, kiddie land-variety of bouncers and slides, movies under the stars, and more. Call 259-4112.

SEE HALLOWEEN, B-4

Program brings Waianae alumnus back to school

Halloween

From B-3

Ongoing

Honolulu Ghost Tour – Historian Steve Fredrick will host tours throughout haunted sites and places in downtown Honolulu, nightly at 6:30 p.m., throughout October. Recommended for adults only. Cost is \$25, or \$20 with military I.D.

Reservations are required 48 hours prior. Visit www.steves-toursandfilms.vpweb.com.

BOSS Haunted House – The Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program is hosting a Haunted House on Schofield Barracks, Oct. 30 and 31, 6-9 p.m. each evening, at Building 2082 (located at the corner of Kolekole and Flagler directly across from Martinez Gymnasium). Cost is \$4 adults and \$2 children.

Haunted Lagoon – Enjoy some Halloween fun and terror with a spooky canoe ride through the Polynesian Cultural Center's eerie lagoon. The ride runs from 6:30-9 p.m., through Oct. 31. Call 293-3333 or visit www.polynesian.com.

Shockhouse – The most intense haunted house in Honolulu is back this year, Shockhouse, at the Blaisdell Center Arena, Oct. 28-Nov. 1, 7 p.m.-midnight. Advance tickets cost \$7.50, or \$10 at the door. Call 591-2211.

Scare Factory IV – The Windward Mall haunted house offers 13 themed rooms and will be open to the public today, 6-9 p.m.; Oct. 31, noon-9 p.m.; Nov. 1, noon-5 p.m. Visit www.windwardmall.com or call 235-1143.

MAJ. AL RAMIREZ

2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

WAIANAE – Nine Soldiers headed back to school, Oct. 22, and spent the afternoon reading to more than 200 students during an Operation Reading Rainbow visit at Leihoku Elementary School, here.

Company A, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT) "Wolfhounds" visited more than 18 different classes, ranging from pre-kindergarten to second grade, as part of brigade's support to U.S. Army-Hawaii's Partnership of Ohana community relations program.

For one member of the group, Staff Sgt. Simpliciano, this event had special meaning having spent his childhood learning in these very same classrooms.

Leihoku, tucked between the foothills of the Waianae mountain range and the western coast of Oahu has changed since Simpliciano attended.

He described how the school has doubled in size – growing from two main buildings with a portable structure serving as a cafeteria – to a facility that can now accommodate and educate more than 870 students a year.

Some students were surprised to recognize a member from their own neighborhood in uniform. In fact, Simpliciano is still very much a part of this Waianae community, and proudly points out that he lives just four blocks away.

"Many of these kids aren't as privileged as most others (on Oahu), so spending time with them means a lot," said Simpliciano.

As part of the program, 2nd SBCT units partner with various Waianae



2nd Lt. Ryan Furman | Company A, 1-27th Infantry Regiment

Soldiers from Company A, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, "Wolfhounds," read to students at Leihoku Elementary School, in Waianae, during an Operation Reading Rainbow visit, Oct. 22.

schools and volunteer their time to improve school facilities, as well as support and enhance students' educational experience.

With furloughs impacting many Hawaii schools, the faculty is concerned over the loss of 17 days of in-school instruction. Decisions to cut field trips and other planned external events designed to enhance students' education are also likely.

According to administrators, interactions like Operation Reading Rainbow help broaden students' experience

by providing positive adult role models who stress the importance of education as a means to future career paths. These programs highlight that it is never too early to get the students thinking about their future.

Operation leader, 2nd Lt. Ryan Furman, said the Soldiers benefited from the event, as well. He explained how the Soldiers "swell with pride" because they are treated as respected authority figures, in much the same way firefighters or police officers are when they visit schools.

Plans for Operation Reading Rainbow II are in the works, and as the 1-27th Inf. Regt. partnership grows, Simpliciano will continue to have the unique privilege of giving back to his own community with a little help from his fellow Wolfhounds.

Furman said Soldiers from the unit that could not participate this time "were adamant about participating in the next one."

At the end of this rainbow, the Soldiers left knowing they helped make a difference in a child's life.

Story and Photo by
BILL MOSSMAN
Staff Writer

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS – Fresh off a 12-month deployment, a determined 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) Soldier walked into the Army Community Service (ACS) offices, here, and ventured into territory he had never been before – his credit rating.

Sgt. Rodrigo Agustin Jr., D Company, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 3rd IBCT, along with his wife, Mary Rosette, had come to ACS to have their financial history analyzed for the very first time, during a "Free Credit Score" event, Oct. 21.

Together, they sat down at one of seven computer stations and began inputting information regarding their record of borrowing and repaying loans, utilizing the BrightScore program.

The service, which normally costs \$24.99, was free during the event and provided a customized report and action plan for the couple's future.

After briefly conferring with an ACS financial readiness counselor, the couple emerged from the workstation with their report, wearing what looked like million-dollar smiles.

"Right now, our credit score is good enough," Agustin announced.

Armed with this data, the young husband will begin scouring Oahu's communities in the coming days, looking for a new abode for his family.

"We're trying to find a home, a small place," said Agustin, who currently rents a home in Ewa Beach. ("We want to) somewhere where there's less traffic, maybe Mililani."

Mary Rosette liked the idea of living in the central Oahu community, although she admitted to having no preference in locations.

"Anywhere he wants to go," she said, before nodding at her husband and chuckling. "He's going to pay for it!"

The Agustins were among 75 Soldiers and spouses who took advantage of the Free Credit Score event sponsored by the ACS Financial Readiness program.

During the three-hour event, participants received credit analyses, which included an overall score and an action plan that provided tips on improving their credit reputation.

"The credit report is often the critical piece of information that determines whether or not a consumer qualifies to obtain a credit card, take out a loan, purchase a house, get a job, rent an apartment, or complete other important financial transactions," explained Robin Rogers-Sherrod, financial readiness program manager, ACS.

"The credit score that accompanies the credit report is the financial barometer which measures the creditworthiness and risk potential of the individual consumer," she added.

While many of the Soldiers on hand claimed no particular motivation for learning their credit score, a few pointed specifically to wanting the report before making a major financial investment.

Like the Agustins, Sgt. 1st Class Michael Sands, 536th Maintenance Company, 524th Combat Service Support Battalion, 45th Sustainment Brigade, indicated his principal reason for obtaining a report was to invest in a new home. "It won't happen any time soon, maybe in



Sgt. 1st Class Michael Sands, 536th Maintenance Company, 524th Combat Service Support Battalion, 45th Sustainment Brigade, was one of 75 Soldiers who delved into their credit histories during a free credit score event sponsored by Army Community Service, Schofield Barracks, Oct. 21.



Amy L. Bugala | U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Public Affairs

Cars, trucks, jeeps and motorcycles sit in the Used Car Resale Lot located in the parking lot behind the Schofield Barracks Post Office.

Free vehicle history check now offered

BILL MOSSMAN

Staff Writer

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS – Soldiers in the market for a used car are encouraged to obtain a free vehicle history report through the Financial Readiness team at Army Community Service (ACS), here.

The report is provided by Carfax, which performs a background check on any automobile by using its vehicle identification number, or VIN. The report informs used-car shoppers about such things as accident/frame damages, title problems, the number of previous owners, and service records.

Normally, Carfax would charge \$29.99 for the service. In removing the cost, ACS is providing Soldiers and their family members with an invaluable informational tool in warding off potentially shady car salesmen or owners hoping to pass on a "lemon," or defective vehicle.

"It gives Soldiers something to take with them when they go in to purchase a used car,"

explained Robin Rogers-Sherrod, financial readiness program manager, ACS. "That way, if the salesman or car owner is telling them one thing about the vehicle, they'll be able to pull out their report and say, 'Well, that's not what the car's history says.'"

Before buying a used car, Rogers-Sherrod also advises Soldiers and spouses to ask themselves the following questions:

- Do I know the type of car and features I'm interested in?
- Have I educated myself about the vehicle of choice and its options?
- Do I know what the cost of insurance will be?
- Have I been pre-qualified for an auto loan so that I know what I can afford?
- Have I shopped around for the best deal before signing a contract?

For more information on this offer or to speak to a member of the Financial Readiness program team, call ACS at 655-4227.

Financial Readiness Workshops

Financial Readiness offers a wide variety of classes in November to help Soldiers and families adopt a proactive approach to managing their money.

•**Money Management** – Learn the basic tools for financial success, develop a spending plan, reduce expenses and make your paycheck work for you. Workshops are scheduled Nov. 4, 18 and 25, 10:30 a.m.-noon.

•**Checkbook Maintenance** – Discuss opening and maintaining a checking account, Nov. 4, 9-10:30 a.m.

•**Credit Management** – Learn how to use your credit wisely and how to improve your credit score, Nov. 18, 9-10:30 a.m.

•**TSP and Retirement** – Learn how retirement plans like the Thrift Savings Program (TSP) work in terms of contribution limitations and the different types of investment opportunities available, Nov. 25, 9-10:30 a.m.

•**Mandatory First-Term Financial Training** – Learn basic financial skills at a mandatory eight-hour program of instruction for first-term Soldiers, Nov. 9 and 23, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

The training will help develop self-reliance and personal responsibility, encourage financial planning, improve money management skills and enhance personal financial literacy. A certificate will be awarded to each participant who completes the eight hours of instruction.

All workshops are conducted at ACS, Schofield Barracks. To register, call ACS at 655-4227, or visit www.acsclasses.com.

about a year," clarified Sands, who also convinced about 10 others Soldiers from his battalion to take advantage of the service, "but I do plan on buying a house."

And while no one admitted to shopping for an automobile, attendees did learn about another financial readiness service that assists Soldiers in the purchase of a used car – a free vehicle history report. (See accompanying story inset.)

Whatever the Soldiers' individual reasons were for getting their credit history report and score, Rogers-Sherrod said it was a victory just getting them to think about their credit reputation that morning.

"What we really wanted to do was get them to that 'a-ha!' moment concerning their personal finances," she said. "That was our goal."

Rogers-Sherrod added that ACS might offer this service again in the near future, and possibly quarterly.

For more information on ACS's Financial Readiness programs or to discuss a personal action plan with a financial counselor, call 655-4227.


Pregnant women first to receive H1N1 vaccinations

Expectant mothers are a high-risk group for problems from the flu

TRIPLER ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
News Release

HONOLULU — Until Hawaii gets a lot more H1N1 flu vaccine doses, military and civilian doctors in Hawaii are focusing their attention on giving H1N1 flu shots to pregnant women.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has identified pregnant women as being among those with the highest risk for grave complications, if they get the flu.



Updated information on H1N1 flu vaccinations is available on the Tripler Army Medical Center's "Fight the Flu" Web site at www.tamc.amedd.army.mil.

As of last week, Hawaii received about 60,000 doses of the injectable form of the H1N1 vaccine. According to the CDC, drug companies shipped about 12 million doses nationwide. Hawaii, like all states, is receiving its vaccine quantities in proportion to its share of the total population.


"We've been given permission to vaccinate pregnant active duty military personnel, but we currently have very limited vaccine quantities," said Col. (Dr.) Michael Sigmon, Preventive Medicine chief for the Army's Pacific Regional Medical Command and Tripler Army Medical Center.

Oahu military clinics planned to first vaccinate all health care workers



with direct patient care, but are changing plans because of the current situation. Sigmon urged pregnant women to contact their health care providers about getting the H1N1 flu shot. He also urged everyone to be alert to news reports and announcements regarding vaccine availability and shot clinics.

Over the next few months, anyone in the U.S. who wants the H1N1 vaccine will be able to get it. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which is directing the national H1N1 vaccination program, has ordered a total of 250 million doses of the vaccine in various nasal spray and injectable forms.



31 / Saturday
Surfing Lessons — Learn to surf like the pros, or at least look the part, with Outdoor Recreation, Oct. 31, 6:30-10:30 a.m. Lessons are \$35 per person and include equipment and round-trip transportation from Schofield Barracks. Call 655-0143.

November

1 / Sunday
Adventure Hike — Join Outdoor Recreation, Nov. 1, 7 a.m., for the latest adventure hike through one of several picturesque locations around the island of Oahu. Cost is \$10 and round-trip transportation from Schofield Barracks is provided. Call 655-0143.



Send sports announcements to community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

31 / Saturday
Hike Oahu — Join the Hawaiian Trail & Mountain Club for a 4-mile intermediate ridge hike, Oct. 31, on a trail near Kapolei. A steep, rocky climb leads to several bunkers where Soldiers once searched for enemy targets for the gun batteries. Group meets at 8 a.m. at the Iolani Palace, or 9 a.m. at the Nanakuli Mall. Call Fred Dodge, 696-4677.

Upcoming hikes include:

- Nov. 8, a 5-mile intermediate lush tropical hike. Call Doug Klein, 263-8330.

A \$3 donation is requested of non-members age 18 and older. An adult must accompany children under 18. For more information and a calendar of future hikes, visit www.htmclub.org.

November

1 / Sunday
Tradewind Triathlon — The

7 / Saturday
Mountain Biking — Join Outdoor Recreation on a mountain bike trip through the Waianae mountain range, Nov. 7, 7 a.m.-noon. This is a level-three expert program, and is suitable for cyclists looking for some extreme thrills.

Cost is \$20 if you use your own bike or \$25 if you use one of ours. Includes round-trip transportation from Schofield Barracks. Call 655-0143.

8 / Sunday
Hawaiian Canoe and Stand-Up Paddling — Learn two water sports that drive Hawaiians wild — outrigger canoeing and stand-up paddling, Nov. 8, 7 a.m.-noon. Cost is \$64 and includes round-trip transportation from Schofield Barracks. Call 655-0143.

14 / Saturday
Adventure Kayak Fishing — Enjoy a half-day of adventurous kayak fishing out of Kaneohe Bay, Nov. 14, 6:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Indulge your passion for exploring the island during this

Tradewind Triathlon hits the shores and streets of Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Nov. 1, starting at 7:30 a.m., with a 500-meter swim followed by an 11.1-mile bike course, and ending with a 5K run.

This event is ideal for amateur or experienced triathletes. This is the final triathlon offered in Hawaii this year. Individual registration fees are \$40 for active duty military and \$60 for civilian. Three-person teams can register for \$60, military; \$85, civilian. Call 254-7590.

8 / Sunday
Volksmarching Club — Join the Menehune Marchers Volkssport Club on a 5K or 10K volksmarch (walk), Nov. 8, in Kailua District Park (21 S. Kainalu Drive). Starting at the park, the 10K route takes you through central Kailua, Kawaiunui Marsh, and Ulupo Heiau walking along its newly restored and landscaped base.

Participants can start anytime between 8-11 a.m. and finish by 2 p.m. To pre-register, contact Maria at 261-3583, or visit www.ava.org/clubs/menehune-marchers/.

This event is free, and IVV credit, if desired, is available for a nominal fee.

Marathon Readiness Series — The last race in the Marathon Readiness Se-

expert-level group activity. Cost is \$49 and includes equipment and round-trip transportation from Schofield Barracks. Call 655-0143.

19 / Thursday
Evening Surf Patrol — Are you an advanced surfer ready for a challenge? Try the evening surf patrol, Nov. 19, 4:30 p.m.-dusk. Cost is \$19 per person. Call 655-0143.

25 / Wednesday
Intramural Men's and Women's Basketball — Entries are being accepted for the 2009 Intramural Men's and Women's basketball leagues. Active Duty Army, Army Reserve and National Guard units within Hawaii may enter a team. Entries must be received by the U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Sports, Fitness and Aquatics Office, Stop 112, Building 556, Kaala Community Activity Center, Schofield Barracks by 4 p.m., Nov. 25.

Entries can also be faxed to 655-8012 or 438-2470. Call 655-0856 or 438-9572.

ries is the Saucony Val Nolasco Half Marathon (13.1 miles), Nov. 8, 5:30 a.m., at Kapiolani Park. Register at www.active.com or visit www.808racehawaii.com.

10 / Tuesday
Kaneohe Turkey Trot — The Department of Parks and Recreation and the Kaneohe Complex will sponsor an annual Turkey Trot, Nov. 10, beginning at 5 p.m., at the Kaneohe Community Park (45-529 Keaahala Road).

The annual Turkey Trot is a fun obstacle course with stunts and skills that challenge the body and mind. It's fun, free and open to parents with tots 3-5 years old, children, teens, adults and seniors. Call 233-7330.

26 / Thursday
Marathon Clinic Turkey Trot — The Honolulu Marathon Clinic will host its annual Turkey Trot, a Thanksgiving Day tradition since 1974, where the fastest runner rarely wins top prize. The 10-mile run is scheduled, Nov. 26, at the Kapiolani Park Bandstand. Registration opens at 6:30 a.m. and costs \$3 per runner. No watches, headphones or pacing devices are allowed. Awards given to those who finish closest to their own predicted time. Contact norm@honolulu-marathonclinic.org.