## INSIDE



## Fight night

Soldiers prove their skills during 25th Combat Aviation Brigade's first combatives tournament.

## Need gas?

Foote Gas Station and "A" Road will be closed for construction and road work on Schofield Barracks, Feb. 2-7.

See News Briefs, A-6

## Town Hall

The next Oahu South Town Hall meeting will be at the Aliamanu Military Reservation Chapel, Feb. 4, at 6:30 p.m. Call 438-6147 for more information

> See Community Calendar, B-2



## Football bash

Youth become football machines with former and current professional football players.

**B-1** 

## This issue

Footsteps in Faith A-2 **Deployed Forces** 

**News Briefs FMWR B-2** 

Sports & Fitness

Soldiers of the 728th Military Police Battalion, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, march into the Multiple Deployment Facility early Tuesday

# MPs, Stryker Soldiers return

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

WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD - Six-yearold Gianette Toro held up her "Welcome Home" sign, wearing an Army Combat Uniform patrol cap, showing no lack of energy given the late hour.

Gianette, her brother Yaddiel, and mother Yessirel, waited patiently for the 12:45 a.m. ceremony to start, so they could unveil a special surprise for Sgt. Jaime Toro, who was returing from a 15-month deployment to Iraq.

"I'm nervous and I can't wait to see him," said Yessirel.

More than 180 Soldiers from two Hawaiibased units, the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT) and 728th Military Police (MP) Battalion, returned from 15-month deployments to Iraq early Tuesday morning to a joyous reception at the Wheeler Army Airfield Multiple Deployment Facility.

In his brief remarks during the ceremony, Col. Tim Ryan, 8th Personnel Center director, paid tribute to the Soldiers' sacrifices.

"The historians are going to write great stories about you (Soldiers), but first, your



Sgt. Jaime Toro is overwhelmed with emotion as he reunites with his wife, Yessirel, following a 15-month deployment to Iraq. Toro, an infantryman with the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, was one of more than 180 Soldiers who returned to Schofield Barracks early Tuesday morning

families can't wait to get their arms around you," he said. "Welcome home."

More than 100 Soldiers from the 2nd SBCT

· For details on how spouses prepared for their Soldiers' return, see page B-3.

arrived at Hickam Air Force Base from Iraq, Monday night, the first wave of more than 4,500 troops that will return through the end of February.

"Fifteen months is a long time to be gone, and it's great to be back," said Lt. Col. David Davidson, deputy brigade commander, 2nd SBCT. "We have more than 4,000 Soldiers who are still in the fight, so we're setting the conditions for them here at home, preparing to reunite and reintegrate with families and loved ones.

The 2nd SBCT Soldiers completed more than 30,000 combat patrols, most of them with Iraqi security forces, directly resulting in a major decrease in violence in Multinational Division-North. "Warrior" Soldiers, along with their Iraqi counterparts, found 1,100 weapons caches, completed 150 school projects, and provided 1,067 microgrants to Iraqi citizens totaling more than \$2 million.

SEE REDEPLOY, A-7

# Conference helps services work together

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS - The 8th Theater Sustainment Command (TSC) hosted its second Winter Sustainment Conference at the Battle Command Training Center here, Jan.

More than 70 attendees, from as far away as Korea including Navy personnel, general officers, retired general officers and experts from strategic partners, came together to discuss how the military does business in the Pacific area of operations.

The Winter Sustainment Conference is a two-day, semiannual conference, co-hosted by the U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM). The purpose of the conference is to bring all key logisticians in the Pacific Region under one

of each of the services. This increased interaction among all logisticians makes sustainment functions within PACOM more effective.

'Success in war fighting is all about the team," said Maj. Gen. Raymond Mason, commander, 8th TSC. "This logistics conference was a superb opportunity to continue to strengthen our Pacific-wide joint sustainment team.

The conference consisted of a day and a half of briefings and demonstrations from PACOM, Pacific Fleet, U.S. Army-Pacific, and Army Materiel Command.

"The conference is beneficial to everyone who attended and to everyone they will work with," said Lt. Col. Brian Coleman, chief, distribution management center, 8th TSC. He added that everyone involved took advantage of the networking opportunities and increased awareness of intraservice capabilities

"By making Army logisticians more knowledgeable on many aspects in the Pacific we really strengthen the synergistic effect that PACOM has and can contribute to any area on the globe," Coleman said.

At the end of the conference, attendees discussed the way ahead and possible topics for the next conference which should be held

around the end of July.
"I truly think this was a success," said Coleman. "Maj. Gen. Mason wants to do this every six months. This was our second one and attendance and interest has greatly increased. We did better than the last time and we will continue to improve for the next

## **PTA** hosts Big Island business seminar

Small businesses learn government process

U.S. ARMY GARRISON-POHAKULOA

POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA, Hawaii - If you want to do business with the government, the key is to gain as much knowledge as possible to understand the process and make your business profit from the unlimited possibilities of obtaining a government contract.

Nearly 30 men and women from various Big Island businesses converged at Pohakuloa Training Area (PTA) for the "Doing Business with the Government" seminar, Jan. 21. After welcoming remarks, three speakers shared their insights on contracting with the government.

Gary George, chief, Regional Contract Division (located on Oahu), gave a presentation on regional contracting in Hawaii; Catherine Yoza, deputy, small business and contract specialist, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACE), Honolulu District, provided information about ACE contracts; and Michael Youth, business development specialist, Small Business Administration (SBA), shared tips about the SBA application process.

"It was great to have this outreach and to link up the Big Island business community with the government," said Bill Moore, Big Island Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army (CASA).

The meeting provided opportunity and potential for small, Big Island businesses to work successfully with government, Moore added.

Most attendees were extremely satisfied with the seminar.

"I have been conducting business on the Big Island for more than seven years, and been involved in most of the local chambers of commerce, Rotary clubs and business development organizations," said Michael Williams, owner, Uniserv Technology, and publisher of Big Island B2B, a Hilo/Kona-based publication. "As a minority business owner on the Big Island, I truly appreciate the efforts and support that PTA staff has been doing to help the local

SEE PTA, A-6

## Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors helps families

**MOLLY HAYDEN** Staff Write

HONOLULU - Ishmael Stagner reminisced about his childhood during the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) seminar at the Hilton Hawaiian Village here, Saturday.

Growing up in Pearl City during World War II opened his young eyes to the tragedies of war.

"As kids, we would watch the chaplain's black car drive through our neighborhood, bringing news of Soldiers killed," said Stagner. "I remember the feeling I got when I saw them coming near."

More than 60 years later, that same feeling rose through Stagner's body when he heard a knock

It was 5:30 a.m. when two Honolulu police officers greeted Stagner and his wife Carmen, bringing news of their son Brandon's death.

sergeant in the Air Force, was stationed in Alaska when he took his own life in November 2007, prior to his fourth deployment to

Brandon suffered from post traumatic stress disorder, according to his parents. The couple attended the TAPS seminar to share their story and convene with other survivors.

"There are sisters, children, parents, spouses ... all people in various stages of grief here today," said Stagner. "You have that ohana of suffering, but you also have that ohana of support and help.

Wearing buttons with photos of fallen loved ones, more than 50 bereaved military family members gathered for the first-ever Hawaii seminar for TAPS to share stories and attend various classes.

The three-day program included training workshops for those



white and blue balloons with personal letters attached for their fathers lost during the war in Iraq. The balloons flew across the Waikiki sky, Saturday, during the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors

working with surviving military battle buddies shared stories of families, survivor seminars for adults and battle buddies, as well as the "Good Grief Camp" for chil-

Parents, spouses, siblings and

grief with other survivors and spoke with counselors. Children and teenagers also spoke with counselors and wrote letters to their deceased parents. The letters

were later tied to balloons and released into the sky.

TAPS is a national organization that provides ongoing emotional support and healing to all who are grieving the loss of a loved one who died in military service to America. Since 1994, TAPS has provided comfort and care, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The program has assisted more than 25,000 surviving family members, casualty officers and caregivers. All services provided by TAPS are free of charge to surviving families.

Maj. Bonnie Carroll, Air Force Reserves, started the program after her husband, Brig. Gen. Tom Carroll, died in an Army C-12 plane crash in 1992.

"There were so many support groups out there, but none specifically for the military," said

SEE TAPS, A-6

## We want to hear from you...

The Hawaii Army Weekly welcomes articles from Army organizations, announcements from the general public about community events of interest to the military com munity, and letters and commen-If you have newsworthy ideas or

stories you'd like to write, coordi nate with the managing editor at 656-3155, or e-mail editor@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.
The editorial deadline for articles

and announcements is the Friday prior to Friday publications. Prior co ordination is mandatory.

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

The Hawaii Army Weekly is an authorized newspaper and is published in the interest of the U.S. Army community in Hawaii.

All editorial content of the Hawaii Army Weekly is the responsibility of the U.S. Army, Hawaii Public Affairs Office, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii 96857. Contents of the Hawaii Army Weekly are not necessarily the offi cial views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or the Department of the Army. The Hawaii Army Weekly is print-

ed by The Honolulu Advertiser, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Government, under exclusive written agreement with the U.S. Army, Hawaii. The Hawaii Army Weekly is pub-

lished weekly using the offset method of reproduction and has a printed circulation of 15,300 Everything advertised in this pub-

lication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

The appearance of advertising

in this publication, including inserts and supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of the Army, or The Honolulu Advertiser, of the firms, products or

## **ARMYWEEKLY**

Commander, U.S. Army Garrison Col. Matthew Margotta **Director, Public Affairs** Dennis C. Drake

Chief, Command Information Aiko Rose Brum, 656-3155 Aiko.Brum@us.army.mil **Managing Editor** 

Jeremy S. Buddemeier, 656-3156 editor@hawaiiarmyweekly.com Assistant Editor

Kyle Ford, 656-3150 kyle@hawaiiarmyweekly.com

Web Editor Stephanie Rush, 656-3153 stephanie@hawaiiarmyweekly.com

Layout Leah Mavo Staff Writer Molly Hayden Advertising: 525-7439

Classifieds: 521-9111 Editorial Office: 656-3155/3156 Fax: 656-3162 Address:

Public Affairs Office 742 Santos Dumont Ave., WAAF Building 108, Room 304 Schofield Barracks, HI 96857-5000

Web site: www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil/haw.asp

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

# 38 days

since last fatal accident

Number represents fatal accidents as defined by Army Regulation 385-10, which is inclusive of all active component U.S. Army units and person-

nel. Current as of 1/28/2009.

Straight Talk

# **DES** shares solutions for beating Tripler traffic

It should come as no surprise to many readers that driving to Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC) can be a challenge. However, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii (USAG-HI), Directorate of Emergency Services (DES), and TAMC leadership are fully engaged in improving conditions.

Simply put, the 1940s' road network was never envisioned or designed to support the sheer volume of traffic accessing TAMC each day. Approximately 3,800 vehicles enter the installation each 24-hour period, with 30 percent arriving between 6-8 a.m. Traffic flow is further hampered by bad weather, impatient drivers and disabled vehicles on the

Traffic congestion has been at higher than normal rates since early December due to much needed resurfacing of the roads that encircle TAMC. This project is scheduled to be complete by Feb. 4.



The extended project was specifically planned to occur over the holiday period when traffic is historically lower to reduce the impact on the TAMC community. Due to much higher costs, it was not possible to conduct the road resurfacing during nighttime hours or weekends

ment of the Army regulatory guidance, security personnel must conduct an identification (ID) card check of all individuals attempting to gain access. This measure cannot be waived, as it's an essential measure to ensure the force protection and safety of TAMC personnel.

Only those drivers without an authorized picture identification access card are required to stop at the Visitor Control Center.

One long-term measure under assessment is the redesign of the TAMC gate to increase the number of lanes commensurate with gates at some mainland installations. Additionally, an assessment is being conducted to determine the feasibility of developing an alternate way to gain access to TAMC

traffic challenges and these long-term solutions, DES has requested a traffic study be conducted by the Hawaii Department of Transportation to identify possible solutions (e.g. increasing "green" time on the statecontrolled traffic lights) to expedite the flow

Drivers and their passengers can also be a part of the solution by making small changes in their driving and riding habits. To prevent unnecessary delays for all motorists coming to TAMC, drivers should ensure all occupants in their vehicles have their IDs ready for presentation by the driver before reaching the gate. Also, drivers should be patient and

SEE STRAIGHT TALK, A-7



# Mixon discusses 'big picture' with Big Island Rotarians

Story and Photo by STAFF SGT. CRISTA YAZZIE U.S. Army-Pacific Public Affairs

HILO, Hawaii – Lt. Gen. Benjamin Mixon, commanding general, U.S. Army-Pacific, spoke to members of Big Island Rotary clubs at the Hilo Hawaiian Hotel, Jan. 20, to discuss the role of the Army

Representatives from South Hilo, Hilo, Hilo Bay, Pahoa, Volcano and Kona Rotary Clubs attended the

"It's important for Rotarians to learn what the Army is doing in Hawaii and as a nation," said Newton John Chu, who organized the event with Bill Moore, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army (CASA) for the Island of Hawaii.

Rotary is a worldwide organization of more than 1.2 million business and community leaders, according to www.rotary.org. Rotarians provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and help build goodwill and peace in the world.

Mixon discussed the environmentally friendly and energy-efficient efforts of the Army in Hawaii, necessity for security in the Pacific Region and education statistics and backgrounds of Soldiers themselves, referring to them as "dedicated patriots." "It's not my Army; it's your Army," Mixon said.

"You represent the citizens of the United States of

America, and these meetings are essential so that you, as Americans, stay informed."

Mixon ended his presentation with a questionand-answer session. He fielded questions on a variety of subjects concerning Afghanistan, Iraq and relationships with Pacific nations.

Other CASAs joining Moore were Alan Hoe (CASA Oahu-East and the islands of Maui, Lanai and Kahoolawe) and Peter Apo (CASA Oahu-West and the island of Kauai). CASAs are members of local communities who are selected to volunteer their time to act as a liaison between the Army and the civilian population

Mixon thanked the CASAs for their service.

"What CASAs do for me as a commander is interface for me and the secretary of the Army to tell the Army story, and they have been invaluable to me in the islands," he said.

"We are very honored to have General Mixon come and talk directly to us and get our direct questions and give direct answers," Chu said.

"It's interesting hearing the big picture about where we stand globally," added Helen Hemmes, a member of the Hilo Rotary Club. "I liked the emphasis that it's our Army, because it's so easy to assume that it's the government's Army. I saw today, that in the Pacific Army, we're led by a person of integrity who is working to restore what our nation is challenged to do.'



# FINISTEPS in FAITH

## Sacrifice, challenges today lead to great rewards tomorrow

These days, I am so thrilled about people's lives.

Our nation is really excited about our new president, and most Americans expect his new leadership to change our nation's situa-

Just a couple weeks ago, we heard about the pilot who saved many people's lives. Everyone says that it was a Hudson River miracle.

Also just a few days ago, I conducted a memorial ceremony for a World War II veteran. I have conducted many ceremonies; however, that ceremony, I will never forget in my life.

The veteran had served the Army close to 30 years from the onset of World War II, and he finally went to his eternal home in heaven at the age of 100. He had been married to his wife for more than 62 years. What a wonderful life he had lived.

Whenever I think about the lives of great people, I feel cheerful and feel like having fellowship with those people. I really enjoy learning about their life attitude and try to apply their perspective in my own life.

Throughout history, many magnificent people lived and died in this world. At the same time, many terrible people lived and died, as well. Which person do you want to be today?

Life is short. Do you want to spend it as a person who made a difference or as a person who just coasted through life?

One day, you and I will die. One of the Korean proverbs says, "When a tiger dies, he leaves his leather, but when a man dies, he leaves his name."

People die only once, but a lot of those people still receive respect long after their death.

Today, many American people believe that about 67 percent of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s dreams have come true. He died 41 years ago; however, his messages are still being preached to an entire nation. Dear fellow Soldiers and

families, what is your life's goal? Why are you living in this world? What will you leave behind after you have died? What would you like to hear from your loved ones at your graveside?

If you say, "I really want to be a great person," that's great. However, without sacrifices, it is not going to happen.

Why has God blessed our nation

If you could create a holiday,

in so many ways in such a small history? There are various reasons, but there's a singular truth to be known: Our nation has been washed many times in the blood of many Soldiers' sacrifices for world The Holy Bible says, "Without

the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness" (Hebrews 9:22, Holman Christian Standard Bible). That is why Jesus Christ had to come all the way from heaven to this very sinful world to die for our salvation.

I have counseled many of our battalion Soldiers and their fami-



work, I al-

ways

them question: "Are you ready to change your lifestyle?" If they say yes, then I continue to ask them, "Are you ready to make sacrifices for your spouse?" If they say yes, those couples find themselves to be hap-

pily together again. There are some couples who honestly say "No." To that, I can only reply, "Well, brothers and sisters, without sacrifice, I cannot do anything to help your marriage." Those couples soon divorce.

I have been happily married for more than 21 years, but our past 21 years of marriage wasn't full of happiness all the time. Many times, we struggled with some issues, but most of time we are very happy living together.

We are still in the first month of the new year. God has given us a new year.

A new year means a new start, a new hope, a new challenge. Dear brothers and sisters, whatever you did in the past, whether it was good or bad, it is gone forever.

Apostle Paul said, "Brothers, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead (Philippians 3:13, Holman Christian Standard Bible).

Do not remain in the past, but do your best today. If you humbly do your part every day, God will one day truly bless your life. And your life will be chosen by God as a great example, like our new pres-

Spouse Day."

Michele Hansel



Chocolate Cream Day.'

Criztina Jean



Care Day.'

Staff Sgt. Yumi Kwon 2-6th Cav. Regt. Human Resources



"National Relaxing Day."

what would it be?

Amy Mattingly Family Member



"Family Day."

Sgt. Jason Story HHC, 307th ITSB Chaplain's Assistant

# 2nd SBCT commander thanks families, troops

COL. TODD MCCAFFREY & COMMAND SGT. MAJ. KARL MORGAN

To the friends and family of 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT), over the coming weeks, nearly 4,300 Soldiers of the 2nd SBCT will return to Schofield Barracks.

For the past 15 months, the Warriors have fought a determined and resilient enemy, enhanced the capabilities of the Iraqi security forces and improved local governmental capacity across northwest Baghdad.

Your Soldiers have performed magnificently and have established a reputation of excellence recognized throughout the Multinational Corps-Irag. We share your pride in their accomplishments and

look forward to celebrating the Stryker Brigade's return to Hawaii.

Our Soldiers have experienced the sorrow of sac-

rifice and the exhilaration of victory. They have endured the hardship of separation from loved ones and felt the incredible bond that can only come through the trials of combat.

These men and women have changed in ways that have made them more appreciative of the security, equality and prosperity we often take for granted in the United States.

In combat, attention to detail, recognizing risk and close teamwork kept our Soldiers focused and safe. As we return, new risks and potential dangers lurk in seemingly everyday activities: motor vehicles (especially motorcycles), recreational activities and the stress of reunion, which create the potential for danger. A safe and effective reintegration is especially critical over the coming weeks.

The Army provides superb resources to help both Soldiers and their families manage these challenges. Please take advantage of programs like the family

strong series, hosted by the 25th Infantry Division, Tripler Army Medical Center and the Schofield Barracks Health Clinic, and others offered by Military One Source and Army Community Service. These tools provide assistance to help Soldiers and family members work through the challenges of reunion and reintegration.

The safety and health of our Soldiers and their families is our first priority as we return home. We all need to recognize the risks that come with redeployment and take advantage of the resources designed to manage those risks.

Finally, as we prepare to return, we would like to thank all of you: families, 25th Infantry Division leadership, USAG-HI and local community members

for your incredible support to the Warrior Brigade over the last 15 months. While our Soldiers received great accolades for

their efforts here, you deserve equal credit for what you've done to sustain us while we've been gone. No unit could have been better supported than this brigade has been these many months.

We're excited to return home and look forward to reuniting with our families. Warrior Soldiers have fought to the finish." Our next mission is to "survive the peace" of reunion, reintegration, rest and recu-

Again, thank you for your great support to this brigade and the aloha spirit you display every day. Mahalo.

(Editor's Note: Col. Todd McCaffrey is the commander, 2nd SBCT, and Command Sgt. Maj. Kari Morgan, the command sergeant major.)

## NCOs induct 44 brethren into their ranks

Ceremony recognizes move to new leadership position with traditional symbolism

> Story and Photo by SPC. JAZZ BURNEY 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

TIKRIT, Iraq - The noncommissioned officer (NCO) corps in the U.S. Army continues to mold today's Soldiers to uphold the duty of protecting our nation.

As part of continuing that tradition in Iraq, 44 sergeants of 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment (FA), participated in an NCO induction ceremony at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, here, Jan. 16.

"The ceremony itself gave the Soldiers a better glimpse of how the quantum leap from the specialist rank into the noncommissioned officer corps should go while exposing them to the responsibilities they will be tasked to perform," said 1st Sgt. Darrell Moore, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 3-7th FA Regt.

The induction ceremony is so steeped in Army tradition, not even a deployment to Iraq will stop it from happening.

The event, overseen by Battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Kiefer, included the reading of the NCO history; the Soldier's request, which described the expectations of an NCO's leadership in the life of

a Soldier; the creed of the noncommissioned officer; the lighting of candles, which symbolized the eternal flame burning in every NCO's spirit; a fallen Soldier tribute; the weathering of rank, in which senior NCOs used water on the new rank of the sergeants to create the look of a rugged and ready leader; and the cutting of cake using an antique sword from the 1840s.

The origin of the noncommissioned officer can be traced back to the Roman legions. Then, Roman commanders found the tactical and administrative requirements of drilling and fielding a successful army absorbed all their time, so they turned to the enlisted ranks for assistance.

They selected exceptional Soldiers to be enlisted leaders of men, to assist commanders and to perform administrative and logistical tasks.

As the Army has adapted to changing global conditions over the years, the NCO corps has always set the standards and positively instilled them in the Soldiers they instruct.

"If you take the eleven principles of leadership, the one I value the most is 'lead by example' - this is a truth that transcends the generations of the Army," said Moore. "If you lead by example, that is the biggest value you can instill in Sol-

A Soldier promoted to NCO holds a position of responsibility and authority that is bestowed based upon demonstrated aptitude, performance and future potential.

"An ideal facet of a noncommissioned officer is one who has had situations that were overcome both in their military career and in their personal life, which has prepared them to deal with the many circumstances that comes with having Soldiers," said Staff Sgt. Willie Pricebrooks, food service NCO, G Co., 3-7th FA Regt.

"This needed aspect shows that not only can he execute to fix them, he can also relate and have the compassion toward handling his Soldiers efficiently," Pricebrooks

Sergeants who participated in the induction ceremony described the personal focus and mental changes necessary to be an effective noncommissioned officer.

'My main focus in training my Soldiers is to get them ready to surpass my accomplishments and position them for the next level of their military career," said Sgt. Michael West, light-wheel vehicle mechanic, G Co., Field Support Company, 3-7th FA Regt.

The biggest mental change is to realize the higher level of responsibility with knowing the right answers to your Soldiers' questions," said Sgt. Jeremiah Carrington, fire control sergeant, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 3-7th FA Regt. "At this level of duty, we are supposed to be the subject matter expert in being a Soldier."

The battalion will conduct NCO inductions every quarter during its deployment.



Recently promoted Sgt. Timothy Ramon (left), an ammunition team chief, and 1st Sgt. John Johnson, first sergeant, both of B Battery, 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, cut a cake using an authentic 1840s-era noncommissioned officer's sword during a ceremony, Jan. 16. Forty-four sergeants of Task Force Steel were inducted into the noncommissioned officer corps at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq.

# Keen Edge 2009 prepares 94th AAMDC for defense

Story and Photo by **PFC. ASHLEY M. ARMSTRONG**94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE — Soldiers from the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command (AAMDC) participated in Keen Edge 2009, a U.S. military forces and Japan Self Defense Forces (JSDF) joint command post exercise, here, Jan. 17-24.

Keen Edge is an annual exercise intended to strengthen cooperation and defensive readiness between U.S. military forces and JSDF through computersimulated scenarios.

"Keen Edge is the biggest exercise that we have with the Japanese in terms of coordinating and integrating air and missile defense with defense in Japan, especially for specific U.S. special interests in Japan," said Col. Christopher Moylan, chief of staff, 94th AAMDC.

Soldiers of the 94th AAMDC conducted operations here and in Japan to react to simulated theater ballistic missile (TBM) attacks using a computer-based system called the Joint Theater Level Simulation (JTLS) system, to direct and

respond to exercise events

"Keen Edge exercises the unit's wartime functions to help improve how we would fight the bilateral fight with our Japanese counterparts. It shows what tactics, techniques and procedures need to be improved upon and which need to be sustained," said Staff Sgt. Steven McAfoose, day-shift battle noncommissioned officer, 94th AAMDC.

The 94th AAMDC's role in the exercise, as the theater missile defense headquarters, was to synchronize and integrate all the air defense missions with the Pacific Command commander, said Moylan.

"Every exercise we conduct with joint and bilateral forces improves on how we manage the battle. Each theater is different on who is on your right in the fight and how you will fight with them," said McAfoose.

Approximately 350 U.S. and 1,300 Japanese personnel participated in Keen Edge 2009 including those assigned to U.S. Forces, Japan Headquarters; 13th U.S. Air Force, Detachment 1; U.S. Naval Forces, Japan; U.S. Army, Japan; U.S.

Marine Forces, Japan.

"This exercise allows us to exchange ideas with the Japanese on how we would employ our ballistic missile defense assets. It also allows us to build tactics techniques and procedures on how would employ those assets in real-world situations. It's especially critical for us because we have a radar in Shariki, and we have 1-1 Air Defense Artillery in Okinawa, and how they tie in with the Japanese is very important," said Moylan.

Soldiers of the 94th AAMDC worked around the clock coordinating with sub-ordinate units and joint and bilateral assets to respond to wartime missile scenarios in defense of Japan.

"Overall, it was a huge success. This was actually the first time the Japanese have employed Aegis ships along with PAC3 Patriot batteries in a bilateral defense design with the U.S. There have been some significant leaps and bounds over the last two exercises where we have never really gotten to the end state of having a coordinated defense plan, so this was huge," said Moylan.



Staff Sgt. Aaron Townsend and Staff Sgt. John Culver, night shift battle noncommissioned officer and battle captain, respectively, 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command, battle track during Keen Edge 2009, Jan. 23. The annual joint, bilateral exercise took place at Hickam Air Force Base.

## Iraqi teaching hospital staff surprised by guest presenters

CAPT. DANIEL T. SEM

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team

TIKRIT, Iraq — It seemed like a normal Tuesday morning for the Iraqi doctors and nurses of Tikrit Teaching Hospital as they filed into the conference room for the weekly senior physician case study presentations.

It did not take long for them to realize something was different when an American doctor from Head-quarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), stood up and began teaching on pediatric complications.

"I was very surprised," said Dr. Muran, senior chief of internal medicine. "I did not know anything about U.S. Army doctors coming today. (This is) a very good opportunity for us."

Lt. Col. Lance Cordoni, surgeon, 3rd IBCT, and Katherine Dennison, the Salah ad-Din Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) health lead, gave medical case study presentations, Jan. 13, at the Tikrit Teaching Hospital. The hospital is a modest 400-bed facility serving as the Salah ad-Din provincial teaching center (PRT) for new doctors. They gave their lectures in conjunction with the presentations of four senior Iraqi physicians from the hospital staff.

Security was tight, with Iraqi police and 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment Soldiers providing close watch over the event. Despite the possible dangers, around 25 Iraqi doctors, nurses and residents listened intently to lecture topics ranging from urology to tuberculosis. The presentations came after

months of coordination and relationship-building by coalition forces, and helped to set a new precedent in U.S.-Iraqi relations in Salah ad-Din province.

"This is a historic (day)," said Dr. Omar, director of the Tikrit Teaching Hospital. "This is the first time American doctors presented at this hospital."

Cordoni was not aware of the significance of the occasion until the presentations finished and Omar spoke with the group.

"I was overwhelmed," Cordoni said. "It was my honor to usher in a new era of cooperation between Iraqi and American doctors."

Omar oversees the training and development of the young resident doctors in Tikrit Teaching Hospital, and was the main catalyst in opening the doors to American medical professionals for their

case study presentations.

Omar said he hopes the event will be the start of a continuing educational partnership between Iraqi and American doctors. He is already planning to have American doctors at the next lecture series at his hospital, and said they are

welcome to come teach as often as they would like. Cordoni said 3rd IBCT and Salah ad-Din PRT plan to continue the presentations to help provide modern medical training requested by the provincial hospital staff and further strengthen ties with the hospital. Despite the common view that the Iraqi health care system is decades behind the West, he said that he was thoroughly impressed with the breadth of knowledge shown by the Iraqi physicians.

# Combatives tournament showcases martial arts skills

#### SGT. MIKE ALBERTS

25th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs

WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD - Hundreds of spectators cheered and encouraged 54 grapplers and mixed-martial artists as they competed in 25th Combat Aviation Brigade's (CAB) Modern Army Combatives Tournament at the Physical Fitness Center, here, Jan. 14-15.

The event was the first of its kind in Hawaii and served to validate not only the 25th CAB's Modern Army Combative Program (MACP), but also the vision and commitment of a handful of CAB Soldiers who helped formalize the brigade's MACP Academy last year.

The passion for Army combatives compelled Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Wells, chief combatives instructor, Headquarters Support Company, 209th Aviation Support Battalion (ASB), and Staff Sgt. Edward Duran, combatives instructor and noncommissioned officer in charge, Wheeler Physical Fitness Center, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, to establish a MACP within the 25th CAB.

"When we were in Iraq in 2006, I started squad-level combatives and bumped it up to battalion level," said Wells. "After a while, we started training any Soldiers that were interested.

"When we returned (from deployment), we started putting stuff together," Wells continued.

Combatives encompasses various hybrid martial arts that incorporate fighting techniques from conventional martial arts and combat sports. The MACP concept was created in the mid-1990s to teach modernized hand-to-hand combat to Soldiers and has since spread throughout the Army.

"Combatives was not something new to the CAB or to Col. (Michael) Lundy," said Duran. "So once we presented the idea of formalizing combatives and expanding the current training, to include a Modern Army Combatives Academy, we got total support from the brigade."

To date, the 25th CAB's MACP Academy has trained more than 150 Level 2 certified instructors and about 500 Level 1 certified combatants in the last five months, according to Wells.

Currently, Wells and Sgt. Nathan Williams, assistant chief instructor, 209th ASB, have the requisite Level 4 certification required to stand-up an academy and host tournaments like the 25th CAB's. In that regard, the recent tournament was a benchmark accomplishment for the program.

According to Duran, the competition's objective was to motivate individual Soldiers to train and practice their warrior tasks and drills in hand-to-hand contact, and also to inspire units around Hawaii to support their Soldiers in the arena of combatives. For competitors, however, the tournament was simply an opportunity to have fun and test their ability.

One of the few females who competed

was Pvt. Kerra Bennett, signal support systems specialist, 82nd Engineer Support Company, 65th Engineer Battalion. She refused to allow her gender to be a deterrent.

"I train and fight against men all the time, so I wasn't intimidated at all," said Bennett, who won one of her three matches. "I had a lot of fun and most enjoyed the support I got from my unit. I had a great experience."

Staff Sgt. Stephen Albanese, instructor. Noncommissioned Officer Academy-Hawaii, Schofield Barracks, not only enjoyed himself, but also reflected on the intangibles of the competition.

"I think this is great for everyone," said Albanese, who placed first in the light-weight class. "It's a great workout and builds cohesion among all the competitors. But the best part for me is the competitive spark that this tournament has brought out in everyone. We all fight hard, but afterwards you shake hands and realize that we're all part of the same

The tournament was open to active duty, National Guard, Reserve Soldiers and any other service members attached or assigned to Army units. It attracted Soldiers from units located at Wheeler Army Air Field, Schofield Barracks, Fort Shafter and Tripler Army Medical Center, among others.

A total of 54 combatants competed in six weight classes during the two-day, double-elimination tournament. Participants competed as part of a team in their individual weight classes and for individual recognition, as well.



Staff Sgt. Tyrone C. Marshall Jr. | 25th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs

Soldiers compete in a championship match under the watchful eye of a referee during the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade's Modern Army Combatives Tournament at Wheeler Army Airfield Physical Fitness Center, Jan. 15.

#### Combatives tournament winners

1st place: 82nd Engineer Support Company (ESC)

2nd place: 25th Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB)

3rd place: 57th Military Police (MP) Brigade

## Individual Winners by Weight Class • Lightweight (male 140 and below, female 150 and below):

1st Place: Staff Sgt. Stephen Albanese,

2nd Place: Sgt. Kevin Jones, Central Pacific District Veterinary Command 3rd Place: Spc. James Kim,

209th Aviation Support Battalion (ASB)

#### • Welterweight (male 155 and below, female 166 and below):

1st Place: Sgt. Dordell Knapp, 57th MP Bde. 2nd Place: Spc. Dustin Cabe, 209th ASB 3rd Place: Sgt. Dallas MartinPocaigue, 110st Garrison Support Unit (GSU)

#### Middleweight (male 170 and below, female 182 and below):

1st Place: Staff Sgt. Aaron Terry, 45th Sustainment Bde. 2nd Place: Capt. Matt Young, 3rd Battalion, 25 Aviation Regiment 3rd Place: Mr. Daniel Bennett, GS-7 Fire Dept.

#### Cruiserweight (male 185 and below, female 198 and below):

1st Place: 1st Sgt. Pete Grey Jr., 82nd ESC 2nd Place: Sgt. Raymond Pintor, Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC) 3rd Place: Sgt. Justin McCallister, 3-25th Avn. Regt.

## • Light heavyweight (male 205 and below, female 219 and below): 1st Place: Spc. Michael Winkelspecht,

82nd ESC 2nd Place: Sgt. Justin Kaneshiro, 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment 3rd Place: Sgt. Frank Mosely, 5-52nd MP

## • Heavyweight (male 205 and up, female 219 and up):

1st Place: Spc. Guillermo Villa, TAMC 2nd Place: Spc. Tristan Scott, 57th MP Bde. 3rd Place: Spc. Aldo Richards, 82nd ESC

# **TAPS:** Survivors learn coping skills at event

CONTINUED FROM A-1

Carroll. "It is the military member that raises their right hand to pledge to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States, but it is the family that also serves to meet that mission.

"TAPS is there long term to support those families well after the military member is gone," she added.

Outreach Director Elizabeth Olsen, Army Community Service, volunteered to be the local point of contact for TAPS and hopes to make the survival seminars a regular event in Hawaii.

Olsen lost her son, Spc. Toby Olsen, Jan. 20, 2007, after an explosion hit his vehicle in Iraq. She discovered TAPS when attending the national remembrance ceremony for fallen troops in Washington,

"When you have so many people in the room that share a similar story, it can be emotionally overwhelming," said Olsen. "But, at times, you don't have to say a word, and they truly understand what you are going through.

"We are all fighting the same battle," she

Chad Weikel, battle buddy program



Ian Weikel, almost three years ago.

Weikel said TAPS offers Soldiers and lost a buddy and provides an outlet to er.

manager for TAPS, lost his brother, Capt. other military personnel a chance to con-

father lost during the war in Iraq at the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors. The program helps families of U.S. military service members who have died in service to the United States.

express feelings outside of the military.

"A lot of times, guys don't openly grieve," said Weikel. "After the funeral, I was surrounded by family and friends for a few weeks, then it stopped. Everyone went back to their everyday lives, but TAPS kept calling.

"They literally saved my life," said Weikel.

The journey through grief is different for each individual, but the compassion and understanding through TAPS and the peer network it provides creates a comfort and strength that cannot be measured.

"This is a process that isn't overcome overnight, but TAPS is here to bring us together and start the healing process," said Stagner, adding his son sacrificed greatly for his country and remains a hero in the eyes of his parents.

"But maybe the heroes are also the ones who live and have to go on," said Stagn-

## **PTA:** Steps to gaining contracts highlighted

CONTINUED FROM A-1

business community."

Michael Goode, president of Goode Construction, agreed.
"As a small business owner, it is

necessary to have these kind of informational meetings so people can understand how to get contracts with the government," said Goode, who worked as an Alaskan small-business owner and is currently doing range work

"I think a lot of people need to know the steps if they want to do contract work with the government by understanding the system," he added, stressing the seminar's networking benefits. "I think that PTA and the military are sincerely supportive in helping small businesses, and this is the way to improve our local economy."

PTA Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Warline Richardson also believes in a strong community partnership.

"We are obligated, I believe, as members of the Big Island community, to provide any opportunities we can to small businesses during the local economic recession," said Richardson. "It truly strengthens our community partnership.

"The seminar on 'Doing Business with the Government' was one mechanism that we used to support the campaign 'Buying Local First,' here, on the Big Island (which was started by Michael Williams, B2B magazine publisher)," Richardson added. "In April, we will continue with the second seminar on 'How to Get Government Jobs.' As long as the campaign is running, we will try to assist with quarterly government

# News

for Soldiers and civilian employees to community@ hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

## 30 / Today **Tripler Road Work Continues**

Major road repair work around the Tripler Army Medical Center campus continues, as scheduled, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily.

The repair is scheduled to continue through the end of the first week of February. Patterson Road has been repayed and has returned to a normal (two-way) traffic pattern. Flaggers will direct traffic as it is restriped.

Krukowski Road is being repaved during the next two weeks. South of the tennis courts, it will be one-way going down, out to the main gate, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Motorists are reminded that Jarrett White Road is one-way, going up toward Tripler's main complex. However, during construction hours, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., motorists will not be able to turn left onto Krukowski Road from Jarrett White Road when entering the main gate. Call 656-2435.

Kunia Road Opens - The Hawaii Department of Transportation has reopened Kunia Road. Call 587-2160.

## **February**

2 / Monday

**Road Construction** – "A" Road will be closed, Feb. 2-7, to com-

plete the last portion of construction on Kolekole Avenue, Schofield Barracks.

Foote Gas Station will also be closed, Feb. 2-7, for cold milling and repaving. Patrons needing gas will have to use the Trimble Gas Station, Building 1167.

#### 4 / Wednesday Oahu South Town Hall -

The next Oahu South town hall meeting for the Oahu South community will be held at the Aliamanu Military Reservation Chapel, Feb. 4, at 6:30 p.m. Call 438-6147 for more information.

#### 8 / Sunday Warrior Assistance Center

Closed - The Warrior Assistance Center (WAC) will be closed through Feb. 8 for construction. The WAC will continue providing services to the Warrior Transition Battalion. Call the WAC director at 225-0397.

#### 10 / Tuesday Freedom of Information and

Privacy Act Conference - Pacific Command (PACOM) will host a conference on the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act, Feb. 10-12, at Camp Smith. FOIA and legal officers are encouraged to come, but you don't have to be one to attend. Contact Capt. Mary Stottmann at 477-6432.

#### 11 / Wednesday Preretirement Planning

Course - Nominations are being accepted through Feb. 11 for the Preretirement Planning for Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) course, offered Feb. 23-24, at the Installation Training Center, Schofield Barracks. This

class is for federal employees within five years of retirement eligibility.

To register, send a complete SF-182 to Stephanie Ponciano, stephanie.ponciano@us.army.mil or 655-9032.

#### 17 / Tuesday Office Closure – The General

Services Administration (GSA) Customer Supply Center on Schofield Barracks will be closed for inventory, Feb. 17-20. Customers can shop at the GSA Hickam store during this time. Contact Mike Martin

#### 18 / Wednesday National Prayer Breakfast

U.S. Army-Hawaii will sponsor the National Prayer Breakfast, Feb. 18, 7 a.m., at the Nehelani, Schofield Barracks. This multifaith opportunity will continue the national tradition of gathering to reflect on the blessings of our nation. Call Sgt. Crystal Dyer at 438-5504.

## Preretirement Orientation -

The next semiannual preretirement orientation is scheduled for Feb. 18, 8-11:30 a.m., at the Soldiers' Support Center, Building 750, Schofield Barracks.

The location is a change from previous orientations due to flood damage in the Post Conference

This orientation is for Soldiers with 18 or more years of active service. Spouses of applicable Soldiers are encouraged to attend.

Representatives from Veterans Affairs, Disabled American Veterans, Hawaii Office of Veterans Services, Department of Labor, the Social Security Administration. Transportation (Schofield), Finance (Shafter), ACAP (Schofield), Education Services (Schofield), Staff

Judge Advocate (Schofield), and Tricare (Tripler) have been invited to answer individual questions following the slide presentation.

For more information, call the Retirement Services Office, 655-

## **Ongoing**

Kolekole Pass Reopened -

The Navy has reopened one lane of Kolekole Pass Road to allow authorized vehicles access between the Waianae Coast and Schofield Barracks.

The single lane will be open for morning commuters from 7 a.m. to noon for one-way traffic from the Waianae Coast to Schofield Barracks, and from noon to 5:30 p.m. for one-way traffic from Schofield Barracks to Waianae for the afternoon commute.

The single lane will open Monday through Friday only, pending current weather conditions, and

will remain closed on weekends and holidays. Call 655-7114. Phonebook Recycling - Not

sure what to do with old phonebooks? Local public schools used to collect phone books but are no longer doing so. Telephone books are currently accepted at the Recycling Center, located at Building 1087-B, McMahon Rd., Schofield Barracks. The Recycling Center will also pick them up. Schedule a pick-up appointment on the intranet at https://dpwhawaii. army.mil/pickup/ or call the Recycling Center at 655-0011.

Office Change -The Fort Shafter Composite Team (FSCT), Military Personnel Division, Directorate of Human Resources. has relocated to the Soldiers Support Center, Building 750, Schofield

All actions formerly processed

SEE NEWS BRIEFS, A-7

# 198 years of retiree experience honored at Nehelani

KYLE FORD Assistant Editor

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS - Family, friends, coworkers and commanders converged on the Nehelani to honor the service of six retirees, Jan. 22.

The careers of the Soldiers who crossed the stage culminated roughly 198 years of service, according to guest speaker, Col. Fabian Mendoza Jr., commander, 130th Engineer Brigade.

"I am truly humbled by these Soldiers," Mendoza said. "They have a huge amount of military experience and civilian education.'

He mentioned retirement opens new opportunities, challenges and careers. Mendoza entreated all retirees to continue to use their experience to mentor the leaders of tomorrow.

"As you fade away, keep the spirit of duty, honor and country in your new lives," Mendoza said. "And shape the minds of future generations.

Retirees also shared words of wis-

"I've been to many places and seen many things," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 James Galendez, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment. "I've learned there are no weak places, only weak

"This has been an historic week, an eventful week," said Master Sgt. Debbie Gilliard, Headquarters and Head- time to go home.

## Recognized retirees

- Chief Warrant Officer 4 James Galendez; Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment
- Master Sgt. Debbie Gilliard, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade
- Sgt. Maj. Damon Lile, Headquarters, 25th Infantry Division
- Master Sgt. Antonio Alexander, 524th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion
- Sgt. 1st Class Herman Bright, Headquarters Sustainment Company, 209th Aviation Support Battalion
- Sgt. 1st Class Trenetta Johnson, 524th Combat Service Support Battalion

quarters Company, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade. "We celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, witnessed the inauguration of the first black president, and today ... we are retiring.

All retirees were grateful to their families, Soldiers, leadership and the Lord.

Sgt. 1st Class Trenetta Johnson, 524th Combat Service Support Battalion said simply, "I'm going to miss it, but it's



(From left) Retirees Chief Warrant Officer 4 James Galendez, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment; Master Sgt. Debbie Gilliard, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade; Sgt. Maj. Damon Lile, Headquarters, 25th Infantry Division; Master Sgt. Antonio Alexander, 524th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion; Sgt. 1st Class Herman Bright, Headquarters Sustainment Company, 209th Aviation Support Battalion; and Sgt. 1st Class Trenetta Johnson, 524th Combat Service Support Battalion, pose for a group photo after a retirement ceremony at Schofield Barracks' Nehelani, Jan. 22

**Straight Talk:** Patience encouraged at TAMC exit

CONTINUED FROM A-2

get into the exit lane for TAMC in plenty of time.

When Moanalua Road is congested, don't try to steer at the last minute from the left lanes to the Tripler exit. Besides endangering lives and other vehicles on the road, lane changes near the Puuloa Road/Tripler exit cause near accidents and accidents, magnifying slow-downs and raising everyone's stress level.

While unfortunate for the time being, visitors to TAMC must allocate additional travel time much like they would if they were heading to a University of Hawaii football game or going to the mall during the holidays, where traffic and parking are known challenges.

USAG-HI and DES remain committed to improving traffic conditions. Working in partnership with TAMC leadership, we are confident traffic congestion will become more manageable when we all help to improve the situation.

## Other hot topics

•Driving under the influence (DUI) rates drop. Alcohol awareness and involved leaders kept our Soldiers safer during November and December. When compared

number of Soldiers apprehended on- and off-post for DUI decreased by 30 percent.

On a less-positive note, apprehended Soldiers' blood alcohol content averaged 0.141, well over the legal limit. Additionally, our younger Soldiers (sergeants and below) comprised 92 percent of apprehensions, suggesting increased alcohol awareness training may be in order.

 Prevalent crime. Larcenies continue to plague our communities. While most installations enjoyed a decrease in property crimes, Schofield Barracks experienced a spike in larcenies. Most of these crimes would not have occurred had residents taken the time to lock up their property or ensured their juvenile family members were conducting themselves responsibly.

One Helemano family returned home one evening to find its 50inch screen television and computer stolen, arguably the direct result of leaving the home unlocked.

Residents can further protect their belongings by engraving and registering property - a service provided by the DES. Contact Cpl. Mindy Dye at 655-5170 for infor-

A wish can teach a sick child that anything is possible

Visit us at www.wish.org or call (800) 722-WISH

Share the Power of a Wish.

Make-A-Wish Foundation\* is a CFC participant

**Redeploy:** Families reunited at ceremony

As a whole, they earned four Bronze Star medals with the Valor device, 15 Army Commendation medals with "V" device, and 35 Purple Heart medals.

The Headquarters, Headquarters Detachment, 728th MP Bn., also wrapped up a very successful deployment with its return to Hawaii. The MPs opened up the first Iraqi police (IP) academy in Diyala Province, where they trained more than 5,000 IPs, and led the military police surge into the city of Mosul, directly improving the capabilities of the 12,000 IPs in the city and decreasing insurgent activities in the region.

"Iraq is a safer place today because of the hard work of our Soldiers," said Lt. Col. Brian Bisacre, commander, 728th MP Bn. "Our Soldiers set the conditions for the Iraqis to win in 2009."

The contributions of the 728th MP Bn. weren't only confined to the nation of Iraq. Soldiers also held the first-ever "Troy Barbosa Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run" at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, raising more than \$5,000 for Special Olympics in Hawaii.

As the Tropic Lightning March and the Army Song came to a close, Soldiers and families waited for the command of "dismissed," prepared to reunite after a long sep-



Giannette Toro, 6, prepares to reunite with her father, Sgt. Jaime Toro, early Tuesday morning at Wheeler Army Airfield

Yessirel Toro, five-months pregnant, surprised her husband by flying in his mother, father and other family members from his hometown of Caborojo, Puerto Rico. It was all a bit overwhelming for Sgt. Toro, an infantryman with 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment.

"It's a great feeling. I can't believe my family is all here," he said. "We (Soldiers) made a huge difference in Iraq, but we still have a lot of our Soldiers fighting there, and this deployment won't be complete until we get all our brothers home.

## **News Briefs**

by the FSCT, including Record of Emergency Data updates, Service Members Group Life Insurance updates, and Enlisted and Officer Records Brief reviews and updates are now processed at the Soldiers Support Center.

The Soldiers Support Center is open Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Call 655-9411/9104

Modified Luggage Policy for Official Travel - Some airlines have amended their traveling with orders to bring additional luggage at no cost on their trip.

Policies vary with airlines. Travelers should consult airline policies on their respective Web sites to ensure compliance with weight and size

Government Vehicle Dispatching - AllGeneral Services Administration (GSA) leased nontactical vehicles permanently located at Fort Shafter, Tripler Army Medical Center or surrounding areas are dispatched monthly at Building 1507, Fort Shafter Flats.

Dispatching will be done during the second week of each month, Wednesdays and Thurs- e-mail gblt@hawaii.edu.

luggage policies to allow uniformed personnel days, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Call 656-8720/0290.

Green to Gold - The Green to Gold program is seeking quality Soldiers with officer potential who are interested in going to college to earn a bachelor's or master's degree. Soldiers must have served at least two years on active

Visit the Green to Gold Web site at www.goarmy.com/rotc/enlisted\_soldiers.jsp for complete benefits, eligibility requirements and applications. Attend an information briefing held at the Schofield or Tripler education centers the last Wednesday of every month.

Call Maj. Christopher Sweeney, 956-7766, or

www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil/haw.asp "When work is finished."

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2009





## 30 / Today

Waikiki Party Bus — The Army bus rides again, today, 9 p.m.-4 a.m. And, the best part is, tickets are now free.

The bus will pick up riders on Schofield Barracks and Fort Shafter and take them down to party in Waikiki, worry-free. Riders can hang out and play all night long and then get picked up and brought back home at the end of the evening.

Tickets are now free, but patrons must have a ticket to ride, available at Information, Ticketing and Registration (ITR) offices. Another bus will run Friday, Feb. 6. Call 655-9971 or 438-1985 for more informa-

#### 31 / Saturday

Whale Counting - Enjoy another unique benefit of living in Hawaii, Jan. 31, 7 a.m.-2 p.m. Help the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration count migrating whales from picturesque locations around Oahu. Cost is \$10 and transportation is provided. Call 655-0143 for more information.

 $\textbf{Madden 'O9 Tournament} - Put \ your$ money where your mouth is and prove you can survive the playoffs in the Madden '09 video game tournament, Jan. 31, 1 p.m., at the Tropics Recreation Center, Schofield Barracks.

Run your own team, compete and see if you can come out on top of the NFL. Call 655-5697.

## **February**

## 2 / Monday

Active Parentina Class - Learn parenting skills to enrich the parenting experience, gain knowledge about how to recognize developmental milestones, and understand how to respond to difficult behavior in children, Feb. 2, 9-11 a.m., at Army Community Service, Schofield Barracks. Call 655-0596.

Newborn Care — How come they don't come with instruction manuals? Taking care of a newborn for the first time can be

From holding babies to diapering and bathing, come learn the basics of newborn care to make the early months special for parents and baby, Feb. 2, 9-11 a.m., at the Sgt. Yano Library, Schofield Barracks, and Feb. 3, 9-11 a.m., at the Community Center, Aliamanu Military Reservation.

Call 655-4227.



## 'Ace of Cakes' ala Hawaii

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Cake decorator Ben Turner, cast member on the Food Network show "Ace of Cakes," chats with Bobbie Hanlon, family readiness support assistant, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, near the C-Quad dining facility, Monday. The "Ace of Cakes" cast and crew were in Hawaii shooting their season finale at Schofield Barracks. See next week's Hawaii Army Weekly for the full story.

## 3 / Tuesday

**Support Group** — The Exceptional Family Member Program's Autism support group will hold a dinner, Feb. 3, 5:30-8 p.m., at the Community Chapel, Aliamanu Military Reservation. The support group provides families with an opportunity to share experiences, gather new information and become knowledgeable about community resources.

On-site child care will be available. Children must be registered with Child, Youth and School Services' Short Term Alternative Child Care. Sign up is required. Call 655-1551/4791.

## 4 / Wednesday

**Baby Massage** – Babies are intuitive, and their sense of touch is highly developed.

The next Baby Massage class will be held Feb. 4, 2-4 p.m., at Aliamanu Military Reservation's community center, and Feb. 5, 9-11 a.m., at the Sgt. Yano Library, Schofield Barracks.

This three-part consecutive series is limited to 10 parents with their babies. Babies should be between 4 and 8 months old. Call

Checkbook Maintenance - Discuss opening and maintaining a checking account, Feb. 4, 9-10:30 a.m., at Army Community Service, Schofield Barracks. Call 655-4227.

tools for financial success, develop a spending plan, reduce expenses and make your paycheck work for you at the next Money

Management class, Feb. 4, 10:30 a.m.-noon, at Army Community Service, Schofield Barracks. Call 655-4227 to register.

Kids' Fine Art Classes - The next session of this popular program will take place Feb. 4, 2-3 p.m. The class is four sessions long. Cost is \$40, which includes all supplies. Call 655-4202.

Get in the Game with FMWR - During a fun-filled afternoon, learn everything Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation in Hawaii has to offer, Feb. 4, 3-6 p.m., at the Aliamanu Military Reservation Physical Fitness Center Gymnasium.

Enjoy sports-themed games, good times, and snacks while supplies last. Even if you're not a sports fan, FMWR has something to please everyone.

As an added bonus, FMWR will feature special guest appearances by and autograph sessions with NFL Pro Bowl cheerleaders and mascots, and you'll even have a chance to win tickets to the Pro Bowl and other great prizes.

All attendees will also receive a free GameGuide Calendar: Your All-Access Pass to Fun and Adventure. Call 656-3324 or visit www.mwrarmyhawaii.com.

#### 5 / Thursday

Potty Training – Learn all about potty training your child, signs that your child is ready for training and how to introduce potty training, Feb. 5, 9-11 a.m., at the Community Center, Aliamanu Military Reservation. Call 655-0596.

Pro Bowl Meet and Greet  $-\ \mathrm{NFL}\ \mathrm{Pro}$ Bowl cheerleaders and mascots will be back to entertain, perform and sign autographs, Feb. 5, 4 p.m., at Schofield's Tropics Recreation Center. Attendees will have a chance to win tickets to the Pro Bowl and other great prizes. Call 655-0111/2.

## 6 / Friday

Family Fun Fridays – The next Family Fun Friday will take place Feb. 6, 6 p.m., at the Tropics, Schofield Barracks.

Enjoy crazy games and contests, great food and fun, plus HDTVs, tons of Wii, PS3 and Xbox 360 games for checkout, family table games and pool, darts, air hockey, table tennis, beach volleyball and much more. Call 655-5698.

#### 7 / Saturday

**Mosaic Tile Class** — The next mosaic tile class will take place Feb. 7, 10 a.m., at the Arts & Crafts Center, Schofield Barracks. Cost is \$25. Call 655-4202.

## 12 / Thursday

**Rock Band Rumble** – Gather your best "I should have gone into show business" rock band-loving buds and display your best Axl Rose or James Hetfield skills at the Rock Band Rumble, Feb. 12, 6 p.m., at the Tropics, Schofield Barracks.

Think you can be the first to make it through Battery or Dream Theater? Prove it. Call 655-5698.

# Sqt.Smith Theater

listings or go to aafes.com



## Delgo

(PG) Friday, 7 p.m.

## The Tale of Despereaux

(G)

## Cadillac Records

Saturday, 7 p.m.

## Four Christmases

Wednesday, 7 p.m.

community &Calendar

Send announcements to community @hawaii armyweekly.com.

## **30 / Today**

**Lt. Dan Band** – Television and movie actor Gary Sinise's Lt. Dan Band will perform two free concerts as part of the USO Celebrity Show, today, at the K-Bay Lanes Bowling Alley on Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, and Jan. 31, at the Freedom Tower Mall, Hickam Air Force Base.

Both shows begin at 7 p.m. and are not open to the public. Open seating is available for service members, Department of Defense employees and their families.

## 31 / Saturday

2nd SBCT Fundraiser - The 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team Memorial Association will hold a fundraiser, Jan. 31, 8 a.m., at the Mililani Wal-Mart. A stay at the Prince Kuhio Hotel will be raffled off.

The mission of the association is to honor fallen Soldiers by erecting a permanent memorial on Schofield Barracks. Donations are welcome and appreciated via mail or online. Visit www.warriormemorial.com or call Sarah Boyd at 391-7321.

Slick Deals for Soldiers - In celebration of the Battleship Missouri Memorial's

10th anniversary of its grand opening, the "Mighty Mo" will grant free admission for military (active duty or retired with valid ID) and local residents, Jan. 31, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

A cook-off to find Hawaii's Mightiest Chef will be held in conjunction with the anniversary. Special for the event, direct public access and parking will be permitted on Ford Island.

Call 1-877-644-4896 or visit www.ussmissouri.org.

Wahiawa Town Center and Wahiawa Shopping Center will host a traditional Chinese New Year celebration, Jan. 31, 2-6 p.m., at the shopping centers on California Avenue.

Come early for mah-jongg readings; space is limited. A martial arts demonstration followed by a traditional lion dance performed by Gee Yung International Martial Arts will begin at 4 p.m.

Lucky number drawings will take place throughout the day. Call 262-0687.

**Breathe Concert** – The American Lung Association in Hawaii will host a fundraiser concert. The Breathe Concert: Clean Air for Everyone, Jan. 31, 7:30 p.m., at Honolulu's historic Hawaii Theatre.

Tickets start at \$35 per person. Call 528-0506 or visit www.hawaiitheatre.com.

## **February**

## 1 / Sunday

New Hours of Operation - Army & Air Force Exchange Services (AAFES) will standardize operating hours for all concession facilities at the Schofield Concession Mall, effective Feb. 1.

Operating hours for all concession stands will be 9 a.m.-7 p.m., daily.

The Barber Shop will maintain its hours of operation; Monday-Saturday, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. and Sunday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

Call 423-7302.

**Lecture** — The Pacific Aviation Museum will host two lectures and book signings by retired Tuskegee Airmen, Feb. 1 and 7. Lt. Col. Bill Holloman will speak Feb. 1,

2 p.m., and Feb. 7, 2 p.m. Lt. Col. Alexander Jefferson will join Holloman Feb. 7.

\$7, children. Kamaaina and military admission is \$10, adults; \$5, children. Admission is free to museum members and military in uniform. Visit www.PacificAviationMuseum.org or call 441-1008.

General admission is \$14, adults;

## 2 / Monday

 $\textbf{Tax Center Opens} - The \ Schofield \ Tax$ Center, Building 648 at the corner of Foote Avenue and Lewis Street, will open Feb. 2. **Chinese New Year Celebration** – The Hours of operation are 9 a.m.-5 p.m., MonMoney Management - Learn basic

day-Friday, and no appointments are nec-

essary. Everyone is served on a walk-in basis. Service is provided free for active duty service members, their dependents and retirees. Call 655-1040.

#### 4 / Wednesday Breakfast of Champi ons - Wheeler Middle

School will host its second quarter Breakfast of Champions for students who have earned A's and B's and have had no disciplinary actions, Feb. 4, 8:15 a.m., in the school's cafeteria. Families of students are invited, too. Call Cathy Sumner at 622-

 $\textbf{Parent Workshop} \, - \, \text{Wheeler Middle}$ School will hold a parent workshop focused on building students' academic portfolios, Feb. 4, 9 a.m., in the school's cafeteria. Call Cathy Sumner at 622-6525.

Technology and Industry Day — The 14th Annual Technology and Industry Day will be held Feb. 4, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at Schofield's Nehelani, and Feb. 5, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at Shafter's Hale Ikena.

Exhibitors will be on hand demonstrating the latest advancements in information technology, computer hardware and software and related fields. Complimentary refreshments will be provided along with a buffet-style lunch. Admission is free and all interested per-

sonnel are invited. Contact Dennis at dennis@fbcinc.com for more details.

Oahu South Town Hall - The next Oahu South town hall meeting for the Oahu South community will be held at the Aliamanu Military Reservation Chapel, Feb. 4, at 6:30 p.m. Call 438-6147.

## 7 / Saturday

Family Strong Reintegration Classes The 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks Health Clinic, and Tripler Army Medical Center will hold a series of reintegration classes designed to guide reunited families through the post-deployment process, Feb. 7, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., at Schofield's Main Post Chapel Annex. Classes will be of-

fered again Feb. 9 and 12.

Issues particular to spouses, children and Soldiers will be addressed in addition to community services available.

For more information, e-mail letticia.rivera@us.army.mil or call 655-8132.

**Spring Rally** – The Regional Protestant Women of the Chapel Spring Rally will take place Feb. 7, 9 a.m.-noon, at the Sea Breeze Lanai at Hickam Air Force Base Harbor. The featured guest speaker will be Rhonda Mixon.

Registration costs \$15 and includes lunch. Call Tina Kozial at 624-2623

Relive the Plantation Days - Hawaii's Plantation Village will celebrate the Year of the Ox and re-live the plantation days. Feb. 7, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., in Waipahu.

Activities include a Chinese Lion Dance, mochi pounding demonstrations, a household rummage sale, keiki games, catch and release fishing, and ethnic food samples.

Admission and parking are free 11 / Wednesday

## **Tell Me A Story** – The Military Child

Education Coalition will present "Tell Me A Story: Making Connections and Finding Support Through Literature," Feb. 11, at 6 p.m., at the Wheeler Elementary School cafeteria. The guest reader will be U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Williamson III. Admission is free, but attendees are urged

to reserve their space by contacting the Schofield Parent to Parent Team at 664-1726 or schofieldp2p@yahoo.com.

#### 14 / Saturday Valentine's Day Dinner - The Waiki-

ki Aquarium invites couples to Seaduction, its annual Valentine's Dinner, Feb. 14, 7 The evening features a champagne re-

galleries, three-course meal with wine catered by Ginniberries, valet parking, commemorative photo and souvenir for Cost is \$300 per couple; proceeds bene-

ception, romantic candlelit dinner in the

fit the aquarium. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Visit www.waquarium.org or call 923-9741.

# worship Services

#### Aliamanu (AMR) Chapel 836-4599

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

## Fort DeRussy Chapel 836-4599

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

### Fort Shafter Chapel 836-4599

1st Sunday, 1 p.m.

• Contemporary Protestant Sunday, 9 a.m.-"The Wave" Worship Helemano (HMR) Chapel

## • Contemporary Protestant Sunday, 9 a.m. – Bible Study Sunday, 10 a.m. – Worship Service & Children's Church Main Post Chapel

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

#### MPC Annex, Building 791

Chalice Circle
Tuesday, 7 p.m.
 Islamic Prayers and Study
Friday, 1 p.m.
 Buddhist

4th Sunday, 1 p.m. Soldiers Chapel

## Catholic riday–Saturday, noon – Adoration Liturgical Sunday, 9:30 a.m.- Worship Tripler AMC Chapel

433-5727

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

#### Wheeler Chapel 656-4481

Catholic

# This Week at the

Sunday, 9 a.m. – Worship Sunday, 9 a.m. – Sunday School

Call 624-2585 for movie

## Thursday, 7 p.m

Saturday, 4 p.m. Sunday, 2 p.m.

## (PG-13)

No shows on Mondays or Tuesdays.

# 'Daddy dolls' bring support to children, ease burdens

Story and Photos by
MOLLY HAYDEN

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Alyx Dudenhoeffer's five tiny fingers wrapped around the hand of a small doll at the 84th Engineer Battalion family readiness support meeting here, Jan. 21.

The doll wore an Army Combat Uniform, and the green hair made of yarn flopped to one side. A picture of her deployed father's face shined behind the plastic coating.

The 2-year-old kept a firm grasp on the doll as she played in the toy-filled room. "This is my daddy," she said, holding up the doll. "He plays with me."

The doll was donated to Dudenhoeffer and other children in the battalion as part of Operation Give a Hug.

The nonprofit, all-volunteer program was established in 2004 to help comfort military children by giving them special dolls, often called "daddy dolls." Each doll's face has a slot for a photo of the deployed parent, which gives the child a tangible way of relating to that parent while he or she is deployed.

while he or she is deployed.

"He loves his doll," said family member
Jena Siegrist of her young son, Colin.
"This is another tool to help him through
the deployment."

"At the age of three it's hard to express feelings," she continued. "With the doll, he



Colin Siegrist, 3, gives his daddy doll a hug. The 84th Engineer Battalion received more than 400 free dolls to comfort children during deployment.

can hug it and show love, but also take his frustrations out on it."

Siegrist explained the family has used



Alyx Dudenhoeffer, 2, holds her daddy doll tightly as she plays in a toy kitchen. Children with a deployed parent receive daddy dolls to help them cope with the separation.

numerous outlets to help Colin cope with his father being gone, including books and videos. However, the daddy doll is the only one that has stuck.

"To h Siegrist. At an children

"It's a great distraction for daddy's absence," said Siegrist, adding Colin talks to his doll each night, telling his "daddy" what he did that day. "To him, daddy is still here," said

At any one time, more than 500,000 children have at least one parent deployed overseas in support of the global war on terrorism, according to Operation Give a Hug.

To date, Operation Give a Hug has dis-

tributed more than 14,000 dolls through various organizations, including family readiness groups (FRG), family liaison officers, family program coordinators, school counselors, casualty assistance officers, Fort Lewis' Fisher House, and the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS).

The goal of Operation Give a Hug is to give dolls to military children throughout the world who are missing mom or dad during long deployments.



For more information on Operation Give a Hug, visit www.operationgiveahug.org.

A small donation of \$6 can provide a doll for a military child. All donations go directly to providing dolls for children.

"This has been so great for the children of our battalion," said FRG advisor Paula Katers. "The response has been overwhelming."

As the meeting ended, children tucked their daddy dolls under their arms and put away toys.

"Me and daddy are going to go to bed now," said 4-year-old Triston Uselton, waving goodbye.

# Military family members prepare for homecoming, healthy reunion

MOLLY HAYDE
Staff Writer

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — In the early morning hours before the sun had a chance to rise, spouses celebrated the return of Soldiers from the 728th Military Police Battalion, Tuesday, greeting them with lei and tears.

Preparation for the redeployment, however, began almost two weeks prior, Jan. 17, at the Spouse Battlemind training course. The course, part of Army Community Service's (ACS) mobilization and deployment series, armed spouses with an arsenal of information to ensure a healthy reunion.

"You are used to them being gone," said Sandi Crocker, mobilization and deployment specialist, ACS. "You have lived very different lives in the past fifteen months. How do we mesh those lives together?"

Crocker presented scenarios to spouses and talked candidly of her own experiences as a military spouse.

"Military life is hard," said Crocker. "But you are dedicated to your Soldier, and it's part of the package."

Spouses agreed and nodded their heads, also sharing deployment-related stories.

"We do this together," said family member Iris LaLonde. "I want to understand what my husband is going through."

The class covered the many benefits of military

life, including financial stability, health care and overseas adventures.

Family members listened attentively and spoke openly, expressing their redeployment concerns

"We are going to cover tough subjects," said

Crocker, as the class moved on to the subject of expectations and social support. "There is a dynamic between your husband and their battle buddy, but you also have a battle buddy. Your source of support will change when your Soldier returns."

For more information on the Spouse Battlemind training course and other redeployment classes Army Community Service offers, call 655-4227.

Crocker recommended open communication and offered suggestions on approaching topics of conversation with honesty in a nonthreatening

"There are things Soldiers may not want to talk

to you about," said Crocker. "And you can't push it."
Crocker explained deployment is difficult for
every member of the family, and often Soldiers
will present stories in due time and in their own

words.

Crocker spoke of family roles, renegotiating priorities and emotional balance.

"There are more invested for their year realize."

"There are more issues to face than you realize when (a Soldier) comes home," said family member Stephanie Register. "Good communication is the key, and education is the best preven-

tion."
"We are aware of certain issues we will face, but
every experience is different," added family member Olivia King. "With this course, we can share experiences and see the bigger picture.

"This class reflects our situations and prepares us for a positive reunion," King added.

# CSI's Gary Sinise and Lt. Dan Band return to Hawa

Sponsored by TriWest Healthcare Alliance, event marks actor's first stop on USO entertainment tour

#### **UNITED SERVICE ORGANIZATION & TRIWEST HEALTHCARE ALLIANCE**

News Release

ARLINGTON, Va. - "CSI: NY" actor Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band will return to Hawaii and perform two free, private concerts for U.S. troops and their families as part of a USO entertainment tour. Jan. 30-31.

The group's first concert is scheduled to take place at 7 p.m., at Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH), Kaneohe Bay, today, and the second show is scheduled for 7 p.m. at Hickam Air Force Base, Jan. 31.

This trip marks the band's second USO tour to the Aloha State, having visited and entertained more than 1,700 military families stationed at MCBH K-Bay in March 2007.

"For years now, Gary Sinise and the Lieutenant Dan Band have shared Tri-West's mission of supporting U.S. troops and their families," said TriWest President and CEO Dave McIntyre Jr. "They provide more than just a concert; they provide an



Tech. Sgt. Jerry Morrison | Defense Department Photo

Oscar-nominated actor and director Gary Sinise (right) and the Lt. Dan Band perform a concert in the Pentagon Courtyard at the 4th Annual America Supports You Concert as part of Military Appreciation Month at the Pentagon, May 16, 2008

opportunity for those in the military community to unite, relax and just have fun."

A longtime supporter of the U.S. military, Sinise was recently awarded the Presidential Citizens Medal – the second highest civilian honor bestowed to citizens who have performed exemplary deeds in service of our nation. The second actor in U.S. history to receive this decoration (the first was Elizabeth Taylor), Sinise was recognized for his ongoing support of active duty troops and wounded veterans.

Having founded Operation Iraqi Children, a nonprofit group dedicated to helping the U.S. military distribute school supplies to Iraqi children, he is also very active with the USO, having visited and entertained thousands of service members worldwide since 2003.

"I spend time with troops and participate

in USO tours every year because I love it, and it's very important to me," said Sinise. "We all want to feel appreciated and valued, and our troops are no different. They never ask for praise or recognition, but that doesn't mean they don't deserve it. They actually deserve even more and our troops in Hawaii are in for a treat.



For a list of recent and upcoming USO tours, visit www.uso.org/whatwedo/entertainment. To learn more about the USO or to find out how to support the troops, visit www.uso.org.

Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band, an 11member cover band named after a character Sinise portrayed in the film "Forrest Gump," have shared their musical chops with those in uniform for nearly six years. Covering everything from Bruce Springsteen and Linkin Park to Aretha Franklin and Jimmy Hendrix, the band seamlessly fuses instruments like the violin, trumpet, saxophone and drums.

Best known for his Oscar-nominated portrayal of Lt. Dan Taylor in "Forrest Gump," Sinise is an accomplished theater, film and television actor, Having worked in the industry for more than two decades, he has starred in more than 20 blockbuster films and earned the reputation of being one of America's most versatile actors.

Last seen on the big screen in Columbia Pictures' "The Forgotten" with Julianne Moore, and the computer-animated film "Open Season," Sinise was recently featured in the exclusive Fox News documentary "On the Road in Iraq with our Troops and Gary Sinise." Documenting his 10th USO tour to the Persian Gulf, Sinise shares his experience visiting and performing for troops in Iraq and Kuwait.

Volunteers are the heart of the USO. Their commitment and support of our men and women in uniform allows the USO to carry out its mission 24-hours a day, seven-days a week.

Celebrity entertainers serve as the USO's most visible volunteers. They render their time and talents to enhance the quality of life of service members and boost troop

Entertainers who have recently participated on USO tours include Kid Rock, Lewis Black, Kellie Pickler, Tichina Arnold, Curt Schilling, the Ying Yang Twins, Anna Kournikova, Boyz II Men, Trace Adkins, Baby Bash and Roger Goodell.

# Small changes in daily routine add up, reap big rewards in '09

Navy Fitness & Performance Enhancement Dietitian

FORT LEE, Va. - I love the quote, "A year from now, you'll wish you started today.'

What do you wish you could have started a year ago? For many folks, new year's means yet another resolution to start an exercise program, eat healthy and lose weight. If this rings true to you, try making a small change to your lifestyle in 2009 that, although it won't put you on the cover of a fitness magazine, will help you feel better, look better, function better and make you healthier.

One of the first things I like to suggest to folks is to add to your diet. Don't get preoccupied with what you can't have, but focus instead on what you can have. Remember, you can find all of the following items in your local commissary at savings of 30 percent or more.

Start by adding one or two of these ideas to your diet or lifestyle:

Add fruits and vegetables. Promise yourself you will eat five servings of fruits and vegetables every day. By filling up on the extra fiber and water, you should eat less food the rest of the day and hopefully lose weight.

Worst case is that you don't lose weight, but you will be much healthier because of all the additional vitamins and minerals in fruit and veggies

**Drink tea.** Green, black, flavored – any kind of tea is good. Teas are loaded with antioxidants, flavanoids, vitamins and minerals, and may help prevent tumors and promote weight loss. Much more research needs to be done to pinpoint all the benefits of tea drinking, but there are very few downsides to drinking tea.

Spice it up! Don't let a meal go by without sprinkling some type of herb or spice on it. Sprinkle cinnamon on oatmeal; garlic powder on salads; paprika on hummus; or chili powder, onion, pepper, dry mustard and cayenne into chili.

Don't hesitate to try new spices. So many great



For more information about making healthy choices, visit Ask the Dietitian at www.commissaries.com. Post your questions on the DeCA Dietitian Forum.

flavors with so much nutritive value are available, and best of all, they don't have many or any calories. Every time you go to the commissary, try a new **Drink more water.** Aim for about half your body

weight in fluid ounces each day. If you weigh 120 pounds you should consume about 60 fluid ounces of water per day.

Keep in mind, water-dense foods such as fruits and vegetables will contribute to this total, and high levels of physical activity will increase daily fluid needs above this amount.

Add calcium. Aim for 1,000 to 1,200 milligrams of calcium each day, equivalent to three to four, 8ounce cups of milk, preferably low-fat milk, every day. Not only will calcium help keep bones and teeth strong, but it may also help with weight loss.

Dietary supplements may provide some benefit, but try to reap the rewards of low-fat milk's muscle-building protein and health-promoting vitamin D. Don't like milk? Try low-fat yogurt, soy milk or low-fat cheese to get more calcium.

Add steps. Get a pedometer and shoot for 10,000 steps a day or, for a more practical approach, record how many steps you take each day for seven days. Divide that total by seven and try to go above and beyond that number each day. For example, if you average 5,000 steps a day, try to reach 5,500 steps every day of the following week, then 6,000 steps the next week. Ultimately, you want to achieve and maintain 10,000 steps each day.

(Editor's Note: Contact Chris Halagarda at (202) 433-3472 or chris.halagarda@navy.mil.)



Send sports announcements to community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

#### 31 / Saturday

**Hike Oahu** – Join the Hawaiian Trail Et Mountain Club on a hike through the Pacific Palisades Valley.

An easy hike (except for coming back up Cardiac Hill) leading to a series of small pools, waterfalls and a shady forest for a relaxing day.

This novice hike is 3 miles. Call Phil Booth at 382-4709.

Save the date for these upcoming hikes,

•Feb. 8, a 5-mile intermediate hike

through Waiahole Contour.

•Feb. 21, a 7-mile intermediate hike through Waimea Valley.

Hikes begin at 8 a.m., and a \$2 donation is requested of non-members. An adult must accompany children under 18. Hikers meet at Iolani Palace, mountainside.

Bring lunch and water on all hikes: wear sturdy shoes, as extra caution may be required on some trails.

Hikers must keep all trails and lunch sites clear of clutter, as well as treat trees and plants with care and respect. Visit www.htmclub.org.

## **February**

1/Sunday

**Running Workshops** – Training workshops will be held in preparation for the Great Aloha Run (Feb. 16) every Sunday leading up to the race (Feb. 1 and 8), 7:20



## Splash of color

WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD — Players scramble for a position during a paintball game, recently. The paintball course, featuring three lighted fields for day and evening play, is located just off Lauhala Road next to the baseball fields. They are open for regular, league and youth play, plus private parties and physical training. Hours of operation are Fridays, 5-9 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Visit www.paintballhawaii.com or call 343-3929.

a.m., at Kapiolani Park Bandstand Sessions are free for run participants

and will include a warm-up, training session, cool down and question-and-answer session on training topics. E-mail health@drchrist.com or call 943-0309.

13 / Friday

**Health and Fitness Expo** — Kaiser Permanente will kick off the Great Aloha Run (Feb. 16) with its annual 3-day Sports, Health and Fitness Expo, Feb. 13-15, at the Neal S. Blaisdell Center, Honolulu.

The expo will feature the latest in products, services and workshops for leading a healthy lifestyle, keiki activities, cooking demonstrations and entertainment.

The expo is open to the public on Feb. 13 from 4-9 p.m., Feb. 14 from 10 a.m.-8 p.m., and Feb. 15 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is \$4 for ages 13-64, \$2 for military personnel and free for senior citizens, keiki under age 12 and all registered runners. Parking is available for \$5 before 4 p.m. or \$6 after 4 p.m.

Call 528-7388.

14 / Saturday

Keiki Great Aloha Run Expo - Families with children are invited to come together for a great cause at the Kraft Keiki Great Aloha Run and Circus Party, Feb. 14, 8 a.m., at the Neal S. Blaisdell Exhibition Hall.

Close to 1,000 children ages 12 and younger are expected for the 1.5-mile fun run, which will be followed by a circus-inspired event.

The 1.5-mile course will take runners

around McKinley High School and will end at the West Concourse of the NBC Exhibition Hall. A parent or guardian must run with children ages 5 and under; however, parents may also choose to run with their children of any age.

Participants will receive keiki T-shirts, goodie bags and free entry into the Great Aloha Run Sports, Health & Fitness Expo.

Admission is \$12 for children and \$6 for adults, with mail-in registration by Jan. 26. Late registration and packet pickup is \$18 per child and \$6 for adults.

Purchase any Kraft product and include the UPC code with the registration form to receive \$2 off the fee.

Visit www.greataloharun.com or call 528-7388.

#### 16 / Monday

Great Aloha Run - Entries are now being accepted for the Great Aloha Run, scheduled for Presidents' Day, Feb. 16. The 8.15-mile run starts at the Aloha Tower and ends at Aloha Stadium.

Running divisions available include elites, age groups, wheelchair and handcycle competitors, and military personnel running individually or in Sounds of Freedom formations.

Applications are available online at www.greataloharun.com or at Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities. Contact Jim Perry at 655-9650.

## **Ongoing**

Hawaii Youth Triathlon Club - Children, ages 7-19, are invited to join the Hawaii Youth Triathlon Club, an organized sports club run by athletes. Membership is \$50 and includes an an-

nual membership with USA Triathlon, insurance during training, a swim cap and club certificate, review clinics and newsletter. Visit www.hawaiiouthtri.com.

## **30 / Today**

**Pool Updates** – The Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC) pool is now open:

•Adult lap swim, Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 6-8:30 a.m.

and 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

•Open swim, Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, from 1-6 p.m., and Saturdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

•The pool is closed Wednesdays, Sundays and all holidays. Call 433-5257.

Aliamanu Military Reservation's pool which was open during the TAMC pool closure, is now closed until May.

## **February**

Healthy Heart Love Run - Start running today to gain entries in the healthy heart love run lottery at the Helemano Military Reservation (HMR) Physical Fitness Center during the month of February.

Each 30-minute interval completed equals another entry. Call 653-0719.

## **Ongoing**

Volunteer Coaches – Interested in volunteering to be a Youth Sports coach? Call 836-1923 for AMR, 438-9336 for Fort Shafter/Tripler, 655-6465 Schofield, or 655-0883 for HMR.

**Youth Dive Team Lessons** — Spring ing Center, Schofield Barracks, invites all

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

Volleyball & Racquetball - Learn

basic skills and techniques from experienced instructors, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30-10 a.m., at Martinez Physical Fitness Center, Schofield Barracks.

Courts will be open for free play across the street from the facility. Call 655-4804.

Student Bowling Special – The Bowl-

students ages 18 and younger to take part in its after-school special.

Games are \$1.75 with free shoe rental, Mondays-Fridays, 2-5 p.m. Students earn a free game for every "A" on their original report card. Call 655-0573.

Ladies' Fitness Classes - Cardio Step & Circuit and Vinvasa Power Yoga classes are offered at the Fort Shafter Physical Fitness Center.

Beginner- through advanced-level yoga classes are Tuesdays, 9-10 a.m., and cardio classes are Thursdays, 9-10 a.m.

Call 438-1152.