

FMWR	B-2
Sports & Fitness	B-5

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"He (Aldridge) was such a young guy,

SEE ALDRIDGE, A-8

the greater good of America," he continued. "On behalf of more than two million men and women in uniform, we are deeply grateful for your leadership and service to America in a time of war."

Mullen thanked the president and Mrs. Bush for embracing the military family, and particularly those who have sacrificed heavily in the war on terror.

"You have proven that how well we care for our wounded and the families of the fallen defines who and what we really are as a nation," he said. "You made it personal, and that has made all the difference."

Some of the most powerful accolades during the ceremony came not from the leaders, but from the troops themselves.

SEE BUSH, A-7

3-7th Field Artillery Soldier dies in Iraq

**U.S. ARMY GARRISON-HAWAII
PUBLIC AFFAIRS**
News Release

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — The Department of Defense announced Monday the death of a 25th Infantry Division Soldier who was supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Pfc. Christopher W. Lotter, 20, of Chester Heights, Pa., died Dec. 31, 2008, in Balad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when he was shot by enemy forces in Tikrit. He was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.

Lotter joined the Army in January 2008 and was assigned to Schofield Barracks in June 2008.



A color portrait photograph of Pfc. Christopher W. Lotter. He is a young man with short, dark hair, wearing dark sunglasses and a grey t-shirt. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

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A photograph of three soldiers in camouflage uniforms and black berets standing in formation. They are holding rifles, and the soldier on the left is also holding a red flag. They are standing in front of a building.

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Number represents fatal accidents as defined by Army Regulation 385-10, which is inclusive of all active component U.S. Army units and personnel. Current as of 1/8/09.

The most significant change affected by the agreement is the basis for the authority that allows the military to conduct operations in Iraq. Rather than the authority of the United Nations, it is the authority and consent of the Iraqi government that

Government and military contracts must now be approved by the Iraqi government and contractor employees are subject to Iraqi law and jurisprudence. For the first time since the establishment of "no fly zones" following the first Gulf War, Iraq

Caslen Jr.

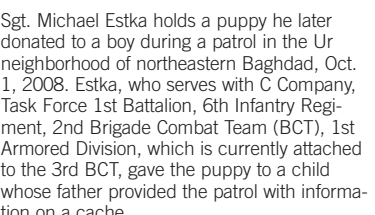
The implementation of the security agreement marks the birth of a new sovereign Iraqi nation and establishes a set point in time for the withdrawal of U.S. forces. It is a critical step toward a fully autonomous and self-dependent Iraq. Most importantly, it lays the foundation for a future of long-term cooperation and partnership between two democratic states — the Republic of Iraq and the United States of America.

A gift opens the way for the giver and ushers him into the presence of the great, Proverbs 18:16 (NIV).

The U.S. Army's Freedom Team Salute program was initiated by the secretary of the Army and the Army chief of staff to provide all currently serving Soldiers a sincere, heart-

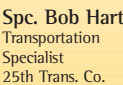
felt way to recognize their parents and spouses for their support and sacrifice. Guard and Reserve Soldiers can also recognize their employers during these trying times. Additionally, anyone can honor the millions of discharged U.S. Army veterans who served with distinction and other Army supporters, who continue to make significant contributions to the Army's mission (for example, a Soldier's child

The children as the future of the Iraqi nation must be treated with the respect and care to which they are entitled. One specific instance in which C Company "Commando," Task Force (TF) 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment interacted very successfully with children happened on the cool, clear morning, Oct. 1, 2008. The patrol moving north of Joint Security Station (JSS) Ur was looking for information on recent improvised-explosive devices near the JSS.



The families queried seemed to know very little or were reluctant to share information. The area surrounding JSS Ur is the poorest near Baghdad's Sadr City District. It is an area forgotten by the Iraqi government due to the fact that it is populated by "illegal" squatters. Due to the Iraqi government's stance, the people are denied the basic services which

What do you plan to do more of or less of this coming year?





Sgt. 1st Class Christina Bhatti | 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

Jamming

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Sgt. Joseph Ray sings with the band Dead Reckoning during their New Year’s performance at the Sgt. John M. Schoolcraft Pavilion here, Dec. 31. Dead Reckoning, along with two other bands, provided entertainment before a New York-style ball drop to ring in 2009. Ray is assigned to 556th Signal Company, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team.

Iraqi woman returns home after COP closes

SGT. 1ST CLASS BRIAN ADDIS
2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment

BASSAM, Iraq – Multinational Division – Baghdad Soldiers returned Combat Outpost (COP) Bassam, northwest of Baghdad, to its owner, Dec. 24.

During the onset of sectarian violence in 2005, at a time al-Qaeda in Iraq conducted atrocities targeting Shia residents in the rural Bassam village, many families fled the area and moved to safer areas.

Such was the case with a middle-aged woman, Bushra, who once owned the residence where Combat Outpost Bassam formerly operated. Her husband was murdered in 2006 and, hoping to avoid the same fate, she abandoned her home and fled to Ramadi.

Since her departure, her home and land were used by coalition forces. Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Troop “Headhunter,” 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment “Strykehorse,” who lived at COP Bassam since August, received the order to close the outpost on Christmas Eve. One of the first things the

command did was to meet with the owner and let her know it was safe for her to move back to her home.

“She had heard, like so many other (internally displaced persons), that security in the Bassam area had greatly improved,” said 1st Lt. Scott Butler, executive officer for Headhunter Troop. “She was very receptive to the idea of moving back to the area.”

The Headhunter Troop had previously worked closely with the 2nd Battalion, 53rd Iraqi Army Brigade, and the Estonian Army Platoon to deny the enemy movement throughout the area.

Operations to repatriate COP Bassam and return the home back to Bushra began in early December. On Christmas Eve, the keys were finally handed back to Bushra, allowing her to return home.

“I am very happy to be returning to my home,” she said. “I will shortly begin to make plans for using my land for agricultural use.”

The Headhunter commander, Capt. James Polak, said he felt it is a step in the right direction.

Joint security stations transition to GoI control

SGT. 1ST CLASS BRIAN ADDIS
2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment

JOINT SECURITY STATION SAB AL BOUR, Iraq – Multinational Division – Baghdad Soldiers bore witness to an historic event at Joint Security Station (JSS) Sab al Bour, as the national symbol of Iraq was raised over the Governance Center, Dec. 30.

The raising of the flag formally symbolizes the transition of control from the coalition forces back to the Iraqi government in the area. Similar ceremonies also took place at several joint security stations across Iraq, Dec. 31 and Jan. 1.

Another page in Iraqi history was written as local leaders from Sab al Bour, joined by Soldiers assigned to B Troop “Bountyhunter,” 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment “Strykehorse,” gathered for a ceremony commemorating the event.

Before officially raising the flag, Sab al Bour Nahia Mayor Radhe Jaffar, along with Thamir Amud, Sab al Bour Nahia chairman, buried several items in a time capsule underneath the flag pole. Among the items buried were several compact discs, which contained pictures of all the Nahia and Iraqi Security Forces leaders. Memorandums explaining what happened in Sab al Bour and the accomplishments of the new Iraqi government were also included. Buried along with the CDs were 15 9 mm rounds: one for each block in Sab al Bour.

“The 9 mm rounds being buried represent the end of violence in Sab al Bour,” said Jaffar. “It (the 9 mm rounds) also represents the fact that we are ready to leave the bad times buried in the past.”

Together, the two men placed the capsule into the ground and covered it with dirt.

The honor of raising the flag was given to Thamir, a man who spent 13 years in prison under Saddam Hussein’s regime for refusing to join the Baath party.

Thamir raised the flag slowly, as his eyes welled up with tears of joy.

“This is one of the proudest days of my life,” Thamir said. “This is truly a great occasion as it symbolizes a new beginning and the end to many years of depression.”

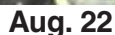


Photo Courtesy of C Co., 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment

Soldiers from C Company, 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment “Gimlets,” help members of the Iraqi Police raise the Iraqi national flag over Joint Security Station Aqur Quf, Dec. 29.

Capt. Dan Digati, B Troop commander, acknowledged all the improvements the government in Sab al Bour made since May.

“Today’s ceremony was certainly a tearjerker,” he said. “Thamir and Radhe have seen Sab al Bour at its worst and for them to be a part of this transition means so much to not only them but to myself and the men and women of Bountyhunter Troop.”



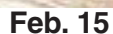
January

Feb. 23



February

Feb. 23



March

The Army welcomed five new members to its team as Civilian Aides to the Secretary of the Army (CASA) during an in-

The 516th Signal Bde.'s reigning Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, Staff Sgt. Arshad Jones of the 30th Signal Battalion (Bn.), earned the 2008 African-American History Award at the Department of Defense's African-American Heritage Symposium, Feb. 25.

April

May

May 26

June

for himself how the Army Family was delivering on promises to Assistant Chief of Staff for In-Management Lt. Gen. Robert [redacted] to family members and warriors, then toured older families 27-30.

August

September

September

"We have really ratcheted up what we're



July

“We have really ratcheted up what we’re



December

letter, 20, 3-7th FAR, 3IBCT, Dec. 31.

October

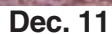
Sgt. Gary Willett, 34, 1-21st, 2SBCT, Fort

November

. 8 Pfc. Christopher Lo

Fallen comrades

Sgt. Gary Willett, 34, 1-21st, 2SBCI, Feb



Spc. Gregory Rundell, 21, 1-27th, 2SBCT, March 26
 Spc. Jeremiah Hughes, 26, 1-21st, 2SBCT, April 9
 Sgt. John Daggett, 21, 1-14th 2SBCT, May 15
 Cpl. William McMillan III, 21, 2-21st, 2SBCT, July 8
 Sgt. Kenneth Gibson, 25, 1-14th, 2SBCT, Aug. 10
 Pfc. Christopher McCraw, 23, 1-21st, 2SBCT, Oct. 14
 Sgt. Solomon Sam, 26, 523rd Inf. Co., 84th En. Bn.
 Pfc. Christopher Lotter, 20, 3-7th FAR, 3IBCT, Dec. 3



Spc. Jeremy Mingle instructs an Iraqi police officer how to safely and properly enter a building during a training session, Dec. 29, in the Istaqlal Qada. Mingle is an infantryman with A Company, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment “Wolfhounds.”

Wolfhounds teach IP tricks of the trade

Story and Photo by
STAFF SGT. J.B. JASO III
1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment

ISTAQLAL, Iraq — As U.S. forces in Iraq transition all of their operations by, with and through the Iraqi Security Forces, “Wolfhound” Soldiers continue their efforts in ensuring the Iraqi Police in the Istaqal Qada are ready to protect the residents in this northeast Baghdad region.

Soldiers from A Company, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment “Wolfhounds,” conducted tactical training with their Iraqi Police (IP) counterparts, Dec. 29.

“We taught them entering and clearing rooms and buildings, sensitive site exploitation and searching individuals,” said Spc. Joshua Lewis, who was one of the instructors for training. “We taught them the tips and tricks you need to know.

“It was important to teach them to ensure that they stay alive and safe.” Lewis continued.

When planning the course, noncommissioned officers (NCO) responsible for the training had to overcome the language barrier while implementing the finer details of the training.

“It was difficult trying to explain the way to do the maneuvers in simple words,” said Sgt. Tony Macias, an infantry squad leader, who used an interpreter to train the IP. “It went good though. We are trying to teach them the basics.”

An IP officer agreed that the training went well.

“It was good training,” said the IP officer. “I look forward to more training by the coalition forces.”

As the Iraqi Security Forces take an even stronger responsibility for the security of their nation, the Wolfhounds remain dedicated to ensuring their counterparts are prepared.

“The security environment in Istaqal Qada and northern Adhamiyah fosters coordination between members of the Al Zahour IP Security District, the 6th Emergency Response Unit Battalion and the 2nd Brigade, 1st Iraqi National Police Division,” said Lt. Col. Richard “Flip” Wilson, Wolfhound commander. “We, as a security force, on any given day honorably serve our respective nations with great discipline and teamwork.”

Robots neutralize IEDs in Mosul

OIF

Iraqi army engineers learn how to defeat terrorist weapons with technology

Story and Photo by
PFC. ADAM CARL BLAZAK
11th Public Affairs Detachment

MOSUL, Iraq — Vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices, improvised explosive devices (IED) and suicide vest explosive devices are all part of the enemy’s arsenal of weapons.

Defeating these inhumane and uncivilized weapons is not an easy task, but both coalition and Iraqi Security Forces are making significant strides in doing just that.

Coming across an IED isn’t a rarity in Mosul. Just ask any Soldier from the 59th Mobility Augmentation Company, 84th Engineer Battalion, 18th Engineer Brigade, and he will tell you the dangers of an IED contact.

“It’s intense every time,” said Staff Sgt. Jeron Pilger, training cadre, 59th Mobility Augmentation Co. Although specialty trained Soldiers can go and examine a suspected IED, it is always preferred that technology, in the form of a robot, go first.

The engineering company currently uses two robots to review suspected vehicle-borne and roadside IEDs. It uses the robot before sending out a Soldier, Pilger said.

With this lifesaving technology, the engineering company realized the importance of sharing the knowledge, so it teamed up with its Iraqi counterparts for an afternoon of robotics training.

Pilger was part of the team of engineers who helped implement the training for an engineer regiment in the 2nd Iraqi Army (IA) Division.



An Iraqi army (IA) engineer navigates a Talon robot through a makeshift improvised explosive device training course at Combat Outpost Al Kindi, Mosul, Iraq, Dec. 30. IA engineers received hands-on training from their U.S. counterparts with the 59th Engineer Company, 4th Infantry Division, during the afternoon robotics training course.

The training, conducted at Combat Outpost Al Kindi, focused on improving Soldiers’ agility and the basic care and maintenance of the robots, Pilger said.

The multifaceted training begins with an intense overview of maintenance and general care of the robots and goes into a hands-on portion of the technology.

“We made it as realistic as possible,” said Sgt. Marvin Blaise, lead instructor of the training, 59th Mobility Augmentation Co.

During the practical training exercises, IA

soldiers maneuvered the robots through a makeshift training explosive course in order to review suspected IEDs from a safe distance.

“In the past, Soldiers would pick up the IEDs by hand, but using the robots makes the job safer,” said Pvt. Salem Hamo, Eng. Regt., 2nd IA Div., one of the Soldiers participating in the training.

“We did the training to make them better,” Blaise said. “This was just one step closer to making that happen.”



Maj. Jeff Parker | 8th Military Police Brigade Public Affairs

Commitment to freedom

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq — Sgt. George Jay (right), a military police Soldier assigned to 39th Military Police (MP) Detachment, 28th MP Battalion, 8th MP Brigade, receives his oath of enlistment from Brig. Gen. David Quantock, deputy commanding general of detainee operations, Multinational Forces – Iraq, Dec. 30.

Hawaii engineers construct Soldiers' home

1ST LT. MICHAEL KELLY

523rd Engineer Company, 84th Engineer Battalion

IRBIL, Iraq — The 523rd Engineer Company, stationed in Mosul, Iraq, is helping to construct a new home for a battalion-sized element.

With the signing of the new security agreement and an overall push to move out of the major cities of Iraq, new forward operating bases (FOB) need to be constructed to accommodate Soldiers. This is no small feat and will take the dedication of many different elements of the 84th Engineer Battalion to complete.

The Soldiers of 2nd Platoon, 523rd Engineer Company, lead by 1st Lt. Matthew Udouj and Sgt. 1st Class Mark Beck are the major facets of this project.

The platoon has worked for the past two weeks at Irbil to construct a new FOB. Just getting to the site was no small task. The platoon had to construct a bypass around the town of Sabiran to move its heavy equipment. This bypass allowed the platoon to access the construction site without negatively impacting the local population.

On site, the platoon is providing horizontal construction work for the Army. At Irbil the platoon has overcome difficult weather conditions while conducting berming, leveling and compacting operations in Iraq's winter rainy season. The platoon has



1st Lt. Matthew Udouj | 523rd Engineer Company

A heavy equipment operator with 2nd Platoon, 523rd Engineer Company, uses a D7 bulldozer to construct a berm around an ammunition holding area.

even had to deal with snow. Soldiers started their mission by constructing a 12,000-foot perimeter security berm, an entry control point and placing

concertina wire barriers. The platoon will complete its security upgrade operations by installing four concrete guard towers using a 45-ton crane to lift

the structures into position.

Within the FOB, the platoon is improving the overall living conditions. The platoon is using its grader, loaders, roller and dozers to level and prepare the area for buildings. In addition, the platoon constructed roads throughout the new FOB and will install culverts to provide drainage.

The platoon will eventually emplace and compact 31,000 cubic meters of gravel on the FOB. The gravel comes from local contracts and provides work and economic benefits for the Iraqi people. This gravel will be the final horizontal portion of construction and will provide a solid foundation for housing areas, dining facilities, communication facilities, motor pools and supply areas.

With the completion of horizontal construction by the 523rd Engineer Company, the new FOB will be ready for the 643rd Engineer Company, the 84th Engineer Battalion's vertical engineer asset, to construct buildings, plumbing and power infrastructure.

Soldiers of 2nd Platoon, 523rd Engineer Company are a tight-knit group of hard working horizontal construction specialists. In addition to the work they have started and will finish at Forward Operating Base Irbil, the platoon has conducted road and crater repairs around the city of Mosul, a vital function that improves the quality of life for the Iraqi people.

OIF

News Briefs

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

9/Today

Kolekole Pass Closed

Schofield's Kolekole Pass is closed to traffic due to the recent storm. The closure is expected to last for the next several months.

Call 655-7114 for more information.

Road Closure

Due to flood damage at the bottom of the hill south of Lyman Gate, Kunia Road will be closed for repairs. The road is expected to open late next week, weather permitting. For more information, call the Hawaii Department of Transportation at 587-2160.

12/Monday

Change in Government Vehicle Cards

GSA, GSA Fleet and Department of Defense Fleet customers can no longer use the Voyager card as an acceptable form of payment at Army and Air Force Exchange (AAFES) gas facilities.

AAFES will not be equipped to accept the new Wright Express (WEX) cards until Jan. 12, 2009.

The "pay at the pump" system will be upgraded and ready to accept the new form of payment in fall 2009.

14/Wednesday

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Celebration

The 25th Combat Aviation Brigade and Team Equal Opportunity (EO), Hawaii will sponsor a morning commemoration service in honor of the Dr. Martin Luther King holiday, Jan. 14, 8:30-10 a.m., at Schofield's Nehelani.

Admission is free but due to limited seating, tickets are available from local EO offices. For more information on where you can pick up your tickets, call 497-7643 or e-mail ricardo.natera@us.army.mil.

Post Exchange Meeting

The next Fort Shafter Post Exchange/Market meeting for the

Oahu South community will be Jan. 14, 10-11 a.m., at the U.S. Army Garrison-Oahu Conference Room, Building 344, 263 Montgomery Drive.

All Fort Shafter community members are invited to attend and provide input. Call 438-6147.

16/Friday

Motorcycle Safety Rodeo

The 8th Theater Sustainment Command will sponsor a Motorcycle Safety Rodeo, Jan. 16, 7-9 a.m., at Fort Shafter Flats. A group ride and lunch will follow the rodeo.

Riders will be inspected for licensing, paperwork, correct personal protective equipment, and then execute a series of skills tests.

This is open to all military motorcycle riders. Riders are requested to bring at least one canned good item, non-perishable to donate to the Food Bank of Hawaii.

Call Tim Ah-Young Shelton at 438-0835 for more information.

20/Tuesday

Oahu North Community Town Hall

The next town hall meeting for the Oahu North community will be held at the Sgt. Smith Theater, Schofield Barracks, Jan. 20, at 6:30 p.m.

The town hall provides information about community events, security, housing updates, deployments and much more. Call 655-0497.

23/Friday

Tripler Road Work

Contractors are scheduled to begin repairing Jarrett White, Patterson and Krukowski roads on Tripler, through Jan. 23, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., daily. Jarrett White Road will be open to emergency vehicles only. Expect detours, lane changes and delays. Call 656-2435.

Ongoing

Road and Field Closure — Bonney Loop, Fort Shafter, is closed to regular traffic. Access will be allowed only for business at Building 515. The timeline for the closure is expected to be two years.

Favreau Field will also be closed and is no longer available for physical training. Units are required to

SEE NEWS BRIEFS, A-8

Tropic Lightning brings more electricity

Story and Photo by

325TH BRIGADE SUPPORT BATTALION

News Release

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, TIKRIT, Iraq — "Paid for by the people of Iraq, for the people of Iraq."

These words, written in Arabic on the side of a 600,000-pound generator in a slow-moving Iraqi and American joint convoy, express the progress of a six-year building process between coalition forces and the Iraqi government.

Soldiers from A Company, 325th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), are part of this progress. They provided a security escort for a shipment of four massive generators to a power plant in Samarra during an eight-day, 300-mile convoy, Dec. 3 to Dec. 10.

Once all four generators are added to the national power grid, they will provide several more hours of electricity per day to the 150,000 citizens of Samarra and to thousands of other Iraqi citizens in Salah Ad-Din Province. The Iraqi government has worked diligently to increase the amount of electricity available to the populace, which will improve quality of life and economic expansion, according to Maj. Jeffrey Pugh, civil military officer, 3rd IBCT.

This particular patrol was different than any other conducted in the 325th BSB's history due to the size of the generators and the pace of the convoy, which travelled at speeds rang-



Soldiers from A Company, 325th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, provide a security escort for a shipment of four generators to a power plant in Samarra, Iraq, during an eight-day, 300-mile convoy, Dec. 3-10.

ing from three to 12 miles per hour. At times, the mission seemed to crawl because of many tire changes and bridge crossings. Other times, the massive generators were able to pick up speed on the flat ground.

Such a mission might have been much more dangerous if not for the recent increase in security and safety in Salah ad-Din Province due to the efforts of the Iraqi Security Forces and coalition forces working together.

"This is not the same Iraq I remember a few years ago," said Sgt. Jack Vrocher, a noncommissioned officer in a lead vehicle of the patrol. In the past, Soldiers conducting such a mission expected confrontation. On this mission, Soldiers were greeted with kindness by the

Iraqi people. This trend was seen throughout the countryside as Iraqi locals greeted the slow-moving convoy with smiles and waves.

"They were very happy to see us and very receptive," explained Staff Sgt. Angel Ortiz, another noncommissioned officer helping to escort these important generators to Samarra.

One of the most critical parts of the movement was through the town of Samarra. There Soldiers joined their Iraqi counterparts walking next to the 40-vehicle convoy. The trip, which lasted several hours through downtown Samarra, included escorted by an unplanned extra contingent of Iraqi policemen who wanted to be a part of something that was making a difference in the lives of so many Iraqis.

Bush: Service members share wishes for President

CONTINUED FROM A-1

incident in Iraq last month.

"Sir, nice to see that our president is still quick on his feet after eight years in office," Fraser wrote, bringing an outburst of laughter as Mullen read it at the ceremony.

"Next time, pick up the shoe and throw it back," he continued. "We got your back."

Army Sgt. 1st Class Claude Cory from Waco, Texas, turned the tone serious.

"Sir, you truly set the standard to uphold the peace and our very way of life so our kids can grow up in a peaceful world," he wrote. "We will always stand tall, one great nation and one great state, Texas."

Other service members, who signed the journal simply as "Your Soldiers," thanked Bush for his "service, example and leadership."

"We have not faltered. We will not fail," the anonymous service member continued. "With greatest respect and honor, we serve."

Mullen called the troop messages a sign of the deep mutual respect between Bush and the 2.4 million military men and women, as well as their families.

"Those voices are an answering volley to you for your high regard and great respect for every single man and woman who serves this nation," he said.

Gates presented the president and Mrs. Bush several awards in appreciation of their service. To Bush, he presented the Department of Defense Distinguished Public Service Award, U.S. Army Decoration for Distinguished Civilian Service, U.S. Navy Distinguished Public Service Award, U.S. Air Force Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service, and U.S. Coast Guard Distinguish Public Service Award.

The secretary presented Mrs. Bush the Department of Defense Outstanding Public Service Award.

Soldiers field-test MRAPs, X-Bots, Boomerangs in Iraq

STAFF SGT. MICHEL SAURET AND
STAFF SGT. AMBER EMERY
Army News Service

BAGHDAD — Operation Iraqi Freedom is helping create a whole new way of fielding force protection products beginning with the mine-resistant ambush protected (MRAP) vehicle which has saved lives and greatly reduced combat injuries to Soldiers on patrol.

“We’re getting the fielded pieces out to the Soldiers immediately. When roadside bomb attacks were on the rise in Iraq, Soldiers found themselves in need of vehicles that could resist the threat,” said Lt. Col. Steven Brewer, force integration officer for Multinational Division Center.

“We are doing stuff going immediately from concept to implementation in less than a year out here, so we are taking a lot of short cuts and doing a lot of pieces after the fact. Then, we just keep improving it and testing it.”

Because of the rushed need for the MRAP, four companies were manufacturing them. Additionally, six of 12 models passed the initial testing with the Army eventually choosing four. Since the first four models, there have been three generations of improvements, essentially creating 12 versions of the ve-

hicle. A simulated MRAP rollover trainer, similar to the humvee egress assistance trainer currently being used by service members, is also in development.

“The MRAP fielding will probably go down as the granddaddy of all fieldings,” said Brewer. “We are completing the final MRAP fieldings in January, which consist of the explosively formed projectile (EFP) protected version of the vehicle.”

A process that can take at best five years or longer to fulfill, took roughly eight months to reach more than 50 percent of the units in need.

“We don’t have time to wait for that five-year process. We need the stuff while we are still here, so we’ve come up with this abbreviated process,” said Brewer.

A wide variety of new equipment is making its way to units in the field.

One much-awaited piece of technology is the X-Bot, which is a self-contained robotic system capable of investigating suspected IEDs in various locations.

“The X-Bot fits between the seats in a humvee so if you come across something that looks suspicious, you can throw it out there, and it moves pretty fast — so it is definitely a good piece of equipment to have,” said Brewer.



Staff Sgt. Amber Emery | Multinational Division-Central

Pfc. Joshua Hunter, 10th Mountain Division, quick reaction force gunner, communicates with the mine-resistant ambush protected vehicle driver during training on Camp Victory, Jan. 1.

Fielding is the process of identifying a mission requirement and fulfilling it with some form of technology, whether new or already existing.

“That’s kind of how you end up with a humvee over a jeep,” Brewer said.

Portable walk-through metal detectors for entry control points; the Boomerang system, which can detect the direction of sniper fire and shoot back; Wolfclaw and new types of sensors, which can improve finding IEDs along the road, are just a

few other pieces of equipment currently undergoing the fielding process.

Equipment is introduced into the field in three different ways. One way is for a unit commander to submit an operational needs statement, which identifies a capability gap for which there is a material solution. Another way is for Soldiers in the field to identify something and submit a rapid equipping force report. Lastly, companies may visit Soldiers in the field to help develop ideas for equipment.

“What comes out of the fielding is a capabilities and limitations sheet, which tells you what the machine can and can’t do and then a safety release, which states whether it is safe to use this product in these circumstances,” said Brewer.

To start, fieldings cover only what is necessary to complete missions, while the extra bells and whistles can be added later. As soon as the equipment is available, it is shipped to Iraq. The technology is then integrated to see how well it incorporates with the overall mission. A sustainment system is developed, such as the technical manual and maintenance training. Supply issues are also considered. Finally, Soldiers learn how to use the new equipment at a centralized location before taking it back to their units.

Aldridge: Lost son will always be remembered

CONTINUED FROM A-1

welcome to paradise.

The Aldridge family placed the last shovel of dirt on the tree and unveiled the plaque with Dole Plantation officials during the ceremony. Susanne Aldridge said her family’s grieving process goes on, but the symbolism of the tree planting will allow young David’s memory to live on.

“There’s always going to be something here to remind us of him,” she said. “Family can come here to visit Dole Plantation for generations and see a piece of David here in this tree.”

Right — Susanne Aldridge, left, Staff Sgt. David Aldridge, right, and their daughter, Destiny, 4, put the final shovel of dirt on the kukui nut tree at Dole Plantation, Dec. 19.



Deploy: Soldiers, families have positive outlook

CONTINUED FROM A-1

began his remarks with a quote from President Theodore Roosevelt’s famous 1910 speech, “The Man in the Arena.”

“It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood ... and

who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat,” Petersen quoted. “I am truly thankful to be entering the arena with all of you.”

Petersen said his Soldiers are ready for what lies ahead and thanked the families for their unwavering support.

“You, too (the families), are doers of deeds. Words cannot express our thanks for your

support and dedication,” he said.

This is the first deployment for Cpl. Patrick Lopez, a signal support systems specialist with Forward Support Company, 65th Eng. Bn. Lopez and his wife, Shelly, have four children, ages 13, 11, 9 and 19 months.

“We have a positive outlook on this deployment,” said Lopez. “We spent the holidays together and I should be home before next Christmas, so we’re already counting the days.”

News Briefs

From A-7

find an alternate location to conduct physical fitness training. The closure is in support of barracks construction.

Call Randall Mita, 438-1309, for more details.

Car Rental — Enterprise Car Rental is no longer operating on Schofield Barracks. Hertz Rent-A-Car is the new rental service provider.

First-Term Financial Training — Mandatory eight-hour training is provided on the second and fourth Monday of the month at Schofield Barracks’ Army Community Service (ACS), Building 2091.

Learn basic financial skills, develop self-reliance and personal responsibility, encourage financial planning, improve money

management skills and enhance your personal financial literacy.

For class date and/or to register, call 655-4ACS (4227).

VA/DAV Briefings — The Army Career and Alumni Program (ACAP) offers many services for Soldiers and military spouses:

- Veterans Affairs (VA) briefings are held twice a month at the ACAP Center, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Come and learn more about your VA benefits and entitlements or learn more about VA Vocational Rehabilitation services.

Filing a disability claim? Learn how the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) can assist you by reviewing your medical records and expediting your disability claim. Learn important information about Tricare before you retire.

All separating and retiring Soldiers are encouraged to attend the four-hour VA Benefits Briefings and two-hour Disabled Transition Assistance Program (DTAP)

Briefings.

- Separating personnel spouses and adult family members are eligible to use ACAP services (even during deployment). The ACAP Center is open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Soldier Support Center, Building 750, Room 134, Schofield Barracks.

- The ACAP Center offers a two-and-a-half day Transition Assistance Program (TAP) Employment Workshop for Soldiers leaving active duty and entering the civilian workforce. Spouses are also eligible to attend the TAP workshops, held at the ACAP Center.

Visit the new ACAP Express Web page at www.acapexpress.army.mil to register. Call 655-8945.

New Hours of Operation — The Schofield Barracks Military Clothing and Sales Store will be open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; and closed Sunday. Call 655-0497.

Traffic Control Plan — Construction of the Wiliwili neighborhood on Wheeler Army Airfield began Nov. 24, and all personnel and dependents traveling in the area will experience traffic control measures through the end of the construction.

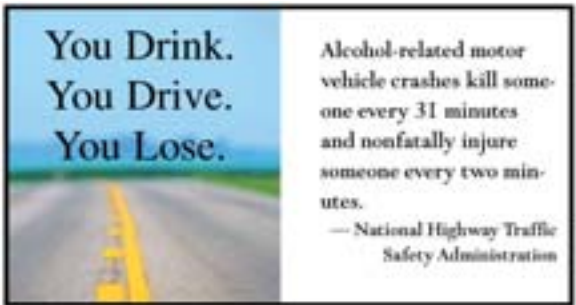
The road pathway through the construction site will be striped for two-way traffic.

The existing sidewalk at the intersection of Lehua Road and Wiliwili Circle through the job site will remain open for Camp Stover pedestrians. Call 275-3118.

Crime Tips — Community members can now submit anonymous crime tips to the military police via cell phone text messaging or online.

To submit a text message tip through your personal cell phone, send “TIP730” along with your tip information to the number “Crimes” (274637).

To submit a tip online, visit www.militarycrimetips.com.



HAWAII ARMY WEEKLY

PAU HANA

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

"When work is finished!"

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 2009

The benefits pets provide are well documented. However, potential owners should also consider the responsibilities of pet ownership before taking the plunge.

Courtesy Photos



The joys (and woes) of pet ownership

Caring for four-legged family members can be a big responsibility

MOLLY HAYDEN
Staff Writer

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS – The term "man's best friend" brings to mind companionship and unconditional love. A pet can walk with you, listen when you need to vent, and provide safety for your family and home.

Owning a pet has been proven to lower blood pressure and can also alleviate feelings of chronic loneliness and depression. Additionally, exposure to animals can improve children's social skills, according to the Humane Society.

Raising a pet can be a rewarding experience, however, the realities of pet ownership and the accompanying responsibilities may present unforeseen challenges. Dogs, cats and other critters have their own physical and medical needs, in addition to behaviors and instincts.

"Animals need constant care," said Sgt. Kimberly Marin, Schofield Barracks Veterinary Treatment Facility (VTF). "Dogs should be walked at least twice a day, preferably after meals."

Other helpful hints include providing a good diet, regular veterinarian visits, rewarding good behavior and socializing with other animals.

Marin also suggests seeking professional help from your vet, a trainer or an animal behaviorist if a problem arises. Numerous additional resources are available at the VTF.

Due to the increase in frequency of deployments, military surrendered animals are on the rise.

Those who can no longer care for their pet can sign over the animal either of the VTF locations (Fort Shafter and Schofield), as well as the Hawaiian Humane Society. However, a deployment doesn't mean you and your pet have to part ways.

As an alternative for military personnel, the Humane Society started the "Pets of Patriots" Program to provide pets of deployed Soldiers a foster home during the duration of deployment.

"Our goal is to help our fellow military so they have their companion to come back to," said Dmitri Welch, outreach programs coordinator for the Hawaiian Humane Society.

The program is currently in need of volunteers willing to commit to long-term foster care.



Courtesy Photo

Linda Basnett takes 10-year-old Lucy out for a romp in the leaves. Dogs should be walked at least twice a day.

All of the pet's financial needs are usually handled by the pet owner, according to Welch, and both parties should agree upon all financial responsibilities prior to deployment.

Taking the plunge

Once the decision has been made to obtain a pet, educating yourself and your family can make all the difference in ensuring your pet is happy, healthy and well behaved.

The U.S. Army has strict policies on the care, safety and licensing of pets on installations.

For example, pit bulls, or any breed thereof, are prohibited on all Army installations on Oahu. A pit bull is an American pit bull terrier, Staffordshire terrier, Staffordshire bull terrier, crosses of these breeds, and any other dog with physical characteristics similar to these breeds. An Army veterinarian can determine if a dog is a pit bull.

The garrison strongly recommends spaying or neutering all dogs and cats living on the installation. Also, Policy Memorandum USAG-HI 35, Army Installation Microchip Program, states all cats and dogs kept on the Army installations

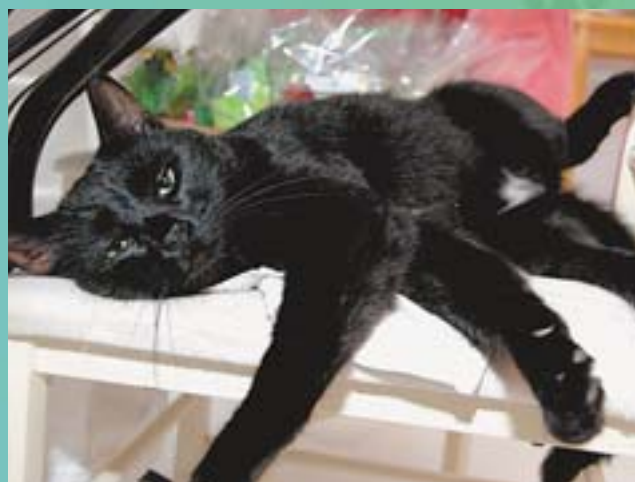


Photo Courtesy of Angela Elbern

Buddy does what cats do best as he inhabits a chair at home. Cat owners should be prepared for a long commitment as cats can live for about 15 years.



Molly Hayden | Honolulu Advertiser

Sky dog shows off her leaping abilities in Waikiki. Regular exercise and socialization with other animals are two keys for ensuring your pet stays healthy and happy for many years.

on Oahu are required to have an identification microchip implanted under their skin.

The microchip allows for instantaneous animal and owner identification should a pet become lost or abandoned. Any type of animal cruelty including abandonment should be reported immediately to the proper authorities.

In addition, owners must register

For more information on the Pets of Patriots Program, contact Dmitri Welch at dwelch@hawaiianhumane.org or 356-2217.

Schofield Barracks Veterinary Treatment Facility
Building 936, Duck Road
433-8532

Fort Shafter Veterinary Treatment Facility
Building 435, Pierce Road
433-2271

pets that are 16 weeks of age or older with the City and County of Honolulu and with the applicable Veterinary Treatment Facility (VTF) on Schofield Barracks or Fort Shafter within 14 days after arrival on an Army installation on Oahu.

Although Hawaii does not have a statewide leash law, Army Hawaii Family Housing requires all dogs be kept on a leash during walks.

People have always had a strong urge to nurture animals. In an age of constant change, many family members place increasing importance on the role of pets in their lives. Knowing the responsibility of caring for a furry family member can provide a safe and rewarding environment for every member of the household.



13 / Tuesday

Adult Art Classes — Beginner Adult Oil Painting classes will be available at the Schofield Barracks Arts & Crafts Center, Jan. 13, 6-9 p.m. The five-session class costs \$85, including supplies. Acrylic painting classes are also available beginning Jan. 17. Call 655-4202.

Stained Glass — Learn basic foil techniques of stained glass, Jan. 13, 9-11 a.m. The three-session class costs \$50, including supplies. Call 655-4202.

14 / Wednesday

Create a Card — Families of deployed Soldiers are invited to create Valentine's cards Jan. 14, 3-4:30 p.m., at Schofield's Sgt. Yano Library. The library will provide all materials. Call 655-8002.

15 / Thursday

Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament — The next session of the free monthly tournament will take place Jan. 15, 6-9:30 p.m., at Schofield's Tropics Recreation Center. This tournament lets you test your skills against the best of the best poker players on post. All ID card holders 18 and older are welcome. Call 655-5698.

16 / Friday

Basic Computer Photo Editing — The Arts & Crafts Center will offer a basic computer photo editing class Jan. 16, 10-11:30 a.m. The three-session class costs \$35. Call 655-4202.

17 / Saturday

Daddy Boot Camp — The Family Advocacy Prevention team will offer a Daddy Boot Camp class Jan. 17, 9 a.m.-noon, Schofield's Army Community Service. This class offers hands on training so new dads can be confident and effective parents. Call 655-0596 to register.

22 / Thursday

Newsstand Database Training — Schofield's Sgt. Yano Library will offer a hands-on training session on the Proquest Newsstand database, Jan. 22, 2-6 p.m. The training is free and open to all who are interested. Proquest Newsstand is a database that provides leading national and international major newspapers. Call 655-8002.

February

4 / Wednesday

Get in the Game with FMWR — Join



Tasha Marrotte | Tropics Recreation Center

Cheers from the North Pole

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — More than 130 Soldiers and family members celebrated the holidays at the Single Soldier Christmas Eve party, Dec. 24, at the Tropics Recreation Center. Attendees participated in casino games, won over \$2,000 in prizes, including a 47-inch high definition television, and enjoyed a catered Hawaiian meal.

us for a great fun-filled afternoon and learn about everything Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation in Hawaii has to offer, Feb. 4, 3-6 p.m. at the Aliamanu Military Reservation (AMR) Physical Fitness Center Gymnasium.

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

As an added bonus, we'll 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.mwramyhawaii.com.

5 / Thursday

Pro Bowl Meet and Greet — NFL 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.

Ongoing

Karaoke Tuesdays — Schofield's Tropics Recreation Center offers free karaoke Tuesdays, 5-8 p.m. Warm up your pipes and let your inner idol shine. Not a singer? Not to worry — you can still stop by and enjoy the show and the great bottled beer and other specials. Call 655-0002.

Island Tour — Want to discover Oahu? A free island tour, designed to familiarize all newly arrived Soldiers and family members, is held every Tuesday, and the second and fourth Wednesday of the month, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

The tour will orient you to the Hawaiian culture and customs, language, installation and various points of interests. Tuesday tours depart from Schofield Barracks and Wednesday tours depart from Fort Shafter. Call Army Community Service office at 655-4ACS (4227) for reservations. Seating is limited.

Mobilization and Deployment Workshops — Army Community Service (ACS)

and Military Family Life Consultants offer Child and Parent group workshops at Aliamanu Military Reservation (AMR) and at Helemano Military Reservation (HMR). Meet other parents and children and participate in workshops every Tuesday and Wednesday, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

At least one parent must attend with their child. No long-term commitment is required. You and your child may join a group or stop at anytime.

Nine ongoing workshops will cover topics like conflict resolution, communication and stress management, deployment and reunion.

The first and third Tuesdays are for ages 16-18; second and fourth Tuesdays, ages 10-12. The first and third Wednesdays are for ages 13-15. The second and fourth Wednesdays are for ages 7-9.

Call AMR 366-9121 or HMR 366-7482.

Thrift Shop Hours — The Fort Shafter Thrift Shop is open Thursdays, 2-6 p.m. The Thrift Shop is located at 342 Pierce St.; just follow the brown signs past the Post Exchange Market, Post Office, Vet Clinic and Housing Office. Call 842-1074.

Celebration — The 25th Combat Aviation Brigade and Team Equal Opportunity (EO), Hawaii will sponsor a morning commemoration service in honor of the Dr. Martin Luther King holiday, Jan. 14, 8:30-10 a.m., at Schofield's Nehelani.

Admission is free but due to limited seating, tickets are available from local EO offices. For more information on where you can pick up your tickets, call 497-7643 or e-mail ricardo.natera@us.army.mil.

Post Exchange Meeting — The next Fort Shafter Post Exchange/Market meeting for the Oahu South community will be held Jan. 14, 10-11 a.m., at the U.S. Army Garrison-Oahu Conference Room, Building 344, 263 Montgomery Drive.

All Fort Shafter community members are invited to attend and provide input. Call 438-6147.

Job Fair — Job Quest, one of Hawaii's largest job fairs, will hold another fair, Jan. 14, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Neil Blaisdell Center. Call Success Advertising at 536-7222 or visit www.successhi.com.

16 / Friday

Employment Orientation —

Prepare for the job you want.

Attend an Army Community Service (ACS) Employment Orientation and get employment information on federal, state, private sector and staffing agencies. Reference materials, job listings, computers, Web tour and more will be available for use.

Orientations will be held at Schofield Barracks, ACS, Jan. 16 and 23, 9-10:30 a.m.

Call ACS at 655-4227. Register online at www.acsclasses.com.

Child care vouchers are available if children are registered and space is reserved by a parent.

17 / Saturday

Hangar Talk — The Pacific Aviation Museum will present Hangar Talk, Jan. 17, 1-2 p.m., on Ford Island.

This month's presentation will feature Dr. Jon Davidann, discussing "The Causes of Pearl Harbor & the Pacific War." The presentation is free with a paid admis-

sion to the museum. Hangar Talk is offered on the third Saturday of every month.

Visit www.PacificAviationMuseum.org or call 441-1000.

20 / Tuesday

Spring Kick-Off — The Protestant Women of the Chapel will hold their spring kick off, "Clearing Out a Space at Jesus' Feet," Jan. 20, 9-11:30 a.m., at Schofield's Main Post Chapel Annex, Building 791, Room 212.

Guest speaker Kelly Phillips will share about "a heart for Him makeover" and discover how to sweep away the clutter and clear out space at the redeemer's feet.

Call Rebeca Highfill at 554-5704 to register.

Limited, free, pre-arranged child care is available for CYS2 registered children. Contact Kyla Winterle about child care at ojalyk@yahoo.com.

Oahu North Community Town Hall

— The next town hall meeting for the Oahu North community will be held at the Sgt. Smith Theater, Schofield Barracks, Jan. 20, at 6:30 p.m. The town hall provides information about community events, security, housing updates, deployments and much more. Call 655-0497.

31 / Saturday

Fundraiser — The American Lung Association in Hawaii (ALAH) will host a fundraiser contest, 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.hawaiiitheatre.com.

February

4 / Wednesday

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 Conference Center, and Feb. 5, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at Fort Shafter's Hale Ikena.

Exhibitors will be on hand demonstrat-

ing the latest advancements in information technology, computer hardware and software and related fields. Complimentary refreshments will be provided along with a buffet-style lunch.

There is no fee to attend and all interested personnel are invited. For more information e-mail dennis@fbcinc.com.

Ongoing

Slick Deals for Soldiers — The Contemporary Museum, Honolulu, will offer free admission for all military members and their families Sundays, during the H.C. Westermann exhibition.

H.C. Westermann is a former Marine Corps gunnersmate-turned artist.

Eligible Sundays are through Feb. 22. Visit www.tcmhi.org or call 526-0232 for more information.

Art and Essay Contest — The Army Services YMCA is now accepting entries for its annual Art & Essay Contest.

Children of active duty, Reservist or Guard Soldiers are encouraged to write an essay about their military hero or illustrate their military family in a drawing. Illustrated entries will be accepted through Feb. 20, and essays will be accepted through March 20.

Winning entries may be used for promotional materials. Savings bonds are awarded for top entries.

Visit www.asymca.org.

Pets of Patriots — The Hawaiian Humane Society is looking for volunteers for the Pets of Patriots program, which finds someone willing to foster the pets of deployed service members.

For more information, call 356-2217 or visit www.hawaiianhumane.org.

Protestant Women of the Chapel — Protestant Women of the Chapel meet every Tuesday, 9-11:30 a.m., at Schofield Barracks' Main Post Chapel. Join us for encouragement, laughter, hope, friends and faith. Limited, free, pre-arranged child care is available for children registered at the Child Development Center. Call 554-5704.



Aliamanu (AMR) Chapel

836-4599

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

Fort DeRussy Chapel

836-4599

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

Fort Shafter Chapel

836-4599

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

Helemano (HMR) Chapel

653-0703

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

Main Post Chapel

655-9307

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

MPC Annex, Building 791

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

Soldiers Chapel

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

Tripler AMC Chapel

433-5727

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

Wheeler Chapel

656-4481

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



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



Transporter 3

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

Bolt

(G)
Saturday, 4 p.m.

Punisher: War Zone

(R)
Saturday, 7 p.m.



Beverly Hills Chihuahua

(PG)
Sunday, 2 p.m.

Quantum of Solace

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

No shows on Mondays or Tuesdays.



Send announcements to community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

9 / Today

Successful Interviewing Skills Workshop — A key component to any job search is the ability to sell one's self to a potential employer. This workshop will prepare attendees for the interview process. A workshop will be held today, 9-11 a.m., at Schofield's Army Community Service. Call 655-4227 or visit www.acsclasses.com.

10 / 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, Jan. 10, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., at Schofield's Main Post Chapel Annex. Classes will also be offered Jan. 12 and 22, Feb. 7, 9 and 12.

Issues particular to spouses, children and Soldiers will be addressed in addition to community services available. Call 655-8132.

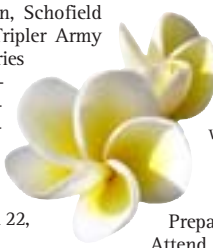
13 / Tuesday

Free Computer Training for Spouses — Army Community Service (ACS) and New Horizons have teamed up to provide free computer training to military spouses. Training is held at the Schofield Barracks ACS Computer Lab, Jan. 13, 9 a.m.-12:15 p.m., and Fort Shafter Outreach Center, Jan. 14, 9 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Training includes Microsoft Office. Seating is limited. If you would like to learn the computer skills for today's working environment, call 655-4227 or register online www.nhofhawaii.com/acs.

14 / Wednesday

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday





Seven-year-old Madison Patterson carefully places letters on her book cover to display the title of the story she wrote. The Books by You program at the Sgt. Yano Library helped children create their own story using a step-by-step computer program along with creativity and imagination.

Children create storybooks, become novelists at library

Story and Photo by
MOLLY HAYDEN
Staff Writer

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — “My alien has one big eye, purple spaghetti hair and octopus legs,” explained 9-year-old Marli Flores. She then began to draw the main character on the cover of her newly written masterpiece at the Sgt. Yano Library, recently.

“This is my first book,” added the young author. The new Knowledge Adventure program, “Books by You,” recently arrived at post libraries across the island to introduce children to the art of storytelling. **The software product includes the framework for four engaging original storybooks.**

Children customized their stories based on personal experiences by providing simple answers to an array of thought-provoking questions. Answers and details were then woven into the story in unexpected ways that made reading the story fun.

Children expanded their vocabulary as challenging new words were introduced and defined.

“This is a great learning tool,” said family member Martina Flores. “The story is set, but the children can adjust it to their liking and make it their own.”

From a prize monkey that is stolen from the zoo to the cheese-loving alien that lands on a farm, the completed books incorporate the child’s own ideas, creativity and imagination.

The experience helped children develop better

typing skills, writing techniques and encouraged creative thought, according to Bonnie Dong, supervisor, Sgt. Yano Library.

“This program involved the children with books,” said Dong, “hopefully creating more enthusiastic readers.”

Families of deployed Soldiers are invited to create Valentine’s cards, Jan. 14, at 3 p.m., at Schofield’s library. The library will provide materials. Call 655-8002 for more information on library programs.

After completing their books, the handful of young authors created book covers using construction paper, markers, crayons and paint. Paper monkeys and outlines of aliens donned tables as children colored, glued, illustrated and tied the pages of their story together.

Each book contained approximately 70 pages of creative verbiage and set the stage for years of thought-provoking storytelling. The program is designed to ignite imaginations and inspire a love of reading and writing in children ages 8 and up.

“This inspires them creatively and makes them think,” said family member Laura Salgado. “And it’s fun.”

Library services are always on duty, serving families

ROB MCILVAINE
Family and Morale, Welfare & Recreation Command Public Affairs

Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command (FMWRC) has a worldwide network of more than 100 libraries providing something for everyone – from story hours to book discussion groups; Internet access to word processing; the latest novels to “how-to” books; and encyclopedia and other reference books to online reference resources.

These libraries also support your education goals. Look for colleges online, prepare for college entrance tests, and find college level material to write a college paper. Or escape through fiction, keep up with current affairs, explore your hobby, and find a quiet nook to dream, encourage reading in your young child; whether a singular experience or a family affair, it all adds up to a life-enriching experience.

Information is available online anytime at MilitaryOneSource.com. Once logged in, click on “Recreation” to visit your virtual Department of Defense FMWR Library. Download a free book from thousands of fiction and nonfiction titles, on topics

ranging from how to fix your car to maintaining your apartment or home. Even if you don't get one of the free little audio books, library resources are available anytime. Research careers and colleges, create a resume, or take a free practice test for the SAT, ACT, GRE and CLEP.

Besides making available the hard copies of literature and “how to” books, FMWRC subscribes to a multitude of library resources every year that are easily accessed through Army Knowledge Online.

E-mail MWRLibrary@conus.army.mil for more information on library programs.

FMWR programs are designed to improve Soldier readiness by promoting mental and physical fitness, building morale and increasing self-reliance.

In addition to library services, FMWR also provides sports, automotive skills, arts and crafts, entertainment, outdoor recreation, lodging and travel, and recreational machines. These and other programs have direct links to readiness and retention, are vital to mission accomplishment, and are an integral part of the nonpay compensation system.



Courtesy Photo

Homework teacher Maria Tobin (right, green shirt), assists Megan Freyling (front row), Jaraud Whitlock (left) and Matthew Freyling (center) with assignments at Aliamanu’s Middle School & Teen Center.

Education Front Homework sessions aid students

U.S. ARMY GARRISON–HAWAII SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICE
News Release

Every day, six homework teachers assist hundreds of students with homework and tutoring support at Child, Youth & School Services (CYS2), School-Age Services (SAS) and Middle School & Teen (MST) centers.

“Students have improved at least one letter grade in school after participating in our Power Hour Program,” said Amber Piena, Aliamanu Military Reservation (AMR) SAS homework teacher. “On Fridays, when students usually are not assigned homework, we teach educational values through games, projects and contests. Among the students’ favorite activities are spelling bees and projects involving writing stories.”

Power Hour is the “homework help” component of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America’s Project Learn Initiative. Power Hour is designated for youth ages 6-12. Child, Youth & School Services, Department of the Army Headquarters has selected Power Hour to be implemented in Army SAS and MST programs worldwide.

Power Hour was conceived as a way to enable youth to develop the daily habit of completing homework and class preparation in a safe and quiet, allo-



For more information about the Power Hour at CYS2, SAS & MST programs, visit www.mwrmilitaryhawaii.com.

ated space with staff encouragement and tutorial assistance.

“Our teen enrollment has increased and they love the incentive awards,” said Maria Tobin, AMR MST homework teacher.

The inclusion of incentive points, or Power Points, are rewards for academic achievement. The reward system, named “extrinsic motivation,” has proven to be successful when using both extrinsic and intrinsic motivation.

Power Hour’s goal is to gradually develop youth into intrinsically motivated or self-motivated learners.

“I like to assist our students to turn on the power of academic success,” said Tanja Gibson, Schofield Barracks’ Bennett Youth Center homework teacher.

The points used in Power Hour are just one of the tools that can be used in molding self-motivated learners.

The doctor is in

New year a time to commit to old resolutions

DR. JOSEPH KELLEY
Tricare Management Activity

With every new year comes new resolutions and goals. Many people make New Year's resolutions to lead healthier lives, but quickly fall off the wagon.

Maybe this year it's time to commit to old resolutions. Tricare programs and services can provide expert assistance to help beneficiaries make good on their resolutions.

The U.S. government has a list of the most popular New Year's resolutions at www.usa.gov. The majority of them deal with healthy lifestyle changes. Check out some of the following resolutions and how Tricare can help:

•Lose weight.

Overweight or obese beneficiaries should seek a complete health assessment by their Tricare primary care manager to decide the right steps for them.

Proper testing for diagnosis of obesity should come from a medical provider and may include skinfold thickness measurements, diet evaluations, physical activity, family history and other appropriate health screenings.

•Get fit.

For adults, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends a minimum of 30 minutes of moderate physical activity most days of the week, or a minimum of 20 minutes of vigorous physical activity three days a week.

Uniformed service members, families, civilian employees and military retirees can use Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (FMWR)

fitness centers for a number of services. From team sports to music, dance, martial arts, gymnastics, swimming lessons, ice skating and more, FMWR centers have something for everyone.

•Eat right.

Creating a balanced diet and eating plan may sound simple but, due to the high levels of conflicting information and mixed messages, determining appropriate "calories consumed" can be a real challenge.

A beneficiary's Tricare primary care physician is an excellent first stop. He or she should be able to provide additional resources and suggestions. Another stop is the Food Guide Pyramid developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which can be found online at www.mypyramid.gov. This interactive tool can help create an eating plan based on individual needs including, age, sex, height, weight and activity level.

•Drink less alcohol.

Many resources are available for overcoming alcohol abuse. Tricare coverage includes detoxification, rehabilitation and outpatient care provided in an authorized substance use disorder rehabilitation facility. Talk to your primary care provider to learn about treatment options.

"That Guy," is an interactive Web site at www.thatguy.com that raises awareness about alcohol abuse. The campaign targets 18-24 year-old service members and aims to increase social disapproval of excessive drinking by highlighting the embarrassing consequences.

Help is also available from Military OneSource, a DoD service available to active duty

members and their families. Visit the Military One Source Web site at www.militaryonesource.com for more information.

•Quit smoking now.

Treatment and support are available at many military treatment facilities and online. Ucanquit2.org is the official Web site of the "Quit Tobacco-Make Everyone Proud" educational campaign sponsored by the Department of Defense.

Use ucanquit2.org to develop a personalized plan for quitting, play games, listen to podcasts, connect to online cessation programs and even chat with a trained cessation counselor, seven days a week from 8:30 a.m.-10 p.m. EST.

•Reduce stress overall.

All of us experience at least some stress every day. Regular exercise, maintaining your health, using breathing exercises and meditation are all common stress management techniques.

Make a resolution to take raise your awareness of all the wonderful services, benefits and programs available to Tricare beneficiaries. There is no time like the beginning of a new year to change old habits and to make the healthy choices that can lead to a longer, happier life.



Tricare offers innovative, interactive online tools for quitting tobacco use

TRICARE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY
News Release

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) and Tricare are offering new innovative online tools to help military service members keep their New Year's resolutions to quit tobacco.

The DoD-sponsored educational campaign, Quit Tobacco — Make Everyone Proud, is expanding its interactive Web site. Users can now create a blog when they register on the site, www.ucanquit2.org, to share their experiences with family and friends and sign an electronic "I Resolve to Quit" Bulletin Board to publicly announce

their resolution to become tobacco free.

They will also have access to a customizable Quit Calendar to record milestones and track progress. The expanded networking capabilities allow users to share ideas, tips and advice with fellow service members, as well as family and friends.

"Giving up tobacco is a challenge, but a challenge that the men and women of the military have the strength and determination to overcome," said Capt. David Arday, M.D., M.P.H., a U.S. Public Health Service officer and chairman of the DoD Alcohol and Tobacco Advisory Committee. "We encourage them to make 2009 the year to

start a healthier lifestyle. The online tools are there to support you in keeping your New Year's resolution."

Deciding to quit tobacco is the first step, but becoming tobacco free may take more than one try. On average, it takes 11 attempts before a person can quit tobacco for good. Motivation and support are key factors in giving up tobacco products. Studies show that if a person attempts to quit with a friend, they are 36 percent more likely to remain smoke free. The Web site allows service members to get the support they need to quit from family and friends, no matter where they live. Studies show that quitters who seek counseling and



support increase their chances of remaining quit to 15.8 percent, as compared to only 10.8 percent for those who do not seek counseling.

Quit Tobacco — Make Everyone Proud is aimed at supporting enlisted active duty military personnel in their efforts to quit tobacco. DoD urges service members to log on and take advantage of the Web site to increase their chances of becoming tobacco free.

The new features build on the interactive support tools already available on the Web site. Service members can listen to podcasts, chat anonymously with a trained tobacco cessation coach, browse research articles, locate local cessation programs, calculate how much money they'll save when they quit tobacco and create personalized quit plans.

Individuals who want to help someone they know quit tobacco can visit the Web site to find information on giving up tobacco, send motivational e-cards, and view their friend's and/or family member's progress to support them in reaching their goals.

Soccer tournament brings sense of normalcy

SGT. 1ST CLASS BRIAN ADDIS
2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — Soccer players put on a display of footwork and skill during a Taji Qada soccer tournament at the Taji Stadium, northwest of Baghdad, Dec. 26. The tournament was hosted by local leaders in the area in conjunction with Soldiers from 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment “Strykehorse,” 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team.

Four teams, consisting of 11 players from Al-Rekiya, Taji, and Hammiat, along with a fourth team from the Strykehorse Squadron, participated in the round-robin tournament.

Staff Sgt. James Pepoon, an avid soccer player, said he came up with the idea to host a soccer tournament with the residents in the area.

“I asked my platoon leader about the chances of playing with the people here,” said Pepoon, who serves as a cavalry scout with 2-14th Cav. Regt. “He first told me that it’d have to be played in body armor, and that didn’t sit too well with me.”

But he went ahead with a plan anyway. Pepoon talked to friends and family in his hometown of Bristol, R.I., and, in the end, more than 1,000 pounds of soccer equipment was donated by local club teams from all over the state.

The New England Revolution, a Major League Soccer Team, also donated to the

cause. Among the items were coach’s clipboards, whistles, soccer balls and jerseys.

The amount of equipment donated through Pepoon’s sheer determination to make an event happen, plus the improved security situation in the Taji Qada, inspired Lt. Col Thomas Mackey, Strykehorse’s commander, to support the idea.

“The security conditions in the Taji area are good. The Iraqi Security Forces, along with the local government and the people here, are all working together to sustain the good security established in this area,” Mackey said. “The Taji Soccer Club Stadium is a venue that can be well secured, thus mitigating the threats to the event and to our Soldiers playing in the tournament.”

With that, Operation Strykehorse Kuokoa Peku, or Strykehorse Free Kick, was set into motion.

On the morning of the event, local leaders and volunteers, with the help of C Troop, 2-14th Cav. Regt., prepared the stadium for the game.

Hundreds of spectators filled the seats of the Taji Stadium to witness the historic event.

Among them were several former national players and coaches, most notably was Emmanuel Baba Dano, the “Pele” of Iraq. Known in Iraq as Amu Baba, he was the Iraqi national coach during the 1980s and 1990s.

The round-robin format placed each of the four teams against each other in games



Photo Courtesy of 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment

A player from the Taji Soccer Club scores on a penalty kick during a soccer tournament in Taji, Dec. 26. Teams from Al-Rekiya, Hammamat, Taji and Soldiers from 2nd Squadron 14th Cavalry Regiment, “Strykehorse,” 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, participated in a round-robin tournament.

that consisted of two 25-minute halves.

The winner from game one faced off against the winner of game two in the championship game, while the defeated teams from each game would face off in the consolation bracket.

Donning the blue uniforms with the New England Revolution logo print across the front, the Strykehorse Squadron met the team from Al-Rekiya.

A hard fought battle between the two teams resulted in a tie forcing a penalty kick shootout in which Al-Rekiya won.

Game two also saw Hammamat win the game with a penalty kick in an overtime shootout against Taji, sending them to the championship against Al-Rekiya.

The championship game, much like the previous games played earlier in the tournament, went to a dramatic double-over-

time shootout.

With the penalty kicks even at eight going into the 10th and final shot for both teams, Hammamat scored, sending a shot into the lower right corner of the goal.

With the added pressure of now having to score, a member from the Al-Rekiya team placed the ball at the eight yard line, measured his steps, and made his approach to the ball. Needing to make this kick to send it to a third overtime, his shot hit the cross bar, giving the Hammamat team victory, which sent the crowd into a frenzy.

The victors celebrated near the goal with smiles, handshakes and hugs. They were then presented their medals by the leaders responsible for assisting in setting up the tournament.

The final award was a team trophy, which the entire team hoisted into the air for all in the stadium to see.

This reconciliation event ended in deeper friendships and a return to normalcy.

“There were teams and fans from both Sunni and Shia areas participating together as Iraqis,” Mackey said. “The benefit of our Soldiers participating in the event was to demonstrate to the population that we are here for them ... we are their brothers.

“Terrorists can never come back and do what they did in Taji last year. Normal life is returning here.”



9 / Today

Ladies' Fitness Hours — Effective Jan. 1, the Aliamanu Military Reservation (AMR) Physical Fitness Center has changed its hours of operation.

The new hours are Monday–Thursday, 6 a.m.–9 p.m., with females-only hours from 9–10:30 a.m. The gym will be open Saturdays, 10 a.m.–5 p.m., and Sundays, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

The females-only hours are a 30-day trial through

Feb. 1 in response to community feedback. Call 836-0338.

21 / Saturday

4th Annual Football Bash Clinic — Registrations are due Jan. 21 for the 4th Annual Football Bash Clinic, scheduled for Jan. 24, at Aliamanu Military Reservation’s athletic fields.

The clinic will be conducted by current and former NFL, university/college and high school players and coaches, including Chris Fuamatu-Maafala (Pittsburgh Steelers), Maa Tanuvasa (Denver Broncos), Mel Purcell (Cleveland Browns), Nate Ilaoa (Philadelphia Eagles) and many other players.

Registrations will be accepted at Schofield’s Bennett Youth Center, Aliamanu Military Reservation’s (AMR) Youth Center, and Fort Shafter’s Youth Center. Children ages 8–17 are eligible to participate. Cost is \$40 per person, and includes a T-shirt, snack, drinks and gift bag.

Visit www.armyhawaiiyouthsports.com or call 836-1923 or 655-6465 for more information.



Send sports announcements to community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

11 / Sunday

Hike Oahu — Join the Hawaiian Trail & Mountain Club on a hike through the Makaha Ridge.

The majority of the elevation gain is by car, driving up a narrow military road to those mysterious “golf balls” above Yokohama Bay. From there, a relatively level trail follows the Makua Valley rim, with beautiful views into the valley and along the Waianae coastline. Reservations are required.

This intermediate hike is 5 miles. Call Darrell Teruya, hike coordinator, at 227-4572.

This hike begins at 8:30 a.m. and a \$2 donation is requested of nonmembers. An adult must accompany children under 18. Unlike most hikes, hikers will not meet at Iolani Palace.

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.

Running Workshops — In-training workshops will be held in preparation of the Great Aloha Run, scheduled for Feb. 16, every Sunday leading up to the race, 7:20 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 and health tips.

Upcoming training sessions include: Jan. 11, 18 and 25, Feb. 1 and 8.

Call 943-0309 or e-mail health@drchrist.com.