

84th Engineers partner with Iraqi NCOs

OF

2ND. LT. BRANDON C. PHILLIPS
84th Engineer Battalion (Construction Effects)

MOSUL, Iraq — Soldiers, noncommissioned officers (NCO), and officers stood at attention as the NCO creed was recited. The room echoed with the proud voices of NCOs who had just graduated from a rigorous NCO Academy. However, this ceremony was different from most graduation ceremonies in that the NCO creed was recited Arabic rather than English.

This scene was the result of the growing partnership between the 84th Engineer Battalion and the 3rd Iraqi Army Engineer Regiment.

Fourteen Soldiers from the 84th Eng. Bn. spent a week training, advising and getting to know their Iraqi partners at a joint base in northern Iraq in mid-January. The group included Command Sgt. Maj. Roy Ward serving as the commandant of the NCO Academy, along with Staff Sgt. Brad Reigel, Staff Sgt. Armand Curet, and Sgt. Christopher Crawford who performed as the lead instructors.

Soldiers of Ward's Personal Security Detachment (PSD) supplied the manpower to effectively operate the academy while away from their usual forward operating base.

The academy featured instruction on leadership, counseling, combat operations orders, pre-combat inspections, and duties of an NCO. Students participated in simulated scenarios, open discussions and a final test to determine if they would graduate the course. In a sign of the resolve these young NCOs of the Iraqi Army possess, all 21 students met the required



1st Sgt. Bryan Hinzman | 523rd Engineer Company, 84th Engineer Battalion

Spc. Tony Lalonde and Sgt. Christopher Crawford, both with Koa 7 Personal Security Detachment (PSD), Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 84th Engineer Battalion (Construction Effects), 18th Engineer Brigade, give hands-on training to Iraqi soldiers at the Noncommissioned Officers Academy.

standards and several had perfect scores on the final exam.

In addition to the NCO Academy conducted by Ward and his PSD, 1st Sgt. Bryan Hinzman advised company-level senior NCOs of the 3rd Iraqi Army Engineer Regiment. Hinzman worked closely with each company Sergeant Major, routinely talking with Iraqi Soldiers to be aware of the command climate in each company. Overall leadership, company operations,

supply, and maintenance were among the topics discussed in this partnership.

Spc. Krishna Menon and 2nd Lt. Brandon Phillips rounded out the 84th mission as they advised regimental level staff officers in the areas of personnel and logistics-areas which have proven difficult in the past for newly formed Iraqi Army units. Common ground was quickly formed when the Soldiers realized the similarity of the tasks and issues associated with

their jobs. Conversations ranged from awards and leave to supply chain management and property accountability.

Although numerous topics were covered in the training and advising sessions, Soldiers from both armies found time to get to know each other. Hundreds of handshakes, pictures, and conversations promoted a bonding experience unlike any other the 84th Soldiers have experienced in Iraq thus far. By the end of the week, most Soldiers were able to convey traditional greetings in Arabic and had enjoyed a taste of the local cuisine, including the famous chai tea widely served in Iraq.

An afternoon soccer match arranged by Ward was a hit with both Iraqi and American Soldiers. The "Never Daunted" Soldiers of the 84th put up a fight, but were eventually defeated by their Iraqi counterparts. Soldiers from the 84th are looking forward to their next visit, as they plan to bring along a football to share a traditional American sport with their new comrades.

The entire week of training and bonding left an indelible mark upon the Soldiers, who all say they would like to return for another training mission such as this one. Perhaps the highlight of the week for those involved was getting to know firsthand the Iraqi Soldiers that coalition forces are trying to support in Iraq. The "Never Daunted" Soldiers now know the common ground they share with the Iraqi Soldiers-sacrificing blood, sweat, and tears to bring security and stability to Iraq.

3-4th Cav. Regt. practices joint operations during combined air-assault

MULTINATIONAL DIVISION – NORTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS
News Release

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, TIKRIT, Iraq — In the early morning hours of Feb. 15, several hundred Soldiers from the 4th Iraqi Army Division supported by coalition forces conducted a combined air-assault to clear and secure the Bichigan peninsula near Balad.

Soldiers from A Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, and the 14th Iraqi Army (IA) Brigade Military Transition Team (MiTT) supported the operation, which began with a series of U-H 60 Black Hawk training rehearsals on the flight line of a Forward Operating Base, Feb. 14.

"The Iraqi Army initiated the idea for the operation," said Maj. Darren Buss, operation officer, 14th IA Bde. MiTT.

"As a MiTT, our primary objective was to advise the 14th brigade commander and his staff of the planning procedures that had to be in place before the operation could be executed."

"The IA is conducting various security operations that will be continued daily as well as creating new routes to reduce congestion in the city — all measures to secure and protect the people of this region," Buss added.

"Our role in the Iraqi Army's operation has been to help enable them to step forward and spear-head their own operations. We have done this by building their confidence and showing that they can continue to perform effectively before and during their operations," said Sgt. 1st Class Travus Brandon, platoon sergeant, 3rd Platoon, A Troop, 3-4th Cav. Regt., 25th ID. "We are building upon their experience



Spc. Jazz Burney | 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

level by including the air-assault element to the operation, showing the Iraqi Army that they can handle a complex operation with an air-assault asset available.

The end result will help combined coalition missions because they will bring their knowledge and training to the table for the completion of successful operations in

During a rehearsal inside an Army UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter, 4th Iraqi Army Division soldiers listen to Sgt. 1st Class Travus Brandon, platoon sergeant, 3rd Platoon, A Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, at Forward Operating Base Paliwoda near Balad.

Iraq," he continued.

During the mission the IA captured two wanted criminals and found several small caches in the densely wooded orchards of the region.

"With continued combined operations between Iraqi army and coalition forces such as this, the Iraqi security forces will continue to progress as a more effective fighting force able to secure their towns and provide a safer environment for the people of Iraq," said 1st Lt. Steven Swan, a platoon leader, A Troop, who helped assist Iraqi forces during the operation.

25th CAB nabs 3 Armywide awards

Story and Photos by
SGT. MIKE ALBERTS

25th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs

WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD — It's often said doctors and nurses treat sick people in normal environments while flight surgeons and aeromedical physician's assistants treat normal people in abnormal environments — namely, while in flight.

Recently, the Society of the U.S. Army Flight Surgeons recognized three 25th Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB) Soldiers as among the Army's best in abnormal environments.

Maj. Bradley Pearson, Capt. Ryan DeBoard and Capt. Wayne Johnson were recently honored for their aeromedical achievements during an award ceremony, here.

Pearson, an emergency medicine specialist and flight surgeon, 3rd Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment, 25th CAB, received the Society's 2009 Spurgeon H. Neel U.S. Army Distinguished Flight Surgeon of the Year award.

Capt. Ryan DeBoard, an emergency medicine specialist and flight surgeon, 2nd Battalion (Assault), 25th Aviation Regiment, and Capt. Wayne Johnson, an aeromedical physician assistant, 3rd Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment, each received the Society's 2009 Aeromedical Outstanding Achievement Award.

The Society of the U.S. Army Flight Surgeons exists to foster professional growth and development of its members and strives to improve the practice of Army aviation medicine. Annually, the Society identifies and awards a select few for their contributions to their respective Army aviation units.

Pearson's prestigious Distinguished Flight Surgeon award is presented to the Army flight surgeon who personifies the characteristics of the ideal Army flight surgeon. The award's namesake, Maj. Gen. Spurgeon H. Neel, was the Army's first aviation medical officer and a pioneer in the development of the principles of aeromedical evacuation of battlefield casualties.

According to Lt. Col. Luis Rivero, brigade surgeon, 25th CAB, Pearson was instrumental in the mass evacuation of approximately 8,000 patients throughout northern Iraq while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from November 2006 through October 2008.

Pearson's excellence was showcased during two particularly noteworthy events: In March 2007, a coordinated set of large bombs in Tal Afar, Iraq, left hundreds of Iraqis wounded. The attack quickly overwhelmed local U.S. military hospitals.

Pearson and his team personally treated and transported three severely injured boys, among others, all of whom were on ventilators and required intensive medical care.

About six months later, four massive vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices killed at least 500 people and injured hundreds more in a remote part of northern Iraq. It was the single deadliest attack of the war.

That evening, Pearson and his team, comprised of himself, his aeromedical physician assistant and two medics, would be the main resource to relieve a hospital that was already overwhelmed.

When they arrived, Pearson assumed responsibility for the worst 18 patients, all of whom were transferred by helicopter to the Kurdish city of Dahuk. Pearson and his team didn't lose a single patient in flight.

"I do this work and love this work because I really feel like I am making a difference, immediately," said Pearson. "That's gratifying. It's easy to love your job where the benefit of the work is clearly obvious," he said.

Regarding his achievements, Pearson recognized his team.

"It was a tremendous honor to be part of such a great team. We don't work alone and nothing that I've done could have been accomplished without (others)," Pearson said. "This award had more to do with the collaborative efforts of a whole lot of different people."

DeBoard and Johnson each received the Outstanding Achievement award for specific actions or achievements as Army aeromedical physician assistants.

According to Rivero, DeBoard is the consummate educator. DeBoard has produced a sustainable system for on-the-spot medic training that encompasses all 25th CAB medics.

In addition, in several off-island training exercises throughout 2008, DeBoard — on his own initiative — trained not only his unit's medics, but the medics of other units involved



Pearson



Johnson



DeBoard

in predeployment operations in various medical topics of interest and relevance, and conducted regular, daily medic training lectures and exercises.

Johnson was recognized for his significant role during the 25th CAB's rotation to the National Training Center (NTC) at Fort Irwin, Calif., in October 2008, according to Rivero.

The 25th CAB deployed a task force element, Task Force 3-25th, to support 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division at NTC. Though the task force deployed with a shortage of flight medics, given 1-1 Cav. Div.'s needs, Johnson foresaw the shortage and planned and trained to cover the deficiency by assuming flight medic duties in addition to his deployed physician assistant duties.

“These awards are truly a testament to their actions, their commitment and their initiative. I'm proud to work and serve with them.”

*Lt. Col. Luis Rivero
Brigade Surgeon, 25th CAB*

For both DeBoard and Johnson, their key to success is their passion for the work.

"I simply enjoy taking care of Soldiers," said DeBoard, "and if my presence gives them the confidence to fight without reservations, knowing that I am available to take care of them, then my job is done," he said.

His colleague agreed.

"I love taking care of patients and getting the sick and wounded back to their families," said Johnson. "As far as the recognition is concerned, I consider training my job. As a medical advisor to the battalion, when a unit is short flight medics, it's my job to train them and to train as many as possible."

Although each awardee downplayed the significance of his respective accomplishments, the brigade's surgeon wasn't as modest on their behalf.

"It really is remarkable for the 25th CAB to have three providers selected for recognition by the Society," said Rivero. "Understand this, Maj. Pearson and Capts. DeBoard and Johnson were selected and recognized from the Army worldwide."

"These awards are truly a testament to their actions, their commitment and their initiative," he added. "I'm proud to work and serve with them."

News Briefs

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

27 / Today

Change in Dental Appointments — New appointments at the Na Koa and Schofield Barracks Dental Clinics will be limited through March 20 due to division redeployment activities. Dental emergencies will be seen Monday-Friday, 7:15-7:45 a.m. and 12:15-12:45 p.m.

For more information, call the Na Koa (433-8900) or Schofield Barracks Clinic (433-8901).

28 / Saturday

Safety Stand Down Day — The Schofield Barracks Health Clinic will conduct a safety stand down day at the main parking lot, Feb. 28, 9 a.m.-noon, to raise awareness about safe living.

Topics will be presented by representatives from a variety of community programs and organizations, including the Army Substance Abuse Program, the Family Advocacy Program, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and the Judge Advocate General.

See demonstrations from the Military Police and hear first-hand accounts from Soldiers who have experienced driving under the influence penalties.

March

3 / Tuesday

Civilian Classes — The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center (CPAC) will offer the following classes for civilians:

- March 3, Proofreading and Editing with Style.
- March 9-13, The Supervisor's Role in Human Resources Management.
- March 10 and 11, Dealing with Difficult People.
- March 12, Interpersonal Communication Skills.

•March 19, A Review of English Grammar, Behavioral Supervision: Handling Performance Problems.

For questions regarding the courses, contact Val Nomura, at valetta.nomura@navy.mil or 474-0025, ext. 301. Visit <https://www.donhr.navy.mil>.

4 / Wednesday

Gate Closure — Schofield Barracks' McNair Gate will be closed March 4-18, in order to install additional force protection measures. All other gates at Schofield Barracks will maintain their current operational times.

Call 656-2435.

6 / Friday

FEMA Claims — If your home, rental property or business was damaged by the Dec. 10-16, 2008, severe storms and flooding, you may eligible for assistance.

Individuals and businesses have until 6 p.m. Hawaii Standard Time (HST), March 6, to register with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for disaster recovery assistance.

Call toll-free 1-800-621-FEMA (3326), 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., daily, HST, for assistance, or visit www.disasterassistance.gov.

Online registration is available until midnight, HST, March 6.

7 / Saturday

Road Closure — Beginning March 7 and ending Nov. 7, portions of Williston and Wright-Smith Avenues, Schofield Barracks, will be closed for roadway construction work. Drivers should avoid the area.

Also beginning March 7 and ending June 12, Bragg Street will be temporarily converted to two-way traffic serving the residents of Betsy Ross and Patrick Henry Courts only.

Call 624-2338.

10 / Tuesday

Newcomers Brief — The next monthly newcomers briefing will be held March 10, 4-5 p.m., at the Soldier Support Center, Building 750, Schofield Barracks.

SEE NEWS BRIEFS, A-6

Load: Terrain calls for sling training

CONTINUED FROM A-1

Afghanistan, explained Baker. Forty-three Soldiers, including five from the 25th CAB, completed the most recent iteration of SLICC training. Instruction culminated on a wet and windy day with a UH-60L Black Hawk swirling overhead as students sling-loaded different items at Upper 36, a landing zone on East Range. Typically a five-day course, the training was conducted in four due to scheduling. “I thought it was really good training,” said Sgt. Robert Allor, a heavy-wheel mechanic from E Company, 2nd Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment, 25th CAB. “We’ll do quarterly training on this; it’s our responsibility to train the people in our units. I look forward to implementing the training, and I’d also like to add the instructors were outstanding.” Staff Sgt. Tina Smith, also from 2-25th Avn. Regt., looks forward to training her Soldiers. “It was good training,” she said. “(When you’re in) a war zone, you can’t always depend on wheeled transportation, so you have to go to your secondary method, which is sling-loading.” The UH-60L Black Hawk, from C Co., 2-25th Avn.

Regt., added the final dimension of realism to the training. Unfortunately, not all classes had the same experience due to deployments or bad weather. However, Baker is emphatic about having aircraft to allow Soldiers to experience the challenge of actually sling-loading, firsthand. “It should be a must with all the hard work these guys spend (training),” said Baker. “We would actually be taking something away from them. It gives them confidence that they’re going to be able to perform and not freak out under the aircraft.” With only two teams of five instructors to teach the SLICC to the Army, Baker and fellow instructors William Marshall, David Hughes, Ivan Andrade and Barry Pavasko have seen the Army’s operational tempo dictate their schedule. They travel from places as far as Alaska to Fort Bragg and Fort Drum to train many grateful Soldiers. Smith, now a SLICC graduate, offers advice to anyone who will take the course upon its return to Hawaii this July. “Listen, take good notes and just be open-minded,” she said, with a grin. “If you already know something about sling-loading, just be open-minded because you’ll always come across something new.”

News Briefs

From A-4

**12 / Thursday
Redeployment Ceremony** — The 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team will hold a redeployment ceremony March 12, 10 a.m., at Sills Field, Schofield Barracks.

**19 / Thursday
Fire Warden Training** — Army regulation mandates every unit must have an assigned fire warden. Unit fire wardens are responsible for all fire safety related topics specific to their unit. Fire warden training will be held for unit representatives at the Sgt. Yano Library Conference Room, Building 650, Schofield Barracks, and at the Federal Fire Department Headquarters, 650 Center Drive, Building 284, Pearl Harbor. Upcoming training dates are March 19 and April 14. Classes will be held from 10-11:30 a.m., and seating is limited to 20 participants. To reserve your seat, contact

Battalion Chief David Jimenez at david.d.jimenez@navy.mil or 471-3303, ext. 632.

**Ongoing
Tax Center Opens** — The Schofield Tax Center, Building 648, at the corner of Foote Avenue and Lewis Street, opened Feb. 2. Hours of operation are 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday, and no appointments are necessary. Everyone is served on a walk-in basis. Service is provided free for active duty service members, their families and retirees. Call 655-1040.

Kolekole Pass Access — Authorized vehicles can now access the Kolekole Pass between the Waianae Coast and Schofield Barracks, Monday through Friday only, pending current weather conditions. A single lane is 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 af-

ternoon commute. The pass will remain closed on weekends and holidays. Call 655-7114.

Government Vehicle Dispatching — All General Services Administration (GSA) leased non-tactical 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 Thursdays, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Call 656-8720/0290.

Phonebook Recycling — Not sure what to do with old phonebooks? Local public schools used to collect phone books but are no longer doing so; however, telephone books are currently accepted at the Recycling Center, located at Building 1087-B, McMahan Rd., Schofield Barracks. The Recycling Center will also pick them up. Schedule a pick-up appointment on the Intranet at <https://dpwhawaii.army.mil/pick-up/> or call 655-0011.

National breakfast serves up smorgasbord of prayer

Story and Photos by
SGT. 1ST CLASS DAVID E. GILLESPIE
8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — The National Prayer Breakfast at the Nehelani, here, Feb. 18, put a “litany of prayers” at the top of the menu for more than 400 in attendance.

While some Army units hold quarterly and even monthly prayer breakfast events, the National Prayer Breakfast celebration marked what one chaplain described as “crescendo, the annual highlight.”

The event featured guest speaker Chaplain (Brig. Gen.) Donald Rutherford, the Army’s deputy chief of chaplains, and included a half-dozen prayers focused on this time of persistent conflict.

“It was not until 1952 that the U.S. Congress adopted a joint resolution ... declaring a National Day of Prayer,” explained Sgt. Christopher Churilla, installation chaplain’s office. “The day of prayer was set aside to enable government leaders to reflect on the importance of the divine counselor as the ultimate source of guidance and inspiration.”

Following prayers for the nation, wounded warriors, the military, their families, rear detachment and deploying and redeploying Soldiers, Chaplain Rutherford captivated the crowd. He shared life stories, which all tied back to the theme of the day: “Put on the whole armor of God.”

Rutherford came from Washington, D.C., to Hawaii on a whirlwind tour, arriving the night before and flying out shortly after the prayer breakfast. He shared a story of renewing an expired driver’s license, taking the test again, and having to watch a movie on defensive driving.



More than 400 people celebrate National Prayer Breakfast at the Nehelani, Schofield Barracks, Feb. 18.

“I thought this was crazy, seeing the same exact movie they used in 1973, but there were three things that stood out in that movie. It talked about, first of all, you have to yield the right of way. Second of all, be defensive when you drive. And third, you have to get the big picture,” Rutherford said.

“When you think about that, it is the same way we follow the Lord. We have to be people who every day yield the right of way to the presence of the Lord in our lives,” he continued. “We have to be defensive in our faith, sometimes, and you have to see the big picture where your faith is calling you.”

Rutherford’s visit here in Hawaii bears remarkable significance, said Chaplain (Col.) Rodney Lindsay, command chaplain for the 8th Theater Sustainment Command.

“For him to come all the way here sends a strong message that he really cares about not only the ministry team, but Soldiers. He put us at the top of the list, and his message reached all levels,” Lindsay said.

“Oftentimes, folks have the cookie on the top shelf, out of reach, but I think our deputy chief of chaplains brought the cookie down to a shelf where even the youngest Soldiers could iden-



The deputy chief of chaplains, Chaplain (Brig. Gen.) Donald Rutherford, addresses the audience during the National Prayer Breakfast at the Nehelani, Schofield Barracks, Feb. 18.

tify,” Lindsay explained.

The National Prayer Breakfast upholds a tradition within the Chaplain Corps and throughout the military. But this event goes even further, Lindsay said.

“This event also focuses more on the spiritual fitness of Soldiers and family members, especially in light of what’s

been happening in recent years – deployments, redeployments and persistent conflict.

“We really are focusing in on spiritual resiliency, and this is one of the key venues to encourage Soldiers in their faith to pray for one another, lift up ... and encourage one another,” he added.

Workforce: Customer service tops list of objectives

CONTINUED FROM A-1

“I’m trying to establish some long-term systems and a mindset in garrison employees that will last beyond my tenure (in summer 2010),” Margotta explained.

High-quality customer service

Similar to the customer service model of the Walt Disney Company, directorates have established a “contract” for every employee, supervisor, division chief and commander to place added emphasis and effort in customer service. As a core function of the garrison, a customer service objective will be added to every employee’s performance appraisal; its mandates are be professional, be polite and be positive.

“I don’t care where you work ... you can somehow tie what you do at your level to support for Soldiers and families. You’ve got to do what you do with customer service in mind,” Margotta said. “The best part about high-quality customer service is, it doesn’t cost anything ... it doesn’t cost anything to smile; it doesn’t cost anything to try your best.”

In the future, all garrison employees will receive customer service training, and USAG-HI’s new employee orientation – new itself, since Feb. 18 – will also include the training.

Commanders, directors, office chiefs and supervisors must build a culture within their environment that not only stresses quality customer support, but also sets standards – ones that develop an employee’s sense of ownership in his or her facility and its appearance, cleanliness, layout and functions.

The housing experience

For USAG-HI, probably “the most contentious issues we deal with,” said Margotta, are housing inequities and the challenges they create.

To ensure family housing and single Soldier barracks are the best possible in USAG-HI, two separate objectives have been implemented: a First Sergeant’s Barracks Initiative for single Soldiers and the “Chrysallis Project” for families living on post.

The First Sergeant’s Barracks Initiative will provide single Soldiers a high-quality barracks living experience, with as many amenities as can be offered, like staying at a Holiday Inn, said Margotta.

“The Chrysallis Project is really focused on enhancing our level of interaction and the services we provide to families that live on post,” said Claire Johnston, project director,

Army Hawaii Family Housing (AHFH).

“We realize that military families have a choice about where they live,” she continued, “and in line with garrison objectives, we will deliver a reliable and consistent level of property management services, while at the same time, being efficient in the way we achieve this.”

AHFH is beginning the housing experience with residents – by asking for feedback, conducting interviews and seeking recommendations.

Another possibility for AHFH residents is the “Community Mayor Program.”

“AHFH is working closely with the garrison to develop a program that will increase involvement of residents in community matters,” said Johnston. “We’re partnering with garrison leadership and other Army services to put together a mechanism that will encourage information sharing and increased communication between AHFH and community members.”

Two-way communication

The garrison currently provides several ways for providers and customers to communicate. Among them are the online Interactive Customer Evaluation program, or ICE, and town hall meetings. However, to enhance the command and community information program, USAG-HI will maximize use of “new” marketing tools like Web logs, called blogs, and social media, such as Facebook and YouTube.

Margotta also hopes to respond to community questions in an on-line and print column, titled “Ask the Commander.” The USAG-HI homepage and many of its links have been completely redesigned, too.

“Just over a year ago, we established a Web Coordinating Council and a tiger team to help make the garrison Web site more customer-oriented and interactive, complete with useful information and easy navigation,” said Stephanie Rush, USAG-HI digital media specialist. “The process is ongoing, but we’ve already added a link for post updates to alert residents and workers of immediate issues.”

Similarly, a Community



Community engagement. Complementing the Army Family Covenant and the garrison’s goal to engage military, their families and the community, Dezmond Saldivar (center) meets his new second grade teacher, Jodi Stein (right), as parents Spc. Steven Saldivar, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, and Angelica Saldivar look on during “Welcome Hour” at Maj. Gen. William R. Shafter Elementary School.

Information Coordinating Council will be established to synchronize all aspects of community information, Margotta said. Also, TV2, the on-post cable access channel, will soon be redesigned and offer relevant, timely programming.

“It’s important to listen to the voice of the customer,” said Margotta. “These mechanisms will provide more abilities for the community to communicate back to us.”

Support for ARFORGEN

Across all garrison lines of operation,

supporting the individual Soldier and his or her family is what the garrison is all about – before deployment, during and after, said Margotta.

Several objectives that will enhance this key area include reintegration programs that lessen risky behaviors, like Warrior Adventure Quest, a recreational outlet for Soldiers returning from war; improved support for Reserve Component units; and enhanced training capabilities – all mechanisms that support mission commanders.

Caring for the workforce

“Green suiters have an established system that takes care of them, and we want to mimic these systems for civilians,” Margotta said.

Hawaii Garrison University, “Get-A-Close” club events for Army civilians living on Oahu, hail and farewell gatherings, the garrison newsletter, and recognition programs have all been developed with the employee in mind.

Visit USAG-HI at www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil.

“It’s always a challenge to get people here (in Hawaii), and (these systems) are critical to retaining good employees,” Margotta said.

Many other priorities and subareas round out goals and objectives for the next two years: facilities and infrastructure, community well-being, community engagement, sustainability, transformation and organizational effectiveness.

Margotta said the listing is not all-inclusive, and it does not represent everything the garrison will or intends to accomplish. Moreover, in some cases, he added, goals and objectives may be over and above the baseline of services and support required of a garrison.

History: Harriet Tubman’s life dramatized

CONTINUED FROM A-1

Support Battalion, 45th Sustainment Brigade, and Sgt. 1st Class Janice Wilson, platoon sergeant, 25th Transportation Company, 45th Sustainment Brigade.

Attendees also enjoyed a slide presentation depicting notable African-American activists and scholars at various stages of their respective careers. Additionally, special guest — actor, storyteller and playwright — Melissa Waddy-Thibodeaux treated those in attendance to a theatrical skit profiling the life and legacy of Harriet Tubman.

The nationally proclaimed theme for this year’s observance, “The Quest for Black Citizenship in the Americas,” provided a chance to examine the evolution of the country and how African-Americans helped draw the nation ever closer to becoming a perfect union.

Founded in 1926 by African-American historian Carter G. Woodson, the celebration was originally known as Negro History Week. At that time, the event was aimed at honoring two influential men: Frederick Douglas, an author, abolitionist, statesman and reformer, and Abraham Lincoln, well known as an outspoken opponent of the expansion of slavery, and famous for preserving the union and ending slavery.

By 1976, as the U.S. celebrated its bicentennial, Negro History Week was expanded to the entire month of February. The nation-wide event now serves to recognize all African-Americans and their contributions to shaping America’s history, often against considerable odds. One of those countless individuals was Harriet Tubman.

Tubman was born a slave in Maryland, escaped to freedom, and later led more than 300 other slaves to the North and to Canada to their freedom. During this pe-



A Soldier views static displays of some of the Army’s most accomplished African-American Soldiers during a Black History Month observance at Schofield Barracks’ Sgt. Smith Theater, Feb. 19. The 130th Engineer Brigade hosted the event.

riod, it is well-documented that Tubman made no less than 19 trips into the South, notwithstanding the fact that in every railroad station and post office in the State of Maryland placards existed which offered a \$12,000 reward for her body, dead or alive.

During the Civil War, Tubman served with the U.S. Army in South Carolina as a nurse, scout, spy and Soldier.

Melissa Waddy-Thibodeaux captured the life and legacy of Tubman during her

theatrical performance. Thibodeaux has performed for the past 40 years teaching history via theatrics and is currently involved in establishing national reading programs. Her involvement with military audiences is no accident.

“Harriet Tubman was part of the military,” explained Thibodeaux. “Harriet’s efforts tie directly into military life,” she continued. “Her life demonstrates courage, strength, valor and setting goals, despite all odds.

“When you Soldiers travel to another country in the name of the United States, you are ‘people helping people,’” she said. “Really, that was Harriet’s mission through her work on the Underground Railroad: people helping people.”

Two Soldiers who volunteered in the celebration were vocal soloist Gantt and Sgt. Maj. Raymond Theard, operations sergeant major, 130th Engineer Brigade, 25th Infantry Division.

Gantt sang gospel music artist Marvin Sapp’s “Never Would Have Made It.” Theard read the 2009 African-American Black History Month Presidential Proclamation. Both explained that the opportunity to help to appreciate the struggles, achievements, progress and vast diversity of African-Americans was special.

“I really wanted to be a part of the celebration, especially this year as America is in a transition period with its first black president,” said Gantt. “We need more celebrations like this, and not just with the African-American community, but with all communities,” he emphasized. “These events help us better understand each other, and understanding builds unity.”

Theard has been participating in these types of events since the early ‘80s, when he was a junior enlisted Soldier. For him, the importance of Black History Month could not be overstated.

“Events like this sensitize Soldiers to others’ backgrounds and cultures, and I believe it helps [foster] better race relations within our Army,” said Theard. “We fight together. Whether you’re a male or female, African-American, Asian, or Caucasian, it’s important that we understand each other and why we stand for some of the things we stand for.

“Above all, these events help us better respect and understand each other, and be a more cohesive military,” he added.

Scam: Enforcement agencies on the lookout

CONTINUED FROM A-1

acting on the threats and strongly recommends that Soldiers, civilians and family members who receive any suspicious or unsolicited e-mails delete them without response. However, if people receive a threat they believe is legitimate or has any credibility whatsoever, they should immediately contact law enforcement officials.

The U.S. Secret Service (www.secretservice.gov) and the U.S. Postal Service (<http://postalinspectors.uspis.gov>) are the primary law enforcement agencies that deal with these types of scams. U.S. citizens or residents who have not suffered a financial loss and want to report a scam may forward unsolicited e-mails to the Secret Service at 419.fcd@uss.s.treas.gov.

People can also file complaints with the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) at www.ic3.gov/crimeschemes.aspx#item-13.

U.S. citizens and residents who have suffered a financial loss should contact the nearest field office of the Secret Service by telephone.

Victims are advised to continue reporting these scam e-mails to law enforcement agencies.

HAWAII WEEKLY

PAU HANA

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

“When work is finished!”

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2009



More than 330 Soldiers of the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, return to Hawaii from Iraq, Feb. 19, and more than 1,000 family members and loved ones were on hand to welcome them home at the 2:30 p.m. ceremony. The “Warrior Brigade” Soldiers spent 15 months in Iraq and completed 30,000 combat patrols and assisted the Iraqi security forces during the recent democratic elections. Hundreds more Soldiers are expected to return by the weekend.

Sgt. 1st Class David E. Gillespie | 8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs

Right — After 15 months in Iraq, Pfc. Corey Friedt receives a warm hug from wife Anna and 18-month-old daughter Morgan. He last saw them during rest and recuperation leave in November.

Sgt. 1st Class David E. Gillespie | 8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs

2nd SBCT Soldiers return to **Hawaii Ohana**

SGT. MAJ. TERRY ANDERSON

8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs

WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD – After 15 long months in Iraq, missing birthdays, anniversaries and the embrace of loved ones, Pvt. Kendell Jackson kissed his 3-year-old daughter Mekellia, his wife Melissa, and had only one thing to say following his return home.

“It’s great to be home!”

Jackson was one of more than 4,500 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT) Soldiers who returned to Hawaii during the past two weeks after completing the unit’s first deployment as a Stryker Brigade. Wheeler Army Airfield’s Multiple Deployment Facility (MDF) was the scene of many joyful, tear-filled reunions as the Soldiers stepped back on Hawaiian soil.

The U.S. Army-Hawaii community will honor 2nd SBCT “Warriors” during a redeployment ceremony on Sills Field, March 12.

Sylvia Bentley waited patiently for her husband, Staff Sgt. Charles Bentley, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, as he turned in his weapon and listened to a safety briefing out of sight, behind the curtain at the MDF, Feb. 17.

Bentley was keeping an eye on her 1-year-old daughter, Nevaeh, and said that they didn’t have any big reunion plans.

“We’re just looking forward to holding each other and spending time together as a family,” she said.

Maj. Gary McCormick echoed those comments at a redeployment ceremony, Feb. 19.

“(I’m) spending time with my family, surfing and having to say ‘I’m sorry, I’m surfing too much,’” he said, laughing.

McCormick’s daughter, Aly, was relieved that her father was finally home.

“It’s really nice to have him back



Sgt. Maj. Terry Anderson | 8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs

Melissa Jackson cries as she welcomes her husband, Pvt. Kendell Jackson, during a redeployment ceremony at Wheeler Army Airfield, Feb. 17.



Sgt. Maj. Terry Anderson | 8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs

Maj. Cary Bathrick gives a short redeployment safety briefing to Soldiers of the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team prior to the redeployment ceremony at Wheeler Army Airfield, Feb. 17.

and we feel really complete again as a family. It’s just nice to have him back,” she said.

During their deployment, the Soldiers of the 2nd Stryker Brigade

Combat Team conducted more than 30,000 patrols; many of them combined with their Iraqi Security Force counterparts, to help provide a safe, secure and stable environ-

ment for the Iraqi people.

The Soldiers, along with their Iraqi counterparts, found more than 1,100 weapons caches; completed more than 150 school and 20 hospital projects; and provided more than 1,000 micro-grants to Iraqi business owners, totaling more than \$2 million.

“Warrior” Brigade Soldiers earned four Bronze Star Medals with the valor device during their 15-month combat tour, along with 15 Army Commendation Medals with “V” device, and 35 Purple Heart Medals.

“There is a lot still to be done on the security side, as well as on the reconstruction side,” said Lt. Col. David Davidson, deputy brigade commander. “But we’ve made great



WELCOME HOME HEROES

Sgt. Maj. Terry Anderson | 8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs

Above — A family member proudly holds up a welcome home sign for her returning Soldier.

gains over the past 15 months and this brigade has a lot to be proud of.”

The 2nd SBCT Soldiers hand off their mission to Soldiers of the 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, Pennsylvania Army National Guard.

The final flight of Soldiers returns March 1 with brigade commander, Col. Todd McCaffrey.



27 / Today
Returning Warriors Program — Army Community Service’s Mobilization and Deployment Office will hold a Seven-day Rest & Relaxation (R&R) Workshop starting today from 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. through March 6 at the Nehelani, Schofield Barracks. Family Readiness Groups can schedule R&R workshops “when and where you want it” by calling 655-4227.

28 / Saturday
Shark Tours — Information, Ticketing and Registration will offer another shark tour, Feb. 28, 10 a.m. Tickets are \$85 a person and space is limited. Call 655-9971 or 438-1985.

March
2 / Monday
Craft Workshop — Families of deployed Soldiers are invited to participate in a free Tender Loving Care (TLC) Arts & Craft Workshop, March 2, 5:30-6:30 p.m., at Aliamanu Military Reservation community center. Call 655-1612.

Active Parenting — 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, March 2, 9-11 a.m., at Army Community Service, Schofield Barracks. Call 655-0596.

3 / Tuesday
Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss — *The Cat in the Hat* will be visiting libraries and telling a story or two to celebrate Dr. Seuss’ birthday, March 3, 3-3:45 p.m., at the Fort Shafter Library, March 4, 3-3:45 p.m., at the Sgt. Yano Library, Schofield Barracks, and March 5, 3-3:45 p.m., at the Aliamanu Military Reservation Library. These programs are for children of all ages. Call 655-8002.

Autism Support Group — Army Community Service (ACS) Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) will hold Autism Support Group meetings March 3, at Aliamanu Military Reservation Chapel, and March 11, at the Main Chapel, Schofield Barracks, from 5:30-8 p.m. March meetings will focus on organizing and creating a portfolio for your child and will feature guests from Schofield’s Parent-to-Parent through the Military Child Education Coalition. On-site child care is available, but registration and sign-up are required. Contact ACS EFMP at 655-4791 or 655-1551 for details or child care reservations.

4 / Wednesday
Baby Massage I — Learn how to better



Send announcements to
community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

27 / Today
Slick Deals for Soldiers — Flight School Hawaii, 134 Nakolo Pl., Honolulu, is dedicating February as Military Appreciation Month. The pilot shop is open 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., daily. Service members with a valid military ID receive \$10 off an introductory flight. Visit www.flightschoolhawaii.com or call 837-7767.

Military Special — Outback Steak-house in Hawaii is saluting America’s military with a special promotion running now through Armed Forces Day. Every Tuesday through May 16, all active duty military with a valid military ID receive 10-percent off their entire food purchase. Visit www.outback.com.

Lenten Services — Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday during Lent starting today, 5:30 p.m., at Aliamanu (836-4599) and Wheeler (656-4481) Chapels. Enjoy soup and fellowship following each service.

Fundraiser — The Hui O Na Wahine (all ranks spouses club) will be hosting a Bourbon Street Basket Bash, today, 6-9 p.m., at the Nehelani, Schofield Barracks. Live, silent and fishbowl auctions will be



Col. Wayne Shanks | U.S. Army-Pacific Public Affairs

Jumping for healthy hearts
FORT SHAFTER — Sgt. 1st Class Diane Brookins helps a Shafter Elementary student show off her skills jumping rope, Feb. 18. Brookins was one of 20 Soldiers from U.S. Army-Pacific’s Special Troops Battalion who volunteered to assist during the school’s “Jump Rope for Heart” competition. Students raised more than \$3,000 for the American Heart Association.

understand your baby’s moods, needs, desires and expressions through baby massage, March 4, 2-4 p.m., at Aliamanu Military Reservation Community Center, or March 5, 9-11 a.m., at Army Community Service, Schofield Barracks.

This three-part series is limited to 10 parents with their babies. Babies should be between 4 and 8 months old. Call 655-4227.

5 / Thursday
Hand and Foot Tile Prints — The Arts & Crafts Center will offer a unique class, March 5, 10 a.m.-noon, on Schofield Barracks. Create a unique keepsake you’ll treasure forever. Paint a print of your child’s hand or foot on ceramic tile. Cost is \$12. Call 655-4202.

Potty Training Tips — Learn what to expect when potty training your toddler and some tips to reaching this milestone, March 5, 9-11 a.m., at Army Community Service, Schofield Barracks, and March 6, 9-11 a.m., at Aliamanu Military Reservation Community Center. Call 655-0596.

6 / Friday
Poker Tournament — Win the Army 2009 title and take home an ultimate home theater system by competing in the Texas Hold ’Em tournament, March 6, at 6 p.m., at the Tropics, Schofield Barracks. The top local winner will receive a \$500 gift card and seat at the online national finals. Call 655-5698.

Plastic Bag Crochet — Don’t know what to do with all those plastic grocery bags? Learn to crochet a rugged, waterproof bag, March 6, 1-3 p.m., at the Arts & Crafts

Center, Schofield Barracks. Cost is \$10. Call 655-4202.

9 / Monday
Family Team Building — Come to Army Community Service, Schofield Barracks, for Army Family Team Building Level II, March 9-12, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

AFTB Level II will help you develop the skills you need to get more involved in your community or unit and cover topics such as customs, courtesies and protocol, the volunteer experience, family readiness groups, the deployment cycle, and introduction to leadership. Call 655-4227.

8 / Sunday
Teen Photo Contest — Submit your photos now through March 7 for the Teen Tech Week photo contest sponsored by Army Libraries Hawaii.

Applicants may interpret the theme, “Press Play@Your library,” in any way they want. Awards will be given in two categories: Judges’ Pick and Teens’ Pick.

For Teens’ Pick, vote online March 8-14 at <http://armylibraryya.photo2009.sgiz.mo.com>. Winners in each category will win \$30 gift cards for Amazon.com. Call 655-8002.

12 / Thursday
Stryke Back Bash — Come help welcome back the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, March 12, 5-9 p.m., at the Nehelani, Schofield Barracks. Food courtesy of Just Tacos will be available 5-7 p.m. Local unit bands and radio personalities will keep the party going strong.

Blue Star Card holders, bring your expired blue stripe card to enter to win a prize. You must be present to win.

power will have to be turned off, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., March 2, 5, 9 and 12.

The housing areas that will be affected include: Pitts Street, Womack Court, Cutinha Court, Hendrickson Loop, Ailana Place, Aloala Place, Aloala Street, Aloala Way, Kiela Place, Mohala Place, Melekule Street, Awapuhi Place, Mokihana Loop and Laniuma Place.

Army Hawaii Family Housing recommends residents refrain from opening refrigerators during these periods to prevent food spoilage; unplug all sensitive electronic equipment such as computers, televisions and stereo equipment to prevent possible damage from surges when power is restored; and to turn off and unplug all air conditioners. Once power is restored, residents will be able to use these items again. Call 656-2435 for more information.

Medical Assistant Training — The Schofield Barracks American Red Cross Service Center is accepting applications for spring enrollment in the Volunteer Medical Assistance Program (VMAP), March 2-13.

VMAP is a volunteer program that provides training and experience in the medical assistant field. Students will complete 500 hours in various clinical environments. Eligible candidates must be at least 18 years old and have at least one year remaining on island.

For more information call 655-4927 or contact Becky LaPolice at becky.lapolice-murphy@schofield.army.mil.

Spouse Information Meeting — The next Spouse Information Meeting (SIM) is scheduled March 2, 9 a.m., at the Nehelani, Schofield Barracks.

Post Exchange Meeting — The next Schofield Barracks Post Exchange/Com-

For Blue Star Card information, call 656-3325/7. For Stryke Back Bash event information, call 655-0111/2.

13 / Friday
Bracelet Beading — Learn the art of beading and make your own bracelet at the Arts & Crafts Center, Schofield Barracks, bracelet beading class, March 13, 10 a.m.-noon. Class costs just \$35 and includes supplies. Call 655-4202.

14 / Saturday
Make and Take Acrylic Painting — Paint your own masterpiece March 14, 10 a.m., at the Arts & Crafts Center, Schofield Barracks. Class costs \$20 and includes supplies. Call 655-4202.

18 / Wednesday
Big R: Margarita Madness — Learn how to create your own “Margarita Madness” masterpiece while celebrating another month of deployment complete with your Blue Star Card friends, March 18, 6-8 p.m., at the Nehelani, Schofield Barracks. A talented designer will be on hand to give step-by-step instruction. Canvas, paint, brushes and pupus will be provided as well as free child care. Space is limited, reserve today. Call 656-3327 or e-mail Sarah.Chadwick@us.army.mil.

Ongoing

Auto Inspections — Hawaii-state certified safety inspections are available every day at both the Fort Shafter and Schofield Barracks Auto Skills Centers at just \$14 for the basic inspection. Call 655-9368 or 438-9402.

missary and Nehelani Advisory Council Meeting will be held March 2, 10:15-11:15 a.m., at the Nehelani, Schofield Barracks. Call 655-0497 for more information.

Art and Essay Contest — Essays are still being accepted now through March 20 for the Armed Services YMCA annual Art & Essay Contest. Children of active duty, Reservists or Guard Soldiers are encouraged to write an essay about their military hero. Winning entries may be used for promotional materials. Savings bonds are awarded for top entries. Visit www.asymca.org.

4 / Wednesday
Gate Closure — Schofield Barracks’ McNair Gate will be closed March 4-18 to install additional force protection measures. All other gates at Schofield Barracks will maintain their current operational times. For more information, call the Directorate of Public Works at 656-2435.

6 / Friday
Film Festival — The 3rd Annual Honolulu International Film Festival will take place March 6-8 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Beach Resort.

Film tickets and passes can be purchased online:
•An individual film ticket is \$8,
•A five-film mini pass is \$25 and provides priority admittance to any five films at the festival.
•An all-day film pass is \$50 and provides priority admittance to all films, parties and events throughout the festival. Visit www.honoluluilmfestival.com.

Employment Orientation — Prepare
SEE COMMUNITY CALENDAR, B-3

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 1st Sunday, 1 p.m.

Fort Shafter Chapel
836-4599
• Contemporary Protestant Sunday, 9 a.m.-“The Wave” Worship

Helemanu (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 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 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

This Week at the MOVIES Sgt. Smith Theater

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



The Curious Case of Benjamin Button
(PG-13)
Friday, 7 p.m.
Sunday, 2 p.m.

The Unborn
(PG-13)
Saturday, 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.

Grand Torino
(R)
Saturday, 7 p.m.



Bedtime Stories
(PG)
Sunday, 2 p.m.

Frost/Nixon
(R)
Wednesday, 7 p.m.

My Bloody Valentine
(R)
Thursday, 7 p.m.

No shows on Mondays or Tuesdays.

Keiki create edible art at monthly program

Children get creative in the kitchen and learn healthy eating habits along the way

Story and Photos by
MOLLY HAYDEN
Staff Writer

WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD — Growing up, I heard it a thousand times: “Don’t play with your food.” Yet, today, I still have the hankering to hammer out the occasional mashed potato sculpture or draw a smiley face in ketchup on my hamburger. Why? Because it’s fun. As 14 keiki and their parents gathered at the Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA), they too experienced the fun of playing with food during “Kids in the Kitchen,” here, Monday.

For more information on Kids in the Kitchen, contact the Armed Services YMCA at 624-5645.

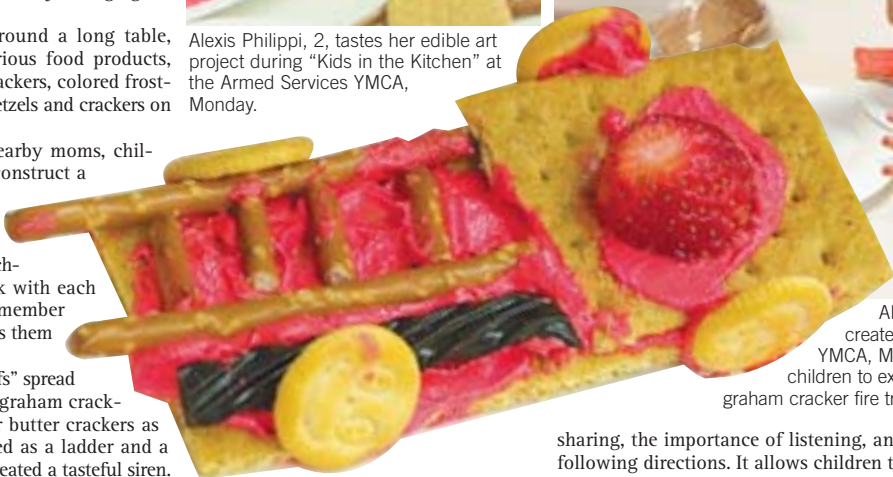
The monthly event brought keiki under the age of 5 together for a day of interactive, edible art. The keiki learned the importance of food and well-rounded meals and snacks by artfully arranging the items on their plate. Participants sat around a long table, which presented various food products, including graham crackers, colored frosting, cream cheese, pretzels and crackers on a round plate. With help from nearby moms, children then began to construct a fire truck using the edible materials. “This brings the kids together and teaches them how to work with each other,” said family member April Philippi. “It gets them excited.” The pint-sized “chefs” spread red frosting on their graham crackers and used circular butter crackers as wheels. Pretzels posed as a ladder and a strawberry topping created a tasteful siren. The keiki giggled as they sampled their fire trucks, starting the morning off right with an appropriate sugar rush. “It’s messy,” said 2-year-old Mac Frieri, looking at his frosting-covered fingers. Mac’s mom, Molly Frieri, smiled and



Alexis Philippi, 2, tastes her edible art project during “Kids in the Kitchen” at the Armed Services YMCA, Monday.



Above — With the help of moms, 14 children create interactive, edible art at the Armed Services YMCA, Monday. The “Kids in the Kitchen” event allowed children to experiment with various food products like the graham cracker fire truck, at left.



nodded in agreement. “This is a great program to let the kids know that food is fun,” she said, “and he is learning and experiencing something new.” Kids in the Kitchen teaches motor skills,

sharing, the importance of listening, and following directions. It allows children to experience different textures and tastes, according to Dela LaFleur, branch director of ASYMCA. The program also touches on counting, colors and creativity. Kids in the Kitchen was introduced at Wheeler Army AirField (WAAF) nearly three years ago to promote healthy living and a well-rounded diet. The program gives children an opportunity to experiment with food and gain knowledge about the importance of healthy eating. Most of all, Kids in the Kitchen is meant to be fun.

Community Calendar

From B-2

for the job you want. Attend an Army Community Service (ACS) Employment Orientation and get information on employment with federal, state, private sector and staffing agencies. Resources will be available for use. Orientations will be held at ACS, Schofield Barracks, March 6 and 20, 9-10:30 a.m. Register online at www.acsclasses.com. Call ACS at 655-4227.

7 / Saturday

Road Closure — Beginning March 7 and ending Nov. 7, portions of Williston and Wright-Smith Avenues, Schofield Barracks, will be closed for roadway construction work. Drivers should avoid the area. Also beginning March 7 and ending June 12, Bragg Street will be temporarily converted to two-way traffic serving the residents of Betsy Ross and Patrick Henry Courts only. Call 624-2338 for more information.

9 / Monday

Cooking & Coping — Army Community Service will host a six-week support group series beginning March 9, 9 a.m.-noon, at the Kalakaua community center, Schofield Barracks, for spouses of deployed Soldiers. Child care will be provided. Call Bernadette Wong at 655-1670 for more information.

10 / Tuesday

Newcomers Brief — The next monthly Newcomers Brief will be held March 10, 4-5 p.m., at the Soldier Support Center, Building 750, Schofield Barracks.

12 / Thursday

Redeployment Ceremony — The 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team will hold a redeployment ceremony March 12, 10 a.m., at Sills Field, Schofield Barracks.

Life Scouts restore forests on path to ‘Eagle’ ranking

New plants shade out invasive weeds and create healthier forest structure in Kahanahaiki

KIM WELCH

Environmental Outreach Specialist

MAUKUA — Kahanahaiki, a forested gulch along the northwestern ridge of Makua Valley, has recently benefitted from the efforts of three Life Scouts as they worked to complete their individual Eagle Scout service projects.

Michael McCaffery, Matthew Greene and Daniel Gum each approached the Oahu Army Natural Resource Program (OANRP) to offer their assistance to protect and restore native forests on Army land. The OANRP welcomed the support and worked with each Scout to design a volunteer service trip that would meet the requirements of an Eagle Scout project and also help to support resource management goals.

Prior to their project dates, each Scout gathered background information on the natural resources of Kahanahaiki. Their research included site visits, surveying, photographing project locations and interviews with OANRP staff. The Scouts were also responsible for recruiting their own volunteers and providing them with project descriptions, job assignments and other essential information.

McCaffery and Greene elected to transplant native koa (*Acacia koa*) seedlings. On individual days in January, Scouts (along with their group of volunteers), hiked the one-hour trail into Kahanahaiki, carrying tools for planting.

At the planting sites, the Life Scouts put their volunteers to work, digging up the three-inch tall koa seedlings from foot trails and from crowded growing areas, locations that would not support healthy, mature koa trees. Others helped transport and replant the seedlings in areas deemed more desirable. A few even helped to gather water from rain-catchment systems, to water each seedling with specially designed back-pack sprayers.

After two full days, the Life Scouts and their volunteers succeeded in planting 300 koa trees in Kahanahaiki.



Courtesy Photo

Oahu Army National Resource Program staff member Colleen Moriarty and a Scout volunteer plant a koa seedling. Life Scouts and their volunteers succeeded in planting 300 koa trees in Kahanahaiki Forest.



Courtesy Photo

A Life Scout volunteer plants a koa seedling to help restore a healthier forest structure.

The third Life Scout, Daniel Gum, chose to help restore the native forest through a planting project, as well. However, instead of seedlings, he chose seeds — 7,000 seeds, to be exact, from the native plant Kookolau (*Bidens torta*).

OANRP collected the seeds from the forest of Kahanahaiki in the fall. The seeds were cleaned, counted and weighed. This week, Gum will complete the cycle by getting the seeds back to the soil of Kahanahaiki. He will lead his group of volunteers in measuring and marking 14 one-square meter plots

in the forest and planting each plot with 500 seeds.

The staff at OANRP appreciate the hard work and dedication demonstrated by the Scouts and the benefits of their projects as a whole. Many have benefited.

The native forest of Kahanahaiki benefit as new Koa and Kookoolau plants will help to shade out the growth of many invasive weeds and restore a healthier structure to the forest.

The volunteers benefit by leaving with a greater understanding of Oahu’s native forests and

committing to caring for these resources throughout their day of service.

The Life Scouts benefit, too. McCaffery, Greene and Gum have grown from the many challenges they faced while planning for and managing the service project in the remote forest location. They are on the right path to earning their Eagle Scout honor or having learned valuable lessons in project management, wilderness and hiking safety, natural resource management, and leadership skills.



Send sports announcements to community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

28 / Saturday

New Family Hike — Waimea Valley will offer a guided hike, Feb. 28, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on the Ali Ki Trail. The 2-mile moderate trail runs from the Waihi (waterfall) to the top of Kalahee Ridge and down to Waimea’s North Valley. Cost is \$5 plus admission to the Valley. Hikers must be at least 7 years old and accompanied by an adult.

Reservations required, call 638-7766 or visit www.waimeavalley.net.

March

1 / Sunday

Hike Oahu — Join the Hawaiian Trail

Et Mountain Club on a 9-mile intermediate hike through the Mokuleia Hillside in the Waimea Valley. The route varies, but expect steep climbing, panoramic vistas and twists and turns. An additional \$5 fee per person for the center is required. This intermediate hike is 7 miles. Call Stuart Ball at 247-5380.

Save the date for these hikes, too:

- March 9, a 14-mile advanced hike through Waimano Contour.
- March 15, a 6-mile intermediate hike along the Tantalus trails.

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

Beach Volleyball Tourney —A-Level teams are invited to compete in a 2-on-2 beach volleyball tournament March 1, at the Tropics, Schofield Barracks. Same day registration opens at 8:30 a.m., match

play starts at 9 a.m. Open to all military and civilian personnel. \$10 entry fee per player. For more information call Michael Smyrychynski at 438-1152 or zerun99@yahoo.com

Ongoing

Youth Soccer Club — The Hawaii Rush Soccer Club is seeking players for their boys under 14 developmental and competitive teams for the spring season.

Rush Soccer is a prestigious national club with more than 22 affiliates across the U.S. and offers a professional coaching staff, outstanding training programs and unique opportunities for select team placement.

The team practices at Mililani’s 16 Acres Park on Wednesdays and Fridays. Interested players can contact Dan Wilson, team manager, at 626-7758 for more details. Visit www.hawaiirushsoccer.com.

Ballet for Beginners — Learn the art of ballet at W Performing Arts Center, 823 Olive Ave., Wahiawa, Wednesdays, 4:30-6 p.m. Cost is \$60 per

month. Call 779-8709.

Wrestlers Wanted — Hawaiian Championship Wrestling seeks new members. Applicants should be at least 6-feet tall, weigh 250 pounds, or have an above average muscular build. Sports background is preferred. Call 676-8107.

Shafter Bowling — Unit PT (physical training) bowling is held Monday-Friday, 6-8 a.m. Cost is \$1 per Soldier and includes all games and free shoe rental. Reservations and a minimum of 20 bowlers is required. Call 438-6733 for more information.

Fleet Feet — Faerber’s Flyers women’s running club invites women of all ages and skill levels to join them at the University of Hawaii track at Cooke Field. The club meets Wednesdays from 5:15-7 p.m. Cost is \$50 per year. Call 277-3609.

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

Wahine Sailors — The Wahine Sailors is seeking new members.

Cost is \$35 per year or \$5 per sail. All levels are welcome. Call for more information, including the meeting place and times at 235-8392.

Jazzercise — Combine elements of dance, resistance training, Pilates, yoga, kickboxing and more in exciting programs for all fitness levels at Jazzercise Waikele.

Classes are held Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at the Waikele Elementary School cafeteria.

Call 674- 1083.

Bike Hawaii — Join Bike Hawaii’s professional nature guides and explore Oahu from the rainforest to the reef. Packages include downhill biking, sailing off Waikiki and more. Meals are included.

To schedule adventures, visit www.bike-hawaii.com or call 734-4214.



28 / Saturday

Whale Counting — Come enjoy another unique benefit of living in Hawaii to help the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Feb. 28, 7 a.m.-2 p.m. The NOAA counts migrating whales from picturesque locations around Oahu. Cost is \$10 and transportation is provided. Call 655-0143.

March

1 / Sunday

All-Army Basketball Deadline — The deadline to apply for the men's and women's All-Army Basketball teams is March 1. The competition will take place April 15-May 9. Soldiers must use Army Knowledge Online (AKO) to apply for All-Army sports via the Department of the Army Sports Web site, <https://armysports.cfsc.army.mil>.

The application must also be sent to your commander for approval via the commander's AKO account. Call 655-9914.

Civilian Fitness Program — A new six-month program to improve civilian fitness begins March 1. Learn ways to improve your health, fitness and quality of life.

No matter what your current level of fitness, this program is designed to accommodate your needs. Participate at Schofield Barracks and Fort Shafter fitness centers.

Fitness assessments are required. Call 655-9650.

5 / Thursday

Intramural Soccer Entry Deadline — The deadline to enter to participate in the 2009 intramural soccer league is March 5, at 4 p.m. Entries can be sent to the U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Sports Office in the Kaala Community Activity Center, Building 556, Schofield Barracks. Call 655-9914.

16 / Monday

Learn to Swim — Summer learn to



Sgt. Kani Ronnigen | 982nd Combat Camera Co. (Airborne)

Running with aloha

BAGHDAD — More than 1,000 Soldiers from the 25th Infantry Division, along with other service members and civilians ran six miles and raised \$2,500 for charitable organizations in Hawaii in the 2nd Operation Iraqi Freedom Great Aloha Run, Feb. 8.

swim programs are getting underway at Army pools. Classes begin March 16 at Richardson Pool, Schofield Barracks, with sessions through September.

Classes for all skill levels and adult beginners are available. For full schedule and costs, visit www.mwrarmyhawaii.com. Call 655-9698.

Ongoing

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.

Paintball — Check out the paintball facility at Wheeler Army Airfield, just off of Lauhala Road next to the baseball fields. The facility features three lighted fields for day and evening play, and 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. Rental equipment is available and you can bring your own paint or buy it there. Instruction is available.

Visit www.paintballhawaii.com or call 343-3929.

100-Mile Run/Walk & 50-Mile Swim Clubs — Record each mile you run, walk or swim and win incentive prizes. Stop by any Army Physical Fitness Center or swimming pool to pick up a log sheet. Call 655-9914.

Pool Fees — Monthly passes are now available for use at any Army pool. Active duty Soldiers can use all pools for free. Family members and retirees can purchase individual monthly passes for \$12 or monthly family passes for \$20.

Department of Defense, and Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) civilians can purchase individual monthly passes for \$15.

All passes are valid from the first day of the month until the last day of the same month, at any pool. Call Richardson Pool,

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

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

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

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.

All Army Sports — Soldiers interested in applying for Army-level sports com-

petitions must apply with their Army Knowledge Online (AKO) account at <https://armysports.cfsc.army.mil>. Faxed copies are no longer accepted by the Sports Office.

Call 655-9914 or 655-0856.

Karate Classes — Children ages 5 and older can learn Do Shudokan karate at these physical fitness centers: Aliamanu, Fort Shafter, Helemano or Schofield's Bennett Youth Center.

All youth students must be registered at CYS; cost is \$35 per month. A discount is offered for two or more family members.

Also, adults 18 and older can learn Do Shudokan karate at the Aliamanu Physical Fitness Center, Mondays and Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m.

Cost is \$40 per month. Call instructor Joseph Bunch at 488-6372 or 265-5476.

Home School Health & Fitness Classes — Classes at Aliamanu Military Reservation (AMR) Youth Center meet every Tuesday, 9-10 a.m., for ages 6-9, and 10-11 a.m. for ages 10-12.

Classes at Bennett Youth Center, Schofield Barracks, meet every Thursday, 9:30-10:30 a.m., for kindergarten through third grade, and 10:45-11:45 a.m. for fourth grade and up. The classes will cover health and fitness activities and sports programs. Call AMR at 836-1923 and Schofield Barracks at 655-6465/0883.

Ladies' Fitness Classes — Cardio Step & Circuit and Vinyasa 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.

Golf 4 Food and Fun — Get a team together and come out to Nagorski Golf Course, Fort Shafter, every Tuesday, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Golf 4 Food and Fun offers a nine-hole green fee, a foursome platter of pupus from Mulligan's, a pitcher of beverages and a luck door prize entry.

Call 438-9587.

Student Bowling Special — The Bowling Center, Schofield Barracks, invites all 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.