



Cultural exchange

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Honolulu Festival

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Col. Todd McCaffrey (left), commander, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, and Command Sgt. Maj. Kark Morgan, the brigade's command sergeant major, uncased the colors during a redeployment ceremony on Sills Field, March 12.

2SBCT welcomed home from deployment by community

SGT. 1ST CLASS DAVID E. GILLESPIE
8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs

0.1.2 CDV

- Read about the Stryke Back Bash page A-7.

SEE STRYKER, A-7

8th's CPX another step toward validation

SGT. MAJ. TERRY ANDERSON
Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs

"This past year's Yama Sakura exercise



SEE 8TH TSC, A-6

Flexible CYS2 programs support Army families

AMY L. BUGALA
Staff Writer

SEE CYS2, A-10

'Duke' mahalos warriors



Members of the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team understand better than anyone the tremendous sacrifices needed to bring about peace. But it is through their sacrifices that we, the citizens of a grateful nation, can go about our daily lives.

Residents to receive AHFH surveys soon

ARMY HAWAII FAMILY HOUSING
News Release

SEE AHFH, A-4

We want to hear from you...

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

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

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

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

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Gates approves plan to end stop-loss program

JIM GARAMONE

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The Army will phase out use of the so-called “stop-loss” program between now and January, Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Wednesday.

Since the beginning of his term as defense secretary, Gates has called on the services to eliminate their dependence on the controversial program that allows the involuntary extension of service members’ active duty past the scheduled end of their term of service.

The Army currently has 13,000 Soldiers whose active duty status was extended through the program, so they could deploy with their units. The Army is the only service using the program.

“We have the legal authority to do it,” Gates said during a Pentagon news conference. “But ... I felt, particularly in these numbers, that it was breaking faith. It wasn’t a violation of the enlistment contract, but I believe that when somebody’s end

date of service comes up, to hold them against their will, if you will, is just not the right thing to do.”

The secretary said there will always be the need to hold a few people in the service, but it should be a small number.

“I would like to get it down to scores, not thousands,” he said.

The secretary’s decision will eliminate the use of stop-loss for deploying Soldiers.

“Effective this August, the U.S. Army Reserve will no longer mobilize units under stop-loss,” Gates said. “The Army National Guard will stop doing so in September, and active Army units will cease employing stop-loss in January.”

The goal is to cut the number of Soldiers remaining in the Army under stop-loss by 50 percent by June 2010 and to near zero by March 2011.

“We will retain the authority to use stop-loss under extraordinary circumstances,” Gates said.

The Army will put in place a number of

incentives to encourage Soldiers to voluntarily extend their enlistments to mitigate the impact the decision will have on unit cohesion and strength. Starting this month, the Army will pay stop-lossed Soldiers \$500 a month.

The program is retroactive to Oct. 1, which was when Congress passed the law permitting the payments.

While there is some risk, Gates said, he wants to do everything to make sure “Soldiers are not unnecessarily forced to stay in the Army past their end of service date.”

Army leaders spoke to the secretary recently on the proposal, and they are putting in place the directives and regulations to make it work, Army officials said.

“I think that the way the Army is approaching this mitigates those risks, so I feel comfortable with this plan,” Gates said.

The Army is able to make this move because of three reasons, Army officials said:

the changing conditions in Iraq, a new unit rotation program that is being put in place, and the increase in the size of the Army.

Over the next 18 months, the drawdown in Iraq will far outnumber the increase in Afghanistan, Gates said.

The Marines used stop-loss early in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. A total of 3,389 active duty Marines served beyond their terms of service. About 5,000 Marine reservists were stop-lossed, but only 443 of them were mobilized, Marine Corps officials said. The Marines stopped using the program May 12, 2003.

The Air Force used the program sparingly in 2001, 2002 and 2003. It implemented stop-loss for 43 officers and 56 enlisted airmen for Operation Iraqi Freedom, and ended it June 23, 2003.

The Navy has not used the program since the spring of 2003, and then it was for medical corpsmen to serve with Marines, Navy officials said.



Receiving corrections part of becoming a better human being

‘You reap what you sow’ principle applies to everyday life

CHAPLAIN (MAJ.) MARK PERKINS

Aliamanu Military Reservation Community Chaplain

As financial institutions are struggling to figure out who gets the bonuses and how much if any should they pay back, I am still trying to figure out how America got in such shape.

Greed surely has been profitable, at least in the short-run. I wonder when we are going to figure out that living within our means is not a social sin.

As American automakers recall thousands of vehicles for mechanical corrections, it may be time for us to be “recalled” back to our faith in God.

This is the season of re-examination, of re-evaluation and of true change. For me, this re-examination came as I was running with a buddy chaplain on Schofield Barracks.

We were running along at about our fifth mile when a tall sergeant called out, “When you get to where you are going, fix your PT belt.”

I quickly retorted with, “Stay in your lane” and courageously kept running. Immediately, I commented to my friend, “That sergeant was right. I’m not above correction.”

I then said a prayer and asked God to bless him and then thanked God that I was able to receive correction.

Have you ever been self-aware like this? Greed that lurked in my heart took on the form of being above the law, of not being corrected. After all, didn’t the tall sergeant know who I am?

To live within the standards is one thing. To live, enjoy and thrive in it with purpose is quite another.

The guiding principle “as we sow, so we reap” applies to all of life. Being recalled back to virtue, rather than remaining in a vice, is a true blessing of God. The question is, how would you like to be recalled or re-examined?

I can choose to be aware of my faults and seek to correct or deny

them, or worse, blame someone else for them and allow a higher authority to bring in the correction.

In the financial markets, a correction is the bull market like we are experiencing. In our moral life, it is a call to repentance to God and then faith in Jesus Christ. Being self-aware is good. Having the power to change is wonderful, and a gift for which I am truly thankful to God.

As change comes, so comes costs. I wonder if we need to re-apply the time-honored principle of “you reap what you sow” to more areas of our lives. This change requires a courage that most are not willing to embrace. It requires surrender, surrender to not only self-autonomy where gain is godliness, but a life that values righteousness, charity and honesty as their own reward.

I wonder if the conflict or loss that you are experiencing right now is God’s way of calling you to him, maybe re-calling you to him. The very trial that we face can, if we yearn for something beyond ourselves, be used by God to break chains of limitations we have placed on our lives.

Just like my \$3 PT belt needed an overhaul, only God can break through the iron bars that I have erected to keep me safe and deflect any call or conviction that comes from the beyond.

Be careful not to forgo passions and lusts; they come with a terrible price tag. After re-call and re-examination allow true change. The true heart change we long for comes not by increasing our savvy or skills, but by surrendering our right to control our own lives apart from God.

The glory of “as we sow, so we reap” can be applied to one of my favorite verses in the Bible: “Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you. I will make known my words unto you” (Proverbs 1:23).



Perkins



T. Anthony Bell | Fort Lee Public Affairs

Team Hawaii’s Spc. Christopher Bates chops mushrooms during the second day of the field competition, March 6. The field competition was one of several cooking events that took place during the 34th Army Culinary Arts Competition at Fort Lee, March 2-13.

All-Hawaii Culinary Team Awards

- Student Skills Team Competition, 1st Place
- Field Cooking Competition, 1st Place
- Baron H. Galand Culinary Knowledge Bowl, 2nd Place
- Installation of the Year, 3rd Place
- Best Overall Table, Judges Award
- Best Exhibit in Show, Category B, Hot Appetizers
- Best Exhibit in Show, Category D, Showpiece
- Best Team Buffet Table, Category E

2009 All-Hawaii Culinary Team

- Spc. Christopher Bates
- Spc. Tracy Bennet
- Spc. Christopher Bohn
- Spc. Sean Dubois
- Sgt. 1st Class Clinton W. Francis, III (team manager)
- Sgt. Jorge Guevara
- Spc. Margaret Hammond
- Pfc. Fernando Martinez
- Sgt. William Monaghan
- Sgt. Sonya Payne
- Spc. Ashley Schei
- Sgt. Monique Sorrell-Johnson (team captain)

Army cooks aim for speed, flavor, skill in competition

C. TODD LOPEZ

Army News Service

FORT LEE, Va. — Like a scene from “Iron Chef” or perhaps “Hell’s Kitchen,” Soldiers in whites scrambled against the clock to prepare meals for patrons they knew would eat only a bite before waving it away.

The Soldiers were Army cooks participating in the 34th Army Culinary Arts Competition, March 2-13, at Fort Lee, Va. The event, the Student Skills Competition, was one of many challenges during a two-week competition to recognize the best of military cooks.

With staggered starting times, each of 10 teams of four military cooks — nine representing the Army and one from the Coast Guard — competed against the clock to prepare a four-course meal for four.

Each team had 90 minutes to prepare, plate and serve an appetizer, a salad, an entrée and a dessert. The “diners” included judges from the American Culinary Federation, who ranked each teams’ offerings on timeliness, taste and presentation.

Pacing back and forth from kitchen to kitchen were roving judges who took note of how individual cooks used their knives, chopped their vegetables and maintained food safety.

The event was grueling, with team members mopping sweat from their foreheads, shouting out orders, bumping into each other, occasionally jumping back from flame-ups on the stove top and always checking the clock.

“There’s the pressure — watching the judges look over you with their little notepads — that really throws you off,” said Spc. Christopher Bohn of the Hawaii team, which eventually won the Student Team Skills Competition, “and the oven failed us. That slowed a lot of things down, but you are supposed to monitor throughout with your thermometers.”

He said the team had to work through some challenges to complete their dinner service on time.

“It’s our ability to work together and to yell at each other and accept it as constructive criticism,” he said. “We love each other like brothers and sisters.

The team’s menu included sole, a “decent spring green salad,” and a chicken dish, Bohn said. “The pièce de résistance is definitely the chicken roulade and sausage,” Bohn said, adding that the team went through their routine twice to get it down.

“The accomplishments of this year’s team were phenomenal,” said Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Francis III, team manager. They all learned the true meaning of teamwork, dedication ... and collectively, they were successful.”

In addition to the Student Skills competition, the two-week culinary event featured more than 40 different categories of competition that touched on such things as ice carving, pastry, nutrition, cooking knowledge and field cooking.

The competition at Fort Lee, home of the Army’s Culinary School, is designed to improve the overall food service program for the Army.

The Hawaii team came in third for Installation of the Year.

“This is leaps and bounds over the previous years. Every award given to the team was a group effort,” said Francis.

Voices of Ohana

What qualities do you admire in your NCOs?



“They take care of you. Whenever you need them, they are only a phone call away.”

Spc. Victor Alaniz
1-27th Inf. Regt.
Infantryman



“Compassion, trust and understanding. They remember what it was like to be a Soldier.”

Sgt. Kellie Clark
185th MI Co.
Intelligence Analyst



“Leadership. They make certain we are all on the same page.”

Pfc. Anthony Estrada
130th Eng. Bde.
Chemical Repair Specialist



“Integrity, because NCOs lead by example.”

Sgt. Daehanka Leonor
HSC, 209th ASB
Food Service Specialist



“Personality and work ethic.”

Spc. Salvador Marti
2-11th FA Regt.
Artillery Crewman

84th's FSC upgrades workspace, cleans area

OIF

2ND LT. KEITH SCHNELL
84th Engineer Battalion (Construction Effects)

MOSUL, Iraq — Since arriving at Logistics Support Area (LSA) Diamondback November 2008, the Soldiers of Forward Support Company (FSC), 84th Engineer Battalion, have continually worked to upgrade their small part of the base, improving the efficiency of their work and the appearance of their surroundings. The FSC's conspicuous pride in its workspace shows in the many improvements the unit has made. When FSC arrived in Iraq, it inherited

part of a base composed mainly of former Iraqi military buildings and facilities that had been run-down during the previous five years of hard use. Outdoor areas where Soldiers worked were a mass of mud and dust from hard use and exposure to the weather. The electrical grid used by FSC's mechanics to power their tools and welding equipment was badly underpowered. The motor pool had suffered from lax environmental standards during the early days of the war and was the site of several large patches of soil contaminated with

spilled hazardous material. FSC's Soldiers immediately set to work providing themselves with a better place to work during their 12-month deployment. Most important, in a long line of improvements, was the removal of several tons of oil-impregnated dirt from the motor pool, accomplished with the aid of heavy construction equipment borrowed from the 523rd Engineer Company. Once removed to a hazardous materials storage site, the oil was no longer in danger of soaking into the local groundwater or the Tigris River.

With the toxic dirt out of the way, FSC again turned to its parent battalion for help in making improvements to its motor pool. Soldiers from the 523rd Engineer Company again helped out in spreading more than 100 tons of gravel throughout the vehicle parking area, helping to eliminate the dust and mud that are so prevalent everywhere else in Iraq. The improvements made the base a cleaner, more pleasant place to live and work. An additional host of improvements to the welding shop allowed the nine Soldiers assigned there to more than double

their productivity. Working with 643rd Engineer Company, FSC arranged to have a roof built over the shop, allowing Soldiers to work safely in the rain. In addition, the battalion arranged for the contractor (Kellogg, Brown, and Root) to install a new generator to power the welding equipment. These improvements have provided FSC Soldiers a better place to live and work during their deployment, and are a tribute to the hard work and initiative that makes the mission in Iraq happen.

3rd IBCT Soldiers become American citizens while deployed

Story and Photo by
STAFF SGT. TIM MEYER
3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

TIKRIT, Iraq — The two men — one a Christian from the south, the other a Muslim from the north — have nothing against each other, despite the past that has torn their homeland of Sudan apart for more than 20 years during a civil war. Today, they are deployed together in Iraq with the U.S. Army, where they work with the same unit as interpreters. Despite Sudan's violent past, the two men share a bright future: Both became naturalized U.S. citizens in a ceremony at Al Faw Palace, Baghdad, March 3.

Spc. Marlesh Mbory "I love my job, and I love my new country," said Spc. Marlesh Mbory, interpreter/translator, Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC), 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT). "I'm grateful to be American." Now married with two children, Mbory moved to the U.S. in 2003 and settled in Lincoln, Neb., where thousands of former southern Sudanese citizens call home. However, his path was far from easy. At the age of 18, Mbory's stepbrother and uncle were killed in the second Sudanese Civil War. He fled from Sudan to the Congo where he lived for several months, and then to the Central African Republic for five years before finally immigrating to the U.S.

Mbory learned the French, Swahili, Arabic, Nigala, Sango and Moro languages in Africa. Upon arriving to America, Mbory's 8-year-old daughter Lidia helped him learn English in Nebraska. He hesitated joining the U.S. Army because he didn't want to leave Grace, his then-pregnant wife, alone at home. She persuaded him to go, and Munyo, their son, was born when Mbory was in initial entry training. "I want to see the world peaceful in the future. That is my hope," he said. Mbory's father, four brothers and two sisters are still in Sudan; he is thinking of returning to visit them one day. After this deployment, he plans to work as a recruiter in Lincoln, to tell other Sudanese there of the positive advantages of joining the U.S. Army.

Spc. Magdi Ahmed "I moved to the U.S. for freedom, for better opportunities, for a better life," said Spc. Magdi Ahmed, HHC, 3rd IBCT. "Joining the Army gave me the opportunity to fix things that I saw with my eyes, but I couldn't do anything about." Ahmed's parents are from Sudan, but he was born in Saudi Arabia. After working at a railway station for nearly 20 years, Ahmed's father was forcibly retired by the government and replaced by an employee who received less pay. The family moved to Dongla, the capital of northern Sudan, where they lived for six years during the war. Although his parents were Sudanese, they were considered foreigners because



they had lived in Saudi Arabia. "I didn't feel like an equal in Saudi Arabia or in Sudan," he said. Even though he had Sudanese citizenship and was a resident there, he had to pay more for college, according to Ahmed, because he was born in Saudi Arabia, a rich country. The college faculty intentionally gave him failing

grades, because he didn't agree with the government, according to Ahmed. In Sudan, although he suffered negative experiences — unfairness, discrimination, and corruption — Ahmed thinks of these things as positive now because they prepared him for moving to the U.S. "The U.S. was the only place you could go for justice. I couldn't get justice from my own country. The struggle I felt in Saudi Arabia and in Sudan made me feel like the U.S. would be a better place to live," said Ahmed. Ahmed moved back to Saudi Arabia in 2005 and immigrated to the U.S. one year later. In Wisconsin, a friend of his uncle's helped Ahmed start a new life, and after one month, he had his own apartment and job. Ahmed's parents, five brothers and one sister live in Saudi Arabia, and other relatives of his still live in Sudan, where his uncle died during the war. Southern Sudan will become a separate country in 2011, and Mbory adds, "God is watching."

Camp Zama rolls out the red carpet for 8th TSC Soldiers

Story and Photo by
SGT. MAJ. TERRY ANDERSON
8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs

CAMP ZAMA, Japan — More than 200 Soldiers, contractors and Department of the Army civilians converged on this small Army post, located in the southern part of Tokyo, for a two-week command post exercise, which began March 9.

A lot of prior planning, schedule adjustments and generous assistance from Camp Zama staff ensured that this vital training exercise went off without a hitch.

The first area that 8th Theater Sustainment Command (TSC) and U.S. Army Garrison-Japan officials tackled was where to house the influx of people. Billeting space is finite on any military post, so the command in Japan had to be creative.

“Originally, our initial courses of action had the 8th TSC living in tents at Sagami Depot and taking buses to Camp Zama,” said Col. Robert Waltemeyer, garrison commander, U.S. Army Garrison-Japan. “So we looked at the resources we had here on Camp Zama, and moved the 8th TSC Soldiers right into the training area, so that they could maximize their training time here.”

Another area of concern for Waltemeyer and Camp Zama officials was how to feed the surge of additional Soldiers in the dining facility during normal hours and ensure night shift workers were taken care of, as well.

“We had to adjust our schedule quite a bit, because we aren’t accustomed to feeding such a large group in that amount of time,” said Michael Horne, Camp Zama dining facility manager. “We are used to feeding 50 to 60 people, so the increase to 150 people makes a big difference for us here, but we made it through.”

8th TSC Soldiers enjoyed the use of the drop-off laundry facilities, a post exchange, food court, shoppette and world-class fitness center, all within easy walking distance of billeting areas.

“We couldn’t have done this exercise without the awesome support of U.S. Army-Japan and U.S. Army Garrison-Japan,” said Maj. Gen. Raymond Mason, commanding general, 8th TSC. “The close proximity of the facilities to the command post exercise made the most efficient use of our training time here on Camp Zama.”



Capt. Lara Johnson, staff officer with the 8th Theater Sustainment Command G-1, gets in a workout at the Yano Fitness Center on Camp Zama, Japan, before her night shift.

According to Waltemeyer, Camp Zama garrison personnel also received a training benefit from this command post exercise.

“The garrison has a standing responsibility to take care of anyone that comes through Japan to train to maintain their combat readiness,” Waltemeyer explained. “We took this opportunity to train some of our deployment and redeployment activities, and to get a hands-on feel for the requirements, in case we have to move Soldiers around.”

The 8th TSC will return to Camp Zama periodically to continue refining the processes and procedures for its forward command post. The command post exercise concludes today.



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

Lightning Horse pride

WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD — (From right to left) Col. Michael Lundy, commander, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB); Lt. Col. Kenneth Hawley, commander, 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment “Lightning Horse;” and 2-6th Cav.’s Command Sgt. Maj. Keith Hunter add a streamer for the Meritorious Unit Citation (MUC) to their battalion colors as the Soldiers of the Lightning Horse Squadron look on, March 5. The Lightning Horse Squadron earned its MUC during the last rotation to Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08.

AHFH: Answers help improve housing

CONTINUED FROM A-1

might be room for improvement,” said Col. Matthew Margotta, commander, USAG-HI.

“Our partnership with AHFH gives us an opportunity to better support families living in our communities, so I encourage everyone to complete and return the survey,” he said.

Survey results help the garrison and AHFH make more informed decisions about their communities, so they can improve the quality of life for Soldiers and families.

Residents who have questions about the survey can call an AHFH community center for assistance.

The MHLI survey is conducted at more than 40 installations during April and May.

Staff officer gets ‘wheel up’ on co-workers

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

CAMP ZAMA, Japan — A typical day for Capt. Lynn Song, a staff officer with the 8th Theater Sustainment Command's (TSC) secretary of the general staff, looks something like this: Wake up early, beat the commanding general to work, make sure he's taken care of during the day, prepare for the next day late in the evening, and leave the office after the general goes home.

It's a demanding schedule and doesn't leave much free time for Song, so time management is vital.

When Song deployed to Camp Zama, Japan, with the 8th TSC forward command post in early March, she discovered her billeting area was a 20-minute walk from the office, so she explored an alternate form of transportation to give her a "wheel up" on her co-workers.

"The 8th Special Troops Battalion set up a shuttle bus service during the morning and evening hours, but that doesn't always work for my schedule," Song explained, "so I decided to rent a bike. For \$33 a week, I can sleep a little longer and I can get back to my room quicker in the evenings."

The majority of Soldiers deployed to Camp Zama for the command post exercise are "hoofing" it around the small post, located in the southern part of Tokyo. "It (walking) doesn't really bother me," said Sgt. Kensley Bell, 8th Special Troops Battalion, 8th TSC. "It could be a lot worse, living in tents with no running water. It's not bad."

The long shifts and the demanding schedule during the two-week exercise take their toll on Soldiers, but Song said the bike ride home after her shift is a refreshing end to her day.

"It's a good workout, riding up the hill back to my room," Song said. "Plus, I've been getting a lot of compliments because I ride in style — my bike is pink."



Song

8th TSC Soldiers sample Japanese culture

Soldiers take a break from command post exercise, tour shrines and castle

Story and Photos by
SGT. MAJ. TERRY ANDERSON
8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs

KAMAKURA, Japan — Spc. Sheila Alexander, a native of Brooklyn, N.Y., had never tried seaweed before. In fact, it had never crossed her mind that seaweed was edible.

Alexander was one of more than 30 Soldiers from the 8th Theater Sustainment Command (TSC) who got a real taste of Japanese culture by taking advantage of some downtime during a two-week command post exercise.

"I had a great time," said Alexander, support operations, 8th TSC, as she sat down for lunch with fellow Soldiers at a Japanese restaurant in Kamakura, Saturday. "There is so much culture here, and it was a lot of fun to get away from the exercise for a day and see more of Japan."

The 8th Special Troops Battalion (STB) organized two cultural tours for Soldiers taking part in the exercise as a way to blow off some steam and to get an up-close look at some of Japan's ancient history.

"We organized these trips through the Camp Zama Family and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation office," said Maj. William Louie, executive officer, 8th STB. "It was a good way for the Soldiers to experience Japanese culture in a more organized environment, and to not have to worry about getting lost taking the train."

One group toured the city of Kamakura, which was the capital of Japan in the 12th century. Highlights of the tour included the Tsurugaoka Hachimangu Shrine and the Kotokuin Temple, home to the 32-foot high Daibutsu, or the "Great Buddha."

"The magnitude of it made me realize how old their history really is," said Col. Kim Rapacz, G-6 and forward command post night shift director, 8th TSC. "The fact that we were able to go down inside the statue and put a hand on the 210-thousand pound structure was just an incredible experience."

Another group toured the Odawara Castle and the Hakone Shrine. Soldiers got the chance to walk around the castle



Sgt. Maj. Julio Bensimon, left, and Col. Kim Rapacz, center, climb the stairs of the Tsurugaoka Hachimangu-Shrine during a tour of the Japanese city of Kamakura, Saturday. The 8th Special Troops Battalion, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, organized the tour as a way for Soldiers to learn more about their host country during their three-week deployment.

Right — 8th Theater Sustainment Command Soldiers visit the Kotokuin Temple and the "Great Buddha" during a cultural tour to the Japanese city of Kamakura, Saturday. Soldiers took advantage of some down time from their two-week command post exercise to see what the nation of Japan has to offer.

grounds and explore in a more relaxed setting.

The weather was cool and wet, but the visit left a lasting impression on Hawaii-based Soldiers.

"I loved it because it got me off of Camp Zama for a few hours," said Capt. Elliott Johnson, staff judge advocate, 8th TSC. "Even though it was cold and rainy, it was neat to get to walk around the castle and see it up close."



Soldiers, Mexican sailors find common ground on Oahu

8th TSC, Mexican Navy share culture during whirlwind tour

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

FORT SHAFTER — As part of a cultural awareness exchange, Soldiers of the 8th Theater Sustainment Command (TSC) hosted sailors from the Mexican navy for a tour of military historical sites throughout Oahu, Friday.

The trip allowed 10 Mexican sailors to gain a better understanding of some of the history of Oahu. The sailors were in Hawaii briefly to resupply en route to missions in Asia.

“The Mexican sailors I met wanted to see some of the island and to get a better understanding of how the U.S. Army works,” explained Sgt. Maj. Tony Cespedas, 8th Personnel Center, 8th TSC.

Cespedas met the sailors on their ship while attending a reception on behalf of the 8th TSC, March 10. After hearing the sailors hadn’t seen much of the island, he contacted the 8th TSC protocol office, which helped coordinate a brief tour for the sailors and 8th TSC Soldiers.

The trip began at the ARM (Armada de Mexico) Cuauhtemoc, a Mexican school ship docked at the Honolulu pier. Soldiers picked up sailors for the first leg of their journey to Pearl Harbor, where they toured the USS Missouri, the ship that hosted the surrender ceremonies ending World War II.

“They asked a lot of questions about the attacks on the USS Missouri and USS Arizona,” Cespedas said. “It was a big deal for them because most have seen movies, but to see it and understand it was real.”

Cespedas guided sailors through the 887-foot-long, 45,000-ton ship, which has nine, 16-inch guns capable of firing an 1,800-pound shell 23 miles. The group paid specific attention to the large,



Sgt. Maj. Tony Cespedas (right), 8th Personnel Center, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, explains the battle on Pali Lookout to Mexican naval cadets during a tour around Oahu, Friday.

brass marker embedded in the teak wood deck. The plaque marks the spot where Japanese diplomats and military officials surrendered, Sept. 2, 1945.

“Seeing the USS Missouri is important because of its deep connection with World War II history,” said naval cadet Ali Barcelata. “This ship brings a connection for any sailor because throughout our service, we all go through the same hardships and share the same values.”

The group toured the crew living areas, officer areas, eating areas, the armor-encased command center and other interesting parts of the ship before moving on to lunch at Fort Shafter.

“This tour allows us to meet with U.S. Soldiers, and they have been really good to us,” Barcelata said. “Much like the Navy, the Army is an excellent host and is showing us a good time.”

For another view of Hawaii, the group visited the Pali Lookout, which provided an overview of the island’s windward side.

“The view from here is amazing,” Barcelata said. “It’s a real beautiful area and hard to imagine a battle took place here.”

After Pali Lookout, the tour travelled through Waikiki, passing several beaches. Sailors snapped photos and marveled over the diverse beauty of

the landscape and culture.

“This has been one of the most beautiful places I have ever visited,” Barcelata said. “There is a nice mixture of modern culture and beaches that you don’t see in many places.”

Although the trip was a quick, whirlwind tour, sailors said they enjoyed their time away from the ship and expressed a desire to see more of Hawaii.

“My first opportunity, I will be coming back here,” Barcelata said. “Our time with the 8th TSC was short but nice, and I’d like to see more of what this place has to offer.”

8th TSC: Command post exercise shows way for fully oprtional status

CONTINUED FROM A-1

transport, engineer, personnel, and military police support to warfighters from Alaska to Korea, spanning 9,000 miles. The CPX also exercises the availability of the 8th TSC main command post (MCP), located at Fort Shafter, Hawaii for “reach back” from forward deployed units.

“The main command post provides Army theater sustainment visibility in the U.S. Pacific Command area of responsibility (PACOM AOR) and reach back support to

the forward command post during the CPX,” said Col. Cheryl Mann, MCP night shift director. “Additionally, the MCP maintains situational awareness of Army logistical shortfalls within the Pacific Command area.”

The U.S. Army Combined Arms Center, Fort Leavenworth, Kan., sent 14 observer trainers to the FCP, and 12 observer trainers to the MCP. The observer trainers are part of Operations Group Sierra Fox, a team formed to oversee and train theater sustainment commands, expeditionary

sustainment commands, and other sustainment and functional brigades.

“We observe how the 8th TSC staff operates, take notes ... and through these observations, help the unit develop a way ahead,” said Lt. Col. Kevin Casey, chief observer trainer. “One of our mottos is ‘no thin skin’. If there is an issue that comes up, our whole goal is to make the unit better.”

Also attending the CPX in an observer role was Maj. Gen. Robert Shadley, senior mentor and former U.S. Army Forces

Command G-4, assigned to provide sage guidance to Mason and his staff, culled from his 33-year Army career.

“My role here is to offer ideas and suggestions based on my experiences, and tie it all back to doctrine,” Shadley offered. “The unit takes my advice and then does what they see fit.”

The 8th TSC is one of three theater-level sustainment commands in the Army, and has conducted and participated in several theater security cooperation exercises, working to achieve validation status.

This CPX is another step towards full operational capability for the 8th TSC.

“We wouldn’t have been able to conduct this exercise without the awesome support of U.S. Army-Japan, and U.S. Army Garrison-Japan,” Mason said. “We’ll work through, validate and document all our processes and procedures during the next two weeks.”

“I feel confident that this command post exercise will get us to a fully operational capable status as a staff and as a command headquarters,” he said.

Soldiers ‘Stryke Back’ during Nehelani welcome party

Story and Photos by
MOLLY HAYDEN
Staff Writer

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Sarah Carnes, 3, spun around and shook her tiny hips in a dance she later revealed was her “daddy is home dance,” during the “Strike Back Bash” at the Nehelani here, March 12.

Sarah’s father, Spc. John Carnes, 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, scooped her up, flipped her upside down and bombarded her with kisses, sending the toddler into an outburst of giggles.

“It’s good to be home,” said Carnes. More than 4,500 Soldiers from the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT) were welcomed home during the redeployment ceremony at Sills Field earlier that day.

The “Stryke Back Bash” came only a few hours later and brought more than 2,000 Soldiers and family members together for a night of family fun provided by Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (FMWR).

“We sent the Soldiers off with a party and wanted to welcome them home with one, as well,” said Stacy Harding, chief recreation activities, FMWR, “to provide some well-deserved fun for everyone.”

Numerous organizations, including Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS), Army Hawaii Family Housing, Roberts Hawaii, and Sprint offered promotions and information for returning Soldiers.

Additionally, raffle prizes, including a Nintendo Wii video game system and a weekend getaway were awarded to lucky ticket holders.

Hula dancers gracefully maneuvered their way across the stage and family members played games and enjoyed free tacos courtesy of Just Tacos.

The sound of a slide guitar caught the attention of the crowd as Buck Giles played soft tunes during the opening musical act.

Throughout the night, Soldiers talked story, played card games and introduced family members to their battle buddies. Fathers danced with their daughters and husbands and wives toasted to a safe return.

“This is great for morale,” said Carnes. “It’s a welcome home for all of us.



Soldiers from the 556th Signal Company, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, play to a crowd of more than 2,000 at the “Stryke Back Bash,” March 12. The band, “Dead Reckoning,” formed downrange and continues to rock in redeployment.



“It’s a chance meet other Soldiers’ families that we have heard about for the last 15 months,” Carnes added, “to put a face with a name.”

The Dita Holifield Band took the stage next, rocking the crowd with time-honored songs that moved Soldiers and family members to their feet.

The Garth Brook’s classic “Friends in

Low Places” started a thousand-man sing-along. Soldiers swayed back and forth to the rhythm and sang to their hearts’ content.

Soldiers of the 2nd Stryker Brigade spent the last 15 months downrange. According to many Soldiers, in

that time, friendships formed, bonds strengthened, teamwork elevated and musicians were made — rock musicians to be precise.

In an abandoned warehouse located in Camp Taji, Iraq, seven Soldiers from the 556th Signal Company, 2nd SBCT, perfected their sound and formed a band, performing at numerous functions downrange.

“We are definitely a rock band with rock influences,” said guitarist Staff Sgt. Corey Burke.

The band, which calls itself “Dead Reckoning,” formed casually during deployment.

“We just wanted to learn how to play,” said Sgt. 1st Class Tim Casper, “so we ordered some instruments, started playing whenever we could and the band was made.”

Pfc. Marissa Flanigan later joined as a vocalist.

“I grew up singing gospel music,” said Flanigan. “These guys have opened my ears to a new type of music I didn’t even know I could sing.”

The screams and applause from the crowd echoed into the night as Dead Reckoning took the stage and played an assortment of music including heavy metal, classic rock and a few original songs inspired by their experiences downrange.

Staff Sgt. Mike Billingsley and Casper held the rhythm on drums and bass, respectively; Sgt. Joseph Ray and Staff Sgt. Shawn Magone wailed on guitar; and Spc. Chad Barnette kept the songs in key as lead vocalist. Ray took to the front as the lead guitarist.

“We were able to play for a lot of Soldiers downrange,” said Ray. “Now, it’s our turn to show family back home what we can do.”

The band took a short intermission and spectators gathered around the stage during the car giveaway sponsored by Cutter Ford. “The Price is Right” theme music played softly in the background as the five finalists spun a small, brightly colored wheel.

Each Soldier attempted to spin a total of 100 points without going over.

Pfc. Chad Hitz, 1-14th Cav. Regt., stepped up to the wheel. On his first spin, Hitz knocked out two of his four competitors with a score of 80. This score, which could not be beat, netted Hitz a new F-150 Ford truck.

Dead Reckoning took the stage once again and played to the crowd until the end of the event.

“This is a great way to settle in,” said Capt. Lucas Yoho, 1-27th Inf. Regt., “to know you are back and celebrate with family and friends.”

The event was sponsored by the Hale Koa Hotel, The Waterfront at Puuloa, PortaBox Storage Hawaii, Cutter Ford, Just Tacos, the University of Phoenix, Sprint, United Services Automobile Association (USAA), Roberts Hawaii, Outrigger Hotels and Resorts, Ke Ola O Pokai Resort, and Army Hawaii Family Housing.

Stryker: Team ‘Warrior’ completes mission, recognizes missing Soldiers

CONTINUED FROM A-1

month tours had ended. That was not the case for this brigade, and we need to recognize that,” Mixon told the crowd.

Amidst a roar of applause and standing ovation, more than a dozen wounded warriors were invited onto the field for a close-up view as Col. Todd McCaffrey and Command Sgt. Maj. Karl Morgan uncased the brigade’s colors. With this traditional ceremony, the commander and command sergeant major marked the unit’s official return.

“I’m pleased to report that this brigade has completed its mission and is now fully redeployed to Schofield Barracks, successfully reintegrating into the community, and will be prepared, in time, to once again answer the call,” McCaffrey said in his speech.

“Team Warrior is proud to rejoin the ranks here in Hawaii,” McCaffrey said. “We all look forward to leave (vacation); yet, we remain conscious of the ongoing fight and look forward to resetting this brigade and preparing, once again, to be ready to answer our nation’s call when it comes again.”

While deployed, “Warrior Brigade” Soldiers earned four Bronze Star Medals with the Valor device, along with 15 Army Commendation Medals with “V” device, and 35 Purple Heart Medals.

“These men have paid a price in blood and time

that this brigade, our Army, and our nation hold sacred,” McCaffrey said of the wounded warriors.

McCaffrey also paid tribute to 10 Soldiers who returned to the island only in spirit. Reading aloud the names of the fallen, he said an 8-foot memorial, scheduled to be dedicated at Schofield Barracks, May 21, will provide a lasting reminder of their service and sacrifice.

“The memories of them buoy our resolve to serve and to commit to one another and causes larger than ourselves,” McCaffrey said.

That message was well received by one family member who travelled from Phoenix to see the troops’ return. Jack Daggett said he was at the redeployment ceremony to fulfill a promise to his son.

“He was a Ranger at 20, an airborne-qualified sergeant and team leader at 21. He has touched the lives of many here today, and he will continue to do so. He was a very fine Soldier,” Daggett said.

Sgt. John Daggett, 21, of Phoenix, died May 15, 2008, of wounds suffered May 1 in Baghdad, when a rocket-propelled grenade struck his vehicle.

“I’m very proud of my son, and I’m very proud to be here. I told Sgt. Daggett that I would be here, and he is with me right now in my heart,” Jack Daggett said after the ceremony as he met with his son’s brothers in arms.

Education aids in fire prevention

MOLLY HAYDEN
Staff Writer

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Unattended cooking and burning candles caused half of the fires on Army installations in 2008, according to Victor Flint, battalion chief, Federal Fire Department-Hawaii.

“It’s very important to never leave candles unattended in close proximity of combustible material,” said Flint, explaining in these instances, smoke detectors and quick calls to 911 saved members of the household from harm.

Though undoubtedly shaken, the victims were fortunate enough to spot trouble as it happened and escaped unscathed. Many of their possessions, however, were lost forever.

Fire wardens may sign up for the April 14 fire safety class by contacting Battalion Chief David Jimenez at david.d.jimenez@navy.mil.



Jeremy S. Buddemeier | U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Public Affairs

Christie Herring snaps a photo of Aiden Ryker, 3, right, and Ally Herring, 2, in front of the Wheeler Armed Services YMCA, recently.

and thorough,” said Sgt. Alan Leturno, A Company, Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC). “They covered all the basics that you would expect with fire safety, along with many topics and techniques that one could easily overlook.”

Leturno is the fire warden for the barracks, Building 104, located at TAMC, and was selected by his first sergeant to participate in training. He is also the training noncommissioned officer for A Co.

Upon completion of the fire prevention program, Leturno conducted an inspection of the building to maintain the safety of the Soldiers residing in the barracks.

“My habits have changed, and I now conduct a biweekly fire safety inspection of the barracks,” said Leturno. “I also speak to my Soldiers about potential fire hazards: overloaded electrical outlets and piggy backing on extension cords.”

“Knowing the basics is so important,” said Jimenez. “It saves lives.”

Jimenez explained basic fire safety rules for Army families, stating while most of the tips may appear as common sense, the suggestions may be easy to do but are often overlooked and ignored.

Helpful hints included using smoke detectors, preferably two per household, not overloading electrical outlets or extension cords, and discussing an escape route with your family.

Families should also keep flammable liquids and hazardous materials locked up or out of reach of children and ensure everyone in the family knows the house address and how to call for emergency help, either through 911 or any other local emergency number.

The classic “stop, drop and roll” remains a lifesaving technique and a good lesson on fire safety for young children.

Denzler also addressed the issue of people parking in and around fire hydrants, stating DES is focusing on ticketing those illegally parked.

Additionally, a recent road clearance survey identified certain roads and fire lanes within Army housing that pose hazards. Parking on both sides of the street and illegal parking hinders the response of emergency vehicles called to a fire.

“The best way to fight a fire is to prevent the fire from starting,” said Flint, adding, “learn not to burn.”

Maintaining batteries maximizes potential

CHANTAL LEONARD
Directorate of Public Works, Environmental Division

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — The Directorate of Public Works (DPW), Environmental Division, hosted four vehicle battery maintenance and management training sessions at Schofield Barracks and Fort Shafter, recently.

Field support representatives Tom Pigorsh, American Business Development Group, and Roy Johnson, PulseTech Product Corporation, trained 100 military and civilian people on various types of equipment and techniques to maximize the life cycle of batteries used in tactical and nontactical vehicles, generators, golf carts, forklifts and other equipment.

U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii (USAG-HI) is implementing a mission-focused Sustainable Environmental Management System (SEM) with the help of DPW’s Environmental Division.

Alvin Char, chief, Environmental Division, hopes military and civilian organizations will adopt the maintenance and management practices they learned in the training.

“These practices will enhance their sustainability posture and help them achieve top environmental performance by reducing their battery consumption,” Char said. “Reducing battery consumption will help organizations free up operational dollars that can be used to support other mission requirements. It also merges financial interests with doing what is right by the environment and the community.”

In its 2008-2010 Strategic Sustainability Action Plan, USAG-HI outlines its commitment to the “triple bottom line-plus,” which combines mission, environment and community, plus the economic benefits that sustainability provides.

DPW’s Environmental Division encourages organizations to switch from using conventional “flooded” lead-acid batteries to absorbed-glass-mat (AGM) type batteries. AGM technology is a “greener,” longer lasting and better performing battery technology. However,

even without the conversion to AGM, organizations can make their batteries last longer by implementing a simple preventive maintenance program.

The reality is that organizations don’t do enough to maximize the life cycle of their batteries. A number of motor pools don’t use battery chargers or Soldiers are not trained to use them properly. “Dead” batteries are automatically replaced with new ones without any attempts to recharge them.

DPW’s goal is to lower the installation’s consumption levels to below the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reportable quantities. Char said achieving that goal will require everyone’s participation.

“Even smaller organizations need to take this issue to heart because one small positive act multiplied hundreds of times produces immense benefits,” he said.

Left behind equipment (LBE) or vehicles stored for long periods of time are invariably inoperable when needed, thereby affecting a unit’s readiness. USAG-HI units have a great opportunity to achieve and maintain optimal performance using solar chargers and by performing proper maintenance. Cost savings and enhanced unit readiness increase greatly by embracing solar technology for long-term outdoor storage of equipment and vehicles.

AGM battery technology is being incorporated in almost all of the Army’s original equipment manufacturer production lines, and some of the diagnostic and charging systems are now part of the standard Army tool set and forward repairs system.

To reap maximum benefits of the triple bottom-line-plus, organizations must enforce a battery maintenance program and ensure Soldiers are provided proper training to achieve the full potential of these new technologies.

DPW’s Environmental Division will host another training series on battery management later this summer.

(Editor’s Note: Chantal Leonard is a contractor for Environmental Science International, Inc.)

CYS2: More providers one solution to child care

CONTINUED FROM A-1

looking at alternative ways to accommodate parents.

“The reality is we do not have enough child development centers to meet the current needs of the community, whether that is hourly or full-day care,” said Debra Blanchard, CYS2 coordinator, who oversees the child care programs at Schofield Barracks, Peterson, Aliamanu Military Reservation (AMR), Helemano Military Reservation (HMR) and Fort Shafter CDCs.

Flexibility is a necessity to maintain the balance required to manage the needs of a military community of this size, Blanchard said. “We are constantly re-evaluating our staff and programs to meet the demands.”

Recent efforts include temporarily expanding the hours at the CDCs from 6 to 7 p.m. during unit exercises and allowing morning drop offs, as early as 5 a.m., at HMR.

In addition, due to the demand at HMR, excess infant care slots were recently switched to pre-toddler and toddler slots, to fill the need that was occurring there.

Blanchard said the situation may be relieved with the addition of more Family Child Care (FCC) providers. She reminds parents on wait lists that in-home providers are available and a list of openings is updated every Friday at the Central Registration offices.

FCC providers are trained and certified CYS2 child care providers and offer full, part-day or hourly care.

Currently 30 FCC providers in the Schofield area can accommodate 128 children, and 12 FCC providers can accommodate 45 children at AMR.

And those numbers are growing, according to Danna Foster, FCC director.

“Our current list of applicants could establish approximately 25 more homes, providing between 100-150 more child care slots within eight to 12 weeks,” she said.

Hourly care is offered at the Peterson, HMR, AMR and Fort Shafter CDCs, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and recently at the Bennett Youth Center, from 8 a.m.-noon, for children 2-5 years old and school-age children from 2-6 p.m.

“With an allowance of up to 20 hours a week (for hourly care), we hope to

FCC benefits include family atmosphere for children

AMY L. BUGALA
Staff Writer

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Seven months ago, Kelly Thomas was offered a Child Development Center spot for her 2-year-old daughter, and surprisingly, Thomas declined it.

“I am happy where I am,” she said. “I have the best Family Child Care (FCC) provider, ever.”

Like many parents, when Thomas arrived in Hawaii, she was put on a wait list for full-day child care, and in the interim, her daughter, Frances, went to an FCC home.

“At first, I was disappointed and concerned about my daughter being in someone else’s home,” she said.

Now, she wouldn’t have it any other way and enjoys

the flexibility, extended care hours and familiarity of her provider.

“I have found FCC to be more of a homey atmosphere for Frances. She’s got one-on-one care, and it’s a smaller ratio,” Thomas said.

Call the Schofield Barracks FCC (655-8373) or Aliamanu Military Reservation FCC (837-0236) offices.

Prior to becoming a parent, Gwen Philon said she was adverse to home day care and liked the checks, balances and security of CDC care. She started working as an FCC provider in June when she couldn’t find

day care for her own children.

“These children in my care are just like my children ... they are a part of the family,” she said.

“The FCC potential is great,” said Danna Foster, FCC director, who hopes to increase the provider numbers in the near future. “Family Child Care is a viable option for a service member spouse to be able to work, assist in an income and support the military community at the same time. As a small business, you can take FCC experience with you wherever you go.”

Individuals interested in caring for children in their home should inquire with the Child, Youth and School Services’s FCC program. Benefits include free training, additional income and flexible hours.



Courtesy photo | Spec Dept.

meet the needs of a few more people at our hourly care facilities,” said Blanchard.

Additionally, to give parents with a deployed spouse priority, Blue Star Card holders can make reservations for hourly

care starting at 6:30 a.m.

Depending on the need and age of a child, a variety of alternative hourly care options are available to assist parents:

•**Children’s Waiting Room.** On-site hourly care is provided while parents or siblings attend medical appointments in the Schofield Barracks clinics or at Tripler Army Medical Center, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-noon.

•**Short-Term Alternative Child Care (STACC).** For parents using the Schofield Physical Fitness Center, the short-term alternative child care (STACC) site, is available at the Kaala Community Center, Building 556, 8-11 a.m., and can accommodate up to 15 children, 2 years old and up.

•**Parents Night Out.** An evening of child care is offered twice a month in Schofield Barracks communities, from 6-11 p.m., for children 6 weeks-12 years old. In the AMR communities, the event is offered once a month.

•**Babysitters.** An approved babysitter list is available at Central Registration offices. Twenty-three babysitters, ages 13-18 years old, are available at Schofield Barracks, and 10 sitters are available in the AMR area.

To take advantage of CYS2 child care opportunities, children must be registered prior to obtaining care. A current immunization record and pertinent information about the child is required.

Wait List Priority

Child care wait list candidates are categorized as either a one, two or three priority placement.

-*Category One Priority:* Includes all single or dual military families or single or dual Department of Defense (DoD) families assigned to the garrison, any military sponsor married to a DoD working spouse assigned to the garrison, and any single or dual Army assigned on the island of Oahu.

-*Category Two Priority:* Includes all military and DoD families with a spouse who is working (non-DoD) or a full-time student and single or dual contractor families assigned to the garrison.

-*Category Three Priority:* Includes single or dual families employed, but not assigned to the garrison and single or dual contractor families not assigned to the garrison.

A spouse who is actively looking for employment or is a full-time student is added to the wait list as a working spouse.

Neurological testing clinic opens at Schofield Barracks

Assessment provides baseline for traumatic brain injury diagnosis

LESLIE OZAWA

Tripler Army Medical Center Public Affairs

TRIPLER ARMY MEDICAL CENTER — Traumatic brain injury (TBI): How do you decide if it's minor or major, or something in-between?

For thousands of Soldiers who have been to Iraq and Afghanistan and back, once or more, concussions from roadside bombs and other incidents have become all too common.

Bruises, bleeding and other visible injuries are easy to identify — not so with one of the most delicate and vital parts of the human body, the brain. However, a simple, 20-minute computer-based test is helping doctors screen Soldiers for more serious cases of TBI.

After extensive testing and development by the Army and Veterans Affairs during the past two years, the Department of Defense now requires everyone in the military to take the Automated Neuropsychological Assessment Metric, or ANAM, before they deploy.

Andrea Stroud, an ANAM neuro-cognitive testing specialist, came to Schofield Barracks in January 2008 to test Schofield Soldiers before they deployed to Iraq.

Now Stroud works in the newly opened ANAM Clinic at Schofield Barracks to test Soldiers on a routine basis.

The test measures six variables, including reaction time, short-term memory, spatial memory, visual memory and delayed memory. One test involves simply clicking on an asterisk that suddenly appears on the computer screen. Another test involves remembering a number associated with a simple symbol like a smiley face, and then recalling the number when the smiley face pops up, several screenshots later.



Danyelle Smith | Schofield Barracks Health Clinic

Staff Sgt. Francis Essandoh, 249th Engineer Battalion, takes an ANAM test at the Schofield Barracks clinic to establish a baseline record for future tests for traumatic brain injury screening.

The ANAM baseline becomes part of a Soldier's medical records. If a Soldier suffers a concussion, later, and has lingering symptoms, the test is readministered. The results are then compared to determine what follow-on medical attention he or she may need.

"It's not an IQ test," Stroud said, and added, "Soldiers are positive about taking the test because they know it's helping them establish a baseline to measure against, in case something happens to them later. Some even want to take the test again."

News Briefs

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

23 / Monday

Commissary Closure — The Schofield Barracks commissary will close at 3 p.m., March 23, to conduct annual inventory. The store will reopen, March 24, at 9 a.m.

Fort Shafter Road Closures — Bougainville Loop, Fort Shafter, will be closed for new housing construction work through May 31. Additionally, motorists are advised that Walker Drive (leading to Fort Shafter Elementary School) will be closed, March 23-April 3, to install storm drain lines.

For more information call 656-4661.

27 / Friday

Dining Facility Closures — The F-Quad dining facility (DFAC), Building 650, Schofield Barracks, will close indefinitely due to deployment, March 27, 1 p.m., after the lunch service. Also, the K-Quad DFAC will be closed March 28-29 and will reopen March 30; however, the Warrior Inn DFAC, Building 2085, will be open.

Contact JT Mann at 656-8799 or james.t.mann@us.army.mil.

31 / Tuesday

Fort Shafter Women's History Observance — Women from all walks of life and in all professions are taking the lead to save our planet. The 311th Signal Command and the Hawaii Equal Opportunity team invites you to celebrate Women's History Month at Fort Shafter, Building 1554, March 31, 10:30 a.m.

Guest speakers will be Cindy Barger, biologist/project manager, Civil and Public Works Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District, and Leilani Munter, professional race car driver and environmental activist.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Ricardo Natera at 497-7643 or e-mail Ricardo.natera@us.army.mil

April

6 / Monday

Schofield Barracks Road Closure — Foote Road, Schofield Barracks, will be closed, April 6-May 21, for repaving.

9 / Thursday

Gate Closure — Schofield Barracks' McNair Gate will be closed now through April 9 and

Schofield Barracks' Macomb Gate will be closed, April 9-23, in order 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.

14 / Tuesday

Fire Warden Training — Army regulation mandates every unit must have an assigned fire warden. 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 Dr., Building 284, Pearl Harbor.

Training will be April 14, 10-11:30 a.m., and seating is limited to 20 participants.

To reserve your seat, contact Battalion Chief David Jimenez at 471-3303, ext. 632 or david.d.jimenez@navy.mil

15 / Wednesday

Tax Center South — Tax preparation services will be available, by appointment only, at the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Building 718, Fort Shafter, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., through April 15. Call 438-6725

Ongoing

Road Closure — Portions of Williston and Wright-Smith avenues, Schofield Barracks, will be closed for roadway construction work through Nov. 7. Drivers should avoid the area.

Additionally, Bragg Street will be temporarily converted to two-way traffic serving the residents of Betsy Ross and Patrick Henry courts now through June 12.

Call 624-2338 for more information.

Tax Center North — The Schofield Tax Center, Building 648 at the corner of Foote Avenue and Lewis Street, is open and provides tax service on a walk-in basis. Hours of operation are 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday, and no appointments are necessary. Service is provided free for active duty service members, their family members and retirees.

Call 655-1040.

Phonebook Recycling — Not sure what to do with old phonebooks? Old telephone books are currently accepted at the Recycling Center, located at Building 1087-B, McMahon Rd., Schofield Barracks. The Recycling Center also provides pick-up service. To schedule a pick-up appointment on the Intranet visit <https://dpw.hawaii.army.mil/pickup/> or call the Recycling Center at 655-0011.

HAWAII WEEKLY PAU HANA

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

“When work is finished.”

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2009

Dancers from the Leilani Hula Studio line up before walking in the grand parade, Sunday. The studio was one of more than 100 performances that took place in and around Waikiki throughout the weekend.



Honolulu Festival

celebrates Pacific Rim culture

Story and Photos by
MOLLY HAYDEN
Staff Writer

HONOLULU — For three days, residents and visitors celebrated the unique relationship Hawaii shares with its Pacific Rim neighbors during the 15th Annual Honolulu Festival here, March 15-18. The festival brought thousands together to showcase the diversity of the people of the Pacific Islands and Asia through arts, crafts and performances in and around Waikiki. Rain trickled down the windows of the con-

vention center as spectators walked around inside, stopping at numerous vendor booths to participate in cultural crafts including origami, painting and cloth sandal making, Saturday. Children fished for yo-yos, tried on kimonos and sat in front of the cotton candy machine watching in awe as the sugar was spun into fluffy clouds of sweetness. Booths offering samples of Chinese, Korean, Japanese and Polynesian foods teased attendees. Additionally, a



Participants learn how to make temari balls at a Japanese folk art craft activity table during the Honolulu Festival.

large stage housed numerous performances throughout the weekend.

Leilani Hula Studio performed native Hawaiian dances and Group Koto Ranman entertained the crowd with traditional Japanese instruments in concert.

A few miles down the road, spectators hid from the rain and watched the geishas from the Hachioji Karyukai of Tokyo perform an ancient Japanese dance at the Waikiki Shopping Plaza.

Along the Waikiki Beach Walk, the Ibaraki City Dance Drill Team, World Wings (from Osaka, Japan) twirled batons as audience members clapped along to the beat.

The Ala Moana Center also staged numerous performances including Ritsumeikan University Dig Up Treasure, which is the best double dutch jump rope group in the Kansai, Japan, area, and the Obama girls, the famed hula group from Obama, Japan, who embarked on an “Oba-

ma for Obama” campaign during the presidential election.

The entertainment continued Sunday, ending with the grand parade. Thousands sat on the sidewalk to watch participants stroll by. Hula girls gracefully passed, as batons twirled in the air and geishas walked by bowing gracefully at spectators.

Pearl Harbor survivor retired Maj. Henry Heim, U.S. Air Force, sat in the back of a Chrysler Sebring convertible waving at the crowd.

His eye caught that of 5-year-old Tokyo resident Haro Tanaka, and he winked and nodded at the child. The shy boy smiled and softly waved back at Heim.

“This is a great lesson for him,” said the boy’s mother, Yukiji Tanaka. “In a very short time, the relationship between cultures has come a long way. This is a celebration of that.”

Under the banner of “Pacific Harmony,” the 2009 festival focused on the theme, “Heart of the Pacific, Creating Our Future.”

The Honolulu Festival started in 1995 to help promote cultural understanding and harmony between the people of Hawaii and the Asia-Pacific.

“My family and I come here every year for this festival,” said Seattle resident Mary Hough. “We learn so much about the history of Hawaii and Japan.

“There is such a diverse culture here,” added Hough. “It’s harmony at its best.”

Hough’s 7-year-old daughter Alyssa agreed.

“I like the geisha,” said Alyssa.

The Honolulu Festival Foundation, a nonprofit organization formed to administer activities that preserve the cultures, customs and traditions of the Asians and Pacific Islanders through community outreach and charitable efforts, supported the festival.

“It’s true what they say,” said Hough; “this place is magical.”

Chapels announce Holy Week schedule

All Soldiers and family members are invited to attend various Easter celebrations now through April 12.

Preregistration is required for child care at the Aliamanu Military Reservation (AMR) and Schofield chapels. Call 655-8682.)

Fridays, Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday during Lent at 5:30 p.m., at AMR and Wheeler chapels. Enjoy soup and fellowship following each service.

April 5, Palm Sunday

All denominations meet at regular times and locations.

April 9, Maundy Thursday

- Protestant Holy Thursday Service w/Communion, AMR Chapel, noon.
- Protestant Maundy Thursday, Fort DeRussy Chapel, 5 p.m.
- Protestant Maundy Thursday Seder, Main Post Chapel (MPC), 6 p.m.
- Catholic Mass for Holy Thursday, AMR Chapel, 5 p.m., Wheeler Chapel, 5:30 p.m. and Fort DeRussy Chapel, 7:15 p.m.

April 10, Good Friday

- Ecumenical, “Living Stations of the Cross,” MPC, noon.
- Catholic Good Friday Service, Fort DeRussy Chapel, noon, MPC, 3 p.m. and AMR Chapel, 3 p.m.
- Protestant Good Friday Service, Fort DeRussy Chapel, 5 p.m.
- Protestant Service of Darkness, MPC, 7 p.m.

April 11, Holy Saturday

- Catholic Holy Saturday Easter Vigil, AMR Chapel, 4:30 p.m., MPC, 7 p.m. and Fort DeRussy, 7:30 p.m.

April 12, Easter Sunrise Services

- April 12, 6:30 a.m., aboard the USS Missouri. An entrance fee applies.
- April 12, 6 a.m., at Stoneman Field, Schofield Barracks, located between McNair and McComb gates.

April 12, Easter Sunday

- Catholic Mass, AMR Chapel, 8:30 a.m.
- Protestant Easter Worship, MPC, 9 a.m.
- Catholic Mass, MPC, 10:30 a.m.



Phonebook Recycling

Not sure what to do with old phonebooks? Old telephone books are currently accepted at the recycling center, located at Building 1087-B, McMahon Rd., Schofield Barracks. The recycling center also provides pick-up service.

To schedule a pick-up appointment on the Intranet, visit <https://dpw.hawaii.army.mil/> pickup or call the Recycling Center at 655-0011.



FRG leaders gather at West Point to learn latest software

DANIELLE HAMILTON

Family Readiness Group Leader Forum

WEST POINT, N.Y. — Ten core team members from the Family Readiness Group (FRG) Leader Forum gathered at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y., for an energizing weekend of leadership and software training to benefit the FRG leader online community, March 5-8.

The members, made up of current and past FRG leaders, traveled from Army installations in Germany, Hawaii and the mainland to learn how to create an enriching environment for fellow online community members.

The forum was created exclusively for FRG leaders by FRG leaders. The group focused on connecting FRG leaders to valuable resources and professional, focused conversations. The vision is for every FRG



Lt. Col. Tony Burgess | Center for Company Level Leaders

(Left to right) Core team members Nicole Demerath, Angela Crist and Paula Katers learn new software during the FRG Leader Forum at West Point, N.Y., March 5-8.

leader to be connected in an ongoing conversation by sharing successes, learning new lessons, and creating a grassroots movement focused directly on the effectiveness of leaders.

Paula Katers, FRG advisor, 84th Engineer Battalion, described the forum as a place full of amazing knowledge and information, where members built relationships and networked.



Join the family readiness group leader forum by using a personal Army Knowledge Online login at <http://frgleader.army.mil>

The FRG Leader Forum has more than 800 members dedicated to becoming more effective FRG leaders to better support their family members. Most forum members are current leaders, but some are just learning, gathering insight and knowledge from past leaders who serve as mentors to the group.

Current FRG leaders are encouraged to get connected to the conversation and unlock the potential of the family readiness program.



20 / Today
Operation Purple — Registration is now open for the National Military Family Association’s Operation Purple camps for military kids with parents who have been, are currently, or will be deployed. This year the free, weeklong camps will be offered July 12-17 and July 19-24. Visit www.operationpurple.org or call 303-458-1909.

Paper Mache Sculpture — Learn how to make recycled paper mache sculptures, today, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Arts and Crafts Center, Schofield Barracks. The cost for the program is just \$10. Call 655-4202.

Bunco Tournament — An ultimate bunco tournament will be held during Family Fun Fridays, today, 6 p.m., at the Tropics, Schofield Barracks. Gift cards and other great prizes will be awarded to top players. Everyone can enjoy free pizza from Papa John’s and Blue Star Card holders will receive special treats. Prizes will be awarded for early registration. Visit www.mwrarmyhawaii.com or call 655-5698.

21 / Saturday
Daddy Boot Camp — New dads are welcome to basic training to understand newborn basics and how to be effective, confident fathers, March 21, 9 a.m.-noon, Army Community Service, Schofield Barracks. Call 655-0596.

23 / Monday
Fan Fiction Contest — In celebration of National Library Week (April 12), Army Hawaii libraries will be holding a fan fiction contest for children, teens and adults. Do you read or write fan fiction? Fan fiction is fiction written by fans of a book, movie, TV show or comic book, using the existing characters and settings but writing alternative endings or continuations to the original story. Wish that Harry Potter ended in a different way? Have a funny adventure idea for Captain Underpants? Winners will receive Borders gift cards. Submissions are due March 23. Call 655-8002.

25 / Wednesday
New Parent Support Program — The New Parent Support Program (NPSP) will conduct a resource group workshop for new parents, March 25, 2-4 p.m., Aliamanu Military Reservation community

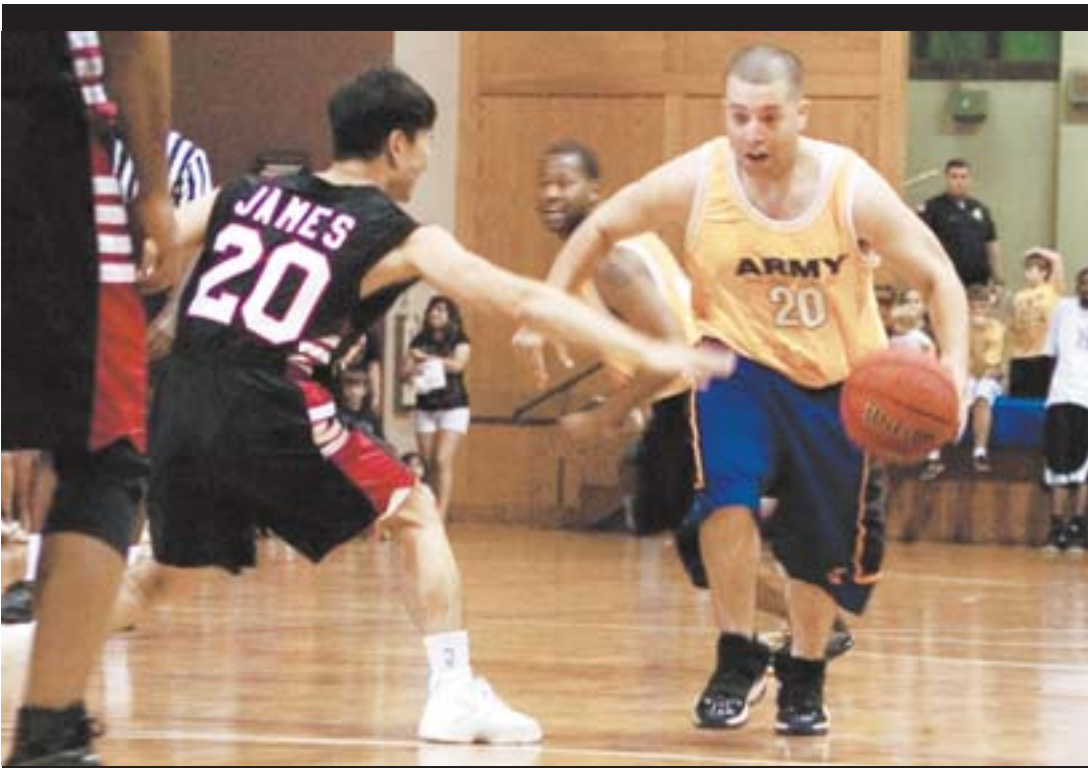
Send announcements to community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

20 / Today
AER Campaign Kick-Off Rally — This year’s Army Emergency Relief (AER) kick-off rally is at the Nehelani, Schofield Barracks, today, 10-11 a.m. All brigade, battalion, unit commanders, command sergeants major, project officers, key personnel and interested Soldiers are encouraged to attend. Call Jackie Torres, AER officer, at 655-7132

23 / Monday
AER Campaign — Army Emergency Relief (AER) is conducting its annual campaign, March 23-April 24. During this time, unit point of contacts will be available to assist Soldiers in contributing to the campaign. Voluntary contributions allow AER to fulfill its mission of helping Soldiers in time of distress and misfortune. Call Jackie Torres, AER officer, at 655-7132.

24 / Tuesday
Online Resume Class — Attend job search training seminars from your home or office. All you need is a computer and telephone. Federal Resume Writing will be conducted online, March 24, 10-11 a.m., and Private Sector, March 31, 10 -11 a.m. To register, visit www.acshiemployment.com, scroll down and click “teleseminars.” Call Army Community Service at 655-4227.

27 / Friday
Spring Break Employment — Army Community Service (ACS), Schofield Barracks will hold a Spring Break job and ed-



Molly Hayden | Honolulu Advertiser

A night with the Knights
ALIAMANU MILITARY RESERVATION — Spc. Anthony Rodriguez (center) dribbles past a defender during the Hollywood Knights celebrity basketball game at the Aliamanu Military Reservation Physical Fitness Center, Wednesday. Soldiers and family members packed the stands at the center to watch the Army Hawaii All-Star Basketball team battle it out against their favorite Hollywood celebrities. See next week’s *Hawaii Army Weekly* for more coverage.

center and March 26, 2-4 p.m., Sgt. Yano Library, Schofield Barracks.

The workshop provides information on the Nurturing Parent curriculum resources available in the community, and short videos on preventing shaken baby syndrome and basic newborn care. Call 655-4227.

27 / Friday
Job Orientation For Teens — Army Community Service (ACS) will host a job education and orientation for teens, March 27, 9-11 a.m., at ACS, Schofield Barracks. Learn tips on creating a resume, interviewing, getting the job and much more. Open to 9-12th graders. Call 655-1696.

April 1 / Wednesday
After School Fun — What better day to listen to foolish trickster tales than April Fool’s Day? Join the fun April 1, 3-3:45 p.m., at the Fort Shafter library. No Joke! This program is for children ages 5 to 12. Call 438-9521.

Fight Night — Watch the Ultimate

Fighting Championships (UFC) on four large screen televisions at the Na Koa Snack Bar, Schofield Bowling Center, April 1, 5 p.m. The snack bar will be offering appetizers during the UFC fight night event. Call 655-0573.

Baby Massage I — Learn how to better understand your baby’s moods, needs, desires and expressions through baby massage, April 1, 2-4 p.m., at Aliamanu Military Reservation community center, or April 2, 9-11 a.m., at Army Community Service, Schofield Barracks. This three-part consecutive series is limited to 10 parents with their babies. Babies should be between 4 and 8 months old. Call 655-0596.

New Travel Specials — New travel packages are now on sale at both Information, Ticketing and Registration (ITR) locations. Enjoy Oahu hotel and car rental deals starting at just \$55 or Maui packages beginning at \$65. Big Island and Kauai travel packages are also available. Call 655-9971 (Schofield Barracks) or 438-1985 (Fort Shafter).

Visitwww.sesameworkshop.org for more information on the “Talk, Listen, Connect” initiative.

4 / Saturday
Island Travel Fair — Find out how to experience more of Hawaii at an island activity and travel fair, April 4, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Makapu Mall Courtyard, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kanehoe. The fair will showcase Hawaii’s diverse leisure and cultural activities. Free drawings will be held for interisland airfare, resort accommodations and more. Event is free. For more information call 254-7563.

Wakiki Aquarium Egg Hunt — Families are invited to hop on over to the Wakiki Aquarium for the annual Easter Sea Hunt, April 4, 8:30 a.m.-noon. Children ages 2-8 can enjoy an egg hunt, fishpond game, craft activities, visits with the Easter Bunny and tasty treats. The SeaHunt costs \$10 per child and includes access to all the aquarium exhibits and galleries. Fishpond tickets are \$2 per child. Pre-registration is required. Visit www.waquarium.org.

6 / Monday
Grade School Testing — Hawaii State Assessment (HSA) tests will be administered to students in grades 3-8 and 10 at Hale Kula, Solomon, Wheeler and Shafter elementary schools, Wheeler Middle School and Leilehua High School, April 6-24. Attendance is a crucial factor for success. Parents are asked to schedule student dental or medical appointments after school hours to minimize long absences during the HSA testing period.

8 / Wednesday
Drug Free Walk — To help raise alcohol and drug awareness, the Wheeler Middle School (WMS) Peer Awareness Club will be sponsoring the 2nd annual Drug Free Walk, April 8, 8 a.m.-noon, at WMS. Parent permission is required to participate. For more information contact Cathy Summer 622-6525.

Brain Injury Support Group — Are you caring for someone with brain injury?

Pililaau Army Recreation Center — Located at Pokai Bay in Waianae, 18 miles from Schofield Barracks and 22 miles from Pearl Harbor the recreation center has 39 beach-front cabins, an equipment rental center, club facility and a cove pavilion area for group outings. Accommodations range from studios, two-bedroom and three-bedroom cabins with kitchens. For reservations call 696-4158.

Support Group — A Transition/Learn/Connect (TLC) support group for Warrior Transition Battalion spouses meets every Tuesday at noon, at the Warrior Assistance Center, Kalakaua community center or Porter community center, Schofield Barracks. Lunch is either brown bag or prepared by a volunteer. Call Roddy Sueoka at 655-7158/7171.

Family Child Care — Individuals interested in caring for children in their home should contact the Child, Youth and School Services (CYS) Family Child Care (FCC) Program. Benefits include free training, additional income and flexible hours. Call the Schofield Barracks (655-8373) or Aliamanu (837-0236) FCC offices.

Persons who have sustained a brain injury, and their family, friends and caregivers, are invited to attend the next Brain Injury Support Group meeting, April 8, 7-8:30 p.m., at the Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific.

The group meets the second Wednesday of every month. Call 791-6942 or visit www.rehabhospital.org.

Holistic Healing Seminar Series — The Schofield Barrack’s Family Night Program presents the seminar series, “Healing as a Solution:An Introduction to Holistic Healing, Mind, Body and Spirit,” every Wednesday, 6:15-7:30 p.m., Main Post Chapel Annex, Building 791, (2nd Floor). Dr. Wayne Nickens, M.D. will teach practical solutions to life’s struggles, hurts and losses. Dinner begins at 5:30 p.m. and is free to Family Night participants. Contact Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Walls, Schofield Community Chaplain, 655-6644.

Soldiers Talk Story — Redeployed 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team Soldiers are invited to “talk story” every Wednesday, 9-11 a.m. at the Tropics, Schofield Barracks. “Survive the peace” by sharing your experiences with your supporters over a cup of coffee. Coffee will be provided and spouses are welcome. For more information call Leticia Rivera at 655-8134.

Military Special — Outback Steakhouse 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.

Waimea Valley Tours — Visit historic Waimea Valley at the North Shore. The 1,875-acre valley offers a cultural window into the lifestyles and customs of the Hawaiian people. The valley is open daily (except Christmas and New Year’s Day), 9 a.m.-5 p.m.



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.



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

Paul Blart: Mall Cop
(PG-13)
Saturday, 4 p.m.



He's Just Not That Into You
(PG-13)
Saturday, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, 7 p.m.

The Tale of Deperaux
(G)
Sunday, 2 p.m.

No shows on Mondays or Tuesdays.

Red Cross volunteers finish medical assistant program

BECKY LAPOLICE-MURPHY &
CPL. ASHLEY WOLLAN
News Release

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS – The American Red Cross certified six volunteers after their completion of the Volunteer Medical Assistant Program (VMAP), recently.

Co-sponsored by the American Red Cross and the U.S. Army Health Clinic, Schofield Barracks, VMAP provides hands-on experience in various clinical settings.

The Schofield Health Clinic and the American Red Cross initiated the medical assistant training program seven years ago to fill needs both in the community and in the clinic. VMAP students receive valuable professional skills for free, and the clinic receives a boost in manpower, improving efficiency in the clinic, a win-win situation.

Each volunteer completed 500 hours or more of training as a medical assistant. Collectively, the graduates of VMAP 08-09 logged in more than 3,000 volunteer hours and directly improved care for Schofield Barracks Soldiers and their families.

The need for medical assistant personnel has grown greatly in number as the U.S. population has increased its demand for health care. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics ranks medical assistants among the fastest-growing occupations



2009 American Red Cross Volunteer Medical Assistant graduates and program coordinators gather for a snapshot. From left to right are: Cpl. Ashley Wollan, U.S. Army Health Clinic (USAHC)-Schofield Barracks, program coordinator; Bersilia Beasley; Alexandra Ayala; Isabel Lopez; LauraBeth Gaskins; Kontesa Thompson; Teresa Black; and Lt. Col. Margaret Nava, USAHC-Schofield Barracks, program director.

of the 2006-2016 decade.

Medical assistants are multi-skilled workers who are capable of performing both administrative and clinical procedures. As an integral part of the health care team, the medical assistant is a career path that provides an introduction into patient care.

For graduate LauraBeth Gaskins, the VMAP solidified her desire to pursue a

career in the medical field.

“When starting this program, I didn’t know if this was something I wanted to do, but now I think I’d ultimately like to become a physician,” Gaskins said.

After completing the VMAP, graduates are able to pursue employment not only with the Schofield Barracks Health Clinic, but in the local community.

One graduate, Isabel Lopez, received an employment offer at the clinic.

“It’s really worth it,” Lopez said to a program candidate. “At first you think of all those hours you’re working and training and not getting paid, but in the end, it’s so worth it!”

For many graduates volunteering has become routine, and they plan to continue their volunteer service in areas that

For more information about the Volunteer Medical Assistant Program, call 655-4927 or e-mail becky.lapolicemurphy@schofield.army.mil.

need volunteer help or in areas that have become their personal favorite.

Graduate Kontesa Thompson plans on volunteering as much as she can “to get as much experience as possible” in both the Acute Care Clinic and the lab.

On behalf of the entire Schofield Barracks Health Clinic command and staff Lt. Col. Margaret Nava, program director, VMAP, expressed appreciation and gratitude to the volunteers during the graduation ceremony. She was particularly impressed with the level of commitment demonstrated by all six volunteers toward reaching the 500-hour mark.

“Many of these volunteers have spouses and family members who demand much of their time,” Nava said. “This year’s program has been one of the most successful I’ve seen.”

Each graduate received a certificate of training and a special coin from the Schofield Barracks Health Clinic.

(Editor’s Note: Becky Lapolice-Murphy is a coordinator for the Schofield Barracks American Red Cross, and Cpl. Ashley Wollan works at the Schofield Barracks Health Clinic.)

Operation Purple notes military keiki serve, too

Free weeklong camp helps military children deal with deployments

FAMILY AND MORALE, WELFARE
AND RECREATION

News Release

The National Military Family Association’s Operation Purple camp program is once again accepting applications online at www.operationpurple.org.

The program aims to help military children experience carefree fun while also learning coping skills to deal with war-related stress, and the program fosters relationships with others who know what they are going through because they are experiencing it, too.

Operation Purple camp helps kids gain confidence while teaching them to be stewards of the community and the environment.

In 2008, military children ages 7 to 17 had a chance to stay at the free, weeklong, overnight camp in one of 62 locations in 37 states and territories. Camps are free to all participants, thanks to support from the Sierra Club and the Sierra Club Foundation.

More than 20,000 kids have participated in the program since its inception.

War takes its toll not only on the troops who fight in the field, but also on the families who wait and worry at home. More than 155,000 children have at least one parent who is deployed in the war on terrorism. That number doesn’t include those experiencing routine and often lengthy, deployments and separations from loved ones through military service.

Many children have more than one parent or family member deployed.

Operation Purple, created in 2004, imparts the message on young heroes that “they serve, too.”

Any military child can apply, but priority is provided to those who have had or have a parent, guardian or family household member deployed between September 2008 and December 2009.

If all spaces are not filled with campers who meet the deployment criteria, the remaining camp slots are filled with any military child from any service branch, the National Guard, Reserve, U.S. Public Health Service, and/or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association.

For information about the National Military Family Association, go to families@nmfa.org or call 703-931-6632.



21 / Saturday

Adventure Hike – Join Outdoor Recreation for a level two moderate-effort adventure hike through one of several picturesque locations around the island of Oahu, March 21, 7 a.m.

Cost is \$10 and transportation to and from Schofield Barracks in provided. Call 655-0143.

22 / Sunday

Kaena Point Hike – Singles and couples



Send sports announcements to community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

22 / Sunday

Hike Oahu – Join the Hawaiian Trail & Mountain Club on a 10-mile intermediate hike into the tranquil and historic Moanalua Valley.

A combination of dirt roads and jungle trails leads leisurely to the Koolau summit. Call coordinator Mike Algiers at 422-1048. Save the date for these hikes, too:

are invited to participate in a nature hike to Kaena Point, March 22, 7 a.m. Enjoy hiking, whale watching and a beautiful sunrise.

No children, please. Transportation to and from Schofield Barracks is provided.

Spaces are limited and registration is required. Call 655-0112/1.

23 / Monday

Biggest Loser Contest – Get fit, trim and motivated for summer by participating in the Biggest Loser Contest at Fort Shafter Physical Fitness Center.

This contest will take place April 1-July 1. Registration and weigh-ins begin March 23. Call 438-1152.

29 / Sunday

Adventure Bike – Discover the beauty of the island by bike. Outdoor Recreation is offering a level two moderate-effort bike ride through picturesque locations around Oahu, March 29, 7 a.m.-2 p.m.

- March 28, a 9-mile intermediate hike to the Pupukea Summit.
 - April 4, a 5-mile intermediate hike along the Malaekahana Loop.
- Hikes begins at 8 a.m., and a \$2 donation is requested of nonmembers. An adult must accompany children under 18. Hikers typically meet at Iolani Palace, mountainside. Visit www.htmlclub.org.

28 / Saturday

Surf & Turf 5K – Register for the SM&SP Surf & Turf 5K hosted by Marine Corps Community Services, March 28, 6:50 a.m.

This scenic race takes runners to the reaches of Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, including stretches down some of the most panoramic beaches in the area.

The race begins at the Officers Club, Building 5082. Registration costs \$20 and in-

cludes a T-shirt. To register call Tina Lui, 254-7590 or online at www.mccshawaii.com/cgfit.htm.

April

1 / Wednesday

All-Army Sports Deadlines – The deadline to apply for the men’s and women’s All-Army Triathlon and Tae Kwon Do teams is April 1. The All-Army Triathlon competition will take place, May 27-31 and the Taekwondo competition will take place May 25-June 8.

Soldiers must use AKO to apply for All-Army sports via the Department of the Army Sports Web site at <https://armysports.cfsc.army.mil>. Applications must also be sent to the unit commander for approval via the commander’s AKO account. Call 655-9914.

April

10 / Friday

Golf Scramble – Register now through April 1 for the 8th Theater Sustainment Command Golf Scramble scheduled, April 10, 7:30 a.m., at the Turtle Bay Resort, Tom Fazio Course.

Registration is \$70 and includes green fees and cart. Monies are due on tournament day. Awards will be provided.

Submit players’ names to Lt. Col. Michael Bender, 438-0740, or Michael.Bender@shafter.army.mil.

The tournament is open to everyone.