

News Briefs

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

June 1 / Monday

234th Army Birthday Ball

— Celebrate the Army's 234th birthday, June 13, 6 p.m., at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, Waikiki Coral Ballroom. Cost is \$70 per person. Appropriate attire for military attendees is Army dress blues/mess. Formal evening attire is required for civilian attendees.

Reserve seating by June 1 with your unit representative (military) or the U.S. Army-Pacific (USARPAC) Protocol Office, Building T-100, Room 220, Palm Circle, Fort Shafter. For more information, call USARPAC Protocol at 438-9761.

WATTS Field Closure — A portion of WATTS Field will be closed to conduct sprinkler irrigation system installation June 1-July 1. The softball field and paved jogging track are open, but please use caution while in the area.

SEE NEWS BRIEFS, A-6

300th MPs mentor district Iraqi police

Story and Photo by
STAFF SGT. MARK BURRELL
Multinational Division-Baghdad Public Affairs

BAGHDAD — The Adamiyah District Iraqi Police (IP) Station, here, has the task of overseeing six IP stations in its district.

In a combat zone, oversight can be a daunting job, but the Soldiers of the 300th Military Police (MP) Company, 91st MP Battalion, 8th MP Brigade, are here to lend a helping hand.

The 300th MPs have worked with these IPs for the last 12 months, earning the trust of their Iraqi counterparts, said Sgt. Jordan Talbert, a police transition team leader, 300th MP Co.

When the MPs make a suggestion, as little as it might be, the IPs listen.

"It's little things, like wearing their uniform on duty and tucking it in. Also, having the proper weapon and ammo and wearing the proper [personal protective equipment] while on patrol," said Talbert, as a fellow MP pointed at an IP walking by and told him to tuck in his powder-blue IP shirt.

The practical methods the MPs are teaching the policemen are being filtered down to six other lower echelon stations.

"They [the IPs] are getting a lot better at helping each other out," said Cpl. Brian Shipway, an MP team leader, 300th MP Co. "Instead of just 'me, me, me,' you can see the IPs teaching each other at the stations."

To facilitate the training, the MPs suggest different, more efficient ways of



Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Bischof, a military policeman (MP) and platoon sergeant, 300th MP Company, 91st MP Battalion, 8th MP Brigade, stands guard while his Iraqi Police counterpart talks with locals in order to provide security and reassurance during a joint patrol at Kessler "White Rose" Market, May 20.

doing things to the district-level IPs, such as tracking gasoline and ammunition through a supply officer.

"This helps alleviate the misplacement of supplies. Now we have a monthly inventory that lets them track where bullets are going," added Talbert. "They see how well we operate and want to be more like us. They take what we suggest and adopt it with their own methods."

According to Zuher Abdulwahab Habib, Adamiyah District operations commissioner, one of the most practical procedures Soldiers of the 300th MP Co. have passed on is how to track criminal activities. Using a district map on the wall of the operations center, the IPs employ color-coded push-pins to track murders, rapes, improvised explosive devices, burglaries and other crimes.

"We track with this map where significant things happen, so we can send more IPs to areas that are more dangerous," said Zuher, who gets most of his intelligence from Americans. "We work together as a team and set up a patrol distribution system."

As joint patrols are becoming less and less frequent, because of handover of responsibilities, MPs are focusing more on helping the community to trust IPs, added Shipway. On patrol, they give IPs lessons in how to interact with the community they protect.

"Most of the community keeps telling us we are doing a good job," said Zuher, who has been a policeman for more than 30 years. "They know we are here to help."

The MPs reinforce the importance of talking with locals and passing out literature and tip cards detailing what to do and who to call if local citizens find themselves in trouble.

"We let them know that the IPs aren't bad people, corrupt people, that they can go to them whenever they have a problem, just like law enforcement back in the States," added Shipway.

After working with and coaching IPs for almost a year, they have a lot of trust and faith in the MPs to teach them the right things, continued Shipway.

"I feel that I came over here and did my job to my fullest potential," Shipway said. "I go out every day and give it what I can. If I teach them one thing, it's a success in my book."





Air Force Staff Sgt. Jesse M. Skippis / Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command Photographer

Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. Alexander Mazza, explosive ordnance disposal technician, Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, carefully sweeps up the floor of a unit prior to completion, Hwacheon, South Korea, May 20. A 12-person JPAC team is currently deployed to South Korea in search of fallen U.S. Soldiers killed during the 1950-53 Korean War.

Search: JPAC strives to find missing Soldiers

CONTINUED FROM A-2

Agency for KIA Recovery & Identification (MAKRI).

"The most rewarding thing about the mission is being able to work with ROK army and being able to work with the Korean version of JPAC (MAKRI)," said Staff Sgt. Lamont Davenport, recovery sergeant, Detachment 4, JPAC.

"I'm glad they were here," said Sgt. 1st Class Alberto Candelino, team sergeant, JPAC. "They're helping us. MAKRI soldiers know what they're doing, what they're looking for. We have them working, digging in the hole alongside us."

"MAKRI and local Republic of Korea army support has been very good. (We) couldn't ask for a more pleasant people to work with," Silverstein said. "They're excellent, smart, diligent, very attentive and disciplined."

Silverstein got his questions about MAKRI answered during the ongoing mission in Korea. He said he never knew if MAKRI had been out at a site before or the processes needed to be worked out.

He learned memorandums of understanding (MOUs) between JPAC and MAKRI and professional development are in place.

"(The MOUs) will help with shared intelligence, consistent standards," said Silverstein.

"I think it's a great event showcasing two different countries working together," Castro said. "It shows a partnership of us working together to find the missing."

JPAC ramps up Korea missions

JPAC has recently made strides to conduct more recovery operations in South Korea as the population of witnesses and family members of MIAs back in U.S. age.

"In the past, we had research and field resources dedicated to the DPRK (the People's Democratic Republic of Korea). The analysts that had focused on maintaining the operations tempo in the DPRK can now dedicate much of their effort to the ROK," Silverstein said.

"Like most of our conflicts," he continued, "we are faced with an aging generation of primary witnesses, and we are trying to gather as (much) information and identify sites in a race against this waning resource."

"The op tempo in ROK is dependent on the ability of the J2 (researchers) to identify sites and on the priorities established by the command," Silverstein said.

JPAC missions in South Korea have much easier logistics compared to operations in other countries, Silverstein said.

"Because of the long history of cooperative endeavors, the SOFA (Status of Forces Agreement), and the U.N. and U.S. presence, operations usually receive the highest level of cooperation and minimal bureaucratic or political obstructions," Silverstein explained.

"With many of the other countries we work in, it is the opposite. We are overcoming a long period of distrust, working hard to build political and professional bridges that are already in place in the ROK," he added.

Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command recovery teams are conducting recovery operations in the provinces of Kangwon and Kyongsang from May 10-June 10.

(Editor's Note: See next week's edition of the Hawaii Army Weekly for part two of this series.)

8th TSC names Engler, Grothe as top NCO, Soldier of the Year


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

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS – The 8th Theater Sustainment Command (TSC) named its Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) and Soldier of the Year at Schofield Barracks after a military board concluded the three-day challenge to select the winners, May 21.



Sgt. Elizabeth Engler, noncommissioned officer in charge (NCOIC), processing section, 125th Finance Company, and Spc. Matthew Grothe, military police officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 728th Military Police Battalion, were selected as the NCO and Soldier of the Year, respectively.

They were among the seven competitors vying for the opportunity to represent the 8th TSC this year at the U.S. Army-Pacific (USARPAC) NCO and Soldier of the Year competition. Winners at the USARPAC level represent the region Armywide.

During a three-day period, the Soldiers competed in an Army physical fitness test, a rifle competition, a land naviga-



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



Grothe

Engler



Soldiers of the 8th Theater Sustainment Command prepare to compete in the two-mile run of the Army Physical Fitness Test during the Soldier of the Year Competition, May 19, at Schofield Barracks.

lot of events, and it was a real growing and learning experience for me.”

She said the contest was a big chal-

perform in their military occupation.

“I had to do a crash course in land navigation,” Engler said, laughing. “I was struggling a bit, but I took my time verifying all my points and did better than I expected.”

Grothe, who won the Soldier of the Year competition, said the board was the biggest challenge for him.

“Boards are always the hardest part for me,” he said. “I can remember everything when I’m sitting around talking about it, but when you are getting grilled by sergeants major you can forget a lot of it.”

The competition may be over for the other Soldiers, but for Engler and Grothe, their studying is not over ... they have to keep the books cracked open for the next phase, the USARPAC level.

For anyone with the desire to compete in a Soldier/NCO of the Year competition, Engler gave some advice.

“Come to these events with an open mind,” Engler said. “Do your best and look to these competitions as an opportunity to showcase (your best effort).”

Town Hall: DES, family housing provide current statistics

CONTINUED FROM A-1

(WAAF), 48 at Helemano Military Reservation, and three at Mendonca Park during the last four months.

The numbers look high, he said, because they encompass a broad range of statistics and cover a longer period of time than normally reported.

“There’s one main take-away,” Denzler said. “The large majority of our larcenies have one common theme. ... People are not securing their property, their quarters, their vehicles, and they’re leaving their scooters and bicycles out on their front porches. ... I’ve said it before,” he continued, “unfortunately, we don’t live in Mayberry.”

Statistics indicate that juvenile family members are the culprits of many of the larcenies.

“Maj. Gen. (Raymond) Mason is not happy with what he sees,” Denzler said, pointing out that the U.S. Army-Hawaii (USARHAW) senior commander wants “safe and respectful communities for all of us to enjoy.”

“We need to tell folks what ‘right’ looks like,” Denzler said. He briefly discussed Mason’s strategy to enhance and strengthen communities.

Army Hawaii Family Housing

Fencing replacement projects (in WAAF, Canby and Sante Fe areas) and housing exterior color schemes (in Kalakaua, Porter, Kaena and Moyer communities) were among top items Hintz discussed for AHFH.

He reported three new “tot lots” have been constructed in the Porter community, and residents who renew their leases by Aug. 31 will be entered to win two season passes to Hawaiian Waters Adventure Park. The AHFH Web site has full details at www.ArmyHawaiiFamilyHousing.com.

Concluding, Hintz said a \$500 reward incentive is still available for any resident who gives information leading to the arrest and conviction of criminals responsible for damage and graffiti in AHFH areas. Even the new Moyer community, he reported, has been damaged by graffiti.

Army Community Service (ACS)

Updates from ACS and its Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (FMWR) wrapped up presentations. Steve Takekawa reminded the audience about FMWR’s Waikiki par-

Senior commander’s strategy

The Objective: A safe & respectful community & environment.

- Soldier & community awareness (standards).
- Noncommissioned officer support channel & chain of command.
- Directorate of Emergency Services enforcement.
- Senior leader engagement.

ty bus, Fourth of July plans, and Tropics and Pililaa Army recreation centers’ activities.

Brandy Gray explained the many services provided by ACS. She highlighted several new offerings, such as a Cooking & Coping class at Schofield, a Stroller Strong support group at Tripler Army Medical Center, and an Art in the Park program at Helemano Military Reservation.

“Ask the Commander”

“In an effort to bring you new ways to get your questions answered, we have our ‘Ask the Com-

mander’ program,” explained Ophelia Isreal, with Customer Management Services, part of USAG-HI’s Plans, Analysis and Integration Office.

Isreal said two components comprise the new service – a dedicated e-mail address and TV2 tapings. Community members can submit questions to the garrison commander at AskTheCommander@hawaii.army.mil. Selected answers will be provided in the *Hawaii Army Weekly* newspaper and online; however, all questions will receive responses.

Community members can personally ask a question at the first TV2 taping for the program, June 8, 11 a.m.-noon, at the Aliamanu Military Reservation community center.

More details about the “Ask the Commander” program are forthcoming, Isreal explained.

The town hall concluded with a question-and-answer period. A dozen participants addressed various concerns. Most contentious topics included fencing, housing maintenance and follow-up, street parking, speeding and other irresponsible driving.

The next Oahu North Town Hall Meeting is Sept. 22 at 6:30 p.m.

25th CAB creates most realistic training environment possible

In part two of the series, Brigade leadership recognizes hard work

SGT. 1ST CLASS TYRONE C. MARSHALL JR.
SGT. MIKE ALBERTS
25th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs

WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD — Soldiers of 25th Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB) earned praise from senior leaders during their recent comprehensive Culminating Training Event (CTE), held in preparation for the 25th CAB's upcoming deployment.

The CTE forced CAB Soldiers to operate under increased stress and uniquely challenging situations. Still, the brigade managed do safely and successfully fly more than 2,000 hours while conducting diverse missions — convoy operations, downed aircraft recovery, resupply missions, humanitarian relief, water purification, unmanned aerial vehicle recovery, medical evacuations, reconnaissance and surveillance, close combat attacks, military operations on urban terrain training, and many other combat-focused operations.

A major component distinguished the training event as unique, according to Maj. John Barry, simulation and plans officer, 25th CAB.

"This was the first truly integrated aviation LVC (live, virtual and constructive) event, linking the virtual world and the various training scenarios into live individual Soldier training," said Barry.



Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone C. Marshall Jr. | 25th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs

Soldiers from B Company, 209th Aviation Support Battalion, "Lobos," 25th CAB, representing the battalion's Downed Aircraft Recovery Team, recover a downed helicopter during a training exercise at Schofield Barracks, April 26. The exercise is part of the 25th CAB's Culminating Training Event.

The CAB integrated the virtual and constructive elements into its home station training to create the most realistic training environment possible. The training focused on key staff functions at the brigade and battalion level while also training Soldiers and leaders at each level, all the way down to the individual Soldier.

"The bottom line is that this integrated CTE enabled us to engage training objectives that we will actually be

doing downrange, which better prepares not only our staff but also our individual Soldiers with as much reality as possible," Barry said.

Col. Michael Lundy, commander, 25th CAB, elaborated on some specific accomplishments during the CTE.

"The CAB conducted over 669 flights flying over 2,200 hours," said Lundy. "That includes over 1,965 hours of live flight time and 240 hours of virtual flying using a system called the Avia-

tion Combined Arms Tactical Trainer, or AVCATT.

"CTE situational training and full spectrum operations were conducted on Oahu, Kauai, National Training Center and Pohokuloa Training Area (PTA) from April 25 through May 3," Lundy said. "This included everything from counter (improvised explosive device) missions to congressional delegation support."

The goal of the complex operations

was to give senior leaders a final opportunity to train, refine and validate the most current tactics, techniques and procedures (TTP) as they apply in today's operating environment in Iraq.

Equally vital was the opportunity to observe Soldiers in action, correct any deficiencies and ensure unit cohesion with future unit attachments that will integrate with the 25th CAB once deployed.

"Our objective was to put leaders out there and eliminate their weaknesses," said Command Sgt. Maj. Osvaldo Martell, 209th Aviation Support Battalion. "We owe that to the Soldiers, from senior to the most junior Soldiers. It is our responsibility to train them.

"If leaders don't know, they won't be able to train their junior Soldiers," Martell added, "so I think everybody learned where they can improve."

With the CTE complete, 25th CAB senior leaders can take the lessons learned from the CTE and use them to continue improving operating procedures right up until the unit's scheduled rotation to Iraq.

Understanding this point, the Wings of Lightning Brigade commander extended appreciation for the brigade and all of the supporting elements during the exercise.

"This exercise was instrumental in our predeployment operations as it provided the necessary stress across the brigade to continue to improve all of our systems, processes and TTPs," said Lundy.

News Briefs

From A-3

North Spouse Information Meeting — The next North Spouse Information Meeting (SIM) is June 1, 9 a.m., at the Nehelani, Schofield Barracks.

Schofield Advisory Council Meeting — The next Schofield Barracks PX/Commissary/Nehelani Advisory Council Meeting is June 1, 10:15 a.m., at the Nehelani, Schofield Barracks, following the Spouse Information Meeting. For more information, call Monica Anguay at 655-0497.

3 / Wednesday
Oahu South Town Hall — The next Oahu South Town Hall

meeting for the Oahu South community is scheduled, June 3, 6:30 p.m., at Aliamanu Military Reservation Chapel. Call Rosey Stone at 438-6147.

5 / Friday
NSPS Employee Town Hall — The civilian workforce should attend one of two National Security Personnel System (NSPS) Employee Town Hall meetings. Jim Duttweiler, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii, deputy garrison commander, will discuss the upcoming NSPS pay pool process for this year. Employees need to attend only one session.

•June 3, 10-11 a.m. or 1:30-2:30 p.m., at Fort Shafter, Building 344.

•June 5, 10-11 a.m. or 1:30-2:30 p.m., at Sgt. Smith Theater, Schofield Barracks.

8 / Monday
Sex Signals Tour — U.S. Army-Pacific (USARPAC) and the U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) team present the improvisational show "Sex Signals," June 8-11.

The 75-minute show is a revolutionary concept in sexual assault and harassment training and prevention, and explores mixed messages, gender stereotypes and social pressure in a humorous and interactive way.

Space is limited. Reservations are mandatory by June 1.

•Sgt. Smith Theater, Schofield, June 8 and 9, at 9 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.; June 11 at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

•Hale Ikena, Fort Shafter, June 10 at 9 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Contact Lt. Col. Jacky Westover

chief, Morale, Welfare and Recreation, USARPAC, at 438-4173 or Jacqueline.westover@us.army.mil or Brenda Huntsinger, Installation Sexual Assault Response coordinator, at 655-1718.

9 / Tuesday
Newcomers Brief for Soldiers — The next monthly newcomers briefing for Soldiers is scheduled June 9, 4-5 p.m., at the Soldier Support Center, Building 750, Schofield Barracks.

10 / Wednesday
POSH Training — U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Equal Employ-

ment Opportunity Office (EEO) will conduct several Prevention of Sexual Harrassment (POSH) /No Fear Act Training Briefs. Training is mandatory for Department of Army (DA) Civilians Employees/ Supervisors and Military Supervisors of DA Civilians.

•Fort Shafter: Four sessions per day will be offered June 10-11 at the Hale Ikena. (A sign language interpreter will be provided June 10 during the 8:30-9:30 a.m. session) 8:30-9:30 a.m. or 1-2 p.m. for employees and 10-11 a.m. or 2:30-3:30 p.m. for supervisors.

•Schofield Barracks: Four ses-

sions per day will be offered June 25-26 at the Sgt. Smith Theater. (A sign language interpreter will be provided June 25 during the 8:30-9:30 a.m. session) 8:30-9:30 a.m. or 1-2 p.m. for employees and 10-11 a.m. or 2:30-3:30 p.m. for supervisors. For more information, please contact EEO specialists, Amelia Lazo-Ramos or Janet Baricar at 655-9382.

Ongoing

Twitter — Do you Twitter? Follow the garrison at www.twitter.com/usaghi. Call 656-3153.

Memorial: Warriors dedicate monument

CONTINUED FROM A-1

and sanctified at this place, is to remember.”

While the name of each Soldier etched into the memorial was read, lei were placed at the base of the memorial by a Soldier from the unit of the fallen warrior.

“In life, their bonds to one another were distant – stretching across various companies

and battalions, and even differing years of deployment,” said McCaffrey. “This ground now provides a physical tie between the memory of each of them, their units, and the wide range of dates and distant locations where they gave their last full measure.”

Deep emotion was evident during the reading of the names. Many battle-hardened warrior eyes turned down with

the thought of remembering each Soldier.

“We (Cpl. William McMillian III) spent time with the (Pohokuloa Training Area) aid station, and Charlie Med (C Company, 225th Bde. Support Bn.) through all the training and prep for the deployment,” said Maj. Adam Brown, brigade surgeon, 2nd SBCT, in reflection of one of the warriors.

“He was a great medic that

was always thinking of ways to help the Soldier, and make his mission better,” Brown added. “He was always so upbeat about things; he’d be very pleased that so many people would be here to remember him and all the warriors.”

An honor guard fired a 21-gun salute, which was immediately followed by the playing of Taps.

“We have chosen to honor

these men at the place where they lived,” stated McCaffrey. “It is here, on the warrior plains of Leilehua, that these men trained to serve and fight in a distant and ancient land ... this monument is amidst the shadows of the units from which they hailed.

“We know they will continually remind us, and those who will follow us, that the cost of service and freedom is incalculable,” McCaffrey concluded.

Honors: Communities appreciate military strength

CONTINUED FROM A-1

the Military Partners in Education program, throughout the island.

Stalder recognized the recent efforts of the Soldiers of the 8th Special Troops Battalion, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, who replaced flags at Webling Elementary School. Soldiers outfitted each classroom with a new American flag and replaced the school’s American and Hawaiian flags.

Allen Doane, chairman and chief execu-

utive officer, Alexander and Baldwin, Inc., expressed similar sentiments regarding volunteer efforts of Hawaii’s military.

“Our communities are strengthened by the efforts of military volunteers who spend countless hours helping to improve schools, churches and many local service organizations,” he said.

Luncheon attendees expressed their feelings of appreciation for the luncheon and the people of Hawaii.

“I’ve always felt very welcome here in Hawaii, and this event compounds that,”

said Spc. Christopher Schwauer, U.S. Army-Pacific (USARPAC), who attended the luncheon with his wife.

The luncheon culminated with an awards presentation that recognized outstanding service members of the year.

Staff Sgt. Jacob Ferrara, 94th Army Air Missile Defense Command, was awarded Outstanding Noncommissioned Officer of the Year for the Army. Ferrara, an assistant operations sergeant, is also the U.S. Army-Pacific 2008 Noncommissioned Officer of the Year.

Among those in attendance were Hawaii Gov. Linda Lingle; U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye; Adm. Timothy Keating, commander, U.S. Pacific Command; Lt. Gen. Benjamin Mixon, commanding general, USARPAC; and many other significant political, military and business leaders of Hawaii.

The luncheon was sponsored by a collaborative effort of several local businesses, including First Hawaiian Bank, Alexander and Baldwin Inc., Matson, Tesoro and Kilauea Military Camp Joint Service Recreation Center.

HAWAII ARMY WEEKLY

PAU HANA

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

"When work is finished!"

• FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2009

Soldiers from 2nd Platoon, A Company, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, present arms during U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii's Installation Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony at the Schofield Barracks Post Cemetery, Monday. Pictured from left to right are Sgt. Bryan Davis, Spc. Corey Johnson, Spc. Lance Moore, Spc. Josh Echeverria, Spc. Johnathon Read, Spc. Scott Blazek, and Sgt. Scott Weller. Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Love (far right), also of 1-27th, served as the noncommissioned officer in charge of the detail.



Remembering

the fallen and honoring those who have served

JACK WIERS

U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Public Affairs

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — The words were sometimes difficult to find for retired Sgt. 1st Class Don Cook during his visit to the post cemetery on Memorial Day.

"... I have feelings when I come here ... I lost good friends."

As a member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Cook came to remember friends lost in combat, and his perspective offered special poignancy for the more than 80 in attendance at the remembrance ceremony, Monday.

Accompanied by two other honored Purple Heart members, Ace Kaleohano and Moses Pakaki, Cook gently laid a flowered wreath at the base of the flagpole as the American symbol hung at half-mast.

"I will continue to come and pay honor to all veterans every year until I die," Cook said. "I hope after I pass, others will continue to remember the service and sacrifice from those who served in all wars."

Surrounded by both past and present members of the military ohana, Col. Matthew Margotta, commander, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii (USAG-HI), called the day "a solemn celebration of freedom ... a commemoration of those who have fallen, and a celebration of those who have served."

"Americans are special because not only do they attach value to the importance of their beliefs ...



Photos by Aiko Brum | U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Public Affairs

"Today is a solemn celebration of freedom ... a commemoration of those who have fallen, and a celebration of those who have served," said Col. Matthew Margotta, commander, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii, during the Installation Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony at the Schofield Barracks Post Cemetery, Monday.

they are prepared to sacrifice for those beliefs," Margotta said, underscoring a common thread between American generations.

"Americans sacrifice willingly ... not for wealth, dominion or reward ... but because it is right, and it is good," Margotta continued. "They

To see more photos from the Memorial Day ceremony go to www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil and click "USAG-HI Photos" on left menu.

have never been found wanting ... our armed forces are like none-other."

Representatives of Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Women Veterans of America organizations each paid respects as members placed lei under the flagpole and saluted in respect to service members, past, present, and in conflict.

Following the veterans organizations, USAG-HI garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Williamson presented a wreath honoring all fallen Soldiers.

Like Cook, Williamson also struggled to find the precise words to describe the day, and his thoughts turned to current times and challenges.

"(Memorial Day is a) reflection from where we came from, and the road ahead.

War is still going on," he said.

For many on that day, unfound words were expressed in actions as a steady stream of visitors made the pilgrimage to the post

William Summers, representing the American Legion, pays his respects during U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii's Installation Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony at the Schofield Barracks Post Cemetery, Monday.

cemetery to offer their respects, adding flowers and flags to grave sites already dotted with donated lei.

After a 21-gun salute, the flag was raised from half-mast position.

The playing of Taps offered a final reminder of the ultimate sacrifice made by more than 1.2 million American service members during conflict in our nation's history.

Local volunteers create rainbows of remembrance for Soldiers

Story and Photo by
BILL MOSSMAN
Staff Writer

WAIHAWA — Each year before Memorial Day, dozens of senior citizens gather, here, like worker bees to flowers, to participate in an annual patriotic service project — making lei for the grave sites of those interred at Schofield Barracks Post Cemetery.

The volunteers are members of the Wahiawa Rainbow Seniors Club, and Friday morning they came together with gladness in their hearts, and weathered yet willing hands, to slowly begin the task of stringing a rainbow of freshly picked flowers for this year's challenge. They produced 1,740 leis in eight hours.

Now in its third consecutive year, the Memorial Day lei-making event began as a suggestion from the seniors themselves, said Leslie Stewart, chief, Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Assistance Center, Schofield Barracks. "They approached us (in 2007) because they wanted to get involved and volunteer their services."

"These are altruistic, community-minded folks putting forth work for

our Schofield Barracks neighbors," explained the group's president Noelle Sutherland.

In the past, the group produced lei approximately two-feet in length. This year, however, the volunteers were asked that the floral wreaths be scaled back to 18 inches.

"It's still a circle of flowers, but they're almost lei po'o," explained Sutherland, in reference to the traditional haku lei worn at the top of one's head.

After receiving this year's instructions, the seniors wasted little time. At 7 a.m., the first wave of club members sprang into action, sorting through some 20 bags of plumeria, numerous branches of bouganvillia, and a large box of handpicked stephanotis, courtesy of the club's nonagenarian, Helen Liu.

Ti leaves were heated in a microwave oven to increase their pliability for shaping. And the lei, particularly the bouganvillia and ti leaf, were separated to prevent the colors from bleeding onto each other, and then boxed.

At 10:11 a.m., lei counter Yvonne



(Left to right) Betty Akiyoshi, Tomi Floresca and Noelle Sutherland are among those who heed the call to make 1,740 lei for the Memorial Day ceremony at the Schofield Barracks Post Cemetery, Monday.

Okazaki checked her list and realized the group had finished 350 lei. When asked if the volunteers would be able to make a deadline less than five hours away, Okazaki nodded confidently.

"Can do," she said. "I have faith in these ladies."

Fifteen minutes later, another 150 lei had been completed and boxed,

bringing the group's total to an even 500. And, 30 minutes after that, the count rose to 650.

"The ladies are actually starting to slow down, so we've decided to give them some sugar," said Okazaki, observing. After a brief pause, she blurted out, "Go get some cake, girls!"

When the day was nearly done,

one volunteer, Vilia Robertson, reflected upon the group's efforts. She expressed gratitude for being a part of a project that gives back to those who served their country and are now buried at the Schofield cemetery.

"Our family is very patriotic, and this is how we give back to the military," said Robertson, whose deceased father, Lt. Col. Terry Adamiya, was a member of the famous Asian-American unit, the 442nd Infantry Regiment. He was once stationed at Schofield Barracks. "After all, without the military, where would we be?"

The garlands were put in coolers until Memorial Day morning when islandwide groups of Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Girls Scouts carefully placed the wreaths, along with miniature U.S. flags, at the grave sites at Schofield Barracks Post Cemetery.

The Wahiawa Rainbow Seniors Club efforts — along with those from other organizations, including the Wahiawa Mission and volunteers at the Wahiawa Botanical Gardens — continue to be appreciated by those who plan and coordinate the annual event.



29 / Today
Waikiki Party Bus – The Army bus rides again, today, 9 p.m.-4 a.m. The bus will pick up riders on Schofield Barracks and Fort Shafter and take them down to party in Waikiki, worry-free.
Free tickets are available at Information, Ticketing and Registration offices, and riders must have a ticket to board the party bus. The bus is also scheduled to run June 12 and 26, and July 17 and 31.
Call 655-9971/438-1985.

Friday Night Scrappers – Enjoy an evening of scrapbooking fun and friends at the next session of Friday Night Scrappers, May 29, 4-9 p.m., at Schofield Barracks Arts and Crafts. Bring in a scrapbooking project, and come make friends. Cost is just \$5; supplies are available for an extra fee. Call 655-4202.

June 1 / Monday
Fourth of July Picnic Reservations – The Recreation Activities office, Schofield Barracks, will begin accepting picnic site reservations for the annual Fourth of July Spectacular starting June 1 at 10 a.m. Cost is \$75 for a 25-foot by 25-foot space. Picnic sites go fast. Call 655-0111/2.

Newborn Care I – Taking care of a newborn for the first time can be scary. From holding to diapering to bathing, come learn the basics of newborn care to make the early months special for parents and baby (this is a two-part consecutive series), June 1, 9-11 a.m., Sgt. Yano Library, Schofield Barracks, and June 2, 9-11 a.m., Aliamanu Military Reservation community center. Call 655-4227.

2 / Tuesday
Parenting Your Adolescent – This activity is for parents of adolescents ages 13-18. Much like 1-2-3 Magic, Parenting Your Adolescent offers different parenting techniques to deal with the challenges of the “teenage years,” June 2, 9-11 a.m., Army Community Service, Schofield Barracks. Call 655-0596.

Autism Support Group – The Army Community Service’s (ACS) Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) will conduct an Autism Support Group meeting, June 2, at Aliamanu Military Reservation Chapel, and June 10, at the Main



Send announcements to
community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

29 / Today
Aloha Care Drive – Operation Homefront-Hawaii in collaboration with the Rotary Club of West Pearl are collecting donations of island goodies to send to deployed Hawaii Soldiers for Fourth of July celebrations.

Donations of Spam, Kona coffee, macadamia nut chocolates, mochi crunch, cuttlefish, University of Hawaii caps, T-shirts and flip flops are being accepted at the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange and at Lex Brodie’s locations at Queen Street and Pearlridge, now through June 12.
Monetary donations to assist in the shipping of more than 500 Aloha Care packages are being accepted online at www.operationhomefront.net/hawaii.

To register a service member to receive a package, contact Eva Laird Smith at 469-7427 or e-mail Hawaii@operationhomefront.net. Packages will be shipped June 13.

31 / Sunday
World No Tobacco Day – The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD)/Tricare encourages service members and their families to participate in World No Tobacco Day, May 31. Soldiers can fill-out e-cards announcing their intention to give up tobacco, May 31, at www.ucanquit2.org.
The DoD encourages enlisted men and women to use the day as the starting point for a lifetime commitment to being tobacco free.

June 2 / Tuesday
Bone Marrow Donor Drive – Help save a life by registering to be a bone marrow donor, June 2, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., at



Aiko Brum | U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Public Affairs

A Scouts ‘honor’
SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Christian Anderson, 9, of Cub Scout Pack 173, places an American flag at the foot of a grave site at the Schofield Barracks Post Cemetery, hours prior to U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii’s Installation Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony, May 25. See other Scout photos at www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil. Click “USAG-HI Photos.”

Post Chapel, Schofield Barracks. Presentations and discussions will begin at 6 p.m. On-site child care is available, but registration and sign-up are required.

Contact ACS EFMP at 655-4227 for details or child care reservations.

4 / Thursday
Audio and eBooks Database Demo – Learn how to use eBook or audio book collections at the Sgt. Yano Library, Schofield Barracks, June 4, anytime between 2-6 p.m. A demonstration of Tumblebook read-along titles for students will be available. Call 655-8001.

Art in the Park – Join family fun in the month of June and learn about being “green.” Activities include various arts and crafts, gardening and a chance to meet Kelly Bear.

Activities will take place at the following locations: Aliamanu Military Reservation, AMA playground, June 4, 2-5 p.m.; Fort Shafter community center playground, June 18, 2-5 p.m.; and Helemano Military Reservation community center, June 25, 2-5 p.m. For more infor-

mation, contact Tripler Army Community Service at 438-4499.

5 / Friday
Family Fun Fridays – Family Fun Friday is back at the Tropics Recreation Center, June 5, 6 p.m., with free Papa John’s pizza, games and contests the whole family will enjoy. Check out Nintendo Wii, PS3 and Xbox 360 games or play a game of pool, darts, air hockey, table tennis, beach volleyball and much more. Call 655-5698.

Teen Dance Club – Check out the Teen Dance Club summer jam (for teens grades 6-12), June 5, 6-9:30p.m., at the Aliamanu Military Reservation gymnasium. Dance to the latest music with guest DJ Fresh. Dance contests, door prizes and refreshments will be available.

Cost is \$5 and Child, Youth and School Services, military or school ID is required. Call 833-0920.

BOSS Beach Bash Get-A-Way – Join the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS) group for a full-day of

lunch and entertainment at the Honolulu Zoo, June 6, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Free bus service is being provided from Schofield Barracks, Hickam Air Force Base, Pearl Harbor, and Marine Corps Base Hawaii. This event is sponsored by the United Service Organizations and the City and County of Honolulu.

12 / Friday
Dental Assistant Training – The Schofield Barracks American Red Cross Service Center is accepting applications for fall enrollment in the Volunteer Dental Assistant Program (VDAP) now through June 12. VDAP is a volunteer program that provides training and experience in the dental assistant field.

Eligible candidates must be military family members, be at least 18 years old and have at least 18 months remaining on island. Students will complete 1,000 classroom and clinical hours. Call 655-4927 or request an application at becky.lapolicemurphy@schofield.army.mil.

15 / Monday
"Kids Can" Contest – The Child, Youth and School Services SKIES Unlimited Studio is hosting a “Kids Can” talent contest, June 15, 5 p.m. Children in kindergarten-12th grade or homeschooled are invited to perform in the following categories: I Can Make People Laugh, I Can Rap, and I Can Speak or present a drawing for the I Can Draw contest.

Acts can be performed solo or with a group. The top three finalists in each category will qualify for the finale, Aug. 2, 10 a.m. Contestants must register by June 8.

To request an application and contest rules call SKIES Office at 655-9818.

19 / Friday
MCBH Job Fair – Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH) will host a job fair, June 19, 9 a.m.-noon, at the Kahuna’s Community Ballroom, MCBH.
The fair will feature vacancies within Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS), openings at MCBH and approximately 40 other companies and government agencies. Interested applicants will be able to speak with recruiters, apply for vacant positions,

sun and water sport fun, June 5, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at Piliilau Army Recreation Center.

A variety of water sports equipment and beach toys will be available. Round-trip transportation from Schofield Barracks is provided. Space is limited. Call 655-1130 for reservations.

10 / Wednesday
Hula Demonstration – Kumuhula (hula teacher) Kahoone Panoke will present a Hula workshop, June 10, 5:30-7 p.m., at the Sgt. Yano Library, Schofield Barracks. Learn a brief history of hula, watch a demonstration on some basic steps and develop a better understanding of the rich cultural tradition of hula in Hawaii. Call 655-8002.

Ongoing
Sunset Café – The Sunset Café located at Piliilau Army Recreation Center is a great spot for retreats or off-sites. The café overlooks the emerald waters of Pokai Bay with breathtaking sunsets and a lanai offering the perfect Hawaiian setting for special occasions. For more information, call 696-4778.
PARC is open to all active and retired military, members of the Reserve and National Guard, active and retired Department of Defense civilian employees including Coast Guard, dependents and sponsored guests.

Newcomer's Island Tour – Join Army Community Service (ACS) for a newcomers tour of the beautiful island of Oahu. North Oahu pick up is at the Schofield Barracks ACS on the second and fourth Saturday of each month.

The South Oahu pick up is at Fort Shafter Flats ACS Training Center the third Wednesday of each month. The tour departs from each location at 8:15 a.m. and returns at 4 p.m.

To reserve a seat, call 655-4227 (Schofield Barracks) or 438-4499 (Fort Shafter Flats).

Auto Storage Rental Special – For a limited time only, rent a metal storage shed at the Schofield Barracks or Fort Shafter Auto Skills Centers for only \$40 for the entire length of your rental.
Call 655-9368 or 438-9402.

R&R Workshops – Family Readiness Group leaders (FRG) interested in scheduling rest and recuperation (R&R) or reintegration workshops should contact Mobilization and Deployment to schedule a workshop ‘when and where you want it’. Call 655-4227.

A variety of R&R workshops topics are available including; making R&R work for you, R&R couples communication, R&R and children, and separation is not easier the second time around. Call today at 655-4354 to find the right workshop for your group.

and participate in on-site interviews. Attendees should bring copies of their resume.
Children are not permitted into the venue. The fair is open to Department of Defense (DoD) ID cardholders and any legal U.S. citizen age 18 and over.
For more information, contact MCCS Marine and Family Services at 257-7787/7790.

Ongoing
Celebrate Centennial – Audio podcasts highlighting the significance of 25 historical sites located on Schofield Barracks are available to download at the U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Web site.
Explore the history of Schofield Barracks and celebrate its centennial. A variety of different formats are available to augment a walking or driving tour, such as WMV, MP3, M4V and AIFF. A tour brochure can be found at the Tropic Lightning Museum.
Visit the podcast page at www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil/sites/podcasts/TropicLightningCentennial.asp.

DEFY Program – Drug Education for Youth, or DEFY, is looking for youth ages 9-12 to participate in a free, year-round, two-phase drug education and mentorship program. DEFY is about creating positive experiences so youth choose healthy alternatives to substance abuse and gang involvement.

Phase I is a camp, July 8-July 17. Phase II is program development. Youth must commit to attending one Saturday per month, Sept. 2009-May 2010, during Phase II. DEFY graduation is May 15, 2010.

Applications for this program are due June 2009. Junior staff mentors ages 13-18 are also needed. For more information or to apply e-mail latasha.jones@pacom.mil or james.t.jones@pacom.mil, or visit www.donhq.navy.mil/defy/.

YMCA Camp Scholarships – The Armed Services YMCA offers summer camp scholarships. The scholarships are for one week of traditional camp at Camp Erdman and are open to military family members between the ages of 6 and 15. For more information call 624-5645 or e-mail asymcawhlr@aol.com.



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.



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

Hannah Montana: The Movie
(G)
Saturday, 4 p.m.



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

Monsters vs. Aliens
(PG)
Sunday, 2 p.m.

No shows on Mondays or Tuesdays.

Spouses display brawn and brains during GI Jane Day event

Story and Photos by
BILL MOSSMAN
Staff Writer

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Midway through GI Jane Day, Saturday, Josie Dyon and Angie Kennedy were asked what they would tell their husbands at the conclusion of a physically and mentally demanding day of activities, here.

After a brief pause, the military wives looked at each other and in unison boldly declared, “Buddy, we can do it too!” before breaking into a chorus of laughter.

It was a statement undoubtedly shared by many of the 85 participants, who rolled up their sleeves, flexed their muscles and proved that not only did they have the brawn for military life, but the brains as well.

Hosted by the rear detachment of the 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (3IBCT), GI Jane Day is the Army’s way of acquainting spouses to a typical Soldier’s workday.

Event participants were divided into teams to complete a slew of challenging courses at the Leadership Reaction Course, here. The teams also experienced the Military Operations on Urbanized Terrain (MOUT) site, where the spouses got up close and personal with the kinds of weapons their Soldiers often carry.

“We’re trying to give them a military experience as best and as safely as we can,” explained Capt. Sean Weeks, 3IBCT. “For some of them, all they know is, ‘Well my husband comes home from work in a dirty uniform, and I cook a meal, and then he’s gone.’

“(GI Jane Day) sort of gives the spouse a taste of what their Soldiers, husbands or family members go through,” Weeks



At center, Ashleigh Auna, 14, thinks outside the box with a mid-air maneuver during GI Jane Day activities.

explained.

The biggest challenge facing many of the participants was learning to build camaraderie and work toward a common goal.

“In the military, it’s a lot easier to give orders because the rank is the leader,” explained Sgt. 1st Class Jimmie Jackson, 3IBCT, who helped organize the event. “To me, it would seem tougher for these women, who don’t have that same type of rank structure. But, they were able to overcome a great challenge and somehow gain consensus among each other.”

Nowhere was this attitude more evi-

dent than on the 3rd Brigade, Special Troops Battalion, rear detachment team of spouses. The members, which included Dyon and Kennedy, could be observed actively communicating and encouraging each other throughout the day.

“Not once was there any bickering in our group,” Dyon said. “We were all open to everyone’s ideas, and I think that’s pretty unique to find in a team.”

“For not knowing each other really well, I think we’ve done a pretty good job,” Kennedy added.

While teamwork was essential to com-



Ligaya Hartman, in green, and teammate Josie Dyon, at rear, attempt to navigate a 75-pound wooden plank onto an adjacent swing in order to form a bridge for participants to safely cross over, during GI Jane Day activities, Saturday, at Schofield Barracks.

pleting the courses, participants also had to problem solve rather quickly. The courses required team members to safely traverse obstacles while avoiding “mines,” or those areas marked in red, and “quicksand,” while racing against a 12-minute time limit.

“These courses require critical thinking,” Jackson explained, “but there is no right way to do any of this. It all comes down to what you can think of.”

Such was the case with 14-year-old Ashleigh Auna, a 2-27th Infantry Battalion team member. The teenager convinced her father, Master Sgt. Von Auna, 3IBCT, to add her to the team so she could experience what he does on a daily basis.

He agreed, and she didn’t disappoint. She promptly pulled off the day’s most ingenious move on the course.

While Auna’s team was crossing over quicksand, using only an 8-foot-long plank of wood and rope, her team members suddenly realized they still needed to retrieve the plank. Auna volunteered and completed the task by hanging upside down from a rope — while carefully sliding the plank over the quicksand and safely back to her teammates.

“I’ve never seen that done in my 20 years in the military,” admitted Jackson, shaking his head with incredulity. “That was creative.”

In the end, the same endorsement could be said about all of the GI Jane Day participants.

Or as Sgt. Laquanda Bligen told one particular unit following the completion of a course, “Ladies, that was an outstanding job. You all can take my place anytime.”

Chapels invite children to Crocodile Dock ‘Where fearless kids shine God’s Light’

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

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — The Schofield Barracks Main Post Chapel (MPC) and the Aliamanu Military Reservation (AMR) Chapel are accepting applications for Vacation Bible School (VBS).

“Rockin’ in the swamp, having fun, making new friends and learning more about Jesus’ love is what this year’s ‘Crocodile Dock’ VBS theme is all about,” said Kathy Whalen, director of religious education, South Community Chapels. “We all learn best through our experiences, so VBS is set up for the children to be doing Bible study, music, drama, crafts and snacks.

“Their experience in each activity is related to the theme for the day,” Whalen continued, “which truly helps them remember and own that experience.”

The Schofield Barracks program will run June 15-19, 9 a.m.-noon, at the Main Post Chapel (MPC), Building 790, and the AMR program will run July 13-17, 9-11:45 a.m. at the AMR Chapel, Building 1790.

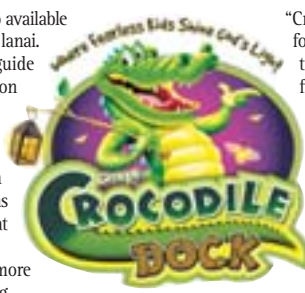
Crocodile Dock is for children who are 4 years old by June 1 through students who have just completed sixth grade.

Parents can register their children at the Schofield Barracks MPC, Tuesday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., and Sundays, 10 a.m.-noon.

A self-registration table is also available at the AMR Chapel on the lower lanai. Directions on the form will guide applicants through the registration process.

Additionally, the chapel has slots open for youth volunteers in seventh through twelfth grades or adults. Volunteer forms will also be available to fill out at the VBS registration table.

The chapel hopes to have more volunteers be part of this exciting week.



“Crocodile Dock” VBS is perfect for children who have just moved to Hawaii because they meet friends right away, and the entire family gets introduced to a congregation of people to help support them as they settle in.

For more information, call the Schofield Barracks (655-6645) or AMR Chapel (833-8175) Religious Education departments.

Families, leadership take part in Lantern Floating Ceremony

Story and Photos by
BILL MOSSMAN
Staff Writer

HONOLULU — Standing in knee-deep waters among the thousands at Ala Moana Beach Park, Amy Urbina's thoughts were as distant as the cruise-liners and boats dotting the horizon, Monday evening.

In her mind's eye, she could only see two men: her deceased brother and her deployed husband, who was off in a faraway land, fighting a war.

Urbina longed to be in their presence at that moment — to hold them in her arms once again, but resigned to the fact that her fondest wishes would not be happening anytime soon.

She settled for the next best thing, writing each of them a personal message filled with love and hope, and then sending these words out into the waters before her.

"I thought I'd do this for my brother, Jimmy, who was 46 when he passed away last May 4," she said. "I also wanted to do this for my husband, Lt. Col. Luis Urbina, who is currently deployed to Iraq. For him, all I wrote was, 'Just come back safely.'"

"He's always on my mind," added Urbina about her husband of 10 years, "even though we're worlds apart."

For Capt. Ines Sanchez, Tripler Army Medical Center, remembering those who have passed on is a topic that's always on her mind. And so she, along with her parents, Gabriel Sanchez and Teresa Espinoza of Ecuador, crafted their messages in their native tongue, Spanish, for several long-gone family members and friends.

"I feel like today has been good for me," explained Sanchez, who works as a nurse in labor and delivery. "It has helped bring closure and allowed me to say goodbye to those people who I wasn't able to say it to."

Urbina and Sanchez were among the military family members who rode in from Schofield Barracks to participate in the annual Lantern Floating Hawaii Ceremony, May 25.

The 10th annual event, themed "Many Rivers, One Ocean," saw record-level crowds lining the shoreline at the park and allowed residents and visitors to cast afloat more than



Capt. Ines Sanchez (right), a nurse with the Tripler Army Medical Center, and her parents, Teresa (center) and Gabriel (left), pause for a moment to reflect upon the lives of deceased family members during the 10th Annual Lantern Floating Ceremony at Ala Moana Beach Park, Monday evening.



Amy Urbina remembers the life of her late brother, Jimmy Bean, and wishes her deployed husband, Lt. Col. Luis Urbina, a safe return while releasing her lantern boat during the Lantern Floating Ceremony at Ala Moana Beach Park.

2,000 candlelit lanterns as a way of peacefully remembering loved ones who have passed.

For the Army leadership in Hawaii, the Lantern Floating Ceremony also represented an opportunity to not only remember but to help wounded warriors and family members heal.

"We are willing to try anything, to pursue any avenue that will help any Soldier in the recovery process," said Loran Doane, media relations chief, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii (USAG-HI). "And if one Soldier walks away from here feeling better about himself, then it will all be worth it."

Lantern officials reached out to USAG-HI with event sponsor Na Lei Aloha Foundation by sending representatives to conduct pre-event workshops and lectures at Schofield Barracks and Fort Shafter, earlier this month.

Col. Matthew Margotta, commander, USAG-HI, expressed gratitude to be representing the branch of the military that shares many of the same traditions as those espoused at the ceremony.

"I think it really shows the Army has become an integral and accepted part of the Hawaiian community," Margotta said. "We try to say that we're not separate and distinct from the Hawaiian community. We're all family members, and our Soldiers and our kids are all part of it."

Margotta also wrote tributes on a lantern to those currently serving in the armed forces as well as to a fallen comrade — best friend Maj. Andy Burris, who lost his life "in the Middle East a couple of years ago."

"To be invited this year to participate in what is essentially a Hawaiian tradition means an awful lot to those of us who wear the uniform."

FMWR's lantern floating trip a hit with Army riders

BILL MOSSMAN
Staff Writer

HONOLULU — U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii's Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (FMWR) and Outdoor Recreation (ODR) staff are getting a big "thumbs up" for the logistical support provided to military families attending the Lantern Floating Ceremony at Ala Moana Beach Park, Memorial Day.

Soldiers and family members that took advantage of the first-year complimentary bus service, agreed that parking issues and unfamiliarity with the park and its surrounding areas, would have likely kept them on post had it not been for the FMWR bus service.

More than 40,000 visitors and residents attended the 10th annual event this year, lining the shores of Ala Moana Beach Park as early as 10 a.m.

"I hate to say it, but I probably wouldn't have come because it would have been just me and my daughter," admitted Amy Urbina, who attended the ceremony with her toddler, Hannah. "I mean, where would I go? Who would I ask? And to do it all on my own with my 2-year-old? No."

Capt. Ines Sanchez also enjoyed the use of the three canopies provided by FMWR for the event and set up by ODR staff well before the bus arrived from Schofield Barracks.

"This is cool and convenient," said Sanchez of the tents, whose occupants included her elderly parents, Gabriel Sanchez and Teresa Espinoza of Ecuador.

Conor Joyce, recreation specialist and programs manager, ODR, said the free service would be offered again next year — with a few additional features.

"Next year, we'll bring grills, barbecue, some of our own water supplies, and maybe even kayaks," he said. "That'll make it more of a full-activity day for our families."

The Schofield Barracks bus service left Sgt. Smith Theater at 11 a.m. and returned to post shortly after the ceremony at 9 p.m.



30 / Saturday

Stand up Paddleboard Lessons –

Check out the latest craze to hit the surf crazy islands: paddle boarding. Lessons are scheduled, May 30, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., with Outdoor Recreation, Schofield Barracks. Cost is \$40 per person and includes all equipment and round-trip transportation from Schofield Barracks. Call 655-0143.

Beach Volleyball Tournament –

Teams are invited to bump, set and spike their way to success during a beach volleyball tournament, May 30, 8:30 a.m., at the Tropics, Schofield Barracks. Enjoy food and drink specials, giveaways and awards for top players.

This is an all-day tournament. Players must be 18 years old or older to play, cost is \$10 per team to enter, but active duty military can play for free. Call 438-1152.

31 / Sunday

Hawaiian Canoe Paddling –

Learn how to paddle a canoe while hearing a brief history of outrigger canoeing in the Hawaiian culture, May 31, 6 a.m.-12 p.m. Skilled paddlers will accompany each canoe, assisting and supporting guests interested in this activity.

Cost is \$45 per person and includes all equipment and round-trip transportation from Schofield Barracks. Call 655-0143.



On the go and in the know

TRIPLER ARMY MEDICAL CENTER — (Left to right) Tanya Winters with her daughter, Cadence, and Katie Godbey with her daughter, Hannah, chat with Navy Capt. Tamara Grigsby, a Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC) pediatrician, during the Stroller Strong walking group, Tuesday morning. The networking and health initiative is part of a Keiki Wellness program and meets every Tuesday, 8:30-9:30 a.m., at the TAMC baseball field track.

Every week parents are invited to go for a morning stroll and take advantage of some one-on-one time with knowledgeable community representatives. Next week's guest walkers will be Dr. Angela Hsu, TAMC pediatric critical care doctor; Alicia Tiggs, recreation assistant, TAMC Fitness Center; and a military life family consultant. For more information, call 655-4227.

June

6 / Saturday

Adventure Hiking –

Enjoy an easy day hike to various locations around the island, June 6, 7 a.m.-2 p.m. Challenge yourself against nature with others. Cost is \$10. Water and limited round-trip transportation from Schofield Barracks will be provided. Call 655-0143.

7 / Sunday

Adventure Kayaking –

Come along with Outdoor Recreation for a half-day of adventurous kayaking from various beaches around the island of Oahu, June 7, 6 a.m.-noon. Cost is \$25



Send sports announcements to community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com

31 / Sunday

Hike Oahu –

Join the Hawaiian Trail & Mountain Club on a 5-mile intermediate hike along the Iliahi Ridge, May 31, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. This pleasant loop off the Manana Trail has several ups and downs, which make for a good workout. Call John Hall, 377-5442.

Save the date for these hikes:

- June 6, 2-mile novice short valley hike in Manoa.
- June 6, 5-mile intermediate

hike ascending out of the Manoa Valley. A \$2 donation is requested of nonmembers. An adult must accompany children under 18. Visit www.htmclub.org.

6 / Saturday

Soccer Try Outs –

Tryouts for the Kaoi Soccer Club for boys and girls ages 6-18 are scheduled June 6-7 at the Waiau District Park (98-1650 Kaahumanu St., Pearl City). Boys will meet from 10 a.m.-noon, and girls from 1-3 p.m. Teams play every weekend in various locations around Honolulu. No club fees are required. Call 626-2986.

7 / Sunday

5th Annual Dog Walk –

The 5th Annual Hawaii Kai Dog Walk is June 7. Check-in starts at 6:30 a.m., and paws hit the

pavement at 7:30 a.m. The event promises to be a great day to exercise, socialize and celebrate the human-animal bond.

This year's theme, "Off Leash and Loving It!" is in recognition of the Hawaii Kai Dog Park's first anniversary. The 2.3-mile walk meets at the Hawaii Kai Park & Ride on Keahole Street.

The \$20 registration fee includes a T-shirt, goodie bag, bottled water and a chance to win a prize. Proceeds support the dog park and other off-leash parks on the island.

A .7-mile route for small or older dogs is available. Contact hui-ilio@hawaii.rr.com.

North Shore Triathlon –

The Bike Factory North Shore Triathlon is scheduled, June 7, 6

a.m., at Mokuleia Beach Park. The race consists of a 400-meter swim, 10-mile bike ride and a 3-mile run.

The swim begins and ends at Mokuleia Beach Park. For more information or to register, contact Chris Gardner, 372-8885.

13 / Saturday

10-Mile Race Around Wheeler –

Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation is accepting entries for the 2009 10-Mile Race Around Wheeler, scheduled June 13, 6:45 a.m. The race is the qualifying event

for active duty Soldiers wishing to represent Team Army Hawaii at the Army 10-Miler.

The race is open to active duty Soldiers, retirees, National Guardsmen, Army Reservists and their adult family members, Department of Defense, and Department of the Army civilians working on an Army installation.

The fastest times for the first four male and first two female active duty Soldiers will represent Team Army Hawaii. Entries must be received by June 5, 4 p.m. Call Jim Perry at 655-9650.

14 / Sunday

Hibiscus Half-Marathon –

The 3rd annual Hibiscus Half-Marathon (13.1-miles) is scheduled, June 14, 6 a.m. beginning and ending at Kapiolani Park at the Diamond Head end of Waikiki. An optional 15k distance is offered for walkers with a 17-minute mile or slower pace.

Awards will be provided to the top three males and females in 16 divisions. All participants registered by May 31 will receive a T-shirt. Strollers are welcome. To register online go to www.activetive.com or call 534-1222.

per person and includes equipment and round-trip transportation from Schofield Barracks. Call 655-0143.

10 / Wednesday

Kayaking Enthusiast Meeting –

Looking for others who share your interest and the love of the sport of kayaking? Join a kayaking enthusiast meeting, June 10, 6-7:30 p.m., at Outdoor Recreation, Schofield Barracks. This is a free program. Call 655-0143.

11 / Thursday

Biking Enthusiast Meeting –

Looking for others who love to bike? Join a biking enthusiast meeting, June 11, 6-7:30 p.m., at Outdoor Recreation, Schofield Barracks. This is a free program. Call 655-0143.

Ongoing

Free Ladies Golf Clinic –

Learn the basics of golfing at a free ladies golf clinic. The clinic is offered the first Saturday of each month at Leilehua Golf Course Driving Range from 2:30-3:30 p.m. Call 655-4653 to sign up.

Karate Classes –

Children ages 5 and older can learn Do Shudokan karate at three U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii physical fitness centers: Aliamanu Military Reservation (AMR), Fort Shafter, Helemano or Schofield's Bennett Youth Center. Classes cost \$35 per month.

A family discount is available. Also, adults 18 and older can learn Do Shudokan karate at the AMR Physical Fitness Center, Mondays and Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m. Cost is \$40 per month. Call Joseph Bunch at 488-6372 or 265-5476.