



HAWAII ARMY WEEKLY

VOL. 38 NO. 45 | NOVEMBER 13, 2009

Serving the U.S. Army Community in Hawaii | ★ www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil/haw.asp

INSIDE

Sapper competition tests engineers



Morning jog

The U.S. Army-Pacific commanding general honors fallen, talks safety after quarterly four-mile run.

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Redeployment ceremonies

The 8th Theater Sustainment Command will host a redeployment ceremony for the 8th Military Police Brigade, Wednesday, 10 a.m., at Sills Field, Schofield Barracks.

The 25th Infantry Division will host a redeployment ceremony, Thursday, 10 a.m., at Sills Field. A Tropic Homecoming celebration, featuring Lee Ann Womack, will begin at 4 p.m.

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Babysitter training

A youth babysitter's training course, conducted by the American Red Cross-Hawaii, is scheduled, Nov. 20, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., at Schofield Barracks Soldier Support Center.

See Community Calendar, B-2



For those who served

Waianae honors veterans and service members with parade.

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Combat engineers learn limits, prepare for rigors of Sapper school, way of life

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

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — The combat engineer community on Hawaii witnessed a new milestone on the island when Soldiers from the 34th Sapper Company, 130th Engineer Brigade, held the first Super Sapper Competition, here, Nov. 4.

The four-day competition tested the



Soldiers from the 34th Sapper Company rush to the finish line during the Super Sapper Competition, Nov. 5, at Schofield Barracks.

physical ability of new Soldiers.

The event came about as a way to prepare Sapper Soldiers for competitions

like Sapper Stakes, a yearly event that tests a Sapper's knowledge. The contest also prepares troops for the rigors of

Sapper School, which many will be attending early next year.

"I tell my Soldiers, all the time, Sapper is not a school. It's not a job," said 1st Sgt. Bryan Otero, first sergeant, 34th Sapper Co. "It's a mentality and a way of life. I believe training up for Sapper School starts day one when you join the Army."

Otero competed in Sapper Stakes earlier this year and applied the lessons he learned to train and test his company.

"Our company stood up from scratch in March of 2009," he said. "We wanted

SEE SAPPER, A-7



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

Tropic Lightning Division returns

WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD

— The 25th Infantry Division Command Group, led by Maj. Gen. Robert Caslen, center, commanding general, 25th Infantry Division (ID), renders honors during the National Anthem, Nov. 5. More than 40 Soldiers from the 25th Infantry Division headquarters returned from a 12-month deployment to Iraq.

For more information on the 25th ID redeployment ceremony, see News Briefs, A-5. For information on the Tropic Homecoming celebration, see page B-3.

25th CAB Soldiers lost in helicopter incident

Two warrant officers perish in crash in Iraq

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

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — The Department of Defense announced Tuesday, the death of two Soldiers who were supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

They died Sunday in Tikrit, Iraq, of injuries sustained when their OH-58D "Kiowa" helicopter crashed. They were assigned to the 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB), 25th Infantry Division, here.

Killed were Chief Warrant Officer Mathew C. Heffelfinger, 29, of Kimberly, Idaho and Chief Warrant Officer Earl R. Scott III, 24, of Jacksonville, Fla.

Heffelfinger joined the Army in April 2000 and came to Schofield Barracks in December 2007. He served as an OH-58D pilot.

Scott joined the Army in March 2006 and came to Schofield Barracks in May 2008. He served as an OH-58D pilot.

The circumstances of the incident are under investigation.



Heffelfinger



Scott



AHFH opens clean energy community

ARMY HAWAII FAMILY HOUSING
News Release

FORT SHAFTER — Families of the Simpson Wisser neighborhood, here, were joined by state, city, business and community leaders to celebrate the opening of what could be the greenest neighborhood on a military installation, Tuesday.

Army Hawaii Family Housing's (AHFH) Simpson Wisser neighborhood is one of an elite group of residential communities chosen to participate in the U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED-ND) pilot program.

The AHFH partnership between the Army and developer Actus Lend Lease are taking a leadership role in establishing and testing the first national standard for the development of neighborhoods integrating smart growth, new urbanism and green building principles.



Mark Brown | Army Hawaii Family Housing

Kahu Kauila Clark, left, leads a traditional Hawaiian blessing of the neighborhood, homes and the families that will be part of Simpson Wisser, Tuesday. Also participating are (from right) Claire Ridding-Johnston, Col. Matthew Margotta, Dick Hawes, executive manager, Actus Lend Lease, and representing Army families, Maj. Lisa Walsh and husband Sean DeShaies.

Wisser encompass more than the just the

SEE ENERGY, A-9

94th AAMDC sets up missile defense task force for Pacific Region

CAPT. DAVID W. EASTBURN

94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command Public Affairs

TUMON BAY, Guam — "Guam: Where America's Day Begins," is a slogan that is plastered on bumper stickers, T-shirts and signs in the tourist filled enclave, here.

The 32nd largest island in the U.S., this tropical territory currently finds itself the primary focus of worldwide missile defense.

The 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command (AAMDC) is in the process of standing up a fully functional missile defense task force for the Pacific Region on the island of Guam, greatly enhancing its ability for a rapid response to any missile threat in the area of responsibility (AOR).

Standing up such a task force from scratch produces many challenges for mil-

itary and civilian defense agencies alike.

"The biggest challenge we face right now is the availability of forces and equipment," said Col. James Spangler, operations officer, 94th AAMDC. "Asking for an air and missile defense task force that is currently not part of the Army force structure is a big hurdle, especially while the Army focuses its efforts on two different wars."

Air Force Brig. Gen. Phil Ruhlman, commander, 36th Wing, Andersen Air Force Base (AFB), Guam, shared the same concerns.

"Making the decision to bring the (missile defense) task force to Guam was easy," said Ruhlman. "The logistics are crazy."

SEE MISSILE, A-8



Photo Courtesy of 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command

James Cruz, far right, of Joint Task Force – Homeland Defense (JTF-HD) answers questions from members of the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command (AAMDC) regarding the standing up of the Missile Defense Task Force on Guam.

Pfc. Jonathan Whitaker, 2-27th Infantry 3rd JBCT

130th Combatives instructor showcases tenacity, skills

STAFF SGT. MELANIE TROLLINGER

130th Engineer Brigade

MOSUL, Iraq — Students watch intently as their instructor, disciplined and focused, displays a technique for fighting out of a non-dominant position during an Army Combatives training session.

For Master Sgt. Pete Grey, fighting is a passion most people don't understand. Currently in Iraq, Grey is the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 130th Engineer Brigade's intelligence noncommissioned officer in charge (NCOIC).

He trains anywhere from five to 12 Soldiers at the gym six times a week. Whether he's teaching Modern Army Combatives or Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) techniques, Grey firmly believes in the importance of self-defense and the Warrior Ethos. More than learning how to take down an opponent, it's a matter of discipline, sacrifice, respect and hard work.

"Training students is important to me," Grey said. "Young Soldiers often don't understand the concept of being a warrior, but they're interested in Combatives. This training gives them the opportunity to learn and to understand the warrior concept."

Growing up in Florida, Grey joined the Army right after high school, saying he was "born to be a Soldier." His grandfather and father were both veterans. Grey's father, a tough disciplinarian, gave his children Army ranks.

"I was a private; my sister was a corporal. We understood the mentality of following orders; that's what I was taught as a kid," he said.

Life was tough, so he had to be tougher. Pushing his son to excel and be strong, his father enrolled him in Judo. By the time he was 8 years old, Grey had earned a blue belt.

When he was 10, Grey was placed in foster care. He said he bounced around from one place to another until he ran away and moved out on his own. With two years of high school left, he worked most nights until 1 or 2 a.m. to support himself.

"No one at school knew I was on my own. I remember falling asleep in class because I was so tired from working late. I got sent to the dean's office. He



Spc. Daniel Nelson | 145th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Master Sgt. Pete Grey, left, listens to the ground rules before a fight at Contingency Operating Site Marez, Sept. 5. The event, dubbed "Fight Night for Heroes," was the first-ever Mixed Martial Arts tournament held in Iraq.



Staff Sgt. Melanie Trollinger | 130th Engineer Brigade

Master Sgt. Pete Grey, left, spars with a student during a Mixed Martial Arts training session at Contingency Operating Site Marez, Mosul, Iraq.

told me he was going to call my parents. I told him 'I don't have any. I live on my own,'" Grey recounted.

With this insight, the dean's and his teachers' attitudes changed, and they offered the support and encouragement the exhausted teenager needed for success.

A member of the high

school wrestling team, and a Western Conference wrestling champion. Grey managed to keep his grades up and graduated "Titan of the Year," an honor bestowed to only two graduating students each year.

Learning how to overcome difficult



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

experiences contributed greatly to his drive to excel and made moving on to a military career an easy transition.

"I realized very young I could push myself past my physical limits. That's one strength of mine. I've never been really good at anything, but I push myself. I have the tenacity, and I don't give up very easily," Grey said.

His interest in wrestling and Judo followed him into the military. He attended the Level 1 Combatives course in December 2004 and then the Level 2 and 3 Combatives instructor courses in 2006.

The Modern Army Combatives Program teaches Soldiers to defend themselves and quickly incapacitate an opponent in hand-to-hand combat.

"Soldiers must know how to defend themselves for so many reasons. We guard weapons, ammunition, traffic control points, detainees. You name it; we guard it," Grey said.

"If we put our Soldiers in situations to protect something, then it is our responsibility to teach them how to protect themselves," he added. "This means hand-to-hand combat."

Though self-defense training is critical for Soldiers, combatives offers other mental and physical benefits that contribute to the overall Soldier concept.

"It not only gives our Soldiers a valuable skill, it's demanding and pushes Soldiers to the limit of their physical ability. It breeds the warrior spirit, courage and will to win," he said.

While Grey is passionate about combatives, his enthusiasm for MMA is just as strong. Breaking onto the MMA scene just

three

months after he began training at a fight gym in Lacey, Wash., Grey recalls his first fight.

"I lost," he said.

Losing only made the fighter more determined. The derision of his subordinates and peers over his loss and an injury he suffered during the fight, both painful, did not deter him. Neither did his sergeant major's suggestion to "leave that kind of stuff to the younger guys." Nothing could sway the then 34-year-old fighter to change his mind.

Continuing a grueling training regimen, five months later, he won his second match at the Tacoma Dome, Tacoma, Wash.

Since that match, Grey has placed third in the 2006 All-Army Combatives Tournament and first in the 2009 Hawaii Combatives Tournament. He also received an unexpected chance to put his MMA skills to use after deploying when the first-ever Mixed Martial Arts tournament in Iraq, "Fight Night for Heroes," was held at Contingency Operating Site Marez, Sept. 5.

Master Sgt. Grey began an intense training routine in preparation for the fight, and before too long, others asked for his help. Night after night, four Soldiers and one civilian perfected jabs, arm bars, choke holds and numerous other techniques under his watchful eye. A testament to Grey's instructor capabilities, all five fighters he trained won their fights that night.

Matched against an opponent 10 years younger and with 10 years grappling experience, 28 seconds and one arm bar later, Grey also won his fight.

Describing the courage and skill it took to get into the ring and the respect for the Soldiers and civilians who competed in the fight night, he said of his win, "I was very surprised. I didn't expect him to go down so quickly,"

Grey plans to continue training and teaching others while he is in Iraq, and with retirement around the corner, he plans to return to Washington and begin a professional career in MMA.

USARPAC CG talks safety after quarterly ‘One Team’ run

Mixon encourages those in his charge to stay sober

SGT. 1ST CLASS JASON SHEPHERD
U.S. Army-Pacific Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER — It was still dark when U.S. Army-Pacific (USARPAC) Soldiers recognized fallen comrades at Fort Hood, Texas, with a moment of silence before the “One Team Warrior Run” during the early morning hours, Tuesday.

As the sun rose above Palm Circle, Lt. Gen. Benjamin Mixon, commanding general, USARPAC, began the quarterly four-mile esprit de corps run around Fort Shafter.

After the run, Mixon spoke to Soldiers on topics such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), H1N1 and several other top top-of-the-mind subjects involving Soldiers and their families, including Veterans Day safety.

“As you gather around the barbecue grills, go down to the beach, or spend time with your family, reflect what it means to be a veteran,” Mixon said. “Part of that duty includes having the highest standard of conduct off duty. Always set the example that will do you, your unit and your country proud.”

He added that USARPAC has too many Soldiers receiving traffic tickets, drinking and driving, and making poor decisions while off post.

“Try this a couple of times,” he said.



Sgt. Taeon Bing | U.S. Army-Pacific Public Affairs

Following the “One Team Warrior Run,” Lt. Gen. Benjamin Mixon, commanding general, U.S. Army-Pacific, discusses a few key topics with the Soldiers of U.S. Army-Pacific. Some of the topics included personal protection from the H1N1 virus and the importance of Veterans Day.

“Go to a party and just drink a soda, eat a hamburger, talk to your friends and stay sober. I’d be willing to bet you have an even better time.”

Mixon also said that he is concerned about Soldiers taking action against those with a different religious belief based on what happened at Fort Hood, Nov. 5.

“That is not what we do in the military,” he said. “It’s our duty to treat all of our fellow Soldiers with dignity and respect, no matter what color they are,

what religion they are, or where they come from. These actions go against our morale and esprit de corps and undermine our combat readiness.”

Mixon ended his speech by discussing upcoming events affecting USARPAC and its units, including several upcoming exercises around the Pacific.

“Always set the example that will do you, your unit and your country proud.”

— **Lt. Gen. Benjamin Mixon**
Commanding General
U.S. Army-Pacific

“Moving down the road, we’re going to get the contingency command post stood up,” he said. “That leads us into Yama Sakura in Japan next month. This is a very important exercise with the Ground Self Defense Force with the Northern Army and then we’ll very rapidly transition into Cobra Gold in Thailand.”

At the end, Mixon fielded questions from Soldiers about parking, “Furlough Friday” and the H1N1 virus.

“You are all doing great things here in United States Army, Pacific,” Mixon said. “I’m proud of each and every one of you. One Team.”

News Briefs

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

13 / Today
Personnel Forums Slated — Department of the Army civilians are encouraged to submit questions to be addressed at personnel forums no later than noon, today, at uarpachig1chrd@shafter.army.mil.

U.S. Army-Pacific and the Installation Management Command are partnering to hold Office of Personnel Management (OPM) informational forums, hosted by the Federal Executive Board (FEB), at Schofield Barracks and Fort Shafter. Questions/concerns regarding the recent National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) legislation will be addressed.

Topics to be discussed include transition from COLA to locality pay for Hawaii and the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) sick leave changes and their impact on retirement. Representatives from the OPM and the FEB will be present.

Panel members will not be able to provide specific information on the National Security Personnel System (NSPS) or the Defense Civilian Intelligence Personnel System.

Approximately 10 public forums are being coordinated with other federal agencies to take place the week of Nov. 30-Dec. 4. Locations, dates and times will be announced.

Education Center Services Limited — Effective immediately, the Schofield Barracks Army Education Center and the Fort Shafter/Tripler Education Complex computer lab/learning resource center, military/civilian testing, and room scheduling for training courses will not be available until further notice.

Army counselors, schools' counselors, and national testing center personnel are on duty. E-mail chrissy.a.morris@us.army.mil.

14 / Saturday
Tripler Gate Road Repairs — Motorists entering through the Tripler Army Medical Center's oceanside entrance on Ward Road may experience traffic delays, Nov. 14-15, due to routine road repairs and resurfacing.

Additionally, Nov. 21, the oceanside entrance loop will be temporarily closed for parking, due to paint-stripping.

Motorists are encouraged to be alert and drive with care. Call 833-5400.

16 / Monday
Special Forces Recruiting — 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment-DELTA (AIRBORNE) is conducting recruiting briefings for its Spring 2010 Assessment and Selection Course, Nov. 16, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., at the Schofield Barracks Army Education Center, Room 211.

The briefing will last one hour. All military occupational specialties (MOS) are encouraged to apply. For more information, e-mail sof8.recruiter@us.army.mil or call 910-643-5833.

19 / Thursday
Redeployment Ceremony — The 25th Infantry Division will host a redeployment ceremony, Nov. 19, starting at 10 a.m., at Sills Field, Schofield Barracks. This ceremony will impact installation traffic with the temporary closure of a portion of Cadet Sheridan Road, from Kolekole Avenue to Trimble Road.

A Tropic Homecoming redeployment celebration is scheduled starting at 4 p.m. The USO-sponsored event will feature a free concert by country music star Lee Ann Womack. *(See page B-3 for details.)*

20 / Friday
CFC 2009 Extended — The 2009 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) runs now through Nov. 20. The CFC is the world's largest and most successful annual workplace charity campaign, which raises millions of dollars to support nonprofit organizations throughout the world.

Visit www.cfc-hawaii.org, or contact your unit representative to learn more.

Soldiers share stories about Army life through sanctioned blogs

Pacific Regional Dental Command officer tells world accomplishments

PAOLO MOTTOLA
Guest Writer

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Col. Diane Pannes is stationed at Schofield Barracks, but shares her stories about Army life with the world.

Pannes is one of more than 55 Soldier bloggers writing for Army Strong Stories (www.armystrongstories.com).

During the past year, Pannes has written about accepting awards from the Academy of General Dentistry Conference in Baltimore, re-enlisting a Dental Activity (DENTAC) Soldier aboard the USS Arizona Memorial, and exploring the Big Island with her graduating class of Advanced Education in General Dentistry students.

“I really like to blog about the success of my residents,” Pannes said.

“Teaching has been such a pleasant surprise for me. I’m more proud of my residents’ accomplishments than anything I’ve ever done.”

Army Strong Stories is the U.S. Army Accessions Command’s (USAAC) signature blog that provides Soldiers an online destination where they can share stories through blog entries, photos and video, as well as connect and interact with fellow Soldiers, family, friends, future Soldiers, and others interested in Army service. The site is in need of more bloggers to offer a robust picture of Army life.

Open to Soldiers and cadets of every rank or military occupational specialty (MOS), Army Strong Stories launched last year and has since developed a community of Soldier bloggers stationed all over the world, including Germany, Iraq and South Korea.

Pannes is the assistant director for



Pannes

the Advanced Education in General Dentistry Two-Year Program. She began writing in November 2008 after hearing about Army Strong Stories from her U.S. Army Recruiting Command, Dental Corps subject matter expert, Capt. Nathan Parrish.

Now approaching her second year of blogging, Pannes says she most enjoys the interaction with readers.

“I really enjoy the e-mails from friends that I’ve been stationed with before — and the questions from new acquaintances — continually connecting with good people,” she said.

Maj. Mary Constantino, chief of program analysis and initiatives for the USAAC Directorate of Marketing, oversees some aspects of USAAC’s social media, including Army Strong Stories.

“The whole intent of Army Strong Stories is to make the Army transpar-

ent to the public, especially for people interested in joining,” she said. “We don’t tell the Soldiers what to write about, and we don’t censor their content, so that readers know what Army life is really like. We hope these authentic Soldier stories serve as a resource to connect Soldiers with their friends and family as well as for people considering enlisting to communicate with Soldiers in their fields of interest.”



Soldiers interested in sharing their personal Army stories can visit www.armystrongstories.com/signup.

Pannes sees how civilians look to the Army Strong Stories as a resource to better understand Soldiers’ lives.

“It’s interesting that most of the

questions I get are about personal life, Soldiers dating and marrying and opportunities for spouses,” Pannes said.

Constantino said she would like to see Army Strong Stories continue to grow because of the mutual benefit the community has for providing a place for Soldiers to share stories and the public to learn more about Army life.

“If Soldiers want to tell their story, we want them to tell it here,” Constantino explained. “It’s a great way for them to get their story out to a large number of Americans. The Army is a microcosm representing America, and we are eager to get as many Soldiers as possible to participate.”

Pannes agrees.

“By communicating, we help each other,” she added. “There is always someone, somewhere who has the answer or has had the experience. We can only be better by sharing our stories.”

Sapper: Struggle brings squads together

CONTINUED FROM A-1

to establish that Sapper Stakes mentality, here. The commander and I talked about it and decided to make the first one physical because we have a lot of new Soldiers within the company.”

During the competition, Soldiers endured a squad Army Physical Fitness Test, a nine-mile ruck march, litter carries, and obstacle courses pitting nine squads against each other.

“It felt pretty good competing in this challenge,” said Staff Sgt. John Wolcott, 34th Sapper Co., 1st Platoon, 2nd Squad leader. “This was the first real major task for us as a squad, and we all did everything we could to get through it.”

Wolcott credits the competition for helping bring his squad closer together.

“I learned what everyone was made of and what each of them could bring to the team individually,” said Wolcott. “Each one of them pushed themselves to their max and beyond. They didn’t do it for themselves, but did it for the squad.”

Unbeknownst to them, Wolcott’s team maintained a steady fourth place until day three – the nine-mile ruck march. During the long trek, the squad rallied together and maintained a steady pace, which allowed them to take the lead.

“We grabbed each other during the march and pulled everyone along as a team,” Wolcott said. “We were all helping out our battle buddies, so it wasn’t really one person leading the whole team along,



A Soldier with the 34th Sapper Company performs pull-ups during the 80 pull-ups challenge at the Super Sapper Competition, while his teammates urge him on.

It was everyone helping each other to get done.”

Pfc. Tyrone Clark, a team member of 2nd Squad, said the Sapper competition

represents what a Sapper does – work hard to succeed.

“This is a testament to what Sappers do,” said Clark. “In competition is unity. In competition is a struggle to compete and be victorious. Competition breeds brotherhood.

“If we push hard and other companies and brigades can look on to this,” he continued, “all Soldiers can be strong, like our squad.”

Wolcott echoed Otero’s words about the Sapper way of life.

“The Sapper mentality is a lifestyle, just like the Ranger mentality and the Special Forces,” he said. “You can be Airborne, a light fighter, wheel ... anything, but if you are a combat engineer, you have to live a lifestyle every day. You have to always be training up, and always be ready to go, because it’s stuff like this that brings you home from deployment.”

What matters most about this competition is not who won, said Otero to the participants after the event, but what the Soldiers learned about themselves, their squads, and the members of the teams.

“The result from this is great,” Otero said. “A private knows what his squad leader can do, a squad knows what the Soldiers can do, and everyone grows as a squad regardless of where they placed.”

Otero added, “What everyone takes back home is they know their battle buddy to their left and right, physically and mentally, because in combat, that’s the most important thing.”



Jan Clark | Tripler Army Medical Center Public Affairs

Motorcycle madness

TRIPLER ARMY MEDICAL CENTER — Theresa Johnson, left, manager, Tripler Fisher House, gives a tour to members of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association (CVMA) during their visit, Saturday. As part of the CVMA's ongoing community outreach, the members dropped by the Fisher House to deliver gifts and offer short motorcycle rides to the children and residents there. CVMA members conducted a “wreath ride,” Wednesday, to the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, where they placed a remembrance wreath in recognition of Veterans Day. Tripler Army Medical Center has two Fisher Houses located within walking distance of the hospital.

Army constantly seeking improvements to combat uniform

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
News Release

PENTAGON — Nothing says pride like a Soldier in uniform. Today’s Soldier has much to be proud of in the current Army Combat Uniform (ACU). As Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth O. Preston said, the ACU was designed by Soldiers, for Soldiers. Developed with functionality in mind, many design aspects of the uniform lend themselves to low maintenance, such as the 50/50 cotton/nylon wrinkle-free fabric and the shine-free boots. The uniform also has pockets for

elbow and knee pad inserts for added protection, and drawstrings at the ankles and waist for improved comfort and fit. Since introduction of the ACU in 2004, the Army has made more than 25 improvements to the uniform and associated equipment based on Soldier input. These include a reinforced seat, buttons on the cargo pockets, and better attachment of the infrared tab. This improvement process is ongoing, as Soldiers keep suggesting new ways to adapt the uniform to their needs. Now the Army is focusing on the concealment the ACU provides to Sol-

Right — A Soldier man’s a hasty fighting position in Afghanistan. The Army is focusing on the concealment the Army Combat Uniform (ACU) provides Soldiers in Afghanistan’s unique environment of mountains, deserts and woodlands. diers operating in Afghanistan’s unique environment of mountains, deserts and woodlands. “The Army is all about taking care of Soldiers,” said Command Sergeant Major Jeffrey Mellinger of the Army Materiel Command. “That means providing

SEE UNIFORM, A-9



Courtesy Photo

Missile: Joint transformation on Guam presents many logistics challenges

CONTINUED FROM A-1

Ruhlman went on to explain that coordination is crucial when dealing with missile defense and the steady flow of air traffic over Guam. “Andersen (AFB) has a bomber presence 24 hours a day, seven days a week,” said Ruhlman. “There’s 7.5 million square feet of ramp space and miles of runway. The number of aircraft we have is amazing.” People, coordination and equipment are just two of the many challenges that the 94th AAMDC faces while facilitating this mission. The man standing at the summit of the mountain of challenges is Col. Jeff Underhill, commanding general, 94th

AAMDC. He runs the daily gauntlet of meetings and office calls to ensure this mission’s success. “Our purpose is to enable the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command transition for all stakeholders (Department of Defense, or DoD, and the Government of Guam) involved,” said Underhill in a recent meeting with Guam Gov. Felix Camacho. The current plan has the 94th AAMDC standing up a missile defense task force consisting of a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense Missile (THAAD) Battery, a PAC-3 Patriot Missile Battery, and a Stinger Missile “SLAMRAAM” Battery, providing a full spectrum of missile defense against any threat in the region.

“Guam and its military assets are critically important to (U.S. Pacific Command),” said Spangler. “Providing an air and missile defense task force provides protection of the critical strategic assets on Guam and ensures the theater commander the freedom of action to meet mission requirements.” Manning a unit of this size will be somewhere between 600 and 900 Soldiers and their families, in addition to an estimated 6,000 to 8,000 Marines and their families scheduled to move to Guam from Okinawa beginning early 2012. Although it seems like an unnatural shift to the infrastructure of this island, the military and civilians are ready. One organization that combines the two

groups is the Joint Guam Program Office (JGPO), which is rapidly preparing for the change. The JGPO was established by the DoD to facilitate, manage, coordinate and execute certain DoD actions in Guam relating to the relocation of Marines from Okinawa and the standing up of the missile defense task force. The residents of Guam have concerns for the moves, but at the same time, they realize the moves mean many more jobs for an already slumping economy. According to sources at the JGPO, the contracts for building and base improvements on Guam should be offered to local companies first. “This is a very good thing for Guam,” said Lt. Col. Jack Letherman, assistant

logistics officer, 94th AAMDC. “The (missile defense) task force moving here could potentially bring many jobs to Guam.” The standing up of the Joint Missile Defense Task Force in Guam has many implications on the tiny U.S. territory, most of which is the safety of the region. From Guam, the 94th AAMDC will be able to protect the nation’s assets in the region from any adversary’s missile attacks. The decision to integrate missile defense with Andersen AFB allows the U.S. to be even more ready. “Andersen is undergoing a massive joint transformation with 50-year decisions that have 50-year impact,” said Ruhlman. “The strategic location of Guam is immeasurable.”

Uniform: Operations drive pattern changes

CONTINUED FROM A-1

Soldiers with the best equipment. In this case, it means evaluating what is the best camouflage for uniforms in current operating environments.”

The Army is exploring alternate camouflage patterns in two ways.

First, the Army is equipping two battalions in Afghanistan with uniforms and personal equipment in alternate camouflage patterns. One battalion is receiving uniforms in MultiCam, a pattern worn by some Special Forces Troops in Afghanistan. The other battalion is receiving uniforms in Universal Camouflage Pattern-Delta (UCP-Delta), a variant of the current ACU camouflage pattern that incorporates the Coyote Brown color and reduces the percentages of

sand and gray colors. The battalions also will retain their standard ACUs.

Second, the Army is evaluating six candidate camouflage patterns, including the currently used Universal Camouflage Pattern. The intent is to determine which of the six currently available patterns, with corresponding personal protective equipment, provides Soldiers with the most effective concealment in Afghanistan.

“We already have extensive data on the performance of various camouflage patterns in particular environments, but we need to keep building the science for Operation Enduring Freedom,” said Brig. Gen. Peter Fuller, the Program Executive Officer Soldier. “For example, we need more information on how the uniform camouflage blends with the Soldier’s

combat equipment in specific environments.”

While the issue of camouflage patterns has recently been in the news, the Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center (NSRDEC) has studied and reported on the effectiveness of different camouflage patterns for many years. The current ACU provides Soldiers with concealment in a variety of environments, from urban to desert, both during the day and at night.

A team has deployed to Afghanistan to collect data in the various environments, outside the forward operating bases where Soldiers are fighting the enemy. The team includes representatives from the Program Executive Office Soldier, Army G-4, U.S. Army Infantry Center, U.S. Army Special Operations

Command, the Asymmetric Warfare Group, the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, and NSRDEC.

Feedback from the two battalions, as well as results of additional tests being conducted by NSRDEC on multiple camouflage patterns, are expected to be presented to Army leadership in early 2010.

Soldiers are the centerpiece of the Army. Nothing is more important than making sure they have the very best equipment available at all times.

A Soldier in full battle gear travels a mountain trail in Afghanistan. The Army is committed to providing Soldiers with the best equipment, this means evaluating camouflage uniforms for the operating environment.



Energy: New neighborhood leads Army in energy-efficient housing

CONTINUED FROM A-1

design of the neighborhood and homes,” said Claire Ridding-Johnston, AHFH project director. “The program involves the participation of families who have the most opportunity to make an impact on their community. Awareness and education take place throughout a family’s residency, which help encourage more sustainable habits.”

As part of the USGBC’s pilot program, AHFH residents are required to attend a two-hour orientation to learn how to care for and maintain innovative, energy-efficient and environmentally sustainable features of their home and community, and incorporate green living practices into their daily routine.

Additionally, construction subcontractors and property management and maintenance staff receive training on building and maintenance practices required to meet the pilot’s green building standards.

Simpson Wisser and its families will serve as a model for sustainable neighborhood development across the nation.

“This is an opportunity to develop neighborhoods that support and enrich the lives of U.S. Soldiers and their families, and it has the potential to change the world’s view of residential community development,” Ridding-Johnston added.

In an address to guests, Col. Matthew Margotta, commander, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii, recalled taking part in the neighborhood’s groundbreaking

and expressed his amazement on how much has been accomplished for Army family communities in just a few short years.

“A year ago, I participated in the groundbreaking of Simpson Wisser, and today I’m celebrating the opening of a beautiful neighborhood designed for Army families,” said Margotta.

He added that the homes were specifically and thoughtfully designed, taking into consideration not just the material needs, but also the human needs of Army families.

A traditional Hawaiian blessing with Army and AHFH leadership and families was followed by an open house, which gave guests an opportunity to learn more about the special features of the LEED-

ND pilot and homes.

The Simpson Wisser neighborhood is expected to receive LEED-ND certification in spring of 2010. Compliance includes third-party verification that site locations and neighborhood design strategies meet the highest levels of environmentally responsible and sustainable development, including density maintenance to reduce urban sprawl; energy-efficient, pedestrian-oriented development; protection of threatened species; and provisions for social well-being and healthy living.

Certification also includes specifications for home design and construction. All Simpson Wisser homes will meet, or exceed, LEED-certified standards.



Veterans of Foreign Wars, Leeward Post No. 849, display the colors during the 28th Annual Veterans Day Parade in Waianae, Saturday.

Waianae Community honors Veterans

Story and Photos by
KAYLA OVERTON

U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Public Affairs

WAIAANAE — The Waianae Military Civilian Advisory Council (WMCAC) honored veterans and service members during its 28th Annual Veterans Day Parade and Hoolaulea (Hawaiian party), here, Saturday.

Honoring those who have served, spectators gathered along Farrington Highway to watch the parade, which ran from the Waianae Boat Harbor to the Waianae Mall, where the Hoolaulea was held.

"(The WMCAC) has been supporting the Veterans Day Parade for many years now; it has become an event the community looks forward to each year," said Rocky Naeole, WMCAC president. "The parade spreads awareness about the Army and brings cohesiveness between the Waianae community and the military."

Brig. Gen. Edwin (Skip) Vincent, U.S. Pacific Command, U.S. Air Force, Mobilization Assistant, Strategic Planning and Policy, served as the grand marshal for this year's parade.

The parade consisted of 32 different participating units, a marching unit and several tactical vehicles, including a Fox reconnaissance vehicle from the 71st Chemical Detachment, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, and a light medium tactical vehicle (LMTV), a Stryker and an armored combat vehicle from the 2nd



Members of the Special Forces Association, Chapter VIII, ride along the parade route in a two-ton truck, courtesy of the Hawaii Military Vehicle Preservation Association.



Soldiers from the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, wave and express their appreciation to onlookers at the Waianae Veterans Day Parade.

Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.

The Hawaii Military Vehicle Preservation Association loaned a few of its restored military vehicles, including a two-ton truck, which the Special Forces Association used during the parade.

Twelve Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) units and school bands from Waianae High School and Nanakuli High and Intermediate School marched along the route as well.

The parade ended with a Hoolaulea, which featured military vehicles, static displays, K-9 working dogs and their handlers, food booths, crafts, hula dancers and live music.

After the parade, 13 high school JROTC units participated in an islandwide drill meet where they contended for bragging rights for best color guard, rifle spin-off, and other competitions.

Local elected officials in attendance included State Representative Karen Awana and State Representative Maile Shimabukuro.

WMCAC was established with the goal of building a lasting relationship centered on poise and respect between the military and the Waianae community.

Recently celebrating its 30th anniversary, WMCAC continues its support to the Waianae community by honoring those who have served by holding the Veterans Day Parade each year.



Above — Parade grand marshal Brig. Gen. Edwin (Skip) Vincent, U.S. Pacific Command, U.S. Air Force, Mobilization Assistant, Strategic Planning and Policy, waves to crowds along the parade route.



Right — Sgt. Albert Owens, 13th Military Police Detachment, Special Reactions Team, shows 4-year-old Ghazel Ah Cheung-Fuamatu how his radio works.



Above — Sgt. 1st Class Mark Saunders, 1-21st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, shows off a Stryker during the Hoolaulea, held after the parade.



17 / Tuesday
Holiday Scrapbooking – Bring your own supplies and use our tools in this holiday layout challenge, Nov. 17, 6-8 p.m., at the Schofield Barracks Arts and Crafts Center. Cost is \$5. Project ideas will be supplied or work on your own. Call 655-4202.

Holiday Stress Class – The holidays are a time for family, friends, good times and stress. Don't let stress ruin the holiday spirit. Join Army Community Service (ACS) for a Holiday Stress class, Nov. 17, 6-8 p.m., at Schofield Barracks ACS. Call 655-4227. (Holiday Stress classes can also be requested at a time and location that is convenient for you.)

19 / Thursday
USO Presents: A Tropic Homecoming – Country music superstar Lee Ann Womack will be headlining a Tropic Homecoming celebration, Nov. 19, 4 p.m., at Sills Field, Schofield Barracks. Enjoy lots of food and fun; entertainment begins at 6:30 p.m.
Bring your own low-back chairs or blankets. Pets, glass and grills will not be allowed at this event, which is sponsored by AFE, Gallery Furniture, Northrop Grumman, Lockheed Martin, S&K Sales, Boeing, AT&T, Tri-West, Coca-Cola, Clear Channel Communications, BAE Systems and Microsoft. For more information, call 655-0112/3.

Anger Management – Learn about anger awareness and get the tools to manage anger in a healthy way, Nov. 19, 1-2:30 p.m., at Aliamanu Military Reservation community center, and 3-4:30 p.m. at Army Community Service, Schofield Barracks. Call 655-0596.

High School Musical 2 – The sequel to last year's smash Army Community Theatre Hit, "High School Musical 2," premieres at Richardson Theatre, Fort Shafter, Nov. 19, 7:30 p.m. Additional performances are scheduled Nov. 20, 21, 27, 28 and Dec. 4 and 5, at 7:30 p.m., each evening.
Tickets cost \$12-\$20, and are available at www.armytheatre.com. Call 438-4480.

Poker Tournament – The next Texas Hold 'Em tournament takes place, Nov. 19, 6:30-9:30 p.m., at the Tropics, Schofield Barracks. Card players can test their skills against the best-of-the-best poker players on post. All ID cardholders 18 and older are welcome. Call 655-5698.



Send announcements to
community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

13 / Today
Hula Festival – The 18th Annual Hula Festival will be held Nov. 12-14, at the Waikiki Shell. Doors open at 4 p.m. each day. Hula artists from 16 countries will celebrate everything natural in Hawaiian culture.
Performances, although judged by 21 of hula's most prestigious keepers of the art, remain a continuous cultural education and spiritual discipline.
Tickets are from \$10-\$35 a day, to \$90 for the entire weekend. Visit www.worldhula.com for more information.

Operation: Military Kids Camp – Operation: Military Kids Camp (OMK), Hawaii, along with YMCA-Camp Erdman are offering two family camps geared toward helping recently redeployed service members and their families reconnect. Upcoming camp dates open for registration are Nov. 20-22 and April 9-11. For a registration application visit www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/4h/omk. E-mail omk@ctahr.hawaii.edu or call 956-4125.

14 / Saturday
Youth Talent Competition – The "Our Youth Has Talent" committee, Tripler Army Medical Center Sergeant Audie Murphy Club and AAFES are sponsoring an "Our Youth Has Talent" singing competition. See the semifinals round, Nov. 14, and the final round, Nov. 21. All rounds take place, 5-8 p.m., at the Sgt. Smith Theater, Schofield Barracks. Admission is \$5. Contact ouryouthstalent@yahoo.com.

Movies at Waikiki Beach – Enjoy a



Mike Egami | U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Public Affairs

Miles of support
SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — From left, John Cummings III, Yvette Lee and Tofi Mika Jr., from the organization Walk Across Oahu, stop to tie a yellow ribbon at Foote Gate, here, during a four-day, 135-mile walk that began, Saturday. The trio's journey started at the gates of Yokohama Bay on the western tip of Oahu, taking them past the State Capitol for a special rally, Wednesday, to pay tribute to disabled war veterans. The charity walk was inspired by a brave friend who lost his ability to walk while serving the country as a member of the U.S. Armed Services. For more information, visit <http://walkacrossoahu.com>.

Precious Metal Clay Workshop – Learn the basics of working with precious metal clay, Nov. 19, 9 a.m.-noon, at the Schofield Barracks Arts and Crafts Center.
Cost is \$35 and includes all supplies. Crafters will walk away from this program with a new pendant or a pair of earrings. Call 655-4202.

20 / Friday
BSC Theatre Night – Blue Star Card (BSC) members are invited to the Nov. 20 Army Community Theatre performance of "High School Musical 2." The show starts at 7:30 p.m., at Richardson Theatre, Fort Shafter. Limited child care and round-trip transportation from Schofield Barracks is available.
Light appetizers will be available at the theater before the show. Registration is required. Call 655-0112/3.

Family Fun Friday – Family Fun Friday is back at the Tropics, Schofield Barracks, Nov. 20, 6 p.m., with free Papa John's pizza, games and contests the whole family will enjoy.
Check out the HDTV 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.

Health and Fitness Fair – Stressed and don't know where to turn? Enjoy an evening of healthy activities at the Health

and Fitness Fair, Nov. 20, 4-8 p.m., at the Martinez Physical Fitness Center, Schofield Barracks. Check out a new series of wellness classes that can help you achieve a better outlook on life. See demonstrations and learn about the benefits of tai chi, chi gung or mindfulness classes. Call 655-4804.

22 / Sunday
A Chorus Line Audition Workshop – Curious about theater and interested in auditioning for the upcoming Army Community Theatre performance of "A Chorus Line"? Get over stage fright ahead of time at an auditions workshop, Nov. 22, 4 p.m., at Richardson Theatre, Fort Shafter.
The workshop is perfect for anyone new to theater or just looking for inside tips on what to expect during auditions. Call 438-4480.

24 / Tuesday
Card Making & Rubber Stamping – Learn new techniques with stamps, inks and more, and make your very own holiday cards, Nov. 24, 6-8 p.m., at the Schofield Barracks Arts and Crafts Center. Cost is \$10 and covers the class and all supplies. Call 655-4202.

Big R: Countdown to Redeployment – Celebrate another month of deployment complete with your Blue Star Card (BSC) friends, Nov. 24, 6-8 p.m., at the Nehelani, Schofield Barracks. BSC members will be creating fleece blankets
Bay invites all military families to a free "Fall Fest" family event, Nov. 21, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Families can enjoy live entertainment, food, unique local crafts and vendor booths, kids games and activities. Admission and parking are free.
Visit www.hopechapel.com or e-mail lisas@hopechapel.com.
Hope Chapel is located at 45-815 Pookela St., Kaneohe, 96744.

Veterans Appreciation Day – The Oahu Veterans Council will host its 3rd Annual Veterans Appreciation Day, Nov. 21, noon-4 p.m., at the Oahu Veterans Center, 1298 Kukila Street in Foster Village, near Radford High School.
Aimed at recognizing and honoring all veterans for their service, tickets include dinner, entertainment and door prizes. Tickets cost \$20 for adults, \$5 for children under 12, or \$20 for military families. Tickets are available at www.oahuveteranscenter.com, at the event, or call 422-4000.

27 / Friday
Salvation Army Angel Tree – Pearlridge Mall shoppers can share their aloha for the community by choosing an angel from a Salvation Army Angel Tree and granting the wish of a child or a senior citizen who otherwise would not receive any gifts at Christmas. The Angel Tree will be located Uptown Nov. 27-Dec. 20 during center hours.

28 / Saturday
Craft Fair – The Mission Houses Museum (553 S. King St.) will hold its annual two-day Holiday Craft Fair, Nov. 28 and 29, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The fair will feature locally made lauhala products, traditional Hawaiian quilts, fine art, jewelry, clothing and other items. Live music and hands-on activities for children will be available. Call 447-3923.

Ongoing
Tricare Online Upgrade – Tricare Online (TOL) will complete a scheduled

without sewing one stitch. The blankets are easy to make, great to cozy up with, and make wonderful gifts.
For a list of materials or to register, call 655-0002 or e-mail Sarah.chadwick@us.army.mil, by Nov. 18. Light pupus and child care will be provided. Space is limited.

27 / Friday
Hawaiian Luau at PARC – Experience old Hawaii at the Pililaau Army Recreation Center (PARC) luau, Nov. 27, 6 p.m., on the Sunset Café lanai. Parties of four or more should call to reserve seating at 696-4778. Blue Star Card holders receive a 10-percent discount.
Mark your calendars for the next luau scheduled to take place, Dec. 11. PARC is open to all active and retired military, members of the Reserve and National Guard, and active and retired Department of Defense civilian employees, including Coast Guard, family members and sponsored guests.

28 / Saturday
Kaneohe Sandbar Picnic – Join Outdoor Recreation, Schofield Barracks, for a day of fun in the sun and a picnic at a place where Hawaiian royalty used to play: the Kaneohe Sand Bar, Nov. 28, 6 a.m.-4 p.m.
Round-trip transportation from Schofield Barracks is available; bring your own beach chair and toys. This picnic is a must for everyone. Cost is \$64 for adults, \$14 for children. Call 655-0143.


system upgrade, Dec. 4-13. During that period, TOL will be offline and unavailable for appointments and pharmacy refill requests.

Art and Essay Contest – The Armed Services YMCA's annual art and essay contest invites military children to create artwork and essays on this year's themes, "My Military Hero" and "My Military Family". Entries for the art contest must be postmarked no later than Feb. 19, 2010, and are for children in grades K-6. Students in grades 1-12 are asked to write their essay about "My Military Hero" and postmark entries no later than March 19, 2010.
Winning entrees will be displayed in a number of locations in the Washington D.C. area, and winners will be recognized at a luncheon on Capitol Hill.
Entry forms are available at www.aymca.org.

Dental Appointments Limited – Due to redeployment activities, routine dental appointments at all U.S. Army Dental Activity clinics at Tripler Army Medical Center and Schofield Barracks are limited through Dec. 18. Contact Sue Mendez-Johnson, 433-9200.

Pacific Aviation Museum Offer – The Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor is offering one free keiki admission (4-12 years old) with each paid adult admission every Saturday and Sunday. Children under 4 are always free. Adult ticket rates are \$14; \$10 for kamaaina and military. The museum is open 9 a.m.-5 p.m., daily. Visit www.PacificAviationMuseum.org. Call 441-1000.

MCCW Fall Retreat – The fall retreat to the North Shore Benedictine Monastery for the Military Council of Catholic Women (MCCW), Aliamanu Military Reservation Chapel, has been rescheduled and will now take place Jan. 21, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. The theme will be "Stewardship" with discussions and Mass.
Child care is available. For reservations or child care, contact Katie Hanna at 744-1285 or mccwhawaii@yahoo.com.



Additional religious services, children's programs, educational services and contact information can be found at www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil. (Click on "Religious Support Office" under the "Directorates and Support Staff" menu.)

AMR: Aliamanu Chapel
FD: Fort DeRussy Chapel
FS: Fort Shafter Chapel
HMR: Helemano Chapel
MPC: Main Post Chapel, Schofield Barracks
PH: Aloha Jewish Chapel, Pearl Harbor
TAMC: Tripler Army Medical Center Chapel
WAAF: Wheeler Army Airfield Chapel

Buddhist Services
•First Sunday, 1 p.m. at FD
•Fourth Sunday, 1 p.m. at MPC Annex

Catholic Masses
•Friday, 9 a.m. at AMR
•Saturday, 5 p.m. at FD, TAMC and WAAF chapels
•Saturday, 6 p.m. a Hawaiian-style Mass (May-Aug. only) near the Army Museum (FD)
•Sunday services:
-7:30 a.m. at WAAF
-8 a.m. at AMR
-10:30 a.m. at MPC Annex
-11 a.m. at TAMC
•Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 11:45 a.m. at MPC
•Monday-Friday noon at TAMC

Gospel Worship
•Sunday, noon at MPC
•Sunday, 12:30 p.m. at AMR

Islamic Prayers and Study
•Friday, 1 p.m.
•Saturday and Sunday, 5:30 a.m., 6, 7 and 8 p.m. at MPC Annex

Jewish Shabbat (Sabbath)
•Monday, 6 p.m. at PH (Bible Study)
•Friday, 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, 8:15 a.m. at PH

Orthodox Divine Liturgy
•Sunday, 9 a.m. at TAMC

Pagan (Wicca)
•Friday, 7 p.m. at MPC Annex

Protestant Worship
•Sunday Services
-9 a.m. at FD, FS, MPC, TAMC and WAAF chapels
-10 a.m. at AMR and HMR



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



Jennifer's Body
(R)
Fri., Nov. 13, 7 p.m.

The Invention of Lying
(PG-13)
Sat., Nov. 14, 2 p.m.



Fame
(PG)
Sun., Nov. 15, 7 p.m.
Thur., Nov. 19, 7 p.m.

Love Happens
(PG-13)
Wed., Nov. 18, 7 p.m.

No shows on Mondays or Tuesdays.

Lee Ann Womack slated to perform for returning warriors

Country music singer shares thoughts on family, music

BILL MOSSMAN
Staff Writer

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Country music singer Lee Ann Womack knows what it's like to spend a good portion of life away from family members.

As a touring professional, Womack has spent the better part of the last decade out on the road, splitting her days and nights between hotel rooms and sold-out arenas. Modern technology, via text messaging, video conferencing and Skype phone calls, has definitely made communication with her loved ones much easier whenever she's away.

Still, she's yet to find anything that quite equals the feeling of being at home with husband Frank Liddell, and daughters Aubrie Lee Sellers, 18, and Anna Lise Liddell, 10.

"Because I have to be gone so much, I certainly do appreciate the time I get to spend with my whole family," Womack explained. "My daughters are getting a little older now, so sometimes I have to make things mandatory for them and say, 'It's just going to be the four of us going to dinner tonight and we're not inviting any friends.'"

"So I try to make those times happen when we can be together," she continued. "Those are the moments I cherish."

That's the type of moment she hopes to create for families of returning Soldiers from the 25th

Infantry Division, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 84th Engineering Battalion, and the 8th Military Police Brigade, all of whom will be the guests of honor at the upcoming USO-sponsored concert, "A Tropic Homecoming."

The redeployment celebration and free concert, slated Nov. 19, 4-8 p.m., at Sills Field, here, will be an opportunity for Soldiers and their loved ones to celebrate their reunion after months apart, all the while relaxing and enjoying songs from one of country music's finest performers.

"The Soldiers have been able to come home, and come home safely," noted Womack, 43. "This will be a time for me to celebrate with them and their families."

"I like doing things for the military; I've done several events before," she added. "You know, I don't think I could ever do enough to pay them back."

And while she does not have any relatives who currently serve or have served in the armed forces, the Texas-born Womack reasoned that doesn't mean she can't claim Soldiers as kin.

"I kind of consider (the military) to be part of my family," she stated, matter-of-factly.

Womack's fans have always found her ability to relate to multiple generations of family members to be quite appealing. Such songs as "Never Again, Again" and "I'll Think of a Reason Later" have an old-soul feel to them, making their straight-talking lyrics particularly gratifying to those raised on the music of George Jones,



Dolly Parton, Merle Haggard or Tammy Wynette.

And yet, other songs as "I May Hate Myself in the Morning" or the huge crossover smash, "I Hope You Dance," aren't dated either — a must for any artist trying to reach out to younger audiences. As for her most satisfying moments as a pro-

fessional singer, they've come while rubbing shoulders with many of the genre's greats.

"In my career, it wasn't the times when I was on TV or standing in front of a bunch of people that I cherished, but it was performing with such artists as George Strait, Dolly Parton or Vince Gill," explained Womack, who's sold more than 5 million records in the U.S. alone, and counts five Academy of Country Music Awards, five Country Music Association Awards, and two Grammy Awards among her professional credits.

"I remember once being in a vocal booth with Willie Nelson, and it was just the two of us. We were standing just a few feet apart, and there was me thinking, 'I cannot believe I'm having this moment with Willie Nelson.'"

A decade into a still-burgeoning career, Womack admitted that she still has a lot to offer country-music lovers, as well as families learning to reconnect after months apart.

Her advice?

"Just make sure that when you are at home with your family, that you're really at home with them," she said. "Sometimes I catch myself not really being present with my family, not really thinking about what they're saying and not really interacting with them."

"But don't let your minds wander," Womack continued. "Discipline yourselves, and you'll do a better job with your families."

For more information on the upcoming concert, visit the Web site, www.mwrarmyhawaii.com or call the Recreation Activities Office at 655-0112/655-0113.

USO hosts a Tropic Homecoming redeployment celebration at Sills Field

STEFANIE GARDIN

U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Public Affairs

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — The sound of music, laughter and camaraderie will fill the air around Sills Field, here, Nov. 19, as U.S. Army-Hawaii celebrates the return of its warrior heroes with "A Tropic Homecoming."

The free family event, which kicks off at 4 p.m., marks the successful return of more than 3,500 Soldiers from the 25th Infantry Division's (ID) Headquarters and 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), and from the 8th Theater Sustainment Command's 84th Engineer Battalion and 8th Military Police

Brigade, throughout the past few months.

"We wanted to celebrate the return of our redeploying Soldiers ... what better way than to plan a homecoming event?" said Stacy Harding, Recreation Activities chief, Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (FMWR), whose team planned and held a similar event in March, the Strykeback Bash, for returning 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team Soldiers.

The celebration will feature a free performance by country music star Lee Ann Womack, at 6:30 p.m., courtesy of the United Service Organizations (USO).

Also, recently redeployed Soldiers can enter for a chance to win a car by stopping at the Tony Group Autoplex display; Soldiers must be present to win.

A variety of food will be available for purchase from Papa John's, Just Tacos, Ruby Tuesday and AAFES. As an added bonus, recently redeployed Soldiers can eat compliments of Papa John's, Just Tacos and Ruby Tuesday, by presenting a meal voucher.

Vouchers are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis through each Soldier's unit family readiness support assistant, according to Harding.

Families and Soldiers should bring their own low-back chairs or blankets for seating. Pets, glass products and grills are prohibited.

Harding added that this event is a group effort of Army and community businesses coming together to thank Hawaii Soldiers and families for their service and support.

"[To our Soldiers,] thank you for all you have done and continue to do," Harding said. "You render what we at home value most — the right to freedom. Each of you has made personal sacrifices and has played an important part in protecting our country. We truly appre-

ciate your selfless service and unwavering commitment to our country. FMWR salutes you and your family members for your strength and dedication during these difficult times."

Earlier in the day, an official ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. at Sills Field, to formally honor the service of all 25th ID Soldiers who have recently redeployed from combat operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Family and friends are invited to share in the aloha at this ceremony, as well.

For more information, call the Recreation Activities Office at 655-0112/3.

Garrison center serves as hub for Army recycling effort

Story and Photo by
BILL MOSSMAN
Staff Writer

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — As Americans get ready to double their recycling efforts for this Sunday's nationally recognized America Recycles Day, the Army is hoping that Soldiers and their family members follow suit, increasing their contributions when it comes to protecting the world's resources and environment.

According to a Department of Defense (DoD) mandate, service members and their families everywhere must do a better job at recycling in the coming months, said Kim DeCaprio, program specialist for U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii's Solid Waste/Recycling/Pollution Prevention (P2) program.

"The DoD says we have to be recycling 40 percent of our items by the end of fiscal year 2010," she explained, noting that installations were successful at recycling about 30 percent of their household goods during the fourth quarter of FY 2009.

But while more people have been getting involved in recycling as of late, still some view the practice of recycling as nothing short of bothersome.

"We just have to increase awareness of it," DeCaprio said, "make it as easy as possible for people to participate."

Educating the public through various outlets remains the key, said Ann Choo Wharton, communications director for Army Hawaii Family Housing (AHFH).

"Recycling is something we encourage our residents to do," explained Wharton, noting that AHFH handles curbside pickup for approximately 6,000 residential homes at Oahu's various installations. "It's a message we continue to push through, for example, our (bimonthly) newsletter."

One way that service members may develop a greater desire to recycle is by understanding the role of the Army Recycling Center (ARC), here, and how it helps generate funds that benefit military families.

Located a short distance from McNair Gate, ARC serves as the storage hub for all Army recycling efforts, both residential and industrial. Trucks from Goodwill Contract Services Hawaii, Inc., roll in to the site on a daily basis, delivering more than 800,000 tons of recyclable material this year alone.

Once at ARC, the items are packaged and baled. There, they remain until qualified vendors take them off the center's hands, usually for a price, and ship them to markets all over the globe, where the material is recycled and reused rather than dumped into yet another landfill.

According to the center's project manager, Victor Mercado, the prices vary for recyclable goods, which include dry cardboard, newspaper, maga-



Project manager Victor Mercado inspects bales of cardboard collected from businesses within U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii installations and delivered to the Army Recycling Center, located along McMahon Road, Schofield Barracks. Cardboard recycling continues to be one of the most profitable items for the center, fetching as much as \$90 per ton.

zines, white office paper, phone books, scrap metal, toner cartridges and "HI-5" beverage containers. (See sidebar for a list of materials that aren't accepted at ARC.)

As of a few days ago, for example, the going rate for aluminum cans was just over \$1.50 per pound, while the center earned \$1.13 per pound for plastic containers and 3 cents for each unbroken bottle of glass.

Mercado strolled next to a stack of cardboard bales and tapped on them.

"These weigh between 700 and 800 pounds," he explained. "We pick up about 16 (bales) every day from businesses like AAFES, but during Christ-

mas, (the number) may double."

At the moment, by fetching about \$90 per ton, cardboard is easily ARC's biggest moneymaker.

"That's quite a bit of change for us," said Mercado, who runs the industrial side of the operation. "Right now, the rate is good, but it all depends on the market."

To further illustrate how the market fluctuates, Mercado explained that newspaper and white office paper, once an easy sale for ARC, are currently being handed over to vendors free of charge.

"But the market's been picking up," he said. "Eventually, they'll start paying for those items

Materials not accepted at ARC

Not all recyclable items are accepted at the Army Recycling Center (ARC), located at Building 1087-B, McMahon Road.

"A lot of people don't understand that because we're in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, not everything that's recyclable can be taken by us and resold," explained Victor Mercado, the center's project manager.

The following are among items not approved for drop-off at ARC:

- Appliances,
- Fire extinguishers and other compressed gas cylinders,
- Newspaper comic sections,
- Color paper,
- Trash,
- Fluorescent bulbs,
- Vehicle tires, and
- Crosscut or "confetti-cut" shredded paper.

For questions regarding residential waste disposal, contact the Army Family Housing Center at 275-3189. For questions regarding industrial hazardous waste material, Soldiers should contact their unit's Environmental Compliance Officer (ECO).

The ARC is open from 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday. For more information, call 655-0011 or visit the Directorate of Public Works Web site at <https://dpwhawaii.army.mil/pickup/>.

again."

And that's good news for Soldiers and families, who mostly benefit from the sale of recyclable materials through the Qualified Recycling Program (QRP), DeCaprio said.

"Aside from helping to pay for the center's operating costs, proceeds from the QRP help fund P2 projects, as well as many Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation events," she said.

This year, for example, QRP donated \$99,500 to cover entertainment and fireworks expenses for the Fourth of July celebration. "And some of that money will also go toward a few Christmas programs," she added.

But whether recyclable items make their way to the ARC or to some other recycling center is of little importance, Mercado said, so long as Soldiers and their families continue to do their part.

"A lot of the businesses at the installations won't turn in their HI-5 bottles, but will redeem them at a deposit center and then treat the Soldiers to something like pizza," he explained. "That's fine."

"If the Soldiers get something out of it, and if they continue to recycle, then that's all that matters," he added.



Laura Albanese, right, Fort Shafter Thrift Shop manager, helps fill bags during the \$5 bag sale, Nov. 5 and 6. The shop sold more than 112 bags of merchandise during the two-day event.

Shoppers save at thrift shop bag sale

Story and Photo by
NICOLE ROAMES
Hui O' Wahine Publicity Office

FORT SHAFTER — A crowd was waiting outside the Fort Shafter Thrift Shop, Thursday, but people were not in line for Black Friday or the latest video game release. The crowd had gathered for a Thrift Shop bag sale.

The line of shoppers waiting to come inside the store was a new experience for Laura Albanese, Fort Shafter Thrift Shop manager.

"I usually open the door and people trickle in as the day goes on. Today was the first time I remember having people on the other side of the door waiting," Albanese said.

During the two-day sale, patrons could fill up a paper bag with Thrift Shop property (TSP) items for only \$5. Service members E-4 and below received their first bag free.

According to Albanese, one of the reasons the Fort Shafter Thrift Shop has a bag sale is to clear out some of the merchandise.

"Our clothing racks start to get full, and we run out of hangers," Albanese said.

In addition to making room for incoming merchandise, a bag sale can be a big money-maker for the shop.

Lisa Seward, Hui O' Wahine Fort Shafter Thrift Shop representative, said the bag sales have a successful history, here.

"The bag sales are well attended and bring in a different crowd from our regular customers," Seward said.

Albanese confirmed the Fort Shafter Thrift Shop sold 112 bags full of merchandise during the

The Fort Shafter Thrift Shop is open Tuesday and Friday 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and Thursday 2-6 p.m. Consignments are accepted Tuesday and Friday 9-10:30 a.m.

two-day bag sale. A lot of new faces were in the crowd, she said. The last two days, people were telling their friends and neighbors to come out.

Other bag sale patrons, like Juli Chytka are frequent visitors to the Fort Shafter Thrift Shop.

"I heard about the bag sale, but I usually shop the Thrift Shop about once a month," Chytka said.

Another patron, Myra Venejas, was shopping the bag sale to donate clothing to the Philippines for disaster recovery efforts.

"I can get more at the bag sale, so I can send more," Venejas said.

Holiday items will be appearing on shop shelves by next week. The shop carries nice furniture, like twin beds and antiques, too, and stocks many baby items.

Also, the Fort Shafter Thrift Shop has started offering environmentally friendly cloth bags for sale. The cloth bags are in the store now and are offered for \$3 each.

Volunteers are always welcome at the Fort Shafter Thrift Shop, which is the main fundraising activity for the Hui O' Wahine, Fort Shafter Spouses Club. Funds are used by the Hui O' Wahine for charitable causes and scholarships.

The next Fort Shafter Thrift Shop bag sale is scheduled Jan. 28 and 29.



Mark Brown | Army Hawaii Family Housing

Family tree

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Two families come together to plant a kukui tree in their neighborhood, here, during the second annual Arbor Day celebration at U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii, Nov. 6. Pictured from left to right are Carlos Jr., Evelyn, and their father, Sgt. Carlos Ramirez Sr., assisted by McKenzie and Carolyn Simmons.

Following the tree planting, Evelyn and Carlos Jr. helped plant seedlings in the Army Hawaii Family Housing's (AHFH) Kaena Community, Schofield Barracks, with AHFH volunteer Joanne Sedlor.

Refurbished USO Hawaii airport center provides ‘special aloha’

USO-HAWAII

News Release

HONOLULU – The USO-Hawaii hosted troops, family members, and business and community supporters at the reopening of its center at the Honolulu International Airport, Nov. 5.

With four paid staff and more than 200 volunteers, USO-Hawaii serves more than 60,000 troops and their family members each year.

“For hundreds of military and their families that come through the Honolulu International Airport daily, USO-Hawaii offers a home away from home while they are on the island or in transit,” said Thomas Kolstad, vice president, USO-Pacific Region Operations.

“Aiding troops who often are tired, hungry and in need of relaxation, the services and amenities the USO provides give new meaning to ‘service on the ground.’”

“We refurbished the USO-Hawaii center to provide troops and their families a comfortable, up-to-date home away from home, with all new furnishings and equipment,” said Eva Laird Smith, USO-Hawaii director. “It’s our way of saying, ‘Thank You!’ and giving back to the military community here in Hawaii.”

The center renovation includes 16, eight-foot-tall glass panels featuring Hawaiian motifs and mil-



Photo Courtesy of United Service Organizations-Hawaii

Sixteen glass panels with images culled from archival photos from the U.S. Army Museum, as well as Hawaiiana iconographic images, front the entrance to the USO-Hawaii, welcoming service members and their families. The refurbished center, located at the ground floor, baggage claim E and F at the Honolulu International Airport, reopened, Nov. 5.

itary iconography. The stunning artwork makes the center a showcase of the islands’ unique lifestyle and character. Rare vintage photos from the U.S. Army Museum collection are also on display.

The center features comfortable lounge chairs sporting island prints, leather recliners with matching ottomans, contemporary desktops, coffee tables

and a video gaming station.

The entertainment lounge features a 62-inch flat screen television, computer terminals with free Internet and e-mail access, Wi-Fi connectivity and free Skype calls that allow troops to stay connected with their loved ones.

Bottomless cups of coffee, pastries and popcorn

are available while troops visit the center. Other amenities include a restroom, shower, keiki activity room, magazines and other publications. The center is open to all active duty service members and their families, seven days a week, from 8 a.m.-midnight.

For more information, visit www.uso.org.



13 / Today

Holiday Softball Tournament –

Entries are being accepted for the Holiday Softball Tournament, Dec. 7-12. Cost is \$100 per 15-person team (players/coaches).

Active duty Soldiers, retirees, National Guardsmen, Army Reservists and their adult family members, and Department of Defense (DoD) civilians, contractors and AAFES employees are eligible to register.

Entries must be received by the U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Sports, Fitness and Aquatics Office, Building 556, Kaala Community Activity Center, Schofield Barracks, by 4 p.m., Dec. 1. Call 655-0856 or 438-9572.

14 / Saturday

Adventure Kayak Fishing –

Enjoy a half-day of adventurous kayak fishing out of Kaneohe Bay, Nov. 14, 6:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Indulge your passion for exploring the island during this expert-level activity. Cost is \$49 and includes equipment and round-trip transportation from Schofield Barracks. Call 655-0143.

19 / Thursday

Evening Surf Patrol –

Are you an advanced surfer ready for a challenge? Try the evening surf patrol, Nov. 19, 4:30 p.m.-dusk. Cost is \$19 per person. Call 655-0143.

20 / Friday

Health and Fitness Fair –

Stressed and don’t know where to turn? Enjoy an evening of healthy activities at the Health and Fitness Fair, Nov. 20, 4-8 p.m., at the Martinez Physical Fitness Center, Schofield Barracks. Check out a new series of wellness classes that can help you achieve a better outlook

on life. See demonstrations and learn about the benefits of tai chi, chi gung or mindfulness classes. Call 655-4804.

Cross Fit Challenge –

Put your strength and conditioning to the test, Nov. 20, 4-8 p.m., at the Martinez Physical Fitness Center, Schofield Barracks. Enter the “Cross Fit” challenge, test your athletic prowess and earn a chance to win awards and fitness equipment. Fitness assessments, nutrition consulting, behavioral health classes and dental mouth guard fittings available. Call 655-4804.

21 / Saturday

Tropics Sand Volleyball Series –

Bump, set and spike your way to success in a beach volleyball tournament, Nov. 21, at the Tropics, Schofield Barracks. This is an all-day tournament.

You must be 18 or older to play. Cost is \$10 per team to enter, but active duty military can play for free. Call 438-1152.



Send sports announcements to community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

14 / Saturday

Hike Oahu –

Join the Hawaiian Trail & Mountain Club for a 6-mile, intermediate-level, ridge-valley hike, Nov. 14. Hikers will enjoy a fairly easy, rambling loop hike (not much up and down) with spectacular views of Pearl Harbor and the upper Waimano watershed. Call John Hall, 377-5442.

A \$3 donation is requested of non-members age 18 and older. An adult must accompany children under 18.

For more information and a calendar of future hikes, visit www.htmclub.org.

Patriot Run –

U.S. Vets, the only program in the state that houses homeless veterans, will host a Patriot 5K

Walk/Run, Nov. 14, 8 a.m., at the Waitefront at Puuloa.

Money raised helps provide hot meals, a safe home and job training for former Soldiers who are homeless. Entry fees are \$30 and will be accepted until race morning. For more information, visit www.usvetsinc.org or www.active.com. For more information about U.S. VETS-Hawaii, call 682-0111.

15 / Sunday

Turkey Swim –

The Nuuanu YMCA and the Waikiki Swim Club are hosting a 1K and 2K Turkey Swim, Nov. 15, starting at 8:30 a.m. at Ala Moana Beach Park.

The protection provided by Ala Moana Beach Park’s reef, makes the Turkey Swim a perfect introduction into the excitement of ocean swim races. Participants must be at least 10 years old, and 2K awards will be given to the top three finishers in each age group. Registration costs \$35 and includes a Turkey Swim towel. Register at www.ymcahonolulu.org.