



# 25th CAB receives new UH-60M Black Hawks

## Model is final modernization

Story and photos by  
**SGT. DANIEL SCHROEDER**  
25th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs  
25th Infantry Division

WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD — The 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, received upgraded models of the UH-60 Black Hawk, recently.

The arrival marked the beginning of replacing all model UH-60L aircrafts with UH-60M models within 25th CAB.

The new model features several upgrades that increase the CAB's ability to support troops on the ground throughout the Pacific.

"The biggest improvement the M model employs is the new glass cockpit increasing the situational awareness for the aircrew," said Greg Shirley, Sikorsky representative.

The model also features upgraded engines producing more power and wide chord blades for better lift capabilities.

The CAB will receive nearly four dozen UH-

60M helicopters from now to March 2014. Representatives from Sikorsky will train CAB Soldiers on maintenance procedures and operation of the new digital systems.

"The new HH-60M MEDEVAC has infrared capability for flying in adverse weather, improved instruments and flight controls with the glass cockpit for pilots, and all are brand new for increased reliability," said Col. Kenneth Hawley, commander, 25th CAB. "This is the final modernization step for the 25th CAB, increasing the capabilities of the brigade to make it the most modern combat aviation brigade in the Army, including the CH-47F Chinooks, AH-64E Apaches in (1st Battalion, 25th Avn. Regiment) and now the UH-60M Black Hawks providing support for the 25th ID, as well as U.S. Army-Pacific."

Since the first UH-60M fielding in 2007, a total of 2,200 Soldiers have been trained on the new Black Hawk. The 25th CAB is the sixth combat aviation brigade to receive the new aircraft.

CAB Soldiers will begin training on the UH-60M Black Hawk in mid-September.



(Top and above) The UH-60M Black Hawk incorporates a glass cockpit that provides 25th CAB aircrews with increased situational awareness to better support Soldiers on the ground.

# 3-4th Cav. joins the ‘Order of the Spur’

Story and photo by  
**SGT. BRIAN ERICKSON**  
3rd Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs  
25th Infantry Division

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — The Order of the Spur is a Cavalry tradition within the Army, and Soldiers from 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, looked for initiation, Sept. 4-5.

Cavalry troops are inducted into the Order of the Spur after successfully completing a "spur ride." The spur ride began when the candidates were split into six teams to go through the training ahead of them.

"This is really good training for these Soldiers," said Command Sgt. Maj. James Westover, squadron senior enlisted leader.

Once they were split into the teams, each Soldier had to complete a written cavalry test,

and then each group executed their movement to Area X-ray, where they were tasked with establishing and marking a pick-up zone to be airlifted to East Range.

Upon arriving, each team received a grid coordinate for an obstacle course. As soon as the obstacle course was finished, the group started the rest of the tactical lanes, which the Soldiers traveled to on foot.

"The hardest part for me was the all the walking, but I wanted to see it through to the end," said Sgt. Timothy Kolletzki, assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Troop.

Teams had to complete recon and observation, vehicle recovery, trauma lane, river crossing and weapons familiarization lanes.

"The area reconnaissance was probably the most physical demanding of the lanes, due to the wide range of tasks that needed to be completed," said 1st Lt. Bryan Thompson, Troop B.

After each team finished all the lanes at East Range, it began the foot-march back to battalion headquarters. When teams arrived at their battalion headquarters, Soldiers received a quick rest before facing the final task: the spur board.

Each group was asked a series of questions before the commander gave the final seal of approval, stating each Soldier had earned his spurs.

"Earning the spurs is something to take a lot of pride in, something to be proud of," said Thompson.

### History of the spurs

The Order of the Spur is a tradition that dates back to the beginning of the cavalry.

When green troopers first arrived at their new assignments, they would require extensive training, especially in the area of swordsmanship from horseback.

During this phase of training, the troopers were not allowed to wear spurs; only when they were able to prove their ability to perform with their horse and saber were they awarded spurs.

Today, the "Spur Ride" is the only means of "earning your spurs," aside from wartime induction.

Each Spur Ride varies between units, but generally, the event is held over multiple days, during which a trooper must pass a series of physical and mental tests relevant to the cavalry.

# 8th STB focuses on resiliency

Story and photos by  
**STAFF SGT. GAELN LOWERS**  
8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER — In order to keep mentally and physically fit to fight, the leadership of the 8th Special Troops Battalion, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, enhanced its troops with something more powerful than weapons and equipment, Sept. 5.



Staff Sgt. Kristen Moreno (right), master resiliency trainer and volunteer Sgt. Valerie Booker, both 8th TSC, discuss ways of thinking during the battalion's resiliency training, Sept. 5.

The 8th STB finished up another round of master resiliency training (MRT) to enhance the performance and improve the overall strength and resilience of Soldiers, family members and Army civilians.

"The training is a long-term investment in our Soldiers," said Capt. Kristin Tashma, officer in charge of resiliency for 8th STB and 8th TSC. "We're teaching Soldiers to use coping skills and really teaching them how to deal with stress on a multitude of levels."

MRT focuses on six

- Key Skills of Master Resiliency Training**
  - Self-awareness
  - Self-regulation
  - Optimism
  - Mental agility
  - Strength of character
  - Connection



Sgt. Timothy Kolletzki, HHT, 3rd Sqdn., 4th Cav. Regt., receives his spurs while in the front leaning rest position at Quad F, Sept. 5.





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Col. Daniel W. Whitney  
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CSM Philip J. Brunwald  
**Director, Public Affairs**  
Dennis C. Drake  
656-3154  
**Chief, Internal Communication**  
Aiko Rose Brum, 656-3155  
aiko.brum@us.army.mil  
**News Editor**  
John Reese, 656-3488  
news@hawaiiarmyweekly.com  
**Pau Hana Editor**  
Jack Wiers, 656-3157  
community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com  
**Staff Writer and Photo Editor**  
Sarah Pacheco, 656-3150  
sarah@hawaiiarmyweekly.com  
**Layout**  
Estrella Dela Cruz-Araiza  
**Advertising:** 529-4700  
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Police Call

# Trespassing leads to detention, prosecution

**COL. MARK JACKSON**  
Director, Emergency Services,  
U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii, and  
Commander, 8th Military Police Brigade,  
8th Theater Sustainment Command

As part of the community’s force protection and safety measures, the garrison commander may exercise his authority to bar individuals from entering U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii installations.

In such cases, civilian and military personnel with a history of misconduct and illegal activity are prohibited from entering post, with or without escort. Subjects who knowingly violate their bar are detained, processed and prosecuted accordingly.

Family members are not immune from this action; service members with barred dependents may need to maintain a residence off-installation.

The below cases highlight incidents



Jackson

where individuals received further punitive action for failing to comply with their bars.

The following are excerpts of actual MP blotter entries from the USAG-HI area of operations. Subjects are innocent until proven guilty.

**Criminal Trespass**  
•June 15, 2012, the Schofield Barracks Police Desk was notified of a traffic accident where a sedan hit a concrete barrier near Macomb Gate. There were no injuries, but the driver failed a field sobriety test.

A national database check revealed that she did not have a valid driver’s license. She was detained and transported to the Schofield Barracks Police Station, where she submitted a breath test resulting in a BRAC of .280 grams of alcohol per 210 liters of breath.

The Community Compliance Office confirmed the individual had been served with an indefinite bar letter from all USAG-HI installations in September 2008. She also had an extensive criminal history, to include multiple charges of drunk and disorderly and seven charges

of criminal trespassing over the past four years.

For this incident, her vehicle was towed. She was charged with criminal trespassing, operating a vehicle under the influence of an intoxicant, operating a motor vehicle without a driver’s license and criminal property damage in the second degree.

In October 2012, she was seen at the Schofield Barracks Bowling Alley in violation of her bar notice. She was detained by Military Police patrols, transported to the Schofield Barracks Police Station, processed, charged with criminal trespassing and escorted off the installation.

Her trespassing violations were referred to Federal District Court and prosecuted by the Army’s Special Assistant U.S. Attorney. She was sentenced to 60 days for violating the terms of her probation and 60 days for trespassing, with sentences running consecutively for a total of 120 days in confinement.

•January 2013, a civilian, 23, was detained when he attempted to enter through McNair Gate on a suspended li-

cense while using fraudulent license plates. Investigation by MPs revealed that the suspect had also knowingly violated his bar to enter any USAG-HI installation, which had been issued to him in 2012 following an incident involving drunk driving and drug possession.

The individual was transported to the Schofield Barracks MP Station, processed and escorted off of the installation.

•February 2013, a 32-year-old local male was detained after he knowingly violated his February 2011 bar to enter any USAG-HI installation by attempting to enter Schofield Barracks via public bus. He was transported to the Schofield Barracks Police Station, processed and escorted off the installation.

Five days later, an MP patrol found the same male attempting to enter government property by crossing the fence line at Higgins Road and Kamehameha Highway. The subject was again detained and transported to the Schofield Barracks Police Station for processing. He was then released to a U.S. Marshal for further processing.

## BACKTObASICS

# Leadership is reinforcing basic fundamentals

**MASTER SGT. NAMOND TRAVIS**  
U.S. Army Health Clinic  
Schofield Barracks Soldier Centered Medical Home

A large portion of our Army joined after Sept. 11, 2001, and for many their entire career has revolved around multiple deployments in support of operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

We have been an Army and nation at war for more than 10 years, with the main focus on combat operations.

Although the combat environment is different and presents unique challenges, it still relies on the basic fundamentals of soldiering to get the mission accomplished. Through the use of basic fundamentals, such as coaching, teaching and mentoring, the U.S. Army Health Clinic Schofield Barracks can effectively ensure the Army continues to grow strong Soldiers and leaders.

These basic fundamentals are applied in preparation for and during training, as well as daily clinic operations. It is, then, the responsibility of each individual leader to ensure that he or she has an understanding of how to apply these funda-

mentals effectively within a specific area and or department.

The basics are the day-to-day Army fundamentals in soldiering. In the past, Soldiers used phrases like “always be at the right place, right time and right uniform.” They’d carry their division or respective unit’s book of standards in their hip pocket. These Department of Army pamphlets were engrained in us, and they were a part of the uniform.

The individual Soldier took personal responsibility to ensure each member of the team was doing the right thing and that the noncommissioned officer enforced these standards.

The leader must instill good discipline habits, enforce compliance of Army standards and continue to coach, teach and mentor. Leaders need to ensure that Soldiers have the equipment necessary to perform and accomplish their



Travis

mission.

The leader that instills good practices while in garrison should have subordinates who practice these same habits in combat.

Is it not important to have a functioning weapon and vehicle? This shows the importance of Army fundamentals in both garrison and combat environments.

The same applies for being on time in garrison when applied to combat operations; time is critical and can mean the difference between life and death. We must communicate to our Soldiers that adhering to the standards in garrison makes us stronger in combat.

Communication is critical and spending time talking with Soldiers is a huge part of instilling those basic concepts. The Army has undergone a significant amount of change, and for the first time in our history, we’ve continued to change while still engaged in overseas contingency operations.

In the past, the Army would make significant changes after a conflict — World War II, Korea, Vietnam, etc., but we have learned to make changes and

implement them in real time, not years later.

The ability to disseminate information at a much faster rate does not detract from the leader’s responsibility to teach, mentor and enforce Army fundamentals, but should enhance these basic Soldier skills and knowledge. This practice is all part of the Army profession, and as we move forward in transition, the application of the fundamentals or basics must be enforced.

In conclusion, the Army must strengthen the Soldier’s understanding of Army fundamentals — the coach, teach, mentor principle — and getting back to the basics or simply put, “The Army Standard.”

The Army will continue to transition and prepare for the future. We must always remember that the basic fundamentals of soldiering are critical, and the reason why we continue to be the best-trained, best-equipped and most skilled Army in the world.

*(Editor’s note: Travis is the noncommissioned officer in charge of USAHC-Schofield Barracks Soldier Centered Medical Home.)*

## FOOTSTEPS in FAITH

# Being chosen isn’t always what you want it to be

**CHAPLAIN (CAPT.) MARK MCCORKLE**  
84th Engineer Battalion  
130th Engineer Brigade  
8th Theater Sustainment Command

Chaplains have been known to read books that are full of adventure, excitement and suspense.

I just finished reading one called “Ender’s Game.”

This book was about Ender Wiggin, the third in a family of child geniuses. He is selected by international military forces to save the world from destruction. Before being chosen, Ender wears a unique monitor that allows the heads of the military to see things as Ender does.

Peter, Ender’s brother, becomes jealous of Ender and all the attention he gets for being selected in this unique



McCorkle

way. Peter hates Ender, and even when the monitor is taken out, it does nothing to decrease Peter’s anger.

Although Valentine, Ender’s sister, tries to protect Ender from Peter, he is only saved from his brother when Colonel Graff of the International Fleet comes to take Ender away to Battle School. Ender leaves behind Valentine, who loves him, in order to help save the world from the buggers.

The same conflict is true of Ender’s schoolmates, and Ender is forced into brutally beating the leader of a gang of bullies in order to protect himself.

*Three spiritual points of interest are found in “Ender’s Game”:*

- Being chosen,
- Not always liking what you are chosen to do, and
- Learning that not all you are chosen to do is disclosed, but rather is an unfolding procedure that is learned over time.

With being chosen, we see that En-

der did not ask to do what he was called to do in life. He learned that obedience is never easy. For us, this means we will not be comfortable all the time. Being chosen is the force behind true conviction or a deep desire to follow through and complete the task.

In the book, Ender was at ends with himself, at times, because of the actions his calling required of him. One biblical example of this is the story of Jesus; he had a very difficult task, but he did not give up.

It is interesting to read in the story that Ender did not always like what he was doing, but he was good at it. He did not let feelings have the power to determine outcome. Feelings come and go. Only truth is able to guide a person in the right way.

Ender did not let his feelings of wanting to stay in his comfort zone stop him from his calling. He acted on principle and not emotion.

God is not concerned because we have feelings. He is concerned if we let

the feelings rule our life and make decisions based on how we feel. He is the true resource for that and not our emotional ups and downs.

Lastly is the process of finding your calling over time. This unfolding procedure is a common thread in everyone’s life. Ender would not have been able to handle the complete revelation of what his calling would require of him, and neither are we in our own personal walk — not because God desires to keep secrets from us, but rather to keep secrets for us.

Those secrets are hidden, so just at the right time, we receive the next chapter, not too early or too late. This is where joy is either absorbed or rejected.

Joy is expensive; it may cost you all of your feelings and require you to walk in complete faith in your creator, who wants to bring an outcome in your life that is authored by him, leaving you with a gift of experiencing him in a very real way, day by day, that nobody can take away.

# Voices of Ohana

Citizenship Day is Sept. 17.

“What does being a U.S. citizen mean to you?”

Photos by 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs, 25th Infantry Division



“To be a member of a winning team.”

**Sgt. 1st Class Bradley Burns**  
Signal support systems specialist, HHC, 2nd SBCT, 25th ID



“Being free.”

**Staff Sgt. Alan Ecle**  
Infantryman, HHC, 2nd SBCT, 25th ID



“Coming from South America, it is a good feeling, a melting pot; you don’t see that a lot.”

**Master Sgt. Alex Garcia**  
Senior armor adviser, HHC, 2nd SBCT, 25th ID



“Being able to have the freedom to do whatever you want to do.”

**Capt. Gerado Garcia**  
Information management officer, HHC, 2nd SBCT, 25th ID



“Being able to honor and represent my country.”

**Sgt. Louie Yabut**  
Supply specialist, HHC, 2nd SBCT, 25th ID



# 307th ESB redeploys from Afghan mission

Story and photo by  
**1ST LT. JOHN MAHAM**  
516th Signal Brigade  
311th Signal Command (Theater)

HELEMANO MILITARY RESERVATION — The main body of 42 Soldiers of Company A, 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 516th Signal Brigade, returned home, Sept. 5, and the last five Soldiers redeployed to Hawaii, today (Friday.)

The redeployment ceremony was the culmination of a steadily rising current of cheerfulness among 307th Soldiers and family members, ignited after the first group arrived Aug. 6.

Co. A supported multiple regional commands in Afghanistan while under the command of the 101st ESB out of Yonkers, N.Y., during its nine-month deployment. (Interestingly, 307th ESB supported the same Operation Enduring Freedom mission, occupying the same building, 2010-11.)



Sgt. Jacob Wheeler, Co. A, 307th ESB, embraces wife Cindy during a redeployment ceremony at the battalion dining facility following a nine-month Afghanistan mission.

Capt. Robert Bergdorf, commander, Co. A, was a first lieutenant during his first deployment with the 307th, serving then as a network operations officer.

“It was an honor and a privilege to fall back into the mission and provide support,” Bergdorf said. “I was proud that my Soldiers continued the mission this time.”

307th ESB provided substantial variations in mission support throughout its deployment. A few Soldiers assisted in running help desks and hub nodes at the regional commands. Many directly supported the warfighter at the infantry brigade level, while others supported security force assistance teams.

Soldiers assigned to security force assistance

teams provided various types of training for Afghan National Army soldiers, watching and guiding them with the intent of maturing them as a unit for their eventual service.

Prior to deployment, Co. A participated in hands-on, sling-load training with the assistance of Hawaii Army National Guard’s CH-47 Chinooks at Wheeler Army Airfield. This training was to prepare it for potential, real-world mission requirements. Not long after arriving in Afghanistan, Co. A. executed 24 sling-load missions, using the valuable knowledge acquired in Hawaii to move equipment to 21 points of presence outside of Bagram Airfield.

A few of the Soldiers were assigned to forward operating bases occupied by foreign militaries. Spc. Jocelyn McLean, satellite communication operator, was assigned to a FOB in the Bamian province controlled by New Zealand and Malaysian forces.

“The New Zealand soldiers, or “Kiwis,” were a fun group of people that made my time at the FOB unforgettable and enjoyable,” McLean recounted. “They had culture nights and did the Maori haka dance for all of us. The Malaysians were equally memorable with their Muay Thai dancing.

“I’m much more accepting of different cultures now, and seeing so many new things was eye-opening,” McLean added.

Satellite communication operators Spc. Stephen French and Spc. Kyle Sharp were assigned to a remote Polish FOB, more than 9,000 feet above sea level atop a mountain. During their three-and-a-half month stay, the Americans and their Polish counterparts shared many aspects of their respective cultures.

“We exchanged a lot of music, learned about weapons systems and even fired the weapons with them,” said Sharp. “There were a lot of Polish Soldiers that spoke English really well, and we had fun playing soccer and video games with them.”

“It was a lot easier to work with other nations’ militaries and get along with them during the process than I would have imagined,” added French.

Also, during their nine months downrange, 28 Co A. Soldiers re-enlisted, 26 completed Signal University courses and received many certifications, and one was named 160th Bde. noncommissioned officer of the quarter.

Soldiers also volunteered hundreds of hours at the Combat Stress Clinic, Operation Care, Navy Mental Health Team and the Bagram USO.

The Dark Knights used their time in Afghanistan wisely to provide support to customers. Many left with more than tougher dispositions and broadened skill sets.

“Deployment had its ups and downs, but altogether was a really good experience,” said McLean. “We all came home, and that’s the biggest thing.”

## VIP VISIT



WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD — Bob Eastwood (left), director, Directorate of Public Works, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii, and Keith Yamanaka (second from right), energy manager, DPW, USAG-HI, answer questions about renewable energy initiatives from the Honorable Katherine Hammack (in red blazer), assistant secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and the Environment, at the Micro Grid, located behind garrison headquarters, here, Monday.

Other guests included Amanda Simpson (center), Energy Initiatives Task Force; Lt. Col. Jason Taliaferro (second from left), military aide, ASA(IE&E); Debra Zedalis, director, Installation Management Command-Pacific Region; Col. Tim Faulkner, deputy director, IMCOM-Pacific; Col. Daniel Whitney, commander, USAG-HI; and Command Sgt. Maj. Philip Brunwald, senior enlisted leader, USAG-HI.

During the ground portion of the tour, Hammack, who was in Hawaii for the Asia-Pacific Clean Energy Summit, Sept. 7-13, also visited the Schofield Barracks Battle Area Complex, Kalakaua Community Center and Relocatable Barracks to gain greater insight into the progressive measures USAG-HI is taking toward using clean energy. (Photo by Sarah Pacheco, USAG-HI staff writer/photographer)

# Native Hawaiian Liaison contract to end this month

**U.S. ARMY GARRISON-HAWAII**  
Public Affairs Office

Due to sequestration and budget reductions for the upcoming fiscal year, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii is unable to continue its Native Hawaiian Liaison contract.

Honua Consulting, which has provided Soldiers and their families with Native Hawaiian events such as hula and craft classes at the Schofield and Fort Shafter libraries and Island Palm Communities’ centers, off-post workshops and tours, a monthly electronic newsletter and a Native Hawaiian Liaison.com blog site, will discontinue these activities when the contract ends, Sept. 23.

The garrison remains committed to supporting the objectives of the Native Hawaiian Covenant signed in 2010 between the Army and members of the Native Hawaiian community. The covenant’s goal is to forge “a stronger relationship of cooperation, appreciation and understanding of Hawaii’s native culture and re-

sources, as well as the Army’s role in Hawaii and the inclusiveness of its Soldiers in the local communities.”

The garrison is exploring alternatives to offer Soldiers and their family members with opportunities to learn about the Native Hawaiian culture directly from local cultural practitioners.

Island Palm Communities has recently made arrangements to continue classes in lei making, coconut weaving, nose flutes and possibly Native Hawaiian tattoos.

Garrison leadership will continue meetings of its Native Hawaiian Advisory Council, comprised of leading civic, education, religious and community leaders, in an effort to help the Army better understand issues important to Native Hawaiians.

The garrison has recently engaged the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to facilitate both Native Hawaiian concerns and interaction on the military’s ability to accomplish its missions, goals and objectives.



# Warfighting refined at UFG 2013

**25TH INFANTRY DIVISION**  
Public Affairs Office

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — The culmination of months of planning and training finally paid off with the completion of Ulchi Freedom Guardian 2013, Aug. 29.

UFG is an annual large-scale, computer-simulation, command post exercise involving U.S. military units and personnel from the across the Pacific region.

Its purpose is to perfect mission readiness and combat effectiveness by facilitating real-world situations in real time.

“For the first time in an exercise of this type, we were able to include all echelons of the division with battalions and brigade combat teams involved,” said Maj. Gen. Kurt Fuller, commander, 25th Infantry Division.

This year’s exercise also served as the 25th ID’s warfighter exercise, as well, Fuller said. A warfighter exercise is computer-simulated training designed to sharpen battlefield management skills and tasks.

The UFG exercise allowed 25th ID to work and train with units at the operational and strategic level within the Pacific region.

“We were fortunate to have a superb group of observers and trainers from the Mission Command Training Center out of Fort Leavenworth who helped us hone our skills in planning, synchronization, and command and control of the complex, joint-combined arms operation,” Fuller said.

Ulchi Freedom Guardian, previously named Ulchi Focus Lens, is named after the Korean military leader, Eulji Mundeok, who repelled an invasion by China’s Sui Dynasty in the 7th century. Eulji is considered one of Korea’s greatest heroes.

“We refined our skills in every warfighting function and demonstrated that the entire division is well prepared to conduct contingency operations in support of the Pacific Command commander, in concert with our joint teammates and coalition partners of the Pacific,” said Fuller.

## ULCHI FREEDOM GUARDIAN 2013



DAEGU, Republic of Korea — Soldiers with the 8th Special Troops Battalion, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, set up tents and equipment at Camp Walker in preparation for the 37th annual Ulchi Freedom Guardian, an exercise designed to maintain peaceful relations and strengthen the readiness of both the Republic of Korea and U.S. forces.

# ATN videos help Army trainer skills

**MIKE CASEY**  
Army News Service

FORT LEAVENWORTH, Kan. — The Army’s primary website for training resources recently added eight short videos to improve unit training management throughout the force.

Brig. Gen. Mike Lundy, deputy commanding general, Combined Arms Center-Training (CAC-T), instructed the Army Training Network (ATN) to develop the videos following post visits by Unit Training Management Mobile Training Teams.

At several posts, the teams found that many Army trainers lacked important skills that the videos address.

“For more than a decade, our Army has largely relied on top-down training management to prepare us for deployments to Iraq or Afghanistan,” said Lundy. “With (Operation Enduring Freedom) coming to closure, unit commanders will once again have the primary responsibility for fully developing their own training to develop agile and adaptive leaders and versatile units. More than ever, it’s essential for leaders to reinvigorate their home station training management skills in order to prepare the Army for decisive action in any operational environment.”



The ATN, at <https://atn.army.mil/>, is the one-stop shop for training products and resources. The site is maintained by the Training Management Directorate, a subordinate organization

of CAC-T.

“The videos provide a quick one-over the world guide to training management,” said Jimmy Davis, ATN team lead. “They’ll help anyone involved in training, from squads to corps.”

*(Editor’s note: Casey is with CAC-T, Fort Leavenworth.)*



## ARRIVAL OF THE CAVALRY



SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Troop C, 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, air assaults out of a CH-47 Chinook helicopter on the notional Island of Katana during an Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise. The exercise, Sept. 4-6, required Troop C to be prepared to deploy within 18 hours of notification of the mission. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Sean Everette, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs, 25th Infantry Division)



HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE — Troop C is seated in a C-17 bound for the notional Island of Katana. The scenario required the troopers to be wheels-up 18 hours after notification of the exercise. (Photo by Maj. Kari McEwen, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs, 25th Infantry Division)

# USARPAC, Nepalese army hold disaster exercise

Story and photo by  
**SGT. 1ST CLASS MARY FERGUSON**  
8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs

KATHMANDU, Nepal — The Nepalese army and U.S. Army-Pacific officially opened the Nepal Pacific Resilience Disaster Response Exercise and Exchange (DREE), Monday.

Situated in a region historically active with natural disasters, Kathmandu’s 2 million residents face a very real risk. In the event of an earthquake, more than 100,000 people could be killed, with many more injured, and more than 50 percent of the city’s infrastructure destroyed.

Recognizing the potential for this complex devastation, the four-day DREE is the first in Nepal to include a field training exercise designed to practically apply civil-military disaster preparedness and response initiatives when faced with a massive earthquake scenario.

It is the second humanitarian assistance/disaster relief engagement between USARPAC and the Nepalese Army and will serve as a unified operational follow-up to the tabletop exercise co-hosted by the Nepalese Army and the III Marine Expeditionary Force in February.

“This event represents a key component to the U.S.-Nepalese relations,” said Maj. Gen. William Beard, deputy commander,



Members of the Nepalese army and U.S. Army-Pacific officially open the Nepal Pacific Resilience Disaster Response Exercise & Exchange (DREE).

U.S. Army Reserve. “The United States remains steadfast and committed in partnering with the Nepalese army on disaster preparedness, response and recovery. By training together, we improve the capabilities of our countries while strengthening the partnership between our nations. These efforts will have lasting and

scaling impacts.”

The event featured more than 190 participants from the Nepalese army, USARPAC, III MEF, Nepal’s Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Health and Population, Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal, U.S. Army Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, U.S. State Department, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, World Health Organization, World Food Programme, and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Following a day of subject matter expert talks, a two-day phased exercise emphasized command and control, urban search and rescue techniques and practices, engineering response and medical triage at multiple locations throughout the Kathmandu area.

“This is a big step forward,” Beard said, adding that the agenda is aggressive, but it is relevant and important, especially the exercise as it will out flesh on the skeleton of the plan, enabling all participants to see strengths and weaknesses.

The Nepalese army’s director general of military operations, Maj. Gen. Padam Bilash Karki, said that it is imperative for the international community to render all support and assistance, and this exercise is an opportunity for all stakeholders to enhance bilateral and multilateral natural disaster preparedness and response efforts.

“It is a unity of effort,” Karki said.

The DREE concluded Thursday.



RE-ENLISTMENT UNDER THE GUNS



PEARL HARBOR — Maj. Gen. Anthony Crutchfield, chief of staff, U.S. Pacific Command, officiates as a group of about 50 service members of the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines renew their enlistment contracts during a joint re-enlistment ceremony aboard the battleship USS Missouri, Wednesday. See the full story at [www.hawaiiarmyweekly.com](http://www.hawaiiarmyweekly.com). (Photo by Liana Kim, 311th Signal Command (Theater) Public Affairs)

# For SHARP, Army needs character and competence

C. TODD LOPEZ  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — To eliminate sexual assault in the Army, all Soldiers are going to need more than just the know-how to do their jobs.

They’re also going to need character to ensure they uphold Army values.

During a television interview Sept. 9, at the Pentagon, Dr. Christine Altendorf, the new director of the Army Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention program office, or SHARP, said job know-how is not enough.

“We need to really push forward that competence over character is not okay,” Altendorf said. “You have to actually have the character. We have the Army values that are in place. We have to have our Soldiers abide by those values. And we have to have the utmost respect for our fellow Soldiers.”

Right now, she said, most Soldiers in the Army already have that respect for their fellow Soldiers.

“The bulk of our Soldiers, and our service members, absolutely are at the utmost respectful end,” she said, “but we do get the bad apples that kind of taint our record when it comes to sexual assault and harassment.”

Maintaining that “record” is important, Altendorf said.

Some of the biggest influencers for getting young Americans into the Army are parents. And if parents don’t trust the Army, she said, the ser-



Dr. Christine T. Altendorf, new director of the Army SHARP program, during a television interview at the Pentagon, Sept. 9, about efforts to curb sexual assault in the Army. (Photo Courtesy of ARNEWS)

vice may have a hard time convincing potential Soldiers to enlist. But right now, she said, she thinks the Army still has the trust of most Americans.

“Can American citizens trust the Army as their sons and daughters are sent to us? I’m going to say, absolutely they can,” she said. “They just have to understand the things we’re doing, all of the initiatives that are in place, and how we are going to respond — and also take care of

victims.”

Altendorf said both commanders and their Soldiers have a role in changing Army culture in a way that can reduce the number of sexual assaults in the ranks. Senior Army leadership, she said, has already embraced the importance of the Army’s SHARP program, and what it is meant to accomplish. Leadership down the line must also embrace it in order for it to be successful, she said.

“I think we have to make sure that the company commander and levels below have bought into this — that it is not another checkmark that they have to deal with (among the) multitude of other initiatives they are trying to deal with,” Altendorf said. “We have to really focus this as a culture change. It isn’t something we do for a couple of months and then it kind of goes away and then everybody has to focus on something different. This has to be a culture focus, and an initiative that really is bought into.”

Soldiers, too, are part of that culture change, she said, especially in the lowest ranks — among E-1 through E-4 — where most sexual assaults occur.

“A huge impact is peer pressure,” she said. “It’s peer pressure in the positive or in the negative, and this goes back to the whole culture change. ... I think, for the most part, people do know when something is OK or not OK — when they see that, they need to say this isn’t the right thing, it isn’t cool, and put that peer pressure on

their buddies to do the right thing.”

Numbers for sexual assaults in the Army went up for the third quarter of 2013 as compared to last year. Altendorf said it will take some analysis of that data to determine why that is, but said she hopes it’s due to improvements in command climate — the kind of improvements that make a Soldier who has been sexually assaulted feel more comfortable actually reporting the crime.

“I like to think it’s an increase because we are presenting a trusting environment that people are willing to report,” she said.

The Army has at least two sets of numbers regarding sexual assault, Altendorf said. One is reporting data. That’s when a Soldier who has been sexually assaulted actually reports that crime. The second set of numbers comes from survey data — anonymous surveys that query Soldiers about both sexual assault and sexual harassment.

“Reporting is under-reported,” she said. “Based on survey data, a lot more folks have indicated they have been sexually harassed or assaulted compared to the number of reports.”

Altendorf said survey data — believed to be a more accurate reflection of sexual assault numbers in the Army — are called “prevalence of sexual assault.”

“Your goal is to get those two to come together — have your reporting increase, while your prevalence goes down, and then, ultimately, have both of them go down together.”



# Pacific Army Reserve leaders converge on Oahu

Leaders of 9th MSC build camaraderie as they learn best practices at academy

**CAPT. LIANA KIM**  
9th Mission Support Command Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER — Leadership teams of about 50 Army Reserve units from across the Pacific converged at 9th Mission Support Command headquarters, here, to learn and to build camaraderie, Sept. 4-6.

Soldiers attended briefings and classes, and participated in workshops and team building exercises, on the 9th MSC campus and at Schofield Barracks, during the Commanders Training and Readiness Academy.

The academy is designed to provide command teams with pertinent information and awareness of processes to intensify focus on operational priorities, including personnel and unit readiness and leader development.

“We have a great reputation throughout the Pacific,” said Brig. Gen. John Cardwell, commander, 9th MSC. “We need to work to maintain that reputation, and the way is simple — get back to the basics.”

Cardwell identified four basic priorities for command teams’ focus:

- The health of the force,
- Manning the force,
- Training the force, and
- The Army’s Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) program.

“On manning the force, keep a balanced focus on retention, readiness and growing your formations,” Cardwell said.

Cardwell encouraged leaders to embrace the



Commanders and command sergeants major of Army Reserve units in Alaska, Guam, Saipan, Korea, American Samoa and Hawaii compete in team-building exercises to improve communication skills, unit cohesion and camaraderie during the 9th MSC’s Commanders Training and Readiness Academy. (Photo courtesy of 9th Mission Support Command Public Affairs)

mindset of training their formations from within, instead of relying solely on outside training.

“Company commanders, I am asking for your help on SHARP issues. Do the right thing,” said Cardwell. “Allowing minor infractions only leads to major issues. If you notice something wrong, have the courage to say something.”

Commanders and command sergeants major participated in team-building exercises to foster professional relationships among the com-

mand teams from Alaska, Guam, Saipan, Korea, American Samoa and Hawaii.

Part of the training event was conducted at the Mission Training Complex at Schofield Barracks, where the leaders engaged in the art and science of the Mission Command Warfighting Function by accurately replicating the complexities of the operational environment.

Soldiers of the 9th MSC primary and special staff sections facilitated readiness stations in their



Brig. Gen Cardwell, commander, 9th MSC, addresses his unit command teams at the conclusion of the academy. (Photo courtesy of 9th Mission Support Command Public Affairs)

respective areas, where they shared helpful information with the leadership teams on training and readiness focus areas. Best practices and techniques critical to increasing overall unit readiness were also shared.

“More than 95 percent of all the great things that are accomplished in this command are done by you,” Cardwell said. “On the flip side of that, most of our issues are there also, which is why I look forward to command-wide events like this. If we can arm you with the tools and information, we can help you work through challenges and solve problems, so I need your feedback after these sessions.”

## STB: Resiliency provides coping tools

CONTINUED FROM A-1

key skills, said Master Sgt. Isaac Day, level two resiliency trainer and noncommissioned officer in charge of the Surgeon Cell section for the 8th TSC.

“The concept behind the program is simple: Being Army Strong is much more than being physically fit. It is about mental and emotional strength, as well,” said Day.

Soldiers can use the skills taught with their coworkers, their family members and others to create more positive constructive relationships,

Day continued. It allows them to approach situations with a different mindset.

“I had a Soldier come up to me, after I taught a class, and tell me that he was currently going through a tough time in his career, and that the skills he learned (in class) would allow individuals like himself to learn how to control their thoughts and emotions, which in turn will help them better manage their personal and professional relationships,” said Day. “I feel that, once our warriors have the skills and tools to cope with the mental and emotional stressors that they face daily, they will eventually have better



Staff Sgt. Kristen Moreno (right), master resiliency trainer , 8th TSC, leads the 8th Special Troop Battalion’s monthly resiliency training.

balance in their lives.”

The Soldiers will continue to be taught MRT, switching out classes each quarter, to better

understand the total Soldier concept and the Army’s strides to making them more resilient.





The traffic report notes closed roads, limited routes and construction detours from Army and state advisories received by press time.

For the complete list of traffic advisories, visit [www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil/info/trafficalendar.htm](http://www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil/info/trafficalendar.htm).

Unless otherwise noted, all phone numbers are 808 area code.

### Today

**Aliamanu Military Reservation Closure** — Lane closures that began Monday are implemented weekdays on Aliamanu Drive between Kukui Drive and Hibiscus Street, and on Kukui Drive near Halawa View Loop, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. The closures are expected until Oct. 18.

Through traffic will be maintained with flagmen controlling traffic for alternating flow. The lane closures are necessary for the contractor on the Hibiscus neighborhood housing project to perform required communications line installation work. Call 655-7393

**Shafter** — There will be a 24-hour road closure starting from the northeast end of Rice Drive onto Rice Loop, until Sept. 20. Call 351-1168.

### 16 / Monday

**Phase I Construction** — There will be a 24-hour road closure, starting from Shafter’s northeast end of Rice Drive onto Rice Loop, during the first phase of underground utility installation. Work will be performed until Oct. 4. Other phases of the project will be posted in the coming months. Call 351-1168.

**Tripler Construction Project** — From today until Nov. 8, there may be a partial road closure, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., at Tripler’s Krukowski Road near buildings 102 and 104. One lane will be open for two-way traffic. Motorists are advised to be patient and expect delays. Call 433-7091.

### 20 / Friday

**Wheeler** — There will be a 24-hour lane closure on Santos Dumont Avenue between Whiteman Road and Warhawk Street.

### 22 / Sunday

**Major H1 Rehabilitation** — The state Department of Transportation would like the public to be aware, plan and prepare for a one-year rehabilitation project of the H-1 Freeway from Middle Street to the vicinity of Ward Avenue.

The first two nights of the project, Sunday, Sept. 22, and Monday, September 23, will involve a full freeway closure from Likelike Highway to Ward Avenue in the eastbound direction, beginning at 8 p.m. Motorists are advised to avoid the area, if possible. The freeway will reopen at 4 a.m. each morning.



During nighttime construction, motorists are advised to avoid the H-1 Freeway and use alternate routes. Sections of the project area, noted above in red, will see multiple lane closures and full closures.

Eastbound drivers on the H-201 Moanalua Freeway will be advised to exit using the airport/Tripler hospital off-ramp (Exit 3) and to use Puuloa Road to Nimitz Highway as an alternate route.

From the H-1 freeway airport viaduct, drivers will be directed to exit using the Waikiki/Nimitz Highway off-ramp (Exit 18A) or the Middle Street/Dillingham Boulevard off-ramp (Exit 18B) as alternate routes.

Tuesday night, Sept. 24, through Friday morning, Sept. 27, the freeway will remain open, but will have a one-lane closure in the eastbound direction beginning at 9 p.m., with an additional lane closure at 11 p.m. Lane closures will be nightly, Sunday nights through Friday

mornings. Lane closures will begin at 9 p.m. Full freeway closures will start at 8 p.m. Lanes will reopen each morning at 4 a.m.

Additional full freeway closures are scheduled during approximately three months in 2014. More details about the dates of those closures will be announced next year.

The \$42 million federal-aid project will address deteriorated sections of the freeway by rehabilitating sections up to 12-inches deep. Other improvements include upgraded highway lighting, glare screens along the median, drainage, the widening of Nuuanu Stream Bridge, and re-striping of the corridor to add a fourth lane.

Lane closure and project information is available at [H1Rehab.com](http://H1Rehab.com) and on the project information line at 735-7465.

### 23 / Monday

**Shafter’s Palm Circle** — One lane of traffic in front of Building T-112 will be closed, making that roadway a single lane of traffic in the southwest-bound direction. The sidewalk will also be closed.

**Shafter’s Rice Street** — There will be a full road closure, 7 a.m.-5 p.m., along Rice Street between Herian Place and the Rice Street Bridge.

**Phase 5** — During the night hours, the final phase of the work on Schofield’s East Range Higgins Road will take place for two nights, 6 p.m.-4:30 a.m. Call 656-2532.



Send announcements for Soldiers and civilian employees to [news@hawaiiarmyweekly.com](mailto:news@hawaiiarmyweekly.com).

### Today

**G1s and S1s** — Last day to reserve your seat for the annual Military Personnel Division (MPD) G1/S1 Conference, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Sept. 18, at the Nehelani. Call 655-1653.

**War Memorial** — The state seeks input on the design and location of a newly planned memorial in recognition of the contributions of Hawaii veteran who served in the Persian Gulf War, operations Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, New Dawn, Noble Eagle, Global War on Terrorism, and Homeland Defense.

An online survey is posted at [www.SurveyMonkey.com/s/HawaiiMemorial](http://www.SurveyMonkey.com/s/HawaiiMemorial).

Visit <http://dod.hawaii.gov/ovs/advisory-board/task-forces/memorial-task-force/> or call 433-0423.

### 17 / Tuesday

**MEDCOM COR** — 18th Medical Command (Deployment Support) will hold a change of responsibility ceremony at 10 a.m., on Palm Circle, Fort Shafter. Command Sgt. Maj. Garfield Skyers will relinquish responsibility to Command Sgt. Maj. Alexis King. Call 438-5938.

### 20 / Friday

**Signal Ball** — The Signal Regimental Ball takes place at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, 5 p.m. Call 656-1723 or visit

<https://einvitations.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=162557&k=0367400C7E50>.

### 27 / Friday

**Job Fair** — Come to the job fair, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Soldier Support Center Lanai (Building 750). Visit [www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil/acap/default.htm](http://www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil/acap/default.htm).

## October

### 5 / Saturday

**WAAF Power Outages** — Testing of the micro grid on Wheeler Army Airfield will result in intermittent electrical power outages for Buildings 104, 105, 106 and 112, Oct. 5-6, 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Call 656-3294.

## Ongoing

**Suicide Prevention** — The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is a free, 24-hour crisis intervention hotline and online service available to anyone in suicidal crisis or emotional distress, to include all military members and their families.

Call 800-273-TALK (8255) or visit [www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org).

**Survey** — Take the U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii customer survey to help improve services. Call 656-0880/0881, visit [www.surveymonkey.com/s/2013\\_Community\\_Survey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2013_Community_Survey) or scan the QR code below:



**Formal Forms** — Army computer users requiring military forms must use the official Army form repository website at [www.apd.army.mil/ProductMap.asp](http://www.apd.army.mil/ProductMap.asp).





Club Lightning STRIKE team captain 1st Lt. Christopher Foster of the 45th Sust. Bde., 8th TSC, speeds ahead of the competition during the Olympic-distance Honolulu Triathlon, May 18. (Photo has been altered from its original form; background elements have been adjusted.)

# GOING THE DISTANCE



## Club Lightning STRIKE pushes Soldiers' levels of fitness

Story and photos by  
**SPC. ERIN SHERWOOD**  
45th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs  
8th Theater Sust. Command

**S**CHOFIELD BARRACKS — The Army physical fitness program's main goal is to provide Soldiers with a balanced training program that prepares them for the rigors of combat and training.

For most, daily PT is all that is needed to keep fit and combat ready, but some Soldiers look for a more challenging daily workout.

Now, they may be in luck. Introducing Club Lightning STRIKE (Support Triathlon Kinetic Elite), an endurance club open to those who think they have what it takes to go the extra mile ... or eight! “The club meets several intents,”

said 1st Lt. Christopher Foster, Club Lightning STRIKE team captain, “but, mainly, it offers a community for Soldiers above the Army standards of fitness.”

Foster, who got into triathlons after going through his first deployment with some unhealthy habits, like smoking and too much caffeine, was inspired to get healthy and start training after reading about a few 100-miler runners.

“When you look at what people are capable of, it's pretty amazing,” he said. “Most people don't know how far they can actually go.”

Members of the team quickly find their limits, as a typical workout includes two hours of cardio a day.

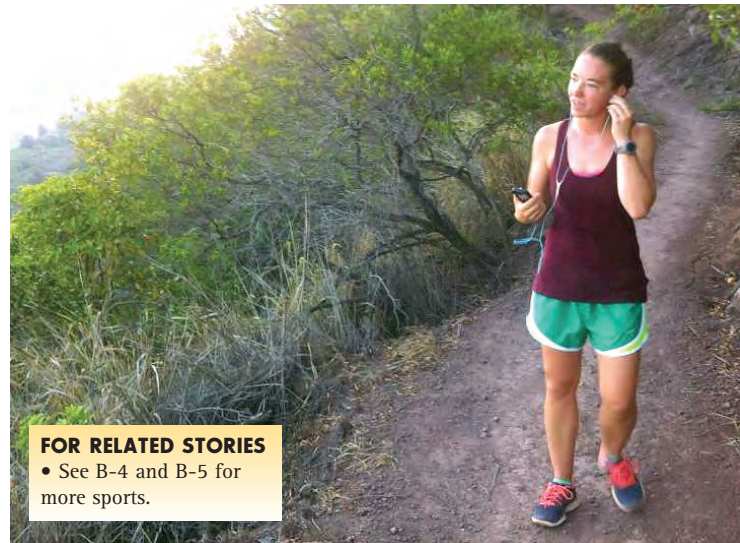
“The majority of workouts center around running,” Foster said. “If you're good at running, you will get better at everything else.”

Most runs average around 8-12 miles, but because the club is triathlon-based, members may do a 30-minute run, a 30-minute swim, followed by another hour of running.

Fridays are intermediate triathlon days, which means swimming 0.9 miles, cycling 25 miles, then running 6.2 miles.

“Most of us were already getting up around 4 a.m. to run 8-10 miles before regular PT,” Foster said. “With the team, we can use our time more efficiently.”

Members also enjoy the variety of training locations along the North



**FOR RELATED STORIES**  
• See B-4 and B-5 for more sports.

Capt. Sarah Hundley, 45th Sust. Bde., 8th TSC, pauses to enjoy the scenery after reaching the top of Kealia Trail during an endurance run, Aug. 26.

Shore.

“With typical PT, you are often running along the same street, same hill, same road and aren't getting challenged like you would with a new location,” Foster said.

If you are a long-distance cyclist, runner or swimmer, the team may be a great alternative for you.

However, Foster gives a word of caution to those interested.

“The team is built around people who are already at the triathlete fitness level. If you are looking for weight loss, a good body or attempting to get out of regular PT, the team

is not for you,” he advised.

“We have an exploratory perspective,” Foster continued. “The point of a team like this is to push each other and see what we can really do!”

### Contact Info

To learn more about Club Lightning STRIKE (Support Triathlon Kinetic Elite), contact 1st Lt. Christopher Foster at (808) 655-0523 or visit [www.facebook.com/groups/414377521994602/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/414377521994602/).



Club Lightning STRIKE teammates 1st Lt. William Smith and Capt. Sarah Hundley, both of the 45th Sust. Bde., 8th TSC, complete a transition hand-off during a triathlon sprint relay in Honolulu, May 18.

## Hawaii is an endurance athlete's own picture of paradise

**SARAH PACHECO**  
Staff Writer

**HONOLULU** — With year-round sunshine, miles of scenic coastline and temperatures that average in the mid-70s, even during the “winter” months, Hawaii is an idyllic setting for endurance sports.

Heck, the Ironman World Championship was born on the shores of Waikiki and continues to be the pinnacle event of triathletes the world over, who each year vie for a chance to race the course along the Big Island's Kona Coast.

This year's 35th annual Ironman World Championship is scheduled for Oct. 12, when nearly 1,800 athletes will embark on a trying 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike ride and 26.2-mile run.

If you can't make it to the Big Island to watch this display of pure athleticism, there are other local events taking place, here, through the end of the year.

### Upcoming Events

• **Sept. 29, 2013 Honolulu Century Ride** — Hawaii's oldest and largest cycling event, begins at Kapi-

olani Park in Waikiki and rides past Diamond Head, Sandy Beach and Kailua before returning to Kapiolani Park.

Registration closes Sept. 27; visit [www.hbl.org](http://www.hbl.org).

• **Oct. 12, Honolulu Run, Rock & Wine Half Marathon** — The inaugural Honolulu Run, Rock & Wine Half Marathon begins and ends at Kapiolani Park, with a post-run celebration that includes live music and wine/beer tasting.

Registration closes Oct. 9; visit [www.victoryruns.com](http://www.victoryruns.com).

• **Oct. 13, Tantalus 10-miler** — This grueling course travels five miles up Makiki Heights Road before turning back downhill to the finish line.

Registration closes Oct. 11; visit [www.MPRRC.com](http://www.MPRRC.com).

• **Oct. 15, Xterra Gunstock Trails Half Marathon and 5K** — Enjoy beautiful ocean views while running through the rolling hills and forest trails of a real working ranch on Oahu's North Shore.



**HALEIWA** — Capt. Ami Patel (from left), 1st Lt. Christopher Foster, 2nd Lt. Karl Hausfeld and Capt. Christel Thompson, all of the 45th Sustainment Brigade, 8th Theater Sust. Command, pose for a photo shortly after completing the North Shore marathon together, here, April 14. Next year's race is April 6, 2014. (Photo by Spc. Erin Sherwood, 45th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs, 8th Theater Sust. Command)

Registration closes Oct. 14; visit [www.gunstockhalfmarathon.blogspot.com](http://www.gunstockhalfmarathon.blogspot.com).

• **Oct. 20, MCBH Splash and Dash Biathlon** — Start your morning with a brisk 500-meter swim in beautiful Kaneohe Bay, finishing with a scenic 5K (3.1-mile) run along the taxiway of Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

Participants may register as an individual or two-person team. Regis-

tration closes Oct. 15; visit [www.mccshawaii.com/races](http://www.mccshawaii.com/races).

• **Nov. 9, Runner's HI Pearl Harbor Heihei Kukini Honoring Veterans** — Honor those who have served our country with a 10K, half marathon or 20-mile race around Pearl Harbor using the Pearl Harbor Bike Path and Pearl Harbor Historic Trail.

Registration closes Nov. 7; visit <http://RunPearlHarbor.com>.

• **Nov. 28, The Honolulu Marathon Clinic Turkey Trot** — This popular Thanksgiving Day tradition serves as a pacing run for the Honolulu Marathon, because “the mistakes made in the first 10 miles will haunt a runner in the last 6.”

Registration available online or on race day only at the Kapiolani Park bandstand; no watches, headphones or pacing devices allowed. Visit <http://honolulumarathonclinic.org/turkey-trot/>.

• **Dec. 8, 2013 Honolulu Marathon** — One of the world's largest and most popular marathons, the 26.2-mile course starts near Ala Moana Beach Park and heads along downtown Honolulu, loops back through Waikiki, around Diamond Head and out toward Hawaii Kai before doubling back to the finish at Kapiolani Park.

With plenty of spectator support, costumed runners and holiday cheer, this race has become a true island tradition.

Registration closes Nov. 25; late entry available at the expo, Dec. 4-7. Visit [www.honolulumarathon.org](http://www.honolulumarathon.org).





## Briefs

**Today**  
**MWR Operation Rising Star** — Registration is underway now until Oct. 4, at the Nehelani or online at [www.himwr.com](http://www.himwr.com), for the individual singing competition to be held at the SB Nehelani, in October as follows:

- Round 1, Oct. 10, elimination round; sung a-cappella.
- Round 2, Oct. 17, semifinals.
- Round 3, Oct. 24, finals.

Similar to “American Idol” and other televised competitions, participants will be judged by a panel of judges and an audience of peers; they compete each week for the chance to win the local \$500 first prize.

The local winner advances to the Armywide competition for the chance to win the “Ultimate Recording Music Experience,” i.e., to record a demo with studio professionals.

Competition is open to active duty, Reserve, National Guard or military family members, 18 years of age and older with a valid DOD ID card. Call 655-4466

**15 / Sunday**  
**NFL Sundays** — Tropics Warrior Zone offers all the NFL games. Facility opens half hour before the first game starts. Breakfast tailgate buffet is \$5 until noon. Pupu and crowd pleasers begin at 11 a.m. Games and prizes offered throughout the morning.

Tropics will also feature Monday night and Thursday night NFL games. Patrons 18 and older welcome; call 655-5698.

**Sunday Brunch** — Enjoy Sunday brunch, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., at FS Mulligan’s Bar & Grill. Call 438-1974.

**16 / Monday**  
**Monday SB Bowling Special** — Monday Dollar Days, 9 a.m.-10 p.m., begins Sept. 9 at Schofield Bowl. One game of bowling, shoes, nachos and hot dogs will be \$1. Special runs through Dec. 30. Call 655-0573 or see SB Bowl front desk.

**17 / Tuesday**  
**FS Preschool Story Time** — Take your toddlers to the library; different theme and story each week at 10 a.m., every Tuesday.

**Taco Tuesday Night** — SB Kolekole Bar & Grill offers three tacos, rice and beans specials for \$4.99. Call 655-4466.

**8-Ball Pool Tournament** — Join this popular weekly competition, starting at 6 p.m., Tuesdays, at Tropics Warrior Zone, SB. Best two out of



HONOLULU — Senior leadership from the Army and Navy gather with Gold Star mothers and family members at the base of the Lady Columbia memorial during a Gold Star Mother’s Day remembrance ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Sept. 30, 2012. (File photo)

# Gold Star moms to be honored

**U.S. ARMY GARRISON-HAWAII PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Army officials invite the community to take part in honoring the mothers of fallen service members at a ceremony in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl), Sept. 29, at 11:30 a.m.

During the Gold Star Mother’s Day ceremony, mothers of fallen service members, or “Gold Star mothers,” will place a lei of honor and remembrance, as well as gold origami cranes at the foot of the Lady Columbia statue.

Lady Columbia stands tall at the cemetery, representing all grieving mothers of the armed forces, as she vigilantly watches over the fallen.

“We owe our deepest gratitude and respect to these mothers who have survived such heartbreaking losses,” said Col. Daniel Whitney, commander, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii, and ceremony host. “Their strength and resilience is both humbling and inspiring.”

Gold Star ohana (family members) and friends are invited to participate in the ceremony.

Survivor Outreach Services, part of Army Community Service, Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, USAG-HI, is the host of the annual event.

The U.S. began observing Gold Star Mother’s Day in 1936 to honor the sacrifice and strength of its Gold Star

mothers. The day is nationally recognized every year by a presidential proclamation.

Mothers of fallen service members began calling themselves Gold Star mothers during World War I. The name was derived from the custom of military families putting a small flag in their home’s front window.

The flag featured a star for each family member serving in the armed forces — living members denoted by a blue star and a gold star honoring family members killed in the line of duty.

**September Events**

Survivor Outreach Services holds the following events in September for Gold Star mothers.

- Sept. 20, 9 a.m., SOS will honor Gold Star mothers and families with a morning tea and light, home-baked delicacies.
- Sept. 20, 11 a.m., Gold Star families will dedicate a quilted American “Flag of Remembrance” and “Boots of the Fallen” at Hale Koa Hotel. The display will showcase through Sept. 30.
- Sept. 26, 5 p.m., Gold Star families will participate in the Hale Koa evening luau.
- Sept. 29, 11:30 a.m., the military will honor Gold Star families at the feet of Lady Columbia, National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.

three plays for the champion title on the last Tuesday of the month. Free to play. Call 655-5698.

**18 / Wednesday**  
**Sgt. Yano Library** — Catch Preschool Story Time at the SB library, 10 a.m., each Wednesday. Features a different theme and story. Call 655-4707.

**BOSS Meetings** — Single Soldiers and geographic bachelors are invited to Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers meetings every Wednesday to discuss community service projects and fun upcoming programs. Call Spc. Jennifer Coggins, BOSS president, 655-1130.

Attend these meetings:

- North meetings, 2 p.m., 1st and

3rd Wednesday, Tropics Warrior Zone.

- South meetings, 11 a.m., 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, FS Bowling Center.

**Keiki Night** — Every Wednesday night is Keiki Night, 5-8 p.m., at Kolekole Bar & Grill (SB, 655-4466) and Mulligan’s Bar & Grill (FS, 438-1974). Kids under 10 eat for a special price from the keiki menu.

**19 / Thursday**  
**Clay Hand Building Workshop** — Learn to work with clay from the experts at the SB Arts and Crafts Center, 1-3 p.m., Thursdays. Initial session is \$25; additional sessions are \$5. Call 655-4202 for preregistration.

**Tropics Poker Tournament** —

Texas Hold’em poker, 6 p.m., at Tropics Warrior Zone, SB, every Thursday. The free weekly tournament is open to all ID cardholders, 18 and older. Call 655-5698.

**20 / Friday**  
**Pau Hana Social Hour** — Kolekole Bar & Grill hosts an after-work fun time, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Monday-Wednesday, and 4-6 p.m., Thursday-Friday. Enjoy discounted appetizers and domestic draft beverages. Call 655-4466.

**27 / Friday**  
**Hawaiian Luau Lunch Buffet** — SB Kolekole Bar & Grill (655-4466) and FS Mulligan’s Bar & Grill (438-1974) host local style food, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., every last Friday of the month.



## community calendar

Send announcements a week prior to publication to [community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com](mailto:community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com).

**Today**  
**Holiday Card Lane** — Both Schofield Barracks and Fort Shafter will host a holiday lane card competition for display Nov. 25-Jan. 6, 2014. Unit entry forms should be completed now through Nov. 15, and sponsoring unit/staff office/agency should purchase supplies now, too, to provide necessary labor, materials and funding for display.

Entry forms are located at the FMWR website, [himwr.com](http://himwr.com), or call the FMWR Special Events office, 655-0113.

Awards for best presentations will be presented at the Holiday Tree Lighting ceremonies on Dec. 3 (SB) and Dec. 5 (FS).

**14 / Saturday**  
**Recovery Walk** — This 5K run features a two-hour Zumbathon and

picnic. Run begins 7:30 a.m., Sept. 14, Kapiolani Park, and raises funds for organizations that fight drug and alcohol addictions.

Call 236-2600, email [recoverywalk@hinamauka.org](mailto:recoverywalk@hinamauka.org) or visit [www.recoverywalkhawaii.org](http://www.recoverywalkhawaii.org).

**17 / Tuesday**  
**Social Wahines** — This event brings together six top women’s organizations in Hawaii for a mega networking experience. Attendees can expect to network and connect with smart, savvy, successful women. Attend 5-7 p.m., Sept. 17, at Gordon Biersch, in Aloha Tower. Parking is \$5 flat rate after 4 p.m.; admission is \$5 for member organizations and \$15 for nonmembers and on-site purchase.

RSVP at <http://networkingforwahineseptember.eventbrite.com>. Visit [www.SocialWahines.com](http://www.SocialWahines.com).

**Alzheimer’s Care** — Free training workshop, 6 p.m., Sept. 16, at the Home Instead Senior Care Office, 1600 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 212, as part of World Alzheimer’s Month.

Experts to offer caregivers help in behavior management, engagement and care for themselves while caring

for a loved one. Call 944-0422.

**19 / Thursday**  
**Speechcraft** — Paradise Club, a local Toastmaster’s International Group, invites the public to Speechcraft, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Thursdays, in the Orthopedics Center near the Mauka Entrance of the Center, Sept. 19-Nov. 14.

Speechcraft is a specially designed workshop from Toastmasters International that shares fundamental tools for effective public speaking and presentation skills. The workshop is eight weeks and \$10 for the entire series.

Contact Norm Scofield at 739-4332 or email [normscofield@clearwire.com](mailto:normscofield@clearwire.com).

**Museum Closure** — The U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii, Fort DeRussy, will be closed Thursday, Sept. 19, for a one-day makeover. Volunteers from Lend Lease Corporation will be painting and sprucing up the historic structure at Fort DeRussy.

The museum will reopen at 9 a.m., Sept 20. Call 942-0318.

**21 / Saturday**  
**Ka’ena Point Beach Cleanup**

— Army units and civilian volunteers are needed to collect and record trash at Ka’ena Point State Park Reserve (Mokuleia side), 8:30-11 a.m., as part of the annual International Coastal Cleanup project.

Join the one-day effort to help protect ocean and wildlife.

Interested POCs or civilians should email [plasticfree@kokua.hawaiifoundation.org](mailto:plasticfree@kokua.hawaiifoundation.org).

**Bishop Museum** — Grand unveiling of the Pacific Hall, 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Bishop Museum, 1525 Bernice St. Features an all-day celebration of Pacific food, fashion, films, lectures, art, music, dance, poetry and prose. Free admission. Visit [www.bishopmuseum.org](http://www.bishopmuseum.org).

**Aloha Festivals** — Waikiki Ho’olaule’a begins at 7 p.m. along Kalakaua Avenue and features multiple stages of entertainment, food and lei vendors. Free admission.

**28 / Saturday**  
**Floral Parade** — Aloha Festivals event starts at 9 a.m.; begins at Ala Moana Park, along Kalalaua and ends at Kapiolani Park.



## worship Services

Additional religious services, children’s programs, educational services and contact information can be found at [www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil](http://www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil). (Click on “Religious Support Office” under the “Directorates and Support Staff” menu.)

AMR: Aliamanu Chapel  
FD: Fort DeRussy Chapel  
HMR: Helemano Chapel  
MPC: Main Post Chapel, Schofield Barracks  
PH: Aloha Jewish Chapel, Pearl Harbor  
SC: Soldiers’ Chapel, Schofield Barracks  
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 Mass**

- Thursday, 9 a.m. at AMR
- Saturday, 5 p.m. at TAMC, WAAF
- Sunday services:
  - 8:30 a.m. at AMR
  - 10:30 a.m. at MPC Annex
  - 11 a.m. at TAMC
- Monday-Friday, 11:45 a.m. at MPC and 12 p.m.TAMC

**Gospel Worship**

- Sunday, noon. at MPC
- Sunday, 12:30 p.m. at AMR

**Islamic Prayers and Study**

- Friday, 1 p.m. at MPC Annex
- Friday, 2:30 p.m., TAMC
- Saturday and Sunday, 5:30 a.m.; 6, 7 and 8 p.m. at MPC Annex

**Jewish Shabbat (Sabbath)**

- Friday, 7:30 p.m. at PH

**Pagan (Wicca)**

- Friday, 7 p.m. at MPC Annex Room 232

**Protestant Worship**

- Sunday Services
  - 8:45 a.m. at MPC
  - 9 a.m., at FD, TAMC chapel
  - 10 a.m. at HMR
  - 10:30 a.m. at AMR
  - 10:45 a.m. at WAAF (Spanish language)
  - 11 a.m. at SC (Contemporary)
- Liturgical (Lutheran/Anglican)**
- Sunday, 9 a.m. at WAAF



## This Week at the Movies

Sgt. Smith Theater

Call 624-2585 for movie listings or go to [aafes.com](http://aafes.com) under realtime movie listing.

**We’re the Millers**  
(R)  
Fri., Sept. 13, 7 p.m.  
Thurs., Sept. 19, 7 p.m.

**Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters**  
(PG)  
Sat., Sept. 14, 2 p.m.



**The Wolverine**  
(PG-13)  
Sat. Sept. 14, 6 p.m.

**Despicable Me 2**  
(PG)  
Sun., Sept. 15, 1 p.m

**Turbo**  
(PG)  
Sun., Sept. 15, 5 p.m.

No shows on Mondays, Tuesdays or Wednesdays.

Calendar abbreviations		
8th TSC: 8th Theater Sustainment Command	ASYMCA: Armed Services YMCA	Recreation
25th ID: 25th Infantry Division	BCT: Brigade Combat Team	FRG: Family Readiness Group
ACS: Army Community Service	BSB: Brigade Support Battalion	FS: Fort Shafter
AFAP: Army Family Action Plan	Co.: Company	HMR: Helemano Military
AFTB: Army Family Team Building	CYSS: Child, Youth and School Services	Reservation
AMR: Aliamanu Military Reservation	EFMP: Exceptional Family Member Program	IPC: Island Palm Communities
	FMWR: Family and Morale, Welfare and	PFC: Physical Fitness Center
		SB: Schofield Barracks



PTA

POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA

Warriors engage, help

**1ST. LT. MIKE WEINER**  
Company B, 52nd Infantry Regiment  
2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team  
25th Inf. Division

POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA, Hawaii — Soldiers from Company B, 52nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, took a break from a rigorous training cycle, here, to volunteer with Habitat for Humanity, Sept. 2.

The project was part of Habitat for Humanity’s Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative, providing assistance to different neighborhoods throughout the Big Island and bringing much-needed care and attention to their homes.

During a break from M4 marksmanship, M320 qualification and a TOW live-fire exercise, 34 Soldiers traveled to a house in the town of Waimea to give back to the local community.

Sayer Houseal, Habitat for Humanity project coordinator, organized the Soldiers into smaller groups, briefed them on safety concerns and provided a tour of the site.

Each group of Soldiers then carved out an area and got to work on the house and its surrounding property, to include exterior trim painting, interior painting, demolition, area beautification and reorganization of the house, front and back yards.

At the outset of the project, Houseal believed work would not be complete until late in the afternoon, but by 10:30 a.m., two dumpsters were almost overflowing. The tasks Houseal expected would take all day to complete took Co. B, 52nd Inf. Soldiers only a matter of hours.

“Years will go by, and the community will remember what you have done here, today,”



Pfc. Morris Soriano (left), Co. B, 52nd Inf. Regt., 2nd SBCT, 25th ID, helps disassemble an old chicken coop as part of Habitat for Humanity’s Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative, Sept. 2. (Photo by Sgt. Jonathan Bruce, Company B, 52nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division)

Houseal said. “We cannot express our gratitude.” Soldiers were then treated to lunch at the home of another local resident, known to the Soldiers only as “Aunt Malia,” who prepared a buffet-style Hawaiian meal and invited several members of the local community to join her in thanking the unit for its support.

After lunch, Soldiers moved on to their second project of the day, an overgrown yard also in Waimea. The Soldiers set about removing six pallets of cinder blocks, an overgrown avocado tree and approximately 200 overgrown potted plants.

After several hours of cutting, hauling and loading, the yard was clear of all unwanted debris, but not before members of the local community stopped by to lend a hand and express their gratitude.

Houseal told the Soldiers they had chosen a path in which they protect and ensure the freedoms of all U.S. citizens; yet, despite this incredible responsibility, they took the time to show the community that Soldiers have not forgotten where they come from and what is important — supporting the communities that have supported the military so well.

The event was planned and coordinated with the help of PTA range operations and Margo Takata, the local Habitat for Humanity event coordinator.

Erin Stephens, Habitat for Humanity’s community relations coordinator, expressed her profound thanks and mentioned that she had never worked with a more jovial, disciplined group since she began working with Habitat more than two years ago.

Signal Soldiers, spouses reach out to Fern Elem.

**MAJ. AVON CORNELIUS AND LIANA KIM**  
311th Signal Command (Theater)  
Public Affairs

HONOLULU — A rainbow of colorful backpacks, slippers, piles of notebooks, crayons and other school supplies lined the steps of the elementary school.

A small group of Soldiers carefully arranged the gifts and waited quietly for the students to arrive.



Fern Elementary School students thank HHC, 311th SC (T) Soldiers for their brand new backpacks and school supplies, Tuesday. (Photo Liana Kim, 311th Signal Command (Theater) Public Affairs)

The Soldiers, assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 311th Signal Command (Theater), presented about a truckload of school supplies to the Fern Elementary School faculty and students, visited and took photos with the students and teachers, Tuesday.

“The purpose of our Back to School drive is to help ensure the students have the best opportunity to get a quality education,” said Capt. Jason Grams, HHC commander. “The key is to really focus on the families and to give the kids the supplies they need to be successful.”

“Your coming in to bring these donations really helps open up my students’ perspective of other people trying to help them succeed in their learning, and

lets them know that others do care,” said Leanna Agcaoili, a 4th grade teacher. “It is good to know there are military families who care about a better future for our students. Thank you for the donations; it really helps me as a teacher to help them succeed.”

The Soldiers of HHC, 311th SC(T) and their family readiness group, led by the commander’s wife, Stefanie Grams, organized the drive. They compiled lists of supplies the school listed as most needed, and many of the unit’s Soldiers, Department of the Army civilians and families pitched in to make this year’s donation triple the size of last year’s.

“The company really pulled together to get supplies for the children,” said HHC 1st Sgt. Bryan Pfeifer.

Pfeifer said this year is the second consecutive one the unit has gathered and donated supplies to the school, traditionally during the first month of the new school year.

The Soldiers of HHC have been partnering with Fern Elementary since 2011 for various events throughout the school year, such as the monthly Read Out Loud book program for Soldiers to read to students and the school’s annual Drug Free Jump Rope for the Heart field day to promote active healthy lifestyles and introduce students to positive role models and professional opportunities.

“The joy and excitement on (the students’) faces when the Soldiers are engaged with them shows us that it means a lot, that someone else cares about them,” said 4th grade teacher Mark Atta, about the book reading program. “It’s great to have the Soldiers come here and give them that extra support.”

The 311th SC(T), headquartered at Fort Shafter, is the designated Signal Command for the Pacific Theater and provides ongoing support for cooperative military exercises with partner nations throughout the Pacific and warfighters around the world.

“Many of our students come to school without any supplies at all,” Atta said, “so we just want to thank the 311th Signal Command for giving these much-needed supplies. It will really help out.”





Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Inf. Division, participate in the 2nd annual 8K Hero & Remembrance Run, Walk or Roll 2013, Saturday, in honor of service members who have lost their lives during contingency operations. (Photos by Spc. Antonio Huerta, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Inf. Division)

# 1-14th Inf. places boots on the ground for 8K run

**1ST LT. TIMOTHY MCCRACKEN**  
1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment  
2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team  
25th Infantry Division

FORD ISLAND — Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, participated in the 2nd Annual 8K Hero & Remembrance Run, Walk, or Roll, here, near Pearl Harbor.

The race both began and finished at the Pacific Aviation Museum.

Combat boots attached with service members' photos were displayed along the entire length of the race, honoring each service member lost during contingency operations.

The 1st Bn., 14th Inf. Regt., helped prepare more than 300 boots before transporting them to Ford Island and assisting with setting up the boots along the race route the night prior. After helping complete the setup, Sgt. Allen McKinney, a squad leader in Company C, 1-14th Inf. Regt., reflected on the reason for the event.

"It's great that the civilian community can honor Soldiers that have fallen brothers," McKinney said. "I had five alone from my company from my first deployment. I took time out of my days to go up to Tripler where I donated my own pair of boots, and doctored them up with stuff from my old battalion, just to show people back at my old duty station that we haven't forgot about them. It's crazy to see the numbers that we lost, and to actually see a boot that represents every person lost was very humbling."

Prior to the race, 1-14th Inf. Regt. linked up with Gold Star families to help set up the tents where they displayed their hand crafted American Flag Quilt.

"This quilt represents a little piece of healing," said Lis Olsen of Survivor Outreach Services, with Army Community Service, Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii. "It has the photos of those service members who are on our walls. We've asked the families to write a love story or contribute to the quilt in honor of their fallen service member."

Once the race started, 1-14th Inf. Regt. walked and ran with their "buddies" from the Gold Star families. Buddies ranged from 6 to 16 years old and had photos of their fallen service members somewhere on their clothes.

"It's always great to volunteer with them to help out and reach out to families that have lost family members," said McKinney. "You never want to see yourself in that situation, so you always want to do what you would want them to do for your family."

"Being there for the kids, playing with them, but also helping out with the tents and the flag quilt they made with each personal message from the family members of those fallen Soldiers was incredibly touching," McKinney added.

The 1-14th Inf. Regt. volunteers participate with similar events across the island, though this event was the first with the Tripler-based Fisher House. This event was the regiment's third with Gold Star families.

*(Editor's note: McCracken is the unit public affairs representative at 1-14th Inf. Regt.)*



Pvt. 1st Class Brandon Stone, Company B, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Inf. Division, sets up boots along the run route prior to the 2nd annual 8K Hero & Remembrance Run, Walk or Roll 2013, Saturday. Each boot represented a fallen Soldier who has been lost during contingency operations.



# 8TSC run offers team building

STAFF SGT. GAELEN LOWERS

8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER — More than 500 noncommissioned officers from across the 8th Theater Sustainment Command met at Schofield Barracks, Sept. 6, to run four miles with and receive guidance from the 8th TSC’s commanding general, Maj. Gen. Stephen R. Lyons.

The purpose of this quarterly physical training is to reinforce physical fitness standards and to build esprit de corps, as well as connect on a more personal level between the NCOs of the 8th TSC and its leader.

Lyons began his post-run speech by thanking and praising the NCOs of the 8th TSC.

“I am proud to be a part of this organization,” Lyons remarked, “and I believe we have the best noncommissioned officers in the entire Army.”

Lyons then reminded the Soldiers of the importance of their roles in the Pacific and of their influence.

“You have more impact in your area of responsibility than I do as your commanding general,” he said. “I have more authority at certain levels, I’ll grant you that, but in your sphere of responsibility, don’t ever underestimate the impact that you have on the people and the Soldiers around you.”



Maj. Gen. Stephen Lyons (front), commander, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, leads more than 500 noncommissioned officers on a four-mile run to reinforce physical fitness standards and build esprit de corps, Sept. 6. (Photo by Spc. David Innes, 8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs)

Lyons also took questions from the crowd pertaining to everything and anything that was on its minds, including the budget and drawdown of the Department of Defense.

“There will always be a need for a trained and ready Army,” he said. “It may not be as big as it was last year, but there will always be room for high-quality Soldiers and high-quality leaders. We have been through this cycle before in our history, and I think that the way the Chief (of Staff of the Army) is approaching this is much better and fairer than in previous occasions. He is giving leaders the authority and the opportunity to be selective about who we retain. This means we will retain a smaller, higher-quality force.”

Lyons also answered many other questions across a variety of topics that included domestic abuse, Syria and our role in the Pacific, as well as the radiation leak in Japan and if it will affect Hawaii.

He concluded with more praise of the NCOs and Soldiers of the 8th TSC.

“This command has gone more than two years now without a fatal accident. It is not lost on me; that sort of thing doesn’t happen without a whole lot of leader involvement at every level of the command,” he said. “I really appreciate your leadership and your professionalism across the command.”