

Stop
the presses!

Subscribers will receive
The Military Star, Dec. 27
and Jan. 3, when the Hawaii
Army Weekly takes its two-
week hiatus.

SNIPERS COMPETE AT SCHOFIELD

STAFF SGT. SEAN EVERETTE

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

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Fifteen sniper teams from Oahu came together at Schofield Barracks and Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, to compete for the title Best Sniper, Dec. 2-4.

The Army was well represented with teams from the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team and the 3rd BCT, 25th Infantry Division, and from the 728th Military Police Battalion, 8th MP Bde., 8th Theater Sustainment Command.

The Marine Corps and the Honolulu Police Department also fielded teams, making the event truly a joint experience.

“It consisted of three days of various shooting events to test all of the skills a sniper has,” said Pfc. Ryan Luther, sniper section, Company C,

1st Bn., 27th Inf. Regt., 2nd SBCT. “There have been various physical events, and it tested mental stamina and patience ... a lot of patience.”

The Best Sniper Competition was more than just a test of skill, however. It also gave Soldiers the opportunity to work and train with other services and nonmilitary agencies.

“We’ve talked to a lot of different teams, not only from the Army, but from the Marines and HPD,” said Luther. “We’ve gained a lot of useful information from them: how they run their teams, how they actually like to shoot compared to us. There are a lot of different ideas to take away and incorporate into our own training. It’s been a great opportunity.”

The competition was organized and run by Capt. Zach Baker, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 1st Bn., 21st Inf., 2nd SBCT. Baker filled the three days with eight events, including a high angle shoot, a rapid engage-

ment against multiple targets in a short amount of time and an 8-mile ruck march for time that went right into the stalking lane.

During the stalking lane, teams were issued one round of blank ammo and then had to move across an open field, observe their target and take a shot, then withdraw, all without being detected while four people of the opposing force were actively looking for them.

The final day of the competition saw the teams inserted into the testing area via helicopter before the sun came up.

“It’s been a big challenge and definitely a huge learning event,” said Spc. Robert Gehring, sniper section, Co. C, 1-14th

Inf.

“For us, we don’t have the ranges like the military has, so getting out here helps us a lot,” said Officer Quentin Apilando, HPD. “We also don’t have some of the equipment and field (training) the military has, so coming out here helps us learn some of that, too.”

Maj. Gen. Kurt Fuller, commander, 25th ID, awarded the Best Sniper trophy to the team of Staff Sgt. Rey Torres and Sgt. Paul Reardon, 1-27th Inf.

Best Snipers

1st — Staff Sgt. Rey Torres and Sgt. Paul Reardon, 1-27th Inf.

2nd — Sgt. Mark Barruga and Sgt. Ricky Madison, 1-21st Inf.

3rd — Spc. Taylor Jones and Pfc. Ryan Luther, 1-27th Inf.

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII, Kaneohe Bay — Sgt. Mark Barruga (right), a senior sniper in HHC, and Sgt. Ricky Madison, a team leader from Co. A, both of 1-21st Inf. Regt., 2nd SBCT, 25th ID, zero in on a target during the high-angle shoot as part of the Best Sniper Competition, here, Dec. 4. The competition was put together by 1-21st Inf. Regt. and included teams from the Army, Marine Corps and Honolulu Police Department. Barruga and Madison finished second in the competition. (Photo by Sgt. Preston Byrd, 2nd Stryker Brigade Comabt Team Public Affairs, 25th Infantry Division) (Photo has been altered from its original form; background elements have been removed.)

3-7th FA ‘Steel’ tested in Legacy Challenge

Story and photo by
SGT. BRIAN ERICKSON

3rd Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs
25th Infantry Division

BELLOWS AIR FORCE STATION — Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, “Never Broken,” 3rd Brigade Combat Team, completed the battalion’s Legacy Challenge at Bellows Air Force Station, Dec. 4.

“The challenge is designed to instill mental and physical toughness while having fun at the same time,” said Maj. Joe Katz, operations, 3-7th FA.

The first event of the day was a 7-mile run, which consisted of significant elevation increases and decreases. Each team had to finish together to avoid time penalties.

When the team finished the trek, it plotted a point on a map where the team had to retrieve an item to advance to the next part of the challenge. Once the team retrieved the item, it embarked on an obstacle course along the beach that is spread across 3 miles of soft sand.

The first obstacle teams faced was a

kayak event in which two members of the team had to maneuver 100 meters, just 25 meters off the shore. When the kayak made it back to the shore, the rest of the team had to carry the kayak back to the starting point.

As the Soldiers made their way down the beach, they had to endure such events as pull-up bars, a 75-meter low crawl, a sandbag carry and a 100-pound tire carry.

“The most challenging for me, personally, was the strength events on the soft sand carrying heavy tires and sandbags when your legs are already tired,” said Katz.

After the obstacle course, observers could see the energy draining as the teams ran off the beach toward the mystery event waiting for them near the finish line.

In the mystery event, each team had to complete 37 burpies together as a team and then carry a sandbag 25 meters down the beach and back. If that wasn’t enough, the Soldiers had to do another 37 burpies together before sprinting to the finish line.

Teams had to finish each event throughout the day together; if they didn’t, the team

“The most challenging part for me, personally, was the strength events on soft sand carrying heavy tires and sandbags when your legs are already tired.”

— Maj. Joe Katz
Operations, 3-7th FA

was penalized by having time added to their finish time.

The first place team finished in a total time of 2 hours, 47 minutes and 27 seconds.

“I am very proud of everyone out here. Not only the competitors, but the supporting staff as well,” said Lt. Col. George Hammar, commander, 3-7th FA.



Soldiers from 3-7th FA Regt., 3rd BCT, 25th ID, work together as a team to complete a 50-meter tire carry during the regiment’s Legacy Challenge, Dec. 4.



A CH-47 Chinook helicopter heads to the summits of the Ko’olau mountain range carrying a 1,000-pound sling-load of fencing material. (Photo courtesy U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii)

Army, HI partner to protect watersheds

U.S. ARMY GARRISON-HAWAII
Public Affairs

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — The Army and the state came together to transport nearly 200,000 pounds of fencing into the Ko’olau Mountains, as part of an airlift operation to protect Oahu’s watersheds, Dec. 5.

Soldiers from the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, joined resources with the U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii’s Oahu Army Natural Resources Program, and the State of Hawaii’s Department of Land and Natural Resources’ Natural Area Reserves staff to accomplish the mission.

The material will be used to build a 12-kilometer fence enclosure to protect 1,000 acres of native forest in the summit areas of the Ko’olau Mountains on State of Hawaii and Kamehameha Schools Bishop Estate lands.

The steel fencing was hooked to a Chinook CH-47 helicopter and sling-loaded from Schofield Barracks to staging zones located in a remote area of the Poamoho Section of the Ewa Forest Reserve.

“The Chinook’s capabilities allowed us to haul 17 times more material per trip than the contracted aircraft is able, saving time and money,” said Kapua Kawelo, biologist,



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Police Call

DES asks for help enforcing POV registration

More checks suggested

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

Individuals who accept the privilege of operating a personally owned vehicle (POV) on military installations must have a valid license to operate motor vehicles with no suspensions or revocations.

Proof of vehicle ownership and state registration is also required. Additionally, individuals must have a valid record of motor vehicle safety inspection and proof of valid insurance (document must include a policy effective date and an expiration date).

Military Police will issue tickets for violations of the above requirements, and your vehicle may be subject to towing. Repeat offenders may face suspension of installation driving privileges issued by the installation commander. (See Chapter 2 of AR 190-5, Motor Vehicle Traffic Supervision.)

While the maintenance of driving privileges is largely an individual responsibility, the Directorate of Emergency Services asks commanders for assistance in ensuring that their Soldiers and family members comply with the above requirements.

Paragraph 8 of Chapter 11, AR 385-10, the Army Safety Program, requires commanders to conduct unit level POV inspections once every six months. For Soldiers with personally owned motorcycles (POMs), these inspections should



Jackson

include verification of motorcycle training (Motorcycle Safety Foundation Course), licensing and personal protective equipment.

Commanders can find a detailed checklist of inspection requirements at the U.S. Army Safety Center website, <https://safety.army.mil>.

DES encourages commanders to conduct unit POV inspections more often than the biannual requirement. The recommendation is to conduct a POV inspection before every holiday weekend and block leave period to ensure the continued compliance with driving requirements, as well for the continued safety our Soldiers and families.

DES also reminds commanders that a number of administrative actions are available for dealing with Soldiers who fail to maintain their vehicle requirements. While the installation commander is the approving authority for restricting on-post driving privileges, unit

commanders can limit driving privileges for Soldiers within their respective unit footprint (i.e., company, battalion, brigade area).

When a unit commander identifies a deficiency, he can give a lawful order compelling the Soldier to resolve the deficiency in order to continue operating his or her vehicle. For example, if a commander identifies a Soldier with an expired safety inspection, he may order the Soldier to take his vehicle to the nearest state vehicle safety inspection station and renew his inspection, ensuring the Soldier has sufficient amount of time to complete the task.

If the Soldier fails to comply with the commander's order, the Soldier could be charged with violating Article 92, UCMJ (Failure to Obey Order or Regulation) and/or subject to administrative action.

Commanders can issue similar orders for expired or no registration, as well as expired or no insurance policy.

BRIDGING THE BASICS

8-step model keeps warfighters prepared

SGT. 1ST CLASS BRYAN SABIN
5th Battlefield Coordination Detachment
U.S. Army-Pacific

Over the past 12 years, the Army has become a more tactically sound organization, but at what cost?

In order to remain the most dominant Army in the world, it was essential to achieve tactical growth. The involvement in two complex combat environments fostered growth through the adjustment of doctrine; the development of new tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs); and trial and error.

A wartime environment of back-to-back combat deployments ensured that Soldiers were experts in theater. However, entering a post-war era once again, we will find that we are now weakened, overall, having specialized to a particular environment and threat.



Sabin

Today's Army must grow from the experience gained in combat, while also returning to our roots, essentially bridging the gap back to the basics.

The pre-9/11 Army trained its forces to be able to fight anywhere, at any time. Today, training is specific to one operational environment.

Our junior noncommissioned officers bring an abundance of their own real world experience into the planning and execution of this training. This experience equates to junior leaders prepared for combat in a known environment. Junior leaders lack the understanding and skill to transfer that knowledge into developing a training plan for inexperienced individuals.

In the past, there was a major push from the Army's Training and Doctrine Command to retrain or emphasize the importance of the 8-step training model. This subject continues to resurface periodically in senior level training meetings and planning conferences. The continued re-emergence of this basic theory leads most to believe that senior leaders have predicted this gap in the basics

and are "prepping the battlefield" for an inevitable drawdown in force strength and operations tempo.

This return to a proven training method will be imperative in bridging the gap from combat-based experience training to a more structured training cycle based on garrison activities.

Today, our junior NCOs have proven their ability to train any given audience as long as they possess basic combat experience. The challenge is training Soldiers who have seen little-to-no action. Our ability to provide a structured, well-organized training program that addresses the needs of the unit is the key to mission success.

The 5th Battlefield Coordination Detachment dusted off the 8-step training model in order to provide that structure. The BCD uses this proven method of training development for every training event. This has proven that, with proper utilization, any NCO, experienced or not, can provide the necessary training to an audience with varying experience levels.

We use the process to develop com-

prehensive rehearsals and Concept of the Operations. Our unit archives all tools, training aids and other elements developed during the 8-step training model. The strict execution of this process allows a unit to account for every facet of the training event.

For our leaders to persevere, we use these proven steps to develop our individual and collective training events. We avoid basing our training plans on the thousands of TTPs that are often specific in nature.

As members of the BCD, we enforce the use of doctrine during all training events and capture the critical lessons learned during after-action reviews to assist in tactical standard operating procedure refinement. This training development method accounts for all phases of training while preparing for combat.

These methods are the foundation for bridging the basics. Our ability to train to standard based on doctrinal guidelines while accounting for all steps of the 8-step training model allows 5th BCD to prepare for all future operations in the Pacific.

FOOTSTEPS in FAITH

Do you need a Christmas miracle?

CHAPLAIN (COL.) PETE MUELLER
U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii

It's getting close, so the mail may not get that perfect gift here on time.

The airlines have raised their prices, and vacation/leaves may not be given to everyone. The kids are missing grandma and grandpa. Money is getting tight, and credit limits are being reached.

Too many things left to do, and the list just grows longer and longer. Anxiety replaces joy, and stress has overcome goodwill and peace. Sound familiar?

Too familiar for most of us! So where is that Christmas miracle?

My wife loves to watch all the smaltzy Christmas movies out this time of year. Many are about a last-minute miracle that brings the distant family member home, makes it snow in Miami or turns a cynical mind into a true believer. We get conditioned to believe that we, too, will have a Christmas miracle to bring all the chaos into order at the last minute and make this the best Christmas ever.

Now, don't get me wrong. I'm not against miracles, nor do I doubt their existence and power. I love God's mir-

acles! But truth be told, most of the time, we don't really need a Christmas miracle. What we need is simply a refocus, a new set of priorities, especially during the holiday season.

Many times (maybe even most of the time), the stress and anxiety are more of our own making than caused by things around us. We create unrealistic expectations, or worse, buy into the expectations of society around us (especially marketers and advertisers) and lose sight of what really brings us the most peace and the most joy.

Think about last year ... when all the wrappings were strewn on the floor, when the special meal was gone, when the excitement of the latest tech gadget subsided. What was it that really meant the most? Wasn't it time with family and friends? Wasn't it simply in giving from the heart? Wasn't it in reaching out to those less fortunate? We let the frenzy of the season spin us up and forget that is not what really brings satisfaction and joy.

Let's all agree in these next few



Mueller

weeks to not get worried or excited when the "big gift" fails to show up, or all the cards don't get sent, or the house doesn't get decorated like a magazine, or the perfect meal isn't prepared. Let's all agree to take more time to sit together, read a Christmas story — I know a really good one! — go for a walk, call someone we love,

care for a neighbor with less, teach our children to give toys in toy drives, help at a food bank, spend no more money than we can realistically and intentionally set aside, sing carols together, invite someone over, drink hot chocolate, go on a house light drive or see the lights downtown, or just spend time relaxing by the fire. Well, maybe not a fire, but the beach will do!

We can bring our own Christmas miracle by simplifying our expectations, focusing on those we love and doing with much less. The things that last aren't things. They're our relationships and the peace we create within ourselves.

This is actually how God wired us and is truly our Christmas miracle!

Q:

Why does the Hawaii Army Weekly publish courts-martial findings?

A:

The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate releases the results of recent courts-martial for publication to inform the community of military justice trends and to deter future misconduct by Soldiers.

The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate publishes the results of the following recent courts-martial:

25th Infantry Division
•A specialist from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 27th Inf. Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, was found guilty of Article 86, absence without leave; Article 91, striking a noncommissioned officer; Article 91, disobeying an NCO; and Article 112a, wrongful use of a controlled substance. The specialist was sentenced to reduction to private (E-1), confinement for 120 days and a bad conduct discharge.

•A specialist from Co. C, 2nd Bn., 27th Inf. Regt., 3rd BCT, was found guilty of Article 128, simple assault; Article 128, assault consummated by a battery; and Article 134, child endangerment. The specialist was

See SJA A-4

Voices of Ohana

Today is Friday the 13th.

“Do you believe in bad luck?”

Photos by 599th Transportation Brigade Public Affairs



“I believe things happen because of circumstances that people place themselves in.”

Arnel Bautista
IM team leader,
599th Trans. Bde.



“Under normal conditions, I believe that you make your own luck. Maybe that’s because I’m optimistic. I do believe in blessings.”

Millie Griggs
Administrative specialist,
599th Trans. Bde.



“No. I believe that there are seasons when everything goes good and when everything goes not so good. I don’t think it’s bad luck.”

Neal James
Logistics director,
599th Trans. Bde.



“I don’t really believe in bad luck, just being in the wrong place at the right time.”

Staff Sgt. Raymond “Lee” Patterson
Movement supervisor,
Command Operations Center,
599th Trans. Bde.



“I don’t believe in it, per se. Bad luck is an unpredictable outcome that doesn’t go in your favor. Let’s just make it easy: I don’t believe in anything.”

Darryl Wassum
Traffic management specialist,
599th Trans. Bde.

Pearl Harbor survivors revisit 1941 ‘Day of Infamy’

Story and photo by
STAFF SGT. WILLIAM SALLETTE
U.S. Army-Pacific Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER — Within 110 minutes, a total of 2,335 U.S. service men were killed and 1,143 wounded after the Imperial Japanese Navy (IJN) launched a surprise attack on the U.S. Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor, Sunday, Dec. 7, 1941.

The Japanese attack force, under the command of Adm. Chuichi Nagumo, consisting of six carriers with 423 planes, is about to attack. The Japanese had been planning and practicing this attack for almost 10 months prior to that day, and purposely planned it for Sunday, thinking that the American forces would be more relaxed.

At 6 a.m., the first attack wave consisting of 51 dive bombers, 40 torpedo bombers, 50 high-level bombers and 43 fighters launched from the carriers, located 230 miles north of Oahu, and heads for the U.S. Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor.

“At first, they flew right over, but after a minute or so, a few turned around and began strafing the field and bombing the aircraft. That’s when I saw the rising sun flag and realized they were Japanese,” said Thomas Petso, former infantryman with the 24th Infantry Division and a member of The Greatest Generation Foundation (TGGF).

At 7:53 a.m., the first Japanese assault wave began the attack on the Pacific Fleet anchored in Pearl Harbor.

“I was on the ship’s football team, and we were scheduled to play the USS Arizona for the fleet championship that day, so I had my pads on when the attack began and didn’t exactly have time to change,” said Michael Ganitch, a quartermaster assigned to the USS Pennsylvania and member of TGGF. “I guess I was pretty protected then, but my battle station was in the crows nest, 70 feet up in the air, and I had to pull myself through this little trap door to get to my gun.”

Just minutes after 8 a.m., Pearl Harbor and Ford Island were completely overtaken by attacking planes. Japanese bombers destroyed more than 30 of the 70 planes stationed on



WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD — Pearl Harbor survivors Samuel Clower (left) and Thomas Petso, both former Infantrymen assigned to the 24th Infantry Division and members of The Greatest Generation Foundation, stand over bomb scars, here, as they discuss their own experiences from Dec. 7, 1941, during a tour of military installations and other historical sites on Oahu, recently.

Ford Island and the Japanese torpedo planes began attacking the warships in the harbor.

“I was up in the crows nest, and I was calling out planes and doing my best to shoot them down, but I was so high up, I could barely hit anything,” remarked Ganitch. “Most of the planes that were coming in were torpedo planes, and they were only about 25 feet off the surface.”

The second wave of the attack took off from their carriers 45 minutes earlier and consisted of approximately 50 horizontal bombers, 80 dive bombers and 40 fighter planes.

“I remember there were a few minutes where I didn’t see a plane and thought it was all over, but then suddenly there was a giant explosion from behind me, and I found out later that a bomber had dropped a 500-pound bomb about 45 feet from where I was,” recalled Ganitch.

This wave of attack lasts until 9:45

a.m., and the aftermath included eight battleships damaged, with five sunk, including the USS Arizona; it was hit by a 1,760 pound air bomb that penetrated the forward magazine.

Three light cruisers, three destroyers and three smaller vessels were also lost, along with 188 aircraft.

The Japanese lost 27 planes and five midget submarines that attempted to penetrate the inner harbor and launch torpedoes.

The original IJN plan called for a third wave of planes that were supposed to attack the oil refineries and the repair facilities, but was cancelled by Nagumo.

“I think we were blessed that the Japanese didn’t send the third wave of planes,” remarked Ganitch. “If they had sent that third attack and hit the oil refineries and repair facilities, I’m not sure we would have won the war. The islands of Hawaii would likely still be in Japanese control.”

After the conclusion of the attack, field hospitals and aid stations were set up to treat the more than 1,100 wounded. Evacuations of the wounded began around 10:45 a.m. By 2:30 p.m., all of the wounded were being treated or had been sent back to duty.

“I was on liberty at the time of the attack and attempted to get back to my unit, but the liberty boat had been destroyed,” said Victor Miranda, an aviation ordnance man stationed at Ford Island Naval Base and a member of TGGF. “I went to the nearest command I could find and was immediately made a corpsman at the Aiea Plantation Hospital. There were burned men everywhere, and all we could do for them was try and keep them cool and comfortable.”

The attack on Pearl Harbor became a major turning point in American history. The very next day, the United States and United Kingdom declared war on Japan.

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt called Dec. 7, 1941, “a date which will live in infamy.”

The men and women who bore the brunt of this unprovoked sneak attack are called the “Greatest Generation,” a term coined by anchor Tom Brokaw to describe the generation that grew up during the Great Depression and went on to fight in World War II.

Today, 72 years later, more than 1,400 of our nation’s World War II veterans pass away every day.

“I was down in Palm Springs for Armistice Day riding in a parade, and we were sitting in a diner having lunch when we started talking about the war,” said Payton Smith, former quartermaster at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard. “Our waitress came over to see how everything was going and a buddy of mine asked her, ‘Do you know about Pearl Harbor?’”

She started looking around and said ‘I don’t know. Does she work here?’”

World War II veterans return for 72nd anniversary of attack

Story and photo by
STAFF SGT. MATTHEW RYAN
25th Infantry Division Public Affairs

WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD — The world is changing every day, and as time continues on, there are less of those who helped shape the nation into what it is today.

During a recent tour, here, and on Schofield Barracks, World War II veterans, Pearl Harbor survivors and guests saw some of the remains of that devastating attack by the Japanese.

Some hangars still have bullet holes from strafing planes and blast holes where bombs hit the ground.

These veterans of our past are often referred to as the “Greatest Generation.” These are the men and women who grew up during the era of the Great Depression and either fought in World War II or helped on the home front.

With an average age of more than 90 years, the list of heroes making the trip shrinks every year, and The Greatest Generation Foundation (TGGF) makes sure that those who are able to make the long journeys visit the historical sites.

The TGGF is a nonprofit international organization that is dedicated to ensuring the veterans of the past receive recognition and respect for the deeds long ago.

This year marks the 72nd anniversary of the at-



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Caleb Kittrell, Co. C, 2-25th Avn. Regt., 25th CAB, 25th ID, discusses pilot controls with Pearl Harbor survivor Peyton Smith, a former quartermaster assigned to Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and a member of The Greatest Generation Foundation.

tack on Pearl Harbor, where the Japanese conducted a surprise attack on the U.S. at 7:55 a.m., Dec. 7, 1941, with more than 350 Japanese fight-

ers, bombers and torpedo planes in two waves.

“I can remember that day still; we were playing the (Army Air Corps) in a game of football, like

we did every Sunday. Then, all of a sudden, these planes came out of nowhere,” said Thomas Petso, then an infantryman assigned as an intelligence platoon sergeant with the 24th Infantry Division.

“I remember running back to my barracks to grab my rifle, still in my shorts from playing football, and running to report to help. I was only 19 years old, a scared kid at that time,” Petso explained.

Petso said that things have changed since that day. The airfield was filled with planes then, instead of the rotary wing aircraft of the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, 25th ID.

“I remember seeing the planes being destroyed and buildings being attacked,” he said.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Caleb Kittrell, UH-60 Black Hawk pilot, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 25th Avn. Regiment, 25th CAB, said, “They were really impressed with how advanced the aircraft is today.”

Some of the veterans climbed into the cockpit of the helicopter and were amazed at all the controls, and to learn that with a just a push of a button it could practically land itself.

Later the veterans visited a middle school to share their personal experiences. The students had studied Pearl Harbor recently and had many questions for them.

2-27th’s Charlot raises thousands for Holy Family Home

Collection runs often required early hours to collect bottles

SGT. BRIAN ERICKSON
3rd Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs
25th Infantry Division

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — A Soldier in 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, raised more than \$3,000 for Holy Family Home.

Sgt. Jonathan Charlot, Company C, was tired of sitting on the sideline while others raised money for the organization, so he put a plan in motion.

“I knew what my assets were this year and what I could possibly get from the community to give to the less fortunate people,” said Charlot.

Charlot decided to raise money for the organization by collecting glass bottles.

“I noticed one night how many beer bottles a bar goes through in a night, so I knew I could use that as a way to raise



Sgt. Jonathan Charlot, Co. C, 2-27th Inf. Regt., 3rd BCT, 25th ID, stands over bins of bottles he collected for the Holy Family Home organization. (Photos courtesy 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Inf. Division)

money for Holy Family Home,” said Charlot.

Once he knew what he was going

to do, he went home, made a flier showing how much the Holy Family Home means to the Wolfhounds and

brought it to a few owners to see if he could get the bottles at the end of the night when they close.

After getting approval from some owners, he had to figure out a way to be able to pick up the bottles and still maintain his military duties.

In order for him to fit everything into his schedule, he had to get up at 12:30 a.m. and head out to the different points to pick up the bottles. At one point, he was collecting from five different locations ranging from North Shore to Waikiki.

The biggest collection was when he picked up 10,000 bottles in one outing.

Every morning, as the sun was about to rise, he would find his way back to the installation and grab a nap before unit physical training.

Charlot started collecting on Oct. 11 and finished Nov. 21. He was able to raise \$3,055 for the Holy Family Home organization in that span of time

“It just blew me away with how much he was able to raise,” said 2nd Lt. Coren France, platoon leader, Co. C,



Bags of glass bottles collected in one night are loaded into a recycling truck.

2-27th Inf. “What he did is inspiring, I am proud of him.”

Sgt. Charlot received an Army Commendation Medal for his efforts.

VA assists w/transitioning to prepare for job market

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
News Release

As part of the revamped Transition Assistance Program (TAP), the Department of Veterans Affairs’ new VA Benefits I and II briefings are now available at Schofield Barracks and Fort Shafter.

The goal of the redesigned TAP, now known as Transition GPS (Goals, Plans, Success), is to provide transitioning service members with a set of value-added, individually tailored training programs and services to equip them with the set of tools they need to pursue their post-military goals successfully.

Service members participating in the new VA Benefits I and II briefings will experience interactive activities teaching them how to review, apply for and receive the benefits and services they have earned.

The VA’s Benefits I briefing provides detailed information on education, health care, compensation, life insurance, home loans and other VA benefits and services.

During VA Benefits II, service members are provided supplementary information to expand and reinforce what is covered in VA Benefits I, an overview of the disability compensation process and an introduction to the eBenefits portal (VA’s Web-based benefits application system).

Both briefings are highly interactive and

include practical exercises, videos of personal experiences, and a question and answer session.

•Benefits I briefings are offered Mondays, noon to 4 p.m., and Fridays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

•Benefits II briefings are offered Fridays, 2-4 p.m.

Additionally, presenters conducting VA Benefits I and II briefings are available for appointments outside the classroom to assist all service members, veterans and family members who have questions about VA benefits and services they may be eligible to receive. They will serve as an important on-site resource for service members, veterans and family members needing information on available resources.

Transition GPS

To schedule an appointment with VA Benefits I and II briefers, call 655-7139/7140.

VA Benefits briefers’ office hours on Schofield Barracks are weekdays, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., first floor, Building 750.

For more information on attending Transition GPS, call the ACAP Center at 655-1028 or visit www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil/acap/default.htm.

FY14 tuition assistance policy

CHRISSY MORRIS
Directorate of Human Resources
U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii

Jan. 1, 2014, the Army’s fiscal year 2014 Tuition Assistance (TA) program will change.

These changes are supportive of the intent of the TA program — to provide financial assistance for voluntary off-duty education in support of Soldiers’ professional and personal self-development goals within a constrained budget environment.

The new policy will allow Soldiers to use TA after successful completion of their first year of service after graduating from Advance Individual Training, Officer Candidate School, or Basic Officer Leader Course.

Soldiers are eligible for up to 16 semester hours, per year, and they can use TA for a second, higher-level post-bachelor degree after completion of 10 years of service. Soldiers who are already in a graduate degree program may continue through the remainder of FY14.

A second degree time-in-service requirement applies to movement from a bachelor’s to a master’s degree and not from an associate’s to a bachelor’s degree. Also, the 10-year requirement only applies if Army TA was used to pay for any portion of the undergraduate coursework.

2014 Transition Assistance policy
For more information, call the Education Services officer at 655-4444.

Soldiers will continue to receive up to \$250, per semester hour, and the current policy limits of 130 semester hours for completion of a bachelor’s degree, and up to 39 semester hours for a master’s degree, remain in effect.

Soldiers cannot use TA for a second equivalent degree, i.e., no second bachelor’s or master’s degree.

All courses must be part of an approved degree plan. TA cannot be used for first professional degrees, e.g., a PhD, MD or JD.

In addition to Department of the Army adverse action flags, the policy to not allow TA for Soldiers who are flagged for Army Physical Fitness Test/Army Weight Control Program will continue.

The Army will honor TA requests approved by Dec. 31 for payment for Soldiers whose eligibility for TA will be affected by these policy changes. However, no further TA-funded enrollments will be authorized until they meet the new eligibility requirements.

(Editor’s note: Morris is the education services officer at DHR.)

SJA: Fed conviction strips many rights

CONTINUED FROM A-2

sentenced to reduction to private first class (E-3) and a reprimand.

8th Theater Sustainment Command

•A sergeant from HHC, 8th Military Police Bde., Schofield Barracks, was found guilty of one specification of Article 90, disobeying a superior commissioned officer, by having female visitors in his room. He was sentenced to reduction to the rank of private first class.

•A private first class from Medical Co. B, Tripler Army Medical Center, was found guilty of one specification of Article 128, assault; one

specification of Article 92, violation of a lawful general order, by wrongfully using spice and bath salts; and one specification of Article 86, absence without leave. He was sentenced to reduction to the grade of private (E-1), to forfeit \$1,516.00 per month for two months, and to a bad conduct discharge.

Federal Convictions. In addition to forfeiture of pay (either adjudicated or by operation of law), confinement and/or a punitive discharge, these Soldiers will also have a federal conviction that they must report when filling out a job application. A federal conviction strips them of many rights, like voting.

SUPPORT FOR SCHOOLS



FORT SHAFTER — Attendees of the 8th Theater Sustainment Command gather at the home of Maj. Gen. Stephen Lyons, commander, 8th TSC, for the annual holiday reception, donating more than \$1,000 worth of school supplies for local elementary schools. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Gaelen Lowers, 8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs)

‘Mustangs’ new motor pool reviewed by Brig. Gen.

CAPT. BENJAMIN CLAPP
325th Brigade Support Battalion
3rd Brigade Combat Team
25th Infantry Division

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Brig. Gen. Todd McCaffrey, deputy commander (support), 25th Infantry Division, visited the 325th Brigade Support Battalion “Mustangs,” 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th ID’s newly acquired motor pool and Supply Support Activity (SSA), here, Dec. 3.

The visit started with Lt. Col. Irving Cross, commander, 325th BSB and his company commanders briefing McCaffrey on the battalion’s mission and current capabilities. The brief also included upcoming changes and their long-term effects.

McCaffrey reiterated the importance of the Mustangs’ readiness for when the entire brigade is called to deploy, and the importance of re-establishing proper maintenance and training on water and fuel equipment.

McCaffrey then accompanied Cross to 3rd BCT’s new motor pool, where he was escorted through the different maintenance shops and briefed on their functions and capabilities by the respective leadership of each section.

Company B warrant officers explained and demonstrated the capabilities gained in the new

facilities as well as the difficulties remaining. By visiting individual sections, McCaffrey was able to gain a full appreciation for the dedication of each section and the Blacksmith Maintenance Team as a whole.

Once finished at the motor pool, Capt. Guecheon Theobal, Co. A, escorted McCaffrey to the SSA, which his company operates for the brigade. Chief Warrant Officer 2 Daniel Cadena introduced McCaffrey to the new facility.

McCaffrey stated that he is proud of how the SSA has postured itself for future success when the automation system changes over to Global Combat Support System (GCSS)-Army. He was also pleased that they had the best conversion scorecard, which shows the amount of errors that need to be fixed prior to conversion to GCSS-Army.

After the morning activities, McCaffrey joined the Mustang’s leadership at the 3rd BCT dining facility and a closeout conference in the “Bronco Room.” McCaffrey commented on the success of the unit and how it needs to re-establish lines of communication with its higher level of sustainment.

His final recommendation was to transition the units into a more preparedness stance instead of just execution.



Brig. Gen. Todd McCaffrey (left), deputy commander-support, 25th ID, discusses the workings of a howitzer barrel with Staff Sgt. Jose Villamansantiago, Co. B, 325th BSB, 3rd BCT, 25th ID, during a recent visit to the Mustang's newly acquired motor pool and Supply Support Activity, Dec. 3. (Photo courtesy 325th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Bde. Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division)

Watershed: Invasive species blocked from damaging native plants, animals

CONTINUED FROM A-1

USAG-HI OANRP. “As an added bonus, the Soldiers were able to exercise their sling-load skills.”

The fencing project is being led by the DLNR, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, with support from the Army and other members of the Ko’olau Mountain Watershed Partnership. The majority of the funding for the \$1 million project is provided by the “Rain Follows the Forest” initiative, with an additional \$300,000 provided by the Army and \$250,000 from the U.S. Forest Service.

“This is a critical location for watershed recharge to Oahu’s Pearl Harbor aquifer that provides water to Oahu communities. Protecting priority watersheds from damage caused by hooved animals is the first priority of the Rain Follows the Forest program,” said Marigold Zoll, project lead, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, DLNR. “Fencing is the most feasible way to prevent these animals from trampling and devouring vegetation and reducing the spread of nonnative invasive species.”

The project does not restrict access or recreational opportunities, according to Zoll.

Online

Visit these sites for more details:

- Army Natural Resources Program, www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil/sustainability/NaturalResources.aspx.
- DLNR’s Rain Follows the Forest initiative, dlnr.hawaii.gov/rain/.
- Hawaii Association of Watershed Partnerships, hawp.org/.

Over the next year, Army staff will construct 3 kilometers of the total fence, and a state contractor will complete the remaining 9 kilometers of the enclosure.

Nine rare plant species and two species of the endangered kähuli tree snail are located within the Army portion of the fence. Once the fence is complete, Army Natural Resources staff will collect seeds from rare plants, replant rare and native plants, and monitor and control invasive plants and introduced species that impact the survival of the native forest.

The Army is a member of the Ko’olau and Waianae Mountains Watershed partnerships on Oahu, as well as the Mauna Kea Watershed Alliance on Hawaii Island. Through these partnerships, the Army joins public and private landowners to protect large areas of forested watersheds that replenish groundwater and are home to numerous native plants and animals.

“It’s partnerships like these that really make a difference and enable big projects to move forward,” said Zoll. “Every bit counts and is essential to the success of the project as a whole.”

This fence is the fifth Ko’olau partnership fence on Oahu the Army has supported and is the first fence project under DLNR’s Rain Follows the Forest program, according to Kawelo.

Hawaii-wide the USAG-HI Natural Resources program manages more than 100 threatened and endangered species in support of Army requirements to enable Soldier training while protecting the local environment.

The Army’s natural and cultural resource programs partner with more than 40 local, state and national entities as part of their stewardship efforts.



A 1,000-pound bundle of steel fencing is sling-loaded to a CH-47 Chinook to airlift the material from Schofield Barracks to the summits of the Ko’olau mountain range, Dec. 5. (Photo courtesy U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii)

Suicide prevention regains human element

WAYNE HANKAMMER
U.S. Army-Pacific

FORT SHAFTER — U.S. Army-Pacific has a new command policy regarding suicide that broadens the attack on suicide stigma and addresses the human element in training and preparedness

“We are missing the ‘human element’ in training,” said Dr. Michelle Linn-Gust, former president of the American Association of Suicidology, who recently engaged more than 1,000 Soldiers in Hawaii, including senior leaders, on the subject of “Understanding the Language of Suicide.”

Linn-Gust fully engaged audiences, and they were equal to the task. They told her exactly what they thought. From those exchanges, she remarked that Soldiers know well enough about warning signs and risk factors.

In response, the command is addressing her observations that are reflected in a new command policy on Suicide Prevention and Health Promotion.

USARPAC lost 10 Soldiers in 2013, while the total Army has lost 278 as of Dec 2.

“What statistics fail to do is encourage people to help each other to provide human connection,” said Linn-Gust. “Instead, there is a great fear within our Army to ask for or give help. This two-sided fear disables connections increasing risk. Perhaps stigma is to blame?”

Linn-Gust followed a general outline that presented some ideas on how to limit the effects of stigma. She informed all three sessions how using inappropriate terms can perpetuate stigma. For example, the term “committed suicide” equated the act of taking one’s own life as a sin and shaming to



Wayne Hankammer (left), suicide prevention counselor, U.S. Army-Pacific, welcomes Dr. Michelle Linn-Gust to a suicide discussion panel. Linn-Gust made three presentation, Nov. 13-15, on Fort Shafter and Schofield Barracks. (Courtesy photo)

the family. She suggested using “died by suicide” as a best choice.

Linn-Gust said she wants people to know that suicide is a tragedy, not a sin. Rather, we need to understand the suicidal mind is trapped in a hopeless place unable to see a future without pain.

A counter to the psychological pain of suicide starts with caring, Linn-Gust said. She noted to command that Soldiers need training very early in their Army lives on how to show caring as well as

self-care.

“After all, aren’t they the future of the Army?” she asked.

She said it is clear that commanders care for their Soldiers overall. However, the perception of Soldiers does not always coincide with this reality.

Among the possible factors blocking a caring attitude and exposed in all three meetings, she saw an overall loss of trust in our Army. Others felt a loss of empowerment to correct potentially toxic situations. Soldiers feel disconnected as a result of this environment.

The real common thread, according to Linn-Gust, is fear.

“Many Soldiers fear retaliation for speaking out. Some fear loss of status or position if they seek help. Soldiers fear leadership isn’t concerned about their well-being,” said Linn-Gust.

The policy is clear that there will be no retaliation or repercussions for seeking help. In fact, there is consensus from leadership that coming forward for help is to be rewarded as this demonstrates a new level of strength.

Overall, the guidance addressing these concerns is that the command will build a caring and open atmosphere to foster communication. Leaders will keep working at the caring level toward having a command where all leaders will attack stigma.

The bottom line, commanders across USARPAC will encourage help-seeking behaviors and attack stigma wherever they find it.

(Editor’s note: Hankammer is USARPAC’s suicide prevention program manager.)



Traffic Alerts report 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.

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

Today

Silent Nights — A two-week Christmas holiday schedule will be in effect for the Hawaii Department of Transportation’s (HIDOT) H-1 Rehabilitation project from today to Dec. 28.

Shoulder work and work on the Kalihi on-ramp eastbound continues Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m. There will be no night work, and all lanes and ramps will be open. Night work resumes Dec. 29 at 9 p.m.

Two lanes will be closed in both directions of the H-1 freeway, from Likeli Highway to Ward Avenue, at 9 p.m., leaving one lane in both directions for the traveling public. All lanes will reopen by 4 a.m.

21 / Saturday

Pedestrian Bridge Update — The Fort Shafter pedestrian bridge project will see delivery of the pre-cast concrete bridge and placement on its abutments today. Due to its proximity to existing overhead electrical lines, a power outage is scheduled 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

Buildings impacted are T-100, T-101, T-102, T-104 and Takata Field.

The adjacent parking lot will be closed, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Also, the pedestrian bridge will be closed Dec. 23-Jan. 14 to transition to the new bridge.



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

Today

The Army Benefits Center now has the narrated Retirement Preparation Course slides on forms, with detailed instructions on the types of forms that are required and how to fill out each block on the form. Phone numbers

are included, should potential retirees have questions. Visit www.abc.army.mil/retirements/RetFormPrep.htm.

19 / Thursday

MCF Tour — The new U.S. Army-Pacific Mission Command Facility construction site will be open for touring at 10 a.m. Call 438-2662 to join the tour.

January

1 / Wednesday

Veterans COLA Increase — Veterans, their families and survivors receiving disability compensation and pension benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs will receive a 1.5 percent cost of living allowance in-

crease in their monthly payments beginning Jan. 1, 2014.

The COLA increase also applies to disability and death pension recipients, survivors receiving dependency and indemnity compensation, and disabled veterans receiving automobile and clothing allowances, and other benefits. For the full rates, visit www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/rates-index.asp.

FY14 Tuition — The Army’s FY14 Tuition Assistance (TA) program changes today. The new policy will allow Soldiers to use TA after successful completion of their first year of service after graduating from either Advanced Individual Training, Officer Candidate School or Basic Officer Leader Course.

Soldiers are eligible for up to 16 semester hours per year, and they can use TA for a second, higher-level post-bachelor’s degree after completion of 10 years of service.

For details, call the Education Services Officer at 655-4444.

16 / Thursday

MLK Breakfast — The U.S. Army-Pacific Equal Opportunity Office will host a Martin Luther King Jr. birthday special observance, 11 a.m., at Schofield Barracks’ Sgt. Smith Theater. The guest speaker is Gen. Vincent Brooks, commander, USARPAC.

In honor of this year’s observance, EO seeks organizations to set up information booths about volunteer opportunities for Soldiers, civilians and family members. Call 438-3593.

Snow Foolin'

Holiday event features white stuff

Story and photos by
JACK WIERS
Pau Hana Editor

ALIAMANU MILITARY RESERVATION — Seven-year-old Madahsyn Thomas, a first-grader at Wheeler Elementary School, is originally from Virginia, but she knows something about living at Schofield Barracks.

"Mom, it doesn't snow in Hawaii."

Madahsyn seemed fairly certain of that earlier in the week until she found out differently, Saturday.

There was no recorded snowfall on the island of Oahu and, specifically, at Aliamanu Military Reservation, Dec. 7. However, it took 13 tons of trucked-in snow to create a reasonable facsimile at the AMR Winter Wonderland holiday festival, produced by U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii's Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

By 9 a.m., Saturday, a truckload of snow, normally created for packing

fresh fish and purchased from POP Fishing was, instead, unloaded near the AMR Child Development Center. It piled nearly 5 feet high.

By 11 that morning, the 80-degree heat reduced the pile to a still significant 2-foot mound. It was still more than substantial enough to delight the playful crowd — even if snowball throwing was prohibited.

"This is real nice," said the elder Thomas, who traveled to AMR with a group of parents from Wheeler and Schofield Barracks, specifically for the annual holiday festival. "This is something we've wanted to do (play in the snow) since 2010 when we left Virginia for our first duty station."

New phase, new name for the annual Holidayfest

This is the third year that the annual AMR Holidayfest has featured a playground of snow and the first year for the new event title: Winter Wonderland.

The snow-play area has complimented new and varied established events and activities, including ornament painting and holiday entertainment that features SKIES programs.

The Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers found no irony that its snow cone stand, located next

to the snow-play area, did a robust business.

"This has been a good fundraising morning," said Spc. Jennifer Coggins, USAG-HI BOSS president.

Other units also set up food booths throughout the AMR Community Center area.

Free activities included photo ops with Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus, elves and penguins, while others occupied their time with the arts and crafts.

The attendance, with the snow play area, has doubled during the past three years and approached an estimated 2,000 on Saturday. The event now attracts military attendance from throughout the island.

"I got calls in my office from Navy, Air Force and Schofield family members all this week," said Xylene Lennon, lead coordinator for FMWR's Special Events section, Community Recreation Division.

Saturday's event began with a reservations-only breakfast with Santa.

"We sold out," Lennon said of the 200-person event.

Through partnerships with varied groups, including FMWR's Child and Youth Support Services, Island Palms Communities and the Hui 'O Wahine spouses club, the Winter-Wonderland-future of this event seems ensured.

"We wanted to create a magical experience for our Soldiers and family members," Lennon explained. "And I think we did it." ❄️



Five-year-old Karmel Walker, daughter of Maj. George Walker, Tripler Army Medical Center, enjoys her edible Christmas tree creation at the AMR Winter Wonderland, Saturday.



Visitors arrive Saturday at the AMR Community Center and FMWR gymnasium area and Child Development Center. At first glance the scenery was typical for a tropical Hawaiian day.



Above: Holiday entertainment at the AMR gymnasium stage was provided by members of the SKIES dance programs. (Photo courtesy Allan Criss, Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation)

Left: Children at AMR Saturday build snow castles and roll around in the 13 tons of manufactured snow, donated by the Hui 'O Wahine spouses club. (Photo has been altered from its original form; background elements have been removed.)



The U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Religious Support Office will offer varied holiday services in North and South Oahu locations.

South Community

Aliamanu Military Reservation Chapel

Dec. 15, 6 p.m., Advent Reconciliation Service (Catholic)
Dec. 24, 5 p.m., Christmas Eve Mass (Catholic)
Dec. 24, 7:30 p.m., Christmas Candlelight Service (Protestant)
Dec. 31, 5 p.m., Vigil Mass for Mary Mother of God (Catholic)
Dec. 31, 10 p.m., Watch Night Service (Gospel)

Chapel Holiday Services

Fort DeRussy Chapel

(Near the Hale Koa Hotel, Waikiki)
Dec. 24, 7 p.m., Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (Protestant)

Tripler Army Medical Center

Dec. 24, 5 p.m., Christmas Eve Mass (Catholic)
Dec. 25, 11 a.m., Christmas Day Mass (Catholic)

North Community

Schofield Barracks Main Post Chapel

Dec. 21, 7 p.m., Wiccan Yule Celebration (Pagan)
Dec. 24, 5 p.m., Vigil of Christmas Mass (Catholic)
Dec. 24, 6:30 p.m., Christmas Eve Service (Protestant)

Dec. 25, 10:30 a.m., Christmas Day Mass (Catholic)
Dec. 31, 8 p.m., Watch Night Service (Gospel)

Wheeler Army Airfield Chapel

Dec. 16, 6 p.m., Advent Reconciliation Service (Catholic)
Dec. 22, 11 a.m., Christmas Service (Spanish)
Dec. 24, 10 p.m., Christmas Vigil Mass (Catholic)
Dec. 31, 9:30 p.m., New Year's Eve Service (Spanish)

Soldiers Chapel

Dec. 24, 7 p.m., Christmas Eve Service (Protestant)
Jan. 1, 2014, 11:45 a.m., Mary Mother of God (Catholic)

Current as of Nov. 22, 2013



Briefs

Today

Aloha Friday Barbecue — The SB Leilehua grill offers a Friday barbecue lunch special, beginning at 11 a.m., until sold out. Menu items include smoked brisket ribs, pulled pork, barbecue chicken, pork chops, baked beans, cole slaw, potato salad and cornbread.
Items cost \$8-\$10. Call 655-7131.

Right Arm Night — FS Hale Ikena hosts, beginning at 4 p.m., Dec. 13, with holiday-themed food, games and prizes. Enjoy an all-you-can-eat pupu buffet and drink specials.
Spouses and civilians welcome. Tickets are \$5 in advance or \$8 at the door. Call 438-1974.

Single Soldiers Holiday Party — SB Tropics Recreation Center celebrates the holiday season, 5-9 p.m. The “High Roller Vegas” themed night will include Texas Hold ‘Em, Black Jack, Roulette and other Vegas style games and live entertainment provided by the band Sol Sisters.
A traditional holiday dinner with turkey and all the trimmings will be served at 5:30 p.m. Door prizes will be given away throughout the night.
This event is free for all 18 and older single Soldiers. Call 655-5698.

16 / Monday

Bowl Special — Schofield Bowl offers “Monday Dollar Days,” with a \$1 game of bowling, shoes, nachos and hot dogs, 9 a.m.-10 p.m., Mondays, except holidays, through Dec. 30. Call 655-0573.

Workweek Lunch — SB Kolekole Bar & Grill (655-4466) and FS Mulligan’s Bar & Grill (438-1974) offer daily lunch, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Enjoy buffet-style or menu items.

Mongolian Barbecue — Select your favorites from a large variety of meats and vegetables, 5 p.m., every Monday at SB Kolekole Bar & Grill, and grilling will be to your liking. Cost is 65 cents for each ounce. Call 655-4466.

17 / Tuesday

Mini Sports Baseball Registration — Youth Sports & Fitness registration begins Dec. 17 at CYSS Central Services office. Cost includes child and parent shirt and a sports ball.
Program runs from Jan. 23-March 13, 2014, Thursdays, from 5-6 p.m., and will be conducted at Bennett Youth Center for Schofield and AMR ball fields.
Children born 2008-2009 may participate.



1st Lt. Tameka Tutt (left, standing), Lt. Col. Tanya Peacock (kneeling) and Capt. Edward Roach, along with other members of the Silver Caduceus Society, Aloha Chapter, join family and friends in gathering donations to support Toys for Tots during a collection drive at Tripler Army Medical Center’s annual Keiki Wonderland program, Dec. 6. (Photo courtesy Surgeon’s Office, U.S. Army-Pacific)

Medical officers organize, support holiday toy drive

LT. COL. TANYA PEACOCK
Tripler Army Medical Center

HONOLULU — During the month of December, the Aloha Chapter of the Silver Caduceus Society collected unwrapped toys in support of the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program and canned goods.
The donation period culminated with a collection drive at Tripler Army Medical Center’s Annual Keiki Wonderland program.
As a result of the generosity of military medical ohana, approximately 80 toys and 20 canned goods will be distributed to less fortunate children in the community.
Silver Caduceus societies are nonprofit organizations of Army Medical Service Corps officers. They are established to promote fellowship, professionalism and further developments in technical, administrative and scientific subjects.

Unique to the Aloha Chapter is a mission to extend membership to officers from all military services on the island of Oahu to provide mentorship opportunities and promote joint collaboration.
(Editor’s note: Peacock is the president, Aloha Chapter, Silver Caduceus Society. 1st Lt. Tameka Tutt, executive officer, Company B, Tripler Army Medical Center, contributed to this article.)



Silver Caduceus Society

Medical Service Corps Officers who are interested in joining this organization may visit the chapter’s Army Knowledge Online website at www.us.army.mil/suite/page/616271 or Facebook at www.facebook.com/alohachapter.scs.

icipate. Call 836-1923 (AMR/FS) and 655-6465 (SB).

Holiday Story Time — SB Sgt. Yano Library is the host site from 6-6:45 p.m. for Christmas story readings. No registration required. Call 655-8002.

18 / Wednesday

Holiday Gift Box Creation — Adults and children ages 10 and older are invited to SB Sgt. Yano Library, 3-3:45 p.m., to make and decorate mini gift boxes to fill with your own treasures.

The library will provide all supplies. Preregistration required; call 655-8002.

Santa Visit — Santa Claus will visit all the good boys and girls, 4-5 p.m., Dec. 18, at the Fort Shafter Library. Call 438-9521.

19 / Thursday

Leilehua Thursdays — Join Chef Devin Lee, 4:30-7:30 p.m., every Thursday, at Leilehua’s driving range for hot dogs and burgers. Menu items cost \$3-\$4. Call 655-7131.

Christmas Lights Trolley Tour

— Leisure Travel Services is selling tickets for Honolulu City Christmas Light Trolley Tour, 6 p.m., Dec. 17. The 90-minute tour departs from FS; cost is \$13, with limited seating available.

20 / Friday

Lei-Making Workshop — SB Arts & Crafts Center hosts the Hawaiian

See FMWR Briefs, B-4

Community Calendar

Send announcements a week prior to publication to community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

Holiday Events

Today Honolulu Hale Toy Collection — Stormtroopers from “Star Wars” will make a special appearance, 6-8 p.m., Dec. 13, collecting toys for the U.S. Marine Corp’s Toys for Tots drive. Visitors are asked to bring a new, unwrapped toy to give to Hawaii’s keiki. Parents should bring a camera to snap a photo of their children with the Stormtroopers.



A Touch of Christmas — Event comes to Salvation Army Kroc Center Hawaii, 91-3257 Kualakai Pkwy. Free event includes decorating gingerbread houses, ornament projects, live Nativity and more. Visit www.kroccenterhawaii.org.

14 / Saturday

Kapolei Christmas Craft Fair — Prince Kuhio Community Center hosts, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; more than 60 booths, music, halau performances and giveaways at 91-1270 Kinoaiki St., Kapolei. Free. Call 394-0050.

Christmas Lights Boat Parade — Best view is from Magic Island, 5:30-8 p.m.; boat entry fee is \$30. Presented by Hawaii Yacht Club and Waikiki Yacht Club; call 944-9666.

“Merriest Hawaiian Christmas” — The Honolulu Boy Choir presents its annual concert, Dec. 14, Central Union Church, 1660 S. Beretania St., Honolulu. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; concert starts at 7 p.m. No admission charge. Open to the public. Visit www.honoluluboychoir.org.

Hawaii Youth Opera Chorus — Annual holiday concert begins at 7 p.m., Kawaiahao Church, 957

HOLIDAY PARADES

Dec. 13, Haleiwa — 6-8 p.m., Weed Circle to Haleiwa Beach Park.
Dec. 14, Aiea Town Parade — 9-10 a.m., Pearlridge Elementary School to Aiea Sugar Mill.
Dec. 14, Waianae Coast — 10 a.m.-noon, Waianae Boat Harbor to Waianae Mall.



Dec. 14, Waipahu Christmas Parade — 2-4 p.m. Waipahu District Park to Leolua Street (behind Waipahu Town Center).
Dec. 14, West Oahu Holiday Electric Light Parade — 6-8 p.m., begins Kapolei Hale.
Dec. 21, Ewa Beach — 10 a.m.-noon, begins Ilima Intermediate School.
(For a complete list, visit www.honolulu.gov.)

Punchbowl St. Features 145 youth singers with holiday favorites from around the world. Call 521-2982.

Honolulu Hosts Santa — Honolulu City Lights is open through Dec. 31 at Honolulu Hale (City Hall). Free photos with Santa, 7-9 p.m., Dec. 14 and 21 in the Gingerbread House.

17 / Tuesday

25th Infantry Division Band — The 25th ID Band Sax Quartet will be performing holiday-themed music and traditional military marches, 10-11 a.m., Dec. 17,

in front of the U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii, Fort DeRussy.

Family Night Programs — AMR and SB chapels invite the public to family night programs. The weekly event features dinner, classes and activities for children ages 4 through high school and adults.
A nursery service, staffed by CYSS, is provided for children ages 6 months-4 years, who are registered with CYSS or CDC.
Weekly schedule follows:
•AMR Chapel Family Spiritual Resiliency Night, Tuesdays, 5:30-

See Community Calendar, B-6

Worship Services

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
- 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

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

Thor: The Dark World
(PG-13)
Fri., Dec. 13, 7 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 15, 6 p.m.
Thurs., Dec. 19, 7 p.m.



FREE SCREENING:
The Grudge Match
(PG-13)
Sat., Dec. 14, 6 p.m.

Tickets available at your local Exchange Food Court. Seating open to non-ticket holders 30 minutes prior to show time.

Free Birds
(PG)
Sun., Dec. 15, 6 p.m.

No shows on Mondays, Tuesdays or Wednesdays.

Calendar abbreviations

- 8th TSC: 8th Theater Sustainment Command
- 25th ID: 25th Infantry Division
- ACS: Army Community Service
- AFAP: Army Family Action Plan
- AFTB: Army Family Team Building
- AMR: Aliamanu Military Reservation

- ASYMCA: Armed Services YMCA
- BCT: Brigade Combat Team
- BSB: Brigade Support Battalion
- Co.: Company
- CYSS: Child, Youth and School Services
- EFMP: Exceptional Family Member Program
- FMWR: Family and Morale, Welfare and

- Recreation
- FRG: Family Readiness Group
- FS: Fort Shafter
- HMR: Helemano Military Reservation
- IPC: Island Palm Communities
- PFC: Physical Fitness Center
- SB: Schofield Barracks

- SKIES: Schools of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills
- TAMC: Tripler Army Medical Center
- USAG-HI: U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii
- USARPAC: U.S. Army-Pacific
- WAAF: Wheeler Army Airfield

‘Navigators’ ready to help EFMP family transitions

ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE
Directorate of Family and Morale,
Welfare and Recreation

FORT SHAFTER — Lois-Lynn Deuel and her family made a permanent change of station move to Hawaii this past summer, one of 13 moves in 29 years and one of seven duty assignments since their son was born 10 years ago.

Hawaii is the Deuel’s third assignment outside the continental U.S. (CONUS).

Unlike previous assignments, Deuel realized early that she needed assistance in the transition because of her son’s medical and educational needs. She reached out to the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) manager at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, and the office connected her to Kerry Dauphineé, EFMP Systems Navigator, here.

“PCS transitions are challenging for any family, but they are especially difficult when you have an Exceptional Family Member (EFM),” said Deuel. “A seamless transition of medical and educational services for an EFM is what we strive for with each PCS, but the system that delivers these services differs greatly from assignment to assignment, especially if you are moving across regions.”

Systems Navigation Delivery Service
Systems Navigation is a delivery service within the Army Community Services’ EFMP. Systems Navigators began providing non-

“PCS transitions are challenging for any family, but they are especially difficult when you have an Exceptional Family Member (EFM).”

— **Lois-Lynn Deuel**
Military spouse

clinical case management and direct client services in September 2010, working with families in the EFMP community to help alleviate daily stressors and to link families to community support services, on and off the installation.

“Systems Navigators have inside information on how to work within the system,” Deuel said. “In fact, the EFMP motto is ‘We know the system; we can help.’

“That’s comforting to a family, who can go from having a well-oiled service delivery machine of doctors, therapists and teachers to starting from scratch and feeling like they have lost it all,” Deuel said.

Reducing the stress of transition
Working through different systems can be daunting. For example, in most states, if a child



U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii’s Exceptional Family Member Program offers specialists, or Systems Navigators, who are available to help families adjust to the challenges of PSC-transition issues in Hawaii. (File photo)

has an Individual Education Program (IEP), his or her parent would contact the school district’s special education department and work downward to the school. In Hawaii, the first point of contact is the local school.

Similarly, there may be service partnerships that are different in Hawaii than in other states.

“Tripler Army Medical Center partners with the school system to deliver services in a way I did not anticipate,” Deuel said.

In addition to assisting with transitions from one installation to another, Systems Navigators can provide advocacy for a child by attending School Focus Team meetings with parents to assist them with the process of obtaining or developing a 504 Plan or an IEP.

While more than 75 percent of the families

Systems Navigators assist involves a child or adolescent EFM, Systems Navigators also work to address the needs of adult EFMs.

“Many of our families have adult members who are EFMs,” said Leonard Webster, EFMP coordinator.

Systems Navigators can help with housing accommodations, applying for respite care, provide information on federal services, such as Supplemental Security Income, or simply connect families to other organizations or resources.

“If you just don’t know where to begin,” Webster said, “come see a Navigator. Navigators can be a sounding board, a resource directory or a compass. Whatever role they play, they can help.”

DeCA’s ‘Scholarships for Military Children Program’ available

CHERIE HUNTINGTON
Defense Commissary Agency Public Affairs

FORT LEE, Va. — Applications for the 2014 Scholarships for Military Children Program became available Dec. 3 at commissaries worldwide, including the Schofield Barracks Commissary.

This year’s award amount has risen to \$2,000, and the program awards at least one scholarship at each commissary with qualified applicants.

“These scholarships provide our deserving students, here, the opportunity to go to school and monies to do so,” said Gregory McGruder, store director, Schofield Barracks Commissary.

“We receive two scholarships, but we’re hoping to get and offer three, especially if we

get enough applicants and our sales stay where they are,” McGruder noted. “It’s free money, and I’d like for our students to apply, so this will be another blessing for them.”

An applicant must be a dependent, unmarried child, younger than 21 — or 23, if enrolled as a full-time student at a college or university — of a service member on active duty, Reserve or Guard member, retiree or survivor of a military member who died while on active duty, or survivor of a retiree.

Applicants should ensure that they and their sponsor are enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System database and have a military ID card. The applicant must attend or plan to attend an accredited college or university, full time, in the fall of

Application resources
Applications for the 2014 Scholarships for Military Children Program are available at the Schofield Barracks Commissary or online at www.militaryscholar.org.

The commissary is located at 698 Trimble Rd. and is open between 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Tuesday-Friday; 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Saturday-Sunday;

2014 or be enrolled in studies designed to transfer to a four-year program.

Applications must be turned in to a commissary by close of business Feb. 28, 2014. Packages must be hand-delivered or shipped via U.S. Postal Service or other delivery methods,

and 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Monday. Call 655-5066 for more information.

For details about the Military Children Program and scholarship, students or sponsors should call Scholarship Managers at 856-616-9311 or email militaryscholar@scholarshipmanagers.com.

not emailed or faxed.

“Typically, on a small base, you have at least 100 or so applicants, so it’s important to get those applications in,” McGruder advised,

See DeCA, B-5



Doctoring goes soup to ‘nuts!’ – less part of a thumb

No sooner did I drop my husband off at the airport, than I felt the tickle at the back of my throat.

He was off on a Navy trip to Bahrain for a couple of weeks, leaving me in charge of the house, the bills, the kids, the dog, the trash, the leaves, our son’s college applications, our daughter’s inevitable fashion crises, and my own mental and physical well-being, so this was the last thing I needed.

By the time I got home from the airport, the tickle had upgraded to a full-blown head cold — one of those throat-itching, eye-watering, lung-wheezing, phlegm-thickening, mucus-dripping, sinus-filling afflictions that compels you to guzzle cold medicine and bury yourself under the covers, because you’re going to be totally useless.

But being useless was not an option. Before the 3 o’clock middle school pick-up, I had to walk the dog, have a mammogram, shop for groceries, iron my son’s dress shirts, start my column, return a few emails, walk the dog again, get something out for dinner, and try to take a shower and look human. Head cold or no head cold, I had to be firing on all pistons.

I decided to make one minor adjustment to my jam-packed schedule that might ease the pain of functioning while sick: I’d take five minutes and throw some chicken soup on the stove before heading out to my 9:30 a.m. mammogram appointment. In a flash, I had onions and carrots chopped and sautéing in a pan, alongside my old Revere Ware soup pot, which was simmering with chicken and spices.

Next, I plopped four ribs of celery on the cut-



THE MEAT & POTATOES OF LIFE

LISA SMITH MOLINARI
Contributing Writer

ting board and began slicing. I was coming to the end of the bunch when, shshshwing! There it was. The very tip of my thumb was laying neatly on the edge of the cutting board!

The next few seconds were a slow-motion controlled panic. I watched my uncut hand reach for the severed cap of flesh and place it back on the tip of my thumb, albeit crooked, and unravel multiple sheets of paper towels to wrap my bleeding appendage. I flicked the stove off, grabbed my purse and jumped into my minivan, mumbling to myself, it’s gonna be fine, it’s gonna be fine, it’s gonna be fine.

“Hi, I’m here for a mammogram (nervous laughter). ... You’re never going to believe this (nervous laughter). ... I just cut the tip of my thumb clean off,” I jabbered to the lady behind the base clinic check-in desk.

Despite a convincing look of empathy, the woman directed me to a nurse who wrapped my thumb and told me the doctor would take a look right after my mammogram.

As the adage goes, you learn something new every day, and on this particular day, I learned that it’s nearly impossible to unhook your own bra strap with one hand. Somehow, I was able to get the task done like some kind of awkward high school boy on prom night, just before the technician came in to squash my bits and



Homemade chicken soup is a cure-all for the worst of days, even those that include chopping off the tip of your thumb. (Photo from Lisa Smith Molinari)

pieces between two glass plates. After several painfully humiliating images were procured, I was free to dress and head back across the clinic to see about my bleeding thumb.

With only one of the three hooks of my bra strap precariously fastened, I waited for the nurse, then the doctor, then the nurse again, then the doctor again, before my thumb was finally treated, and I was released to go wait all over again for a tetanus shot at immunizations and for medication in the pharmacy.

Four hours after entering the clinic doors, I left with a band-aid on my arm, wilted memories, a thumb that looked more like a chicken drumstick and a completely neglected To Do list. Despite the chaos, I felt compelled to finish my chicken soup, needing it now more

than ever.

At dinnertime, I ladled the hot soothing elixir into bowls, careful not to slosh any broth onto my bandages, and placed them on the table with a box of oyster crackers. The kids and I sat in silence, inhaling the salty steam, blowing gently on spoonfuls.

“I can’t believe you made this soup with all that craziness going on today, Mom,” my middle schooler said, with a compassionate slurp.

“Mmmm,” she mumbled, with her mouth full. “It’s still really good, Mom.”

(A 20-year military spouse and mother of three, Molinari has plenty of humor to share in her column, “The Meat and Potatoes of Life,” which appears in military newspapers and at www.themeatandpotatoesoflife.com.)



Briefs

CONTINUED FROM B-2

ian tradition of lei making every third Friday of the month from 1-3 p.m. Call 655-4202 for preregistration.

Online NAF Property Sales Deadline — Purchase items at a discount with online anonymous bids at himwr.com/naf-auction. Each month’s sale includes different excess items. This month’s auction bidding ends Dec. 20.

All winning bids for an individual item will be contacted within 48 hours of the last day of the auction to arrange payment and pick-up.

All items are sold “as is.” No refunds or exchanges. Call

438-3503.

21 / Saturday Paddle Board Class

Outdoor Recreation is offering a stand-up paddleboard class, Level 1, from 8:30 a.m.-noon. The detailed instructional class demonstrates equipment, and upon the completion of the class, will take you in the water to test your skills with a stand up paddleboard.

Equipment and transportation will be provided. Location

will vary depending on the surf that day. Limited openings. Reservations at 655-0143. Lessons are \$59.

22 / Sunday

NFL Sundays — SB Tropics Warrior Zone offers all the NFL games. Facility opens half-hour before the first game starts. Patrons 18 and older are welcome. Call 655-5698.

Kolekole Sunday Football — Doors open 30 min-

utes before kickoff of first game. Breakfast tailgate buffet costs \$5 until noon; pupu and crowd pleasers start at 11 a.m. Games and prizes are offered throughout the morning.

Are you SB Kolekole’s hardest working fan? Punch in every time you watch football at Kolekole, and get a chance to win a 32-inch TV at the Super Bowl party. The fan with the most clocked hours by Jan. 30, 2014, wins. Call 655-4466.

Ongoing Winter Golf Sale — Leilehua Golf Course Pro Shop’s annual winter sale will last until Dec. 31.

All items will all be 10-50 percent off. Sale does not apply to special orders. Call 655-4653.

SKIES Hula Classes — Hula classes are offered at AMR and SB. Call 655-9818 or visit www.himwr.com.



More than 80 volunteer motorcycle riders prepare to depart the the Honolulu Airport, recently, in order to escort players with the U.S. Military Academy at West Point Army Black Knights football team to their hotel. The Black Knights were in town for a game against the University of Hawaii Rainbow Warriors at Aloha Stadium, Nov. 30. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Stormy Graham Jr., 1st Battalion, 196th Infantry Brigade)

USARPAC motorcycle riders provide West Point escort

ANDREW VISSER
196th Infantry Brigade

HONOLULU — The Army Black Knights football team from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point undoubtedly had a wide variety of expectations of their trip to Honolulu to play the University of Hawaii at the Aloha Stadium in November.

One thing they probably did not expect, though, was to be greeted upon their arrival at the airport by the roar of more than 60 motorcycles, lined up in front of the team’s buses to escort them to their hotel.

Motorcycle riders volunteered from across U.S. Army-Pacific. They were led by USARPAC Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Leota, who gathered at the east side tarmac of Honolulu International Airport to give the Army Black Knights

a rousing welcome to the island and send a loud and thunderous notice to the Hawaii Rainbow Warriors that their opponents had arrived.

Once all the riders were assembled shortly before the team’s plane landed, Leota addressed the group to reinforce necessary safety precautions and to thank everyone for participating in such a historic event.

”(The escort ride) would not be possible if it wasn’t for the support of you riders from various units across USARPAC,” said Leota.

Once the team landed, the riders linked up with them and took position in one large chalk in front of the four team buses. The entire convoy moved from Honolulu International Airport onto H-1, driving west all the way to Kapolei, where the football players, coaches

and support staff finally disembarked at their hotel.

The cadets and the team’s staff were particularly appreciative of the time and effort the motorcycle riders had dedicated to organizing such a warm reception for them. Players posed for pictures with the Soldiers and their families, and thanked them all for their reception.

Army football Coach Rich Ellerson described the reception and escort as memorable.

”I have never been a part of something like this,” said Ellerson. ”I wish you all could have heard the guys’ reaction on the buses. Thank you all very much for this experience!”

This event also proved to be a memorable experience for the motorcycle riders from across USARPAC.

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Peterson, noncom-

missioned officer in charge of the Schofield Barracks Housing Office, commented that he was enthused to see ”a great show of support from all the riders who showed up.”

Khayree Pickett, a military spouse from Tripler Army Medical Center, was also amazed about the experience of meeting the cadets.

”I feel really special right now,” said Pickett.

Sgt. 1st Class Stormy Graham Jr., 1st Battalion, 196th Infantry Brigade, and unit motorcycle mentor, said he felt that it was ”an honor to participate in such a first-time event,” while pointing out that there were long-term benefits as well.

”This helps raise motorcycle awareness throughout the community,” said Graham.

(Editor’s note: Visser is the executive officer for 196th Inf. Bde.)

DeCA: More than 7,000 scholarships awarded worldwide since 2001

CONTINUED FROM B-3

noting that last year the Schofield commissary received around 50 applications.

”It’s just important to ensure all the blocks are filled out, and are filled out correctly, and that applications are turned in as soon as possible,” he added.

Fisher House Foundation, a nonprofit organization that helps service members and their families, administers the program. Scholarship Managers, a national, nonprofit, scholarship management services organization, manages and awards the scholarships.

The commissary partners, and the general public donates

money to the program; every dollar donated goes directly to funding the scholarships.

Since inception of the program in 2001, more than \$11.3 million in scholarships have been awarded to 7,412 military dependents from more than 71,000 applicants.

”It’s about helping people,” McGruder said, ”and it’s

about the military people who can apply for the scholarship.”

(Editor’s note: This article was updated with information from U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii.)

Army enforces food safety strategies

JANE GERVASONI
U.S. Army Public Health Command

The intentional contamination of the Department of Defense’s food and water supplies could have serious effects on the mission of the U.S. military and on individual service members and their families.

“The primary focus of food defense is the prevention of the intentional contamination of our food supply, while food safety is aimed at preventing unintentional or accidental contamination,” explained Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Gill, veterinary food inspection specialist at the U.S. Army Public Health Command.

“Since both food safety and food defense deal with the protection of the food supply, it follows that measures for enhancing food safety and food defense often go hand in hand,” Gill said.

“Although food safety had been a mainstay of the mission of Army veterinary food inspectors, food defense had not even been a focus of discussion until after Sept. 11, 2001,” said Col. Thomas Honadel, USAPHC Veterinary Services Food Protection Program manager. “Since that time, more emphasis has been placed on antiterrorism food defense plans.”

“...food safety and food defense deal with the protection of the food supply...”

— **Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Gill**
Veterinary Food Inspection Specialist
U.S. Army Public Health Command

USAPHC veterinary food inspectors are required to perform annual installation food vulnerability assessments of all Army, Navy and Marine Corps installations, while Air Force personnel perform many of the same functions at their bases.

“Our veterinary food inspectors identify potential weaknesses and ways to reduce, control or eliminate the hazards. They do so in a very uniform and consistent manner, using highly



Food defense teams check military food facilities to ensure proper food defense practices are in place. Employees-only areas are well marked and used to control access to areas where food is stored or prepared. (Photo by Christina Graber, U.S. Army Public Health Command)

specific written standards,” said Gill. “These annual assessments are required by DOD and focus on food from its source to entering the gate (at a military post),” said Honadel. “All Army installations must have a food defense assessment team that conducts food vulnerability assessments and crafts a regularly updated food defense plan.”

A food defense team consists primarily of USAPHC veterinary food inspection specialists (68Rs), a Veterinary Corps officer and preventive medicine personnel. The team may also include the Defense Commissary Agency; Morale, Welfare and Recreation; Army and Air Force Exchange Service; local criminal investigation; security; and antiterrorism personnel.

“Our food inspectors, as the primary part of the food defense assessment team, use checklists to target areas of concern and point out common sense, low-cost solutions to possible areas of vulnerability,” said Gill.

“Food defense measures include training for food service personnel, increased physical security of food service areas, and even background and identification checks,” he said.

Additionally, special events require even more scrutiny. These events are defined as “any activity characterized by a large concentration of personnel and/or a gathering where

distinguished visitors are involved, often associated with a unique or symbolic event.”

“Special events, such as presidential inaugurations, offer opportunities to assess possible food vulnerabilities,” according to Gill. “The USAPHC veterinary food inspectors support these events that are often open to the general public and located outside of military installations.”

During special events, teams of veterinary food inspectors and preventive medicine personnel are assembled at the local USAPHC regional commands. The teams then deploy to provide pre-assessment surveys aimed at reducing the vulnerability of food and beverage service to intentional contamination or disruption by terrorists or criminals.

Awareness of food supplies and food deliveries, as well as potential contamination during food preparation, highlights the need for enhanced force protection measures, according to Honadel.

These vitally important measures are accomplished, in part, by a technically trained group of Army veterinary service personnel mostly working behind the scenes and unnoticed by many — the USAPHC veterinary food inspection specialists and Veterinary Corps officers.



CONTINUED FROM B-2

7:30 p.m.
•SB Chapel Family Spiritual Resiliency Night, Wednesdays, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Call 833-8175 (SB) or 839-4319 (AMR).

20 / Friday

Nutcracker — Military Night is 7 p.m., Dec. 20, at Saint Louis School/Chaminade Mamiya Theatre. Cost is \$20 military adults, \$15 military keiki 12 and under.

The Hawaii State Junior Ballet Company also performs the holiday classic Dec. 14-15, and 21-22. For tickets, visit www.hawaiistateballet.com/tickets or call 550-8457.

Honolulu Gift Fair — More than 300 booths, 3-9 p.m., Dec. 20; from 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Dec. 21; and from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Dec 22, at the Neal Blaisdell Center Exhibition Hall. Call 942-3110 or visit www.honolulugiftfair.com.

21 / Friday

Salvation Army Live Nativity — Performances every 30 minutes, 7-9 p.m., Dec. 21-24, Waioli Gardens, 2950 Manoa Rd. See re-enactment of the first Christmas, with actors, live animals and Christmas carols. Call 988-2136.

25 / Wednesday

Single Soldiers’ Christmas Breakfast — Single Soldiers can eat a free breakfast, 9-11 a.m., Main Post Chapel, Bldg. 790, Schofield Barracks.

Ongoing

Honolulu City Lights Trolley Tours — Tour the Honolulu City Lights display nightly. First tour departs at 6:30 p.m. at Ward Warehouse. Visit www.wardcenters.com.

FLAG FOOTBALL CHAMPS



FORT SHAFTER — Pfc. Quavius Hendley (above photo, pink shirt), Company B, Tripler Army Medical Center, tries to evade Spc. Willie Merrill, quarterback from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command, during the 2013 Army Hawaii Intraural Sports Flag Football Championship at Takata Field, Monday. Co. B, TAMC, won the game, 20-14.



LEFT — Cpl. Gregory Hall (center), coach for Co. B, TAMC’s flag football team, celebrates with his team as they receive the championship trophy for the 2013 Army Hawaii Intramural Sports Flag Football Championship, Monday.
Co. B, TAMC, not only won the championship game, 20-14, but also, in the process, avenged an earlier season loss to HHB, 94th AAMDC. (Photos by Michael Kim, Sports, Fitness and Aquatics Office, Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii)

PGA offers military specials

SONY OPEN IN HAWAII

News Release

HONOLULU — The Sony Open in Hawaii and Friends of Hawaii Charities are proud to support the men and women of the U.S. armed forces and their families through a variety of Birdies for the Brave military outreach activities that will be taking place throughout tournament week, Jan. 8-12, 2014, at Waialae Country Club.

Complimentary Admission

Free admission is extended to all active duty and retired military service members and dependents who present a valid military ID. In 2013, more than 1,000 service members received free admission tickets at the gates throughout the week.

Free admission is also extended to veterans through the Veteran Tickets Foundation (VTF). Veterans can request tickets online at www.vet.tix.org, and VTF handles ticket fulfillment. VTF teams up with major sports teams, leagues, promoters, organizations, venues and everyday event ticket holders to provide free and discounted tickets to the more than 26 million military and veterans in the U.S.

Birdies for the Brave Caddies

The Military Caddie Program, presented by Pasha Hawaii, will give 30 active duty mil-

itary service members the opportunity to caddie for a PGA Tour professional for one hole (#18) during the official Pro-Am event, Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2014.

Caddies wear Birdies for the Brave branded digital camouflage caddie bibs and get to experience a PGA Tour event “inside the ropes.” Tee times will be assigned on-site, and there will be three muster times: 8:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Birdies for the Brave Patriots’ Outpost

A hospitality tent located on the 18th fairway will be open to active duty and retired military service members, veterans, reservists and their families from Thursday, Jan. 9, 2014, through Sunday, Jan. 12, 2014. Complimentary food and beverages will be provided.

More than 1,500 service members and their families visited the Patriots’ Outpost in 2013.

Birdies for the Brave is a military outreach initiative proudly supported by the PGA Tour. Since the program’s inception, Birdies for the Brave has grown to include a variety of military outreach efforts, including Patriots’ Outpost military hospitality chalets and military celebrations held during PGA Tour tournaments, letter-writing campaigns for the troops, the distribution of care packages to troops stationed abroad and fundraising events conducted nationwide.



Sony Open in Hawaii Caddie Program

What: Through the Birdies for the Brave Military Caddie Program, active duty military have the opportunity to caddie for a PGA Tour professional for one hole during the Pro-Am at the Sony Open in Hawaii.

Where: Waialae Country Club, 4997 Kahaala Ave., Honolulu.

When: Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2014. There will be availability from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Exact times will be assigned the week prior to the event.

Contact: Rhonda Funn, Sony Open in Hawaii Tournament, operations manager, at 792-9305 or rfunn@141hawaii.com.

Stop
the presses!

Subscribers will receive
The Military Star, Dec. 27
and Jan. 3, when the Hawaii
Army Weekly takes its two-
week hiatus.

SNIPERS COMPETE AT SCHOFIELD

STAFF SGT. SEAN EVERETTE

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

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Fifteen sniper teams from Oahu came together at Schofield Barracks and Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, to compete for the title Best Sniper, Dec. 2-4.

The Army was well represented with teams from the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team and the 3rd BCT, 25th Infantry Division, and from the 728th Military Police Battalion, 8th MP Bde., 8th Theater Sustainment Command.

The Marine Corps and the Honolulu Police Department also fielded teams, making the event truly a joint experience.

“It consisted of three days of various shooting events to test all of the skills a sniper has,” said Pfc. Ryan Luther, sniper section, Company C,

1st Bn., 27th Inf. Regt., 2nd SBCT. “There have been various physical events, and it tested mental stamina and patience ... a lot of patience.”

The Best Sniper Competition was more than just a test of skill, however. It also gave Soldiers the opportunity to work and train with other services and nonmilitary agencies.

“We’ve talked to a lot of different teams, not only from the Army, but from the Marines and HPD,” said Luther. “We’ve gained a lot of useful information from them: how they run their teams, how they actually like to shoot compared to us. There are a lot of different ideas to take away and incorporate into our own training. It’s been a great opportunity.”

The competition was organized and run by Capt. Zach Baker, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 1st Bn., 21st Inf., 2nd SBCT. Baker filled the three days with eight events, including a high angle shoot, a rapid engage-

ment against multiple targets in a short amount of time and an 8-mile ruck march for time that went right into the stalking lane.

During the stalking lane, teams were issued one round of blank ammo and then had to move across an open field, observe their target and take a shot, then withdraw, all without being detected while four people of the opposing force were actively looking for them.

The final day of the competition saw the teams inserted into the testing area via helicopter before the sun came up.

“It’s been a big challenge and definitely a huge learning event,” said Spc. Robert Gehring, sniper section, Co. C, 1-14th

Inf.

“For us, we don’t have the ranges like the military has, so getting out here helps us a lot,” said Officer Quentin Apilando, HPD. “We also don’t have some of the equipment and field (training) the military has, so coming out here helps us learn some of that, too.”

Maj. Gen. Kurt Fuller, commander, 25th ID, awarded the Best Sniper trophy to the team of Staff Sgt. Rey Torres and Sgt. Paul Reardon, 1-27th Inf.

Best Snipers

1st — Staff Sgt. Rey Torres and Sgt. Paul Reardon, 1-27th Inf.

2nd — Sgt. Mark Barruga and Sgt. Ricky Madison, 1-21st Inf.

3rd — Spc. Taylor Jones and Pfc. Ryan Luther, 1-27th Inf.

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII, Kaneohe Bay — Sgt. Mark Barruga (right), a senior sniper in HHC, and Sgt. Ricky Madison, a team leader from Co. A, both of 1-21st Inf. Regt., 2nd SBCT, 25th ID, zero in on a target during the high-angle shoot as part of the Best Sniper Competition, here, Dec. 4. The competition was put together by 1-21st Inf. Regt. and included teams from the Army, Marine Corps and Honolulu Police Department. Barruga and Madison finished second in the competition. (Photo by Sgt. Preston Byrd, 2nd Stryker Brigade Comabt Team Public Affairs, 25th Infantry Division) (Photo has been altered from its original form; background elements have been removed.)

3-7th FA ‘Steel’ tested in Legacy Challenge

Story and photo by
SGT. BRIAN ERICKSON

3rd Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs
25th Infantry Division

BELLOWS AIR FORCE STATION — Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, “Never Broken,” 3rd Brigade Combat Team, completed the battalion’s Legacy Challenge at Bellows Air Force Station, Dec. 4.

“The challenge is designed to instill mental and physical toughness while having fun at the same time,” said Maj. Joe Katz, operations, 3-7th FA.

The first event of the day was a 7-mile run, which consisted of significant elevation increases and decreases. Each team had to finish together to avoid time penalties.

When the team finished the trek, it plotted a point on a map where the team had to retrieve an item to advance to the next part of the challenge. Once the team retrieved the item, it embarked on an obstacle course along the beach that is spread across 3 miles of soft sand.

The first obstacle teams faced was a

kayak event in which two members of the team had to maneuver 100 meters, just 25 meters off the shore. When the kayak made it back to the shore, the rest of the team had to carry the kayak back to the starting point.

As the Soldiers made their way down the beach, they had to endure such events as pull-up bars, a 75-meter low crawl, a sandbag carry and a 100-pound tire carry.

“The most challenging for me, personally, was the strength events on the soft sand carrying heavy tires and sandbags when your legs are already tired,” said Katz.

After the obstacle course, observers could see the energy draining as the teams ran off the beach toward the mystery event waiting for them near the finish line.

In the mystery event, each team had to complete 37 burpies together as a team and then carry a sandbag 25 meters down the beach and back. If that wasn’t enough, the Soldiers had to do another 37 burpies together before sprinting to the finish line.

Teams had to finish each event throughout the day together; if they didn’t, the team

“The most challenging part for me, personally, was the strength events on soft sand carrying heavy tires and sandbags when your legs are already tired.”

— Maj. Joe Katz
Operations, 3-7th FA

was penalized by having time added to their finish time.

The first place team finished in a total time of 2 hours, 47 minutes and 27 seconds.

“I am very proud of everyone out here. Not only the competitors, but the supporting staff as well,” said Lt. Col. George Hammar, commander, 3-7th FA.



Soldiers from 3-7th FA Regt., 3rd BCT, 25th ID, work together as a team to complete a 50-meter tire carry during the regiment’s Legacy Challenge, Dec. 4.



A CH-47 Chinook helicopter heads to the summits of the Ko’olau mountain range carrying a 1,000-pound sling-load of fencing material. (Photo courtesy U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii)

Army, HI partner to protect watersheds

U.S. ARMY GARRISON-HAWAII
Public Affairs

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — The Army and the state came together to transport nearly 200,000 pounds of fencing into the Ko’olau Mountains, as part of an airlift operation to protect Oahu’s watersheds, Dec. 5.

Soldiers from the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, joined resources with the U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii’s Oahu Army Natural Resources Program, and the State of Hawaii’s Department of Land and Natural Resources’ Natural Area Reserves staff to accomplish the mission.

The material will be used to build a 12-kilometer fence enclosure to protect 1,000 acres of native forest in the summit areas of the Ko’olau Mountains on State of Hawaii and Kamehameha Schools Bishop Estate lands.

The steel fencing was hooked to a Chinook CH-47 helicopter and sling-loaded from Schofield Barracks to staging zones located in a remote area of the Poamoho Section of the Ewa Forest Reserve.

“The Chinook’s capabilities allowed us to haul 17 times more material per trip than the contracted aircraft is able, saving time and money,” said Kapua Kawelo, biologist,